



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VII ■ Issue No. 87 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ SUNDAY ■ MAY 15, 2022 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 10.00

**'Wagatha Christie' case:  
Coleen Rooney says...**

02

**Durham bowler Matthew Potts in  
frame for first England ...**

07

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jakhar quits Congress

New Delhi, May 14 :

Former Punjab Congress chief Sunil Jakhar on Saturday quits party. The leader wished the party luck in a live session on Facebook. "...Good luck and goodbye Congress..." he said. He said while he is upset and pained, he also "feels pity" for Congress. Jakhar on Friday had written on Twitter that he would share his "Dil Ki Baat" on Saturday. He shared his Facebook live session on Saturday with the same title. Jakhar's decision comes on the second day of the Congress party's Chintan Shivir being held in Udaipur.

### Mundka building fire

New Delhi, May 14 :

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 10 lakh compensation to the families of the kin of the deceased in Delhi Mundka building fire. The chief minister announced the compensation while visiting the site and also ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident. For the 12 people who sustained injuries, the chief minister announced Rs. 50,000 compensation. He said it was a massive blaze and the bodies were charred to such an extent that it has become difficult to identify them.

### Storm causes damage

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 14 :

A heavy storm that lashed Jalalpur under Katigorah constituency in Cachar district of Assam caused severe damage to houses and small establishments in the area. Trees were uprooted and roofs of many houses were blown off as a result of the heavy storm. 15 tarpaulins were provided to nearby residents. Electricity has also been cut off in the entire area after electric poles were damaged due to the strong winds.

## Ahead of Amit Shah's Visit, Telangana Minister's 27-Question Open Letter

Hyderabad, May 14 :

Ahead of Home Minister Amit Shah's visit to Telangana today, state Chief Minister K. Chandrabab Naidu's son KT Rama Rao or KTR has written an open letter to the senior BJP leader on the "injustice" being done to the southern state by his party. In the letter, KTR, who is Working President of Telangana Rashtra Samithi, accused the BJP of spreading hatred amongst the people in Telangana. He added that BJP did not fulfil a single promise made to Telangana but fulfilled every requirement of BJP-ruled states like Gujarat on a war

## CM Himanta Biswa Sarma handed over 22,958 appointment letters in mega recruitment ceremony

**We are on a mission to transform  
Assam into a top performing state: CM**



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 14 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday handed over appointment letters to 22,958 new recruits in the capital city, Guwahati. He called it a 'momentous occasion' for all as the government was, he said, were on course to

redeem its pledge to provide 1 lakh jobs to the youth of Assam. "By handing over appointment letters to 22,958 recruits in 11 departments, we have tried to set a new precedent in transparent appointments to government jobs," he said. "Proud & Happy! A significant day for us as we hand over appointment let-

ters to 22,958 appointees, taking another step towards fulfilling our promise of providing employment to our youth. I urge all the newly appointed friends to dedicatedly work for the prosperity of the state," he said on Twitter. Before the assembly elections, BJP had promised to give 1 lakh government jobs within

one year of coming to power, and today this was the first large batch in achieving that goal. A total

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## India bans export of wheat to check rising prices pinching Indian homes

New Delhi, May 14 :

India on Saturday has banned wheat exports with immediate effect as part of measures to control rising domestic prices, according to an official notification. However, the export shipments for which irrevocable letters of credit (LoC) have been issued on or before the date of this no-

tification will be allowed, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said in a notification dated May 13. "The export policy of wheat is prohibited with immediate effect," the DGFT said. It also clarified that wheat exports will be allowed on the basis of permission granted by the Government of India to other countries to meet

their food security needs and based on the request of their governments. In a separate notification, the DGFT announced the easing of

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## 'We can't change regimes'

### Owaisi on Muslim vote bank, Gyanvapi Masjid row

New Delhi, May 14 :



All India Majlis-e-Ittehad Muslimin (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Sat-

urday said that India never had and will never have any Muslim votebank and the community can never change regime in the country. Owaisi's remark comes in the context of the Varanasi court allowing the survey of Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi. The officials began the court-mandated survey in the mosque which is located next to the Kashi

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## Tripura CM Biplab Deb resigns Manik Saha to be next CM

Agartala, May 14 :

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb on Saturday said he has submitted his resignation to Governor SN Arya. Deb made the announcement after meeting the governor at the Raj Bhavan here. He went to New Delhi and met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda on Thursday for a confabulation on the party's affairs in the Northeastern state. There have been rumours of infighting within the BJP's state unit. Deputy Chief

Minister Jishnu Dev Varma, who is related to the erstwhile Tripura royal family, is expected to take charge in the interim, sources said. The state is slated to go to assembly elections next year. In De-

cember 2020, 7 BJP MLAs from Tripura had flown to New Delhi to complain against Deb "high handedness" to senior party leadership.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



## ULFA (I) Demands Apology from Minister Sanjoy Kishan

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, May 14 :

United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) on Saturday warned Assam's minister of welfare of tea tribes, Sanjoy Kishan to apologize for his statement against ULFA (I) Commander-in-Chief Paresh



Barua. The outfit has given 24 hours time to the minister to apologize or else he would have to face its consequences. The outfit leader said, "If Kishan doesn't apologize within 24 hours, he will be declared banned in Tinsukia and Dibrugarh districts. No one should attend any program of Kishan. ULFA (I) will not be responsible for the con-

sequences people who support Kishan face." On Friday, Sanjay Kishan commented that Paresh Barua was a 'liar'. Kishan was reacting to the reports of ULFA (I) awarding death sentences to two youths for allegedly being state police agents and the death of Biju Gogoi, who

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## 'Done so much damage that even his top bosses...': Mamata Banerjee's TMC attacks Biplab Deb



Kolkata, May 14 :

Biplab Deb Resignation news: Biplab Deb made the announcement after meeting the governor at the Raj Bhavan here. He went to New Delhi and met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP president JP Nadda on Thursday. Union

minister and BJP's central observer Bhupender Yadav said the name of Tripura's next Chief Minister will be announced by 8pm on Saturday. But what is the reaction of Trinamool Congress to the news of Tripura Chief Minister's resignation? A tweet to this effect was posted from the

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## 'Gold... shouldn't lose him' Navjot Sidhu's surprise support to Sunil Jakhar

New Delhi, May 14 :

After senior Punjab Congress leader Sunil Jakhar quit the party on Saturday (May 14), Navjot Singh Sidhu called him an "asset worth his weight in gold" and urged the grand old party not to "lose" him. Taking to Twitter, former Punjab Congress chief Sidhu wrote, "The con-

gress should not loose #sunilkjarkhar .... Is an asset worth his weight in gold .... Any differences can be resolved on the table (sic)." "Good luck and goodbye Congress," were the words chosen by Jakhar to announce his resignation from the Sonia Gandhi-led party. This

