

# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Brother killed elder brother

**Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 29 :**

A 20-year-old youth allegedly killed his elder brother in Guwahati on Monday. The incident occurred in Kushal Nagar in Guwahati's Bamunimaidam area. As per reports, the younger brother, identified as Jintu Das (20) killed his elder brother Kamal Das (22) with an iron rod at around 3:30 am on Monday when he was asleep. Reportedly, the duo had a fight on Sunday after Jintu tried to sell a cylinder from the house as he needed cash. It has also been reported that the accused Jintu is a drug addict.

### Drugs seized

**Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 29 :**

BSF and Assam Police seized a huge quantity of narcotics worth Rs 17 crore from two separate places in Karimganj district of Assam. A BSF spokesman on Sunday said, acting on intelligence input, the border guards belonging to Mizoram and Cachar frontier along with Assam police raided the house of Samsun Noor, a resident of Purba Balia village in Karimganj district near Bangladesh border. They recovered 2,59,200 Yaba tablets (synthetic drugs) packed in 26 packets. A motorcycle was also seized during the operation.

### Sec 144 Imposed

**Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 29 :**

Twelve people including three police personnel were injured in an attack on a bus carrying Trinamool Congress (TMC) supporters in Tripura. In this connection, Section 144 has been clamped in the Teliamura area in Khowai district. Police have stated that unidentified miscreants have attacked the bus that was ferrying the TMC workers on the day when the results of Tripura municipal elections were announced.

### Jio Hikes Prepaid Tariffs

**New Delhi, November 29 :**

India's largest mobile operator Reliance Jio on Sunday announced up to 21 per cent hike in its prepaid tariffs from next month. The tariff hikes entail JioPhone Plan, Unlimited Plans, and data add on, and range between 19.6 per cent and 21.3 per cent. The new unlimited plans will go live on December 1, 2021, and can be opted from existing touchpoints and channels. "In line with its commitment to further strengthen a sustainable telecom industry, where every Indian is empowered with a true digital life, Jio today announced its new unlimited plans.

## Bill To Cancel Farm Laws Passed In both houses of Parliament



**New Delhi, November 29 :**

The repeal of the three farm laws, against which the farmers have been protesting at the Delhi border for a year, just took minutes in Parliament Monday. Passed by the Lok Sabha in the morning, the bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha in the afternoon just minutes after resuming post-lunch. As the Opposition demanded a discussion,

trying to corner the government, which is already on the backfoot by backpedalling on the bills, the government said since the Opposition has been demanding the repeal of laws and the government is now ready for it, a discussion is not needed. Deputy Chairman Harivansh moved immediately on the suggestion and took up the Farm Laws Repeal Bill 2021 to be passed through a voice vote. The Opposition pro-

tested but the protests were ignored and the bill was passed. Harivansh adjourned the House for 30 minutes immediately after it. Harivansh also did not allow Leader of Opposition in the House Mallikarjun Kharge to speak before Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar could move the motion to pass the bill, to which certain Union Ministers objected. However, later Kharge was allowed to speak

for a few minutes. He said that everyone "welcomes" the repeal bill, as nobody is against it. But, he said, it took the government a year and three months to take the three "black bills" back. When the three farm bills were brought to the House for discussion, Kharge said, "At that time all members, whether lower or upper houses, NGOs and farmer unions protested, they said it is not in the favour of farmers, it will be against them." Kharge accused the government of repealing it

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## 12 Rajya Sabha MPs suspended for rest of Winter Session for ruckus in August

**New Delhi, November 29 :**

The Rajya Sabha on the first day of its business for the Winter Session on Monday suspended 12 of its members, including Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi and Trinamool MP Dola Sen, for the remaining part of the current session. The action has been taken against them for indiscipline in the monsoon session of the house, the ruckus the Upper House witnessed on the last day



of the session. Apart from Priyanka Chaturvedi and Dona Sen, MPs who have been suspended on Monday are Elamaram Kareem (CPM), Congress's Phulo

Devi Netam, Chhaya Verma, R Bora, Rajamani Patel, Syed Nasir Hussain, Akhilesh Prasad

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## Our Govt Committed To Maintain Peace Along All Borders: Mizoram Govt.

**Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 29 :**

Adviser (Tech) to Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga, K Lalsawmvela stated that the government is committed in maintaining peace and tranquillity with all states and countries. Lalsawmvela also clarified that the Chief Minister never stated anything related to the extension of the fencing along the Mizoram-Assam interstate border, as no fencing exists there. "The Mizoram government led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Zoramthanga has always been committed to maintain peace and tranquillity with all our neighbouring states and countries," K Lalsawmvela said in a statement. K Lalsawmvela, ad-



viser (Tech) to the Mizoram chief minister, also made it clear that Zoramthanga had never said about extending fencing along the Mizoram-Assam interstate border as no fencing exists there. "The Mizoram government led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Zoramthanga has always been committed to maintain peace and tranquillity with all our neighbouring states

and countries," Lalsawmvela said in a statement. Referring to a report which quoted the chief minister as saying that "we will try to increase our fencing all along...", the adviser to the chief minister said Zoramthanga had rather said

"we will try to increase the friendship that we have all along", after his meeting with Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on November 25 in New Delhi. "As there is no border fencing to be increased between Mizoram and Assam, there is no question of border fencing. The word friendship was taken as fencing which is a misleading statement," he said. It is noteworthy that Chief Ministers of both the north-eastern states took the step following a meeting with Union home minister Amit Shah in

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## Assam student leader lynched to death in Jorhat; Two injured

**Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 29 :**

A student leader died and two others were seriously injured on Monday afternoon in Jorhat town after a mob assaulted the three youths owing to a 'miscommunication'. The incident took place at a truck stand near the Nirmal Chari area of Jorhat town. According to reports, the Education secretary of Brahmaputra Anchalik Chitra Sanstha (Golaghat Unit), Animesh Bhuyan along with Mridusmanta Baruah (journalist of local TV channel) and another youth (identity not ascertained) visited Jorhat for official work. Hours later, they were attacked by a

mob suspecting them to be involved in an accident case, whereas, they were not, informed an AASU leader (Jorhat Unit). The AASU members also informed the matter to

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## CM Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma Launches Construction of 8.25 km Majuli-Jorhat Bridge

**Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 29 :**

The construction works for the 8.25 km Majuli-Jorhat bridge over the Brahmaputra were formally launched by

the Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday. There was also a ceremonial puja at the site, which was attended by the CM. Speaking at the event, the CM also announced

plans for the construction of another bridge at Dhumaguri near Bongalmora linking Majuli with Lakhimpur district. The CM shared pictures of the launch on Twitter where he further informed that an amount of 925.47 crores was sanctioned for the project by the centre, for which he thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and

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## Government ready to answer all questions, debate any issue in Parliament: PM Narendra Modi

**New Delhi, November 29 :**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks to media before the commencement of the Winter Session of the Parliament, in New Delhi. (Photo | Shekhar Yadav, EPS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks to media before the commencement of the Winter Session of the Parliament, in New Delhi. (Photo | Shekhar Yadav, EPS) By Online Desk Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing the media outside Lok Sabha, ahead of the

winter session of Parliament, said that his government was ready to debate and answer all matters in the session. "This is an important session of the Parliament. The citizens of the country want a productive session. They are fulfilling their responsibilities for a brighter future", the Prime Minister said on Monday morning. PM Modi asked the Opposition to maintain decorum during the proceed

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## UAE to be first foreign destination of PM Narendra Modi in 2022

**New Delhi, November 29 :**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will be Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first foreign country that he will be visiting in 2022. The key

focus of his trip in January will be attending the Dubai Expo where the India Pavilion has garnered a lot of

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## NDA ally National People's Party calls for repeal of CAA

**New Delhi, November 29 :**

The BJP's ally National People's Party leader Agatha Sangma demanded the repeal of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) at a meeting of constituents of the ruling NDA as well as at the all-party meeting convened ahead of the Winter Session of Parliament. Sangma, the MP from Tura in Meghalaya, urged the government that as it has repealed farm laws keeping in mind the senti-



ments of the people, the CAA should also be repealed. Sangma made the demand at the all-party meeting called by the government as well as at a meet-

ing of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

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## Runners from Assam successfully complete Malnad Ultra Run in Karnataka

**Assam Rising, Reporter Guwahati, November 29 :**

Four runners from Assam namely Sagar Rai Deka, Pranami Chakravarty, Mrityunjoy Bhuyan and Anupam Deka consisted the team of Mind Over Miles that successfully completed the 6th Edition of Malnad Ultra Run on November 27, 2021 in Mudigere, Karnataka. The Malnad Ultra is a challenging run through some of the most enchanting and exciting terrain that one can imagine for a run and

the course is in the Western Ghats of South India. This was the 6th edition where the participants from Assam went. Though it started in the year 2016, this was possibly India's biggest Trail Ultra already. The origin of the name Malnad is attributed to Male meaning Hill and Nadu meaning Land. So, Malnad is the land of the hills! All the race categories are Beyond 42 kms in hilly terrain and is volunteer-driven. It is not-for-profit event and is certified by the International Trail Running Association and is a



UTMB® Qualifier. It is also the only Qualifier for WSER from India. It is a Candidate Race for Asia Trail Master

Championship Series. With stunning views in the Western Ghats of South India, the course takes runners

through the beautiful Mudigere area. This area

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# British MPs call for law changes to help young Hongkongers flee to UK

**Taipei, November 29 :** More than nine in 10 people who have faced protest charges in Hong Kong are too young to access a UK visa scheme dedicated to helping Hongkongers flee to Britain, according to advocates and MPs calling for new laws to assist them. The release of the figures on Sunday by the advocacy group Hong Kong Watch comes before a parliamentary debate this week on proposed migration law amendments that would widen the pathway for people with British national (overseas) (BNO) status to resettle in the UK. More than 10,000 people were arrested during or after the mass protests that swept Hong Kong in 2019. The data found that 93% of more than 1,000 who had been tried by July this year were under the age of 25. Another 49 people arrested under the national security law were also under the age of 25. Last week the 20-year-old student activist Tony Chung was jailed for 43 months on charges relating to



pro-independence social media posts. In the wake of the crackdown on protesters and pro-democracy figures that sent people fleeing overseas, the UK launched its BNO visa scheme, allowing holders of BNO status and their immediate families - estimated at the time to be about 5 million people - to apply for dedicated entry visas with a pathway to full citizenship. Tens of

thousands applied in the first few months, but there has been long-running concern that people born after 1997, when Hong Kong was handed back to China, are not eligible to move to the UK under the scheme unless accompanied by a parent with BNO status. Hong Kong Watch said the scheme in its current form has "left behind" young people, and called for the adoption of a borders bill

amendment that was proposed by Damian Green and has the support of at least 12 Conservative MPs including the chair of the foreign affairs select committee, Tom Tugendhat, and the former Tory party leader Iain Duncan Smith. The amendment would see the home secretary expand the BNO visa scheme to Hongkongers who have a BNO status-holding parent

and are aged between 18 and 25. "The BNO scheme is a great success story which the government should take credit for, but sadly the current scheme does not cover many of the brave young activists in Hong Kong," said Duncan Smith. "Many of these pro-democracy campaigners are in danger of being prosecuted by the intolerant Chinese Communist party and its representatives in Hong Kong. I urge the government to think carefully about helping these people too." Green, a former immigration minister, said his amendment would also relieve pressure on Britain's refugee processing. "My amendment would mandate a simple rule change that would ensure our immigration system offers a lifeline to the young people who need it most," he said. "If we do not rationalise the policy in this way, many of these people will inevitably end up claiming asylum because they face political prosecution."

## Ghislaine Maxwell sex-trafficking trial finally to begin in earnest

**London, November 29 :** Ghislaine Maxwell's sex-trafficking trial is scheduled to start in earnest in federal court in Manhattan on Monday with opening statements about the eagerly awaited case. The first arguments will set the stage for a six-week trial in which the British socialite's alleged involvement in Jeffrey Epstein's crimes will be aired in grueling detail, outlining how prosecutors and defense attorneys will approach the proceedings. Maxwell, 59, stands accused of recruiting and grooming girls for the late disgraced financier, from 1994 to 2004, some of whom were just 14 years old. Epstein's sometime girlfriend is also accused of participating in his sexual abuse of teenage girls. Epstein killed himself in a Manhattan federal jail on 10 August 2019, while awaiting his own sex-trafficking trial. Maxwell was arrested on 2 July 2020 in New Hampshire, a year after Epstein's arrest. "From the prosecution, you'd expect that they would lay out their case and give a preview of the type of evidence that's going to come in, and a preview of who the witnesses will be, and they're going to want to try to lay out their whole story of their case," said Jennifer Louis-Jeune, a veteran defense attorney in New York, of what to expect in the first days of Maxwell's trial. "The defense usually

holds back a little bit more in an opening statement because we don't know what all the evidence is, and we just want the jury to really be thinking critically when they listen to each witness - and to not take what the witness says as being the truth just because they're on the stand, and to think of how all the witnesses fit together." David S

raised, issues can get clouded. "And so that creates a reasonable doubt," Weinstein said, allowing the defense to say: "They didn't sustain the burden of proof." Maxwell is on trial on six counts: conspiracy to entice minors to travel to engage in illegal sex acts, enticement of a minor to travel to engage in illegal sex acts, conspiracy



Weinstein, a former federal prosecutor who now works on white-collar criminal defense at the firm Jones Walker, said prosecutors would be careful about what they tell jurors during openings. "As a prosecutor, you don't want to over-promise," Weinstein said. "Although you've planned your case out, things can happen in the middle of a case, objections can get

to transport minors with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, transporting a minor with the intent to engage in criminal sexual activity, sex trafficking conspiracy, and sex trafficking of a minor. The counts cite four accusers - listed in the indictment as Minor Victim-1, Minor Victim-2, Minor Victim-3 and Minor Victim-4 - though more are expected to testify.

