

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Earthquake Jolts Guwahati Again

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 26:

A magnitude 6.1 earthquake jolted the city in the early hours of Friday morning. The earthquake struck at around 5.15 am reported the National Center for Seismology (NCS). The NCS reported that an earthquake occurred at around 5.15 am and the tremors were of 6.1 magnitude with the epicenter about 73 km southeast of Thenzawl in Mizoram, at a depth of 12 km. Tremors were felt as far away as in West Bengal, Tripura, and Assam and in Bangladesh. Netizens from Indian and Bangladesh took to Twitter to report the jolts.

Terrorist killed

Jammu, November 26:

The Indian Army has foiled an infiltration bid on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district in which one terrorist was killed. Defence ministry spokesman, Lt. Colonel Devender Anand said, "On night of November 25, 2021, Pakistani terrorist attempted an infiltration bid along LoC in Bhimber Gali sector of J&K." Alert Indian Army troops successfully foiled the infiltration attempt. "One Pakistani terrorist has been eliminated. The body of the terrorist along with weapon and ammunition has been recovered."

Positivity Rate At 0.44 %

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 26:

The overall Covid-19 tally of Assam now stood at 6,16, 137 cases, with the total recoveries touching 6,07,216. The recovery rate stood at 98.55 percent. Assam on Thursday reported 142 new cases of Covid-19, taking the active caseload of 1,488. The positivity rate stood at 0.44 percent. According to the data published by the state National Health Mission, 245 cured cases of the virus were discharged, and five deaths were registered. The new cases today were detected out of 32,597 tests conducted in the last 24 hours, and the highest cases were reported from Kamrup Metro (60), Sivasagar (11), Barpeta (10), Lakhimpur (8).



Shillong- Tibetan women's association organised a press meet November 26

Assam-Mizoram CM Meet In New Delhi

Assam and Mizoram will move forward as friends: Mizoram CM Zoramthanga



Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 26:

Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga today met Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma and Minister for Agriculture and Veterinary, Atul Bora in New Delhi in an official meeting that has ended. After the meeting, Mr. Zoramthanga said,

"Upholding the historic good ties along with the traditions, Assam and Mizoram will move forward as friends". The two chief ministers are expected to meet with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday. Meanwhile, CM Sarma said, "The Mizoram CM Zoramthanga and I are old friends. Today we had dinner together. We will sit

with the union home minister on Friday to discuss the issues". He then added, "I express my condolences at the passing away of Poet Sananta Tanti. Along with the family, and all of the people of the state, I grieve today. I have instructed Assam Bhawan authorities to take measures to bring his dead remains to the state". Minister Atul Bora

tweeted, "The spirit of united #NorthEast. Glad to join Hon'ble CM Dr @himantabiswa and Hon'ble Mizoram CM Shri @ZoramthangaCM in an evening of bonhomie at Assam House, New Delhi". Over three months after Assam and Mizoram police clashed at the interstate boundary leading to six deaths, the chief ministers of both the states scheduled to hold a meeting in Delhi on Thursday to iron out differences and resolve the issue. Sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs said that Mizoram CM Zoramthanga and Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma hold the meeting at a venue of their choice.

"The meeting has been arranged at the prodding of the Home Minister. The Centre wants the two states resolve the boundary issue through talks. The home minister will not be present in the meeting, nor will it take place at North Block," an MHA official said. The 165 km Assam-Mizoram border has many stretches of dispute which have time and again led to clashes between civilians and police forces. This July it precipitated into a major crisis when police forces of the two states clashed at the Kolasib-Vairengte border leading to six Assam

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Digjyoti Lahkar appointed as chief managing editor of The Assam Rising



Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 26:

Senior journalist Digjyoti Lahkar has been appointed as chief managing editor of The Assam Rising. Chief Editor of the daily P.K. Dutta and editor Pramod Tiwari along with all staff welcomed him to The Assam Rising & its sister concern. Chief editor P.K.

Dutta extended his congratulations to the new appointee and wished him success in his new endeavor. It is to be recalled that The Assam Rising has been publishing public issues with a neutral motive for ten years. Now The Assam Rising is becoming one of the trusted English

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Constitution day celebrated at Raj Bhavan



Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 26:

"The beauty of our Constitution lies in its flexible character which can be changed as per the needs of the exigencies of time", said Assam Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi while addressing a function held on the occasion of the 72nd Constitution Day at Raj

Bhavan today. Speaking on the occasion, Governor Prof. Mukhi said that the most remarkable feature about the Indian Constitution is that its philosophy is everlasting-but its structure and clauses are flexible. The Constitution framers were far sighted enough to give future generations the power to amend and change clauses

as may be needed with the times. The beauty of the Constitution is that it is changed as per the needs of the requirement, the Governor observed. Prof. Mukhi further said, "Our Constitution is supreme and over and above everything and everyone else. It is something that we worship in democracy. The Constitution is meant for the well being of the public. It is such an important document that everybody should have fair knowledge of it. Therefore, the Constitution should be taught right from the school. The school students, public and everyone in general should read the constitution and thereby know their rights and duties." He also

said, "Constitution is not a secret book only meant for the advocates or the top bureaucrats. The common masses should have a fair amount of knowledge about the Constitution. The social organizations, schools and colleges should observe the Constitution day in such a manner so as to promote the spirit of Fundamental Rights and Duties enshrined in the Constitution." The Governor also said that the Constitution of India is considered as the supreme law providing a framework for the governance of the country. As this document is created by the Constituent Assembly and adopted by the people

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15 More Countries Recognise India's Vaccine Certificate: Foreign Ministry

New Delhi, November 26:

As many as 15 more countries have recognised India's COVID-19 vaccination certificate, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) informed late on Thursday. "Mutual recognition of COVID-19 vaccination certificates continues! Fifteen more recogni-

tions for India's vaccination certificate," MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted. "Mutual recognition of Covid-19 vaccination certificates with India: Australia, Bangladesh, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Nicaragua,

gambia, Palestine, Philippines, San Marino, Singapore, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine," the MEA said in a statement. Earlier this month, the health ministry had said that nearly 100 countries have agreed for the mutual acceptance of vaccination certificates of

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New Corona virus variant detects amid spike

New Delhi, November 26:

A new coronavirus variant has been detected in South Africa that scientists say is a concern because of its high number of mutations and rapid

spread among young people in Gauteng, the country's most populous province, Health Minister Joe Phaahla has announced. The coronavirus evolves as it spreads and many new variants, includ-

ing those with worrying mutations, often just die out. Scientists monitor for possible changes that could be more transmissible or deadly, but sorting out

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Covid situation in Beijing extremely severe

Beijing, November 26:

Close contacts of confirmed Covid-19 cases were found to have visited the Universal Studios theme park in Beijing on October 24,

Global Times reported. Beijing reported two new locally transmitted cases on Saturday, both in Changping district. Changping closed 23 businesses, including pharmacies and hair salons, after

closing 44 businesses for their slack implementation of epidemic prevention and control measures. The Universal Studios theme park notified all visi-

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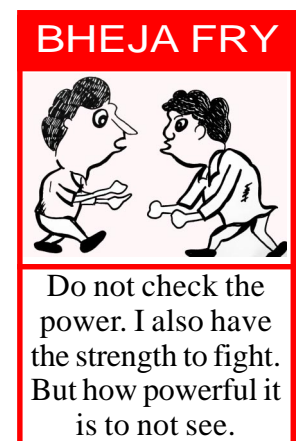
Centre Issues Warning To States And UTs Against New Covid-19 Strain

Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 26:

The centre, in its letter, said that multiple cases of the new variant were reported in Botswana (3), South Africa (6), and Hong Kong

(1). The Centre issued advisories to all states and Union territories warning them to be extra careful with international passengers travelling

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Do not check the power. I also have the strength to fight. But how powerful it is to not see.

BHEJA FRY



A child receives the COVID-19 vaccine in Tel Aviv, Israel

Naomi Campbell's fashion charity investigated over finances

New York, November 26 : The fashion charity established by the supermodel Naomi Campbell has come under formal investigation from the charities watchdog over misconduct concerns relating to its management and finances. Campbell created Fashion for Relief in 2005 to raise funds for children living in poverty and adversity around the world, and says it has raised millions over the years for good causes through its annual charity fashion show. The Charity Commission is to examine whether Campbell and her fellow trustees "have properly exercised their legal duties and responsibilities under charity law", and will investigate payments made by the charity to one of its trustees. It will also look at the charity's spending and the management of Fashion for Relief by its trustees, including potential misconduct and

mismanagement and the failure to file statutory annual accounts on time. Campbell is named as one of three trustees of Fashion for Relief, along with Bianca Hellmich and Veronica Sylvia Wing Wai Au Chou. All are listed as having been trustees of the charity since 2015. Fashion for Relief has for years held glitzy fashion events to raise money for its charity partners. In 2019, it partnered with Sadiq Khan's Mayor's Fund for London to support low-income youngsters with skills and training. It held a London fashion week show in September that year at the British Museum featuring a fashion show, gala dinner and art auction. Celebrities attending included Campbell, Naomie Harris, Pierce Brosnan, Skepta, and Alexa Chung. The charity's website does not appear to say how much money

was raised for the Mayor's Fund, though it displays cuttings from Vogue, Elle and other fashion media with headlines such as Naomi Campbell is Saving the World One Fashion Show at a Time. The charity is yet to publish its 2020 accounts, which are more than 178 days late according to the Charity Commission's online register. The charity's last set of published accounts show that in the year to July 2019 it raised £1,722,000, most of it through sponsorships. According to the accounts, £1,606,000 of that was spent putting on a charity event and paying for PRs and other staff. Just £5,515 appears to have been given to good causes. The 2019 accounts also reveal unusually large trustee expenses. Hellmich was paid £77,000 in consultancy fees and £15,942 in travel expenses. The previous year, the charity spent £107,000 on trustees' fees and £23,000 on expenses. The Charity

Commission for England has been in private discussions with Fashion for Relief for more than a year about what it called a "a range of regulatory concerns", including late filing of accounts, potential conflicts of interests and weaknesses around financial controls. The commission has now escalated what had been a compliance issue into a full inquiry - its most serious level of investigation - suggesting the regulator has been unable to satisfy its concerns.

National Geographic green-eyed 'Afghan Girl' evacuated to Italy

London, November 26 : National Geographic magazine's famed green-eyed 'Afghan Girl' has arrived in Italy as part of the west's evacuation of Afghans after the Taliban takeover of the country, the Italian government has said. The office of the prime minister, Mario Draghi, said Italy organised the evacuation of Sharbat Gula after she asked to be helped to leave the country. The Italian government would help to get her integrated into life in Italy, the statement said on Thursday. Gula gained international fame in 1984



as an Afghan refugee girl, after the war photographer Steve McCurry's photograph of her, with piercing green eyes, was

published on the cover of National Geographic. McCurry found her again in 2002. In 2014, she was in Pakistan but went into hiding when authorities accused her of buying a fake Pakistani identity card and ordered her deported. She was flown to Kabul where the president hosted a reception for her at the presidential palace and handed her keys to a new flat. Italy was one of several western countries that airlifted hundreds of Afghans out of the country after the departure of US forces and the Taliban takeover in August.

Dozens killed in Siberia after coalmine explosion-reports

Moscow, November 26: A devastating explosion in a Siberian coalmine on Thursday left 52 miners and rescuers dead about 250 meters (820ft) underground, Russian officials have said. Hours after a methane gas explosion and fire filled the mine with toxic fumes, rescuers found 14 bodies

but then were forced to halt the search for 38 others because of a buildup of methane and carbon monoxide gas from the fire. A total of 239 people were rescued. The state Tass and RIA-Novosti news agencies cited emergency officials as saying that there was no chance of finding any more survivors in the Listvyazhnaya mine, in the Kemerovo region of south-western Siberia. The Interfax news agency cited a representative of the regional administration who also put the death toll at 52, saying they died of carbon monoxide poisoning. It was the deadliest mine accident in Russia since 2010, when two methane explosions and a fire killed 91 people at the Rapsadskaya mine, also in the

Kemerovo region. A total of 285 people were in the Listvyazhnaya mine early on Thursday when the blast sent smoke that quickly filled the mine through the ventilation system. Rescuers led to the surface 239 miners, 49 of whom were injured, and found 11 bodies. Later in the day, six rescuers also died while searching for others trapped in a remote section of the mine, the news reports said. Regional officials declared three days of mourning. Russia's deputy prosecutor general, Dmitry Demeshin, told reporters that the fire most probably resulted from a methane explosion caused by a spark. The miners

who survived described their shock after reaching the surface. "Impact. Air. Dust. And then we smelled gas and just started walking out, as many as we could," one of the rescued miners, Sergey Golubin, said in televised remarks. "We didn't even realise what happened at first and took some gas in." Another miner, Rustam Chebelkov, recalled the dramatic moment when he was rescued along with his comrades as chaos engulfed the mine. "I was crawling and then I felt them grabbing me," he said. "I reached my arms out to them, they couldn't see me, the visibility was bad. They grabbed me and pulled me out, if not for them, we'd be dead."