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



## Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut bats for 'one country, one language'

Mumbai, May 14 :

Making a pitch for "one country, one language", Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Saturday said Hindi is spoken across India and has acceptability, and added that Union minister Amit Shah should accept the challenge that there should be one language in all the states. His statement comes over a month after Shah said that Hindi should be accepted



as an alternative to English and not to local languages, a statement that was vociferously opposed by several prominent political leaders in southern states, who said

foisting Hindi on people was not acceptable, and also called it a part of an agenda to weaken the regional languages. The comment was in response to a ques-

tion about Tamil Nadu Education Minister K. Ponmudi a day earlier decrying any attempts of alleged imposition of Hindi and questioning claims that learning the language would fetch jobs. Taking a dig at those who insist jobs will be available for those who learn Hindi, the Tamil Nadu minister had also asked who are selling 'pani puri' in Coimbatore now, an obvious reference to the predominantly Hindi-speaking ven-

dors involved in the trade. Mumbai - where civic body polls are likely to be held later this year - has a sizeable number of people from northern belt of the country. "Whenever I get an opportunity in the House, I speak in Hindi. Because the country should listen what I want to say, it is a language of the country. Hindi is the only language which has

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

# Madhya Pradesh: Poachers kill 3 cops in shootout



**Bhopal, May 14 :** Three policemen were killed after miscreants opened fire at them in Guna district of Madhya Pradesh in the wee hours of Saturday, state

Home Minister Narottam Mishra said. The incident occurred under the jurisdiction of Aron police station, some 160 km from the state capital, around 3 am when the police personnel had gone to nab the miscreants, he said. Following a tip-off about the presence of some miscreants, a police team reached the spot located under Aron police station in Guna district. After

the police personnel surrounded them from all sides, the miscreants started firing at them, in which three policemen were killed," he told reporters. Sources said the police team had gone to the spot following reports about four deer of rare species being killed by some miscreants. Police sub inspector Rajkumar Jatav and two constables - Nilesh Bhargava and Santaram

Meena - were killed in the firing, Mishra said. The incident is saddening and heartbreaking. Instructions have been given to take a strict action against the criminals which will set an example," he said. Further details are awaited. Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announces an ex-gratia of Rs 1 Crore each to the families of the three Police personnel who were attacked

and shot dead by poachers in Guna this morning. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan will hold a high-level emergency meeting at 9.30 am at his residence in connection with this incident, an official from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said, adding that senior police officers including the DGP, home minister, chief Secretary and others will attend the meeting.

## US condemns Israel's attack on Shireen Abu Aqleh's funeral

**Gaza City, May 14 :** Joe Biden's secretary of state has issued a statement condemning Israeli forces for their attack hours earlier on the funeral procession in Jerusalem of a Palestinian American journalist who was shot and killed this week. "We are deeply troubled by the images of Israeli police intruding into the funeral procession of Palestinian American Shireen Abu Aqleh," Antony Blinken's statement on his official Twitter account read. "Every family deserves to lay their loved ones to rest in a dignified and unimpeded manner. Police clash with mourners carrying the coffin of the American-Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh outside St Joseph's hospital in East Jerusalem. Blinken's brief statement came after television cameras captured police in Israel storming Abu Aqleh's funeral procession. Dozens of Palestinians were packed around the coffin, some waving Palestinian flags and chanting, "with our soul and blood we will redeem



you Shireen". When they began walking toward the gates of St Joseph's Hospital, Israeli police officers, in an apparent bid to stop them proceeding by foot rather than taking the coffin by car, burst through the courtyard gates and charged at the crowd. Some beat pallbearers with batons and kicked them. At one point the group carrying her coffin backed against a wall and almost dropped the casket, recovering it just before one end hit the ground as stun grenades detonated. The violent scenes, which lasted only minutes, added to

Palestinian outrage over Abu Akleh's killing, which has threatened to fuel violence that has surged since March. The show of force came after people circumvented roadblocks in occupied East Jerusalem to join the slain Al Jazeera reporter's funeral procession. Mourners chanted "Palestine!", sang the Palestinian national anthem and waved Palestinian flags before Israeli police cracked down on the procession, accusing participants of disrupting public order. Israel forbids the public display of Palestinian flags, even at rallies and protests.

## 'Lost' Picasso spotted in Imelda Marcos's home after son's election win

**Manila, May 14 :** The glimpse of a possible Picasso in the home of Imelda Marcos seen during a visit by her son, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr, after his election win has set off a flurry of speculation in the Philippines, where the family that once plundered billions is set to return to power. Marcos Jr, the son and namesake of the late dictator, won a landslide victory in Monday's presidential election, an outcome that has appalled those who survived his father's regime. Images released by the family showed Marcos Jr visiting the home of his mother, Imelda, who had displayed Picasso's *Femme Couchée VI* (Reclining Woman VI), or a replica, above the sofa. It is unclear if the painting, one of eight targeted for seizure by anti-corruption authorities in 2014, is genuine, but the unexpected appearance of the nude in blues and greens reclining on an orange and yellow bed has added to fears the family will use its now-increased power to brazenly further stifle



efforts to recover ill-gotten wealth. Marcos Sr presided over rife human rights abuses during his 20-year rule, including the arrest, torture and killings of his opponent, and used his power to plunder as much as \$10bn until he was deposed in 1986. The family squirreled away the funds in overseas bank accounts and real estate, and splashed out on jewellery, artworks and designer clothes. Imelda, the dynasty's matriarch, became infamous for her enormous shoe collection - a symbol of the family's excess and greed. The family and its backers have since rebranded the Marcos name, with disinformation about Marcos Sr's rule spread

widely online. Ruben Carranza, a former commissioner for the presidential commission on good government (PCGG), which was set up to investigate and recover ill-gotten wealth, said it was unclear if the painting was a genuine Picasso. "Mrs Marcos has had a habit of buying fake paintings, as well as lending fake paintings for display," Carranza said. But he added: "The fact that she's now displaying it just shows not just the duplicity of Mrs Marcos - but that she has to display the duplicity and the extravagance that she thinks she's displaying for Filipinos to see ... That says something even worse." He added: "It

## New Zealand prime minister Jacinda Ardern tests positive for Covid-19

**Auckland, May 14 :** The New Zealand prime minister, Jacinda Ardern, has tested positive for Covid-19 and will have to isolate for another week in what she called a "very Kiwi experience". Days after announcing the relaxation of the country's tight border controls, Ardern developed symptoms on Friday evening and returned a positive test before another positive result from a rapid antigen test on Saturday morning, her office said in a statement. Her symptoms are said to be moderate. Her partner, Clarke Gayford, tested positive last Sunday and Ardern has been in quarantine since then. She will have to isolate until the morning of Saturday 21 May and will not be in parliament in the coming week when her government has two set-piece events in the emissions reduction plan on Monday and the budget on Thursday. Ardern will carry out some duties remotely but her deputy, Grant Robertson, will take the regular post-cabinet



press conference on Monday. "This is a milestone week for the government and I'm gutted I can't be there for it," Ardern said. "Our emissions reduction plan sets the path to achieve our carbon zero goal and the budget addresses the long-term future and security of New Zealand's health system. "But as I said earlier in the week, isolating with Covid-19 is a very Kiwi experience this year and my family is no different."