## Michael Cohen: prosecutors could 'indict Trump tomorrow' if they wanted

**New York, November 29 :** Prosecutors in New York could "indict Donald Trump tomorrow if they really wanted and be successful", the ex-president's former lawyer and fixer Michael Cohen said on Sunday, discussing investigations of Trump's business affairs. Asked if he was "confident you did help

Organization, including whether Trump cheated on property valuations for tax purposes, is one of a number of sources of legal jeopardy for the former president. Trump denies all wrongdoing. Because the Manhattan district attorney, Cyrus Vance Jr, leaves office at the end of the year, some think



Donald Trump commit crimes", Cohen told NBC's Meet the Press: "I can assure you that Donald Trump is guilty of his own crimes. Was I involved in much of the inflation and deflation of his assets? The answer to that is yes." Cohen also repeated his contention that Trump will not run for the White House in 2024, because his huge fundraising success while hinting at such a run is too profitable a "grift" to give up. The Manhattan investigation of the Trump

indictments may be imminent. Cohen, who has cooperated, said: "I really try not to talk about it because it's their investigation, nor do I want to tip off Trump or the Trump Organization's people about what is actually happening." So I would rather just not answer that specific question, other than to say that you can bet your bottom dollar that Allen Weisselberg is not ... the key to this. They are going after Donald. They're going

after Don Jr, Eric, Ivanka, a whole slew of individuals, family as well." Cohen also said he was "not their only witness, and most importantly, what I gave to them are thousands and thousands of documents". "I'm not asking anybody to believe me," he said. "No different than when I testified before the House oversight committee. Every statement that I make, I've backed up with documentary evidence. I truly believe that they can indict Donald Trump tomorrow if they really wanted, and be successful." Weisselberg, chief financial officer of the Trump Organization, was indicted on tax charges, a move most thought meant to induce him to turn on Trump. Cohen did so, after being convicted on charges including lying to Congress and facilitating a pay-off to the porn star Stormy Daniels. He recently completed a three-year sentence, much of it served at home thanks to Covid. "They didn't really do to Allen Weisselberg what they did to me," Cohen said. "The threat against me was that they were going to file an 85-page indictment that was going to include my wife. They were going to say she was a co-conspirator to the hush money payment, which is absolutely nonsensical."

## Czech president swears in Petr Fiala as PM behind glass screen



**London, November 29 :** The Czech president, Miloš Zeman, has appointed the leader of a centre-right alliance, Petr Fiala, as prime minister in a ceremony he performed from a plexiglass cubicle after testing positive for Covid-19. Fiala leads a bloc of five centre and centre-right opposition parties that won an election in October, ousting the incumbent Andrej Babiš and his allies. The election took place shortly after details emerged of Babiš's overseas financial dealings in the Pandora Papers. The 67 year-old populist billionaire has denied wrongdoing. The new government will have to tackle a wave of coronavirus infections that is threatening to overwhelm hospitals and an energy crisis, after the collapse of a large electricity provider. The coalition has also said it plans to rework the 2022 state budget to reduce a large deficit. "The new

government has a very complicated time ahead and many challenges ... I want it to be a government of change for the future," Fiala said at a televised news conference, adding that he expected his cabinet to be appointed in mid-December. The new prime minister also called on people to get vaccinated against Covid-19 and praised medical staff amid rising cases. Only 58.5% of Czech people are vaccinated against coronavirus. The European Union average is 65.8%, according to European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Zeman performed the inauguration ceremony from a plexiglass cubicle after testing positive for coronavirus. Zeman, who came in a wheelchair escorted by a medic in full protective gear, contracted the virus after a six-week stay in hospital for an unrelated illness.

## Prince Norodom Ranariddh, former Cambodian PM, dies aged 77

**Paris, November 29 :** Cambodia's former prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the king's half-brother who spent his later years in the political shadow of his one-time rival prime minister Hun Sen, has died in France. He was 77. The information minister, Khieu Kanharith, said he had received the information from the royal palace. The prince, whose royalist political party won elections in 1993, was ousted in a 1997 coup by coalition partner Hun Sen, who remains Cambodia's authoritarian leader today. In a condolence letter sent to Ranariddh's wife, Hun Sen said his death meant "the loss of an outstanding royal dignitary who loved the nation, religion and king". Ranariddh was the most political member of Cambodia's royal family in recent decades, continuing to lead the Funcinpec party to contest elections for years after he was ousted. But in 2017 he dismayed opponents of Hun Sen by backing the dissolution of another political party whose leader was jailed on treason charges. Ranariddh said there was no option but to work with Hun Sen, who has since effectively sidelined all opposition parties and now presides over a one-party parliament. Explaining his position, Ranariddh said that year: "Hun Sen, you want or you don't want, you like him or you don't like him, he brings about this national unity." His younger half-brother, King Norodom Sihamoni, has sat on Cambodia's throne as a constitutional monarch since the abdication of their legendary father, King Norodom Sihanouk, in 2004. Sihanouk died aged 89 in 2012 in Beijing. Ranariddh's career exemplified not only the swings in Cambodian politics but also the way Hun Sen has neutralised all rivals since defecting from

the genocidal Khmer Rouge in the late 1970s to help drive it from power. Hun Sen led the Communist government in Phnom Penh backed by neighbour Vietnam for more than a decade while the Khmer Rouge waged a guerrilla insurgency. The large Cambodian royal family lived in exile during this time, headed by former absolute ruler King Sihanouk who led Cambodia to independence from France and later abdicated a first time to enter politics and become

of rivals that made Ranariddh "first prime minister" and Hun Sen "second prime minister." The uneasy coalition lasted just four years. Ranariddh was driven into exile in 1997 after his forces were defeated by those of Hun Sen in bloody clashes in Phnom Penh. He was pardoned in 2008 over a conviction for fraud which saw him ejected from the Funcinpec party, and made two more abortive political comebacks. In 2015, he made an unexpected alliance with the man who



prime minister. Ranariddh was raised in France and was working as a French law lecturer when his father called him to lead a party to contest the 1993 elections organised by the United Nations as part of a peace process. With royalist sentiment strong, Ranariddh beat Hun Sen's former Communist party that year. But when Hun Sen threatened a return to war, a political deal resulted in a coalition government

toppled him, returning to Funcinpec in order to work with Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party. Personal tragedy followed three years later when his second wife, Ouk Phalla, 39, was killed in a head-on car crash while on the election campaign trail with him. Funcinpec said in a statement that Ranariddh's body would be repatriated soon, while Patrick Murphy, the US ambassador to Cambodia, tweeted his condolences.

## Nobel-winning stock market theory used to help save coral reefs

**Mafia Island, November 29 :** A Nobel prize-winning economic theory used by investors is showing early signs of helping save threatened coral reefs, scientists say. Researchers at Australia's University of Queensland used modern portfolio theory (MPT), a mathematical framework developed by the economist Harry Markowitz in the 1950s to help risk-averse investors maximise returns, to identify the 50 reefs or coral sanctuaries around the world that are most likely to survive the climate crisis and be able to repopulate other reefs, if other threats are absent. The study recommends targeting investment in conservation projects that have the "strongest potential to succeed" in protecting

priority reefs. The gains go beyond positive ecological outcomes and include crucial social, economic, health and nutritional benefits for communities, according to partners, organisations and funders interviewed by Blue Earth Consultants. Prof Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, a climate scientist at the University of Queensland, who helped lead the "50 reefs" project, said: "It's essentially a strategy to help us make decisions about what to protect, if we are to have corals at the end of the century." "It is our best shot at having a long-term future for coral reefs," he said. Coral reefs face a dire future. Even if drastic emission reductions ensured global heating was limited to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels - which would require almost halving global



CO2 emissions by 2030 from 2010 levels - 70% to 90% of today's corals would vanish. In October, a study of coral reef health found 14% has been lost globally in less than a decade, with bleaching events caused by raised sea-surface temperatures the biggest culprit. "Modern portfolio theory is a framework that aims to reduce risk while maximising returns," said Hoegh-Guldberg. "It's treating conservation sort of as an investment opportunity. The strategy, which came out of a meeting of scientists at the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology in 2017, tapped into the theory to help scientists choose a "balanced" portfolio of coral reefs. "You've got hundreds of these reefs across the planet," said Hoegh-Guldberg.

"Which one do you pick, so that you concentrate your efforts on it?" Dr Hawthorne Beyer, a fellow at the University of Queensland researching the use of quantitative modelling in managing environmental systems, said: "Talk to people in the business world and they get it immediately. It's a very logical idea and makes a lot of sense. Ours was the first to apply it on a global scale." The scientists divided the world's coral reefs into "bioclimatic units" (BCU) of 500 sq km (190 sq miles). They used 174 metrics, in five categories, including temperature history and projections, ocean acidification, invasive species, cyclone activity and connectivity to other reefs, for each one.

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# CM launches construction works of Majuli-Jorhat bridge

CM inaugurates officers and staff quarter, interacts with Journalists at Majuli

Assam Rising, Reporter  
Guwahati, November 29 :

Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma today ceremonially launched construction works of the 8.25 km Majuli-Jorhat Bridge including immediate approaches over river Brahmaputra on NH 715K at Dakshinpat in Majuli district. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 925.47 crores for construction of this bridge. This project will be executed by UP State Bridge Construction Corporation Limited, Lucknow. The targeted period for completion of the project is 48 months. Speaking in a meeting held in connection with the launch of construction works of the bridge at Dakshinpat, Chief Minister Dr Sarma said, "Today is a historic day for the people of Majuli. The launch of construction of Majuli-Jorhat Bridge is a milestone event and this will give renewed momentum to the development journey of the district". The Chief Minister further said that the government aims to inaugurate this bridge by November 2025. Around Rs. 200 crores would be spent by the state government from its side for this bridge, he added. Chief Minister Sarma also announced that the government of Assam would take up construction of a new bridge connecting Majuli-



Union MoRTH Minister Nitin Gadkari for sanctioning this much-awaited project. He also recalled the contributions of former Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and said that it was because of his efforts and blessings that the dream of this bridge materializes today. The Chief Minister informed that the state government has already constituted a cabinet committee to regularly monitor progress of the project. Dr. Sarma further said that the government aims to inaugurate this bridge by November 2025. Around Rs. 200 crores would be spent by the state government from its side for this bridge, he added. Chief Minister Sarma also announced that the government of Assam would take up construction of a new bridge connecting Majuli-

Lakhimpur at Dhanaguri from its own resources amounting to Rs. 750 crores. He also highlighted steps that have been taken to strengthen and streamline boat services between Jorhat and Majuli following the tragic boat accident at Nimatighat recently. The Chief Minister also spoke about the major changes brought about in revenue administration through Mission Basundhara and how it has helped people since its launch on October 2 this year. Dr. Sarma also said that soon the state government would launch Mission Sadbhavana to dispose of all pending files relating to public matters which are pending at various departments at Janata Bhawan. Coinciding with the programme, the Chief Minister also handed over

cheques to beneficiaries under Assam Micro Finance Incentive & Relief Scheme, 2021. Altogether 533 beneficiaries of Majuli have been benefited by this Scheme, which include 366 beneficiaries from Ujani Majuli Development Block and 167 from Majuli Development Block. He also handed over cheques of land acquisition compensation to 5 families affected due to construction of the Majuli-Jorhat bridge. Minister of Power, Sports, Cultural Affairs etc. Bimal Bora, who is also the guardian minister of the district addressed the people on the occasion. While DC Majuli Pulak Mahanta delivered the welcome speech, Chief Engineer of PWD NH Mukul Chandra Das spoke in detail about the project. MLA

Naba Kumar Doley, CEM Deuri Autonomous Council Madhav Deuri, CEM Thengal Kachari Autonomous Council Kumud Kachari, president of Majuli Zila Parishad Papu Hazarika, VC of Majuli Cultural University Dr. Dambardhar Nath were also present among others in the meeting. Earlier, Chief Minister Dr Sarma inaugurated Officers Quarter (3 Block 12 Units) Grade III Quarters (1 Block 8 Units) under Integrated Office cum Residential Building project at Majuli today in the presence of Minister Bimal Bora. Under this project, steps are taken for construction of integrated DC office, site development and quarters for officers and staff with an outlay of Rs. 50 crores. During his visit to the district, Chief Minister Sarma also interacted with the members of Majuli District Journalists Association and Majuli district AAPCU at the DC office conference hall today and took stock of issues relating to the welfare of journalists. He assured them that the state government would take necessary steps to address all important issues raised by them. On the other hand, Dr. Sarma today began his day at Majuli with a visit to historic Sri Sri Owa Satra at Keralagaon and offered prayers seeking blessings of the almighty for the wellbeing and happiness of all.



