



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Ordure! Ordure!
Canadian MP sorry for ...

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Graham Thorpe 'seriously ill'
and receiving treatment in ...

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tomato Fever

Kochi, May 11 :

A new flu is doing the rounds that is causing concern, especially among parents of small kids. As per media reports, more than 80 children in Kerala, below five years of age, have been infected by the virus and the number is expected to only rise. As a step against the spread of the tomato flu in one of the districts of neighbouring Kerala, a medical team is carrying out tests to those entering Coimbatore for fever, rashes and other illnesses - symptoms of such flu - at Walayar on the Tamil Nadu-Kerala border.

Child found dead

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 11 :

A 5-year-old child was found dead in Dergaon in Assam's Golaghat district. According to reports, it is suspected that the child was killed by her mother before attempting suicide. Locals said that the child's mother was found drenched in blood next to her at their residence, following which, she was taken to Tezpur Medical College and Hospital in critical condition. The woman has been identified as Bonoshri Senapati. The locals further informed that the police that the woman was recovered with injuries on her head.

Govt funds

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 11 :

Northeast Care Foundation, a Tinsukia based non-governmental organization (NGO) has been alleged to have misappropriated government funds to the tune of crores. The NGO is under contract with the Tinsukia municipality for disposal works. Allegations have been made against it for misappropriation of around Rs 1.5 crores of government funds.

Tata Technologies Signs Pact With Assam Government

To Transform Polytechnics, ITIs Into Centres Of Excellence



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 11 :

Global engineering and product development digital services firm Tata Technologies Ltd on Wednesday said it has entered into a collaboration with the Assam government to transform 34 state polytechnics and 43 Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) into futuristic Centres of

Excellence (CoEs) entailing an investment of about Rs 2,390 crore. The company has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the Assam government for a period of 10 years for the purpose, Tata Technologies said in a statement. Post upgradation, these CoEs will not only cater to the advanced skill requirements of students aligned to the key industries in Assam, but

also act as a technology and industrial hub for MSMEs and support entrepreneurship. The total proposed investment under this project would be approximately Rs 2,390 crore, it added. Commenting on the collaboration, Tata Technologies Chairman Subramanian Ramadorai said technology is evolving rapidly and there is huge shortage of skilled man-

power. To keep pace with these evolving technological trends, and lateral shift towards Industry 4.0-powered smart business operations, it is imperative to train the youth on latest technologies by upgrading the state polytechnics and ITIs in the country. "The upgraded CoEs would offer a wide variety of courses to upskill youth of Assam on various traditional and new age industries empowering the northeast region of India, a key focus for the Tata Group," he added. Tata Technologies Managing Director and CEO Warren Harris said, "Through this collaboration with the Assam government, we will leverage our product engi-

neering expertise and manufacturing domain knowledge to create future-ready courseware and training platform that allows students at polytechnics and ITIs to develop their skill sets and capabilities in line with the requirements of Industry 4.0 technologies and be part of the rapidly transforming ecosystem." Quoting Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, the statement said, "The technology upgradation of polytechnic and ITIs will lead to better employment opportunities for the local youth and transform the state of Assam into a potential investment destination

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CM Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the Gunotsav at Sipajhar



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 11 :

Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday inaugurated the Gunotsav celebrations at Ghorabandha school at Sipajhar in Assam's Darrang district. Speaking on the occasion, the CM said that government was planning to introduce a hybrid model of

education in government-funded schools in the state. This was part of several announcements made by him today. CM Sarma said, "Government funded schools in Assam will follow a hybrid model from now on. We will hold talks with noted persons from the teaching community as well as intellectuals

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Marital rape: Delhi High Court gave a split verdict, Next Stop, Supreme Court

New Delhi, May 11 :

On the widely-debated question of criminalising marital rape, the Delhi High Court today delivered a split verdict. The case will now go to the Supreme Court. Two judges, Justice Rajiv Shakdher and Justice Hari Shankar, failed to agree on their verdict on a batch of petitions seeking to make marital rape a crime. The petitions, filed in 2015, challenge an exception under rape laws that protects men who have non-consensual



sex with their wives from criminal prosecution if the woman is not a minor, or above 18. Justice Shakdher said the exception violated Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the

Constitution dealing with the Right to Equality, Freedom of Speech and Expression and Protection of Life and Personal Liberty. "I have not been able to agree with my learned brother," said Justice Shankar. The courts, he said, cannot substitute their subjective value judgement for the view of the democratically-elected

legislature and the exception "was based on marriage as an intelligible criteria". The judges had reserved a judgement on February 21 after marathon hearings on the rape law and the exception for marital rape. On February 7, the Delhi High Court gave the centre two weeks to articulate its stand on criminalisation of marital rape. The centre, however, sought more time. In a sharp reaction, the High Court had snapped: "You have to bite the bullet. If you say the court should adjourn the matter endlessly, it won't happen." The centre had argued that it had invited

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SC puts sedition law on hold, tells Centre and States to refrain from registering new FIRs



New Delhi, May 11 :

The Supreme Court on Wednesday (May 11, 2022) put the sedition law on hold and told the Centre and states to refrain from regis-

tering new FIRs invoking Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). A bench headed by Chief Justice NV Ramana said that it will be appropriate not to use this provision of law till further

reexamination is over. "All pending cases, appeals and proceedings with respect to charges framed for sedition should be kept in abeyance," the apex court said. It also said that reliefs granted to the accused will continue and fixed July for hearing pleas challenging the validity of the provision. Earlier in the day during the proceedings, the Centre told the Supreme Court that a superintendent of police rank officer can be made responsible for monitoring the registration of

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ED arrests IAS Pooja Singhal, Rs 20 crore were recovered from her residence

New Delhi, May 11 :

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted raids at multiple premises, including that of Jharkhand Mining Secretary Pooja Singhal and her family, in connection with a money-laundering probe linked to the alleged embezzlement of over Rs 18 crore MGNREGA funds in Khunti district of the state during 2008-11, officials said. The Enforcement Di-

rectorate today arrested Jharkhand IAS Pooja Singhal. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted raids at multiple premises, including that of Jharkhand Mining Secretary Pooja Singhal and her family, in connection with a money-laundering probe linked to the alleged embezzlement of over Rs 18 crore MGNREGA funds in Khunti district of the state

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Reporter shot in head during Israeli raid in West Bank



New Delhi, May 11 :

Jerusalem: A veteran journalist working for Al Jazeera was killed on Wednesday during an Israeli operation in the West Bank city of Jenin, prompting the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Qatar-based network to blame the Israeli Army for

her death. The Palestinian Health Ministry said that 51-year-old Shireen Abu Aqla, a Jerusalem-based journalist for Al Jazeera, was hit in the head by live fire. A second reporter, Ali Samodi from Al-Quds newspaper sustained a gunshot wound to the back and is in stable condition, the ministry said. The Israeli military denied that its forces targeted the journalists and called for a "joint pathological analysis and investigation" to establish the truth. Israeli forces were operating in the Jenin refugee camp and several other areas of the West Bank to apprehend "terror suspects," the military said. According to the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), the militants opened fire at the Israeli forces and hurled explosives at them during the raid, before the soldiers returned fire. The IDF was looking into "a possibility, now being looked into, that reporters were hit" possibly by shots fired by Palestinian gunmen, the Israeli army said. Palestinian President

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Harappan civilization

ASI digs up millennia-old planned city in Haryana's Rakhigarhi

New Delhi, May 11 :

The Archaeological Survey Of India (ASI) is conducting new excavations in and around the 7,000-year-old planned Harappan city in Haryana's Rakhigarhi which will be completed by the end of May. Rakhigarhi is famous across the world for the Harappan civilisation. The

excavation and study at Rakhigarhi so far revealed that this place once housed a planned city made with better engineering. During excavation, the officials studied the remains of the Harappan culture and got evidence of town planning, including streets, pucca walls and multi-storeyed houses. They have also found remains of around 5,000-year-old factory

which used to manufacture jewellery. The findings reportedly signify that trading was also done from the city. Officials told IANS that time the cities were built using better technology. The techniques which are now being used to build big cities like straight streets, drains, and dustbins placed at corners of streets for garbage, were surprisingly used in that



period. During excavation, the skeletons of two

women were found

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Cyclone Asani: Rain lashes parts of Andhra Pradesh, IMD issues warning



Bhubaneswar, May 11 : The coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh have been issued a warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall, in the wake of cyclone Asani, according to a senior IMD official. On Wednesday (May 11) morning, rain lashed parts of the Kakinada district in Andhra Pradesh. Officials said that cyclone Asani has changed its direction and is going to touch the nearby Kakinada coast. After touching the Kakinada coast, it will come again to sea between Kakinada and Visakhapatnam. "Heavy to very heavy rainfall warnings have been issued along the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. Telangana's Nalgonda, Suryapet, Bhadradi Kothagudem,

Khammam and Mulugu districts are likely to receive light to moderate rainfall," Dr Nagarathna, Head, Meteorological Centre, Hyderabad, told. The severe cyclonic storm 'Asani' over westcentral Bay of Bengal moved west-northwestwards with a speed of 12 kmph during the past 6 hours, weakened into a cyclonic storm, the India Meteorological Department said. It's very likely to move nearly northwestwards for next few hours and reach Westcentral Bay of Bengal close to Andhra Pradesh coast. Thereafter, it's very likely to recurve slowly north-northeastwards, move along Machilipatnam, Narsapur, Yanam, Kakinada, Tuni and Visakhapatnam coasts, added IMD. Asani is

likely to emerge into westcentral Bay of Bengal off North Andhra Pradesh coasts by today evening. "Then it is likely to move northeastwards towards northwest Bay of Bengal. It is likely to weaken gradually into a depression by 12th May morning," the IMD said. The weather office officials had earlier said that light to moderate rain or thundershowers are likely to occur at a few places of

Telangana due to the cyclone Asani. "Telangana is likely to have the impact of the cyclonic storm in adjoining districts. Nalgonda, Suryapet, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam and Mulugu are likely to receive light to moderate rains. At times heavy rains are expected," Nagarathna had said. The Met department had said that Hyderabad is likely to experience light rains and cloudy conditions would persist. As of 8.30 pm on Tuesday (May 10), the cyclone lay centred 170 km south of Kakinada and 290 km south-southwest of Visakhapatnam, packing a wind speed of 95 km per hour, gusting to 105 kmph and moving at a speed of 10 kmph, the weather office said. According to the cyclone track forecast by the weather office, the cyclone was expected to

be 29 km south-southeast off the coast of Kakinada by today (Wednesday) morning, 71 km east-northeast of Narsapur and 77 km south-southwest of Tuni in coastal Andhra Pradesh. By Wednesday noon, the cyclone was predicted to reach 39 km south of Tuni, 39 km east of Kakinada and 109 km southwest of Visakhapatnam, a national bulletin issued by the India Meteorological Department said. The weatherman has predicted gale wind speed of up to 85 kmph from Wednesday morning in coastal Andhra Pradesh districts of Krishna, East and West Goadavari, Visakhapatnam and Yanam of Puducherry UT. "Storm surge of height about 0.5 m above astronomical tide is likely to inundate low lying areas of Krishna, East & West Goadavari, and Vishakhapatnam districts of Andhra Pradesh, and Yanam of Puducherry UT," the IMD weather bulletin said.



