



सरकार अस्सम  
Government of Assam

On way to  
**Fulfilling another Promise**



मेरी सरकार

Ceremonial distribution of  
**Appointment Letters to 22,958 new recruits**  
 in 11 departments of Government of Assam

by  
**Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma**  
 Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam

In presence of  
**Ministers in-charge of the departments**

**Home**

- Platoon Commander - 40
- Sub-inspector - 73
- Constable (AB/UB/APRO/F&ES) - 8,754
- Total - 8,867**

**Education**

**Elementary Education**

- LP School Teacher - 5,639
- UP School Teacher - 1,783
- Total - 7,422**

**Secondary Education**

- Post Graduate Teacher - 1,296
- Graduate Teacher - 2,221
- Total - 3,517**

**Higher Education**

- Assistant Professor - 123
- Librarian - 1
- Total - 124**

**Public Health Engineering (PHE)**

- Assistant Engineer - 66
- Junior Engineer - 264
- Total - 330**

**Water Resources**

- Junior Engineer - 105

**Social Welfare**

- COFOs - 69

**Health**

- Directorate of Medical Education - 145
- Directorate of Health Services - 1,005
- Directorate of Health Services (Family Welfare) - 49
- Atal Amrit Abhiyan - 429
- National Health Mission - 791
- Total - 2,419**

**Agriculture**

- Junior Assistant (District) - 26
- Agriculture Extension Assistant - 22
- Field Assistant (CIS) - 7
- Total - 55**

**Environment & Forest**

- Forester - 7
- Forest Guard - 7
- Constable - 9
- Total - 23**

**PWD(Roads)**

- Junior Assistant - 8

**Mines & Minerals**

- Junior Assistant - 1
- Peon - 1
- Total - 2**

**Labour Welfare**

- Insurance Medical Officer - 17








**Regular appointment already done (since 10th May 2021)**

**4,779**



**Venue: Veterinary College Playground, Khanapara**

**Date: 14 May 2022**

**Time: 11:30 am**

**Appointees are requested to be present at the venue by 10 am**

They must carry their admit card/selection list or any other valid document

# 'Junaki' award conferred to Parthajit Boruah



**Assam Rising Nagaon, May 13:** Noted shot film maker and internationally recognised film critic - Parthajit Boruah will

be presented the 'Junaki' award by the leading musical brand organization of the district 'Sur Samaloy' Nagaon on May 16 here at

a function. The brand organization will confer the prestigious award for the fourth year. Significantly, Boruah made an Assamese

short documentary film "Breaking the silence" on the lives of a female music brand and its musical journey across the state which was being invited to a host of international film festivals across the globe and also claimed a series of international awards

## Education minister Dr. Pegu visited schools in Sipajhar

**Assam Rising, Sipajhar, May 13:** State Education Minister Dr Ranaj Pegu has stressed on the change of mindset of both students, teachers and guardians for the all round development of the education sector in the state for the greater interest of the future of the society. He has expressed his thought provoking views while interacting with the teachers of the Sipajhar Higher Secondary and Multipurpose School in Darrang district. Furthermore he also stressed on the development and proper use of the school libraries to develop the book reading habits and adequate use of their leisure time. Talking with the correspondents he also stressed on the need to organize alumni of the school so that their services can be used for the academic development of schools. The Minister visited the Sipajhar Higher Secondary and Multipurpose, Patharughat Higher Secondary School, Duni Higher Secondary School, Changaliar High School and Garukhuti Higher Secondary School on May 12. During his visit he has discussed the grievances of those schools in detail. Talking with the students of those schools while he has visited the classrooms he

and recognitions. Noted Assamese film actress Maloya Goswami, artiste Surya Das, film makers- Bani Das, Bobi Sarma Boruah and litterateur Maini Mahanta will be present in the award presentation function as invitees, a release added.

has called upon the students to be attentive in their studies. MLA, Sipajhar Legislative Assembly Constituency Dr Paramananda Rajbansi accompanied him during the visit. Talking with this correspondent the MLA has expressed his gratitude to the Education Minister and also informed that he has kept a vision for the both academic and infrastructural development of the educational institutions in the entire Sipajhar Legislative Assembly Constituency.



## Rain dampens the Rongali Bihu celebration in Hojai

**Assam Rising, Hojai, May 13:** Amid incessant rain, Rongali Bihu Sammilan began the two days Bihu celebration with enthusiasm at Gandhi Vidyapith High School in Bishnupally in Hojai on Friday. However, the continuous rain interrupted the celebration. At the very outset, Dr. Dibakar Goswami, President, Rongali Bihu Sammilan hoisted the Bihu flag along with the members. Talking to this Correspondent, Dr. Diwakar Goswami, President and Pintu Deb, General Secretary said, "Due to rain we had to shorten our programme." "We have canceled our traditional procession, somehow we managed to hoist the Bihu flag and the artists from the ethnic groups have performed inside the pandal.", They added. They further said We pray almighty to cease the rain, so that we can hold the other events as per the schedule, uninterrupted in high tone.

## 'Junaki' award conferred to Parthajit Boruah

**Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 13:** Noted shot film maker and internationally recognised film critic - Parthajit Boruah will be presented the 'Junaki' award by the leading musical brand organization of the district 'Sur Samaloy' Nagaon on May 16 here at a function. The brand organization will confer the prestigious award for the fourth year. Significantly, Boruah made an Assamese short documentary film "Breaking the silence" on the lives of a female music brand and its musical journey across the state which was being invited to a host of international film festivals across the globe and also claimed a series of international awards and recognitions. Noted Assamese film actress Maloya Goswami, artiste Surya Das, film makers- Bani Das, Bobi Sarma Boruah and litterateur Maini Mahanta will be present in the award presentation function as invitees, a release added.

## Gunotsav: Minister Suklabaidya visits school in Goalpara

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 13:** As part of three-phase Gunotsav 2022, Minister for Environment and Forest, Fisheries and Excise, Parimal Suklabaidya visited a school in Goalpara district to assess education in the aftermath of COVID-19 pandemic. Minister Suklabaidya visited Dudhnoi Girls' High School in the morning hours and interacted with the students and teachers alike. Exchanging pleasantries, Minister Suklabaidya in the capacity of external evaluator assessed the quality of education being imparted in the school. Later taking to twitter, Minister Suklabaidya said, "As per direction of Hon'ble CM, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, I interacted today with the students of Dudhnoi Girls' High School in Goalpara as part of Gunotsav 2022. Impressed with the smartness of the students and their behaviour." Minister Suklabaidya also praised the school authorities for creating a congenial environment in which education is being imparted to the students. Later, Minister Suklabaidya planted saplings in the school premises and also distributed saplings to over 350 students. The Minister urged the students to play a proactive role in rais-

ing awareness about nature conservation. Suklabaidya also inspected the Baghmara Reserve Forest in Dudhnoi and took stock of the beautiful nursery maintained by the Goalpara SF Division. The three-phase Gunotsav that kicked off from May 11 will continue till June 4 in which 46,000 schools comprising 42.50 lakh students will be assessed since the outbreak of COVID-19. Chief Minister, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, his cabinet colleagues, IAS, IPS and IFS officers will visit classrooms for quality assessment as well as identification of learning gaps. The BJP-led state government adopted Gunotsav from the Gujarat model with the same nomenclature in 2017. All government, provincialised, tea garden management schools of elementary and secondary levels in 33 districts of the state will be covered during Gunotsav 2022. The programme is being held under the aegis of the Education department and the Axom Sarba Siksha Abhiyan. Over 18,000 external evaluators have been engaged for the task and they include the Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary, ministers, MLAs and government officials. In the first phase, schools in 10 districts

of Biswanath, Bongaigaon, Charaideo, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Goalpara, Karimganj, Karbi-Anglong and Nagaon will be covered. The prime objectives of Gunotsav will be to identify learning gaps of each and every child and ensure quality education with grade specific learning outcomes. The key parameters in which performance of schools will be evaluated are in areas of scholastic, co-scholastic, availability and utilisation of infrastructure and community participation.

## Drugs peddler arrested in Bordumsa

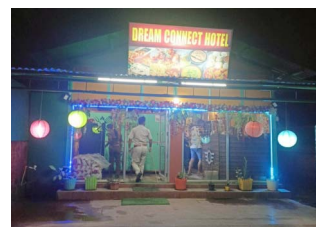


**Assam Rising, Margherita May 13:** Acting on specific information Bordumsa police Thursday arrested two drug peddlers. Acting on a tip-off regarding selling of illicit drugs, the Bordumsa police conducted a search operation on Thursday day and recovered contraband drugs

filling containers and arrested two drug peddlers. The arrested drugs peddler has been identified as Binud Dohutia (33) S/o Ghono Kanta Dohutia, Miholi gaon, and Amol Moran (47) S/o Late Jogot Moran Dirak Pothar Village. Both are arrested under Bordumsa police station in Tinsukia. Seized items were 07 seven grams of Brown Sugar, 26 grams of Opium, cash rupees 26500, blank container 10 Nos, two nos mobile Phone. As per reports, the items have been seized as per procedure and a case has been registered of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 against them at the Laharighat Police Station

## Illicit liquor confiscated at Margherita

**Assam Rising Margherita May 13:** Margherita and Digboi Excise circles conducted a joint excise search, patrolling, and raid on Thursday



night under the direction of Prashanto Dutta, deputy superintendent of Excise, Margherita and Digboi Excise circle. Excise raids were carried out in the areas of Bargolai (Dream connect Dhaba), Hamukjaan, Hillview (Bihutoli), and Margherita Town (near NRL petrol pump), all of which are under the jurisdiction of the Margherita police station. During the Excise raid, a total of four instances were detected, with roughly 25 litres of illicit distilled liquor and approximately 300 litres of fermented wash being confiscated and destroyed.

### SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Guwahati Building Circle-I, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati-1 on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites sealed tender eventually to be drawn on F-2 Form affixing non refundable court fee stamps of Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only from APWD Building upto date registered contractor of Class-I (A,B,C), Class-II contractor (under this Circle) and Class-III (under E.E., P.W.D., Rangia, Kamalpur & Hajo Territorial Building Division, Rangia) for the work of "Repairing / Renovation of A.N.M. Quarter (twin type) at Baranghati MPHIC in Kammp(R). Assam" with Approx. Tender Value Rs.10,7&,594.00 (Excluding Cost Index), having experience of similar nature of work.