## 'Wagatha Christie' case: Coleen Rooney says leaks added to marriage issues

**London, May 14 :** Coleen Rooney has been told she cannot provide "one shred of evidence" that Rebekah Vardy leaked stories from a private Instagram account to the Sun - but insisted she has strong reason to "believe" Vardy was responsible based on circumstantial clues. Rooney told the "Wagatha Christie" libel trial that leaks from her private Instagram account to the Sun caused issues when she was dealing with difficulties in her marriage to former footballer Wayne Rooney. She said one private Instagram post in 2017 made its way to the tabloid at a time she and Rooney were "trying to figure out our relationship" and were spending time apart, after he crashed his car while drink-driving with another woman in the vehicle. She said it was upsetting when the Sun learned of the private photo, which suggested the family



Roses and pink umbrellas are seen during the 50th ExpoRose in Grasse, southern France

## Mundka fire: Charred human remains found during search operation

**New Delhi, May 14 :** Charred human remains were found on Saturday on the second floor of the building in outer Delhi's Mundka area where a massive fire broke out a day back, Delhi Fire Service officials said. Twenty-seven people have died so far in the blaze that ripped through the four-storey building on Friday. The fire started from the first floor that houses the office of a CCTV camera and router manufacturing and assembling company, the police have said. The owners of the company, Harish Goel and his brother Varun Goel, who were detained earlier, have been arrested, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Sameer Sharma said. "Charred human remains were found on the second floor of the building during a search operation by our fire fighters. But we cannot say if it is the remains of one body or several bodies. Though the fire has been doused, the cooling and search operations still continues," said Atul Garg,

Director, Delhi Fire Services. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Sameer Sharma, the company owners -- Harish Goel and Vijay Goel who were detained have been arrested in connection with the incident. Identities of all but one of the 12 injured have been ascertained, an official said. According to a list released by the district magistrate of West Delhi, the injured are Staish (38), Pradeep (36), Ashu (22), Harjeet (23),

said. According to the police, a call about the fire was received at 4.45 pm on Friday following which they immediately reached the building location, near metro pillar number 545. Police officials broke the windows of the building to rescue people, they said, adding the injured are admitted to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital. ALSO READ: Mundka fire tragedy: Help desk set up, how to get info about your loved ones During initial enquiry, the police found that the four-



Nitin (24), Avinash (29), Sandhya (22), Dhanvanti (21), Bimla (43), Ayesha (24) and Mamta (52). The injured were rescued and taken to a hospital, where they were given treatment, officials

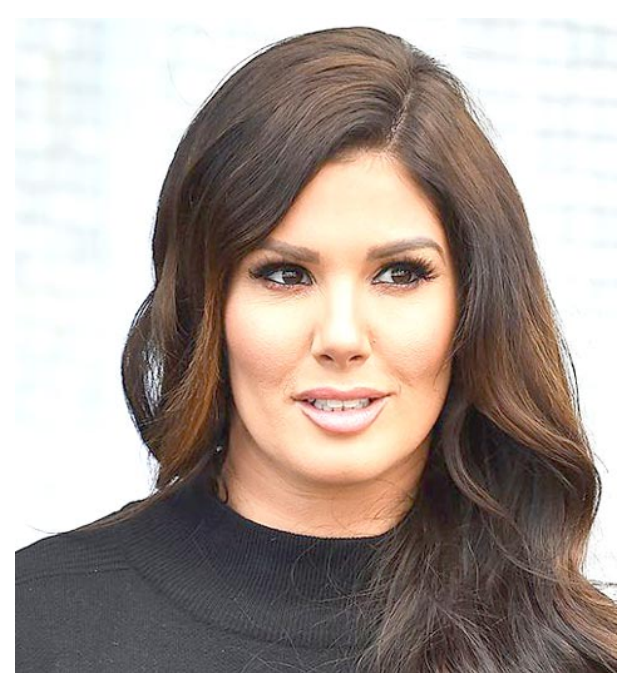
storey building was used for providing office spaces to companies. Over 50 employees of the company whose office was located on the first floor were rescued while 27 bodies have been found, they said.

shows this really, absolutely uncaring attitude for Filipinos. They've not only now been led to believe that [the Marcoses] have gold. Now, they're leading them to believe, again, that they have so much wealth that they can just display it whenever they please," said Carranza. For years, there has been speculation online that the Marcoses have huge sums of gold, which was given to Marcos Sr by a wealthy family as payment for acting as their lawyer. According to the story, the gold would be shared with the people if the family regained power. Marcos Jr has either downplayed or denied the abuses that occurred in the Philippines under his father. As president, he would have the power to appoint the commissioners of the PCGG, granting him huge influence over the body that was set up to recover the family's wealth.