Bartenders compete during the Beyond The Rail Cocktail Competition at the 2022 Restaurants Canada Show in Toronto, Canada,

El Salvador: woman sentenced to 30 years in prison for homicide after miscarriage

San Salvador, May 11 : A court in El Salvador has sentenced a woman who suffered a miscarriage to 30 years in prison for aggravated homicide, in a case which activists said offers a stark warning to women in the United States, where the supreme court is considering overturning a key ruling which legalized abortion. The woman, identified only as "Esme", was sentenced on Monday, after nearly two years under pre-trial detention, following her arrest when she sought medical care in a public hospital. "Esme's sentencing is a devastating step backward for the progress that has been made in the unlawful

criminalization of women suffering obstetric emergencies in El Salvador," said Paula Avila-Guillen, international human rights lawyer and executive director of the Women's Equality Center. Avila-Guillen warned that as the United States faces the possible overturning of Roe v Wade - the 1973 supreme court ruling that effectively legalised abortion - similar cases will become more common across the world. "We have seen repeatedly throughout Latin America that when abortion is criminalized, women are made to prove that any one of the wide range of obstetric emergencies they experience were in fact emergencies. When they can't or don't have the resources to do so or are

simply not believed, they face imprisonment," she said. "Everyone in the US should have their eyes on El Salvador right now to understand exactly what a future without Roe entails." Morena Herrera, the president of The Citizens' Group for the Decriminalization of Abortion described the sentence as "a heavy blow", and called for miscarriages to be treated as a public health issue rather than a criminal one. "We will continue to fight so that all women unjustly criminalized by these circumstances regain their freedom and have the opportunity to remake and rebuild their lives," she said.

New Zealand to fully reopen borders for first time since Covid pandemic started

Auckland, May 11 : New Zealand will fully reopen to the world two months earlier than originally planned, prime minister Jacinda Ardern has announced as part of a wider shake-up to immigration settings. The country swiftly closed the border in March 2020 to prevent the arrival of Covid-19. It has just started reopening to some non-New Zealand citizens and residents over the past few months - beginning with Australians and followed by travellers from 60 visa-waiver countries. From 11.59pm on 31 July, tourists and visa-holders from the rest of the world will also be allowed back for the first time in over two years. The original date had been set for October, but the government long maintained the opening could be brought forward if it was deemed safe to do so. "This will be welcome news for families, businesses and our migrant communities," Ardern said on Wednesday. "It also provides certainty and good preparation time for airlines and cruise ship companies planning a return to New Zealand in the peak spring and summer seasons." The border announcement is part of a suite of reforms to immigration settings, including streamlining immigration pathways to attract skilled workers back to the country, extending visas for migrants already in the country, allowing cruise ships and international students to return and new settings that will help New Zealand move away from its reliance on low-wage, low-skill migrant labour. The prime minister, who is isolating at home after her partner tested positive for Covid-19, announced the reforms via video link as part of her pre-budget speech.

India reports 2,897 fresh cases, 54 deaths in last 24 hours

New Delhi, May 11 : India reported 2,897 fresh cases, 2,986 recoveries and 54 deaths in the last 24 hours. Total active cases stand at 19,494 and daily positivity rate at 0.61%. As cyclone Asani approaches the Andhra Pradesh coastline, rain lashed parts of the state's Kakinada district today (May 11) morning. On Tuesday, Odisha Special Relief Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena said that cyclone Asani is likely to reach Kakinada on the Andhra coast on Wednesday morning. Meanwhile, a court in Varanasi will continue hearing in the Gyanvapi mosque case today. The Delhi High Court will also pronounce its verdict in criminalising marital rape case. India reported 2,897 fresh cases, 2,986 recoveries and 54 deaths in the last 24 hours.



A member of an agriculture cooperative irrigates a field of winter wheat in Shenze County

Ordure! Ordure! Canadian MP sorry for logging on to session from toilet stall



Toronto, May 11 : A Canadian lawmaker has apologized after he was caught logging on to a closed parliamentary session from a toilet stall. Liberal party member Shafqat Ali participated in a hybrid session of parliament last Friday, joining with a Zoom-like feed visible only to other parliamentarians. But Conservative members grew suspicious of his surroundings. Conservative MP Laila Goodridge told the House of Commons that a lawmaker "might be

participating in a washroom" somewhere inside parliament - an allegation that baffled the Speaker of the House until it was confirmed by parliamentary pages. On Monday, the Conservative House leader, John Brassard, told parliament that after studying the stonework, door hinges and coat hook, lawmakers had concluded Ali had placed his camera "on the ledge or ridge on the wall just above the back of the toilet". "The member of parliament was literally

using the washroom while participating in a sitting of the House of Commons, the cathedral of Canadian democracy," he said. "I can't believe I actually just said those words, Madame Speaker." Ali apologized, calling the incident from a toilet stall in the building's West Block an "unfortunate event" that arose from a lapse in judgment. "I take this matter extremely seriously, and I promise never to repeat this error again," he said. The deputy House speaker, Chris D'Entremont, said Ali's apology was sufficient enough to close the matter - but warned MPs "to always be vigilant" when participating remotely. Amos with Trudeau in June last year. Canada's official opposition Conservatives called Amos's behavior unacceptable and questioned whether the incident was an accident. "If you don't have to have the camera on, turn it off," D'Entremont said. "If you don't have to be in voting, turn it off." The bathroom stall incident is the second time the Liberals have been embarrassed by the conduct of a party member participating in parliament remotely.

Coldplay labelled 'useful idiots for greenwashing' after deal with oil company

London, May 11 : Coldplay have been branded "useful idiots for greenwashing" after announcing a partnership with the Finnish oil company Neste to halve their touring emissions last week. Neste claims to be the world's

largest producer of sustainable biofuels, but the firm's palm oil suppliers cleared at least 10,000 hectares (24,710 acres) of forest in countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia between 2019 and 2020, according to a study by Friends of the Earth. Carlos Calvo Ambel, a senior director of the Transport and Environment campaign group (T&E) said: "Neste is cynically using Coldplay to greenwash its reputation. This is a company that is linked to the kind of deforestation that would appal Chris Martin and his fans. It's not too late, they should drop their partnership with Neste now and focus on truly clean solutions instead." The award-winning rock outfit announced plans to shrink their touring footprint after Martin accepted that a "backlash" against their emissions record was



justified in a BBC interview last year. A tree will be planted for each ticket sold on Coldplay's current "music of the spheres" world tour, which includes a kinetic-powered dancefloor and other green features. A statement from the band said: "When we announced this tour, we said that we would try our best to make it as sustainable and low carbon-impact as possible, but that it would be a work in progress. That remains true. We don't claim to have got it all right yet." "Before we appointed Neste as supplier of these biofuel products, we received their guarantee that they do

not use any virgin materials in their production - most especially not palm oil. It's still our understanding that they use renewable waste products only, like cooking oil and byproducts from wood pulp manufacture." Hanna Leijala, a spokeswoman for Neste, insisted that the firm "do not accept any sustainability violations in our own operations." "For our collaboration with Coldplay, conventional palm oil was not used as a raw material" she said, adding: "Neste plans to

reduce the share of conventional palm oil to 0% of its global renewable raw material inputs by the end of 2023." At present, crude palm oil makes up 7% of the firm's fuel inputs. Its jet fuel is blended from used cooking oil,

animal fats and other wastes and residues. But Neste declined to say what percentage of the jet fuel mix is made up by palm fatty acid distillates (PFADs), citing "contractual and competitive reasons." PFADs are considered a byproduct of palm oil refining by the UK, Germany and most EU countries, but not by Finland.



Ukrainian priests pursue unholy row in burned-out Borodyanka

Borodyanka, May 11 : The bitter feud would almost be comical were it not being waged in the devastated Ukrainian town of Borodyanka, north of Kyiv, among hollowed out buildings, burned armoured vehicles and freshly dug graves. A near two-decade grudge between two priests, fuelled by fierce interchurch tensions and the pursuit of local dominance, has escalated into tit-for-tat claims of attempted murder, treachery, collaboration in forced deportations and vigilante vandalism. An uncomfortable introduction as younger men 18 years ago and a few awkward moments at local community events have spiralled, local people say, into each threatening God's

judgment on the other. The chief accuser of the two is Father Dmytro Koshka, rector at the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, of the Orthodox church of Ukraine. It is not to be confused with the Moscow-affiliated Ukrainian Orthodox church, for which the accused, Father Viktor Talko, is an archpriest. Koshka, 42, sitting in the shade of his church's porch as a line of local people waited to be handed spare clothes, food and water by volunteers, said he believed Talko, 67, at the Church of Archangel Michael, a short drive down Lesi Ukrainky

boulevard, had directed Russian soldiers to hunt him down at the height of their occupation on 2 March. "I received a call from the territorial defence fighters because I am also a member of the Borodyanka territorial defence," Koshka said. "They said they were asking me to leave my house because the Moscow father had received Russian soldiers and cooperated with them."

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Science and technology day observed in Hojai



Assam Rising, Hojai, May 11: On the Occasion of Science and Technology Day, a Talk Show and a Quiz Competition was organized at Sankardev Senior Secondary School in Hojai on

Wednesday. The talk show was based on the development of Science and Technology which have changed our lifestyle. The Quiz Competition was also conducted on the topics

concerning Science and Technology. The Teachers from the School were the Speakers during the Talk Show where they mostly talked about the significance of the day, recent

developments in the field of Science and Technology. Scientific methods that stimulated innovation and formulated theories that benefitted mankind. During the Quiz Competition, questions were based on the topics that surround science and technology. The winners of the Competition were Prince Hazra (Class Six), Aditya Das (Class Five) and Vansh Dixit (Class Seven) in Group A. While in Group A the Winners were Antra Bhattacharjee (Class Ten), Sanchita Sarkar (Class Ten) and Saurav Paul (Class Eight). The Programme ended with a concluding speech by some of the Students who narrated their experiences about the learning that they gathered during the observance of Science and Technology Day. They also voiced their thoughts regarding how in

these changing times it is essential for Students to get know about the advancements in the field of Science and Technology including how it evolved and what new trends in Science and Technology we are going to witness in the coming times.



Plantations Drive conducted By Gurwahati Range at Narengi Govt. High School on May 11.

IIT Guwahati develops fast and secure ICs

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 11: Researchers at the Automation, Verification and Security (AVS) Lab at the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, have worked towards developing secure and dependable integrated circuits (ICs) for faster and efficient computing. The research looks at all aspects of the automated

electronics design process like synthesis, verification and security, and contributes towards strengthening the electronics manufacturing ecosystem in our country. The findings have been published in top tier journals and conferences of IEEE. The research team is funded by ECR, CRG and Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (ICPS) grants from the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and by a Research Fellowship from Intel (India). The paper has been authored by Dr. Chandan Karfa, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, IIT Guwahati and co-authored his research with students Mohammed Abderehman, Debedara Senapati, Surajit Das, Priyanka Panigrahi and Nilotpol Sarma. Some alumni who contributed to these endeavours are Ramanuj Chouksey, Jay Oza, Yom Nigam, Abdul

Khader and Jayprakash Patidar. The team has collaborated with various international experts. Dr. Chandan Karfa is also the recipient of the Qualcomm Faculty Award 2021. With increasing computational demands, there is a need for application-specific processors that can outperform current CPUs. While multicore processors are being used in modern times, their computing power improvements continue to be insufficient. To cite an analogy for better understanding, running more cars on the road does not necessarily mean you can reach your destination faster; in fact, more cars can lead to congestion and delays. IIT Guwahati team emphasize on hardware acceleration specifications that are often written in high-level languages like in C/C++ and are converted to hardware code (or register transfer level or Register-Transfer Level

(RTL code), in a process called High-Level Synthesis (HLS). Due to the complex conversation process, HLS translation may introduce bugs in the design and therefore stringent validation steps are required. The RTL simulators are used to validate HLS, but these are slow and complex. The team has developed simple and fast tools for HLS validation. The impact of the IIT Guwahati team's work is enormous because of the increasing demand for hardware accelerators in disruptive areas such as Internet-of-Things (IoT), embedded and cyber-physical systems, machine learning and image processing applications. With the Government of India's recent approval of the Rs 76,000-crore scheme to boost semiconductor manufacturing in the country, efficient EDA aids such as those designed by the IIT Guwahati team will support and promote self-sufficiency in chip design.