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer, P.W.D.  
Guwahati Building Circle Fancy  
Bazar, Guwahati-1

Janasanyog/C/2426/22

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### SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tender in F-2 form affixing Court Fee stamp of Rs 825 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) only with a validity period of 180 (one hundred eighty) days are invited from Registered APWD (Building) Contractors for the work as detailed in the table below:-

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated value of work (Approx)	Bid Security/ Earnest money	Cost of tender paper	Date of Application	Date of issue of tender paper	Time & date of receiving/ opening of Tender	Time of completion	Eligibility of contractor
1	Repairing & Renovation, roof treatment, cracked walls of room & bathroom and the apron of quarter No.206 at DHS Complex, Hengrabari, Guwahati-36.	Rs. 6,10,173.00	2% for general and 1% for reserved category	Rs. 200.00	18.05.2022 to 19.05.2022 up to 4:00 PM	20.05.2022 to 21.05.2022 up to 4:00 PM	Receiving up-to 2:00 PM of 24.05.2022 and opening at 2:30 PM of 24.05.2022	30 (thirty) days	Registered APWD (Building) Class-I (A,B,C), Class-II (Under Guwahati Bldg. Circle-II) and Class-III (Under this Division)

Detailed particulars may be seen during office hours of any working days in the office of the undersigned. Contractors will have to submit application for tender paper along with self attested copy of current APWD Registration Certificate, GST Registration, Pan Card, Labour Licence and cost of tender paper as detailed above in the form of Bank Draft/Banker Cheque drawn in any Nationalized Bank in favour of Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Dispur & Guwahati East Territorial Building Division, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati-1. Tender paper will be issued to the contractors or to their authorized agents up-to 4.00 PM in working day as mentioned above from the office of the undersigned. Bid security in the form of FDR/CDR duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer, P.W.D., Dispur & Guwahati East Territorial Building Division, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati-1 is to be submitted along with the tender paper.

Performance Security/Security Deposit Money as per norms and additional Performance Security as per Chief Engineer PWD (Building)'s letter No-BN/12/82/Pt-1/84, dt. 15.02.2011 if required is to be furnished by the successful bidder when notified.

If for any reason, the last date of receiving and opening of tender is declared as holiday, the same will be received and opened on the next working day. The undersigned will be the sole authority to cancel any tender without showing any reason.

- N.B:-**
1. Prospective bidders are suggested to visit the proposed work site before submission of lender.
  2. This Short NIT will form a part of the tender agreement.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer P.W.D  
Dispur & Guwahati East Territorial  
Building Division, Guwahati-1

Janasanyog/C/2452/22

### SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Notice No.TB-798/Elect/2022-23/287

Sealed Tenders in prescribed form affixing non-refundable court fee stamps Rs.8.25 (Rupees Eight & paise twenty five) only subsequently to be drawn up in printed P.W.D. "F-2 Form" are invited for the following electrical work from APWD (Electrical) registered Class-I(A,B,C)/Class-II/Class-III Contractor having valid electrical License and will be received up to 14.00 hours on 19/05/2022. Tenders will be opened by the undersigned at his Office at 14.-30 hours on the same day.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work	Cost of Tender Paper	Period of Completion
1	Installation of Air-Conditioner in the chamber of Director of Health Services, Assam & Conference Hall of the Directorate	Rs.5,41,172.00	Rs.200.00	7 days

- 1) Tender Papers may be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during office hour on submission of application alongwith supporting documents and cost of Tender papers in the form of latest IPO on or before 18/05/2022.
- 2) If the last date of issuing/opening of Tender is declared as State Holiday for any reason, Tender will be issued or received on the next working day.
- 3) 2% Security Deposit Money in the form of FD/TDR should be pledged in favour of the undersigned and has to be deposited by the selected Tenderer at the time of Agreement.
- 4) Following documents have to be furnished along with Application requesting for Tender papers.
  - (i) Attested copy of up to date GST Registration certificate with PAN Card
  - (ii) Attested copy of valid APWD Registration
  - (iii) Attested copy of up to date electrical License
  - (iv) Attested copy of valid Supervisor License
  - (v) Attested copy of Labour registration certificate
  - (vi) Work done certificate with a List of Electrical Tools and Plants.
- 5) VAT/GST as per prevailing Govt. norms is included in the NIT Value. Hence, Tenderer should quote their rates carefully considering GST or other Taxes.
- 6) This Short N.I.T. will form a part of Contract Agreement.
- 7) The Undersigned reserves the rights for issuing the Tender document or rejection of any application of Tenderer.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer, P.W.D.  
Guwahati Electrical Division  
Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog/C/2427/22



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# The Assam Rising

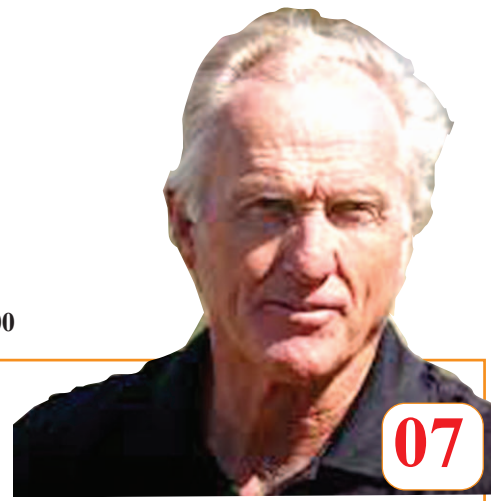
Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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**Congress has to split to revive  
- it's the only way to free....**

04

**'Seriously misguided': Amnesty  
angry at Greg Norman's...**



07

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Artificial floods

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 13 :

Parts of Guwahati are reeling under artificial floods, causing severe inconvenience to the commuters. Areas like Zoo Road, Chandmari, Dispur, and Hatigaon have been immensely affected by the rainfall as water accumulation caused traffic jams. On the other hand, the ongoing construction works have added to the woes of the commuters. It has become a recurring phenomenon of the city causing hindrance in commutation for public and private transport system. The artificial flood of Guwahati has made the people suffer since a long time.

### Earthquake jolts

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 13 :

An earthquake measuring 4.2 on the Richter Scale hit Arunachal Pradesh's South Changlong on Friday noon, the National Center for Seismology informed. According to the NCS, the tremors had a depth of 120 km at 222 km south of the state's south Changlong. Earthquake of Magnitude: 4.2, Occurred on 13-05-2022, 12:39:30 IST, Lat: 25.77 & Long: 97.00, Depth: 120 Km. Location: 222 km S of Changlong, Arunachal Pradesh, India, "the NCS tweeted. Earlier in the morning, an earthquake of magnitude 3.5 was felt in Himachal Pradesh's Dharamshala at 7.46 AM, whose depth of 5 km occurred at 57 km north-northwest of Dharamshala.

### ASSP medals

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 13 :

A total of 920 personnel of the 10th Nagaland Armed Police (Indian Reserve) Battalion were accorded Antrik Suraksha Seva Padak (ASSP) medals. The medals were presented by Nagaland Director General of Police (DGP) T John Longkumer on Thursday. The Ministry of Home Affairs has instituted ASSP in 2018 for police personnel showing outstanding performance during two years of continuous service in insurgency-affected areas.

## Administration uprooting 3 million tea plants in Daloo tea garden to build airport



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 13 :

After days of tension and speculation, the Assam

## CM lays foundation stone for ferry terminal

Assam now provides 5 more services online as compared to Delhi in transport sector: CM



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 13 :

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday dedicated a slew of services to the people of the state in a ceremony organised by the Transport department at the IWT Ghat near Fancy Bazar. Laying the foundation stone for the construction of the "Guwahati Gateway Ghat" (ferry terminal) to

be built at a cost of a whopping Rs. 289 crore opposite the multi-level car parking at Fancy Bazar, the Chief Minister stated that ever since taking over charge as the executive head of the state, bringing a marked change in the transport sector has been his top priority. Speaking on the Guwahati Gateway Terminal, the Chief Minister stated: "There are such state-of-the-art termi-

nals for sea transportation in the country but this project (Guwahati Gateway Ghat) will be the first-of-its-kind terminal to be commissioned on a river system. To be completed by L&T within 24 months, this would ensure safe transportation of passengers in Guwahati and nearby ghats during all seasons." He further added, "All modern amenities such as cafes,

canteen, ramp, etc, to give the passengers a pleasant experience will be in place. We want to ensure that passengers and tourists here too have the same experience as passengers and tourists in countries such as Singapore and other foreign countries." "We are also about to embark on construction of small modular terminals at places such as Dhubri, Bahari, among others, which will go a long way in improving the river transport system between various districts of the state," the Chief Minister said. Flagging off the two steel-made catamaran ships as part of the government's plan to dedicate 20 such ships (of which 8 have already been commissioned and providing services at various ghats of the state) to the people of the state aimed at overhaul of the river transport system, the Chief Minister exuded confidence these ships, equipped with the latest technologies will

be able to significantly reduce river accidents and mishaps, while at the same time connecting the various ghats of the state with one another. "These (catamaran ships) are equipped with high-tech navigational gadgets and are designed so as to enable them to ply at low draft. The Chief Minister also launched 12 Aadhar-based contactless services for the people and another initiative called "CM-Trans", both related to the transport department. Speaking on these,

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## SC Dismisses Plea Seeking Postponement of NEET PG 2022 Exam

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 13 :

The Supreme Court on Friday has dismissed the plea

seeking postponement of National Eligibility Cum Entrance Test (NEET) PG 2022 Exam. A bench led by justice DY Chandrachud heard the case and gave its verdict. Since Supreme Court's decision on the exam is to NOT postpone it, NEET PG 2022 exam date will now be the same i.e., May 21, 2022. The exam will be held in offline mode for everyone. More so, NEET PG admit cards will be releasing soon, on May 16, 2022 on the official website - nbe.edu.in. Even at the be-

ginning of the hearing, Justice DY Chandrachud had remarked that the postponement of NEET exam wasn't a great idea as the exam was only causing a hardship to some student. The Bench even remarked that there are students who prepared for NEET PG 2022 and it was not right for them. It was further stated that NEET PG 2022 postponement is likely to create chaos and uncertainty. Moreover, any delay in exam is likely to

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## Mohali RPG attack: Canada resident conspirator, Khalistan-ISI link unearthed

New Delhi, May 13 :

The Punjab Police on Friday arrested six people in connection with the rocket-propelled grenade blast that took place at the Punjab Police Intelligence headquarters in Mohali on Monday. Khalistani terrorist group Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and local gangsters were involved in the attack carried out on the behest of Pakistani intelligence agency ISI. Canada resident Lakhbir Singh Landa, a close associate of Pakistan-based Khalistani terrorist Harvinder Singh Rinda is the main conspirator of the attack, Punjab DGP VK Bhawra said in a press conference. Landa al-



legedly carried out the RPG attack with the help of associates Nishan Singh and Chadat Singh, both residents of Tarn Taran. The Police said one Nidhas Singh arranged the stay of attackers at his house and his contacts. The police said Nishan Singh collected RPG from the locations given by Landa and provided to the attackers. Baljinder Singh Rambo, another resident of Tarn Taran, picked up AK-47 rifle and

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## UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed dies

Riyadh, May 13 :