## DUP condemned for paralysing Stormont as protocol row deepens

**Dublin, May 14 :** Political leaders in Belfast and Dublin have condemned the Democratic Unionist party (DUP) for paralysing the Stormont assembly and executive in a dramatic escalation of the party's campaign against the Northern Ireland protocol. Sinn Féin and other parties in Northern Ireland described the move as "shameful" and "disgraceful" and said it treated voters with contempt. The row turned what was supposed to be the inaugural day of the assembly into a farce in which newly elected representatives signed the roll at Stormont - and became eligible to collect salaries - but were left without duties, functions or power. A DUP abstention prevented the

assembly electing a speaker and elicited angry exchanges in the chamber. Alex Maskey, the outgoing speaker, will remain in a caretaker role, as will former ministers. Michelle O'Neill, Sinn Féin's deputy leader and the region's putative first minister, accused the DUP of denying democracy. She told the chamber she was ready to "take on the leadership of the Northern Ireland executive as a first minister for all". It was believed to be the first time she had publicly used the term Northern Ireland. Sinn Féin usually refers to the region as "the North". O'Neill later told reporters Boris Johnson, the prime minister, planned to visit the region on Monday. "I intend to put it to him directly that he needs to stop



were back together. "I didn't know how my marriage was going to work out and whether I was going on with my relationship," she told the high court in London. "We needed to try and work things out." Vardy's lawyer, Hugh Tomlinson QC, put it to

Coleen Rooney that there was not "a shred of evidence" that Vardy had leaked private Instagram material about the couple to the Sun. He suggested that another one of Rooney's 300-plus followers may have been responsible for passing information to journalists at the tabloid. Rooney said: "It was someone who was on my Instagram account and I believe that it was Mrs Vardy." Tomlinson replied: "I didn't ask what you believe, I asked if you

could be sure." He repeatedly told Rooney that beliefs do not count as hard evidence: "You might believe Derby County might win the Premiership in two years' time. It's not evidence is it?" Wayne Rooney, the Derby County manager, did not react when he heard the jibe about his football team, which have been recently relegated to League One - the third tier of English football - amid financial difficulties. Coleen Rooney is being sued for libel by fellow footballer's wife Vardy, who denies Rooney's public accusation that she passed stories from Rooney's Instagram account to the Sun newspaper. Vardy is married to the Leicester City striker, Jamie Vardy. Rooney insisted there was overwhelming evidence that Vardy's Instagram account was accessing the leaked material. "I thought a lot about this," she said. "I've been in the public eye for 20 years. I've become quite savvy to the way people work and journalists work. I hate gossips, I'm not a gossip. It all added up to me that it came from this account."



A villager harvests cucumbers inside a greenhouse in Xiangyangzhuang Village of Tangyin County

## Guest House

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# Heavy rain & landslides: NFR canceled-Short terminated trains

## Assam Rising

**Guwahati, May 14:** In view of water logging and landslides due to heavy rain, at Km 113/4-5 between Jatinga Lumpur and New Harangajao, at Km 131/1-2 between Bandarkhal and Ditokcherra sections and other several locations in Lumding - Badarpur hill



section of Lumding division, services of several trains have been canceled and partially canceled, short terminated and short originated of train No. 15888 Guwahati - Badarpur Tourist express, commencing

journey on May 14 has been short terminated at Langting and will remain partially canceled in between Langting and Badarpur. Train No. 15887 Badarpur - Guwahati Tourist express, commencing journey on May 14 has been short originated at Langting and will remain

partially canceled in between Badarpur and Langting. Train No. 15615 Guwahati - Silchar express, commencing journey on May, 13 has been short terminated at New Haflong and will remain partially canceled

in between New Haflong and Silchar. The train will run as passenger special with the stoppage of 15616 Silchar - Guwahati express in open timings. Train No. 13173 Sealdah - Agartala Kanchanjunga express, commencing journey on May, 13 has been short terminated at Maibang and remains partially canceled between Maibang and Agartala. Train No. 13174 Agartala - Sealdah Kanchanjunga express, commencing journey on May 14 has been short terminated at Badarpur, originated at Maibang and will remain partially canceled between Badarpur and Maibang. Train No. 12504 Agartala - Bangalore Cant. Humsafar express, commencing journey on May 14 has been short terminated at Badarpur and will remain partially canceled between Badarpur and Bangalore Cant. Train No. 01665 Rani Kamalapati -

Agartala special, commencing journey on May, 12 has been short terminated at Lumding and will remain partially canceled between Lumding and Agartala. Train No. 01666 Agartala - Rani Kamalapati special, commencing journey on May 16 will be short originated at Guwahati and will remain partially canceled between Agartala and Guwahati. Train No. 14038 New Delhi - Silchar express, commencing journey on May, 12 has been short terminated at Lumding and will remain partially canceled between Lumding and Silchar. Train No. 02983 Bangalore Cant. - Agartala special, commencing journey on May, 13 has been short terminated at Guwahati and will remain partially canceled in between Guwahati and Agartala and train No. 02984 Agartala - Bangalore Cant. A special, commencing journey on May 17 will be short originated at Guwahati and will remain partially canceled in between Agartala and

Guwahati. Similarly, Train No. 15641 Silchar - New Tinsukia express, commencing journey on May 14 has been canceled between Silchar and New Tinsukia. Train No. 15642 New Tinsukia - Silchar express, commencing journey on May 15 will remain canceled between New Tinsukia and Silchar. Train No. 15626 Agartala - Deoghar express, commencing journey on May 14 has been canceled between Agartala and Deoghar. Train No. 15625 Deoghar - Agartala express, commencing journey on May 16 will remain canceled between Deoghar and Agartala. Train No. 15611 Guwahati - Silchar express, commencing journey on May, 14 has been canceled between Guwahati and Silchar. Train No. 15615 Guwahati - Silchar express, commencing journey on May 14 has been canceled between Guwahati and Silchar.



All Assam Amateur Muay Thai Championship, 2022 is going on at Sonapur College

## IIT Guwahati organized two day Capacity Building Program

### Assam Rising

**Guwahati, May 14:** With the march of Atal Tinkering Labs in the light of Atal Innovation Mission of NITI AAYOG, NEP-2020 and Samagra Shiksha, Centre of Research & Excellence for Advanced Technology in Education (CREATE)-UNISED in collaboration with GAIL (India) Ltd. IIT Guwahati and Government of Assam, organized a two day Capacity Building Program for Nodal Teachers of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in JRPHS and MP school, Barpeta (Aspirational District), Assam from May 9-10 last. The focus of the program is to cultivate the culture of innovation, experiment, creativity and curiosity among the children. It is

worth mentioning that a total 05 ATLs have been established in Assam under this joint venture. The program as the part of the national initiative under CSR support was conducted with the guidance of Avaneesh Tripathi, National Program Advisor, Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan and Policy Advisor to Government of India along with support by HELs as a mentoring institution. As a Resource Person from Department of School of Energy Science and Engineering, IIT Guwahati, Sidhartha took an innovative session on Artificial Intelligence and highlighted the practical utility of Atal Tinkering Labs in North Eastern states especially in the state of Assam. Dr. R.N

Lenka, CEO & Director-Pedagogy, Research & Innovation, Centre of Research & Excellence for Advanced Technology in Education (CREATE)-UNISED, Research Park, IIT Guwahati and National Resource Person for RAA, Pedagogy, Quality & Innovation articulated innovative resources and support by the mentoring institutions for the same. Rashmi Kumari, Asst. Program Director, UNISED coordinated the event. Anurag Pandey, Sr. Project Engineer, IIT Kanpur provided the technical support based on ATLs. S. Kartikeyan conducted sessions on practical mentoring and tinkering like prototyping tools like 3D printer, robotics, Arduino UNO and the like.