SBI CSP worker shot at and injured at Ambagan

Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 11: A gang of motorcycle borne miscreants shot at one SBI CSP worker identified as Humayun Kabir near at Bhatikhal village under Ambagan PP this evening and looted several lakhs from him while he was on his way back to his home at Noripurhikaiti village under Rupahihat PS, sources added. Sources claimed that the victim CSP worker was on his way back to home from Kaliabor after collecting when the motorcycle borne miscreants chased him and tried to snatch his cash near Bhatikhal village under Ambagan PP. The gang first fired in the air and snatched his cash after hitting him with bullets. Significantly, being informed, the senior police officials from Nagaon as well as Koliabor reached the spot and managed to send the victim to Nagaon BP Civil Hospital for urgent treatment, sources added. Meanwhile the police officials recovered one 7.65 bullet and empty shell of 7.65 bullet from the spot and further investigation is on, sources claimed further.

Indian army organised seminar for officers selection

Assam Rising, Kakopather, May 11: The Rupai Battalion under the aegis of Spear Corps organised a "Career in Indian Army" seminar for Officers' Selection through various entries on May 11 in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Mahadevpur. This was the second seminar organised by the Battalion and it was a very exciting and educational experience for all the students and NCC Cadets. Students were briefed about the life of an Indian Army Officer, training at academy and various Officer entries through which they can join



the Indian Army. This initiative demonstrates the righteous spirit of the Indian Army guiding the youth in the right direction. Under the initiative, Indian Army will provide continuous guidance and support to the aspirants who want to join the Indian Army as officers. The seminar was attended

by 140 (60 Boys and 80 Girls) students. School administration, teachers and students were enthralled and inspired by this gesture exhibited by Rupai battalion. This initiative was appreciated by the schools and they acknowledge the efforts of the Indian Army for meticulous conduct of the event.

Heroin worth Rs 20 lakh seized: 1 arrested in Jorabat

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 11: The anti-drug operation of Jorabat police is continuing. As the operation continued, Police Officer-in-charge of Jorabat outpost Kapil Pathak today conducted a raid on a tip-off and managed to nab 72 banned heroin laden containers, a scooter supplying drugs, and cash in eight miles of Jorabat. The man arrested by the police is Kushal Doloi. The seized drugs weighed 105 grams. It may be mentioned that the estimated market value of the seized drugs will be almost Rs 20 lakh. On the other hand police managed to seize 77 empty containers and Rs 23,000 in cash from the house of the supplier.

Massive plantation drive held at Deepor Beel



Moinakhorong Padmaram Bharali playground near Garchuk in Deepor Beel on Wednesday. Trees are planted in line with the Bohagi festival of the 47th East Ramsharani Bihu Sammilani held at

Bharali playground by Young Green Club. Today, on the first day, as many as 100 saplings were planted around the playground. The event was attended by Pramod Kalita, General Secretary

of Deepor Beel Suraksha Manch, Sushil Teran and Dhiraj Tumung, Assistant secretary, Pramila Teran, Organizing Secretary, Utpal Kr Das, Former President of Young Green Club etc.

Blood donation Camp held

Assam Rising Aalo May, 11: Pan Arunachal Blood donation Camp was held at General Hospital Aalo on May 11. The programme was jointly organised by Galo welfare Society (GWS), District Unit Aalo, Loyi welfare Society and in collaboration with General Hospital Aalo on the occasion of Late. Dr. Minge Loyi's 3rd Death anniversary of former President Galo Welfare Society. The blood donation camp was organised all over Arunachal Pradesh to create the feelings of oneness. The aim of the camp was read out by Smty Kenbi Jini



Bagra president women wing GWS Aalo unit. Shri Meddak Lona GWS, President Aalo unit and Dr. Nyade Padu, Moki Loyi Retd D.C Chairman Loyi welfare society, General secretary Remi Loyi spoke on the occasion. The whole Pan Arunachal Blood donation at Aalo was liaised

Assam Rising Palasbari, May 11: The newly formed Deepor Beel Suraksha Mancha is carrying out a massive tree planting program to create environmental awareness among the students and the general public. As part of this, a tree plantation drive was held at the

No. SMEJ/JMCH/2550/2021/ 2095
Short Quotation Notice

Quotations are invited for "assessing the existing LAN infrastructure along with restructuring & extension of LAN at Administrative Building of Jorhat Medical College & Hospital, Jorhat" on or before 12:00 Noon of 19-05-2022. For details, please log on to www.jorhatmedicalcollege.in.

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In continuation to the Press Notice issued vide this office No. CE/H&UA/Tech/17/PT-II/21-22/46, dated 11/05/2022 the Chief Engineer, H&UA (Technical Cell), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites proposal from interested registered Supplier/ Bidders of who are experienced in the execution of similar work registered and having extensive experience in the relevant field of work for the following work.

Name of work:- Procurement of Office equipments and furniture fixtures for the office of The Chief engineer and 6 (six) Divisional offices of Technical cell, Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, Assam

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e., www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 14:00 hrs of 12.05.2022 to 19.05.2022.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Technical Cell)
Department of Housing and Urban Affairs
Assam, Guwahati-03
Janasanyog/C/2266/22

PRESS NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, PWD, Guwahati Building Circle-II, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of Governor of Assam invites item rate bids in electronic tendering system for the work "Improvement/Renovation of Mortuary & Sex Crime Complex under Forensic Medicine at GMCH, Guwahati-32 under COVID-Emergency" with an approximate value of work of Rs. 77,93,857.00 from APWD registered Class-I (A/B/C)/ Class-II (within this Circle) contractors having experience of similar nature of work. Details of the bids may be seen at e-procurement portal website: www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in for participating in the bidding process.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, P.W.D.
Guwahati Building Circle-II
Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/C/2248/22

THE ASSAM RISING

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Russian militarism

There came a point when Putin resolved to stay in power indefinitely. Elections would come and go, and he would lie that they would be his last, that he had no intention of changing Russia's 1993-era constitution, which provides for a maximum of two consecutive terms. His first strategy for eternal rule was to allow citizens to become wealthy, as the country became richer than it had ever been in the second half of the 2000s. But when growth stopped, with much of the wealth captured in a few hands, he had to turn to propaganda. He began to invoke a sense of "traditional values" to augment the notion of his paramount importance to Russia – the indispensable leader who was the only defence for Russians against westernisation and dissolution in the sea of European peoples. And Putin came to believe his own propaganda – that he now had a special historic mission to create a Greater Russia. Not quite a new USSR, because no one was about to rebuild Communism, or invent some new ideology or recolonise Central Asia so as to secure nice cheap labour for the Russian economy. Greater Russia fancied itself as the world's third big power (along with the US and China). And if the rival US had the EU as its satellite then Greater Russia would need its own sphere of influence. Putin's "traditional values" essentially boiled down to homophobia and the cult of military victory. It quickly became clear that persecuting gay people didn't really amount to a durable strategy for the eternal rule of a strong leader. The cult of victory was all that was left. The picture slowly took shape. The operetta of Russian militarism grew out of TV propaganda, where numerous "experts" began to speak of how we were the strongest in the world, no one could order us around, our rockets could circle the world several times and destroy anyone we wanted. It was ridiculous, but Putin's speeches slowly began to sound more and more like those of the late neofascist Vladimir Zhirinovsky. He spoke less and less about dull things like economic development, but really lit up when talking about new "unparalleled" types of weapons. "We can do it again," became the main slogan of Putin's Russia, a clear reference to the fact that Russians defeated Nazism in the second world war, and believe they can do it again.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

Editor,
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G.N.B. Road, Chandmari Colony,
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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Vulnerable, British and black? Now that's enough to have you face deportation



Have you checked your ID privilege lately? Because in recent days I've observed with unprecedented clarity that it's becoming a phenomenon in Britain. There are two types of citizen in this country: those who feel compelled to carry proof that their presence is legal. And those secure enough, entitled even, to barely give it a thought. Until recently, I have always been in the second category. It's cultural. ID cards are totally un-British – as I discovered when I first started writing about civil liberties for the Guardian 15 years ago. Government proposals to introduce them back then stirred a deep well of Magna Carta-philial and a libertarian distrust of positive law. British people don't expect to have to prove their identity

unless collecting a parcel or checking in for a flight. Unless you are a visible minority, that is. For us, that entitlement is gradually being eroded. Being asked where we are from, "Go home" vans, the Windrush scandal. The escalation from rhetorical othering, to the actual, violent deportation of people perfectly entitled to be here, shook Britain's black community to our core. Last week, a new level of escalation. A 17-year-old boy from Kent ran away from a hospital. He is British, black and non-verbal, and was being treated for his mental health. Reportedly in a state of distress, having attempted to travel to Manchester and back with no money, phone, or – by the time he returned – even any shoes, he was arrested by British Transport Police for not having

a train ticket. So far this is a story about the carceral state, straight from the abolitionist textbooks. The Black Lives Matter movement familiarised everyone with what happens when a vulnerable black person is met not with support, solutions, or even basic compassion, but with the brutality of law enforcement and criminalisation. Tragically, we are familiar with their names in many cases because it ended in their death – Sean Rigg, Mzee Mohammed, Leon Briggs, Kingsley Burrell. What British Transport Police did in this case, however, offers a sinister new twist. Claiming to have "interviewed" this non-verbal young person, its officers concluded that he was a Nigerian who had come to the country illegally. Since he allegedly failed to give satisfactory or reliable answers (did I mention that he was non-verbal?) the authorities began steps – according to paperwork he was later found carrying – for his "imminent" deportation. The implications are alarming. "I now have to factor in the possibility," wrote one Mumsnet user, "that if I should be knocked on the head or suffer a seizure, anything rendering me incapable of speech while outside and not carrying anything identifying, I might soon find myself locked up in an immigration detention centre." If this

sounds like an overreaction, consider the context. This was also the week that the Nationality and Borders Act was passed by the House of Commons. Its Rwanda plans – shipping asylum seekers randomly to the central African country, which incidentally is already the most densely populated on the African continent – are probably illegal and almost certainly unworkable. As we already know with this government, all of this is immaterial because the prime minister and his government are comfortable with breaking the law and more interested in optics than outcomes. The Rwanda story has also

Afua Hirsch

distracted the public from the reality that the new act will also affect British people. Especially those who either have, or are entitled to, dual nationality, affecting about 6 million black, Asian and Jewish Britons. Its clause 9 has to be read to be believed. The government can now strip us of our citizenship, and if it deems it "not reasonably practicable", or "not in the public interest", does not even need to give us notice that it's doing so. Nationality is a birthright, not a privilege. But now those of us designated less entitled to it by this legislation will all have to check ourselves on that too. The experience of this non-verbal teenager in Kent strikes a chord

Don't reduce BSF from first-class border guarding force to third-class police force in states