UAE announces 40 day mourning on Sheikh Khalifa's death, who served as the President of the UAE and ruler of Abu Dhabi since November 3, 2004. UAE President and ruler of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan passed away on Friday, local reports quoting the Ministry of Presidential Affairs said. "The

Ministry of Presidential Affairs condole the people of the UAE, the Arab and Islamic nation and the world over the demise of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the president of the UAE," an Emirates News Agency-WAM, statement read. The Ministry of Presidential Affairs has mourned to the UAE people, Arab and Islamic

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## Chemistry professor, teacher and a cop: 3 J&K govt employees sacked over terror links



SRINAGAR, May 13 :

The J&K government on Friday terminated the services of three employees including a Professor in the Chemistry Department, University of Kashmir, under Article 311(2) (c) of the Constitution of India over

their alleged terror links. Two other employees who were dismissed without holding inquiry include a policeman from Doda and a teacher from the Kupwara district. So far, since May last year, the government

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## Sri Lanka's New PM Takes Charge, Says "Thank Prime Minister Modi"

Colombo: Sri Lanka's new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has said he looks forward to closer ties with India during his term and thanked India for its economic assistance to the country as it tackles the worst economic crisis since independence. Ranil Wickremesinghe, 73, was sworn-in as Sri Lanka's 26th Prime Minister on Thursday to stabilise the country's debt-ridden economy and end the political turmoil. "I want a closer relationship and I want to thank Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi," Prime Minister Wickremesinghe said, referring to the Indian economic assistance to his country. His remarks came during a religious ceremony held here last night after he took the oath. India has committed more than USD 3 billion to debt-ridden Sri Lanka in loans, credit lines and credit swaps since January this year. India on Thursday said it looked forward to working with the new Sri Lankan government formed in ac-



cordance with the democratic processes and New Delhi's commitment to the people of the island nation will continue. The 73-year-old United National Party (UNP) leader took over as the prime minister as the country was without a government since Monday when President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's elder brother and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned as PM after violence erupted following an attack on the anti-government protesters by

his supporters. The attack triggered widespread violence against Rajapaksa loyalists, leaving nine people dead and wounding over 200 others. Prime Minister Wickremesinghe said his focus was limited to tackling the economic crisis. "I want to settle this problem to ensure the supply of petrol, diesel and electricity to the people," Prime Minister Wickremesinghe said. Sri

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## Space Agriculture: Mankind's Next Big Leap?

New Delhi, May 13 :

Space agriculture soon could become a significant gift of modern science. Just like Neil Armstrong's famous quote, 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,' which he spoke after landing on the lunar surface on July 21, 1969, scientists believe that space agriculture could soon become pos-

sible - a giant leap in the history of human civilisation. According to a report published in the journal Communications Biology on May 12, 2022, scientists have for the first time grown plants in lunar soil brought back by astronauts in the Apollo programme. The research, thus, has given researchers and scientists the hope that agriculture and growing plants on the lunar surface could become possible in future. Growing plants on the

lunar surface would save future space missions much hassle and expense, facilitating longer and farther trips. However, according to the study's University of Florida authors, much remains to be studied on the topic, and they intend to leave no stone unturned. Bill Nelson, the administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), said "this research is critical to



NASA's long-term human exploration goals" and

added that the space

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## THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 86 SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022

## Poverty in developed country

Every year, more than 90,000 people experience poverty in the UK in the last year of their life. We also know that those reaching the end of their lives are far more likely to be trapped in poverty than those who are not, especially if they are of working age. The health impacts of grinding hardship increase the likelihood that people become ill and die early. But becoming ill or disabled also pulls people into poverty through the loss of work and higher costs such as specialist equipment, dietary supplements or heating. It is a vicious circle. Every year, terminal care nurses go into homes and provide care and comfort for thousands of people with terminal illnesses. They see first-hand how poverty exacerbates the symptoms of illness, weakens the immune system and heightens the risk of more infections and a faster, more painful death. What's more, they see families suffering stress, pain and guilt because they are unable to keep their loved ones warm and comfortable in their final days. Many people on low incomes are trapped in homes that are cold, damp and mouldy - miserable for anyone, but especially dangerous for someone who has advanced cancer or chronic kidney disease. On average, energy bills double after a terminal diagnosis, due to the need for warmer environments. Four in 10 Marie Curie nurses say fuel poverty made their patients' physical and mental health worse. Food Foundation research shows that the number of adults in "food insecurity" jumped from 4.7m in January to 7.3m in April this year. Record numbers are turning to food banks and seeking debt advice from charities such as Citizens Advice. The Bank of England predicts inflation will reach 10% this year. Energy bills could rise by another £900 this autumn. When we focus on those on benefits needing end-of-life care, the picture becomes starker: six in 10 people with a terminal diagnosis rely on benefits. These are manifestly failing to protect them from rising prices. After years of cuts and freezes, the government's steadfast refusal to raise benefits to cover anything close to the actual cost of living effectively amounts to a £500 cut, according to estimates.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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## Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,  
The Assam Rising  
Guwahati, Assam

## NFT scams, toxic 'mines' and lost life savings the cryptocurrency dream is fading fast



Cryptocurrencies, according to their most ardent supporters, are supposed to supplant nations' existing currencies and end central banks' control over the money supply. Instead, individuals will be able to trade with each other in a decentralised, digital financial ecosystem. This is a good thing, they promise, because unlike states and their central banks, technology is incorruptible. Crypto-evangelists imagine technology as a replacement for social and political institutions. But technology never replaces social and political behaviour; it merely alters the rules and norms we follow. To see this in action, one need only look at the plummeting value of Terra Luna, a crypto token that crashed by 98% in a day, causing some investors to lose their life savings; the plunging value of Bitcoin and

Ethereum; or the countless scam victims whose non-fungible tokens (NFTs) have been stolen. NFTs use the same blockchain technology as cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, to trade algorithmically generated illustrations that riff on a theme. On offer are cartoonish Bored Apes, Lazy Lions and "Crypto DickButts". Although NFTs are aesthetically uninspiring, they can sell for as much as \$91.8m - and as they have grown in value, scams involving stolen NFTs have abounded. Just last month the Bored Ape Yacht Club's Instagram account was hacked, and the perpetrators stole about \$3m worth of NFTs by directing followers to a fraudulent site. When a scammer steals a CryptoDickButt, all the ecstatic manifestos about the decentralised power of the blockchain disappear, as scam

### David A Banks

victims plead with the handful of crypto exchanges to block the sale of their stolen NFT. The underlying technology and its tokens might be decentralised (and even that claim is questionable, given that cryptomarkets are wildly concentrated in the hands of a few hundred people), but where you can actually buy, use and sell these things is still limited to a few services and exchanges. This forces crypto fans to recognise a hard truth:

cryptocurrencies and contracts are only as valuable or enforceable as the people and institutions that recognise their legitimacy. Blockchain technology does not change this fact whatsoever. In turn, states and institutions have begun to treat crypto as a potentially destabilising geopolitical force, capping and taxing the ravenous amounts of energy that crypto mines consume. The crypto mining industry already consumes 0.55% of global energy production - about as much as a small country. Some have gone so far as to put the kibosh on blockchain technology altogether. China effectively banned the mining and use of cryptocurrencies in late 2021; prior to that, the country was far and away the largest bitcoin miner by volume, accounting for as much as 75% of global volume in September 2019. Its reasons for banning crypto are likely a

determine after scrutinising his tax returns. But the Congress party has certainly lost another round at the attempts to show signs of life. The over-a-century-old party, which was in power at the Centre and in various states for a major part of the 75 years of India's Independence, has gone into a state of deep coma in the last seven years. This induced inertia seems to have seized the

organisation so strappingly that intermittent victories such as the recent one in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, fail to make headlines or enthuse party workers. It is evident that Congress candidates have probably won not because of its apex leadership but in spite of them being there. So where does the Congress go from here? The party has a choice either to revive and strengthen itself once again or go into oblivion and be written off forever. Although the party can't be written off yet, its current state of stupor has greatly affected its image and benefitted its friends and foes alike. Many Congress stalwarts who could win a good number of seats have either left the party to join the BJP or withdrawn into a shell and nowhere seen in public. They might either be waiting for their opportunity to reappear on the scene once the party bounces back or might be looking for an opportune moment to jump the ship. Either way, the loss is for the Congress. Any more procrastination on its part to set its house in order will seriously affect its prospects in 2024. Given the current mood within the party, it appears to be difficult to predict even a double-digit win for the Congress in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The only choice left for the Congress is revival. There is a churning going on within the party. But those who are coming very close to a solution are still afraid to openly demand the removal of the "Gandhi triumvirate" from the apex leadership. It is common knowledge that the 'mother-son-daughter' leadership has failed to lead the party to victory but the votaries of change are willing to strike but afraid to hurt. Individually and collectively,

combination of curbing the power consumption of crypto mines, protecting citizens from scams and controlling the flow of money both within the country and with China's trading partners. To date, China is the only government that has made an aggressive move towards ridding itself of this technology, but other nations face similar problems. Russia has been learning this lesson in the last few months, starting in January when crypto miners set up shop in nearby Kazakhstan after getting kicked out of China. Their mining servers took a heavy toll on the central Asian nation's electricity grid, using as much as 8% of its total energy-generating capacity as they swiftly became the second-biggest crypto producer behind the United States. Despite efforts to control the industry through energy taxation, citizens in Kazakhstan rioted over high fuel prices and unreliable electricity. Russian and neighbouring nations' troops were called in to quell the violence in January, even as most of their attention was focused on Ukraine. The war in Ukraine is proving to be different but an equally decisive moment for the geopolitics of crypto. The vice prime minister of Ukraine, Mykhailo Fedorov, announced on 3 March that his government would issue an NFT to raise money for the war effort.