Explosions of methane released from coal beds during mining are rare but they cause the most fatalities in the coal mining industry. The Interfax news agency reported that miners have oxygen supplies normally lasting for six hours that could only be stretched for a few more hours. Russia's Investigative Committee has launched a criminal probe into the fire over violations of safety regulations that led to deaths. It said the mine director and two senior managers were detained. The Russian president, Vladimir Putin, extended his condolences to the families of the dead and ordered the government to offer all necessary assistance to those injured.

No.DA/BTC/K/Dev-76/2021 - 22/11/22

Dt. 25/11/2021

QUOTATION

The Director of Agriculture, BTC, Kokrajhar invites Sealed quotation affixing non-refundable Court Fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight & Twenty-five paise) only from the registered firm in BTC suppliers for supply of HDPE Vermi Bed under "RKVY-RAFTAAR" for the year 2020-21 as per term & conditions details given below which will be received up to **04-12-2021 at 3:30 PM** and will open on the same date & time. The quotationers or their representatives may present in the office of the undersigned at the time of opening.

Sl. No.	Item	Variety/Type	Rate	Tender value	Remarks
1	HDPE Vermi Bed (High density Polyethylene)	Brand- Reputed company Size- d) Length- 12 ft. e) Breath - 4 ft. f) Height - 2 ft.	Per No.	Rs. 25.00 Lakh	RKVY for 2020-21 as 2 nd inst. Central Share

TERMS & CONDITON:

- The approved Firm / Supplier shall have to supply items within 7 (seven) days on receipt of supply order.
- Details items may be seen in the office of the undersigned during the office hours from 29-11-2021 to 04-12-2021.
- The Quotationers should submit up-to-date clearance and Firm Registration Certificate / Trade Licence Certificate, PAN Card to the authority.
- The Quotations should be submitted *it*, sealed envelop superscribed on the cover as "Vermis Bed etc. under RKVY-RAFTAAR for the year 2020-21.
- The authority is not bound to accept the lowest rates of quotations and reserves all the right to reject any / all the tenders at a time without assigning any reason thereof.
- The rate should be shown separately for different type of Articles and varieties including all Taxes.
- The quotationers will have to deposit 2% (for general) and 1% (for ST/SC/OBC/MOBC) as security money in the form of Bank Draft / Fixed Deposit / Call Deposit in favour of the **Director of Agriculture, BTC, Kokrajhar** as per scheme for the year 2020-21 which will be refundable in due course.

Sd/- (M. Das)

Director of Agriculture, BTC, Kokrajhar

IPR(BTC)-463/2021



Performers dance during the Chicago Thanksgiving Parade in downtown Chicago, the United States

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NFR celebrates Constitution Day



STAFFREPORTER
Guwahati, Nov 26: North-east Frontier Railway celebrated the Constitution Day in a befitting manner all over N. F. Railway on November 26 to commemorate the adoption of Constitution of India in 1949. The focus of the celebration is on "Fundamental Duties",

as enshrined in the Constitution of India. As part of the celebration of Constitution Day, the President of India led the reading of the Preamble of the Constitution from the Central Hall of Parliament. Shri Anshul Gupta, General Manager of N. F. Railway and senior officers of N. F. Railway Headquar-

ters joined him Live, in reading the Preamble of the Constitution at the GM's Conference Hall. All other officers and staff of N. F. Railway Headquarters joined the live telecast for reading of the Preamble along with the President of India from their respective offices. Similar programme was also held in all the Divisional Headquarters, Workshops, and Training Institutes etc. of N. F. Railway to create awareness about the 'Fundamental Duties'.

ATTSA condoles the death of Sananta Tanti



A.R Correspondent, Biswanath Chari, Nov 26: The Biswanath branch of All Tea Tribe Students' Association (ATTSA) has condoned the untimely demise of Sahitya Akademi award winning eminent poet Sananta Tanti, in a press release issued today here at Biswanath. Mahesh Satry and Bikash Kurmi, president and the secretary of the students' union deeply condoned the death of the distinguished poet and stated it an irreparable loss to the community and the Assamese literature as well. They conveyed condolences to the bereaved family members.

Discussion held on career at LTK College

CORRESPONDENT, North Lakhimpur, Nov 26: Under the aegis of Lakhimpur Telahi Kamalaboria (LTK) College Career Counselling and Placement Cell and in collaboration with NCDE, a discussion program on career titled "Investor Awareness Program on Commodity Derivative Market" was held on Thursday in the college which is situated at Azad, North Lakhimpur. The event was inaugurated by LTK College Career Counselling and Placement Cell organiser Dr. Debajit Dutta. In his fruitful speech, he told the students on how to be self dependent instead of pursuing after service. Attending the program as a resource person, Jyotirmoy Kashyap elaborately explained on commodity market, share market, NSC, BSE etc. A total number of 256 students and teachers of various institutions from Lakhimpur district participated in the discussion program. The chief advisor of discussion program-cum-Principal of the college Dr. Bubul Kumar Saikia thanked the officials of the NCDE along with the organiser Dr. Debajit Dutta for providing various suggestions on the aspect of self-dependence.

Octogenarian from Nagaon goes missing in Guwahati

Correspondent, Nagaon, Nov 26: An octogenarian and retired principal of Nowgong Polytechnic named Hiteswar Laskar, resident of Nagaon town, went missing from Guwahati Bhetapara area this afternoon, sources from his family added. The sources claimed that along with other family members he went to participate in a wedding ceremony of his relatives in Guwahati Bhetapara from Nagaon a day back. Talking to this correspondent Pankaj Laskar, son of the retired educationist stated that he was suffering from dementia for a few months and recovered slowly from the disease after treatment.

Barpeta Road Correspondent 26th November

Assam Rising Correspondent, Barpeta Road, Nov 26: Constitution Day, also known as "National Law Day", is celebrated in India on 26 November every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India. On the occasion SSB 64 Bn. organised a programme on Friday where Rajneesh Kumar Moral, Officiating Commandant read out the preamble among the troops and briefed the



Motto of it. It is to be recalled that every year on this day, SSB Bn. take up a mass reading of Preamble to the Constitution to mark the occasion. During this programme

Sandeep Poonia Dy. Commandant, Abhishek Assistant Commandant, Ashok Assistant Commandant, and troops of 64 Bn. participated.

DTFI Reviews Covid-19 Vaccination

Assam Rising, Reporter, Aalo Nov 26: The District Task Force for Special Routine Immunization took status of the Immunization works carried out in the district under the Chairmanship of West Siang Deputy Commissioner Penga Tato at the Conference Hall of DC Office on November 25 last. The DC exhorted the doctors to give full vaccination coverage to the remaining target groups to eradicate many of the ailments from our society. He also insisted on checking expiry and un-protected doses that may harm the children. The DMO Dr. Dubom Bagra urged all doctors to deliver quality services and keep close rapport with the patients, prepare their micro

plan by December 12 and there should not be laxity in submitting report-returns in time for onward submission to govt. Dr. Sarugbam Victoria MO WHO, who attended as Resource Person also spelt out her observation and gave useful tips. Dr. Tomar Kamkai, DFWO cum DIO Gave detailed deliberations on the status of Har Ghar Dastak Covid-19. The DPM Yomto Lollen dwelt at length on feedback through intensive and proper survey and Portal mapping etc. The MOs also spelt out their respective problems in handling the twin issues of Immunization and Covid-19 vaccination due to lack of fund-

ing to carry out govt. multiphenature of works, norms and instructions. Logistic support is a must to carry out the tasks ahead in time.



Rash Mahotsav held at Nagsankar

A.R correspondent

Biswanath Chari, Nov 27: The 26th central Rash Mahotsav of Pub Nagsankar was held at Nanke Chengamari, to the north of Sootea with a two-day programme recently. The first day programme began with hoisting of the religious flag by Ghanashyam Kalita. The first day of Rash Mahotsav began with lighting of ceremonial lamps by Gopal Krishna Bora. Hitesh Baruah; ZPC member inaugurated the mega festival. The exhibition stall was inaugurated by Surjya Kamal Bora; ADC Biswanath. The second day programme began with lighting of ceremonial lamps followed by a lecture by Pabitra Pran Bora. Actress Meghrajani

Medhi performed the role of Radha. A huge number of people thronged the spiritual festival.



of people thronged the spiritual festival.

Rajeev Menon brings to witness & owns ltd. edition signed serigraphs of MF Husain

STAFFREPORTER
Guwahati, Nov 26: In a bid to engender art appreciation in Assam and promote the legacy of one of India's finest artists to ever put brush to canvas, Guwahati-based tea house Local-é-tea and popular art collector and curator Rajeev Menon are bringing the best of art to the city. The exhibition namely Art Chronicles: Limited signed serigraphs of MF Husain is formally launched today on November 26 and will continue to January 9, 2022 in different series at Local-é-tea, 3rd Floor, City Centre Mall, Guwahati where art enthusiasts and collectors will enjoy an exclusive display of Maqbool Fida Husain's (MF Husain) limited edition signed serigraphs. For this a launching ceremony was held at the venue and was launched by Devashish Sharma, Commissioner, Guwahati Municipal Corpo-

ration and Dilip Tamuly, renowned graphic artist in presence of other prominent personalities of the state. The event – Art Chronicles – will see some of Husain's greatest works and will feature internationally-renowned series such as Ashta Vinayak, Paris Suite, Gaja Gamini, Mughal-e-azam, Japanese Horse, Mother and Child, and an array of assorted prints. It will also provide an opportunity for art lovers to absorb the intricacies of every stroke and colour; hue and pattern, and vibrancy of Husain's narrative paintings using his iconic modified Cubic style. Hosting the exhibition at a top tea house also affords attendees the dream winter holidays with a blend of delicious tea cups making the

rounds. It is first of its kind in Guwahati and the entire Northeast India where art is now witnessing a resurgence. Speaking just before the launch, curator and organiser Menon explains that limited edition prints are a series of identical prints of an artwork, commissioned by the artist. The first phase features the Ashta Viyanak and Paris Suite series. The works on display are from Menon's personal collection, a man who is currently enjoying the support and friendship of Shafaat, son of Husain. After enjoying the same kind of relationship with his father during his lifetime, the duo is coming together to honour the legacy of the late legend. But beyond that, this appreciation-cum-sale event also presents an opportunity for art enthusiasts to add an art piece to their ex-

isting collection or build a new one from scratch. Menon is one man who has transformed his passions into an inspiration for art lovers all over the world. Menon today has a collection of over 1,800 originals and signed limited editions from artists all over the globe. His collection includes originals of SH Raza and post millennial contemporary artists, put together in a creative space, with support and a sustainable model for new age artists. Another crucial pillar in this mix is the cafe co-owner, Ashi Jain, whose love for art and passion to build a community of artists is driving her involvement in the event. "For us to build the next generation of artists, we need to motivate the younger generation; to inspire them and help them learn by showcasing the works of famous artists. Today, it's the legendary Husain; tomorrow it could be someone else. But this is something that has surely come to stay," she says. Menon, with the collaboration of interested individuals like Jain, is looking to make history and change the long-standing narrative that has made art exhibitions an elusive concept in Assam.