Chief Secretary of Assam, Jishnu Barua & Commissioner & Secretary-GAD and Secretariat Administration, M S Manivannan participated in 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign at Guwahati

## BSF conducted cleanliness drive on occasion of its raising day

Assam Rising, Reporter  
Guwahati, November 29 :

In the series of events on occasion of upcoming BSF raising days - 2021, Frontier HQ BSF Guwahati and its units organised a cleanliness drive on November 29. Apart from that a friendly Volley ball match was played between BSF and Border villagers at BOP Badalgiri of 192 Bn in the bordering area of District Coochbehar (WB). In the



morning the cleanliness drive was carried by the troops of Frontier HQ BSF Guwahati at VIP Chowk, Guwahati (Assam). In addition to this, Units/SHQs deployed under BSF Frontier HQ Guwahati also carried

out cleanliness drives at their respective locations in nearby civilian areas and bordering villages to make aware the local population about the importance of cleanliness and hygiene. To foster the competitive spirit and engage the local youth by means of sports, on November 29 a friendly volleyball match between BSF and Border villagers was organized by 192 Bn. BSF at BOP Badalgiri in the bordering area of District

Coochbehar (WB) by 75 Bn BSF. In which BSF Doctors as well as Doctor of Mission Hospital Coochbehar examined and provided medical aid to more than 550 needy people of the bordering Village. Understanding the needs of border villagers, Sectors/units under Guwahati Frontier organize such programmes frequently in border areas as these programmes not only establish peace and harmony but also develop a sense of security amongst border villagers. The villagers appreciated the events and emphasized that conduct of such events will definitely help in promoting the sports culture at grass root level and also strengthening a cordial civil and border guarding force relationship. The Border Security Force is dedicated for Security of Border of India as well as protection of border population as its guided principle and ethos.

## Har Ghar Dastak campaign starts in Biswanath district



Assam Rising, Correspondent  
Biswanath Chari, November 29 :

The Biswanath district has around 4.92 lakh beneficiaries, out of which around 4.82 lakh beneficiaries (98%) have already been administered 1st dose Covid-19 vaccination. Around 2.81 lakh beneficiaries (52%) have already been administered with 2nd dose vaccination. The tar-

get for this drive (29 Nov - 05 Dec) in Biswanath district is to get the rest of the 10,000 population vaccinated with 1st dose. These people are either reluctant to get vaccinated or have been missed out in past days. Around 35 resistant pockets have been identified in the district where

residents have been found to be reluctant to get vaccinated. Thrust during this mega drive will be to convince these reluctant people to get vaccinated. Around 110 vaccination teams, which include ANMs and verifiers, have been readied to carry out this week-long drive in the district. In addition, 5 mobile vaccination teams too would be in service during this period. All the four Hon'ble MLAs of the district have also been requested to organize camps in their respective LACs, particularly in the reluctant pockets, where the emphasis would be laid on generating awareness on Covid-19 vaccination among the residents of those areas.

## Har Ghar Dastak mission begins in Hojai

Assam Rising, Correspondent  
Hojai, November 29 :

Deputy Commissioner of Hojai District Anupam Choudhary along with Mridul Kumar Mahanta, Secretary, Labour Welfare Department, Government of Assam jointly informed here on Monday that seven days long 'har ghar dastak' mega

mission began on November, 29 which will conclude on December 5. They said during this mission door to door vaccination drive will be carried out. 'Our aim is to ensure cent percent vaccination in the district', They added. While addressing the press conference at district headquarter Sankardevnagar in Hojai, DC further informed that during

the first dose of Covid 19 vaccination drive 624464 and in second dose of vaccination drive 419938 people were vaccinated within the district. Emphasising on the importance of Covid vaccination, the Deputy Commissioner appealed to those who have not vaccinated till now, to get them vaccinated during the 'Har Ghar Dastak' mission.

## Sanjay Dutt arrived at Dibrugarh airport

Assam Rising, Correspondent  
Dhemaji, November 29 :



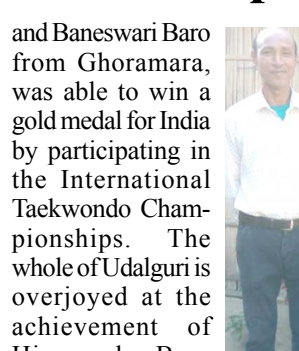
Munnabhai of Bollywood arrived at Mohanbari airport in Dibrugarh. Noted Bollywood actor and superstar Sanjay Dutt is present at Mohanbari airport in Dibrugarh. The actor flew by helicopter from Mohanbari to Mesuka in Arunachal Pradesh. Munnabhai will be the state

guest of the state government in nature's land heaven Mesuka. Not to shoot any film The famous Bollywood actor will be participating in the opening festival of the Golden Jubilee Year of Arunachal. The actor will spend two days in Mesuka in Arunachal. Noted actor Sanjay Dutt of The Golden Year festival brand Ambassador held in Arunachal.

## Himangshu wins gold in International Taekwondo championship

Assam Rising, Correspondent  
Udaluri, November 29 :

An international game held from 21 November in Nepal, which is organized by the Sanyukta Bharatiya Khel Foundation (SBKF) and India was represented by a number of players from Udaluri district. Himangshu Baro from Ghoramara, a remote village under the Khoirabari Police Station in Udaluri district, had the privilege of participating in the International Taekwondo Games, 8 other players from Udaluri district, namely Mayurakshi Baruah, Ushamani Rabha, Nayana Boro, Amit Debnath, Bakul Boro, Mayuk Barkakoti, Swagsam Narzary



and Baneswari Baro from Ghoramara, was able to win a gold medal for India by participating in the International Taekwondo Championships. The whole of Udaluri is overjoyed at the achievement of Himangshu Baro who belongs to a very poor family. In parallel, representing India in the International Taekwondo Games, 8 other players from Udaluri district, namely Mayurakshi Baruah, Ushamani Rabha, Nayana Boro, Amit Debnath, Bakul Boro, Mayuk Barkakoti, Swagsam Narzary

and Raken Kachari were able to win gold medal for India. On Sunday, the 9 members of the Indian team returned to their homeland in Khoirabari by train. The whole of Udaluri is thrilled with their great success and calls upon the BTC and the Government of Assam to make arrangements for players participation in the future at a higher level games.

## NFR cyclists shine in 26th Sr. National Road Cycling Championship

Assam Rising, Reporter  
Guwahati, November 29 :

Indian Railway Cycling (Men & Women) team participated in the 26th Senior National Road Cycling Championship held at Kurukshetra (Haryana) from November, 25 to 28. Indian Railway became champion in Women category and runners up in Men category in the National championship. Three women cyclists from N. F. Railway shined in various events in the women category and brought laurels by winning four gold medals and one sil-

ver medal for the Indian Railway. N. F. Railway Women Cyclists namely Sonali Chanu won three gold medals, Mataulebi Devi won one gold medal and Monoroma Devi won one silver medal in the

event for Indian Railway. Sonali Chanu of N.F. Railway received the Best Women Cyclist of the Tournament title by winning three gold medals in the Team Time Trial, Individual Mass Start and Indi-

vidual Criterium Race events. Monoroma Devi won silver in the Criterium Race and Mataulebi Devi won gold in the Team Time Trial event. Northeast Frontier Railway Sports Association (NFRSA)



emerged winner in the 35th Inter District Basketball Championship (Junior Boys & Girls) of Assam held from November, 25 to 28 at Royal Global School, Guwahati. The 22 member team from NFRSA Basketball Academy comprising 11 junior boys and 8 junior girls participated in the tournament. In the junior boy's event, NFRSA became champion beating Jorhat (58-48) in the final of the tournament. On the other hand, the NFRSA girl's team bagged the 3rd position in the tournament.

**SALE NOTICE**  
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Assets under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 read with Regulation 33(1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016. Notice is hereby given to the public in general that the below described assets of Amrit Feeds Limited will be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS" and "NO RECOURSE BASIS" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below under Liquidation. The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Web Portal [www.auctioneer.com](http://www.auctioneer.com). The general public is invited to bid either personally or by duly authorized agent.

Lot No.	Description of Assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental Amount
1	Land measuring 1.50 acre at Plot No. C-48, 49, 50, 57, 58 & 59, Khata No. 116, 86 & 58, Khata No. 157 (part), 158 (part), 159 (part), 156 (part) & 142 (part), 182, Thana Hajipur 188, Dist. Vaishali, Bihar with building thereon, plant and machinery and other fixed assets on a going concern basis	648	64.80	12.96
2	Land measuring 4.52 acre at Mouza: Raghunathpur, Panagarh-Morgam Highway P.S. Kankai, District: Burdwan, West Bengal-713148 with building thereon, plant and machinery and other fixed assets on a going concern basis	3,084	308.40	61.68
3	Land measuring (1,390 sqm + 4,180 sqm) at Dag No. 350, 43, Industrial Area, IDC, Village Kendurkona, Mouza Rangia, Dist. Kamrup, Assam-781354 with building thereon, plant and machinery and other fixed assets on a going concern basis	305	30.50	6.10
4	Land measuring 1,033 acre at Revenue Plot No. 2303 (P), Khata No. 531/1 corresponding to IDCO Plot No. 55/A in Revenue Mouza: Mukundaprasad in IDCO Industrial Estate at Khurda, Orissa with building thereon, plant and machinery and other fixed assets on a going concern basis	91	9.10	1.82
5	Land measuring 1,678 acre at Raninagar Industrial Growth Center, Mouza Paikata, P.S. & District Jalpaiguri, Plot No. A5 and A2 (part) according to master plan of WBIDC Raninagar Growth Centre under Balakoba Gram Panchayat with building thereon, plant and machinery and other fixed assets on a going concern basis	208	20.80	41.60

**Last date of EMD Deposit: 20.12.2021 | Last Date / Time of bidding: 22.12.2021, 14:30 hrs**  
The sale shall be subject to the Terms and Conditions prescribed in the Process Document and to the following conditions:  
1. The particulars of the Assets specified in the Schedule hereinafter have been stated to the best of the information of the Liquidator, but the Liquidator shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement, or omission in this proclamation  
2. It shall be the responsibility of the bidders to inspect and satisfy themselves about the asset and specification before submitting the bid. The inspection of assets put on auction will be permitted to interested bidders at sites from the date of publication to the last date of submitting documents & EMD. The Liquidator shall not be responsible for any charge, lien, encumbrances, or any other dues to the Government or anyone else in respect of the assets e-auctioned. The intending bidder is advised to make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances on the property including statutory liabilities, arrears of property tax, electricity dues etc.  
3. The interested bidders shall deposit the EMD by way of Demand Draft favouring "Amrit Feeds Limited (in Liquidation)" or through bank transfer by the last date as mentioned in the above noted table, to the following account - Amrit Feeds Limited (in Liquidation), Account No. 10076094022, IFSC Code: IDIB000134. The draft should not be of a Cooperative Bank.  
4. The bidders are requested to visit "[www.intelligentupdates.blogspot.com/sale-notice-insolvency.html](http://www.intelligentupdates.blogspot.com/sale-notice-insolvency.html)" for detailed terms and conditions for e-auction process before submitting their bids and taking part in the e-auction sale proceedings.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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## Newly detected variant of the covid virus

A newly detected variant of the covid virus named Omicron has set off a global scare, with stock markets shaken and countries blocking arrivals from places where cases of its infection have been found. The strain is under scientific study, but its numerous mutations-over 30 on its spike protein alone-are thought to have raised the likelihood of it being able to evade vaccine-generated antibodies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for heightened vigil against infections and faster second-dose vax coverage in India. Our response may need to be more robust if current jabs are found to be inadequately effective against Omicron, which would pose the risk of an infection flare-up. Moderna and Pfizer in the US are reported to have begun checking if their vaccines need updates, which they promise to do within 100 days should the need arise. The Covishield and Covaxin jabs in use here may need revisions too. Angelique Coetzee, chief of the medical association of South Africa, where many Omicron cases have been detected, however has said that fully-vaccinated folks are not at much risk of severe covid. The panic could turn out to be overblown. But precautions are still in order. U.S. health officials urge vaccinations as Omicron spreads. Top federal health officials in the United States urged unvaccinated Americans on Sunday to get their shots and for eligible adults to seek out boosters, as the discovery of a new variant sparked a new wave of travel restrictions and alarmed scientists. Appearing on several morning talk shows on Sunday, Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, cautioned Americans that the emergence of Omicron and the uncertainty that surrounds it is a reminder that the pandemic is far from over. While the variant has yet to be detected in the United States, maintaining vigilance and safeguarding public health through inoculations, masking indoors and distancing, remains critical, he said. On the face of it, the emergence of the Omicron variant is the unhappy fulfillment of expert predictions that the failure to prioritize vaccinations for African countries would allow the coronavirus to continue to circulate and mutate there, imperiling the world's ability to move beyond the pandemic. As Western nations kept most of the global vaccine supply for themselves, African countries were denied access to doses or could not afford them. Around 10 percent of people in Africa have received one dose of a vaccine, compared with 64 percent in North America and 62 percent in Europe.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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## Letter to The Editor

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

**Editor,**  
**The Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, Assam

# With Covid studies, the quality of the evidence matters

In The Adventure of the Copper Beeches, Sherlock Holmes says: "Data! Data! Data! I can't make bricks without clay." Recent claims of massive benefits from wearing masks and using ivermectin against Covid-19 depended on mainly low-quality clay. Meta-analysis is a technique for pooling the results from many studies, but it cannot make silk purses out of sows' ears. A recent British Medical Journal review looked at six, fairly porcine, studies concerning mask-wearing and estimated an impressive 53% reduction in risk. But the single randomised controlled trial estimated the smallest effect: a reduction of about 18% (-23% to 46%) in Sars-CoV-2 infections. The "heaviest" studies, an analysis of US states and a survey of about 8,000 Chinese adults in early 2020, observed rather than experimented and its editorial highlights the risks of confounding variables influencing both wearing masks and infections and the impossibility of disentangling the effects of measures fluctuating simultaneously. Indeed, this review found an identical 53% reduction

from handwashing. Physical models and laboratory testing suggest masks would be expected to have some effect, and to be fair, it is challenging to imagine rigorous randomised trials of the effects of mask-wearing or any other behaviour.