The 270,000-strong Border Security Force or BSF is the world's largest border guarding force, and the only one with its own air wing of 24 aircraft, 100-plus water vessels and motorised boats to protect the riverine boundaries, artillery section, horses, camels, and canine squads. Last year, its mandate and jurisdiction of powers of search, seizure and arrest with respect to the Passport Act and specified sections of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) was rationalised to include 'the whole of the area comprised in the States of Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Meghalaya, the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and so much of the area comprised within a belt of fifty kilometres in the States of Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, West Bengal and Assam, running along the borders of India'. This led to a major controversy with opposition-ruled

states such as Punjab and West Bengal accusing the Narendra Modi government of curtailing the state's role in law and order, a subject under the ambit of powers under the Constitution. The government of Punjab filed an original suit in the Supreme Court under Article 131. The affidavit stated: 'for a geographically compact state like Punjab, over eighty percent areas of the border districts and all major towns and cities, including most district headquarters of Punjab would be covered under BSF's jurisdiction'. The Punjab government pleaded that this could lead to 'jurisdictional, functional and legal confusion, including chaos and conflict in trial of offences between law enforcement agencies'. Incidentally, a similar move to extend the authority of the BSF across the country by the UPA

government in 2011 was opposed by Modi who was then the chief minister of Gujarat. Meanwhile, the Lok Sabha was informed in December 2021 that the 'extension in territorial jurisdiction of BSF in some states was aimed at empowering BSF to discharge its border guarding duties more effectively in the wake of use of technology like Dynamic Remotely Operated Navigation Equipment (Drones), Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAVs), etc generally

Sanjeev Chopra

having long range, by anti-national forces for surveillance as well as for smuggling of arms, narcotics and fake Indian currency notes (FICN), besides curbing the menace of cattle smuggling'. Let us understand the background and the rationale of the BSF. After the Pakistani aggression in the Rann of Kutch in 1965, it was felt that the extant arrangement of state armed police forces guarding international borders was clearly inadequate. Writing under the pseudonym of 'Military Correspondent', then-Army chief Gen. J.N. Chaudhuri said in The

Statesman, "Should the responsibility lie with the Police in the initial stages and if so at what stage should the Army take over? What equipment should these border forces have, how should they be organized and under whose control should they act? How should liaison be maintained between the Armed Forces proper and a border force? Should the border be a State or Central responsibility and how should the financial burden be shared? Police arrangements as constituted along the border at present seem confused and nobody seems to be quite sure." Such thoughts in the highest echelons convinced Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri of the need to establish a single armed force to reduce the multiplicity of paramilitary forces in border areas. The key bureaucrats and generals involved in the creation of a single central force, tasked with the protection of India's long problematic borders included then Home Secretary L.P. Singh, vice-chief Lt Gen. Kumaramangalam and IP officer K. Rustomji. BSF was created by amalgamating 25 existing battalions from the state armed police forces of the border states and officers from Emergency Commissioned Officers (ECOs), a position instituted in the aftermath of the 1962 war. In 1969,

the BSF first got powers to arrest and search under the CrPC with respect to certain laws such as the Foreigners Act, the Passport Act, forex laws and Customs Act. Incidentally, it also has powers to arrest, search and seize under the NDPS Act, Arms Act and Customs Act, but its authority under these laws has not been changed with the current amendments, meaning that its powers will continue to be only up to 15 km inside the border in Punjab, Assam, and West Bengal, and as far as 80 km in Gujarat. The probable explanation is that offences under these laws can be taken up by the NIA, ED, and the Narcotics Bureau. Many BSF veterans feel that the new mandate will dilute the core competence of the force. According to them, 'border guarding is the forte of the BSF - it is not trained to carry out police functions'. So, exercise of extended powers may end up diluting the abilities of the BSF as a first-class border guarding force and convert it into a third-class police force. It has also been argued that collection of intelligence in an area as large as 50 km from the border in the densely populated states of Punjab, Assam and West Bengal is better coordinated by the state and central intelligence agencies and acted upon by the local police instead of the BSF, which will find its resources stretched thin.

For Vladimir Putin, the sinister cult of victory is all that is left

Vladimir Putin was born seven years after the end of the second world war, and raised on the Brezhnev-era myth of the great victory. A man of no great education, he loved to quote Soviet films and old stories. The history books portrayed the "great patriotic war" as a magical fable in which the hero – the Russian people – vanquishes a monster, to the envy of the whole world. In this myth there was no room for many of the actual facts of war, such as the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, the war with Finland, the occupation of the Baltics. The myth ignores the deportation of millions of Poles. It glosses over the Rzhev campaign of the winter of 1942-43, in which the Soviet army sustained terrible losses, preferring to dwell on the storied victories of Moscow and

Stalingrad. There came a point when Putin resolved to stay in power indefinitely. Elections would come and go, and he would lie that they would be his last, that he had no intention of changing Russia's 1993-era constitution, which provides for a maximum of two consecutive terms. His first strategy for eternal rule was to allow citizens to become wealthy, as the country became richer than it had ever been in the second half of the 2000s. But when growth stopped, with much of the wealth captured in a few hands, he had to turn to propaganda. He began to invoke a sense of "traditional values" to augment the notion of his paramount importance to Russia – the indispensable leader who was the only defence for Russians against westernisation and



Kirill Martynov

dissolution in the sea of European peoples. And Putin came to believe his own propaganda – that he now had a special historic mission to create a Greater Russia. Not quite a new USSR, because no one was about to rebuild

Communism, or invent some new ideology or recolonise Central Asia so as to secure nice cheap labour for the Russian economy. Greater Russia fancied itself as the world's third big power (along with the US and China). And if the rival US had the EU as its satellite then Greater Russia would need its own sphere of influence. Putin's "traditional values" essentially boiled down to homophobia and the cult of military victory. It quickly became clear that persecuting gay people didn't really amount to a durable strategy for the eternal rule of a strong leader. The cult of victory was all that was left. The picture slowly took shape. The operetta of Russian militarism grew out of TV propaganda, where numerous "experts" began to speak of how we were the strongest in the world, no one could order us around, our rockets could circle the world several times and destroy anyone we wanted. It was ridiculous, but Putin's speeches slowly began to sound more and more like those of the late neofascist Vladimir Zhirinovsky. He spoke less and less about dull things like economic development, but really lit up when talking about new "unparalleled" types of weapons.

"We can do it again," became the main slogan of Putin's Russia, a clear reference to the fact that Russians defeated Nazism in the second world war, and believe they can do it again. Putin has won four presidential elections, but a fifth is looming in 2024. Covid took a heavy toll in Russia and the economy has slumped, so Putin's options are few. In his mind, his best way to hold on to power is a repeat of the great victory. A symbolic march-past on 9 May would not be enough; they'd need to fill the image with blood. And so they tried to "do it again", orchestrating Europe's biggest tragedy since 1945. The war is the world's first to have been directly invented by TV. It also feels like the moment when the Soviet Union truly fell apart, because Russia, as heir to that empire, cannot come through this crisis with all those Soviet myths about victory still intact. We shouldn't be surprised that most Russians have bought into this and are indifferent to the military crimes being committed in Ukraine. It's not just that they don't get the full picture because of the obliteration of journalism and social media. It's that if you stop believing the propaganda, then you no longer can believe in a Russia of traditional values, a victory-day hero nation. All that is left is a wild person wandering through the ruins of a militarised kleptocracy, carrying a nuclear suitcase in his hand. And who wants to believe in that? Who are we, and how did we let this happen? It's scary to answer this question. Russians will hold on to their myths until the very last. In the meantime, they have their military parade, their victory day swoon, the

Letter to the Editor
Professional Courses

Dear editor,

Colleges and universities have professional courses without providing practical experience. Medical education is an exception. Students learn the subject by dealing with the real patients. Engineering, Banking, Law, journalism etc courses should be designed and conducted by Engineering units, Banks, Courts, press etc by selecting 12 the passed students.

Then only the students acquire Practical Experience. Colleges and Universities may wind up such courses later.

Kantamsetti Lakshman Rao
Visakhapatnam

Nature, biodiversity and human health

With great care, climate change is in the classroom



Urbanization, land use, global trade and industrialization have led to profound and negative impacts on nature, biodiversity and ecosystems across the world. The ongoing depletion of natural resources not only affects environmental conditions but also has an enormous impact on the health, well-being and security of societies. Exploring this complex relationship and the vital role that nature plays for promoting and protecting human health, and in recognition of the International Day for Biological Diversity on 22 May, WHO/Europe has published its first report on nature, biodiversity and health together with the WHO Collaborating Centre on Natural Environments and Health at the University of

Exeter in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The ongoing degradation of biodiversity and ecosystems will undermine progress towards most of the assessed targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and has been identified by many policy frameworks and conventions as one of the most urgent challenges for global action. This report represents a call to action for local and national governments to promote, support and enhance both nature and ecosystems worldwide. One fundamental basis for such action is to consider the implications of policies

in various sectors on nature and biodiversity, following the One Health approach and implementing the "WHO Manifesto for a healthy recovery from COVID-19: Prescriptions for a healthy and green recovery from COVID-19". In providing an overview of the impacts of the natural environment on human health, the report covers such diverse topics as the health relevance of freshwater systems; air quality; coasts, seas and oceans; soil, agriculture, nutrition and food security; infectious diseases emerging from human-wildlife interaction; microbial diversity; medicine and health care; and green and blue spaces. It presents the ways nature and ecosystems can support and protect health and well-being and describes how nature degradation and loss of biodiversity can threaten human health. These findings can be summarized in 3 key messages.

1. Nature provides the basic conditions for human health. For example, nature can be essential to purify water or regulate air quality, and it enables soil formation and food production on land and in seas.

How would you bring up the topic of climate change to a room (or a Zoom) full of students? You might start with the imperiled polar bear, or maybe the Great Barrier Reef. Jaime González's choice is unavoidable: the storm that left some of his students without walls. "I would literally start with footage of people being rescued from Hurricane Harvey," says González, Houston Healthy Cities Director for The Nature Conservancy and a longtime environmental educator. Once he had the class's attention, he'd pivot to how climate change made the storm more destructive. In 2017, Hurricane Harvey rapidly intensified before slowing to a halt over Southeast Texas, replenishing its moisture from the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico and dumping up to 60 inches of rain over three days. Of the \$125 billion in damage caused by Harvey, scientists determined that climate change was responsible for \$60-90 billion of it. Not all lessons

must start with a disaster like Harvey. But here in Houston, heat waves and 500-year floods are becoming more commonplace. He wants them to know that where they live can be considered a disaster zone. After all, a disaster happened here. But scaring students is the last thing González, a conservationist dedicated to connecting Texans with their natural world, wants to do. His desire is to prepare them for the world ahead and empower them to advocate for change. Climate change is the challenge of our lifetimes, and we all have a vested interest in how it's taught to the next generation. The good news is that most parents and teachers in the U.S. support teaching about climate change. Obstacles still exist, but they're often less about opposition from administrators or parents and more about issues of capacity. In the U.S., state standards-goals for what students should know about subjects (like science) at various grade lev-



els-play a major role in how climate change shows up in classrooms. Public schools cover their state's science standards within their curricula and are evaluated on them through standardized test scores. Most states update their standards every 5 to 10 years. They determine for themselves how to address climate change, leading to a lot of variation: just over half of states' standards receive a B+ grade or higher for how they cover climate change. Even in states where standards lack climate language, schools and teachers are covering it. "We help support teachers to understand where this fits in during the school day," says Kristi Hibler-Luton, Director of School Programs at EcoRise, an environmental education nonprofit started in Texas. "The standard doesn't have to say 'climate change' for us to talk about air quality or rising sea levels or ocean acidification."