Quiz competition on road safety held in Chirang

CORRESPONDENT

Kajalgaon, Nov 26: The District Road Safety Committee, Chirang, on Friday organised a district-level quiz competition on road safety measures to generate awareness among the students at Kashikotra Higher Secondary School. Attending as guests of the programme, Assistant Commissioner, Chirang, Kushal Kalita and Inspector Schools Bijay Baishnab, including District Transport Officer Deepak Patwary and Assistant Enforcement Inspector Manoj Basumatary



informed regarding rules, regulations, signs and signals of traffic to ensure safety measures while driving. They also urged the people in general to wear helmets while riding two-wheelers and fastening seat belts and not exceeding speed

limit on roads while driving four-wheelers as these measures are considered keys of road safety. During the quiz competition, how to maintain safety on the roads by following rules with safe driving tips were widely covered.

Golaghat Amateur Theatre Society foundation day observed

Assam Rising Correspondent
Golaghat, Nov 26: One of the oldest and prestigious organisations for uplifting dramatic and cultural talents in the state, Golaghat Amateur Theatre Society observed its 127th Foundation Day yesterday in Golaghat. Keeping in view of the Covid situation the Society observed its Foundation Day in a befitting manner. The program started with hoisting of flags by the President of Golaghat Amateur Theatre Society Dr Ajit Baruah. Smriti Tarpan was created by veteran member of the Society Nobin Nath. After that a meeting was held

which was presided over by Dr Ajit Baruah. In the meeting two books written by Aruna Bordoloi Baruah were unveiled by retired professor Loni Phukan. Earlier one minute silence was observed to mourn the demise of well known poet Sananta Tanti. In the evening the annual prize distribution ceremony was held where Haripad Chetia Award was conferred to renowned playwright, writer Sapon Jyoti Thakur. Also the highest Award of the Society the Golaghat Amateur Theatre Society Award was given to veteran ac-

tress Lili Hazarika and Upcoming Talent Award was given to young singer Jesrin Ahmed. The awards were given by Executive Officer of Golaghat Municipal Board Dr Sangita Borthakur, Kalpana Chetia from the family of Haripad Chetia and Vice-president of the Society Anil Sharma. The inaugural speech was delivered by Administrative Secretary of Golaghat Amateur Theatre Society Dipmoni Khatoniar and the ceremony was anchored by Cultural Secretary Nilofar a Mahtabi and Finance Secretary Mridul Kakoti.


Constitutional day celebrated

Assam Rising, Correspondent
Hojai, November 26:

A Talk series has been organized by NSS Unit and IQAC Cell, Maryam Ajmal Women's College of Science and Technology, Hojai to observe Constitution Day. The Program has been hosted by Junumani Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Department of English. The Talk series has been initiated with the Purpose of the meet by Sajida Begum, HoD, Department of Political Science, followed by speakers; Dr. Pritom Jyoti Sarmah; Principal, Tahera Rahman; Assistant Professor Department of Political Science, Rajiv Hussain; Assistant Professor, Depart-



ment of Assamese, Baseer Ali Ahmed; Political Science. Students of B.A 5th semester, Taniya Mazumder recited a patriotic poem, Yasmina Begum delivered a few words on Constitution Day and Munira Parbin sang a patriotic song to enlighten the gathering. The Program ended with a note of thanks by Hemanta Nath, Assistant Professor, Department of Education.

 Indian Bank			ZONAL OFFICE : Sharma & Sharma Market, 2nd Floor, R.G. Baruah Road, Chandmari, Guwahati, Assam-781003 Email: zoguawhati@indianbank.co.in			{Rule-8(1)} POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)	
Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice on the dates noted against each account as mentioned herein below calling upon the Borrowers / Guarantors / Mortgagors with our respective branches to repay the amount mentioned in the notices within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers and guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on the dates mentioned against each account. The Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for the amounts and interests thereon mentioned against each account herein below. The borrower's attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.							
Sl. No.	Name of the Branch	Name of the Account	Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors	Description of the Immovable Property	Date of Demand Notice	Amount Outstanding	
					Possession Notice		
1	Bhangagarh Branch	Mrs. Hafizun Nessa, Mr. Abdul Rahman & Mr. Kurshid Rahman	Borrower: Mrs. Hafizun Nessa, Mr. Abdul Rahman and Mr. Kurshid Rahman, resident of H. No. 11, Makdum Baba Path, Sijubari, Opp- Central Silk Road, Dargah Road, P.O. - Hatigaon, Guwahati- 781038 and Mortgagor: Mr. Abdul Rahman, resident of H. No. 11, Makdum Baba Path, Sijubari, Opp- Central Silk Road, Dargah Road, P.O. - Hatigaon, Guwahati- 781038	All that part and parcel of the land and building in the name of Mr. Abdul Rahman, S/o Lt. Ramjan Ali vide registered sale deed No. 9201/01 dated 30.11.2001, Land measuring 1- Katha 10- Lecha covered by Dag No. 386(O) / 2284(N) in K.P. Patta No. 23(O) / 103(N) of Revenue Village- Hatigaon under Mouza- Beltola in the District of Kamrup Metro. Bounded by East: Land of Dag No. 2283, West: Land of Dag No. 2286, North: Road, South: Land of Dag No. 2285.	09.08.2021 26.11.2021	Rs. 38,78,518.00 as on 30.04.2021 and interest thereon.	
2	Titaguri Branch	M/s Rakshit Megamart	Borrower: Mrs. Pinki Rakshit (Prop. M/s. Rakshit Megamart), W/o Mr. Kanchan Rakshit, Address: Shanti Nagar, Hathat Colony, P.O. / P.S.- Kokrajhar, Ward No. 2, Dist.- Kokrajhar, B.TC, Assam- 783370 and Guarantor cum Mortgagor: Mrs. Golap Rani Rakshit, W/o Mr. Kajar Kr. Rakshit, Address: Shanti Nagar, Hathat Colony, P.O. / P.S.- Kokrajhar, Ward No. 2, Dist.- Kokrajhar, B.TC, Assam- 783370 and Guarantor: Mr. Kanchan Rakshit, S/o Mr. Kajar Kumar Rakshit, Shanti Nagar, Hathat Colony, P.O. / P.S.- Kokrajhar, Ward No. 2, Dist.- Kokrajhar, B.TC, Assam- 783370.	All that part and parcel of the freehold land and building in the name of Mrs. Golap Rani Rakshit, W/o- Mr. Kajar Kumar Rakshit, having Registered Sale Deed No. 19/12 dated 08.01.1990 measuring 13 Lechas covered by Dag No. 249/1598(Old), 1216(New), Patta No. 96(Old) / 684(New) situated at Shantinagar, Ward No. 02, Hathat Colony, P.O. / P.S.- Kokrajhar, Dist.- Kokrajhar, B.TC, Assam- 783370. Bounded on the North: PWD Road, on the South: Mr. Nitai Dutta, on the East: Mr. Biswanath Das, on the West: Mr. Pradip Kumar Ghosh.	16.08.2021 22.11.2021	Rs. 21,52,362.96 as on 30.04.2021 and interest thereon.	
3	Titaguri Branch	M/s. S. B. Electricals	Borrower cum Mortgagor: Mr. Swapan Das (Prop. M/s. S. B. Electricals), S/o Late Santosh Chandra Das, Shanti Nagar, Ward No. 03, Kokrajhar Town, P.O. / P.S.- Kokrajhar, Dist.- Kokrajhar, B.TC, Assam- 783370 and Guarantor: Ms. Sagarika Das, W/o Mr. Swapan Das, Shanti Nagar, Ward No. 03, Kokrajhar Town, P.O. / P.S.- Kokrajhar, Dist.- Kokrajhar, B.TC, Assam- 783370.	All that part and parcel of landed property standing in the name of Mr. Swapan Das, S/o Late Santosh Chandra Das, vide periodic khiraj lease patta No. 3026 measuring 01 Katha 3.50 Lechas and covered by Dag No. 458(O) / 1551(N), 458/528(O) / 1552(N), Patta No. 842(O) / 3026(N) and situated at Shantinagar, Ward No. 3, Kokrajhar Town, Dihhi-Dokra, P.O. / P.S.- Kokrajhar, Dist.- Kokrajhar, B.TC, Assam- 783370. Bounded on the North: Mr. Narayan Nandi & Ors., on the South: Mr. Padma Debnath, on the East: Mr. Surendra Bhawal, on the West: PWD Road & Mr. Shanti Ranjan Das.	16.08.2021 22.11.2021	Rs. 43,82,976.11 as on 10.08.2021 and interest thereon.	
Date: 27.11.2021 Place: Guwahati & Kokrajhar						Sd/- Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)	

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VI, ISSUE NO. 280 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2021

The humane asylum system crisis

At least 27 men, women and children who, through no fault of their own, were seeking safety in the UK, perished in the cold, unforgiving seas of the Channel - the busiest shipping lane in the world. They had packed themselves into a flimsy unseaworthy dinghy on the French coast on the final leg of what they hoped would be a journey to a new life where they could do what we all take for granted - work, make friends, have fun and be safe from any harm. We don't yet know their names, their ages, what relation they were to one another or where they were from. But we do know they will have paid vast sums of money to people smugglers who cruelly control a trade in human cargo that exploits the suffering of those who have fled persecution, oppression and terror in other parts of the globe. It is difficult for any of us to imagine what the people arriving across the Channel have been through. I recently met two teenage brothers who had made their way overland from Afghanistan fleeing the Taliban, who at the time were advancing across the country. They too had arrived in a small boat on the beach in Dover. As I sat with them at the Kent Intake Unit, where Refugee Council staff look after them before they are taken into the care of local authorities, they looked vacant, totally disoriented and fearful of what would happen to them next. In broken English, they told me they wanted England to be their new home. Clearly very traumatised, they said they were terrified they could be sent back to Afghanistan. Rather than showing compassion, humanity and understanding to people like the two teenage Afghans, the government has chosen to talk and act tough, adopting an uncompromising stance. Expensive kit has been bought to try to block the boats. Millions have been spent on increasing border controls - much of it handed to the French to deliver. The government says those arriving in small boats are nearly all economic migrants - a claim repeated on Tuesday in the Commons by the home secretary. The reality is different. An analysis by the Refugee Council published last week shows that almost all arrivals in the 18 months to June this year were from 10 countries, including Iran, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Sudan, Eritrea and Afghanistan, where persecution is not uncommon. More than six out of 10 people from these countries seeking asylum in the UK are granted refugee status or protection. For the top five countries it is higher, at seven out of 10.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
G.N.B. Road, Chandmari Colony,
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E-mail Id : assamrising@gmail.com

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

'Yes to Hinduism, no to Hindutva' is lazy liberal response, and 3 decades late



The recent debate on Hindutva versus Hinduism is another reflection of what I call liberal intellectual laziness. It is too little, too late. It is too late because Hindutva is an established idiom of Indian politics for over two decades. The non-BJP parties did virtually nothing to engage with Hinduism during this crucial period of time. They adhered to a highly vague and politically disastrous form of secularism. It is also too little because the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its associated organisations have spent considerable intellectual energies supported by conscious political moves to offer a completely different imagination of Hindutva. The liberals still rely on the old Savarkar-Golwalkar thesis as if nothing has changed in the last three decades. Author-politicians such as Shashi Tharoor, Pavan K. Varma and now Salman Khurshid are taking refuge in this Hinduism-Hindutva debate. Two questions are important here. What is the immediate history of the term Hindutva, which has given it an unprecedented political acceptability? And what have been the reasons behind the liberal class' intellectual laziness to respond to it? In his presidential address of 2004, Lal Krishna Advani made a powerful claim. He said, "I am saddened that from being a description of the core of our nationhood, Hindutva has been misrepresented to denote a political approach. Hindutva is a sentiment; it is neither an electoral slogan nor should it be confused with religion." Despite this desire to make Hindutva a legitimate expression for Indian nationalism, Advani and other BJP leaders continued to rely on the 1995 Supreme Court judgment that defined Hindutva as "a way of life". The Narendra Modi-led BJP did not spoil its energies in defending Hindutva as its ideological commitment. Instead, it worked hard to expand the scope of this term - something which Advani once envisaged - to redefine Indianness in Hindu terms. It is worth noting that Modi does not use the expression Hindutva to describe his political moves. Unlike Advani or Atal Bihari Vajpayee, he stays away from any direct discussion on this issue. The speech that Modi delivered on 3 December 2018 in an election rally is perhaps the only occasion in the last seven years when he made an attempt to reflect on his imagination of Hindutva. Responding to Rahul Gandhi's claim that the prime minister did not have any knowledge of Hindu religion, Modi said: "Oh brother...Hindutva...is a rich heritage. This Hindutva, this Hindu knowledge is so profound...so vast, and so