## David Spiegelhalter

But these are considered both feasible and essential for evaluating medical treatments and so in principle it should be easier to evaluate ivermectin, a cheap, anti-parasitic drug, heavily promoted as

an overlooked treatment for Covid-19. One meta-analysis originally found ivermectin reduced Covid-19 mortality by about 56%, a huge effect. But then a pre-print server withdrew the largest study and there have been further concerns over major errors and fraud in some ivermectin analyses. After removing studies with a high risk of bias, the estimated effect dissipated: the estimated decreased mortality was about 10% but with a wide uncertainty interval (-42% to 43%), so no firm conclusions can be drawn. Huge effort has been expended on scrutinising ivermectin research, even leading to the intriguing observation the drug appears to work in countries with a high prevalence of roundworm, whereas what is needed are the kind of good-quality studies that finally laid the claims about hydroxychloroquine to rest. Fortunately, these are now under way for ivermectin.



# Why Covid cases in India are decreasing despite low double vaccination rate

COVID continues to slow down in India. The festival season, which includes Durga Puja and Diwali where large groups of Indians gather, did not lead to a surge in cases. Epidemiological modellers had earlier predicted a third wave peaking during October and November. Daily new cases have dropped from a peak of more than 400,000 per day in May 2021 to currently below 10,000 cases a day. And while antibody tests might give us a clue as to why, we can't get complacent about vaccination rates. In India, "serosurveys" have been regularly conducted since the pandemic began. This is where blood is tested from large numbers of people to check for the presence of COVID antibodies - the things our bodies make after being infected with COVID or receiving a COVID vaccine. The fourth national survey in July reported 67.6% of people across India had COVID antibodies present, providing them with a level of immunity against the virus. At that time 24.8% of people were immunised with a single dose of vaccine and 13% were fully vaccinated. This means a large proportion of those with antibodies had actually been infected with COVID. Delhi reported 97% of people were positive for antibodies in October, including 80% of children. Some 95.3% of those immunised with the Indian version of the AstraZeneca vaccine Covishield had developed antibodies, as did 93% of those who received India's own vaccine Covaxin. The state of Haryana's serosurvey in October found antibodies in 76.3% of adults, upwards of 70% among children, and negligible difference between urban and rural populations. Kerala had the lowest sero-prevalence of 44.4% in the fourth

national serosurvey in July, but in October it had risen to 82.6% among the general population and 85.3% among residents of urban slums. A third wave in India is an unlikely scenario with these high levels of antibodies, and vaccination levels continuing to rise. It's now recognised those who become naturally infected with COVID and recover before vaccination develop better immunity than those who only have antibodies from vaccination. This is referred to as "hybrid immunity" - those with previous SARS-CoV-2 infection mount unusually potent immune responses to the COVID vaccines. The Centers for Disease Control in the US notes that



## Rajib Dasgupta



both the fully vaccinated individuals and previously infected groups have a low risk of subsequent infection for at least 6 months. Results of the most recent national serosurvey in India reflect the seroprevalence during the third week of June 2021; the Delta-led second wave had bottomed out at that time. Though about 30% of the popu-

lation remained susceptible, subsequent serosurveys and an absence of any post-festival surge confirm continuing high levels of protection. "Patchwork vaccination" areas, where there are pockets of low coverage of vaccination among areas with high levels of coverage, run the risk of small outbreaks, but are unlikely to be large enough to be of any major epidemiological concern. With high seropositivity among adults, many of the new cases can now be expected among children, particularly with the reopening of educational institutions. But high levels of immunisation among teachers (upwards of 90%) and the emerging evi-

dence that reopening schools has not been associated with significant increases in community transmission, are reassuring. The WHO's chief scientist said in late August that India seems to be "entering some stage of endemicity". Endemic refers to the constant presence or usual prevalence of a disease in a population within a geo-

graphic area, where disease spread and rates are predictable. Could a new variant, such as the Delta Plus subvariant first detected in India in April 2021 threaten the current relative stability? While it has been said it might be about 10-15% more transmissible than the Delta variant, the evidence from Europe suggests it has not yet been able to establish any dominance over Delta. Of India's 1.4 billion people, 26.9% are fully vaccinated and 54.9% have received at least one dose so far. But 35 million fewer women have been vaccinated compared to men and independent analyses show tribal and rural districts continue to lag. There are two current targets: achieving 90% coverage of the first dose by the end of November and timely administration of the second dose. While the first is likely to be achieved, there are widespread reports of complacency regarding the second dose. A campaign is underway to encourage people to complete the schedule. Delivering the billion plus doses has convincingly demonstrated vaccine confidence. But convincing people to take a vaccine when for many it seems like the risk has passed is a difficult task. Prior infection-induced immunity protects against reinfection but this acquired immunity wanes over time. Hence the recommendation for COVID vaccination for all eligible persons, including those who have been previously infected. Districts with relatively low vaccine coverage require greater outreach efforts to reduce prevailing inequities. India's immunisation program has demonstrated its strengths in polio eradication and measles-rubella elimination campaigns. We need to borrow some of those techniques to ensure all Indians are protected against COVID.

# A solution to stubble burning that gets to its root cause

North India is once again engulfed by a thick layer of smog as rice stubble burning across Punjab and Haryana continues unabated, contributing to high levels of air pollution in the region. Poor air quality has already spurred radical action from the Supreme Court of India, which ordered authorities in New Delhi and nearby cities to shut offices and demanded action to halt crop waste fires. Far from a mere nuisance, pollution from stubble burning poses a serious risk to the health and safety of people. In 2019, 20 per cent of all deaths in the country were attributable to air pollution, costing an estimated 1.36 per cent of GDP. The pandemic has only

heightened the risk, with research showing higher Covid-19 mortality rates in places with long-term exposure to air pollution. With crop residue burning contributing 15 per cent of India's total air pollution, finding practical, effective, and sustainable solutions to curb the practice is critical. Several innovative measures have been developed to reduce stubble burning. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute developed a microbe, Pusa, that hastens decomposition and converts stubble to compost within 25 days, improving soil quality as a result. A tractor-mounted extension machine called Happy Seeder sows wheat while simultaneously remov-

ing straw and depositing it over the sown land as mulch. These technologies, though impressive, have high operational costs. Likewise, state governments have set up distilleries that use straw to generate ethanol, but since farmers bear the cost of collect-



## Prabhu Pingali

ing, baling, and transporting the residue, burning is still the cheapest option available. We propose a solution that gets to the root of the problem: farmers in the western Indo-Gangetic Plain should grow less rice. Simply

rice to the western Indo-Gangetic Plain helped India meet the calorific needs of its population, but it also planted the seeds of stubble burning. Over time, the rice-wheat cropping pattern led to the overuse of groundwater sources in the region, causing farmers to move the rice-cropping season towards the end of June to coincide with the monsoon. This shift left a small window between the rice harvest and wheat sowing. Because removing the rice stubble left after harvesting is labor-intensive and costly, burning became the best, least expensive option

to move the rice-cropping season towards the end of June to coincide with the monsoon. This shift left a small window between the rice harvest and wheat sowing. Because removing the rice stubble left after harvesting is labor-intensive and costly, burning became the best, least expensive option



put, if farmers grow crops other than rice, there will be no need for stubble burning. That may seem like a radical plan, and it would indeed be a significant change, but it is not without precedent. The rice-wheat cropping system that currently dominates the Indo-Gangetic Plain was born of the Green Revolution, when the introduction of varieties offering higher yields with lower maturation times made it possible to grow both rice and wheat on the same field within the same year. Prior to that, farmers in the western part of the Indo-Gangetic Plain grew wheat and those in the east grew rice. The introduction of

available for farmers to clear their fields. Rice farming is simply not well suited to the western Indo-Gangetic Plain, leading not only to stubble burning, but also deteriorated soil quality and depleted groundwater resources. Diversifying away from rice offers the most sustainable solution to these issues. It would also help to make diverse, nutritious foods more readily available, addressing India's endemic malnutrition problem. Instead of rice, farmers could grow nutritious, water-efficient crops such as maize, groundnut, and kharif pulses like moong, urad, and arhar. While some of these crops, like maize, are already procured at a mini-

more in the procurement of non-cereal crops. This would build a market of assured buyers willing to offer competitive rates. It would also assuage farmers' fears that their incomes might decline upon diversifying away from the MSP-supported rice. Encouraging farmers in the western Indo-Gangetic Plain to give up rice will take considerable effort from the government and the private sector, but the benefits are clear and the dire situation in North India demands bold action. There are many ways to curb stubble burning. Only crop diversification offers a sustainable means to provide Indians with both cleaner air and healthier diets.



# Call for combine effort to push tourism industry forward in NE region

**Kohima, Nov 29:** Abu Metha, Advisor to chief minister of Nagaland today called upon the stakeholders of the North Eastern States to come forward and work as a team to emerge as a global destination. Talking on "Potential of fairs and festivals for tourism in North East region" at the ongoing International Trade Mart at Kisama, he observed that a combine effort in required to push the tourism industry forward in the region. He maintained that tourism will fetch a positive economic impact and employment generation, thereby enabling the region to enhance its contribution in the nation building process. He said that experiential tourism is today one of the biggest demand and aspirations of the tourists who travel all around the world. Sharing the role of fairs and festivals in promoting tourism, he informed that Hornbill Festival of Nagaland exemplifies the energy, the innovation and creativity of the people and promoting Nagas beyond India. Hornbill festival is not a traditional Naga festival, it is a tourism promotion event, he said. "It is a just 22 years old tourism promotion event and today it is one of biggest festivals in the country," Metha said. Stating that Nagaland is not offering luxury or five star



hotels to tourists, he said "it is about experiential holiday/ It is about home stay. It is about making friends and bringing the world into Naga homes and villages". This the basic agenda we try to promote tourism, he said. One North East marketing campaign North East festival founder and chief executive Shyamkanu Mahanta maintained that Hornbill Festival is the biggest festival of India. He said that North East will emerge as the most ideal destination for the busy, hardworking professionals, especially for the mindful tourists. Touching on post COVID, he said, "Last two years, were really bad for all of us, perhaps it is the time for the region to express and get ready for good time". Mahanta added that it is the ideal time to get prepared with logistics, proper

marketing campaign, extensive road shows highlighting North East region, adding that series of planned fairs and festivals all over the country will be needed. He stressed on the need to have one North East marketing campaign, adding "it is important to initiate one North East Tourism campaign, focusing on fairs and festivals calendar, specific theme driven promotions". He said that extensive social media campaign is needed within India and abroad. "Fairs and festivals can change the tourism scenario of the entire north east region, provided we plan it well," he said. He said that the 9th edition of North East Festival 2021 will take place in New Delhi from December 10 to 12, which will focus North East as destination for mindful tourism. It is the biggest

common tourism initiative of North East. The main focus has been showcasing tourism potential of North East region, creating awareness by presenting the culture and diversity in terms of language, dance forms, food habits and contribution of the North East region in the nation building. He said that racial attacks on the North East region people were a major issue 10 years ago. Over the years it has gone down. North east festival has helped in creating business and opportunities for entrepreneurs, performers and designers, he said. Adventure and Tour Operator Association honorary secretary Vinayak Kaul today said that North East has the potential to become the adventure tourism capital of the country. Speaking at the panel discussion on "Rafting, trekking and road expe-

ditions" at the second day of the 9th International Tourism Mart for North East region at Kisama, he said adventure tourism is the future of tourism in the country. He said economically it made sense as it helps bring the fund to last mile. Kaul called upon the gathering to explore our country first and then move on to other places. He also impressed upon the delegates to promote responsibly and organise responsibly. David Angami, Director Indiatrails, Oken Tayeng, chapter chairman for North East States ATOAI and Pallab Bhattacharya, Director Alpine Nature Beyond Pvt Ltd were panelists of the discussion hour. Earlier, all the eight North Eastern States Governments showcased the tourism potential of their respective states. Day two session was also marked by panel discussion on major hotel chains and alternative accommodations in North east and potential of food and wine tourism in North east. Roundtable discussions with diplomats from four countries Vietnam, Brunei, Myanmar and Malaysia also took place. Business to Business meeting on the topic "Tourism- A new horizon" also marked day two session. Meanwhile, the delegates will visit 2nd World War Cemetery, Kohima, Puliebadze and Khonoma on November 29.