# Modi is a polarising figure and that's not a bad thing. But we need answers to 3 questions



government abandoned **Vir Sanghvi** is so terrified of offending the government that editors and proprietors have been transformed from the Rottweilers they were during UPA 2 to poodles who are eager to seek approval. But this is not the first government to act against the media. In Atal Bihari Vajpayee's time, the owners of hostile publications were raided. Rajiv Gandhi filed scores of cases against The Indian Express. And Indira Gandhi imposed press censorship. Nobody can be pleased with the state of the media today. But there are precedents and the difference is one of degree. If you talk to critics of the prime minister, you discover that almost all of their concerns, while often valid, are not enough to justify the horror and fear with which they regard him. It is not until you get past the stuff about the economy, relations with China, misuse of agencies etc, that you get into the heart of the matter. The real reason why the prime minister is such a polarising figure is none of the things that are said about him in TV debates and in the press. It is because Narendra

Modi's government seeks to overturn the consensus on which India was founded. If you go back to the things that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leaders and 'thinkers' said in the years before India became Independent (and for a while afterwards), you will find stuff that even the RSS is embarrassed about (a generous view of Adolf Hitler and the Nazis, for instance). But you will also discover a view of India that is totally at odds with the India that Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, and B.R. Ambedkar wanted to create. The difference between the two views can be summed up in a single phrase: 'Hindu-Muslim'. While the founders of our Constitution opted for an India where Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, etc., all had equal claim to the country, the RSS wanted India to be a Hindu nation. To be fair, contrary to the caricature that is now being spread, the RSS did not want the genocide of Muslims. It merely wanted them to accept that they were living in a Hindu country. Consider this quote from M.S. Golwalkar, the RSS chief who regarded Muslims as descendants of invaders: "Foreign races must lose their separate existence to merge into the Hindu race, or may stay in this country wholly subordinated to the Hindu nation, deserving no privileges, far less preferential treatment not even citizen's rights." There is more in a similar vein. It is no accident that so much of the Hindu Right's rhetoric is about the Mughals. In that era, Hindus were in the majority and went about their business peacefully. But there was no doubt that the rulers were Muslims and often Hindus were denied rights and

even taxed on the basis of their religion. In an ideal situation, the Hindu Right would want those roles reversed. Muslims would be made aware that they were ruled by Hindus and that Hindu ways would prevail. After all, they say, if Hindus could live like that under the Mughals, why can't Muslims live like that in today's India? Once you recognise this, then almost everything that the Hindu Right says (from the loonies to the leaders) follows that logic. That's why no roads should be named after Mughal rulers. (The Delhi BJP now wants to change the names of Akbar Road and Humayun Road.) That's why no city should have a Muslim-sounding name. (Prayagraj rather than Allahabad and so on.) That's why Muslims should not be allowed to eat beef: they must follow Hindu ways. That's why meat shops should be shut during Hindu festivals. That's why monuments with an Islamic connection must either be ignored or have their origins questioned. The Taj Mahal will not rate highly on the Uttar Pradesh government's list of great monuments. And the Hindu Right will say that it was a Hindu palace anyway. People often confuse this sort of re-imagining of India with Hindu-Muslim tensions. It is not the same. There have always been tensions: India was created in the blood of the Partition riots and Hindu-Muslim violence is, sadly enough, a fact of life in our country. The fault lines have never been erased and politicians from all parties have tried to exploit them. But what is happening now goes beyond that. This is an attempt to use the power of the State to rewrite the consensus on which modern India was built.

## Congress has to split to revive - it's the only way to free it from clutch of Gandhi family



for **Seshadri Chari** split example engineered the G-23, many of them seem to know the solution but no one is willing to risk administering the bitter medicine. Even Prashant Kishor appears to have diagnosed rightly but is unwilling to do the surgery himself. At this juncture it will not be surprising if a big chunk of the party functionaries decide to quit and form a new platform. Splits are not new for the Congress. Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership was challenged by the socialists who wanted greater state control and the liberals demanding more economic freedom and private enterprise by a group which was later called the Swatantra Party led by C. Rajagopalachari. The resultant split strengthened Nehru's hold over the party. His daughter Indira Gandhi faced a similar situation though not exactly on ideological or policy reasons. The stalwarts of the time formed Congress (O) and challenged the leadership of Indira Gandhi whose supporters formed Congress (R) suggesting it was the ruling party. She emerged powerful after the split, won the election, led the country to a decisive war later against Pakistan in 1971 and went on to impose the infamous Emergency. Congress witnessed yet another

by party veterans like Arjun Singh, N.D. Tiwari and Sheila Dikshit even when one of its stalwarts was the Prime Minister. Stronger regional leaders like Sharad Pawar and P.A. Sangma challenged the Congress leadership and split the party in their respective states to form a new platform. It is another story that this party, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), is now in partnership with the Congress in Maharashtra. West Bengal's current Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee quit the Congress to fight the Left Front in her state. The result is for everyone to see. Those in the Congress who are interested in a better political future for the party and for themselves too will have no choice but to take an extreme step of quitting and floating a new party. If this happens, this time the split might strengthen those who want the revival of the Congress and get it freed from the clutches of the "Nehru clan", euphemistically called the "Gandhi parivar". The total eclipse of the Congress from the political scene of the country is likely to have yet another interesting consequence on the political landscape.

## QUIZ

- Q.1- What is the full form of cricket tournament- IPL  
 Ans-  
 Q.2- In which sports, the term HAT-TRICK is used?  
 Ans-  
 Q.3- How many players are there in each side of a Hockey team?  
 Ans-  
 Q.4- Which place is known as the "Land of White Elephants"?  
 Ans-  
 Q.5- What is the place where animals are kept called?  
 Ans-

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

Last week quiz Answers : 29, The Antarctic blue whale, Giraffes average height of 5 m, red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and purple, the ostrich

### Short-Story

## Birbal and Three Dolls

Once an artisan came to the royal court of Akbar with three dolls. The dolls were similar in appearance and they were extraordinarily beautiful. Akbar wanted to buy the dolls. But the artisan did not agree to sell them. "I will give you the dolls without any cost if you or anyone of your court can answer my question", said the artisan. He also said that the three dolls represented the three different types of people in our society. He asked the differences in them.

Akbar examined the dolls well. Then the courtiers watched them individually. Nobody was able to find out the differences. At last, Birbal gave a close look to the dolls. He took the first doll and blew into its right ear, but the air came out of its left ear. Then he blew into the second doll's right ear, but the air came out of its mouth. Then he blew into the third doll's ear, it did not come out either of its other ear or mouth.

Birbal then said, "Your majesty, the first doll represents a type of people who listen something into one ear and let it go from the other ear. The second doll represents those who speak out what they listen. They can not keep any secret. But the third doll represents those who are reserved. You can trust them and tell them any secret matter."

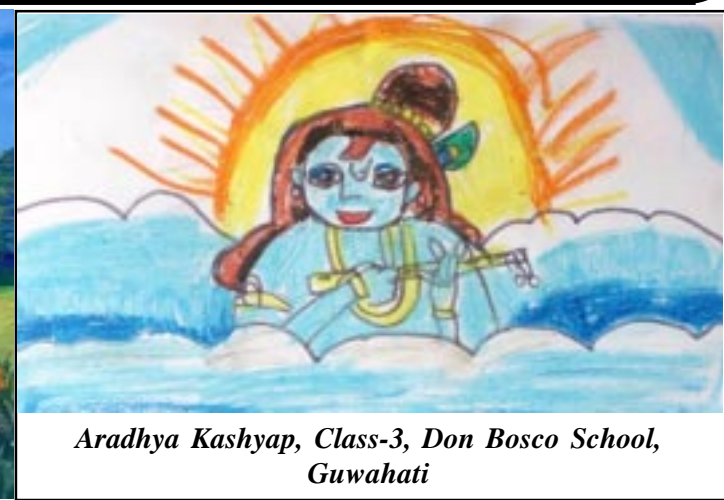
The artisan was very glad and praised Birbal for his wisdom. He offered the dolls to Akbar and left the place with a lot of gifts. Birbal was also rewarded by Akbar.



Home work : Fill the picture with colour

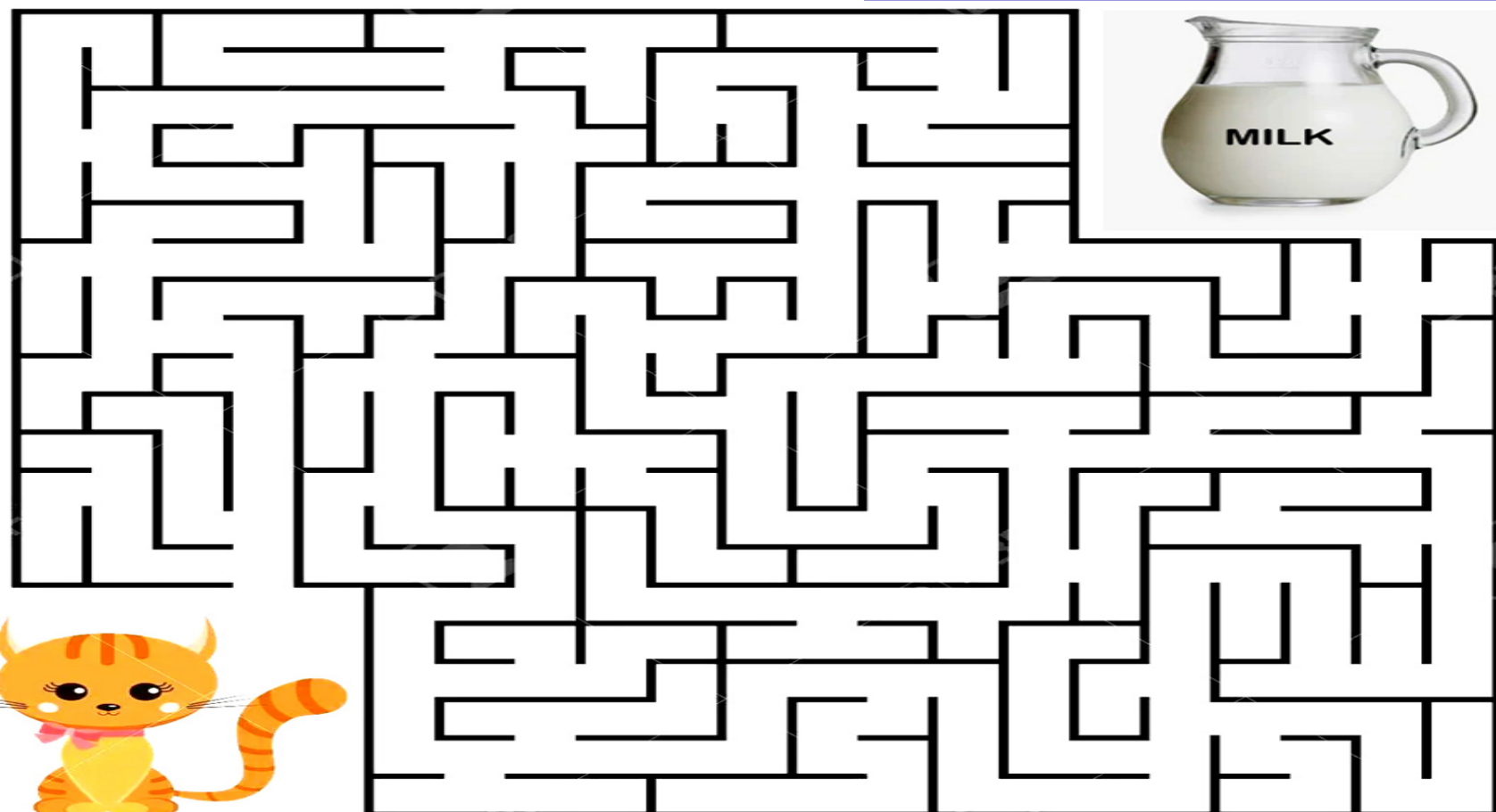


Kashwini Dutta, Class VIII, Brahmaputra Valley Academy High School, North Lakhimpur



Aradhya Kashyap, Class-3, Don Bosco School, Guwahati

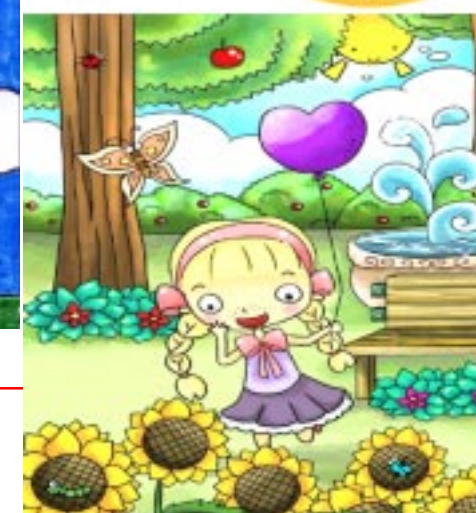
Can you help the cat to drink the milk ?