ancient...it is higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the sea. No one can claim that he or she has complete knowledge of it. Even the sages never claimed to have full knowledge of Hindu and Hindutva. I am a very small man and I do not claim to have such vast knowledge." There are two important points

here. First, Modi is not interested in reiterating the old argument that Hindutva is a way of life and it has nothing to do with politics. He interprets Hindu religion and tradition through the prism of Hindutva to proclaim a kind of theology. This is exactly what Anustup Basu calls 'political monotheism' in his new book. Second, Modi actually conceptualises Hindutva as an untested, neutral and self-evident cultural expression. He confidently asserts that there is no need to discuss Hindutva in the realm of electoral politics because it is a real manifestation of Indian-ness. The BJP's electoral success in the post-2014 period has actually contributed significantly to transform Hindutva into a new political commonness. Non-BJP parties - Congress, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and even Communist Party Marxist (CPM) - are not in a position to ignore the presence of a powerful Hindutva constituency. This transformation of Hindutva from an ideology to political commonness is so powerful that the BJP does not need to defend it as a way of life. This may be the reason why Hindutva is no longer listed as the official philosophy of the BJP. The failure of the non-BJP parties (and a section of self-claimed liberals) in interpreting the changing meanings of Hindutva and its emergence as a political hegemony must not be seen through the prism of their perceived victimhood. They were in power for a long time. In a way, a conducive environment for the gradual and

sustained spread of Hindu essentialism was created during the time of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) rule. In fact, the non-BJP parties did not engage with the changing realities and continued to uphold their old, outdated, evasive, and ideological templates. The Congress gave up the economic imagination of Nehru, while defending his secularism. Fractions of Janta Dal ignored the social philosophy of Ram Manohar Lohia and Jayaprakash Narayan, while upholding the banner of social justice. The Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) took a complete U-turn in celebrating caste-based electoral engineering in the name of Ambedkarism. And, the Communists lost interest in class questions, while adhering to Marxism. In this context, secularism and social inclusion perhaps were the only ready-to-use phrases that could provide an ideological justification for their political manoeuvring against the Sangh Parivar-led BJP. The BJP's electoral success exposed the limitation of this political consensus. The non-BJP parties have been clueless about Hindutva since 2014. Their ideological templates are out-of-date and they do not have intellectual capabilities to offer any fresh set of political ideas. This is precisely the reason these parties and the intellectuals associated with them are getting attracted towards Hinduism-Hindutva binary. They want us to believe that the collective aspirations of Indian people are always determined by their religious belief. Hence, the right kind of Hinduism is needed to counter Hindutva politics. Pavan K. Varma, for instance, argues in his book *The Great Hindu Civilisation: Achievement, Neglect, Bias and the Way Forward*, that Hindu civilisation survives a number of historical onslaughts because there is something called Hindu-Satya. Interestingly, this Hindu pride argument is based on a defeatist Hindu history: Hindus were defeated by Muslims and so on. By this logic, one can also think of

Muslim-Satya to write an equally essentialist history of a 'great Muslim civilisation' - a narrative of success and triumph of Islam in India by using similar sources and arguments. After all, Varma's Hindu-Satya, like Savarkar's Hindutva, does not tell us why a sizeable number of Hindu converts, who became Muslim by accident or force, could not give up Islam and merge in the Hindu-fold in the past 600 years. Salman Khurshid's new book *Sunrise over Ayodhya: Nationhood In Our Times* is a serious, thought-provoking study of the Ayodhya verdict. It certainly makes a set of nuanced arguments on the possibilities of recovering secularism of a different kind. However, Khurshid relies heavily on the textual meanings of Hinduism. Like Varma and Tharoor, he goes on to celebrate Hinduism on philosophical bases and refutes Hindutva purely as a political doctrine. This uncritical adherence to text-centric interpretation of Hinduism does not allow Khurshid to understand the actual reception of Hindutva among non-dominant Dalit and Adivasi communities. Badri Narayan's book *Republic of Hindutva* shows how the RSS incorporated the unknown Dalit icons in wider Hindutva fold in the last two decades. This kind of socio-cultural accommodation offers a new collective identity to these marginalised communities. The distinction between Hinduism-Hindutva, in such cases, becomes entirely irrelevant. These non-BJP sympathisers of Hinduism, we must note, have not yet realised that the success of Hindutva is actually an outcome of the failure of their version of secularism. If they are really serious about offering an alternative to Hindutva, they must pay attention to Indian realities to find out everyday forms of India-specific secularism and democracy. Unfortunately, no one is interested in the messiness of everyday life of the common people.

US tech giants aren't monopolies, they are engaged in fiercely competitive markets

A Report : Few issues have generated more misguided legislation in this Congress than antitrust reform. The latest addition to this regrettable canon shows exactly what's at stake. This month, Senators Amy Klobuchar (of Minnesota) and Tom Cotton (of Arkansas) introduced the Platform Competition and Opportunity Act of 2021. It's a companion bill to one that was introduced in the House - along with four likeminded proposals - in June, and its goal is relatively simple: It would effectively ban big tech companies from making acquisitions, on the theory that this would stimulate competition and better serve consumers. That theory, offered as though it were self-evident, is in fact dubious. Mergers and acquisitions are typically a spur to efficiency, not a barrier, because they allow companies to create synergies, boost pro-

ductivity, diversify risk, and gain economies of scale or scope. In the American tech business, these benefits are especially pronounced. Acquisitions allow platforms to instantly bring new products to a huge market. They reward investors for taking a chance on promising startups. They encourage entrepreneurship, innovation and the tolerance for failure that has made the U.S. venture-capital market so strikingly successful. By banning mergers, the bill could destroy this ecosystem. Conversely, it would actually make it harder for new entrants to disrupt existing markets. By placing the burden of proof in merger reviews on companies rather than the government, it would shift the balance of power away from the courts and toward politically appointed bureaucrats. Its very purpose is to dethrone the consumer-welfare standard

that has guided U.S. antitrust policy for decades - and has helped make America's tech sector the envy of the world. The digital economy now makes up 9.6% of U.S. gross domestic product, almost as much as manufacturing. It employs nearly 8 million Americans, produces an enormous variety of desirable products, and often gives them away for free. If this is an industry in need of a radical intervention, what do these lawmakers imagine would constitute success? The senators say they're addressing "our nation's monopoly problem," but they offer no evidence that the targeted businesses are in fact monopolies. There's a good reason for that. The companies in the crosshairs - Amazon.com, Apple, Google and Facebook - might be big, but by any traditional metric they're engaged in fiercely competitive markets.

India's farmers have won-but this doesn't mean Modi is softening



It is not often that Narendra Modi gives a televised address to the nation and it is met with relief, not disarray. The Indian prime minister's previous frightening acts of decisiveness have included announcing a complete lockdown with just four hours' notice last year, and withdrawing 85% of the

country's currency overnight in 2016. This most recent on-screen address went another way entirely. When Modi announced his government's intention to withdraw three controversial farm laws after one of the most prolonged periods of protest ever recorded in India, in which hundreds died in the face of state violence, it was met with mass jubilation. The

laws - originally passed during a chaotic voice vote in parliament last year, when the television broadcast was muted so viewers could not hear the opposition - were seen as tools to encourage the corporatisation of agriculture and weaken state protections for farmers. Backed by the International Monetary Fund's chief economist Gita Gopinath, the US state department, rightwing

economists and a large section of India's pro-Modi, pro-industry media, the laws faced mass opposition among Indians - almost half of whom, according to the most recent census, work in farming. This is a rare climbdown from Modi's government, and perhaps its most significant. But it would be overambitious to hold up the farmers' victory as a sign of things to come. The space for dissent in India has shrunk markedly over seven years as the Modi juggernaut has rolled on and emboldened Hindu nationalism; people have found themselves jailed, journalists have faced police action and a

Muslim comedian has had to cancel gigs in the face of threats. Despite promises from Modi early on in his term that he would protect freedom of speech, parts of the Indian media now resemble a propaganda wing. The central issue of the farm protests - protection and fair prices for farmers - was one that enjoyed genuine mass support. While led from the front by farm leaders from Punjab's Sikh and Uttar Pradesh's Jat communities, the protesters had in their ranks women and men from across the country. Those

too poor or elderly to make the trek to Delhi held demonstrations in solidarity locally, capturing the popular imagination with their fortitude, camping out on the streets for months and remaining firm in the face of state violence. The number of protesters is a testament to the huge reach and deep roots of farm unions in India - more than 40 of them came together to organise. While led by the veteran farm organiser, Rakesh Tikait, the movement was not overshadowed by one

personality; nor did factional differences split it, and consensus on the issues remained strong. When some protesters became violent, condemnation from the leadership was swift. While political support from opposition parties was cultivated and encouraged, the group held them at arm's length. The Sikh diaspora across the world, including in the UK, marshalled significant support including, unexpectedly, from Rihanna. Once the pro-

testers had demonstrated to Modi that public opinion was with them, and the time and effort his government had spent trying to discredit the protesters had not gone much further than Delhi TV studios, the spectre of a potential electoral defeat loomed large, as Modi saw his polling drop in states where elections are due to take place next year. But this does not mean that every mass protest in India will have the same impact. In December 2019, Modi's government enacted the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) which could grant citizenship to illegal immigrants fleeing religious persecution from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Bangladesh, but only if they were non-Muslim. Simultaneously, the government began work on a national register of citizens (NRC), a version of which it rolled out in the north-eastern state of Assam, forcing immense hardship and misery on people who were unable to produce documents

proving their Indian ancestry. Taken together, the CAA and the NRC were widely perceived by Indian Muslims to be an attempt to force them into statelessness and triggered massive nationwide protests. The anti-CAA-NRC protests had some things in common with the farm protests: they blockaded a part of Delhi, were creative, energetic and sustained, and had satellite protest sites across the country. But there was a noticeable difference - this was a "Muslim issue" in a country that has demonstrated an increasingly muscular majoritarianism, and the Indian media was enormously spiteful in its coverage of the protests. Then, in March 2020, the country went into pandemic lockdown and the protests dispersed. If the government begins once again to move on the NRC, it is unclear if the farmers' victory will energise Muslim protesters and their non-Muslim allies, or if they will meet an angrier state machinery.

Rukmini S

QUIZ

Q.1- How many primary colors are there?

Ans-

Q.2- What do you call a house made of ice?

Ans-

Q.3- Which festival is called the festival of light?

Ans-

Q.4- Who is the power minister of Assam?

Ans-

Q.5- How many medical colleges are there in Assam?