No matter the state or standard, teachers are more likely to include climate change in their lessons if 1) they're confident in their understanding of the subject and 2) they have resources they can trust. Many of today's teachers never learned about climate change when they were students. Adult-centered climate trainings can give teachers the foundation they need, but only if educators can find time alongside lesson planning, grading and test prep. Teaching during a pandemic has been a major challenge, but the disruption has helped teachers expand how and where they develop their lessons. "With the lockdown from COVID-19, teachers had to do a lot of digital lessons. So they discovered a lot of online resources," says John Vellardito, a science teacher at Greenwich High School in Connecticut. Teachers are also seeking

interactive tools that they can put in front of the most internet-fluent generation yet. Using visualizations from NASA, Aimee Famum has her students sort through that data for themselves. "Computer models are really where it blows their minds," says Famum, a science teacher at the same school as Vellardito. "I have never had a student that's gone through that data and came out the other side saying 'Well, this still isn't a thing.'" Many organizations are creating educational materials for teachers to use. TNC's own Nature Lab is designed to meet teacher's and parent's educational needs, providing lesson plans, teaching guides and virtual field trips. "Nature Lab digital curriculum can be a powerful tool for broadening access to nature and inspiring a new, diverse generation of informed stewards," says Ximena Marquez, Associate Director of TNC's Youth Engagement Program.

Scientists grew plants from a 32,000-year-old seeds

In 2012, S. Yashina, S. Gubin, S. Maksimovich, A. Yashina, E. Gakhova, and D. Gilichinsky found some 32,000-year-old seeds and managed to grow a viable plant from them. These seeds were found covered in ice and buried 125 feet underground, deep in the Siberian permafrost. Permafrost is ground that continuously remains below 0 °C (32 °F) for two or more years, located on land or under the ocean. Permafrost does not have to be the first layer that is on the ground. It can be from an inch to several miles deep under the Earth's surface. Some of the most common permafrost locations are in the Northern Hemisphere. Around 15% of the Northern Hemisphere or 11% of the global surface is underlain by permafrost, including substantial areas of Alaska, Greenland, Canada and Siberia. It can also be located on mountaintops in the Southern Hemisphere and beneath ice-free areas in the Antarctic. Permafrost frequently occurs in ground ice, but it can also be present in non-porous bedrock. Permafrost is formed from ice holding various types of soil, sand, and rock in combination. Permafrost frequently contains large amounts of biomass and decomposed biomass that has been stored as methane and carbon dioxide in the permafrost, making the tundra soil a carbon sink. As global warming heats the ecosystem and causes soil thawing, the permafrost carbon cycle accelerates and releases much of these soil-contained greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, creating a feedback cycle that increases climate change. In contrast to the relative dearth of reports on frozen ground in North America prior to World War II, a vast literature on basic permafrost science and the engineering aspects of permafrost was available in Russian. Some Russian authors relate permafrost research with the name Alexander von Middendorff (1815-1894). However, Russian scientists also realized, that Karl Ernst von Baer must be given the attribute "founder of scientific permafrost research". In 1843, Baer's original study "materials for the study of the perennial ground-ice" was ready to be printed. Baer's detailed study consists of 218

pages and was written in German language, as he was a Baltic German scientist. He was teaching at the University of Königsberg and became a member of the St Petersburg Academy of Sciences. This world's first



permafrost textbook was conceived as a complete work and ready for printing in 1843. But it remained lost for around 150 years. However, from 1838 onwards, Baer published several individual publications on permafrost. The Russian Academy of Sciences honoured Baer with the publication of a tentative Russian translation of his study in 1942. These facts were completely forgotten after the Second World War. Thus in 2001 the discovery of the typescript from 1843 in the library archives of the University of Giessen and its annotated publication was a scientific sensation. The full text of Baer's original work is available online (234 pages). The editor added to the facsimile reprint a preface in English, two colour permafrost maps of Eurasia and some figures of permafrost features. Baer's text is introduced with detailed comments and references on additional 66 pages written by the Estonian historian Erki Tammiksaar. The work is fascinating to read, because both Baer's observations on permafrost distribution and his periglacial morphological descriptions are largely still correct today. With his compilation and analysis of all available data on

ground ice and permafrost, Baer laid the foundation for the modern permafrost terminology. Baer's southern limit of permafrost in Eurasia drawn in 1843 corresponds well with the actual southern limit on the Circum-Arctic Map of Per-

mafrost. Most of this area is found in Siberia, northern Canada, Alaska and Greenland. Beneath the active layer annual temperature swings of permafrost become smaller with depth. The deepest depth of permafrost occurs where geothermal heat maintains a temperature above freezing. Above that bottom limit there may be permafrost with a consistent annual temperature - "isothermal permafrost". Permafrost typically forms in any climate where the mean annual air temperature is lower than the freezing point of water. Exceptions are found in humid boreal forests, such as in Northern Scandinavia and the North-Eastern part of European Russia west of the Urals, where snow acts as an insulating blanket. Glaciated areas may also be exceptions. Since all glaciers are warmed at their base by geothermal heat, temperate glaciers, which are near the pressure-melting point throughout, may have liquid water at the interface with the ground and are therefore free of underlying permafrost. "Fossil" cold anomalies in the Geothermal gradient in areas where deep permafrost developed during the Pleistocene persist down to several hundred metres. This is evident from temperature measurements in boreholes in North America and Europe.

deep in southern Siberia and the Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau). The extent of permafrost is displayed in terms of permafrost zones, which are defined according to the area underlain by permafrost as continuous (90%-100%), discontinuous (50%-90%), sporadic (10%-50%), and isolated patches (10% or less). These permafrost zones cover together approximately 22% of the Northern Hemisphere. Continuous permafrost zone covers slightly more than half of this area, discontinuous permafrost around 20 percent, and sporadic permafrost together with isolated patches little less than 30 percent. Because permafrost zones are not entirely underlain by permafrost, only 15% of the ice-free area of the Northern Hemisphere is actually underlain by per-

mafrost. Most of this area is found in Siberia, northern Canada, Alaska and Greenland. Beneath the active layer annual temperature swings of permafrost become smaller with depth. The deepest depth of permafrost occurs where geothermal heat maintains a temperature above freezing. Above that bottom limit there may be permafrost with a consistent annual temperature - "isothermal permafrost". Permafrost typically forms in any climate where the mean annual air temperature is lower than the freezing point of water. Exceptions are found in humid boreal forests, such as in Northern Scandinavia and the North-Eastern part of European Russia west of the Urals, where snow acts as an insulating blanket. Glaciated areas may also be exceptions. Since all glaciers are warmed at their base by geothermal heat, temperate glaciers, which are near the pressure-melting point throughout, may have liquid water at the interface with the ground and are therefore free of underlying permafrost. "Fossil" cold anomalies in the Geothermal gradient in areas where deep permafrost developed during the Pleistocene persist down to several hundred metres. This is evident from temperature measurements in boreholes in North America and Europe.

Making peace with Nature



The resulting synthesis communicates how climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution can be tackled jointly within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. The report serves to translate the current state of scientific knowledge into crisp, clear and digestible facts-based messages that the world can relate to and follow up on. It first provides an Earth diagnosis of current and projected human-in-

duced environmental change, by putting facts and interlinkages in perspective, including by using smart infographics. In building on this diagnosis, the report identifies the shifts needed to close gaps between current actions and those needed to achieve sustainable development. The analysis is anchored in current economic, social and ecological reality and framed by economics and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By

synthesizing the latest scientific findings from the global environmental assessments, the report communicates the current status of the world's urgent issues and opportunities to solve them. Ahead of the fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5), UN Secretary-General António Guterres, and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Inger Andersen launched the report during an online press briefing.

Livelihoods & Natural Resource Management

Sustainable and adaptive livelihood is an approach and effort to go beyond conventional practices. A number of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are addressed through this inclusive and integrated approach of livelihood augmentation, like, ending poverty and hunger, ensuring food security and nutrition, promoting sustainable agriculture, ensuring healthy lives and combating climate change impacts. Natural and locally available resources are properly utilized to increase both availabil-



ity and options of livelihood throughout the year while conserving these natural resources through enhancement of their quality and quantity. Land, water, air and biodiversity are the most vital natural resources bestowed on Earth. Unfortunately, we continued to exhaust

these resources without even thinking to restore! Today World has reached a time when mankind needs the reminder of "Only One Earth" which they need to care and share. Managing natural resources have become immediate necessary so that all our future genera-

tions have enough of them. No amount of effort can actually make natural resource management possible unless communities are engaged and there comes the role of sustainable livelihood. There are many ways of conservation of natural resource; sustainable livelihood is one of them. Natural resources are the basis of livelihoods and economies of every nation in Asia. Given the rich cultural, social, political, and biophysical diversity across Asia, the professionals working in natural resources management need a strong working knowledge of several interrelated sciences. Through teaching, research and outreach activities, the NRM of SERD at AIT seek to develop professionals who can contribute to the conservation and sustainable management of terrestrial and coastal resources and ecosystems. We provide education and research opportunities leading to M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in NRM. The complex nature of NRM issues requires a broad range of skills and techniques ranging from the social to the physical sciences.

Contd. From Page 1

CM Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma

to draft a reasonable way of implementing it."This will start from the Government Gordon Higher Secondary School in Nalbari, he added.Explaining about the model, the CM said that education will be imparted in English apart from Assamese in government schools.He said, "We plan to introduce imparting two subjects in English in these institutions. It will be implemented in phases in all educational institutions in Assam."Further speaking, the Assam CM said, "Students were the most affected during the Covid-19 pandemic and they suffered the maximum losses. The state government has left behind personal comfort and will work towards a bright Assam."CM Sarma called for words like 'Protest' to be taken out of the education system, urging TET qualified teachers to end protests."Protests have set Assam on a back-foot for 75 years since independence," he said.It may be noted that Assam will be celebrating 'Gunotsav' from May 11 to June 4. It will be celebrated in over 46,000 schools in three phases.An assessment of students will take place during this time. In the first phase, Biswanath, Bongaigaon, Charaideo, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Karimganj, Karbi Anglong, Nagaon and Nalbari will observe it.In the second phase, Barpeta, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Hojai, Kamrup, Kokrajhar, Majuli, Morigaon, South Salmara, Mankachar, Tinsukia and Udalguri will celebrate the fest. The second phase will begin from May 23, while assessment will take place between May 24 and May 26.Moreover, the third phase will begin from June 1 and the assessment will take place between June 2 and June 4. The third phase will include Baksa, Chirang, Dhubri, Dima Hasao, Jorhat, Kamrup metro, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur and West Karbi Anglong.

Tata Technologies Signs Pact With

for all those industry players keen on embracing Industry 4.0 and smart technologies for manufacturing." He further said, "We also believe that this initiative would greatly benefit the MSMEs who cannot afford high-end technological equipment, which will be facilitated for usage at the polytechnic and ITIs."This program would also create a lucrative platform for all those working in industries that form the core of Assam's occupational strength, such as tea processing, food processing, handicrafts and textiles to upgrade their skillsets and employment opportunities in accordance with the Industry 4.0-relevant smart operations of the future, Sarma said.The COEs will cover various technical courses related to Industry 4.0, such as additive manufacturing (3D printing), EV product design and development, design for artisans and handicrafts, modern automotive maintenance repair and overhaul, battery electric vehicle training, IoT and digital instrumentation, advanced manufacturing and prototyping, industrial robotics with arc welding, AI-based virtual welding and painting.It will also upskill youth in traditional Assamese industries like tea processing, food processing, handicrafts and textiles to support industries in Assam, the company said.