## Huzo Meru receives the A Kevichusa Citizenship Award

**Dimapur, Nov 29:** "Who would have thought that a wide-eyed four or five year old boy from an obscure family, visiting the Kevichusa residence at Mission Compound, Kohima during Christmas, and getting his first taste of delicious cake, would one day be a recipient of the prestigious A Kevichusa Citizenship Award." These were thoughts expressed by Huzo Meru, Director of Operations, North East Christian University & Trustee, South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS) Bangalore, who was awarded the prestigious A Kevichusa Citizenship Award 2021 this afternoon at Alder Retreat Kohima. Rewards, he opined "are earned mainly by one's own effort whereas awards are bestowed upon through sheer grace of others." He reminisced how his headmaster motivated and

exceptional individuals who have impacted my life for the better. I am especially grateful to my wife for standing with me through thick and thin for the last thirty six years. This award is dedicated to her and to all who have played a vital role in my life along the way." Meru also declared that the cash component of the award will go towards a Gospel Mission project and a road improvement project. "May God continue to bless the family and use the A Kevichusa Citizenship Award to bless and encourage many more individuals in the years to come. To God be the Glory!" he expressed. The award was instituted in 2017 by the Kevichusa Foundation to celebrate and promote the ideal of citizenship. It recognises an indigenous individual or group of Nagaland that has consistently championed, demonstrated, and embodied the

haves and have-nots, the educated and uneducated, the economically empowered and not empowered in our society today, she asserted that "education will help bridge this gap." Like the recipient of the award who is working for the common good, she stated that "only when everyone is educated, and is socially and economically empowered, then can we have a progressive society." Giving an introduction of the award, Grandson of A Kevichusa, Kevichusa Kevichusa maintained that the "representative democracy that we live in today has given us so many freedom and rights that we forget our obligations and our duties and that individuality that comes about from this freedom is leading to a selfish and fragmented society." A definition of a good citizen, he pointed out is "someone who is not only concerned



challenged them with a sum of Rs 100 to anyone who could secure first division in Class Six Board Examination, which he secured. He was further rewarded in the form of a merit scholarship of Rs 20 per month from class 7 till class 10, which, he added was of tremendous help to him. On the awards, he expressed, "this is unfamiliar territory as far as I am concerned, which makes this whole experience more humbling." "I feel undeserving of the great honour, also because I am aware that there are many who deserve the award more than I", he said. On receiving the award, he said: "I have had the opportunity to once again retrospect on my life and reflect on God's faithfulness through all the ups and downs. I am reminded of all

ideal of citizenship, and unwaveringly sought the common good of the people of Nagaland or collective sections and constituencies thereof. Addressing the award ceremony, Kevileno Angami, Special Secretary, Department of School Education recalled that A Kevichusa was a pioneer in many fields including education, politics, social service and it is befitting that this year's citizenship award is going to an educationist- "a person who has worked for the promotion of education despite the challenges and worked to bring about common good for the people." Education, she remarked is a tool for social advancement, empowerment, and also scientific advancement. Observing that there is a gap between the

about his/her personal benefit but also has the moral obligation to contribute to the community." Stressing on the importance of moral obligation, he said "it transcends the physical requirements and goes to somewhat altruistic vision of what people can contribute and unselfishly not for his personal gain but for common good." He recalled how in the process of identifying awardees, they found that there a lot of unsung heroes. Kethoser Aniu Kevichusa introduced the recipient of this year's award as someone who inhabits three worlds namely, educational, religious, and social community and public world. He described Huzo Meru as "a border walker, who has shown us that things can be done; and they can be done very well, if we just do it."

## BJP steamrollers TMC, Left ; wins 329 of 334 seats in Tripura civic polls

**Agartala/Kolkata, Nov 29:** Tripura's ruling BJP pulverised Mamata Banerjee's TMC and the Left on Sunday, capturing with surprising ease the Agartala Municipal Corporation and 13 other civic bodies where it now has 329 of the 334 seats. Contesting its first civic polls after it stormed to power in the northeastern state in 2018, the saffron party steamrollered a feeble challenge from the opposition after a vitriol-filled campaign marked by communal tension, clashes and court battles that forced the Supreme Court to intervene and order peaceful polls. Not a single opposition candidate could win from any ward of the 51-member Agartala Municipal Corporation all of which went to the BJP. The saffron party's domination was so complete that it secured all the wards in the 15-member Khowai Municipal Council, 17-seat Belonia Municipal Council, 15-member Kumarghat Municipal Council and nine-member Sabroom Nagar Panchayat,

state election commission officials said. The party made a clean sweep in the 25-ward Dharmanagar Municipal Council, 15-seat Teliamura Municipal Council and 13-member Amarpur Nagar Panchayat, they said. Sonamura Nagar Panchayat and Melaghar Nagar Panchayat will be without opposition with the BJP having won all the 13 seats each. It also bagged the 11-member Jirania Nagar Panchayat. The party secured 12 seats of Ambassa Municipal Council, while the TMC and the CPI-M won one seat each and another went to an independent candidate. The BJP also won 16 seats of Kailashahar Municipal Council and the CPI(M) got one. In Panisagar Nagar Panchayat, the BJP emerged victorious in 12 seats and the CPI(M) bagged one. The BJP had won seven wards of Khowai Municipal Council, one of Dharmanagar Municipality, two of Melaghar Municipal Council and 10 of Jirania uncontested. It had also won with-

out a contest the civic bodies of Ranirbazar, Bishal Ganj, Mohanpur, Kamalpur, Udaipur and Shantirbazar, which together account for 92 wards. With the resounding victory, BJP has in its kitty 329 of the state's 324 wards of urban civic bodies, the CPI-M, which ruled Tripura with an iron fist for decades, three, Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress and Independent (one each). Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, in the line of opposition fire over communal violence in the state, dubbed the victory as "historic" and said people of Tripura gave a "sothik jawab" (the right answer) to those opposed to the BJP. "Those who tried to malign Tripura should see...people from majority and minority communities have together voted in favour of development under Narendra Modi ji," Deb said, smiling broadly as BJP supporters gathered on the streets of Agartala, distributing sweets and dancing to drum beats. There

was jubilation in the BJP camp in neighbouring West Bengal where the TMC had bested it in the assembly elections a few months ago. "Heartiest congratulations to @BJP4Tripura & Hon'ble CM @BjpBiplab for registering landslide victory in Agartala Corporation & all other Nagar Panchayats and Municipalities. We are grateful to the people of Tripura for wiping out the corrupt & fascist Tolamool party of Bengal," said Suwendu Adhikari, the leader of the Opposition in West Bengal on Twitter. BJP's IT cell chief Amit Malviya tweeted: "BJP has swept Tripura local body polls. Spare a thought for the entire opposition, new kids on the block and sponsored media, which finally figured Tripura's existence after BJP came to power in the State. All conspiracies, fake narrative about religious tension etc bites dust." The TMC brass, however, put up a brave face despite the crushing defeat. Taking to Twitter, TMC national gen-

eral secretary Abhishek Banerjee said the performance was "exceptional" for his party, which had negligible presence in Tripura. "This is despite the fact that we commenced our activities barely 3 months ago and @BJP4Tripura left no stone unturned to BUTCHER DEMOCRACY in Tripura. Congratulations to all the brave soldiers of @AITC4Tripura for their exemplary courage," he tweeted. Echoing him, TMC's West Bengal general secretary and spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said that his party has been able to secure the second position in several seats, "despite the violence unleashed by the ruling BJP" there. "2023 is ours, it (the results) forms the foundation of Trinamool's victory in 2023," Ghosh tweeted as results keep pouring in from different municipal bodies and BJP workers here were seen feasting on sweets and smearing each other with 'gula' during the day to celebrate their party's victory in the neighbouring state.

## MoS Ajay Bhatt visits late Capt N Kenguruse's family

**Kohima, Nov 29 :** Union Minister of State for Defence and Tourism Ajay Bhatt visited the family of Kargil War hero, Late Capt N Kenguruse, MVC at his home in Kohima on November 28. Captain Neikezhakuo Kenguruse

was born on July 15, 1974 and hailed from Nerhema village in Kohima district of

tion Vijay. Capt Kenguruse is the first recipient of Maha Vir Chakra from



Nagaland. Capt Kenguruse was commissioned into the Army Service Corps of Indian Army on December 12, 1998, a press release from the PRO (Def) Kohima stated on Sunday. "He sacrificed his life for the Nation at the age of 25 years. Capt Kenguruse was awarded the nation's second highest gallantry award, 'Maha Vir Chakra' for his raw courage, indomitable spirit and supreme sacrifice in Opera-

Army Service Corps (ASC)," the release stated. During the visit by the Minister to the family members of Capt Kenguruse, he conveyed his gratitude, and felicitated and reassured the family members of support, it said. The Minister was earlier briefed by the senior military leaders on the first day of the visit wherein he also interacted with the troops and commended them for their professionalism and high morale, it added.

## CM dedicates upgraded ADC HQ in Monigong

**Mehekha, Nov 29:** Chief Minister Pema Khandu dedicated the upgraded ADC headquarters in Monigong to the people of Shi-Yomi district. He also inaugurated the water treatment plant of the PHED and the water distribution system for Monigong township, worth Rs 13.5 crores, and laid the foundations for a new academic block at the government secondary school here and a veterinary aid centre in Pidi. Khandu, who is on a three-day visit to Shi-Yomi, gave assurance that the government is committed to fulfil all the requirements of the newly created district, which, despite having immense potential in terms of tourism, has almost remained untouched due to communication bottleneck. Shi-Yomi, along with three

other districts - Leparada, Kamle and Pakke-Kessang - was created on people's demand at Khandu's initiative as chief minister. "Earlier, schemes and projects were mostly concentrated to certain districts and areas. But in the last five years, we have ensured equitable distribution of all schemes. Today, all so far neglected areas are reaping benefits of all central and state government programmes and schemes," Khandu said. He informed that at least 11 big and important projects have been approved and sanctioned for Shi-Yomi since he became the chief minister. These projects, he said, are in various stages of implementation. The CM urged the people to cooperate with local legislator and Legislative Assembly Speaker PD Sonu for over-

all development of the district. He welcomed the demand for inclusion of Pidi and Monigong circles in the official tourist circuit of the state. "Tourism has immense potential here. I am in touch with the BRO for early completion of the highway to the district. Once this road is complete and other district roads improved, Shi-Yomi will be one of the most sought af-



ter tourist destinations of the state," Khandu said. He informed that the proposal has already been recommended and submitted to the central government for approval, and assured to coordinate with MP and union Law & Justice Minister Kiren Rijiju in pursuing the matter with the central government ministries for early approval. Expressing concern that

Monigong circle is yet to get mobile connectivity, Khandu assured to have 4G mobile towers installed in the area in the coming days. "The central government has approved installation of 980 4G mobile towers in border areas of Arunachal Pradesh. Tender for the same has been done and work would begin soon. I assure few of these towers will be installed here in Shi-Yomi," he said. Khandu also announced various projects worth Rs 3.5 crores under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram for Shi-Yomi, besides Rs 4 crores each for establishment of two model schools - one in Monigong and the other in Dechenhang - under the state government's flagship programme 'Mission Shiksha'. Responding to a memorandum contain-

ing five demands, including construction of circuit houses in Monigong and Pidi, a general ground in Pidi and a mega hydropower project, besides inclusion of Monigong and Pidi in the tourist circuit, Khandu said that all demands would be taken care of. He informed that two mini hydel projects for the district are already in the final stages of approval. "To your request for a mega hydropower project in the area, I will direct the hydropower department to do a survey and submit a detailed study report to the state government for further decision," the CM added. On his way to Mehekha from Monigong, Khandu inaugurated the newly established adventure park at the Chu-Pala river island.



## Contd. From Page 1

## Bill To Cancel Farm Laws

only due to electoral compulsions. He said BJP was impacted in the recently-held by-elections in several states “and then there are elections in five states”, and the government felt that it would have an impact in the upcoming elections too. Just as Kharge mentioned that over 700 people had died during the protests, his speech was cut short and Harivansh said that he had initially only allowed him to speak for a couple of minutes but he had spoken longer. Even as Kharge continued to speak, Tomar was asked to move the motion to pass the bill. Tomar, echoing Prime Minister Modi’s announcement on November 19, said that the “government had brought the three bills for the betterment of the farmers” but, he said, “we are sad, that sometimes even after trying, and even after Congress had mentioned it in their manifesto, kept a hypocritical attitude towards it”. “We were unable to convince the farmers during our discussions. Thus, the Prime Minister demonstrated historical magnanimity,” and announced the repeal of the laws on Guru Nanak Dev’s Jayanti. “This shows the unity in the Prime Minister’s words and actions,” Tomar said. “We have come here to repeal the laws, the government is ready and the Opposition has been demanding. Therefore, there is no need to discuss it and the repeal bill should be passed.” The Farm Laws Repeal Bill 2021 was then passed by Parliament without any discussion. A bill to cancel the three contentious farm laws that had the farmers up in arms was passed in record time in both houses as parliament’s Winter Session started today. The government plans to get it signed by the President by tonight, sources said. The Farm Laws Repeal bill was passed in Lok Sabha within four minutes - it was tabled at 12:06 pm and passed by 12:10 pm amid opposition demands for a discussion. In Rajya Sabha, it was passed after a short discussion. Congress’s leader in the house Mallikarjun Kharge said all parties are agreed on the bill and no one is opposed to it. Opposition leaders in the Lok Sabha objected to the lack of discussion, pointing out that a discussion has taken place on the five or six occasions when a law was scrapped. “Modi I (2014-19): Repealing and Amending Bill 2017 was one instance. Six MPs participated in discussion. A fig leaf of democracy then. Some shame. Modi II (2019-today): #FarmLaws Repeal Bill 2021 taken up and passed. NO debate allowed. Not even a fig leaf of democracy. SHAMELESS,” tweeted Trinamool Congress’ Derek O’Brien. The opposition claimed the government evaded a discussion to avoid the issue of minimum support price for farmers’ produce, which has been a key demand during their year-long agitation. Minutes after the Winter Session began this morning, slogans disrupted the proceedings in Lok Sabha. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said his government is ready to reply to all questions. “Whatever voices are raised against the government or government policies - the dignity of parliament and the Speaker’s Chair should be upheld,” he said. Over the next 18 sittings, the government is expected to introduce more than 30 legislative Bills and one Finance Bill. The other bills include the crucial Cryptocurrency and Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Second Amendment) Bill, 2021, and the Electricity (Amendment) Bill. The Prime Minister yesterday skipped the all-party meeting. Denying it was a break in tradition, Parliamentary Affairs minister Pralhad Joshi said, “There was no tradition of Prime Minister attending the all-party meeting. It was started by Modi ji”.