Angshuman Saikia, Class-3, Sankardev Sishu Niketan, Lakhimpur



Find 7 differences



Sarmistha Goswami, Class-V, Laluk

## CLAP, CLAP, TAP, TAP



Two little hands go,  
 Clap, Clap, Clap,  
 Two little feet go,  
 Tap, Tap, Tap,  
 Two little eyes  
 are open wide,  
 One little head go side to side.



## My Dear Society Aunty

Don't waste much more time on me dear  
 I know that I could look more better if I could be more fair.  
 "If she could be more slim than that dress could fit her well."  
 Oh ! Aunty don't judge a book by its cover and just go to the hell still thinking that always a girl should compromise,  
 But ! Aunty I will never gonna do that.  
 So don't be so surprise  
 We are so happy to be always a trending topic in your life.  
 Please, don't judge other people and please, just be an innocent wife.

Kashwini Dutta, Class VIII, Brahmaputra Valley Academy, Lakhimpur

## Dream to fly

Sometimes I dream that I can fly.  
 I lift and flap my arms just so,  
 And soon I'm soaring to the sky.  
 Graceful like a bird I go.  
 I find a fluffy cotton cloud And catch myself a comfy ride.  
 I cannot hear a single sound,  
 As slowly through the air I glide.  
 My silky cloud floats with the breeze,  
 Through the bluest sky.  
 Just like a sailboat on the sea,

Dear Bhagins,

Moral values are standards that help an individual choose between right and wrong or good and bad. This understanding is necessary to make honest, credible, and fair decisions in daily life. Children can shape a good character and a pleasant personality by moral values. Never try to be the first, but try to be the best. You may not secure the highest marks but you may be a good human being. It all depends upon how we behave, how we nurtured, what we learnt and how we utilise our knowledge.

Your  
 Abhi mama.

Contact me on : [assamrising@gmail.com](mailto:assamrising@gmail.com)



## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations! **Dipanjali Lahan** for answering all five correct answers of last week's quiz. **Dipanjali** is a student of Class VII of Govt. Boy's H.S. School, Dibrugarh. We wish you success in future.

## Contd. From Page 1

**Poachers tranquillize rhino to remove**

no maggot formation on the wound."The rhino's condition is stable now and it has been allowed to remain in the wild under doctors' supervision," officials said. This is the second case of Rhino poaching in Assam this year and the first instance of its kind at the Orang National Park since 2017. "For once we thought it to be a case of infighting but closer monitoring suggests that it's a poaching case and the horn was axed away. Maybe the Rhino was sedated," said Pradipta Baruah, Divisional Forest Officer, Mangaldoi Division. The population of one-horned rhinoceros has increased by 24 over the last four years in Assam's Orang National Park, the count now stands at 125, officials said. The previous rhino population estimation was done in 2018.

**CM lays foundation stone for ferry**

the Chief Minister exuded confidence these initiatives will contribute greatly to elimination of middlemen from district transport offices. "With the 12 online services (of transport department) and "CM-Trans" launched today, I am confident the menace of middlemen from the district transport offices will be dealt a severe blow. Along with greater transparency, these services will ensure efficiency in service delivery by the (transport) department," the Chief Minister stated. He further added: "With the launch of the 12 services today plus those already launched last year, Assam is now providing 5 more services online than that is being provided by the Government of Delhi in the transport sector. This in itself is a manifestation of the resolve this government has towards the motto of "maximum governance, minimum government"." It is worth mentioning that "CM-Trans", developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC), is an automated system designed to allocate and disperse workloads between district transport offices with the aim of ensuring efficiency in services delivery. This apart, with an increasing number of services delivered through efficiency, it would also be a source of higher revenue earnings for the government. Flagging off 12 interceptor vehicles for the transport department, the Chief Minister said owing to tough measures taken by the government, there has been a remarkable decrease in the number of casualties from road accidents as compared to the figures two-three years back. He further urged the people of the state to adhere to the safety norms and regulations of the transport department. Dr. Sarma today also ceremonially handed over driving licenses to beneficiaries of "Skill Training in Driving For 50 Youths Per LAC" scheme. The Chief Minister also revealed plans to launch a ropeway service from Khanapara to Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport. "Preliminary survey and research for this (the ropeway project) has been done. If all goes well, we will soon go ahead with this project."

**SC Dismisses Plea**

cause a shortage of doctors as well. And with 'patient care being paramount', the NEET PG exam will not be postponed, the apex court said. NEET PG 2022 postponement demands had grown louder over the last couple of days. Moreover, NEET PG 2022 aspirants were requesting for the deferment of exam by at least 8 to 10 weeks, all owing to the insufficient time they had to prepare for this exam. Many NEET PG aspirants had taken to social media asking for NEET exam postponement. Their primary reason of postponement was as NEET PG Counselling 2021 had gotten delayed and they didn't have enough time to prepare for the exam.

**Mohali RPG attack: Canada resident**

gave to Chadat Singh. Chadat Singh and two attackers moved from Tarn Taran on May 7 and two days later attacked the intelligence headquarters in Mohali. The Punjab Police have also found the role of a Mohali resident Jagdeep Kang who allegedly provided local support and helped in reece before the attack. Chadat Singh is still at large, police said. Mohammad Aseem Alam and Mohammad Sarafraj, the Noida residents who hail from Bihar, have been arrested. The DGP said the probe is on to ascertain who carried out the attack.

**Sri Lanka's New PM Takes Charge,**

Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since gaining independence from Britain in 1948. The crisis 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. "I will do the job that I have undertaken to do". Asked if he could sustain his premiership in the 225-member Parliament since he only has only one seat, he said: "I will prove the majority when it comes to that". Referring to the island-wide protests, Prime Minister Wickremesinghe said the main protest near president Gotabaya Rajapaksa's secretariat for over a month now would be allowed to continue. Ranil Wickremesinghe was appointed the Prime Minister as the main Opposition Samagi Jana Balawegaya (SJB) party and the third-largest party Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) attached tough conditions, such as the resignation of President Rajapaksa, to lead the interim government. Prime Minister Wickremesinghe heads the interim government in which all political parties are to be stakeholders for a limited period before facilitating a parliamentary election. Members of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP), a section of the main Opposition SJB and several other parties have expressed their support to show a majority for Ranil Wickremesinghe in Parliament, sources said. However, several factions opposed the move to appoint Ranil Wickremesinghe as the new Prime Minister. The JVP and the Tamil National Alliance claimed that his appointment was unconstitutional. The veteran politician is seen as being close to the Rajapaksa clan. But he does not currently command much support from the Opposition or among the public. It is to be seen if he can prove his majority in the 225-member Parliament. "We will allow him space," Weerasumana Weerasinghe of the Communist Party said. Former President Maithripala Sirisena's Sri Lanka Freedom Party party said its central committee would meet this morning to make a decision. The trade union cum political party for the plantation community of Indian-origin, Ceylon Workers' Congress, said they would support Prime Minister Wickremesinghe. Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis has provoked widespread protests calling for political reform and the resignation of President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. On April 1, President Rajapaksa imposed a state of emergency, lifting it five days later. The government reimposed a state of emergency on May 6 after police fired teargas and arrested students protesting near parliament, which was adjourned until May 17. Although the protests have been overwhelmingly peaceful, the police fatally shot a protester on April 19, and on several occasions have used teargas and water cannons against protesters. The authorities have made numerous arrests and repeatedly imposed curfews. The political crisis was triggered in late March when people hurt by long hours of power cuts and essential shortages took to the streets demanding the resignation of the government. President Rajapaksa sacked his cabinet and appointed a younger cabinet as a response to the demand for resignation. A continuous protest opposite his secretariat has now gone on for well over a month. On Monday, his brother Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned as the prime minister to make way for the president to appoint an interim all political party government.

**Space Agriculture: Mankind's Next**

agency will need to use the resources found on the Moon and Mars to develop food sources for future astronauts living and operating in deep space. Just 12 grams (a few teaspoons) of lunar soil collected from various spots on the Moon during the Apollo 11, 12, and 17 missions were used to carry out the experiment. The researchers placed a gram of soil (called regolith) in tiny thimble-sized pots and water, and seeds, and fed the plants a nutrient solution every day. For the experiment, the scientists planted Arabidopsis thaliana, a relative of mustard greens. This was done because the plant grows easily and it has been studied extensively.

**UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin**

nations and the world the death of President His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, who passed away on Friday, 13th May, 2022, wishing Allah Almighty to grant him eternal peace#WamNewspsc. The Ministry of Presidential Affairs has announced 40 days of mourning for the passing of His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE President and Ruler of Abu Dhabi, the Khaleej Times reported. Flags will be flown at half-mast and ministries, departments, federal and local institutions will suspend work starting today.

**Chemistry professor, teacher]**

has sacked around three dozen employees invoking Article 311. "The Lieutenant Governor is satisfied after considering the facts and circumstances of the case and on the basis of the information available, that the activities of Altaf Hussain Pandit, Professor in Chemistry Department, University of Kashmir son of Ghulam Hassan Pandit of Wadoora Bala, Sopore are such as to warrant his dismissal from service," said an order by the government. "The Lieutenant Governor is satisfied under sub-clause (c) of the proviso to clause (2) of Article 311 of the Constitution of India that in the interest of the security of the State, it is not expedient to hold an enquiry in the case of Altaf Hussain Pandit, Professor in Chemistry Department, University of Kashmir," the order said, adding, "Accordingly, the Lieutenant Governor hereby dismisses Altaf Hussain Pandit, Professor in Chemistry Department, University of Kashmir from service, with immediate effect." Similar worded order has been passed against Ghulam Rasool, SgCt, J&K Police, son of Ghulam Mustafa Malik of Bharath Bagla, District Doda and Mohammad Maqbool Hajam, Teacher, School Education Department son of Abdul Ahad Hajam of Gangbuh Lolab, at present Sogam Lolab near Block office, Sogam Road. UT government of Jammu and Kashmir has started scrutiny of the government employees who have terror or separatist links. Many employees were also terminated in Kashmir having involvement in anti-national activities.