Marital rape: Delhi High Court gave

comments from all states and Union Territories, given the impact and far-reaching consequences of any judgment on social and family life, and the consultative process would take time.A "holistic view" had to be taken on marital rape, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the court.In a 2017 affidavit, the centre had opposed the petitions, saying that marital rape cannot be made a criminal offence as it could "destabilise the institution of marriage" and become a tool for harassing husbands. But the centre told the court later it was "re-looking" at its earlier stand.The Karnataka High Court had earlier this year made strong remarks in the case of a man accused of forcing his wife to be a "sex slave". Marriage is no license to "unleash a brutal beast", the court had said."A brutal act of sexual assault on the wife, against her consent, albeit by the husband, cannot but be termed to be a rape," the order stated, adding that the legislature must consider making marital rape a crime.

Journalists alleged 'misbehaves'

sources claimed that a certain section of journalists "created unnecessary hue and cry as checking at the entry gate of ITA auditorium is mandatory, especially when a senior political leader is at the venue".National General Secretary of Trinamool Congress Abhishek Banerjee apologized to journalists in Guwahati who have been misbehaved by his security personnel at ITA Machkhowa during a party meeting on Wednesday.The General Secretary told the journalists after the meeting saying that he was aware of the incident very lately.Notably, the security personnel of Banerjee allegedly 'misbehaved' with a section of journalists at Guwahati in Assam.This incident was reported from ITA auditorium at Machkhowa.

ED arrests IAS Pooja Singhal

during 2008-11, officials said.The agency seized a total of Rs 19.31 crore cash from two premises that were searched in the state capital Ranchi.About Rs 17.51 crore cash has been recovered from the premises of a Ranchi-based Chartered Accountant-cum-financial advisor whose links with the IAS officer and her family are under the scanner, they said.Around Rs 1.8 crore cash has also been recovered from another location in the city, they said.

Harappan civilization : ASI digs

along with jewellery. Along with skeletons, utensils used by the deceased were also buried.During an investigation conducted in 1969 by Professor Suraj Bhan, it was found that archaeological remains of Rakhigarhi and settlements are of the nature of the Harappan culture. Later investigation was conducted by the ASI and Pune Deccan College and it came to the fore that this place has a cluster township spread across 500 hectares. The excavations carried out by the ASI under the directions of Amarendra Nath during the year 1997-98 to 1999-2000 revealed various occupational phases beginning from the pre-formative stage to the mature Harappan period covering the time from 5th millennium BCE to 3rd millennium BCE based on the radiocarbon dates obtained from various layers.Sanjay Manjul, ASI Joint Director-General, told IANS, "During the excavation of RGR-1, 2.5 metre-wide streets and walls were found. All of that shows Harappan town planning and engineering. Remains of the house complex have also been found. How Harappan people used to stay in these houses is shown. Earthen stoves and antiquity were also found."Remains found in RGR-1 and 3 included elephant embossed carving, steatite seal of the Harappan script, the impression of black clay seal, animal figurines of terracotta and steatite made dog, bull, a large number of steatite beads, semi-precious stone beads, copper things.For the first time, this site was excavated in 1998-2001 by the ASI. After that from 2013 to 2016, Deccan College, Pune worked here.According to officers in RGR-1, waste of semi-precious stones Agate and Carlenian were also found which implies that it must have been leftover of after beads were made by carving stone.In an excavation of RGR 3, situated in the southwest of RGR-1, 11 metre long and 58 cm wide brick walls and a drain were found. In the earlier excavation in RGR-7 which is situated in 500 metre North of RGR-1, around 60 skeletons were found.Notably, there is a procedure going on for a memorandum of understanding between the ASI and Haryana government under which the ancient things of the Rakhigarhi will be displayed in a museum which is under the Haryana government. The ASI will soon start excavation in September 2022 and after that will throw open these mounds, so that the tourists can get full information. Very soon, Rakhigarhi will witness beeline of tourists as the officials want that when the tourists see the remains they get the information about the antique and the truth about it. As per the announcement made by the Central government in the Union Budget 2020-21, this place will be developed as one of the five best iconic places for which excavation started on February 24, 2022. According to IANS, the ASI aim is to facilitate the tourists who come to Rakhigarhi besides exposing structural remains. Its aim is to understand the settlement of Harappa in Rakhigarhi and the interrelation of seven mounds.Rakhigarhi is the largest archaeological site of the Harappan civilisation which comes under two modern villages Rakhi-Shahpur and Rakhigarhi-Khash. Rakhigarhi has been classified as a major metropolitan centre of the Harappan culture.

SC puts sedition law on hold

FIRs for the offence of sedition.Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, also told the court that the registration of FIRs for the offence of sedition cannot be prevented as the provision dealt with a cognisable offence and was upheld by a Constitution bench in 1962.With regard to pending sedition cases, the Centre suggested that hearing on bail pleas in such matters may be expedited as the government did not know the gravity of offence in each case and they may have terror or money laundering angles."Ultimately, pending cases are before the judicial forum and we need to trust courts," the law officer told the bench which also comprised justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli.On Tuesday, the Supreme Court had sought the Centre's stand on keeping the pending sedition cases in abeyance to protect the interests of citizens already booked and not registering fresh cases till the government's re-examination of the colonial-era penal law is over. It wanted response on Wednesday.The top court also asked the Centre to take a clear stand after it posed the two specific queries and agreed that a re-look of Section 124A of the IPC be left to the government, a day after it had filed an affidavit deciding to reconsider the contentious provision.According to data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), a total of 356 cases of sedition -- as defined under Section 124A of IPC -- were registered and 548 persons were arrested between 2015 and 2020. As many as 12 persons arrested in seven sedition cases have been convicted in this six-year period, the data showed.

Reporter shot in head during Israeli

Mahmoud Abbas said he holds Israeli forces "fully responsible" for Abu Aqla's death.Al Jazeera said that she was killed "in cold blood," in what the network called a "horrifying crime that breaches international norms"."We condemn this heinous crime, intended to prevent the media from carrying out its message, and we hold the Israeli government and the occupation forces responsible for her death," the channel wrote on Twitter."We call on the international community to condemn and hold the Israeli occupation forces accountable for the deliberate killing of our colleague Shireen Abu Aqla," it said.In footage from the scene, Abu Aqla was seen wearing a PRESS vest and a helmet and was hit below the ear in an area not covered by her helmet.Samodi, working for the Jerusalem-based Al-Quds, told the local media that he and Abu Aqla were clearly identified as reporters, wearing their press vests, when they were shot at. Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett has called for a joint investigation."According to the information we have gathered, it appears likely that armed Palestinians, who were firing indiscriminately at the time, were responsible for the unfortunate death of the journalist," he said in a statement."Palestinians in Jenin were even filmed boasting 'We hit a soldier; he's lying on the ground'. However, no IDF (Israel Defence Forces) soldier was injured, which increases the possibility that Palestinian terrorists were the ones who shot the journalist," Bennett was quoted as saying in a statement."Israel has called on the Palestinians to conduct a joint pathological analysis and investigation, which would be based on all of the existing documentation and findings, in order to get to the truth. So far, the Palestinians have refused this offer," he said.He also asserted that the IDF forces will continue their counterterrorism operations in order to end the 'deadly wave of terror' and restore security to the citizens of Israel.Born in East Jerusalem, Abu Aqla had worked for several agencies such as UNRWA, Radio Voice of Palestine, Amman satellite channel, the Moftah Foundation and Radio Monte Carlo before joining Al Jazeera in 1997.Human rights group Yesh Din called for an international investigation into her death, saying that the Israeli defence establishment 'has proven in several cases that it is unable to investigate such incidents on its own'.The IDF has been operating in Jenin and across the West Bank in an attempt to stop a series of recent attacks that have killed 19 people in a month and a half. Close to 30 Palestinians have also been killed in Israeli operations during this time.

India says it's not sending troops to crisis-torn Sri Lanka

New Delhi, May 11 : The Indian High Commission here on Wednesday (May 11) categorically denied speculative media reports about New Delhi sending its troops to Colombo, saying India fully supports Sri Lanka's democracy, stability, and economic recovery. Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948."The High Commission would like to categorically deny speculative reports in sections of media and social media about #India sending her troops to Sri Lanka. These reports and such views are also not in keeping with the position of the Government of #India," the Indian mission said on Twitter. "The Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs of India clearly stated yesterday that India fully supports Sri Lanka's democracy, stability and economic recovery," it said in another tweet. The crisis in Lanka is caused in part by a lack of foreign currency, which has meant that the country cannot afford to pay for imports of staple foods and fuel, leading to acute shortages and very high prices, triggering unprecedented anti-government protests. Earlier, there have been reports that the 76-year-old Mahinda Rajapaksa and his family members have fled to India. The Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka, had again refuted it as "fake and blatantly false" local social media speculation. "The High Commission has recently noticed rumours circulating in sections of media and social media that certain political persons and their families have fled to India. These are fake and blatantly false reports, devoid of any truth or substance. The High Commission strongly denies them", a statement said.Mahinda, notably, resigned as prime minister amid unprecedented economic turmoil in Sri Lanka on Monday, hours after his supporters attacked anti-government protesters.

Assam CM inaugurated NE Dairy Cooperative Conclave 2022

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 11: The Government of Assam here today signed an agreement with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) delegating the operational management of the East Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited to the national dairy body. The agreement was signed by representatives from both sides in presence of Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma at the day-long Northeast Dairy Cooperative Conclave 2022 held at Sankardev Kalakshetra complex. Addressing those present, Chief Minister Dr.Sarma expressed hope that today's agreement of handing over of operational management of the East Assam Milk Producers' Cooperative Union Limited would improve the financials of the ailing cooperative body, as it happened in the case of Purabi Dairy. The "Purabi Cattle Feed Plant" at Changsari was also commissioned remotely today by the Chief Minister at the event. The cattle feed plant will supply concentrated; nutritious cattle feed to farmers of the state. It is worth noting that lack of nutritious cattle feed is one of the most contributing factors behind low milk yield in the state. Assam Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister Atul Bora, lauding the Chief Minister's role in bringing about a revolutionary change in the state's dairy environment, listed out the various initiatives such as cold chain management, value addition, among



Field Visit of Nodal Officers from Assam State Disaster Management Authority at Morigaon District

Assam Rising , Bhuragaon 11 May : Report on Field Visit of Nodal Officers from Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) held on 11/05/2022 for Flood Preparedness for the year 2022-23 in Morigaon District on 11th May, 2022 On 11th May,2022, Nodal Officers from Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), Dr. Mirza Mohammad Irshad, Project Manager (R & R), ASDMA , Moharana Choudhury, Project Officer(DM) Env. & Forest arrived at Morigaon. The Nodal Officers attended a meeting with Circle Officers, all the Head of Line departments and NGOs in presence of Garga Mohan Das, ACS, Addl. Deputy Commissioner cum CEO, DDMA, Morigaon, Ranju Sarma, District Project Officer, Morigaon and all Field officers(Disaster Management)and discuss about the initiatives undertaken by District Disaster Management Authority, Morigaon for flood preparedness for the year 2022-23. After the meeting, the Nodal Officers visited Model Relief Camp "Gerua Higher Secondary School" under Bhuragaon Revenue circle along with Circle Officer, DPO and Field Officer(DM) and interacted with the Teaching staff of school, AAPDA MITRA volunteers and line departments. Further they had visited newly constructed embankment under Bhuragaon Water Resources Sub- Division at Japori village. After visit of Bhuragaon Revenue Circle , they had visited another Modal Relief Camp "Jagi Higher Secondary School" under Mayong Revenue Circle and interacted with the Teaching staff of school. Khairul Islam Bhuragaon Morigaon

Professors visited epitaph of Noel williamson



Assam Rising, Aalo, May 11 : Komsing Kumku village located at Siang district The central executive Body (CEB) of Ngugong Bangko Kebang (NBK), Pinky Debnath, Circle Officer of Rebo purging Circle led the professor. Ashan Riddi, Department of History, Dr. David Gao, Assistant professor Department of political Science and Ngamtang Naam, Research Assistant have visited the epitaph of Late. Noel Williamsons epitaph and to identify the unsung hero of Arunachal Pradesh who fought against the Britishers during the pre independence era of India. It is the project of the Government and they visited the Adi community museum which is now known as museum -Miyang Kumsung .The museum is decorated with Adi culture and traditional for the tourist. The visiting team is to identify the unsung heroes of Arunachal Pradesh appointed by the government.