## 12 Rajya Sabha MPs

Singh, CPI’s Binoy Viswam, TMC’s Shanta Chhetri and Shiv Sena’s Anil Desai. The last day of the Monsoon Session of Parliament witnessed a ruckus in the Upper House while opposition MPs claimed they were attacked by marshals who were not part of Parliament security. The government’s report on the ruckus states that a male marshal was choked by CPM MP Elamaram Kareem while a female marshal of the Rajya Sabha was assaulted by Chhaya Verma and Phulo Devi Netam, Congress MPs. The report was submitted to the Rajya Sabha chairman after the House was suspended for the season. The suspension notice issued of the first day of the Winter Session said: “That this House takes cognisance and strongly condemns the utter disregard to the authority of the Chair, complete abuse of rules of the House persistently thereby willfully obstructing the business of House through their unprecedented acts of misconduct, contemptuous, unruly and violent behaviour and intentional attacks on security personnel on the last day of 254th Session of Rajya Sabha (Monsoon Session) i.e., 11th August 2021 thereby lowering the dignity of and bringing disrepute to the August House by the following members and resolves, for above compelling reasons, to suspend these members from the service of the House for the remainder of the 255th session under rule 256 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Rajya Sabha.”

## Our Govt Committed To Main

Delhi. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and his Mizoram counterpart Zoramthanga had interacted in Delhi over an informal dinner meeting—the first interaction between both leaders since the July 26 clashes at Lailapur on the Assam-Mizoram border. “(It’s) heartening to share that I along with honourable Chief Minister of Mizoram Zoramthanga, met honourable home minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. We reaffirmed our resolve to maintain peace and tranquillity at our borders,” Sarma tweeted after the meeting. “It has been decided that both the states will constitute committees for resolving the border disputes through discussions. Towards this end, chief minister level talks will also take place from time to time. We are grateful to Union home minister for his kind guidance and support,” he added. There was no statement or comment from the Mizoram CM’s office till the filing of this report. Sources at the Assam CM’s office said that details on constitution of the committees will be disclosed at a later date. It is expected that they could be on the lines of similar committees formed by Assam and Meghalaya governments this year to address the border dispute between the two states. Assam and Meghalaya have formed three committees comprising ministers, bureaucrats and stakeholders of both states to resolve disputes at 6 of the 12 border points of contention between the two neighbours. The committees, which visited each disputed site, are to file their reports by November 30. Assam and Mizoram share a 164.6 km long inter-state border and there has been a long-standing dispute on the exact boundary. On Mizoram’s side the border districts are Aizawl, Kolasib and Mamit, while on Assam’s side, the border sharing districts are Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj. After the firing between the police of both the states at Cachar’s Lailapur on July 26 this year, there were several rounds of talks between both states under the Central government’s intervention, but Friday’s meeting was the first official one between the two chief ministers.

## Assam student leader lynched

police. Accordingly, the Jorhat police arrived at the spot and rushed the injured to Jorhat Medical College Hospital (JMCH) in critical condition; however, the doctors declared the AASU leader Animesh Bhuyan brought dead. Meanwhile, the members of the AASU (Jorhat Unit) demanded immediate arrest of the culprits within the next 24 hours. Further, the students’ bodies threatened to escalate the agitation and enforce a “total shutdown” in the Jorhat district.

## CM Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. Meanwhile, a cabinet committee has also been constituted to monitor the day-to-day progress of the project, informed CM Sarma via Twitter. The state government has set the target of November 2025 by which time the bridge would be inaugurated. An amount of 750 crores would be sanctioned by the Assam government for the construction of the second bridge connecting Majuli to Lakhimpur, he said. He tweeted, “A Cabinet Committee has been constituted to monitor day-to-day progress of the project. We aim to inaugurate this bridge by Nov 2025”, further adding, “GoA will also take up construction of a new bridge connecting Majuli-Lakhimpur at Dhunaguri from its own resources amounting to Rs 750 cr”.

## Government ready to answer all

ings. He said that the “citizens of the country want a productive session.” Twenty-six new bills are on the agenda of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led central government. The government has indicated that the bill to repeal three farm laws will also be taken up on priority. The bill was cleared by the Union Cabinet last week. PM Modi also said that the country should be on alert in view of the new Covid variant ‘Omicron’.

## UAE to be first foreign destination

attraction. India’s massive 4-floor pavilion showcases the country’s achievements as part of the 75th independence year celebrations and has so far witnessed over four lakh people. The entire four-storey structure is divided into two parts and the zones are identified based on 11 primary themes - Climate and Biodiversity, Space, Urban and Rural Development, Tolerance and Inclusivity, Golden Jubilee, Knowledge and Learning, Travel and Connectivity, Global Goals, Health and Wellness, Food Agriculture and Livelihoods and Water. The Prime Minister’s visit will also see him engaging with the top leadership of the country. This is noteworthy that PM Modi had earlier visited the UAE in 2015, 2018, and 2019 and has also received the country’s highest award – Order of the Zayed. Earlier this month, External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar had also visited India Pavilion at the Dubai Expo and had met the top leadership of the country. Indian expatriate community of approximately 3.3 million is the largest ethnic community in the UAE constituting 30% of the country’s population.

## Runners from Assam successfully

is home to over 100 plant species and 50 animal species. Notably, all four of them successfully completed well below the cut-off time where historically the success rate is less than 60%, by participating in the 50KM category. Runners in the Ultra Trail Runs need to complete long distances like 50km in very rough terrain with high level of elevations and is one of the toughest forms of runs. The origin of the name Malnad is attributed to Male meaning Hill and Nadu meaning Land. So, Malnad is the land of the hills! Being an Ultra, all the race categories are Beyond 42 kms in hilly terrain. Its volunteer-driven and not-for-profit event is certified by the International Trail Running Association and is a UTMB Qualifier. It is also the only Qualifier for WSER from India, and a Candidate Race for Asia Trail Master Championship Series. The course takes runners through the beautiful Mudigere area, with stunning views in the Western Ghats of South India. This area is home to over 100 plant species and 50 animal species. The team participated in the 50KM category and all four of them successfully completed well below the cut off time where historically the success rate is less than 60%. Ultra Trail Runs are most toughest form of runs where runner needs to complete long distances like 50KM in very rough terrain with high level of elevations.

## NDA ally National People's Party

and Union ministers Pralhad Joshi and Piyush Goyal. “Since the farm laws have been repealed and this was done primarily keeping in mind the sentiments of the people, therefore, I requested the government to repeal the CAA keeping in mind the same sort of sentiments of the people from the Northeast,” she told PTI after the NDA meeting here. There was no response from the government but it has taken detail notes of the demands made by the floor leaders of all parties, Sangma said. When asked whether other parties from the Northeast which are part of NDA also share the same sentiments, she said, “I made this demand on behalf of my party and people from the Northeast. I know a few others who also share the same view.” The CAA, which facilitates granting of Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim minorities of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, was passed by Parliament in 2019 and had led to protests in different parts of the country. The President had given his assent to the legislation on December 12, 2019. The objective of the CAA is to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities - Hindu, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Christian - from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. People from these communities who had come to India till December 31, 2014 due to religious persecution in these countries will not be treated as illegal immigrants but be given Indian citizenship. After the CAA was passed by Parliament, widespread protests were witnessed in the country. Those opposing the CAA contend that it discriminates on the basis of religion and violates the Constitution. They also allege that the CAA along with the National Register of Citizens is intended to target the Muslim community in India.

## DC Unveils Boundary Stone Demarcating Hipu

Staff Reporter

**Aalo Nov 29:** The traditional Hipu River boundary stone demarcating

same place to settle it forever. The Pillar is being erected on a mutual understanding basis in a bid to do away any misun-



of both the villages at Bijar Hipu-Hisum Confluence today. Addressing the gathering, the DC said that there is nothing like settling the inter village boundary, be it river, land or for-

est through mutual trust and understanding. The Boundary Stone in the form of erecting a permanent pillar is simply a historic event and goes a long way in infusing the sense of understanding among the young generation in the years to come. He appealed to the public and youth to come forward with constructive suggestions in all development activities for overall welfare of the district and the institution of GB to play a pivotal role in the justice delivery system as the grass root level of administration. Participating in the discussion was Doi Ado former Minister and Gadam Ete Ex. MLA said that the historic event should erase the past conflicts by forefathers and it will help the younger generation to delve into the beautiful works done by the present generation without leaving any conflicts and confusions. Momar Lollen, ZPM Kombo cum Chairman AKWDS said that the pillar is not erected to demarcate people of two villages rather to incite unity and relationships and proper message should be sent to the people who could not participate. Highlighting the history of the River dispute between Kombo and Darka in the past, kenba Diyum, Secretary General disclosed that the age old dispute was amicably settled by then Assistant Political Officer, Major PN Kohl and Indian Frontier Administrative Service officer by planting a tree on the demarcated site and today the Boundary Stone is being put in

## Living with overactive bladder (OAB)

## Early diagnosis can help in better management of OAB

Assam Rising, Reporter

Guwahati, November 28 :

Overactive Bladder (OAB) is a condition that’s inconvenient, embarrassing and is potentially debilitating. The good news is that it’s a condition that can be managed. Although this condition can be treated, most patients do not seek treatment or consult doctors. OAB is characterized as a syndrome that causes an abrupt and unstoppable need to urinate. If left untreated, OAB can negatively impact life by interfering in daily activities such as work, social activities, exercise, and sleep. The incidence of OAB symptoms increases with age. Older patients are less likely to discuss their OAB symptoms with their physician and are more likely to be untreated or under-treated. Both men and women can get OAB. It is an under-reported problem in our country. Therefore, exact number or % of cases is not known. However, in terms of %, some studies mention that around 14% men suffer from OAB whereas around 12 % women have some type of urinary incontinence issue. Older women who have gone through menopause and men who have had prostate problems are more likely to get OAB. People with diseases that affect the brain or spinal cord (nervous system), such as stroke and multiple sclerosis also get OAB. Growing older is a factor, but not all people get OAB as they age. Therefore, it shouldn’t be considered as a normal part of aging. Though initially mild, symptoms worsen with time and become especially bothersome in the form of severe nocturia (which badly disturbs sleep and physical and mental functioning) inability to postpone or defer the urge to urinate and leakage of urine before reaching the toilet. Management of OAB involves an escalatory or “stepping up the ladder” approach. The basic and vital step revolves around self-management by behavioural and lifestyle changes. The next levels are: “pills” or oral medicines, progressing further to

injections into the bladder wall, electrical stimulation of bladder-related nerves and finally, but very rarely, surgery.” Dr. Ankur Agarwal-Consultant Urologist-Apollo Hospital, Guwahati said – “To manage OAB, first step is to make “lifestyle changes”. Sometimes these changes are called “behavioural therapy”. People can see big improvements by changing their lifestyle and daily routine. Avoiding bladder irritants such as coffee, tea, carbonated beverages and spicy food will also yield a significant symptom control. Weak pelvic floor muscles may contribute to overactive bladder. Pelvic floor muscle exercise or Kegel exercise help reduce OAB symptoms by improving this muscular control on being able to hold back urine but can take a few weeks to show results. However, this needs consistency”. As a further step, doctor might decide that oral medications are necessary to help manage the symptoms. Typically, these medications work by calming the overactivity of the muscle in the bladder wall, thereby reducing both frequency of and unwanted urges to urination. Often oral medications work better when combined with behavioural therapy. If lifestyle changes and medicine aren’t working, there are other treatment options like injections in the bladder or nerve stimulation techniques. In OAB, the nerve signals between bladder and brain, through the spinal cord, do not communicate correctly. Electrical pulses via nerve stimulation help set right these nerve signals to the bladder, so that it can function optimally and improve OAB symptoms. Only in very rare and serious cases is surgery to be used. Early diagnosis and prompt treatment are proven means of reducing severity of both symptoms and complications of OAB. So, don’t delay getting help for your condition or discussing your concern with a family member if you suspect he or she may be struggling with OAB symptoms.

## Anubhab Sagar shines as Cyber expert

Assam Rising, News Desk

Guwahati, November 29 :

Anubhav Sagar, a talented young man who is constantly striving to reduce cyber crime, and to create awareness among the people. A self trained ethical hacker, Anubhab Sagar doesn’t fit the conventional description of a sleuth. But this guy from Assam has been instrumental in helping to solve a number of cases. An ethical hacker like Sagar likes to call himself a person who hacks a computer network in order to test or evaluate its security, rather than with malicious or criminal intent. Sagar is currently working as a cyber expert at Krishnaguru University and has been taking various steps against cyber crime. Anubhab Sagar played

a pivotal role in the search for cyber criminals in various branches of the Assam Police. Anubhab Sagar, who is currently a cyber security expert and web and app developer, has now developed many websites and many applications, which are now available in Google Play Store and App Store. In an interview with the journalist, Anubhav Sagar said that in future he will take some programs in different regions and educational institutions to reduce cyber crime. At this time of technological boom, miscreants are always on the prowl to use new techniques to break and evade the law. Anubhav Sagar, a representative of the new generation who has been able to establish himself as a cyber expert and has created an ideal path for many.