## MoU signed between USTM & CSIR-NBRI



### Assam Rising

**Guwahati, May 14:** A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) and CSIR-NBRI (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Botanical Research Institute) Lucknow for collaborative work on research and quality teaching. The agreement was signed at CSIR-NBRI Lucknow on Wednesday,

May 11 by Prof GD Sharma, Vice Chancellor, USTM and Prof. S. K. Barik, Director, CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow. Speaking in this regard, Prof GD Sharma, Vice Chancellor, USTM said, "This will help to provide opportunities for students and faculty members to collaborate in research, development and transfer of technology and provide training. NBRI is nearly 300 years old and CSIR-NBRI has produced the highest level of

Curcumin technology in the Lakadong variety of Curcuma. Recently their technology to dissolve the stones in the kidney was taken by Marco and the drug is available in the market as marco-uro-5." Prof. Sharma said that USTM being an A graded institution, is the only private University to sign MoU with such an Institute. This will boost the research and enhance the quality of teaching, he added.

## Dreaded drug dealer held in Nagaon

### Assam Rising

**Nagaon, May 14:** Meanwhile based on a tip off, a police team from Haibargaon TOP led by Sub Inspector Taranga Patowari arrested one dreaded drug dealer identified as Biki Sutradhar from Teliapatty gate in the town while he was trying to sell vials containing brown sugar to

a customer inside a tea stall in the area. Police also seized around 30 grams heroin, several hundreds empty vials, plastic containers, one mobile phone and a motorcycle from his possession, sources said adding that a case in this regard was registered in the TOP.

## Electronic Transmission of Railway Receipt (eT-RR)

### An Integral part of Freight Operation System for N. F. Railway

### Assam Rising

**Maligaon, May 14:** Indian Railways carry millions of tonnes of freight every year that translates in to operations of number of freight trains daily to provide transportation of goods. N.F. Railway plays an important role in the freight operation system within the region and across the country. With the mission to become carbon neutral and increase efficiency, N. F. Railway has decided to go paperless, as far as freight business is concerned, and implement a digital mode of generating the Railway Receipts (RR), both for (consignor & consignee). This is when the Electronic Transmission of Railway Receipt (eT-RR) was introduced to replace the manual Railway Receipt (RR) system gradually. During the beginning of the financial year, i.e., from 1 st April till 12 th May, 2022, eT-RR marks a steady growth of adoption by the customers in the entire freight business of N. F. Railway. In the month of April, 2022 all five divisions of N.F. Railway issued 552 numbers of eT-RR out of a total of 622 Railway Receipts, which is 88.7% of the Railway Receipts generated. Thereafter, from 1 st May till 12 th May, 2022, out of total of 236 Railway Receipts, 219 eT-RR were issued which is 92.8 % RR (Railway Receipt) is a vital document,

in the entire chain of freight business of Railways. It is like an acknowledgement receipt of goods for transportation by railways. The owner of original Railway Receipt is supposed to be the owner of the goods. In the earlier system, the customers used to face the problem of delay in taking delivery of goods. Earlier, whenever the freight trains reach its destination, the original Railway Receipts were supposed to be produced (both by consignor and consignee), which itself used to be a time taking process for its procurement. The new system of transmission of RR electronically, eliminates this problem entirely. System of generating eT-RR has been enabled in almost all the functioning locations of freight business in the Divisions under N. F. Railway. The entire process is carried out through FOIS portal (<https://www.fois.indianrail.gov.in>). In order to avail this facility, customers (both consignors and consignees) have to pre-register themselves at the nearest Railway Division, where they carry out their business. The new system introduced is a very simple, secure & user-



friendly system which would immensely benefit freight customers. Railway Receipt, a mandatory document, for effecting delivery of goods, is generated, transmitted and surrendered or deposited electronically saving time for the freight service consumers thus promoting more trade for N.F. Railway. Electronic Transmission of Railway Receipt (eT-RR) is definitely a game changer as far as freight business of Railways is concerned.

## 102 cattle heads rescued arrested 9 smugglers

### Assam Rising

**Nagaon, May 14:** Nagaon police under special supervision of the new superintendent of police - Leena Doley, have intensified its ongoing operations against drug menace, cattle smuggling, trading of fake currencies as well as other criminal activities across the district on a regular basis. Within the last 24 hours, Nagaon police led by officer in charge and other incharge officers of various PS and PPs, rescued

102 cattle heads and seized 7 vehicles from various places under Samaguri, Rupahihat, Uluoni PS and Puranigudam PP while all those cattle heads were being transported in various vehicles from Nagaon, Dhemaji to Shillong. Besides, the police also arrested 9 persons allegedly involved in smuggling of cattle heads on spot, sources claimed. According to sources of police, the arrested cattle smugglers have

been identified as Jehirul Islam of Chapor Gunimari in Dhubri district, Kader Ali of Kochutoli under Sonapur PS in Kamrup (M), Sahidur Rahman of Chalachali Jalaharchuk under Samaguri PS, Safikuddin Ahmed alias Rajib of Snakhulagaon under Kochuwa PS, Joinal Abdin, Rahul Amin, Sirajul Haque of Geruati under Khatowal PS, Wahidul Islam of Bajigaon under Samaguri PS, Ashadul Haque of Amtol under

Rupahihat PS. Police also seized two 12 wheeler trucks bearing registration number AS 01 FC 7087 and AS 26C 2924, one maximo carrier bearing registration number AS 02E 6954, two 1109 vehicles bearing registration numbers AS 02 CC 3803 and AS 02 CC 6972, one i10 car bearing registration number AS 01EV 8969 and one K10 car bearing registration number AS 09E 3909, sources said, adding that police registered a slew of cases were registered in several PS in the district under which the vehicles were seized. Further investigation in this regard is on, sources added further.

## NYK organized Yoga program at Phulbari



### Assam Rising

**North Lakhimpur, May 14:** In keeping with the International Yoga Day, Lakhimpur district Nehru Yuva Kendra organised a yoga program at the premises of Pub-Phulbari

Jadumoni Krishti Sangha of Nowboicha in Lakhimpur district. In the program, Headmaster Ramananda Sarma, Sunil Hazarika, assistant teacher Khagendra Nath Pegu,

Hazarika, Aparupa Changmai, Panchayat president Bewidita Borah, Lakhimpur district Nehru Yuva Kendra accountant officer Prabin Kumar and

many other dignitaries were present and delivered lectures on yoga practice and its utilities. At the end of the program, local students were given yoga education.