Queen's speech: Boris Johnson 'bereft of ideas' to tackle cost of living crisis

London, May 11 : Boris Johnson was accused of being "bereft of ideas or purpose," after a Queen's speech that included 38 new bills but offered no specific measures to tackle the immediate cost of living crisis.Instead, the speech, delivered by the Prince of Wales amid the pomp of the state opening of parliament, included plans to tear up the Human Rights Act, make it harder for councils to rename streets and privatise Channel 4.The Labour leader, Keir Starmer, said the speech showed the government had no guiding principle, while Torsten Bell, the director of the Resolution Foundation thinktank, was equally withering."British politics is out of ideas," he said. "Further action has been promised on the cost of living, but there certainly wasn't any in the Queen's speech. It rightly highlighted the need for growth - the essential precondition for ending our living standards stagnation - but did little to actually bring it about."With the Queen unable to give the address for the first time in almost 60 years, Prince Charles began by saying: "My government's priority is to grow and strengthen the economy and help ease the cost of living for families".However, Johnson's programme for the new parliamentary session included a string of well-trailed and controversial plans, including banning disruptive protests and preventing universities from no-platforming speakers; but few new policies likely to boost the economy in the short term.



others, that have been taken by the government. He further appealed to the dairy farmers to make best use of these initiatives so that in days to come, they are in a position to give the farmers of the other states a run for their money in a healthy competitive environment. Senior officials of National Dairy Development Board and government of Assam were also present in today's event.

Brendon McCullum favourite to become England's Test head coach



London, May 11 : Brendon McCullum, the pioneering former New Zealand captain, has emerged as the favourite to become England's Test head coach with an announcement on the successful candidate due this week. Rob Key, the director of England men's cricket, is looking to recruit separate coaches for the Test and white-ball sides, with McCullum among those known to have been first sounded out and then interviewed during the past couple of days. It was widely believed the 40-year-old McCullum's application would relate to the limited-overs vacancy, given a nascent coaching career spent exclusively in franchise

T20 cricket and a close friendship with Eoin Morgan, England's white-ball captain. But there is now a growing expectation that McCullum may take charge of the Test set-up in a move that would combine his aggressive outlook with the captaincy of Ben Stokes, with a first assignment against New Zealand at Lord's on 2 June. If so it would mean Gary Kirsten missing out of the role once more, having been runner-up when Chris Silverwood was hired in 2019. That said, the former South Africa and India head coach has a strong reputation for augmenting sides with existing depth and so could yet secure

the equivalent position with the white-ball set-up. Paul Collingwood, currently an assistant coach with England, is another being considered for the limited-overs role while the former Australia batsman Simon Katich has similarly been part of a recruitment process that began when Key took charge of the men's national teams at the start of last month. Appointing McCullum for the Test team would be a bold move by Key and one that will invite questions about the domestic coaching landscape in England, not least since the former wicketkeeper-batter has never coached a first-class side himself.



Russell highlights relegation scrap as spark for Top 14 clubs' success in Europe

London, May 11 : Finn Russell believes the jeopardy of relegation in the Top 14 is a key factor

behind the success of the French clubs in the Champions Cup with Racing 92 one of three to reach the last four, which features no Premiership teams for the second year running. Russell scored a remarkable try in Racing's victory over Sale last Sunday to ensure a rematch of last season's semi-final against La Rochelle, on Sunday, while Leinster host Toulouse, the defending champions, in the other tie on Saturday. Sale's defeat leaves no English clubs in the reckoning in a tournament that was won by a Premiership side for four of the five seasons before the current lean spell began. Racing's side featured Russell, Teddy Thomas and Juan Imhoff while they were able to call on Virimi Vakatawa and the World Cup-winning prop Trevor Nyakane from the bench in a show of their strength in depth. While the salary cap in France has

recently been reduced, it sits at around £10m (£8.5m), significantly more than the Premiership, which has been trimmed to £5m. Furthermore, there will be dispensation for one marquee player to sit outside the cap, rather than two, from next season. That has led to a number of high-profile players leaving the Premiership - Sale are losing the World Cup winners Faf de Klerk and Lood de Jager - and though the fact there is no relegation for this season, the next and possibly longer dilutes the need for such star power on a domestic front, it could be hurting the Premiership's chances in Europe. "The number of players we have here in France and the recruitment we do, that helps a lot," said Russell. "In the Premiership just now, there's no relegation. Over here, teams are scrapping to stay out of that relegation battle - scrapping to stay up, or get into the Champions Cup."

Giro d'Italia: Juan Pedro López in the pink on Etna as Kämna takes stage



London, May 11 : German rider Lennard Kämna won the fourth stage of the Giro d'Italia on the slopes of Mount Etna while Juan Pedro López moved into the overall lead, as the Italian grand tour returned to home soil. Kämna, who rides for Bora-Hansgrohe, had time to raise his arms above his head as he crossed the line just ahead of López, who banged his handlebars in frustration having ridden wide at the final corner. Both of them had been part of an early breakaway, as was Rein Taaramäe, who finished third at the end of the 172km (107-mile) route from Avola that culminated on the steep climb up the volcano, as the riders faced their first serious test of this year's race. It was a second grand tour stage win for the 25-year-old Kämna, who won a stage on the Tour de France two years ago. "It was a super hard day, especially the last climb. It was really long and really hard," said Kämna. "I almost thought I lost it when López had more than 30 seconds and I just made it to bridge. Then I tried to recover a little bit for the sprint and it worked out really well."

Haaland is a fantasy player but he or Manchester City will have to change



London, May 11 : On the face of it this looks like the most basic piece of maths. Here is a move that can never be the wrong move. When life gives you lemons, sign Erling Haaland. When your squad doesn't have a first-team player whose chief skill is scoring goals, sign Erling Haaland. When six years of careful team-building brings you a Champions League semi-final exit with 31 shots at goal: sign Erling Haaland. To date Haaland's career has been a kind of extended marketing programme, a showcase for his preternatural ability to do exactly this. Here we have the cheat code player, a bolt-on goal-guarantee, the footballer as one-punch knockout

additions and subtractions. Teams can be brittle, high-spec things. Dig a little and the signing of Haaland is something of a departure for Pep Guardiola, even quite a reckless tactical move. Or at least one that will require a degree of applied intelligence on both sides. Haaland has become a far more complete player in the past two seasons. But the fact remains, a player who could have gone anywhere has signed for a coach who will instantly set about trying to change him. City have signed the one A-list goalscorer who looks an undeniably awkward fit. This is not to suggest the move will be a failure. That would be nuts. This is a mouthwatering prospect.

Sadio Mané completes comeback at Aston Villa to keep Liverpool in title race



Liverpool, May 11 : Jürgen Klopp had performed his triple fist pump in front of the travelling Liverpool support. The manager's pulse was still racing but the emotion was elation now - perhaps a bit of relief - rather than high stress. And then, as he prepared to disappear off down the tunnel, he glimpsed his match-winner. Sadio Mané had operated largely on the fringes. The striker had flashed one header wide and seen another effort pulled back for offside against Luis Díaz. But on 65 minutes, Mané sensed his opportunity. And how he made it count. On current form, you can only keep him out for so long. It was Díaz up the left, teasing Tyrone Mings before crossing, but the goal that settled this high-octane game and thrilled the entire nation (only joking, Pep) was all about the movement and ingenuity of Mané. He ghosted into space before shaping his body to fashion the power in the header. Emiliano Martínez

had no chance. Nor did Mané when Klopp got hold of him in the victory celebrations. There was a big bearhug before Klopp fixed him in a headlock, manhandling him playfully from the scene. Mané had seen a late effort cleared from in front of the line by Matty Cash but his eighth goal in

11 games proved the difference. Liverpool deserved the win that returns the pressure on to Manchester City ahead of the Premier League leaders' visit to Wolves on Wednesday night, although it was not easy. They needed Alisson to make a few saves, including two to keep out Danny Ings. The first

Resurgent Naby Keïta keeps Liverpool going when the limbs are screaming

London, May 11 : By the end, Alisson was trying to waste time. Sadio Mané was listlessly dribbling the ball into the corner in an attempt to burn away a few more seconds. Deep into injury time Naby Keïta started rolling around on the turf in apparent agony. Was it a cruciate? A broken leg? A debilitating muscle tear that would put him out for the season? Happily, as a victorious Keïta disappeared into the embrace of his teammates just a few seconds later, we have to conclude that he may just survive the night. Curiously, given his famously forthright views on teams adopting cynical tactics in an attempt to win games, Jürgen Klopp had very little to say about any of this afterwards. But then, perhaps it was understandable that aesthetics would be the last thing on his mind at Villa Park. This was the sort of win you have to extract like one of your own teeth, the sort of win

that almost feels too debasing to truly celebrate, the sort of win you pull out on the day your title rivals sign Erling Haaland for next season. But it was a quietly crucial win too, for no other reason than because there was no real alternative. Liverpool know deep down that they will probably finish second in this year's Premier League, and more painfully they know they

Parents of six-year-old marathoner reveal child protective services visit

London, May 11 : The Kentucky parents who have drawn criticism for running a marathon with their six-year-old son said that child protective services have since made an unannounced visit to their home to interview their children. Ben and Kami Crawford shared a photo of their youngest child, Rainier, purportedly being interviewed

by a staffer from the state's CPS department after an Instagram post detailing the boy's at time arduous journey in completing the Flying Pig Marathon in Cincinnati earlier this month.

Emily Upjohn can prevail in strong Musidora renewal

London, May 11 : Just five runners go to post for the Musidora Stakes at York on Wednesday but the field includes two of the first four fillies in the Oaks betting - Emily Upjohn and Life Of Dreams - as well as The Algarve, a potential improver from the Aidan O'Brien stable, which supplied last year's 14-1 winner, Snowfall. O'Brien has carried all before him in the Epsom Classic trials over the last 10 days, and while The Algarve has yet to race outside maiden company, the fact she is a daughter of Imagine, the 2001 Oaks winner, will also catch the eye of many punters. Total attendance at Chester's Prestigious May festival was 35,000, down 35% on 2019 figures. This looks like a strong renewal of the Musidora, however, and the unbeaten fillies Emily Upjohn and Life Of Dreams have as much scope for improvement and stronger form already in the book. Life Of Dreams, from the Charlie Appleby yard, won a Newbury maiden with ease on debut in mid-April but the clear form horse for Wednesday's feature event is Emily Upjohn (3.35), who defied a penalty to win by nearly 10 lengths at Sandown last month. Frankie Dettori suggested that John and Thady Gosden's filly had the "wow factor" afterwards, and the current joint-favourite for the Oaks - with O'Brien's Tuesday - could well be the clear market leader by Wednesday evening. York 1.50: Gaassee arrives with a similar profile to Ilaraab, who landed this competitive handicap for William Haggas on his seasonal debut 12 months ago. The form of his easy five-length defeat of Trevolli at Kempton in December was franked when the runner-up went on to win his next three starts, so a 9lb rise may not be enough to hold him back. Newton Abbot 2.05: Tulin was below his best last time out in December but has an obvious chance on earlier form and is back after a wind op on a 4lb lower mark.