Ans-

Those who will give all the 5 correct answers, his/her name and photo will be published next week. You can send your answers to : assamrising@gmail.com

Last week quiz Answers : Guglielmo Marconi (1890), Tibetan Plateau, Eight planet, 28 states (Union territories), low levels of iron in the body

Short-Story



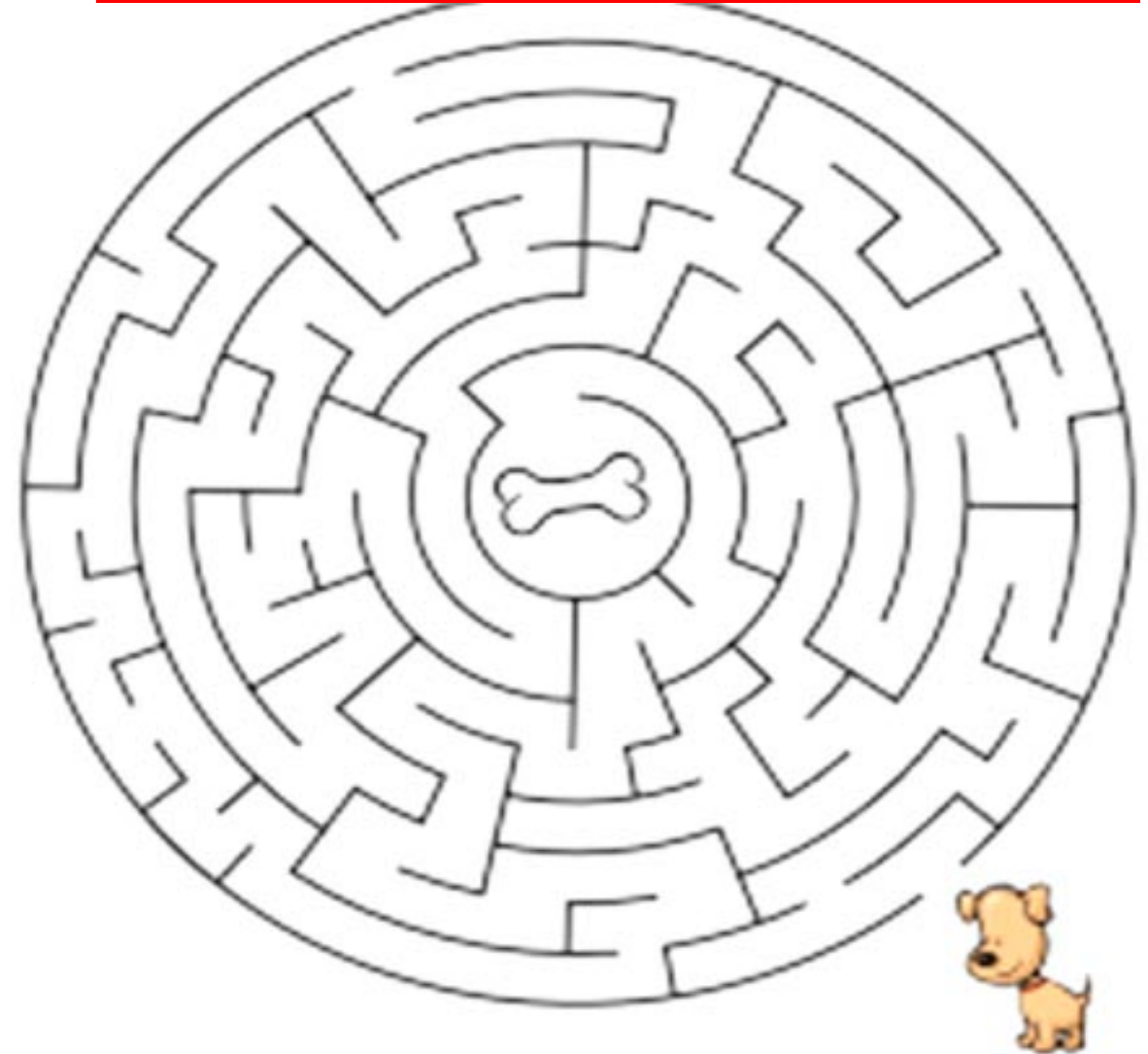
Once upon a time, king Akbar got so mad at Birbal that he told Birbal to leave the kingdom and go away. Heartbroken, Birbal left the kingdom and took refuge at a farmer's house in a nearby village. Birbal spent his days working at the farm. As time passed, King Akbar started missing his favourite courtier. One day, Akbar decided to send across his royal guards to find Birbal. The guards looked for Birbal in all directions, but all their efforts went to waste. Akbar thought of a trick to find Birbal – he made an announcement that whoever got him a pot full of wit would be given a pot filled with diamonds. The news reached all the nearby villages, and to Birbal as well. The villagers held a meeting to decide how to solve the king's mystery. Birbal offered to help, stating that he needs a month's time. Birbal took a pot and put a small watermelon in it without cutting it from its vines. After a month, the watermelon grew up to the size of the pot. This pot was sent to the King, and he was told that the wit should only be removed without breaking the pot. Akbar knew that this could be no one else but Birbal, and he went to bring Birbal back to his court.

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

The Pot of Wit

Once upon a time, king Akbar got so mad at Birbal that he told Birbal to leave the kingdom and go away. Heartbroken, Birbal left the kingdom and took refuge at a farmer's house in a nearby village. Birbal spent his days working at the farm. As time passed, King Akbar started missing his favourite courtier. One day, Akbar decided to send across his royal guards to find Birbal. The guards looked for Birbal in all directions, but all their efforts went to waste. Akbar thought of a trick to find Birbal – he made an announcement that whoever got him a pot full of wit would be given a pot filled with diamonds. The news reached all the nearby villages, and to Birbal as well. The villagers held a meeting to decide how to solve the king's mystery. Birbal offered to help, stating that he needs a month's time. Birbal took a pot and put a small watermelon in it without cutting it from its vines. After a month, the watermelon grew up to the size of the pot. This pot was sent to the King, and he was told that the wit should only be removed without breaking the pot. Akbar knew that this could be no one else but Birbal, and he went to bring Birbal back to his court.

Can you help the dog to reach the centre??



Bastovika Buragohain, Class VI, St. Peters School, Nazira



Bhargab Buragohain, Class V, Mon ati akha group, Sivasagar



Lina Buragohain, Class - VIII, Mon Ati akha Group, Sivasagar

Home work : Fill the picture with colour



A Happy Child

My house is red - a little house;
A happy child am I:
I laugh and play the whole day long,
I hardly ever cry.

I have a tree, a green, green tree,
To shade me from the sun;
And under it I often sit,
When all my play is done.



Dear Bhagins,

Life skills will not only makes one strong but also prepare to face the world. Life is very short, who have to enjoy our life, but at the same time we always try to be a good human being. Heroes are made by the path they choose, not the powers they are graced with. You are much stronger than you think you are. The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith.

Your
Abhi mama.

Contact me on : assamrising@gmail.com



Find **5** differences



Congratulations



Congratulations! **Puja Dutta** for answering all five correct answers of last week's quiz. Puja is a student of Class VII of Sissi Chariali Higher Secondary School. We wish you success in future.

Contd. From Page 1

New Corona virus variant detects

whether new variants will have a public health impact can take time. South Africa has seen a dramatic rise in new infections, Phaahla said at an online press briefing. Over the last four or five days, there has been more of an exponential rise, he said Thursday, adding that the new variant appears to be driving the spike in cases. Scientists in South Africa are working to determine what percentage of the new cases have been caused by the new variant. Currently identified as B.1.1.529, the new variant has also been found in Botswana and Hong Kong in travelers from South Africa, he said. The World Health Organization's technical working group is to meet Friday to assess the new variant and may decide whether or not to give it a name from the Greek alphabet. The British government announced that it was banning flights from South Africa and five other southern African countries effective at noon (1200GMT) on Friday, and that anyone who had recently arrived from those countries would be asked to take a coronavirus test. UK Health Secretary Sajid Javid said there were concerns the new variant may be more transmissible than the dominant delta strain, and the vaccines that we currently have may be less effective" against it. The new variant has a constellation of new mutations, said Tulio de Oliveira, from the Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa, who has tracked the spread of the delta variant in the country. The "very high number of mutations is a concern for predicted immune evasion and transmissibility, said de Oliveira. This new variant has many, many more mutations," including more than 30 to the spike protein that affects transmissibility, he said. "We can see that the variant is potentially spreading very fast. We do expect to start seeing pressure in the healthcare system in the next few days and weeks. De Oliveira said that a team of scientists from seven South African universities is studying the variant. They have 100 whole genomes of it and expect to have many more in the next few days, he said. We are concerned by the jump in evolution in this variant," he said. The one piece of good news is that it can be detected by a PCR test, he said. After a period of relatively low transmission in which South Africa recorded just over 200 new confirmed cases per day, in the past week the daily new cases rapidly increased to more than 1,200 on Wednesday. On Thursday they jumped to 2,465. The first surge was in Pretoria and the surrounding Tshwane metropolitan area and appeared to be cluster outbreaks from student gatherings at universities in the area, said health minister Phaahla. Amid the rise in cases, scientists studied the genomic sequencing and discovered the new variant. This is clearly a variant that we must be very serious about, said Ravindra Gupta, professor of clinical microbiology at the University of Cambridge. It has a high number of spike mutations that could affect transmissibility and immune response. Gupta said scientists in South Africa need time to determine if the surge in new cases is attributable to the new variant. There is a high probability that this is the case," he said. South African scientists have done an incredible job of identifying this quickly and bringing it to the world's attention. South African officials had warned that a new resurgence was expected from mid-December to early January and had hoped to prepare for that by getting many more people vaccinated, said Phaahla. About 41 per cent of South Africa's adults have been vaccinated and the number of shots being given per day is relatively low, at less than 1,30,000, significantly below the government's target of 3,00,000 per day. South Africa currently has about 16.5 million doses of vaccines, by Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson, in the country and is expecting delivery of about 2.5 million more in the next week, according to Nicholas Crisp, acting director-general of the national health department. We are getting in vaccines faster than we are using them at the moment, said Crisp. So for some time now, we have been deferring deliveries, not decreasing orders, but just deferring our deliveries so that we don't accumulate and stockpile vaccines. South Africa, with a population of 60 million, has recorded more than 2.9 million COVID-19 cases including more than 89,000 deaths. To date, the delta variant remains by far the most infectious and has crowded out other once-worrying variants including alpha, beta and mu. According to sequences submitted by countries worldwide to the world's biggest public database, more than 99 per cent are delta.

Constitution Day: Don't shy

Day since it was on this day in 1949 that the Constituent Assembly of India formally adopted the Constitution, which subsequently came into effect on January 26, 1950. The CJI, in his speech, said, "It was 72 years ago today that the text which has come to define us, as a people and a nation, was adopted. I pay my humble respects to all the freedom fighters and members of the Constituent Assembly who have enabled all of us to stand here today. I am happy to be a part of the legal community, which has given so much to the freedom struggle and played such an integral role in the drafting of the Constitution." He asked the lawyers on Constitution Day to take a pledge to propagate the ideas that form the basis of the Constitution -- freedom, equality and justice -- in all of its facets for all people. None can forget the contributions of lawyers such as Mahatma Gandhi, Dr BR Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Lala Lajpat Rai, Sardar Patel and Alladi Krishnaswamy Iyer, whose dedication and sacrifices for the cause of the people are legendary, the CJI said. CJI Ramana added, "All of us here are successors of that glorious legacy. While celebrating this day and paying homage to our freedom fighters and the framers of our Constitution, I think it is also important for all of us to celebrate the citizenry of independent India. It is their actions over the past 12 decades- the litigants, lawyers, judges, legislators, businesspersons, workers and many more that have breathed life into what might otherwise have been just another bare document." The Constitution of today, built upon the foundations laid by the framers, is a richer and more complex document than what it was when it was adopted in 1949, the CJI said. "This is a result of the dialogue that took place both inside and outside the Courtroom, resulting in novel and unique interpretations," he said. Saying that the most important feature of the Indian Constitution is the fact that it provides a framework for debate, he emphasized that it is through such debate and discussion that the nation ultimately progresses, evolves, and achieves higher levels of welfare for the people. "You are following in the footsteps of the great men and women who created the vision document of this nation and are also direct participants in the redefining of that vision. As people with intimate knowledge of the Constitution and the laws, it is also your responsibility to educate the rest of the citizenry about the role that they play in society. The history, present, and future of this nation lie on your shoulders. This is a heavy, if not the heaviest, a burden to bear," CJI Ramana said. "This profession is called a noble profession for a reason. It demands expertise, experience, and commitment, like any other profession. But in addition to the above, it also requires integrity, knowledge of social issues, social responsibility, and civic virtue. You must be leaders and mentors in society. Take an active role in lending your hand to those in need," the CJI said. The CJI ended his speech with a quote from Dr BR Ambedkar- "Men are mortal. So are ideas. An idea needs propagation, as much as a plant needs water. Otherwise, both will wither and die."

Digiyoti Lahkar appointed

daily. Digiyoti Lahkar started his career as a reporter in a Hindi daily Uttarkal in the year 1995. Later he contributed in Ajir Batori, Amar Asom. Outside Assam, he worked in the Free Press, Maharashtra Herald. He also worked as special correspondent in Dainik Bhaskar for NE region. He also served as guest faculty of Gauhati University in the department of Journalism and Mass Communication with NET. In the year 2004 Lahkar joined as NET (Guwahati based first satellite channel) & became a house hold name in the entire NE region. Later on joined DY 365, but due to his health condition he excluded himself from the field of journalism. For his keen desire and strong mental power now he wants to come back to the field with more enthusiasm. Hope, in the Leadership of Digiyoti Lahkar, The Assam Rising will definitely reach its ultimate goal in the coming days.