## Ganja worth Rs 2 crore seized in Jorabat

### Assam Rising

**Guwahati, May 14:** The operation against drugs and ganja of Jorabat police is continuing. During the operation, a large quantity of ganja was seized at Jorabat early this morning under the leadership of JCP Parth Sarathi Mahanta and Jorabat police officer-in-charge Kapil Pathak. Following a reliable source to Tamil Nadu via Kachar from Manipur after chasing a tip-off, Jorabat police seized 800 Kg ganja from

the truck, (number TN 39 BT 1711) and seized the driver of the truck. The market value of the seized



ganja is around Rs 2 crore. Police have also arrested one person. The arrested person is K. Anawalagan.

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E-mail: [ceogmdaghy@gmail.com](mailto:ceogmdaghy@gmail.com) Fax: 0361-2529991

No. GMDA/DEV/125/2022/6 Dated: 12-05-2022

**SHORT TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed tenders in prescribed format eventually to be drawn up in P.W.D. F-2 Form (Modified) affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of ₹8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only from reputed experienced & financially sound manufacturers only dealing with Water Cascades/ Fountains are invited by the undersigned at the office of the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority for the work of "Supply & installation of 2 (two) nos. of Water Cascades in the water body in Hengrabari Park" and will be received up to 2:30 P.M. on 23-05-2022 and will be opened at 3:00 P.M. on the same day. In case of unscheduled holiday on the date of opening of the tender, the tender will be opened on the next working day at the same time and place. The Detailed Tender Papers may be obtained on all working days from 13-05-2022 to 21-05-2022 on payment of non-refundable tender fee of ₹500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred) only against the work at GMDA's cash counter up to 2:30 P.M.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer  
Guwahati Metropolitan Dev. Authority  
Bhanganagar, Guwahati - 5

## THE ASSAM RISING

**VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 87 SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022**

## Killing of Journalists

Lately Al Jazeera reporter Shireen Abu Aqleh was shot "in the face" while wearing a press vest. Mexico, Afghanistan, and the Philippines had the most retaliatory killings of journalists. CPJ is still investigating the deaths of 15 other journalists worldwide to determine whether journalism was the motive. The numbers reflect the period from January 1 to December 15, 2020, and the total killings compare with 26 journalists killed with a confirmed motive in all of 2019. Last year's number was the lowest total killings in CPJ's records since 2000. While murders rose in 2020, the number of combat-related deaths—three—dropped to the lowest level since 2000, as the intensity of conflicts in the Middle East abated and the COVID-19 pandemic dominated media attention and made it difficult for journalists to travel. All three of the journalists were killed documenting the continuing conflict near Idlib in northern Syria, and perished in airstrikes by suspected Russian forces allied with the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Employees and supporters of ABS-CBN, the Philippines largest TV network, rally outside the headquarters in Quezon City on July 10, 2020. Before lawmakers rejected its license renewal and shut it down, President Rodrigo Duterte had threatened the broadcaster for its critical coverage. (AP/Aaron Favila) In Mexico, at least four journalists were targeted for murder in 2020, and one more was gunned down while reporting from a crime scene; CPJ is investigating the motive in at least four other journalist deaths. Mexico has long been the most dangerous country in the Western hemisphere for the press, which operates amid a complex web of criminal, drug-trafficking gangs and entrenched official corruption. When he took office in December 2018, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador pledged to take concrete steps to end violence against the press and impunity for journalist murders. Yet this cycle continues unabated, as CPJ found in its most recent Global Impunity Index, which highlights countries where journalists are murdered and their killers go free. In 2020, Mexico's Congress moved toward eliminating the federal trust fund through which the protective measures are financed, and transferring control of those funds directly to the Secretariat of the Interior, leaving them vulnerable to political whims and the trading of favors. One of the journalists enrolled in the protection mechanism was Pablo Morragues.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

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


**Editor,**  
**The Assam Rising**  
*G.N.B. Road, Chandmari Colony,*  
*Guwahati, PIN 781003*  
**E-mail Id : [assamrising@gmail.com](mailto:assamrising@gmail.com)**

## Letter to The Editor

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

*Editor,  
The Assam Rising  
Guwahati, Assam*

## As we grieved for Shireen Abu Aqleh, Israeli police attacked us. They have no shame

I am writing these words having just returned from the funeral of Shireen Abu Aqleh in Jerusalem. It is hard to describe the exact emotions which every Palestinian is feeling. One thing is certain: this has been the most incredible outpouring of emotion I've seen in Palestine. Shireen was known to every Palestinian household. During the second intifada - a formative experience  **Jalal A**

for many Palestinians - she was the face that delivered us the news. The TV screen became a window to everything going on: the F16 strikes, the Apache helicopter strikes, the tanks on the streets. And Shireen was out there, bringing the news to our homes. We grew up watching her and she became an icon, inspiring a generation of Palestinian journalists. This is why Shireen's killing during an Israeli raid on a refugee camp in Jenin shook all Palestinians to the core. We feel like we have lost a mother; I personally have lost a major inspiration in my journalistic life. On the day she died, every Palestinian was heartbroken. Today in Jerusalem, thousands of Palestinians came to commemorate Shireen's memory. There were people as far as the eye could see. Jerusalem never looked more Palestinian. And even in our grief, Israeli forces unleashed violence against the mourners and pallbearers. If you do that



with the world's gaze upon you, it is because you believe there will be no consequences. Shireen has united Palestinians of all political affiliations and persuasions behind our national flag - to mourn, protest and make sure her loss is not in vain. What has made it all the worse is the Israeli propaganda machine,

**bukhater** which swung into action as soon as news broke of Shireen's killing. Shortly after her death, the Israeli foreign ministry launched a social media campaign to deflect blame and gaslight Palestinians. It was debunked within hours. Israeli officials know the weight of this news. By spreading disinformation and false propaganda, they hope to muddy the waters and obscure the truth of what happened in Jenin. I do not expect justice for Shireen Abu Aqleh. According to the International Federation of Journalists, Israeli forces have killed at least 46 Palestinian journalists since 2000, while Palestinian ministry of health data records 50 Palestinians killed in 2022 alone. Why should we expect Israel to investigate Shireen's death thoroughly? Israel's record speaks for itself. It should play no part in an investigation of Shireen's killing. Shireen gave a voice to the voiceless for more than two decades, and died as a martyr of the truth. We will commemorate and mourn her for as long as we remember.