Graham Thorpe 'seriously ill' and receiving treatment in hospital



London, May 11 : The former Surrey and England cricketer Graham Thorpe, 52, is seriously ill in hospital, according to a statement issued by the Professional Cricketers' Association at the request of his family. "Graham Thorpe has recently fallen seriously ill and is currently in hospital receiving treatment," the PCA said. "His prognosis is unclear at this stage and we ask for privacy for him and his family at this time. Our thoughts are with Graham and his family." Thorpe, a left-handed batter who became one of the finest English players of his generation, played 100 Tests and 82 one-day internationals during a 12-year international career, before retiring in 2005. He scored 49 first-class centuries and averaged 45.04. "The thoughts of everyone at the club are with Graham, his wife, Amanda, and family at this time," his former county said. "He is an icon of the English game, known by millions of cricket fans and forever a favourite son of Surrey CCC." After his playing career Thorpe moved into coaching, starting in Australia where he worked with Steve Smith and David Warner at New South Wales, before joining England initially as a batting coach. He had most

recently been assistant coach on the Ashes tour, which ended in a 4-0 defeat. After that tour Thorpe, along with the head coach, Chris Silverwood, and the director of cricket, Ashley Giles, was sacked as the

England and Wales Cricket Board set its sights on a "red ball reset". Thorpe was named in March as head coach of the Afghanistan men's team and was due to take charge of the side for the first time in Zimbabwe in June.

Super League and RFL announce 12-year deal with media giant IMG



London, May 11 : Rugby league's governing bodies in the UK have agreed a 12-year strategic partnership deal with the global media brand IMG to revolutionise the sport's long term prospects. The Rugby Football League and Super League have been in discussions about a new joint-venture company for almost a year, with the end goal finding a third party that could maximise the sport's growth. That process has now reached a conclusion with IMG, one of the most recognisable

sporting and events brands in the world, joining forces with the sport. Rugby league has not sold any of its assets or competition rights to the brand, with IMG instead coming on board as a strategic partner to help deliver improvements on everything from digital transformation to competition restructuring and the distribution of the game's media rights. IMG will be central to a new commercial arm of the sport that will drive all events and marketing. That will enable the RFL and Super League to focus on its own on-field competition matters. "Rugby league is loved for its thrilling, fast-paced action and we see tremendous

potential to further energise the sport and its competitions in the UK, engage with fans on a deeper level and drive long-term growth," the co-president of IMG Adam Kelly, said. "We are excited to embark on this long-term partnership with the RFL and Super League and look forward to utilising IMG and Endeavor's [IMG's holding company] unparalleled expertise, experience and global network to create and add value for rugby league and its commercial partners."

Emma Raducanu's injury woes continue in Rome exit to Bianca Andreescu

Rome, May 11 : The process of adjusting to the rigours and intensity of a full season always stood as a challenging task for Emma Raducanu after her US Open victory, but, even so, her inability to remain healthy has been alarming. Some sort of ailment has affected her during most weeks of this year and it played a defining role once more in her Italian Open debut on Tuesday. After blisters, a hip injury, back issues, illness and medical timeouts, Raducanu's struggles to find a sustained period of good health continued as she was forced to retire early in the second set of her high-profile first-round match against Bianca Andreescu with a lower



back injury, an imperious Andreescu moving on after Raducanu retired as she trailed 6-2, 2-1. The retirement is naturally a concern for Raducanu leading up to the French Open, her next tournament, which begins on 22 May. She arrived in Italy nursing the back injury she struggled with in her run to the third round of the Madrid Open last

week. During her practices here, she reached for her back numerous times and her movement was limited. "Definitely disappointed with how today went," she said. "But I wanted to give it a try. I never really knew how bad it was until I went out there. I'm still learning when it's right to push my body and push through it

and when's not. I guess that's something I'm learning at these tournaments." The long-awaited contest between two US Open champions, played out on Grandstand, the second-biggest but least attractive court, was one-sided from the beginning. Andreescu arrived on court attacking relentlessly and she maintained that intensity until the end, putting pressure on her opponent with brutal returning and delicate touches alike, controlling the baseline and attacking her heavy forehand relentlessly with minimal errors. Under such sustained pressure, Raducanu veered between passively dropping the ball too short or overhitting, her body

language was impassive and her movement limited. After Raducanu dropped serve for 1-2 with a double fault, Andreescu battered a backhand return winner to take the second break. Down 2-5 and flailing, Raducanu took a medical timeout for her back. After a lengthy break, a measure of Andreescu's confidence came as she calmly returned to serve out the set to love. She finished the set with 16 winners and two unforced errors and blasted nine more winners to open the second set. Raducanu decided to put herself out of her misery, telling the umpire: "I can't move." Despite the unsatisfying ending for Raducanu, the match still produced some constructive conclusions for her opponent. As Andreescu continues her first steps back from a six-month mental health break and a longer period filled with physical issues, she showed more glimpses of the quality and form that had marked her as one of the most hyped talents around a few years ago. Both are playing their first full clay court seasons, but for Andreescu this is particularly reflective of the injury struggles that have plagued the early years of her career. But here Andreescu is building up rhythm, confidence and match fitness and if she can remain fit then it is clear she can mark herself as a threat for the biggest titles again.

Female sports reporters rail against sexism at Scottish newspapers

London, May 11 : Female journalists have accused Scotland's newspapers of sexist and discriminatory attitudes towards sports reporters after controversy arose over misogynist jokes at an awards dinner. Women in Journalism Scotland (WiJS) has launched a campaign calling for far greater diversity among sports reporters after it discovered only three of Scotland's 95 full-time newspaper sports writers were women. A study by two master's students from the University of Strathclyde found evidence that male recruits were being paid more than women, despite having less experience, while a sports journalism course at a Scottish college had been attended by just eight women in its 13-year history; in many years its students were all male. The campaign, which is backed by the sports presenter Gabby Logan, was launched after a number of female journalists walked out of a football awards ceremony on Sunday night due to an after-dinner speaker peppering his speech with sexist, homophobic



and racist remarks. The Scottish Football Writers' Association (SFWA), which hosted the awards in Glasgow, apologised on Monday after Bill Copeland, a retired lawyer who is well known on the football after-dinner circuit, was accused of repeatedly using discriminatory language in his speech. Eilidh Barbour, a sports presenter for the BBC, Sky Sports and Amazon Prime, was among those who walked out in protest, tweeting after the event that she had "never felt so unwelcome in the industry I work in". Gabriella Bennett, a co-chair of WiJS, said that while she and all those at her table also stood up to leave in protest, most audience members were

laughing at Copeland's remarks. Logan said: "I can't believe I am reading all this in 2022. In 2022 there should be no barriers or discrimination to anyone who wants to enter our profession. And once there they should be made to feel welcome and encouraged to excel whoever they are." WiJS said its members and research had identified "sexist abuse, pay disparity, macho culture, male-dominated meetings and management structures, lack of opportunity, tokenism, lack of flexibility [and] barriers to a career path" as deterrents for women entering sports journalism, and as reasons why some left the industry.

Avesh Khan the cool cat from Indore, with no dhannat, no bhannat



New Delhi, May 11 : Last year, days after he was named in the Indian team, a very excited reporter from his hometown had asked Avesh Khan a question that had a rich sprinkling of charmingly rich Indori Hindi. Throwing in a couple of onomatopoeic local slangs she asked with unadulterated enthusiasm: "Indore apni dhannat and bhannat ke liye prachilit hai, aapki ball mai kitni dhannat and bhannat dekhi jayegi?" It will be on the weak legs of words like "thunder" and "swagger" that the English language can venture anywhere near dhannat and bhannat.

Avesh got the drift in the blink of an eye and it would have been so easy for the pacer, capable of consistently clocking in high 140 kph, to give the headline that the rookie had dreamt. But he let facts come in the way of a great headline. "Nahi dimaag se bowling daalu woh jyada better hai, nahi ki hosh kho ke. Agar thande dimag se bowling daalo toh jyada successful ho sakte ho (No it is better to bowl with a cool mind, that's what makes you succeed," he replied. Avesh was being truthful, his steady rise among the ranks is because of his calm mind and not his su-

personic deliveries. Even as a junior and an u-19 World Cup winner, the boy from Indore had got noticed because of his speed. Within a couple of years, he even touched 150 kph in a Syed Mushtaq game but Avesh was never seen as the next Shoaib Akhtar. Noone was rushing to call him Indore Express. His action too played a big role in him being seen as a thinking pacer. Avesh didn't charge to the crease, his was a run-up of a bowler keeping a close eye, plotting his dis-

missal while in stride. His final over today, the 19th of the LSG innings, was a joint-exhibition of his hot pace and "thanda dimag". Even with IPL's latest action hero, the unconventional power-hitter Rahul Tewatia on crease, Avesh was unfazed. He didn't let the typical pace bowler's perennial hate for agricultural sloggers show. He didn't want to bounce him out or damage his toe with a yorker. Tewatia kept moving around the crease, the Indore pacer kept bowling to his plan.

Australia's Wallaroos rue inaccuracy and impatience in rugby Test loss to Japan

Melbourn, May 11 : An off night with the boot from Lori Cramer and some impatient play has cost the Wallaroos in a reality-check 12-10 Test loss to Japan. Full-back Cramer missed both conversions and then a straightforward penalty kick with two minutes to play that would

have won the sloppy Tuesday night contest on the Gold Coast. But they had errors elsewhere to blame for the shock loss that came after beating Japan 46-3 in their last encounter almost three years ago. Captain Shannon Parry was frustrated but, after ending a near 1000-day wait between

Tests just last week, said they could learn from it ahead of October's World Cup. "It was a tough Test match, but we were our own worst enemy out there," she said. "Every time we turned it over they made us pay." They smothered their attack and did that well to night and we struggled to secure our breakdown and we failed at that [controlling the ball]. "But we've been together less than 10 days now. We want to be up there at the end of the year so it's a really good learning experience." Sharp in attack in Friday's defeat of Fiji, the Wallaroos were smothered at Bond University and unable to find the patience needed in a first half that fin-



Kolkata to host big bridge championship

KOLKATA, May 11 : About 300 players representing more than 50 teams will take part in the 4th All India Shree Cement Bridge Tournaments which will be held at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre at New Town, Rajarhat from May 12-

15. Each team will feature six players. This prestigious championship is being organized by the Corporate Bridge Association of India under the aegis of Bridge Federation of India and would be held for the team as well as pairs events. The championship

will be the First Category-1 National bridge event after the Covid-19 pandemic shut down all offline games. Bridge Federation of India has decided that the leading pairs of the team as well as pairs will get maximum ranking points from this event. These points col-

lected over four legs of the championship will come into play during the Indian team selection trials. Almost all reputed international and national masters of the game including the medal winners of the last Asian Games will be seen in action.

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