Northeast sports conclave

also delivered the keynote address. At the event was also present, Bhaichung Bhutia, former Indian football team captain, K Sarhadi, Director – SAI, RC Guwahati, Kothajit Singh, Indian hockey player, and M.C Mary Kom, Olympic medalist, share their views. The day-long conclave held in different segments that include a panel discussion on Northeast Sports and Infrastructure. A discussion on how to make Northeast the sports hub of India will also take place. Former Olympic Archer Jayanta Talukdar, World Championship gold medalist boxer Sarita Devi, Pramod Boro, chief of Bodoland Territorial Council along with Tetea Hmar, secretary of Mizoram Football Association discussed the traditional sports of the northeast. The full-day conclave had different segments including a panel discussion on North-East Sports and Infrastructure. Jayanta Talukdar, Olympic archer, boxer Sarita Devi, gold medalist at World Championship, Pramod Boro, chief Bodoland Territorial Council, and Tetea Hmar, secretary, Mizoram Football Association, discussed the traditional sports of the northeast. There was also a discussion on how to make the northeast the sports hub of India. Bhaichung Bhutia, former Indian football captain, Satish K Sarhadi, Director – SAI, RC Guwahati, Kothajit Singh, India hockey player and M. C. Mary Kom, Olympic bronze medalist also shared their views on the occasion. Other attendees included Robert Romawia Royte (Mizoram Sports Minister), Bimal Bora (Assam Sports Minister), Larsing Ming Sawyan (President Meghalaya Football Association) and Abu Metha (Advisor to Nagaland CM). Bhogswar Baruah, the first Assamese to win Asian Games gold in 1966 (800 metres), was felicitated at the event. The conclave was held in association with Directorate of Information and Public Relations Assam, IOC, SBI and LIC India.

Covid situation in Beijing

tors who came to the part on October 24 to have nucleic acid testing and necessary health checks, and said all the park staff members have undergone nucleic acid testing and received a Covid-19 vaccine booster shot. The Beijing government on Friday urged the Universal Studios theme park to implement Covid-19 emergency management, after the Chinese capital reported nearly 30 confirmed cases in less than two weeks. Beijing's Haidian district will take nucleic acid tests of all students in primary and middle schools. Meanwhile, all teachers are also required to take the tests. Vaccination on students aged above three years old will begin starting from November 1. The China Centre for the Performing Arts in Beijing announced closure for three days immediately from Saturday, with all scheduled performances and activities cancelled due to epidemic concerns. Xicheng district closed all movie theatres on Saturday until October 4. The Beijing Centre for Disease Control and Prevention said on Friday that the epidemic situation in Beijing is extremely severe which requires high vigilance and strict measures, and in-door venues such as chess rooms have to suspend services. Beijing's latest Covid-19 flare-ups are Delta variant-related, and the virus strain is similar to the recent coronavirus cases reported in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Gansu province, the Beijing government said, the report added.

Centre Issues Warning To States

through Botswana, South Africa, and Hong Kong after a new Covid-19 variant 'B.1.1529' was detected by South African scientists. Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan wrote to states and union territories, "It is imperative that all international travellers travelling from and transiting through these countries and also including all other 'at risk' countries are subjected to rigorous screening and testing. The contacts of these international travellers must also be closely tracked and tested". The update comes at a time when the pandemic situation in the country was improving, he added. The centre, in its letter, said that multiple cases of the new variant were reported in Botswana (3), South Africa (6), and Hong Kong (1). It said, "This variant is reported to have a significantly high number of mutations and thus has serious public health implications for the country, in view of recently relaxed visa restrictions and opening up of international travel". Notably, scientists from South Africa have identified a new variant and classified it as 'concerning' as it has usual mutations which would help it evade the body's immune system, making it more transmissible. Director of UCL Genetics Institute, Francois Balloux said in a statement that the new variant had possibly evolved during the chronic infection of an immuno-compromised, and likely in an untreated HIV/AIDS patient.

Constitution day celebrated

of the country, it ensures constitutional supremacy rather than parliamentary supremacy. Prof. Mukhi further said that time has come for all to focus on duties. As everyone knows, fundamental rights are legally enforceable, there is no adequate instrument by which fundamental duties can be enforced. He, therefore, urged upon all to reflect on fundamental duties and make them an integral part of their daily disposition. Retd. Judge of Gauhati High Court Justice B.P. Katakey, while delivering the keynote address discussed the need for safeguarding the Civil, Political and Economic Rights of the people within the framework of the Constitution of India, how they are to be safeguarded by creating relevant constitutional provisions as well as the judicial pronouncements of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. He also dealt with the various relevant provisions of the Constitution of India vis-à-vis the Civil i.e., the right over the land; political i.e. representation in the House of People and in the State Assembly and economic i.e. reservation in employment. Advisor Education, Government of Assam Prof. Nani Gopal Mahanta while speaking on the occasion said that in spite of the challenging facets of Indian society emanated from the fallout of partition, casteism, poverty and the diversity with regard to the plethora of ethnic communities, the Indian Constitution is an immense success because of the civilizational values. He also said that symmetrical federalism of Indian Constitution such as the division of powers between centre and states is a major benchmark along with the asymmetrical federalism like implementation of Sixth and Fifth schedule of Indian Constitution. Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly Biswajit Daimary, Advocate General Devojit Saikia, Chairperson Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission Kumar Sanjay Krishna, APSC Chairman Rajib Bora, Director, Sainik Welfare, Assam Brig. N.D. Joshi (Retd.), former DGP Mukesh Sahay, senior government officials, members from the legal fraternity, faculty and students of law college and representatives from media houses and other dignitaries were also present at the function.

Assam and Mizoram will move forward

policemen dying and several, including the district SP, sustaining injuries. An alarmed Centre tried to mediate by sending central forces and nudging the two states to talk but a standoff continued for days. It was in August that two states officially engaged through top officials in Aizawl. Following the first government-level talks between the states since the July 26 border incident, representatives of the two states resolved to not have any "fresh deployment" in the disputed areas and a joint statement was released. "Both the state governments agree to maintain peace in the inter-state border areas and welcomed the deployment of (a) neutral force by the Government of India in this regard," the statement, released on August 5, said.

15 More Countries Recognise India's

India. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya had said the Centre is in communication with the rest of the world so that beneficiaries of the world's largest COVID vaccination program gets accepted and recognised, thereby easing travel for education, business and tourism purposes.

Constitution Day celebrated at West Siang

STAFF REPORTER, Aalo Nov 26: West Siang District Aalo Celebrated Constitution Day at various Administrative Headquarters, Govt College Kamki and various Schools and Govt departments. At D.C Office Aalo, Liyi Bagra ADC Aalo read out the Preamble of the Constitution. He elaborately explained the importance of the Constitution of India to the Officers and Officials of DC office Aalo. More than 3000 Persons including Students took part during the Day. A Quiz competition was also held at Govt UPS Panya on the Day.

Illegal timbers seized at Amlokhi TE

Correspondent, Nagaon, Nov 26: A patrolling team of forest personnel from Salna range led by range officer Nepal Mandal in association with police personnel from Salna Police Outpost busted two illegal timbers laden Tata DI Vans near at Amlokhi Tea Estate in the wee hours today while a gang of smugglers were being carried in towards unknown destination from Karbi Anglong district. During the drive, forest personnel seized both the illegal timber laden vehicles on spot and subsequently brought them to the range office for further legal action, sources added. Significantly, the occupants including the drivers as well as the helpers of the both vehicles managed to escape from the police as well as the team of forest personnel, sources said adding further that the worth of the seized timbers would be more than Rs 1 lakhs in the local market.

ROB organized Webinar

STAFF REPORTER, Guwahati, Nov 26: Regional Outreach Bureau, Guwahati organised a webinar on "Janajatiya Gaurav Diwas: History of Tribal people, Culture & Achievement of Assam" on Friday. This webinar has been organised to recognize the cultural heritage of the tribal communities and to mark their contributions in the state. Addressing the webinar Swarna Saikia Deori, Chairperson, Integrated Tribal Development Project (ITDP), Dibrugarh, Assam said that the present government has taken several initiatives for the upliftment of the tribal communities in Assam. She said that in present times the tribal people are no longer left behind and the schemes launched by the government for the indigenous communities have helped them to earn their livelihood. While speaking about the tribal women and youth in Assam, Saikia said that today the government has taken up every measure, from giving employment to the tribal women of rural areas to distributing high yield seeds among the youths who are engaged in agricultural activities. The webinar was attended by the officials of Press Information Bureau and Regional Outreach Bureau of Guwahati. W. Panthoibi Singha, Field Publicity Officer, ROB Guwahati, moderated the webinar. Smita Saikia, Media and Communications Officer, PIB Guwahati delivered the vote of thanks

Independence Day Cup football tournament

Correspondent, Nagaon, Nov 26: Due to COVID-19 pandemic situation although Nagaon Sports Association postponed the historic Independence Day Cup football tournament for last two years, the association is coming out this time to organize the 73th Independence Day Cup football tournament at Nagaon Nurul Amin Stadium playground from November 29 onwards. Over eleven frontline special football teams from the state and one from outside the state have already confirmed their participation this time in the tournament, sources added. The teams who have already confirmed their participation are Khaoshing football club (Majuli), Doimalu (Udalguri), Assam State Electricity Board (Guwahati), Global football club (Gosaingaon), Upper Assam football club (Duliajan), Oil India football club (Duliajan), Moran town club, Bodosa sports club, Assam Police Blue, Jorhat town club, Eleven Star club (Bongaigaon) and Kerala United football club (Kerala) respectively. The tournament will be inaugurated by former state footballer Dipak Das and the final of the tournament will be held on December 12 next, a release added.

DTCC organised training at North Lakhimpur

CORRESPONDENT, North Lakhimpur, Nov 26: A training program by the District Tobacco Control Cell, Lakhimpur was held at the conference hall of the office of the Joint Director of Health Services, Lakhimpur situated in North Lakhimpur on Thursday where a total of 53 members of Lakhimpur Pan Seller Association were trained successfully. Dr. Jagadish Goswami, the District Nodal Officer, District Tobacco Control Cell, Lakhimpur trained in the program on Tobacco and Health, Cigarette and other Tobacco Product Act, 2003 (COTPA-2003). ADC (Health) Geetalee Duwarah, the Joint Director of Health Services, Lakhimpur, Dr. Mahendra Das, Lakhimpur district Malaria Officer Chandra Singh Pegu, Dr. Bitupan Borah, Karan Kumar Hazarika and Bikash Dutta were present in the program. Lakhimpur District Pan sellers Association president Kiran Gupta and secretary Sankar Dutta expressed gratitude to the Lakhimpur District Tobacco Control Cell for such beneficial training program, and assured immediate application of COTPA - 2003 by every member of the association.

GU NSS cell & KHS College celebrated constitution day

STAFF REPORTER, Guwahati, Nov 26: Karmashree Hiteswar Saikia College NSS unit & Gauhati University NSS Cell jointly celebrated constitution day today on 26 Nov. 2021 through a webinar. Welcoming to the guests and participants Dr. Sikhmoni Konwar, Principal, Hiteswar Saikia College gave a brief introduction and objective of the constitution day. Inaugurating the webinar Dr. Ranjan Kr. Kakati, Director Students' Welfare & Programme Coordinator, Gauhati University NSS Cell highlighted many specific points about Indian constitutions. Dr. Kakati further appealed to the participants to get some basic idea about our constitutions which is very much important in our day to day life. The Preamble of the constitutions was also read out by Dr. Kakati which were followed by all the participants. Prof. Stuti Deka, Dean and HoD Law, Gauhati University enlightens her valuable lecture on the constitution of India where she describes the objectives and philosophy of the Indian constitution. Prof. Deka further says that the Indian constitution is Democratic republic in nature and every citizen must be aware of basic knowledge on Indian Constitutions. Dr. Nurul Islam, HoD philosophy & NSS Programme Officer, Hiteswar Saikia College coordinated the programme and offered vote of thanks. About 100 participants of NSS volunteers, Programme officers and faculties from different institutions participated in the webinar.