Assam with its vast network of rivers is prone to natural disasters like flood and erosion which has a negative impact on overall development of the state. The Brahmaputra and Barak River with more than 50 numbers of tributaries feeding them, causes the flood devastation in the monsoon period each year. The flood and erosion problem of Assam is singularly different from other states so far as extent and duration of flooding and magnitude of erosion is concerned and is probably the most acute and unique in the country. The flood prone area of the state as assessed by the Rastriya Barh Ayog (RBA) is 31.05 Lakh Hectares against the total area of state 78.523 Lakh Hectares i.e. about 39.58 % of the total land area of Assam. This is about 9.40% of total flood prone area of the country. Records show that average annual area affected by flood is 9.31 Lakh Hectares. The flood prone area of the country as a whole stands at about 10.2 % of the total area of the country, but flood prone area of Assam is 39.58 % of the area of the state. It signifies that the flood prone area of Assam is four times the national mark of the flood prone area of the country. During post independence period, Assam faced major floods in 1954, 1962, 1972, 1977, 1984, 1988, 1998, 2002, 2004 and 2012. Almost every year three to four waves of flood ravage the flood prone areas of Assam. Average annual loss due to flood in Assam is to the tune of Rs. 200.00 Crores and



particularly in 1998, the loss suffered was about Rs. 500.00 Crores and during the year 2004 it was about Rs. 771.00 Crores. The flood control activities in Assam started mainly after the announcement of National Water Policy. Subsequently, "outlined plan for flood control in Assam" along with various comprehensive plans

were prepared and the priority areas, which need immediate and urgent attention were identified. Till date, the Water Resources Department has taken up works primarily for the general development of the rural sector and for the protection of major townships in both the Brahmaputra and Barak valley. Schemes have also been taken up to relieve the drainage congestion in the cities and other important areas. The government has

started preparations to deal with the flood situation in the state and Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) has asked the districts to be ready to tackle any flood situation. "The ASDMA has identified vulnerable, non-vulnerable pockets based on the last 10 years' flood data in the state," Gyanendra Dev Tripathi, Chief

Executive Officer of ASDMA told. "We have identified the locations based on the last 10 years' flood data. From that data, we have identified 11 circles that are spread over five districts that receive floods almost every year. Vulnerable areas in vulnerable pockets in every district have been mapped," he said. "Specific preparations are underway by all the districts and we are ready from that point of view in terms of identification of

vulnerable and non-vulnerable pockets. Actual flood situation will start from May 15, but every district has started its preparedness activities from March 15," GD Tripathi said. He further said this time each district shall be evaluated and ranked on their preparedness. "This time we have introduced a scorecard and each district shall be evaluated on preparedness they have reached and we will also rate them like district number 1, 2, 3.... We are also pursuing this in consultation with Deputy Commissioners, field officers, and circle officers so that the team is fully geared up for any kind of flood situation as early rains have started. We are gearing up more to tackle any flood situation in Assam," Tripathi said. No long-term measures have been implemented so far to mitigate the flood and erosion problems of the state. Till date only Immediate and short-term measures are implemented by the state Water Resources Deptt. Implementation of the above structures, have provided reasonable protection to about 16.50 Lakh Hectares of flood affected areas out of the total 31.05 Lakh Hectare of flood prone area as identified by the R.B.A. for the state. This flood prone area of 31.05 Lakh hectares comes to about 39.58 % of the total land area of Assam. Whereas the flood prone area of the country as a whole comes to about 10.2 % of the total area of the country, it signifies that the flood prone area of Assam is four times the national mark of the flood prone area of the country.

# Indian State was set up to control, not govern

## Data-driven policy-making can be antidote

Currently, there is an ongoing debate on the number of deaths that the Covid pandemic caused in India, with the World Health Organization claiming it is 10 times higher than official estimates. The estimated death toll across multiple reports ranges from three to six million above the officially recorded 5,20,000+ deaths so far. The lack of data, or rather, the lack of acknowledgement of data, has wide-ranging implications for building State capacity that will promote good governance and productive growth. The Indian State, today, still largely functions as it did under the British Raj. In an earlier article for ThePrint, we argued that the Indian State, under the colonial design, was set up to control rather than govern its citizens. Today, this structure, which failed to evolve with time,

obstructs the State from providing public goods to citizens and, in turn, undermines the nation's development goals. This is not to say that authorities intend to be controlling, nor is this facet of the Indian State attributable to a specific government or political party. In the early 1900s, a few thousand British officials ruled over a country of 300 million people and held discretionary powers in managing the State. After Independence, the inherited administrative structure changed little. For instance, since 1947, the Indian Foreign Service has barely grown in

absolute numbers. Currently, the country has a minuscule number of Foreign Service Officers - less than Sweden, which has approximately 0.007 per cent of India's total population. The existing system, therefore, fosters an environment that hinders large-scale change. Moreover, the absence of quality data and knowledge of methods to analyse it yields an incomplete picture of the Indian State. This, in conjunction with the significant discretionary powers awarded to the executive and arms of the State, makes data-driven policymaking a challenging option. Legal and political reforms to devolve powers are unlikely to occur anytime soon, but deploying data can help shape policies to be more effective and equitable while also combating the State's inherent controlling tendencies.

When India achieved independence, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru stressed the importance of collecting data to ensure that policy objectives could be properly implemented. In a letter to chief ministers, he argued that the absence of effective measures to overcome poverty would be "disastrous" for the country. He asked for food provision programmes to be assessed and that CMs "take every possible step to mobilise all statistical data lying unused in village and district records and undertake special enquiries for collecting such enquiry as may not be available." This focus on developing India's 'scientific temper' and using rationality as an intellectual basis for policy decisions enabled the proliferation of various agencies, surveys, and organisations in strengthening India's nascent

data-collection ecosystem. Pivotal in this effort was P.C. Mahalanobis, regarded as the Father of Indian Statistics. In 1949, he was appointed as the honorary statistical adviser to the Indian Cabinet and established the Central Statistical Unit. The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) was then formed in 1951 to coordinate the statistical activities in independent India. Simultaneously, the National Sample Survey (NSS) was established as a multi-faceted fact-finding body. In 1961, the

## Kadambari Shah

CSO and NSS were put under the Department of Statistics and later merged with the Department of Programme Implementation in 1999 to create the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI). Further, the National Institute of Statistics had been globally recognised as a pioneer in survey creation and implementation by the 1950s. In parallel, the Planning Commission of India, now called NITI Aayog, enabled bureaucrats to harness

statistical data to plan the economy and also share insights with state governments through frequent interactions in the National Development Council. The presence of these agencies resulted in a range of data-collection exercises, such as the decennial census, annual economic surveys, national committees to measure income levels, and more. In recent years, this statistical heyday may be giving way to the State's controlling tendencies, despite the volume of data continuously increasing. For instance, since the introduction of Member of Parliament Development Funds (MPLADS), nearly three-fourths of MOSPI's budget has been allocated to the MPLADS, in contrast to approximately 10 per cent for the National Statistics Institute and NSS. It could arguably signify that MOSPI's focus is shifting away from statistical design/modelling and implementation.