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# Manchester City beat snow and West Ham with Fernandinho goal

**Manchester, November 29 :** Premier League - Manchester City v West Ham United - Soccer Football - Premier League - Manchester City v West Ham United - Etihad Stadium, Manchester, Britain - November 28, 2021 Manchester City's Fernandinho celebrates scoring their second goal with teammates REUTERS/Peter Powell EDITORIAL USE ONLY. No use with unauthorized audio, video, data, fixture lists, club/league logos or 'live' services. Online in-match use limited to 75 images, no video emulation. No use in betting, games or single club /league/player publications. Please contact your account representative for further details. This was a muted affair in which Manchester City kept West Ham on a long lead and twice pounced expertly via Ilkay Gundogan and Fernandinho to claim the points. The strikes were flashes of high quality from the champions whose



control, once they settled, will please Pep Guardiola and though Manuel Lanzini scored in the 95th minute the result was never in doubt. Gundogan's finish came just after the half-hour and from this juncture City were hardly troubled by David Moyes's men until the very end. As the congested winter schedule begins there was also an economy of effort that should be welcomed by a manager whose squad was depleted for a 13th Premier League game of the campaign that ended with his team in

second place. Injury ruled out Phil Foden and Jack Grealish, as Guardiola named only eight replacements for a meeting with the side three points and one position behind them and which was decorated by a light dusting of snow at kick-off. If the opening half would end close to a white-out due to the conditions, City's feather-like defence was first exposed by Michael Antonio who shrugged a tentative Ruben Dias aside, moved into the area along the left, and crossed but no teammate could

finish. Seeing this, Kyle Walker decided direct action at the other end might wake City with a shot that beat Lukasz Fabianski but not the goalkeeper's right post. Next was a sequence of pinpoint precision that involved Walker, Gundogan and Gabriel Jesus, before the latter's radar proved awry when trying to return the ball to Gundogan near goal. By now the snow was falling constantly and when Antonio next received it was along the right and this time Aymeric Laporte, preferred to John Stones, was bullied by the No 9 and City were grateful to escape. Both rearguards needed to tighten. At City's first corner Laporte was allowed to rise highest and head marginally over by a sleepy defence. Moments later, another warning: this time Riyad Mahrez skipped in and drilled home, but it was ruled offside. The pace of the contest had hardly nudged above a trot and

was pocked by heavy touches and a clogged midfield. Saïd Benrahma and Gundogan each took aim from 20 yards out with no success and, later, Raheem Sterling's curler concerned Fabianski who was happy to see the ball sail wide. The Hammers' forward forays were more sporadic than their hosts yet seemed, at this point, to always threaten. Aaron Cresswell's attempt to beat Ederson directly from a free-kick was deflected out for a corner. Cresswell and Declan Rice worked the set piece, but up went the flag when the ball was crossed. City, who had been in a slumber, finally jolted into life. Mahrez fielded a long ball on the right, cut inside and fed a lurking Gundogan who could hardly miss from inches out. Ben Johnson, exposed here by Mahrez, saved his side when those in blue netted attacked, blocking Jesus's shot off the line with Fabianski beaten.

## Billy Vunipola returns in style as sharp Saracens beat ill-disciplined Sale

**London, November 29 :** Billy Vunipola marked his return from a knee injury by helping Saracens to make Alex Sanderson's return to north London an unhappy one as they climbed back to second in the league. The No 8, sidelined since limping off at Harlequins on 31 October, turned in a man-of-the-match performance that mixed power with a deft touch. He was involved in the game-breaking try when Sale were down to 14 men, and behind by 13 points, thanks to some bone-headedness four minutes earlier from Byron McGuigan that had led to him being sent off for the second time in his career. McGuigan was at boiling point when he was held up by Sean Maitland and denied a try, which the winger let him know about. He was even more wound up when the home centre Nick Tompkins denied AJ MacGinty a try shortly afterwards, and a brawl broke out in the in-goal area. McGuigan grabbed

Tompkins from behind and threw him to the ground before going back for more and finally being sent off. That paved the way for Vunipola's big moment. He stepped inside the Sale defence close to their 22 after showing a classy dummy, then fired a 15-metre pass off his left hand

got the better of him. "Vunipola was out of favour with England and Eddie Jones even before he got injured but a few more performances like this one may force a rethink." He was really good again and it is a series of games he has put together for the club all season," said Mark McCall.



to Maitland - who scored on the wing recently vacated by McGuigan. Sanderson, the Sale director of rugby, said: "Byron trains at UFC on his time off, so maybe he just had a flashback of some sort of ultimate fighting session he's done. I haven't spoken to him. He's a great lad, one of the hardest workers. The emotion, the occasion, the fact we hadn't scored - I was feeling that too - probably

"He has been inspirational for us all the way through. Eddie has just asked him to keep on backing up performances and he certainly did that." With McGuigan off the pitch Sale actually grew into the game. They had lost their captain, Jono Ross, when he failed a head injury assessment in the first half but had Tom Curry, back from England duty, to come off the bench for him.

## Great Britain battle past Czech Republic to win place in Davis Cup quarter-finals

**London, November 29 :** The depth of Great Britain's Davis Cup team was tested on Sunday afternoon when they stood a set away from defeat against a young and fearless Czech Republic team punching far above its weight. However, under the burden of Davis Cup finals pressure, they found a way with a 2-1 win to finish top of their group and reach the quarter-finals. After Dan Evans was brushed aside by the 21-year-old Tomas Machac, who secured a career-best 6-2, 7-5 victory, Cameron Norrie survived three turbulent sets to beat the 20-year-old Jiri Lehecka 6-1, 2-6, 6-1 and push the tie into a doubles rubber to decide the winner of their group. In their first deciding

together, everyone is supporting at the end. I thought Machac, who played Evo in the first match, played out of his skin. He was great. Then Cam plays another young guy who played out of his skin." As Radek Stepanek and Tomas Berdych, the stars of a Czech team that won the event in 2012 and 2013, have spent their past few days entertaining the Royal Albert Hall's crowds at the Champions Tennis event, this week in Innsbruck has underlined that capable successors are coming through. Machac, the world No 143, had already defeated Richard Gasquet of France and against Evans he served extremely well, moved confidently to the net, and complemented his sweet

of no fans, lower-ranked players continue to elevate themselves in this unique competition. Lehecka has risen quickly up the rankings this year and against Norrie, he demonstrated the potential of his vast weaponry, taking the second set 6-2 in a blaze of forehand winners. However, Norrie played with discipline in the third set, cutting out unforced errors and imposing his intensity on Lehecka. "It was obviously a big match, a must-win match for me, a must-win match for these boys here," Norrie said. "I think it's all very new for all of us, but we've all had great years. We all prepared as well as we could for this event. We were all ready for today's challenge. All the preparation,



Davis Cup rubber together, Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski produced a dominant doubles performance to steer Great Britain through with a 6-4, 6-2 win against Jiri Vesely and Machac. "Damn good, real good," the captain, Leon Smith, said of his team's performance. "I'm really, really proud of them. Doesn't matter who wins or loses rubbers, everyone is in it

backhand with flashes of showmanship, slam-dunking jumping forehand drive-volley winners. Despite showing fight, Evans was poor. His backhand slice was impotent in crosscourt exchanges against the Czech's supreme two-hander and he sprayed forehand errors throughout. "It's far from ideal," Evans said afterwards. Even in a less popular format and in front

all the hard work throughout the year paid off." As the contest came down to the deciding doubles rubber, Salisbury and Skupski, ranked No 3 and No 20 respectively, left their mark on the tournament against Vesely and Machac. Salisbury snatched the first break at 4-4 with a typically assured backhand volley, and as they took control of the match, they soared.

## Michael Carrick says Ralf Rangnick had no input in dropping Ronaldo

**London, November 29 :** Michael Carrick said after Manchester United held Chelsea to a 1-1 draw at Stamford Bridge that Ralf Rangnick had no influence on his decision to name Cristiano Ronaldo on the bench. Rangnick is set to take over at Old Trafford on an interim basis this week, with a consultancy role to follow from June 2022, but Carrick insisted that the German had no say in his team selection against Chelsea. The

caretaker opted for a counterpunching approach against the league leaders and he was quick to play down Gary Neville's suggestion that the idea to leave Ronaldo out came from United's incoming manager. "That's not the case, no," Carrick said. "We came here with a plan. I kind of knew how Chelsea would play and we wanted to stop the passes through to Jorginho and Ruben Loftus-Cheek. There were a few changes to freshen it up and it's what we decided

to go with today. We almost pulled it off." Carrick, who stepped in as caretaker after Ole Gunnar Solskjaer was sacked last week, is unsure whether Rangnick will be in charge when United host Arsenal on Thursday. "I haven't got any more news for you," he said. "I was focused on the game. I'm sure I'll be updated and we'll see what happens in the next few days." United, who are languishing in eighth place, produced a disciplined

display after a difficult week. Carrick was pleased with their effort and he was happy with Jadon Sancho, who gave the visitors the lead after Jorginho failed to deal with a long punt from Bruno Fernandes. Chelsea rallied when Aaron Wan-Bissaka gave away a penalty with a foul on Thiago Silva - Carrick questioned whether the referee, Anthony Taylor, was right to point to the spot - and Thomas Tuchel praised Jorginho for making

up for his mistake by scoring from 12 yards. "It's very unusual, a mistake like this, and for us in general to concede a goal like this," Chelsea's manager said. "Especially with Jorgi. He misjudged the situation and was heavily disturbed from the lights and did not see the ball in the end. It takes a lot of courage and personality not to be affected in the match and to have the courage to take the penalty for the equaliser.

## Mark Selby knocked out of UK Championship by Hossein Vafaei

**London, November 29 :** The world No 1 Mark Selby was knocked out of the UK Championship after suffering a 6-2 defeat to Iran's Hossein Vafaei in York on Sunday evening. Vafaei raced into a 5-0 lead with breaks of 105, 69, 55 and 56 before an out-of-sorts Selby won the next two frames to threaten a comeback in the second-round clash. However, the world champion went in-off when potting the black in frame eight to leave the scores tied at 54-54 and force a re-spotted black which Vafaei eventually fluked after a high-quality safety exchange. "I think today I was a little bit lucky," Vafaei said. "At the end I'm sorry to Mark. He's one of our legends, total respect to him." Selby was equally magnanimous in defeat, saying: "I didn't really get a chance the first two frames, Hossein played great, settled really quickly. I probably should have won the third frame, missed an easy black off the spot and had half a chance in the next frame, so could have easily been 2-2 at the interval. But after the



interval he kicked off great again and thoroughly deserved to win the match. The world No 2 Judd Trump had earlier booked his place in the third round with a hard-fought victory over Chris Wakelin. Trump recovered from 3-2 down to win 6-3 despite being far from his best. "There were a couple of frames I chucked away and there were a couple of distractions," he said. "It's hard when there's so many tables going on at once and you've got people leaving. It's good to have the crowds back but there are a lot more distractions." Elsewhere, Scotland's Stephen Maguire thrashed China's Tian

Pengfei 6-1, but three-time winner Ding Junhui lost 6-3 to Sam Craigie. The most exciting match of the day saw China's Zhao Xintong defeat Thailand's Thepchaiya Un-Nooh 6-5 in a high-scoring contest. Zhao trailed 3-0 before rattling off five frames in a row with breaks of 120, 114, 50, 92 and 56, but Un-Nooh fought back to force a decider which Zhao eventually won 73-66 on the black. Ricky Walden completed a 6-3 win over Li Hang with a break of 129, while there were also wins for Cao Yupeng and Xiao Guodong over Martin Gould and Robert Milkins respectively.

## Another tight draw as Carlsen and Nepomniachtchi battle for world title

**London, November 29 :** Magnus Carlsen and Ian Nepomniachtchi played to the third successive draw in the third game of their world championship showdown in Dubai as the Russian challenger weathered another tactical position before negotiating a bloodless result after 41 moves in 2hr 42min. Nepomniachtchi, playing as white, opened with 1 e4 and the action quickly followed the same anti-Marshall branch of the Ruy Lopez opening from Friday's

first encounter. Carlsen broke from familiar territory with the rare 10... Re8, bypassing four more popular choices from the position, marking the third time in as many games that he was first to mix things up with an unusual move. "Re8 is a really, really dumb move because usually you would try to go Re8 without d6," Carlsen said afterwards. "But it turns out even here he was well prepared and he didn't give me even slight chances to play. The tension continued to build until Nepomniachtchi made a

thematic central pawn break with 18 d4. After a quickfire exchange of pawns, then knights (18... exd4 19 Nxd4 Nxd4 20. Qxd4), Carlsen pondered the position for a minute and a half before electing for 20... Be6. Nepomniachtchi then took nearly half an hour before settling on a modest pawn push (21 h3). Resolution came before very long, after the exchange of knights and queens prompted a rapid simplification. By the time the rooks came off the board after 30 Rxb8 Rxb8 31 Rb1 Rxb1 + 32 Bxb1 Ke5, Carlsen's advanced king had all but snuffed out Nepomniachtchi's winning chances. Carlsen, 30, has been ranked No 1 for more than a decade and was considered the world's best player even before he defeated Viswanathan Anand for the title in 2013. He's making his fourth defence of the world championship against the 31-year-old Nepomniachtchi, the world No 5. The overall score in their 2m showdown at the Dubai Exhibition Centre remains level at 1.5-1.5 ahead of Monday's rest day. The proceedings will resume on Tuesday - Carlsen's 31st birthday - with the Norwegian controlling the white pieces.