No need for Covid booster dose for now, huge third wave unlikely: AIIMS Director

New Delhi, Nov 26 : Booster doses of the Covid-19 vaccine are not needed in India right now, focus needs to be on increasing vaccine coverage, AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria said on Tuesday evening. He also said the possibility of a "huge third wave" is "declining each passing day". "The vaccines are holding up, we are not seeing breakthrough infections causing a surge in our admissions, our sero-positivity rate is very high. All of these suggest that as of now, we really don't need a booster dose. We may need it in the future, that is definitely there. But as of now we don't need a booster dose," he said. "We are well protected and I think we should focus on getting more and more people to get the first and second dose because if we have that number in a sufficiently large amount, we will be well protected as a country." Dr Guleria was speaking at the launch of "Going Viral", a book on the making of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin, by ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava. On a third wave, Dr Guleria said: "As our vaccination programme is moving forward, as we are seeing low vaccine hesitancy and as we are seeing the vaccines are holding out - in terms of preventing severe disease and preventing hospitalisation and death - the chance of any huge wave is declining with each passing day. It is very unlikely that we will see a huge third wave." "But the disease will become endemic and we will continue to have cases... we will have some patients who will be sick but it will not be of the magnitude that we saw in the first and second waves and most of us will be protected." NITI Aayog Member Dr V K Paul said that further research needs to be done into the question of booster doses in the country. "When you take a decision on an additional dose, it has to be based on sound information and there are many aspects. It has to be different for different vaccines... Data for A may not be applicable for B... Another question is of duration. Is it six months, nine months?... We are looking at the data systemically, we are looking at how it needs to be done... As of now, a vaccine priority for booster for any nation happens once you have given two doses to a large population.

Will Nepo's supercomputer give him world title edge over Carlsen?



Dubai, November 26 : It would count as one of the more seismic shocks in modern chess history if Magnus Carlsen were to lose his world title over the next three weeks here in Dubai. Yet when his Russian opponent Ian Nepomniachtchi plays the first move of their 14-game match on Friday he will be armed with two potentially intriguing advantages. The first is that Nepomniachtchi - or Nepo as he is widely known - holds a 4-1 record in classical chess over Carlsen, dating back to when they first met as promising 12-year-olds. The second? He also has one of Russia's fastest supercomputers, originally built for machine learning and artificial intelligence, as part of his team. After qualifying to face Carlsen by winning the Fide candidates tournament in Yekaterinburg this year, Nepomniachtchi credited the Zhores supercomputer, based in the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology in Moscow, as helping him and his team evaluate tens of millions of positions per second. This week the Russian confirmed to the Guardian that he was using

it again to prepare for Carlsen. "It can't harm my chances," he said. "And this particular supercomputer, because it is a huge data centre which can be used for scientific research, is hopefully more effective than others." The use of computers is hardly new at top level chess. But having a machine that can calculate much faster - and potentially see deeper - than others can potentially help players come up with surprise opening novelties or better evaluate positions they may face on the board. "You're more sure that your analysis is good when you see 500 million node positions than, say 100 million," added the 30-year-old, before downplaying how much having a supercomputer on call 24/7 might actually help. "In general all the top players have access to something similar. And it's the chess engines, such as Stockfish and Leela Chess Zero, which are the main tool in helping us prepare. Everyone has those." Another juicy subplot to all this is that the chairman of the Skolkovo foundation is Arkady Dvorkovich, who also happens to be the

president of chess's world governing body, Fide, who are organising the Carlsen v Nepomniachtchi match. Nepomniachtchi makes for good company, and he is also happy to expand on the long history between him and Carlsen. "The first time we met was in the European under-12 championships," he says. "He played quite well, but I didn't feel like he was something spectacular. And he was from Norway, which is not a chess country, so I didn't really take that much notice. But when we played again not long after, and we finished top two at the under-12 world championships, it was clear he was a strong player." In general I think it makes some difference if you've played a person before and been successful," he adds. "But some of our games were played nearly 20 years ago. So while it is good the score is in my favour, it would be quite foolish to rely on this a l o n e . " I n s t e a d Nepomniachtchi credits a change in mindset from turning him from a brilliant but erratic player into a true challenger for the crown. "Before I was maybe the least hard working person out of the world's top 20," he admits. "Normally if chess players have a week or two between tournaments, they prepare for the next one. But I would be going to the football pitch three times a week or watching Marvel movies. And when the new season of Game of Thrones came out, I thought: 'Come on, this is pretty nice!' But eventually I understood that soon I was going to be 30 and I wasn't being serious, and had done nothing really special."

Exeter Chiefs to ditch Native American branding after consulting fans

London, November 26 : Exeter Chiefs are preparing to ditch their Native American branding after calls from a majority of their supporters to make a change. In a statement Exeter stopped short of confirming their future plans but said a decision on "what the club will do next" would be forthcoming "within the next few weeks." Several members of the club's board are understood to be strongly in support of rebranding after complaints that the existing imagery is disrespectful to indigenous people in North America. While no formal vote was taken at the club's annual general meeting in midweek, the Guardian understands that 70% of the feedback from fans via email backed a branding change. There is mounting pressure on the club, champions of both Europe and the Premiership in 2020, to follow the example of several US-based professional sports teams who have changed their names or iconography. The "Chiefs" moniker, which was



officially adopted in 1999 and has been used as an informal nickname for West Country first teams for the past century, is not perceived as a problem but the club has already retired its Big Chief mascot. Last month, meanwhile, Wasps asked Exeter fans not to wear headdresses when attending the Premiership game between the clubs in Coventry. Dante Desiderio, the chief executive of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), has also written to Exeter's chairman, Tony Rowe, to make clear the current imagery and branding "harms native people through the offensive stereotypes it promotes". As recently as last month, however, Rowe told the

Guardian that the club were "not trying to belittle the image of ancestry of anyone" and said 10,000 people had written in support when the issue flared up two years ago. But the public mood has since shifted and while Rowe insists the controversy has not yet affected the commitment or goodwill of sponsors there is recognition within the club that this might not last indefinitely. The estimated cost of a full rebranding exercise, incorporating a new badge, playing kit and relaunching the wild west-themed bars and decor at Sandy Park, is in the region of £700,000. On the field, meanwhile, Exeter are one of eight Premiership sides in

action on an unusually busy Friday this evening after the post-international resumption of the league programme. Henry Slade and Stuart Hogg are back from successful autumn stints with England and Scotland respectively as the fourth-placed Chiefs visit the Rec to face a winless Bath. The home side are bolstered by the return of England's Charlie Ewels, Sam Underhill and Will Stuart, Scotland's Josh Bayliss and the fit-again Ben Spencer, who is set to feature in only his second game of the season at scrum-half. Bath are nine points adrift at the bottom of the table and leaking an average of 33 points a game but the Chiefs' director of rugby, Rob Baxter, is wary of any complacency. "It's one of those dangerous games where they can chuck everything at us," said Baxter. "For us this is a really important time of the year. This is when we've got to put our foot down and go for it if we want to be involved in big games at the end of the season."

Paisley Park can benefit from lighter touch at Newbury



London, November 26 : seven races between October 2018 and January 2020, Paisley Park was unbeaten in

including a famous win in the Stayers' Hurdle at Cheltenham in March 2019. But Emma Lavelle's nine-year-old, who remains one of the most popular horses in training, has only one win to his name in six starts before the Long Distance Hurdle at Newbury on Friday. He also renews acquaintance with Paul Webber's mare Indefatigable, who was five lengths in front of him at Wetherby last month,

and Lisnagar Oscar, the 50-1 winner of the Stayers' in 2020 when the defending champion was a long way below his best. Paisley Park (3.00) is 6lb better off with Indefatigable on Friday, however, and showed more than enough in the closing stages at Wetherby to suggest he can reverse the form with that run behind him. Newbury 1.15: Aidan Coleman takes the ride on hot favourite Jonbon after Nico de

Boinville sustained an injury in a fall while schooling on Thursday morning, and will hope to land the spoils with a minimum of fuss. Nicky Henderson's five-year-old was a deeply impressive bumper winner at this track in March and nothing less than a victory will do on his hurdling debut if he is to retain his position as second-favourite for the Supreme Novice Hurdle at the Festival next year.

Can WTA Tour thrive should its ties to China be severed over Peng Shuai?



Beijing, November 26 : Amid global concern for tennis player Peng Shuai, Tennis Australia posted a job advertisement demonstrating the importance of China to a sport currently at odds with it. The successful applicant for the role of "Social Content Producer, China Channels" will "help tell the story of the Australian Open to our growing audience in China" through January. The new employee will be busy, with Tennis Australia on Thursday confirming its calendar for January will include 17 tournaments in three states prior to the major in Melbourne. With the Australian Open billed as the grand slam of the Asia-Pacific, social media engagement has played a role in building the profile of the tournament in China. The event is partnered with Chinese premium liquor brand Guojiao 1573 and Ganten, which provides bottled water for tournaments held throughout the summer swing. Both are major sponsorships. The Guojiao 1573 partnership, in particular, is considered in a similar multimillion dollar-per-year realm to that of the Australian Open's chief sponsor Kia. Hosting the 2021 Australian Open under conditions imposed to safeguard Victorians from Covid-19 proved incredibly expensive. This placed significant economic strain on Tennis Australia, which makes partnerships with companies like their Chinese sponsors critical from an economic

perspective. The challenge for the various bodies in the tennis family, and for the broader sporting world, is weighing their financial partnerships with human rights concerns. What happens when a fellow tennis organisation such as the WTA Tour, which is currently dealing with a testing scenario regarding Peng in China, is in peril or under duress? While the current situation involves China, tennis and other sports have ties to other nations that also have dubious human rights reputations. It is not an isolated case. The WTA Tour, under the leadership of chairman and chief executive Steve Simon, has made clear the organisation's stance on

China during what has been an extremely challenging month for tennis. Simon has stressed the WTA Tour will walk away from the country, and its massive investment in the sport, unless it can be satisfied about the health and wellbeing of Peng. A social media post on 2 November by the former world No 1 doubles player has raised concerns for her safety that continues to reverberate around the world. She was not heard from for a fortnight after the post, which was swiftly deleted. While she has recently made several public appearances, they appeared choreographed and have not eased all concerns. "We're definitely willing to pull our business and deal with all

the complications that come with it," Simon told CNN this month. It has been estimated that a move to break ties with China could cost the WTA Tour, which has a significant reliance on the nation, more than one billion dollars in revenue. What happens next in this particularly vexed situation is uncertain. It is one that may play out over years. Can the WTA Tour thrive should its ties to China be severed? Will the organisation be frozen out by China even if it is ultimately satisfied about the safety of Peng? Is it possible to even be satisfied in that regard? And what happens to the other tennis players from China currently on the tour,

or aspiring to be? There are six Chinese women currently ranked inside the top 200. It is probable they harbour hopes of emulating the success of dual-grand slam singles champion Li Na or, dare it be said, winning a Wimbledon or Roland Garros doubles title as Peng did. Shortly before the concerning situation regarding Peng arose, Simon was on the record discussing his hopes for the WTA Tour's return to China in 2022. The WTA Tour Finals, which were held in Mexico this year due to Covid-19, are contracted to Shenzhen until 2030. "Our support in the Asia-Pacific region, especially China, has seen a rich history of growth and talent," Simon told the Tennis Majors website in October. In a French tennis magazine in September, WTA president Micky Lawler lamented the impact to the women's tour caused by the loss of tournaments in China due to Covid-19. "Covid could not be anticipated. Please name me one person who would have said no to China?" Lawler said. "This was an opportunity for the whole of women's sports, with unprecedented prize money records. We were proud when we announced it and still are."