**Administration uprooting 3 million**

plants are to be uprooted to construct the greenfield airport, according to authorities. Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma in February this year announced that an airport will be built using a part of Daloo tea garden. The government has estimated to pay a sum of ₹50 crore to build the airport using 2500 bigha land of the tea garden. The owner has agreed to go ahead with the deal but workers are unhappy with the decision. More than 2,000 workers of Cachar's Daloo Tea Garden are protesting against it and they once said, the government has to kill them before destroying tea plants. They have been protesting since the announcement of the project and officials of the Cachar district administration reached out to them several times to convince them. Administration after consulting with the tea garden owners, distributed pending money of Provident Fund (₹1.57 crores) and Gratuity (₹80 lakhs) among the workers. But the workers said, "This is our money which the owners are giving back, we can't let them destroy tea bushes in return." Amid protest, the police started a huge flag-march in the tea garden led by deputy inspector general (DIG), southern Assam Kankanjyoti Saikia and superintendent of police of Cachar district Ramandeep Kaur. Kaur assured that the Flag March was not to terrorise the garden workers, rather to build confidence. "It was done to build confidence because the government is planning to construct a huge airport. We do not intend to create fear amongst workers at all," Kaur said on Tuesday evening. There were speculations about when the uprooting process will commence. Thousands of workers continued the protest in front of the police's flag march every day. On Wednesday evening, the deputy commissioner of Cachar district, Keerthi Jalli suddenly imposed 144 CrP in Daloo Tea Estate and surrounding areas with a hint that eviction will begin soon. Just after the notice surfaced, hundreds of JCB excavators were seen rushing towards Daloo tea garden. At around 5am on Thursday, police surrounded the selected part of the garden so that no worker could enter inside and the excavators started uprooting tea bushes. The workers who attempted to stop the process looked helpless at one point. They started crying and begging in front of the security personnel and government officials. Police pushed them back from the area which was acquired by the government to build the airport. Special DG (law and order), Assam police, GP Singh and SP Cachar Ramandeep Kaur are supervising the process. Kaur warned the workers not to disobey the government order. She said that the agitating workers should talk to the administration about their demands clearly instead of agitating. "Some demands have already been addressed by the government and if there are more demands, the workers should talk. I am sure legitimate demands will get addressed," she said. An independent airport in Silchar (Cachar) has been in talk for quite a long period because the existing airport is old and acquired by the Defence ministry. Silchar MP Rajdeep Roy met the union minister for civil aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia several times with this demand before the Assam government officially announced the project.

**Congress Chintan Shivr: Big decisions likely, 'one family one ticket' formula to be explored**

**New Delhi, May 13 :** Maken said a proposal is being considered that 50% of party positions be reserved for those less than 50 in party committees. The Shivr will focus on time-bound party restructuring, finding ways to combat politics of polarisation and getting battle-ready for upcoming electoral challenges. It will begin Friday afternoon following which over 400 delegates will discuss subject-specific issues across six groups. Udaipur: Congress is considering enforcing the 'One family, one ticket' formula with the exception only when another family member has been working for at least five years in the party. The party is also considering capping at five years holding of a post with a cooling off period of three years and setting up of an assessment wing to monitor the performance of office bearers. Addressing a press conference ahead of the start of the party's 'Chintan Shivr' on Friday, Congress general secretary Ajay Maken said "big changes" are in store for the party organisation and it will completely transform its working style going forward. He said a proposal is being considered that 50 per cent party positions be reserved for those less than 50 years of age in party committees at every level of the Congress organisation. He said there is unanimity on establishing mandal committees between booth and block level in party organisation. Maken, who is a member of the coordination committee on organisation for discussion at the Chintan Shivr, said the party is deliberating on setting up a 'public insight department' to ascertain views of the people and carry out surveys for getting battle-ready for elections. The Congress is also considering setting up an 'assessment wing' to gauge performance of office bearers, he said. "We are also working on a mechanism for enforcing stricter discipline," he said. The three-day 'Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivr' is being held in the backdrop of a string of electoral defeats and dissent in the party for the past many years. The Shivr will focus on time-bound party restructuring, finding ways to combat politics of polarisation and getting battle-ready for upcoming electoral challenges. It will begin Friday afternoon following which over 400 delegates will discuss subject-specific issues across six groups. These discussions will continue on the first and second day and the conclusions will be recorded in the form of a declaration, a draft of which will be discussed at the CWC meeting to be held there on the third and last day.

**GU PGSU felicitated Dr.R.K.Kakati**

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 13:** Gauhati University Post Graduate Students Union members led by President Hemen Kalita and General Secretary Biki Sarma felicitated Dr Ranjan Kr Kakati, Director, Students' Welfare, Gauhati University for newly elected Vice President of Assam State Karate Association (ASKA). Dr Kakati was elected as Vice-President in the Annual General Meeting of ASKA which was held recently at Hotel Landmark, Guwahati. Congratulating Dr Kakati, PGSU expressed the hope that under the able guidance of Dr Kakati, there will be great contributions of Sports promotion in Assam as well as Universities of Assam.

**Orientation on startups & entrepreneurs held at Nowgong College**

**Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 13 :** In a bid to promote a culture of startups and entrepreneurship, Nagaon district administration in association with Startup Assam, NERAMAC and Assam Agribusiness Growth Lab (AAGL) organized a day-long orientation session on startups and entrepreneurship at Nowgong College today. Over 150 people from various walks of life such as students, small business owners, SHG members and agribusiness owners participated in the programme. Deputy Commissioner Nagaon, Nisarg Hivare, IAS graced the occasion as the Chief Guest while Dr Sarat Borkotoky, principal of the college, Manoj Das, MD NERAMAC and Rajiv Ashok, MD Designate, NERAMAC were present as the guests of honour. The panelists from Startup Assam, AAGL and NERAMAC highlighted their various schemes and activities while also explaining the various stages of startup mentoring and entrepreneurship. Two successful entrepreneurs from Jolkawuri and Zerund Bricks, Dipankar Kashyap and David Gogoi also shared their journey and the challenges they faced. Overall, it was a good interactive session and the participants gave positive feedback. This was followed by a short meeting at the circuit house with the DC and the other panelists to chalk out a future roadmap for the district. It is however expected that Nagaon will emerge as a centre for startups and entrepreneurship in the state, an official release issued by DIPRO, Nagaon added.

**Assam Rifles conducted painting competition**

**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, May 13:** Lokra Battalion under the aegis of Headquarter 21 Sector Assam Rifles and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) had organised a painting competition for children of Assam Rifles High School at Lokra near Balipara on May 11 to promote celebration of 8th International Yoga Day scheduled on June 21 next. The event was aimed to give wider publicity of International Yoga Day and to educate on how Yoga helps in building body awareness, strength, flexibility and fighting the fatigue of the body and mind. During the event, a total of 20 children portrayed their ideas and views about Yoga with zeal, fervor and enthusiasm.

**'BJP brutalising minorities and glorifying Gandhi Ji's killers': Sonia Gandhi at Congress Chintan Shivr**

**Udaipur, May 13 :** Interim Congress President Sonia Gandhi on Friday accused the ruling BJP of brutalising minorities and glorifying Mahatma Gandhi Ji's killers" while addressing the three-day Chintan Shivr being held in Udaipur. "BJP is brutalising minorities and glorifying Gandhi Ji's killers," Sonia Gandhi said in her address at the Congress event. The Congress chief added, "By now it has become abundantly and painfully clear what PM Modi and his colleagues really mean by their slogan 'Maximum governance, minimum government.' She added that it means "keeping country in a permanent state of polarisation, compelling people to live in a constant state of fear and insecurity, viciously targeting victimizing and often brutalizing minorities who're an integral part of our society & equal citizen of our republic." Sonia Gandhi said that the 'Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivr' gives us an opportunity to discuss amongst us the numerous challenges that the country is facing as a result of the policies of the BJP, RSS and its affiliates.

**INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR PROCUREMENT OF ANTI RABIES VACCINE ETC.****FOR A.H. & VETERINARY DEPARTMENT UNDER RKVY RAFTAAR, 2021-22**

**FB NO. :VET/RKVY/Rabies Control/2021-22/.....**

Sealed quotations affixing court fee stamp of Rs.8.25 (Rupees Eight and paise Twenty five) only are invited from the manufacturer, authorized dealer, agent for supply of Anti Rabies Vaccine etc. to A. H. & Veterinary Department under RKVY, RAFTAAR, 2021-22. The bid document containing the details of the supply may be obtained on payment of Rs.500/- (non-refundable) from the O/o Nodal Officer, RKVY, A.H. & Veterinary Department, Assam, Chenikuthi, Guwahati-3 during office hours from 18/05/22 to 07/06/22.

The quotations will be received up to 2.00 P.M. of 07/06/22 and will be opened on the same day at 3.00 P.M. in the O/o Nodal Officer, RKVY, Chenikuthi, Guwahati-3.

**IFB Time Schedule (Key dates) :**

Sl. No.	Schedule	Date & Time	
1	Pre Bid Meeting	25/05/22	3.00 PM
2	Last date for Bid Submission	07/06/22	2.00 PM
3	Technical Bid opening	07/06/22	3.00 PM
4	Financial Bid opening	To be scheduled in due course of time	

Director  
A.H. & Veterinary Department, Assam  
Chenikuthi, Guwahati - 3  
Janasanyog/C/2484/22

# Stone Age's status as Derby favourite under threat at York



**York, May 13 :** Seven of the nine runners in the Dante Stakes at York on Thursday hold entries in next month's Derby and Stone Age's recently acquired status as clear favourite for the Epsom Classic may be under threat if one of them can register a convincing success. Desert Crown has already shortened from 33-1 to 6-1 second-favourite for the Derby in the past 10 days without leaving Newmarket, as other

potential candidates have come up short in their trials. El Bodegon, meanwhile, beat Stone Age in a Group One at St Cloud in October, and both Magisterial, a maiden winner at Leicester last month, and Aidan O'Brien's Bluegrass also have the right profile to jump towards the top of the ante-post market with a victory. Desert Crown (3.35), however, already looks like more than a talking horse, as his

winning time in a five-and-a-half length stroll on debut at Nottingham last November marked him down as Group-class colt in the making. Odds of around 3-1 look fair for Sir Michael Stoute's colt to punch his ticket to Epsom. York 1.50 Copper Knight is going for his third straight success in this race but needs a career-best at the age of eight to win off 104, so Strong Power makes more appeal at around 12-

1. Much improved on the all-weather this winter after joining Alice Haynes, he raced off 95 on his latest start in early April but runs off his 8lb lower turf mark here. Salisbury 2.05 Teumessias Fox starts out in handicaps on a mark of 84 and that looks workable based on his wide-margin success at Newcastle in early March. York 2.25 Little to choose between the three principals - Thunder Kiss, Noon Star and Ville De Grace - but the latter's success in the Group Three Pride Stakes in October came in a strongly run

contest and she may just have the edge at this trip. York 3.00 La Trinidad rarely runs a bad race in big-field handicaps over this track and trip, and a return to the form of his victory in a similar contest last July - off a 4lb lower mark - could well be enough for a third career win on the Knavesmire. York 4.10 Boonie looked to be an improved performer when scoring on his three-year-old debut at Nottingham last month and could have too much speed for King Of Bavaria, the favourite, who is dropping back in trip.