"H-cubed" combination of Jo Harten, Helen Housby and Natalie Haythornthwaite - members of the 2018 Commonwealth Games gold-winning squad - lacked their usual fluidity against Jamaica's lethal defensive combination of Super Netball's Kadie Ann-Dehaney, Shamera Sterling and Latanya Wilson. At the other end the Roses' defence began their 60-minute-long gruelling task of blunting Jamaica's attack fronted by their greatest weapon, the 1.96m tall Jhaniele Fowler. Solving a problem like Fowler is not achieved by glory intercepts but through work done off the ball, at phase zero. It is unglamorous but twice the Roses were rewarded as long feeds aimed at Fowler went over the backline. After they started the second quarter trailing by a point, it took only a few minutes before Thirlyby made the call for change. On for the uncertain Housby came Cardwell, a homegrown player who shone in England's most recent series

defensive end, Layla Guscotch and Beth Cobden were given freedom to roam, and the intercepts soon flooded down, duly swinging momentum in the hosts' favour. A run of goals flipped the score, putting England firmly in the driving seat at 41-35 heading into the final quarter. With the wind well and truly in their sails, England soared. Like a master puppeteer, Usoro-Brown continued to pull the strings of the Guscotch-Cobden axis, who disrupted any attempts by the Jamaicans to mount a comeback. The hooter sounded, signalling that England had survived a first Test. Game two will see the teams relocate to Nottingham, and on the agenda for Thirlyby will be stronger: "We're way off what I know we're capable of," she said. "But to be in the position where you know you haven't reached anywhere near the potential of this group and still beat a team like Jamaica by 10, it's a great place to be."



## Lionel Messi's triple assist helps PSG beat 10-man St Etienne

London, November 29 :

Lionel Messi set up all three goals as Paris St Germain stretched their Ligue 1 lead to 12 points with a 3-1 comeback win at 10-man St Etienne on Sunday (November 28), while Neymar was taken off on a stretcher with a possible ankle injury. PSG made the most of Timothee Kolodziejczak's red card on the stroke of halftime. Messi fed Marquinhos for two headed goals and Angel Di Maria struck to seal a clinical turn-



around after Les Verts had opened the scoring through Denis Bouanga. The result put the capital side on 40

points from 15 games, with Stade Rennais leapfrogging Nice into second after goals by Gaetan Laborde and Jer-

emy Doku earned them a 2-0 win at Lorient, their sixth victory in their last seven league games. St Etienne, who mounted a decent challenge despite being a man down as snow fell on the Geoffroy Guichard stadium, are now bottom of the standings with 12 points. The game marked Sergio Ramos's debut for PSG, almost five months after joining from Real Madrid as a free agent, and the Spaniard started in central defence alongside Marquinhos. St Etienne pressed high and PSG looked

to hit them on the break, with Neymar finding the back of the net early on only for the Brazilian's goal to be ruled out for offside. The hosts went ahead after 24 minutes when Kolodziejczak, set up by a superb Wahbi Khazri through pass, shot straight at goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma but Banga followed up and fired home from point-blank range. The momentum swung towards PSG in a couple of minutes on the stroke of halftime. Kolodziejczak was harshly shown a straight red card for

bringing down Kylian Mbappe as the France striker charged towards goal and Marquinhos headed home Messi's perfectly-executed free kick. Messi was at it again 11 minutes from time, whipping a fine pass behind the back of the defence for Di Maria, who finished with a curled effort into the far corner of the net. Marquinhos headed home again from Messi's cross in the last minute, three minutes after Neymar was carried off after twisting his ankle.

## Emma Raducanu thanks 'cool' Lewis Hamilton for advice

London, November 29 :

Emma Raducanu has spoken in glowing terms about the support and positive advice she has received from Lewis Hamilton since her US Open victory as she looks to move on and continue her growth as an athlete. "He's just been really cool in helping me," Raducanu said. "He said: 'Be patient, you've just got to ride the wave. It's all good. Don't worry.' Good reassurance. He's a really cool guy." Having competed in motor sports throughout her youth, Raducanu is a big Formula One fan and she says she is cheering on Hamilton. She remains unconvinced by suggestions she could beat him to win BBC's Sports Personality of the Year: "I just don't even think about it," she said. "For me, it's something that's so far out of the realms of possibility that I just don't even understand how it could be a possibility." Raducanu was speaking after she defeated Elena-Gabriela Ruse 6-3, 7-6 (3) in an exhibition match at the Champions Tennis event at the Royal Albert Hall. The match marked the first time Raducanu has played in front of a home crowd since becoming US Open champion in September. An exhibition match in front of a full, supportive crowd that only came to see Raducanu was another

of the many new experiences for her since her US Open title. Ruse is one of Raducanu's good friends on the tour and as the older, more extroverted personality, she took the lead by joking with the crowd and conversing with the ballkids throughout. Afterwards, Raducanu said that it was one of the first times she has picked up a racket since her season ended at the beginning of the month. After recently returning from a break in the Caribbean, her first holiday in seven years, Raducanu has now shifted to pre-season training where she is currently enduring five hour fitness blocks each day with no tennis as she looks to address her goal of closing the physical gap between herself and the grown, supreme athletes on tour. "You can ask my trainer, I feel like I start the day on a high and then by the fourth hour I'm really feeling it," she said, laughing after being asked how much she is enjoying



end of the year and see that I made gains in different areas. I know it will take a lot of patience to get to where I want to be and smooth out that consistency. It's all about building robustness physically," she said. Another glimpse into Raducanu's popularity came right after the match as she remained on-court for an interview and she encouraged Ruse to join her in front of the mic. However, the interviewer harshly made it clear that he was only interested in speaking with Raducanu. Asked once again about how she is handling such attention, she responded immediately. "For me, I am just going about my business. I'm taking the train in [to training] sometimes and doing the same journeys I used to. I feel like I am the exact same person and I'm just going to go about everything I used to do, I don't see why I should change things that got me that title. I am still enjoying it."

## US Eliminated From Davis Cup Finals After Loss to Colombia

Washington, November 29 :

U.S. captain Mardy Fish hinted at a lack of passion within his team after the record 32-time champion Americans were eliminated from the Davis Cup Finals by following up a lopsided loss to host Italy with a humbling defeat to Colombia on Sunday. The Americans left Turin 0-2 when Reilly Opelka

and Jack Sock retired from the decisive doubles match while trailing 3-0 in the opening set against the accomplished Colombian pair of Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah. Daniel Elahi Galan, ranked No. 111, had leveled the series at 1-1 by beating John Isner 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (5). "You can see the passion for Davis Cup, playing for their country," Fish said of

Colombia. "It's infectious for them ... These guys are giving first pumps every other point. It's impressive, and it's something that I hope, as a captain, to strive for and get our players to do. "Meanwhile, Russia with second-ranked Daniil Medvedev beat Spain 2-1 in a result that eliminated the defending champion and allowed Serbia with top-ranked Novak Djokovic to advance as the second-best runner-up. Russia, which is being called RTF (Russian Tennis Federation) for the event amid an ongoing doping suspension in international sport, will face Sweden, the best runner-up, in the quarterfinals. The other quarterfinals are: Italy vs. Croatia; Britain vs. Germany; and Serbia vs. Kazakhstan. Played in three cities, each matchup on indoor hard courts is a best-of-three series featuring two singles and one doubles match. The six group winners plus the two second-place teams with the best records based on sets and games advanced to the quarterfinals. The semifinals and final will be played in Madrid. After Opelka and Isner were swept aside by ris-

ing Italians Lorenzo Sonego and Jannik Sinner on Friday, the U.S. needed an almost perfect performance against Colombia to have any hope of advancing. Fish moved Frances Tiafoe into the second singles spot ahead of Opelka and Tiafoe responded by rallying past Nicolas Mejia 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7) to give the Americans an early lead. Tiafoe saved two match points in the decisive tiebreaker before finally closing it out on his fifth match point with an ace. The 38th-ranked Tiafoe was a late pick for the team, replacing Taylor Fritz, and this marked his first Davis Cup victory. Things went sour for the Americans from there and the U.S. retired from the doubles match due to an upper right leg injury for Sock. Italy won the group, Colombia placed second and the U.S. finished last. "I thought Frances did an amazing job of (playing with passion) today," Fish said. "It's not an individual tournament. This isn't just about how you're playing on one specific day. It's about just trying to get through and competing for your teammates and the support staff that's here." There is

a lot of people that sacrificed a lot of things to be here this week, including the players," Fish added. "So we hope to get that right." Aslan Karatsev and Andrey Rublev beat Marcel Granollers and Feliciano Lopez 4-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the deciding doubles match. Medvedev evened the series at 1-1 by beating Pablo Carreno Busta 6-2, 7-6 (3) after Lopez had put Spain ahead by rallying past Rublev 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. Russia won Group A, Spain finished second and Ecuador was last. Spain was missing Rafael Nadal, who ended his season early due to injury, and Next Gen ATP Finals champion Carlos Alcaraz, who tested positive for the coronavirus. Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski beat Jiri Vesely and Tomas Machac 6-4, 6-2 in the decisive doubles match to give Britain the 2-1 win. After the 143rd-ranked Machac had upset No. 25 Dan Evans 6-2, 7-5 in the opening singles match, No. 12 Cameron Norrie defeated Jiri Lehecka 6-1, 2-6, 6-1 to even the series. "Today was tough. You look at the rankings and a lot of people would think it's going to be straightforward but

it's never like that," Britain captain Leon Smith said. "The Czech team played really well today, they are a very good young team. Machac looked like he had suddenly turned into a top-20 player overnight." Still regaining in form after a series of physical issues, Andy Murray opted not to play for Britain. Britain won Group C, France finished second and the Czech Republic was third. Mikhail Kukushkin and Alexander Bublik each won their singles matches to clinch the series victory over the 2019 runner-up. Bublik sealed it by beating Vasek Pospisil 6-2, 7-6 (6) after Kukushkin had defeated Brayden Schnur 6-3, 6-7 (5), 7-5. Then Andrey Golubev and Aleksandr Nedovyesov also beat Peter Polansky and Schnur over three sets in doubles. Canada was without its top-two singles players in No. 11 Felix Auger-Aliassime and No. 14 Denis Shapovalov. Kazakhstan has now reached the quarterfinals in six of the last 10 editions of the Davis Cup. Kazakhstan won Group B, Sweden finished second and Canada came last. Debutant Nino Serdarušić sealed a quarterfinal spot for Croatia by beating Fabian Marozsan 6-4, 6-4 in the opening singles match. Then the top-ranked doubles team of Mate Pavic and Nikola Mektić clinched victory over Hungary by defeating Marozsan and Peter Nagy 7-6 (6), 6-2 in the decisive doubles match after Zsombor Piros had upset former U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 to even it at 1-1. Croatia won Group D, Australia came second and Hungary finished last. Kevin Krawietz and Tim Puetz won the decisive doubles match 6-3, 6-4 over Oliver Marach and Philipp Oswald. Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff had beaten Dennis Novak 7-5, 6-4 after Jurij Rodionov defeated Dominik Koepfer 6-1, 7-5 to give Austria an early advantage. Germany won Group F, Serbia was second and Austria finished last.

## La Liga : Vinicius Jr stunner rescues Real Madrid against Sevilla

Madrid , November 29 :

Vinicius Junior ran to the corner and performed some samba moves by the flag before his teammates rushed in to embrace him. The young Brazilian forward had just scored another decisive goal for Real Madrid. His beautiful late strike sealed a 2-1 comeback from behind win over Sevilla on Sunday in a match between two of the best teams in Spain at the moment. Vinicius Junior neatly controlled the ball with his chest by the sideline before making a run past a couple of defenders. He fired a well-placed shot into the top corner from outside the area for an 87th-

minute winner which delighted Madrid fans at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. "That's what the great players do, they capitalize on the chances they get and make a difference," Madrid midfielder Casemiro said. It was the second goal in the last three matches for Vinicius Junior, and the 11th in total in what has been his best season by far since joining Madrid. He has already scored more goals now than in his previous three seasons in total. "He is extraordinary. He has something special on his feet," Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti said. "This is another step for him to become one of the best players in the world." Karim Benzema, another red-hot player for Madrid, also scored

to give the league leaders a four-point advantage at the top over defending champion Atletico Madrid, which won 4-1 at Cadiz. Real Sociedad dropped to third after losing 1-0 at Espanyol, while Sevilla stayed fourth, five points off the lead. Sevilla, which had been unbeaten in six consecutive league games, opened the scoring with a header by Rafa Mir in the 12th. Benzema equalized from close range after a blunder by Sevilla goalkeeper Bono in the 32nd. Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois came up with a big save in stoppage time to guarantee the win for the hosts and keep Sevilla winless on the road against Madrid since 2008. Atletico got the goals flowing in the second half,

with Antoine Griezmann among the scorers in the win at Cadiz. Thomas Lemar, Angel Correa and Matheus Cunha also scored after half-time for Atletico as it rebounded from a surprising home loss to AC Milan that left it in danger of elimination from the Champions League. Diego Simeone's team had won only one of its last four matches in all competitions. After a slow start, Atletico secured the three points by scoring three goals in a 20-minute span. Lemar broke the deadlock in the 56th, then Griezmann scored in the 70th and Correa in the 76th. Cunha added a fourth in the 86th, after Cadiz had pulled one closer in a rare own-goal by Atletico goalkeeper Jan

Oblak, who couldn't swat away a high lob shot that went across the area and over his head. "We have to try to keep improving," Simeone said. "It was important to win this match so we could stay on the right path in the league." It was the second consecutive loss for Cadiz, which has won only once in its last 10 league matches.







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