Fresh delay to ECB diversity plan as Mehmooda Duke leaves Leicestershire

London, November 26 : As the England and Wales Cricket Board once again postponed publication of its plan to improve diversity in the sport, the game took a backward step when Mehmooda Duke stood down from her role as chair of Leicestershire. Duke was the only female chair of a first-class county and one of just three female board members from black or minority ethnic backgrounds. In total there are 28 women who sit on the boards of first-class counties. Duke departed with a statement describing how cricket had been "torn apart" in recent months by allegations of racism. Neither Duke nor Leicestershire elaborated on the reasons for the move, beyond saying in a statement that she "is sorry to leave the game at this stage". The vice-chairman, Jonathan Duckworth, will become interim chairman until a long-term replacement is identified. "Cricket has been torn apart by recent events and I am deeply saddened by the hurt felt by individuals within our game," Duke said. "With fresh leadership at national level and with a determination to learn from the recent past and move forward, I hope that racism and discrimination will be expunged from the dressing rooms, the fields and the game as a whole, allowing us to celebrate the diversity which makes cricket and sport in this country so great." Duke is the founder



and CEO of Moosa-Duke Solicitors and was made an MBE in the 2019 New Year's Honours List for services to the legal profession and female entrepreneurship. She had previously announced that she would leave the post at the end of her term in March 2022 in order to become the county's high sheriff, but has unexpectedly brought the move forward. "I wish all of my colleagues on the board and across the network, the players, staff and the community teams, all the very best for the future," she said. "I thank the members, supporters and sponsors for their unwavering loyalty to the club and especially during some difficult times." Meanwhile, the ECB admitted its ambitious but hurriedly prepared response

to racism and discrimination in cricket was "not quite there" as it continues to negotiate with stakeholders over the wording of a few key sections. Initially promised on Wednesday before being pushed back to Thursday, it now hopes to release a version that all involved have been happy to commit to before the weekend. As exclusively revealed in the Guardian, agreeing a deadline for and the wording of a target to reach a minimum of 30% women across county boards and leadership teams has so far proved an insurmountable stumbling block, but the ECB is confident that agreement is close. Michael Vaughan has been an expert analyst, commentator and presenter at BBC Sport since 2009. The Australian broadcaster Fox Sports has confirmed that Michael Vaughan remains part of its commentary team for the Ashes, despite the former England captain being dropped by the BBC after being accused by Azeem Rafiq of racially abusing him at Yorkshire. BT Sport, which has exclusive rights to show the series in the UK, had planned to use Fox

Manchester United in advanced talks to make Ralf Rangnick interim manager

Manchester, November 26 : Manchester United are in advanced talks with Ralf Rangnick over becoming their interim manager until the end of the season. Rangnick, the highly respected former director of football at RB Salzburg and RB Leipzig, is head of sports and development at Lokomotiv Moscow but negotiations over a move to Old Trafford have progressed swiftly since Monday. Ralf Rangnick celebrates after RB Leipzig, where he was head coach and sporting director last season, won the Bundesliga game against Freiburg in April 2019. The 63-year-old made clear to United that he would accept their offer of a six-month contract as interim manager only if it came with a guaranteed

consultancy role until May 2024 or 2025. United are understood to have agreed to that condition, which would give Rangnick a significant say in major football decisions. Negotiations with Lokomotiv are continuing. Rangnick signed a three-year deal in July and wants an amicable departure. United are confident Lokomotiv will agree to release the former Stuttgart, Schalke and Hoffenheim head coach. United officials held talks with Rangnick on Monday and have had discussions with other candidates including the former Barcelona manager Ernesto Valverde. The club said when sacking Ole Gunnar Solskjær last Sunday that they would



look for a temporary manager before making a longer-term appointment in the summer. Rangnick has not worked as a manager since holding the fort at Leipzig in the 2018-19 season while the club waited for Julian Nagelsmann. He had previously been director of football at RB Salzburg and RB Leipzig, where he overhauled their youth systems and recruitment strategies as the clubs developed into regular European competitors.

How to fix Manchester United? It depends which direction they want to go in ...

London, November 26 :

Manchester United have all the components required to challenge for trophies - they just need to step things up on and off the pitch. It cannot be forgotten that they finished second in the Premier League last season, but in the search to go one better they have moved away from what made them successful. I think there has been a lack of identity and structure throughout the club which has seeped into the squad. This season under Ole Gunnar Solskjær the players did not know whether they were a pressing team or a defensive side that counterattack. I like Solskjær and he was great for the culture of the club and getting an association with the fans, which had been missing since Sir Alex Ferguson stepped down, but the top managers are tacticians and there the Norwegian fell short. It ended in a sorry affair at Watford, culminating in the negative comments from the players. I think sacking him was right because it was not working out and in the end there could only be one outcome. The summer recruitment hindered the



team. It remains to be seen whether they have recruited the right type of players, and it seems a real mismatch. Cristiano Ronaldo has obviously changed the dynamic of the squad but it is not all on him; he arrived late and at short notice and it would have taken a strong personality at United to turn down the return of a club legend still performing at such a high level. Ronaldo has not let the team down - he keeps scoring and proving he is still one of the best around. The problem is that his signing changed the tactical plans after the season had started and tweaks were not made to accommodate his shortcomings. If the staff

had known he was coming, they could have brought in a midfielder or really pinned down the identity of the player philosophy, in particular the defender of the team from the front. Solskjær also suffered bad luck with Raphaël Varane's injuries, because he could be a key player in the heart of the United defence. The sooner they get him back the better, to help take the pressure off Harry Maguire. The backline needs freshening up so that Luke Shaw and Aaron Wan-Bissaka, who are out of form, do not need to play every week. In the modern game full-backs are winning matches for teams, as

Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester City are proving. Equally, the backline could be helped by the forwards, who are not doing their work when it comes to pressing and tracking back - because defending starts at the front. Many United fans will want the team to be more positive. Under Solskjær, more often than not, they would operate with two holding midfielders. He will have had his reasons, but the formation could be adjusted to utilise just one and allow Donny van de Beek to come in and bring a more dynamic threat in the middle of the pitch. Paul Pogba was flying at the start of the season - I watched him

and thought he was brilliant. He played off the left and came into central midfield where he was causing a lot of problems. Then all of the sudden he was moved from that position. I feel for him, because he works hard and tracks back, and that can go unnoticed. Can he play in central midfield without the protection? No, but we've known that for a long time. It's not all on Pogba, who has missed the past three games and won't be back for weeks because of injury; there are others at United doing a lot less. When it comes to the forwards having to work harder, that's not an opinion, it's a fact. Their running stats going back are nowhere near those going forward. Those players can do it but they need to take responsibility and be accountable. Liverpool and Manchester City work so much harder out of possession to win back the ball, keep opponents in their own half and protect their backline. United have all the talent but they need direction and authority to make sure that happens. They require a new manager with a strong personality who will tell them that, if they don't put the effort in, they are off. The right permanent

manager has to come in as soon as possible. They can have an interim but if that person starts putting ideas in place that are not for the long term they will have to start again in the summer, putting the team further behind the opposition. The best solution would have been to get going immediately, allowing a new manager the January window, a full summer and a pre-season with their own ideas to revitalise the club. But United have seemingly concluded that coach is not available, which is why they are in advanced talks with Ralf Rangnick over taking the job temporarily. Now they must look at who will be available in the summer and what direction they want to go in, which has been the issue all along. Sadly for United, the best tactical managers are in jobs at rival clubs, making it quite hard to appoint someone who can compete with Pep Guardiola, Thomas Tuchel and Jürgen Klopp. At the very least, starting now, the players need to provide a considerable shift in intensity and desire. They have top-quality players, but those players have plenty more to give.

Sindhu, Praneeth cruise into quarters, Srikanth loses in Indonesia Open



BALI, November 26 :

Top Indian shuttlers PV Sindhu and B Sai Praneeth progressed to the quarterfinals but former champion Kidambi Srikanth made an early exit in the second round of the Indonesia Open Super 1000 tournament on Thursday. Two-time Olympic medallist Sindhu hardly broke a sweat to win the second round clash 21-12 21-18 against world No. 26 Germany's Yvonne Li in 37 minutes at the \$850,000 event. In the women's singles quarterfinals, the reigning world champion, seeded third, will face South Korea's Sim Yujin. Praneeth staved off a spirited fight from France's world No. 70 Christo Popov, claiming a 21-17 14-21 21-19 win in a gruelling match that lasted an hour and 23 minutes. The world No. 16 Indian will meet Olympic champion and former world no No. Viktor Axelsen of Denmark next. The second seeded Axelsen, a world champion, ended the campaign of Srikanth, beating him 21-14 21-18 in 37 minutes. The sixth seeded men's pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty also survived a scare against Korea's Kang Minhyuk and Seo Seungjae, prevailing 21-15 19-21 23-21 in a thrilling contest to also make it to the last eight. The Indian pair,

ranked 11, will square off against Malaysian combination of Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin. Up against Li for the first time, world No. 7 Sindhu looked completely in control from the beginning. Such was her dominance that the two-time Olympic medallist took the first game with ease, winning seven consecutive points at one stage. Li made a good recovery in the second game and it was more evenly contested. But Sindhu persisted and did not let the German gain an advantage over her. Praneeth made a good start, jumping to 8-2 lead early on but Popov made it 14-12 after he reeled off seven straight points just after the break. The Indian, however, held his nerves to pocket the opening game. The second game was a tight affair as Popov fought hard and grabbed a slender 11-10 lead at the interval. He moved to 15-14 before sending down six points on the trot. In the decider, Praneeth led 11-7 at one stage but again a seven-point burst helped Popov turn the tables on his fancied rival. However, Praneeth ensured he had the last laugh in the end. In the other second round match, Axelsen used the court well to make Srikanth move around. He waited for the Indian to make mistakes and produced some great angled returns to trouble him.

Australia's Tim Paine takes 'indefinite mental health break' - manager

Melbourn, November 26 :



Tim Paine is stepping away from cricket for an "indefinite mental health break", his manager said on Friday, leaving Australia's Ashes preparations in disarray a week after the wicketkeeper's resignation from the captaincy. Paine was due to play for Tasmania in a domestic one-day match in Hobart on Friday in the lead up to the first Ashes test in Brisbane on Dec. 8, but will be unavailable for the "foreseeable future", the state's cricket association said. "Confirming that @tdpaine36 is stepping away from cricket for an indefinite mental health break," Paine's manager James Henderson wrote in a social media post. "We are extremely concerned for his and (wife) Bonnie's well-being and will be making no further comment at this time." Speculation over Paine's place in the test team has been rife since his resignation over revelations that he was investigated for sending sexually explicit text messages to a female

former Cricket Tasmania (CT) staffer four years ago. Paine, who married Bonnie in 2016 and has children with her, was cleared after a 2018 probe by CT and national board Cricket Australia (CA) but stepped down last Friday, saying he did not want his captaincy to be a distraction during the Ashes. He said he would remain available for selection, though selectors chairman George Bailey confirmed Paine was no lock for the Ashes while coming back from neck surgery. Bailey also said he would recuse himself from the decision to select Paine, a close friend and business partner, if there was contention on the selection panel. Cricket Australia boss Nick Hockley said

Paine had advised the board of his decision to step away from the game. "We recognise that this is an incredibly difficult time for Tim and his family and are committed to supporting them," Hockley said in a statement. "We respect and understand Tim's decision to have a break at this time to focus on his and his family's well-being." Former Australia captain Ricky Ponting said this week that Paine's selection against England would still prove distracting for the team. Paine's team mates, including spinner Nathan Lyon, said they hoped he would remain in the side. Paine, who was the only specialist wicketkeeper named in Australia's 15-man Ashes squad, is likely to be



Kharghuli Hills Housing Campus Women's Coordination Committee felicitates ASHB chairman Pulak Gohain on Friday



Assam's Upasa Talukdar got Bronze medal in 25th Junior National Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships held in Jammu and Kashmir today (26th November). She also got selection for 4th Khelo India Games 2022, from this competition. Her first competition after lockdown and interestingly without proper training facility (PH)

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz out of Davis Cup Finals due to COVID-19

Madrid, November 26 :

Spain's Carlos Alcaraz has been ruled out of the Davis Cup Finals after testing positive for COVID-19, the country's tennis federation (RFET) said in a statement on Thursday. It was a huge blow for holders Spain who take on Ecuador in their Group A opener in Madrid on Friday. "I wanted to communicate that today I have tested positive for COVID-19 which will prevent me from playing the Davis Cup that I was so excited about," Alcaraz, 18, wrote on

Instagram. "At the moment I am very well, with very mild symptoms and we will see how it progresses. A lot of encouragement to the whole team, I will be cheering and watching on television." The RFET added that the rest of the Spanish team had undergone another round of PCR tests earlier on Thursday. The 18-year-old Alcaraz, who has enjoyed a breakthrough year on tour, won his first ATP title - the Croatia Open - in July before rounding off the season with victory at ATP Next Generation finals this month.

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