# 'Nations Championship' will not detract from World Cup, claims World Rugby

**London, May 13 :** World Rugby has insisted that the proposed north versus south "Nations Championship" competition - including a grand final between the two hemispheres every two years - will not detract from the prestige of the World Cup after expressing confidence the new tournament will get off the ground. Key stakeholders, including representatives from the Six Nations and Sanzaar, have been locked in discussions in Dublin this week in an effort to resolve

the remaining stumbling blocks. A well-placed source has said that all parties have "broadly agreed" the format of the competition but concerns linger over how revenues will be shared, the effects of promotion and relegation and the need to agree new player release deals with clubs - although the Guardian understands there is more collaboration than three years ago, when a

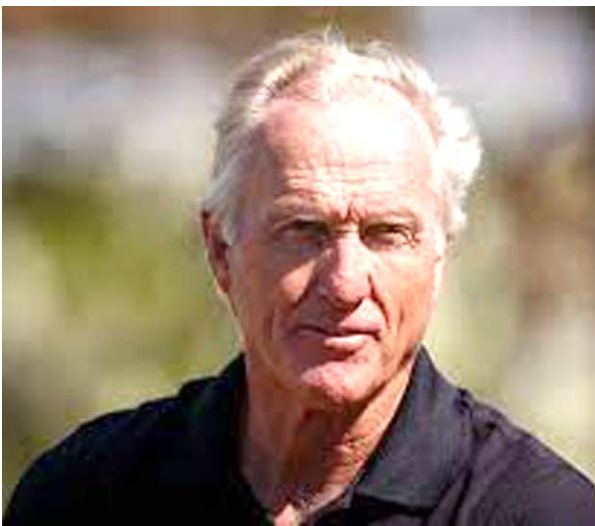


similar proposal failed. While the aim of bringing more meaning to the July and November Tests windows has been generally well-received, the main criticism of the proposal is that it would devalue the World Cup, which remains World Rugby's jewel in the crown.

# 'Seriously misguided': Amnesty angry at Greg Norman's comments on Khashoggi

**London, May 13 :** Amnesty International has criticised Greg Norman for "wrong and seriously misguided" comments about the murder of Jamal Khashoggi at a Saudi Arabian consulate in 2018 and the high number of executions carried out this year by the kingdom. Norman, the chief executive of Saudi-backed LIV Golf Investments, was asked about Khashoggi's death during promotional work in the UK for an upcoming tournament. Last year US intelligence agencies concluded that the Saudi crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, had approved Khashoggi's murder. The LIV Golf Series gets underway in Hertfordshire in

June. Norman had said: "This whole thing about Saudi Arabia and Khashoggi and human rights; talk about it, but also talk about the good that the country is doing in changing its culture. Look, we've all made mistakes and you just want to learn by those mistakes and how you can correct them going forward." Pressed on the execution of 81 men in Saudi Arabia in March, Norman added: "I got a lot of messages but quite honestly I look forward. I don't look back. I don't look into the politics of things. I'm not going to get into the quagmire of whatever else happens in someone else's world. I heard about it and just



kept moving on." Felix Jakens, Amnesty UK's head of campaigns, told the Guardian: "Greg Norman's remarks that the Saudi government's brutal murder of Khashoggi and

murder of Khashoggi to recent mass executions and the situation for LGBTI+ people, which continues to be dire." The LIV Golf Invitational Series is yet one more event in a series of sportswashing exercises that the Saudi authorities are using to clean its blood-soaked image. Everyone involved in any of the sports events held there, or that are sponsored by Saudi Arabia, must be aware of what is going on in the kingdom and speak out about the government's brazen abuses. Phil Mickelson, Lee Westwood, Sergio Garcia and Ian Poulter are among those who are due to feature at LIV's tournament at the Centurion Club in Hertfordshire next month. Norman's breakaway tour plans have met firm resistance from golf's existing ecosystem.

# Arnaud Démare pips Caleb Ewan in photo finish to win Giro d'Italia stage six

**Paris, May 13 :** Arnaud Démare won his second stage of the Giro d'Italia as he edged out Caleb Ewan and Mark Cavendish to take victory on stage six in Scalea. The Frenchman had taken his first Grand Tour stage victory in two years on Wednesday but had to wait barely 24 hours more for a second as he followed up the win in Messina by beating Ewan in a photo finish as Cavendish faded to third, hitting his handlebars in frustration as they crossed the line. The Manxman - who went long with his sprint to win stage three - had been the first to light it up, but had Ewan attached to his wheel. Then, as the Australian powered past him, Démare emerged and took the victory with a bike throw on the line. "It was very tight," Démare said. "I had the feeling that I had won but it was hot so I waited for the photo-finish. A win is sometimes decided by

very little. It's in my favour today. The team has done a tremendous job. My positioning was excellent at every roundabout." It's another great team victory. I only had 100 metres to overhaul Cavendish. I threw my bike on the line and it made the difference. Many people underestimate me but it's my 86th victory today, my seventh at the Giro d'Italia. It counts. It's wonderful." Ewan had seen his Lotto-Soudal sprint train get broken up on a roundabout around 3km from the line, but immediately latched on to Cavendish's wheel and did not let go until the finish as QuickStep-Alpha Vinyl fought to make up ground. All the while, Démare was being guided to the line by his Groupama-FDJ teammates, with an easier ride to the line. The sprint finish meant there were no major changes at the top of the general classification, in which Juan Pedro López holds

the leader's pink jersey. Britain's Simon Yates is the best placed of the main favourites in fourth, one minute and 42 seconds down before three tough days to come which should shake up the standings.

# Rafael Nadal limps to Shapovalov defeat in blow to French Open hopes



for six months last year. Nadal finished the match unable to properly move, limping and grimacing between points as he continually gestured in frustration to his team. "I am a player living with an injury," said Nadal, who made a point of congratulating Shapovalov. "That's it. No, no, it is something new. It's something that is there. Unfortunately my day-by-day is difficult, honestly. Even like this, I am trying hard. Of course,

it's difficult for me to accept the situation sometimes, no? It can be frustrating that a lot of days I can't practice the proper way. Then today halfway through the second set [the pain] starts, then [it] wasn't playable for me." With the French Open starting on Sunday week, Nadal explained that his foot is unpredictable and he does not know how he will be. "I don't know if I rest, I don't know if I maybe practice," he said. "But I still [have] a

goal in one week and a couple of days. I'm going to keep dreaming about that goal." Earlier, the world No 1, Novak Djokovic, comfortably defeated his old foe Stan Wawrinka 6-2, 6-2. Wawrinka had reached the third round after clinching his first two wins in his comeback after a one year layoff due to two foot surgeries. The last time Wawrinka stood across the net from Djokovic, his victory in their 2019 US Open quarter-final unlocked a notable achievement. While Djokovic had dominated their rivalry since they were teenagers, they then split the results in eight subsequent matches. For that brief period, they not only stood on an equal record but most of Wawrinka's wins had been under the greatest pressure, deep in the final rounds of his three career-defining grand slam title runs.

# United States to host Rugby World Cup and pledges not to 'do a Qatar'

**Dublin, May 13 :** The groundbreaking 2031 Rugby World Cup in the USA may have to move to July and August to avoid a clash with the NFL after organisers vowed not to "do a Qatar". World Rugby's council rubber-stamped the decision to award the next five men's and women's World Cups at a meeting in Dublin on Thursday with Australia awarded the 2027 tournament, 24 years after hosting the 2003 competition in which England were crowned champions. The USA has been awarded the men's competition in 2031 and the women's tournament in 2033 with organisers optimistic of generating \$1bn in revenue from ticket sales alone. By comparison, the 2019 World Cup in Japan made around £350m from ticketing income. With the NFL season traditionally beginning in early September, however, World Cup organisers are wary of failing to capture the imagination of the American public with any clash. Citing the Fifa men's World Cup which takes place in November and December in Qatar, in the middle of the season for the major European leagues, World Rugby confirmed a move to the summer is likely. That in turn, however, could cause problems for the dates of the 2030-31 season for domestic leagues and could see players running out in sweltering temperatures depending on the host cities. "If you think about the previous Rugby World Cup in Australia back in 2003, it was slightly later than what is now our World Cup window," said World Rugby's chief executive Alan Gilpin. "The US would probably ideally be slightly earlier."

# Louis Senior hat-trick puts Huddersfield on way to win in Wigan dress rehearsal

**London, May 13 :** This had been billed as a dress rehearsal for the Challenge Cup final in a fortnight's time but at this rate, Huddersfield could yet have a say in the Super League title race as well as this month's final at Tottenham. The Giants, appearing in their first final since 2009, are now fourth

in the league and improving every week, underlined by this latest victory against second-placed Wigan. Only a compelling comeback from Wigan in the final quarter made it a contest on a night when the cup finalists rested 15 players between them, perhaps with an eye on their tussle for the biggest prize in the game later this month. But

led by the outstanding Tui Lolohea from start to finish, it was Huddersfield who were worthy winners as their ascent up the league continued. "There's a great energy about the guys at the moment and everyone is buzzing," their coach, Ian Watson, said. Despite dominating the first half, they led by just six at half-time. Tries from Louis Senior and Ricky Leutele, with Lolohea having a hand in both, moved them 12-0 ahead before Wigan responded with a try from Sam Halsall as half-time approached. "We've got to learn some lessons from this because some of the things we did were below par," Wigan's coach, Matt Peet, said. They missed the chance to go above the league leaders, St Helens, here and it was clear they were more affected by rotation than their opponents. Huddersfield were certainly grateful for Lolohea, though. It was his long-range pass for Senior which moved the Giants further ahead after the restart before the full-back laid on a try for Jake Wardle. At that stage, Huddersfield led 22-6 and victory appeared to be somewhat of a formality. But credit must be given to Wigan's young side, who rallied in the final quarter.



# Amateur boxing crisis grows as election rival to Russian Iba president is barred

**Lausanne, May 13 :** Amateur boxing has been plunged into a fresh crisis after the sole rival to the sport's Russian president was barred from standing on the eve of the International Boxing Association's election. Sources close to Iba have told the Guardian that the Dutch candidate Boris van der Vorst, who had been due to challenge Umar Kremlev for the Iba presidency, was barred for breaching its regulations by being part of an alliance of 18 countries that had openly criticised Iba's reaction to the war in Ukraine and its reliance on Gazprom funding. Van der Vorst is now appealing to

the court of arbitration for sport after being blindsided by the news. Five other candidates for Iba's executive board, who were also on the Common Cause Alliance pressure group opposed to Kremlev, have also been barred from Friday's elections in Istanbul. The decision leaves boxing, which has been rocked by numerous judging and financial scandals in recent years, facing more questions about its Olympic future. Boxing is currently not on the roster for the LA Games in 2028 and, as revealed by the Guardian on Wednesday, the IOC sent a letter to Kremlev this week saying it had "significant concerns" about the



governance and financing of Iba. After this latest news, many are now openly questioning whether there is any way back for the organisation. In a statement, Iba said that the decision had been taken by the

Interim Nomination Unit, an independent body created in February to establish the eligibility and analyse the skillsets of nominees. The statement said: "Complaints were made to the Interim Nomination Unit on 11 and 13 April 2022 that the activities of these candidates were improper under the Iba regulations insofar as they constituted participation in another international boxing

organisation, prohibited collaboration between candidates and electoral campaigning outside the Electoral period." The activities in question were based around the creation of a group called the Common Cause Alliance in which the candidates listed participated, together with exchanges of open letters with the Iba. "The Dutch federation, led by Van der Vorst, was among 18 national federations, including the US, England, France, Australia and Canada, that formed the alliance earlier this year to ask the Iba to disclose financial information involved in its agreement with Gazprom."

## IPL 2022: CSK lose battle of laggards, their playoff hopes end



**London, May 13** : In an astonishingly low-quality display where batsmen seemed to be competing as to who could get out more poorly on a pitch with some live grass, a knocked-out Mumbai Indians dismissed Chennai Super Kings for 97 to end their playoff hopes. Right at the start of another match they needed to win to keep their razor-thin hopes alive, the lights literally went out on CSK. A power disruption knocked out the Decision Review System. The DRS was back by the fourth over of the CSK innings, but it was too late; Devon Conway had been given leg-before by umpire Chirra Ravikanthreddy off the second ball of the match from Daniel Sams. Replays suggested there was enough angle on the

delivery to have most likely missed leg stump, considering it had struck Conway in front of leg. That was the only decision CSK could have put down to misfortune, for they proceeded to irredeemably seal their fate by their own hands. Moeen Ali thought about a pull off the brisk and bustling Sams, he then thought about aborting the pull, and finally settled for a nothing hack to short midwicket. Robin Uthappa was given a torrid Test-match like working-over by Jasprit Bumrah, and even DRS wouldn't have saved him if it was available. Almost as if trying to outdo the implosion of the first three wickets, the others found various ways of getting out. Ruturaj Gaikwad nicked Sams to the keeper down the leg side, Ambati Rayudu managed to nick Riley Meredith behind off the inside edge from the off-stump line. Even the

powerplay was not done yet, and CSK had lost half the side for 29. Shivam Dube walked in and almost lofted one straight to extra cover, just clearing the fielder, and prompting MS Dhoni to walk up to him. That quietened Dube for a bit, but he soon departed caught-behind trying to slash Meredith over the keeper. Shane Watson, the former CSK all-rounder and current Delhi Capitals assistant coach, had told The Grade Cricketer that he felt sorry for Ravindra Jadeja, who had been given the CSK reins earlier with the overpowering presence of Dhoni always around. As he stood motionless at the non-striker's end, an arm on his waist, Dhoni himself cut a forlorn figure watching his team crumble.

## India's Thomas Cup runneth over as Shetty-Rankireddy, Srikanth, Prannoy win against Malaysia

**New Delhi, May 13** : They dug so deep individually in their quiet, personal journeys and at other times together noisily on training courts, that in the end, the Indian team found the depth to win its first Thomas Cup medal. Having a former World No 1, a World Championship silver medallist and in-form player like Kidambi Srikanth play the second singles of the five-match tie, followed by the dependable big-match beast, HS Prannoy lining up for MS3 - that was two assured wins in a tie pointing to India's remarkable depth. An overlap of a bunch of talented singles shuttlers all pulling in the same direction. Then the doubles plodders - Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, they who never stop trying - clinched the crucial point to trigger hope. The golden generation of male shuttlers - some of whom first took to the international courts a decade ago - elevated Indian badminton into the ultimate realm of shuttle royalty on Thursday, medalling at the prestigious team championships, edging out Malaysia 3-2 in a thrilling quarterfinal tie at Bangkok. All those years of being relegated to the shadows of India's women shuttlers, quietly sharpening their games, gulping down narrow losses which ended up in

fine print of scores and returning to familiar drawing boards castigating them on their bunch of mistakes. The Thomas Cup team finally exhaled. Some may call it roared. Guttural and gutsy, it was the sound of things falling in place. "Malaysia is not sleeping tonight," a gleeful national coach Pullela Gopichand chuckled, about a loss that can be compared to India going out early from a cricket world cup. India will fancy their chances against Denmark in the semifinals to gun for the big medal, where Lakshya Sen who missed out on Thursday gets a chance to propel India forward. Malaysia boast of a rich Thomas Cup history from 70s and 80s, but in recent years and under pressure have tended to wobble. Think all those Lee Chong Wei finals being second-bested by the Chinese. So when they split up their doubles pairing and coach Rexey fielded a scratch pairing of Goh Sze



Fei and Nur Izzuddin for the first doubles, India sniffed an immediate chance. The equation was simple. Srikanth and Prannoy, the vily foxes, the Indian seniors pickled in international battles, the outrageously talented pros - were bound to boss over the two youngsters, NG Tze Yong and Leong Jun Hao. The two peaked on the circuit in the 2017 dizzy season scalping big names. But after a sobering four

years of struggling with injury and form and confidence crises, had gained the cushioning of self-assurance, where they trusted their games and ability to negotiate court conditions. India could rely on both against youngsters. Malaysia, mighty curiously, did not field their experienced player Daren Liew and went ahead with the promise of youth. Plus the doubles stunt. Lakshya Sen started India's charge, against his

All England scalp, Lee Zii Jia, who had split from the Malaysian central system, patched up with the authorities, and returned even more ripped and raucous in his smashing than Birmingham. At Bangkok, he fended off Sen's desperate attempts at trapping him with a commanding show at the net and a loud booming of the smash. He toyed with the Indian in the second to win 23-21, 21-9 putting Malaysia 1-0 ahead.

## Brendon McCullum appointed England men's Test head coach

**London, May 13** : Former New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum has been appointed head coach of England's test team, the country's cricket board (ECB) said on Thursday. McCullum replaced Chris Silverwood who left the role in February after England were thrashed 4-0 in the Ashes in Australia, with Paul Collingwood stepping in as a caretaker coach. McCullum, 40, is currently in charge of Indian Premier League side Kolkata Knight Riders but the ECB said he will be in place to start his role when New Zealand visit for a three-test series starting at Lord's on June 2. "We are delighted to confirm Brendon as England men's test head coach. It has been a real privilege to get to know him and understand his views and vision for the game," ECB managing director Rob Key said in a statement. "He has a recent history of changing cricket culture and environments for the better, and I believe he is the person to do that for England's red-ball

cricket." "We were incredibly fortunate to have a seriously strong list of quality candidates for the post, with Brendon demonstrating he was our number one choice." Former South Africa and India head coach Gary Kirsten had been linked with the role and Collingwood was also considered. McCullum played the last of his 101

tests at Christchurch in 2016 against Australia, where he hit the fastest ever century in the format (54 balls). He finished his career with 6,453 runs including 12 hundreds and 31 half-centuries. He will be tasked with working alongside newly-appointed test captain Ben Stokes to get England out of a slump after the team won only one of

their last 17 matches, with Key describing the pairing as a "formidable coach and captain partnership". "In taking this role on, I am acutely aware of the significant challenges the team faces at present, and I strongly believe in my ability to help the team emerge as a stronger force once we've confronted them head-on," McCullum said.

## Dina Asher-Smith urges UKA to stick with London amid exit reports

**London, May 13** : Dina Asher-Smith has urged UK Athletics to keep a London base for the good of the sport amid reports that it is in preliminary talks over a £10-15m deal to quit the Olympic Stadium. Such a move would allow West Ham to transform their stadium into a full-time football ground but would raise serious questions about the 2012 Olympic legacy and the ability of UKA to stage major athletics meetings in the capital. When Asher-Smith was asked whether Birmingham - which will host the Commonwealth Games this summer - could be the new home of British athletics, the 200m world champion made an impassioned plea to UKA not to forget London. "We've got a really nice new stadium in Birmingham, which I'll be fortunate enough to try out next

week," she said. "I'm very excited for that and very excited about the Commonwealth Games. But I always think that London is the centre of sport in the UK." "It would be amazing to have a base and really use the London Stadium, particularly as it is the Olympic Stadium and it is where the Anniversary Games has been," she added. "All the other major sports have their base in London." In 2013 a 50-year deal was signed for athletics to take place in a one-month slot every year amid West Ham's lease of the stadium. However it costs £3m to convert to stage athletics and UKA, which is facing a financial squeeze, could decide to accept between £10-£15m to give up its lease. Asher-Smith, who takes on the Olympic 400m champion, Shauna Miller-Uibo, in a stacked Dia-



mond League field in Doha on Friday, also said she was fit and cautiously optimistic about a fast time before her first big race of the season. "I'm hoping to go out there and perform really well," she added. "I think that's the wis-

est thing to do early in the season. Last year the season-opener was Gateshead in the pouring rain. If you have expectations of times sometimes early on, you are not always fulfilled for reasons that are outside of your control."

## Tirkey, Rasquinha recall fractures, close calls

**New Delhi, May 13** : Eighteen years ago, in October 2004 at Delhi's National Stadium, Tirkey was manning the right goalpost when Pakistan legend Sohail Abbas unleashed his trademark ferocious drag-flick. On the left post was Viren Rasquinha. And they both watched in dread as goalkeeper Adrian D'Souza, in his inimitable style, charged out to block Abbas' shot. For Rasquinha and Tirkey, D'Souza's runs made the sighting the ball that much tougher. "If he wouldn't be able to stop the ball, it would come through his legs or under his arms. And Sohail had a sling action, so you couldn't judge where the ball was going," Rasquinha says. "In

that match against Pakistan, we had planned that Dilip would take the right post down and I'd take the left. Sohail flicked. Adrian rushed out, the ball it deflected slightly off him and deviated from its path. "Tirkey, not a man of many words, gets in the flow while narrating what happened next. "I wasn't able to spot the ball. When Adrian rushed out, I just turned a little and before I could even react further, the ball hit my eye. Ekdum sunn hogaya thode second k liye and phir, gir gaya (I went numb for a few seconds and then, fell to the ground). I couldn't open my right eye." Tirkey suffered a hairline fracture just under his right eye.

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