For successful, accountable, and transparent governance, the Indian State needs to further leverage data collection and use. The way forward is not new or unknown. Multiple scholars, experts, and committees have reiterated how better data collection can help policymakers achieve their goals. Data-driven policymaking demands robust physical infrastructure such as high-powered computers and strong internet connections, as well as human capital, including bureaucrats and other officials trained in the necessary technical skills, with frequent sessions to update themselves with the latest advancements. In almost all aspects, India falls behind in maintaining requisite standards. M.R. Sharan writes in his book *Last Among Equals* about the irony of local-level officials streaming videos on their phones while waiting for the internet to work in their offices. The scarcity of computers and reliable internet is a reality in many parts of the country. However, it is not enough to have physical infrastructure and human capital; they must go hand-in-hand to

understanding and reacting to ground realities. At the same time, it is important to pay attention to data collection processes. Rukmini S. in her book *Whole Numbers and Half Truths* shows how the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) collates crime statistics using the 'principal offence rule', where it only records the Indian Penal Code charge in an FIR that charges the maximum penalty. If someone were to rob a house and also murder its owner, the NCRB would only record the murder as a crime, and not the theft because of this rule. Consequently, crime statistics could be skewed because of the way that the data is collected. It's not just about numbers, but the considerable consequences resulting from them. Barkha Dutt in *To Hell and Back* shows that if a death isn't counted as a Covid-related death, citizens are not counted as people or statistics, and families suffer the consequences emotionally and economically. For instance, the government announced schemes for children whose parent(s) succumbed to the virus, but if Covid isn't listed on



translate into policy decisions. Andhra Pradesh's data dashboards have meaningfully helped the state in reducing the impact of droughts and minimising leakages in welfare schemes. It is also essential for state governments to give more thought to the frequency of data collection, the granularity of data, and its access. More real-time data collection can feed into quick decisions. Moreover, such data should be made publicly available for researchers, academics, and statisticians to aid the government in better

the death certificate, the child/family cannot receive the benefit. India's response to the pandemic has shown us that policymaking, as in many parts of the world, has been reactive rather than proactive. As India moves into a post-pandemic world, it is imperative to prioritise good quality data at national, state and local levels to encourage policymakers to not only develop nuanced and effective policies in building state capacity but to also overcome the State's inherent tendency to centralise.



Contd. From Page 1

## CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

of 22,958 candidates were recruited into various government posts across 11 departments of the state government. The new recruits assembled today at the Veterinary College ground in Khanapara in Guwahati to collect their appointment letters in the ceremony. The recruitments include 8,867 in Assam police under the home department, 11,063 in the education department including teachers and professors in schools and colleges, 2419 in the health department, 330 in public health and engineering dept, 105 in water resource, 69 in social welfare, 55 in agriculture, 23 in forest department, 17 insurance medical officers in labour welfare, 8 in public works department, and 2 in mines and minerals. With this, Assam govt has achieved almost 25% of its poll promise of one lakh govt jobs. While the govt has already completed one year this week, the process for these recruitments is already going on, with more than 1 lakh posts already identified in various departments. The govt has already recruited around 1200 people earlier, and today 23000 were recruited. Apart from that, advertisements have been already issued for the second batch of the rest of the targeted appointments. In March this year, applications were invited for 13,141 grade III and 13,300 grade IV posts across several departments. Which means, another advertisement has been already issued for a total of 26,441 more posts, and youths in the state are already applying for those jobs online. In her budget speech in March this year, finance minister Ajanta Neog had said that the government had already hired 1,157 youths, while recruitment for 84,244 posts was in process and the remaining 14,599 posts will be filled up soon. Which means, another advertisement for around 34000 government jobs will be issued soon. Explaining the delay in the recruitment process, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, his govt's only priority in the first 5 months of his govt was controlling the pandemic, and other works including the recruitments took a back seat. "We will recruit another 7000-8000 with July 15 next and will start the selection process for another 26,000 post within July end," the CM announced in his speech. He also said that the recruitment for the 22,958 posts was done in utmost transparent manner and no one had to pay a single penny as bribe to get the jobs. The candidates who got the jobs have hailed the Himanta Biswa Sarma government for fulfilling a major poll promise. Notably, they also said that they got the jobs without paying any bribe. This has been a major development in the state after BJP came to power, because during the earlier Congress governments, government jobs were available only after paying bribes. In a major reform in recruitment process, the state government has also formed two direct recruitment commissions for recruitment into grade 3 and 4 posts, in line with the public service commission for higher level jobs. Earlier, all grade 3 and grade 4 posts were filled by the departments individually, but now that is done centrally by the two Commissions under the provisions of The Assam Direct Recruitment commissions for Analogous posts in Class-III and Class-IV Act, 2021.

## Tripura CM Biplab Deb resigns

The MLAs had met BJP National president JP Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. According to these MLAs, CM Biplab Deb had been non-responsive towards BJP leaders and he is not listening to the concerns of senior leaders of the party who have worked hard to help the BJP come to power in Tripura in 2018. The disgruntled MLAs have no complaints with the BJP and they have made it clear that their loyalty lies with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the central leadership of the party. The rebel camp, as reported in 2020, was headed by Sudip Roy Burman, who has claimed that many MLAs, who are against CM Deb, were with him. Burman said that CM Biplab Deb's attitude is like a dictator and he does not have enough experience to run government, so he should be removed from the post. It is to be noted that BJP has 36 MLAs in Tripura's 60-member Assembly and if Burman's claim is correct, then it will be difficult for BJP to keep save the government in Tripura without addressing the concerns of the disgruntled MLAs. Manik Saha has been announced as the next Chief Minister of Tripura on Saturday. He will succeed Biplab Kumar Deb after the latter tendered his resignation to the governor earlier in the day. Saha has served as the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) state unit in Tripura. He was also a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha for BJP. The party had put him up as the candidate for the Rajya Sabha elections held Tripura earlier this year against CPI (M) candidate Bhanulal Saha.

## Navjot Sidhu's surprise support to

comes after last month he was removed from all party positions for alleged anti-party activities. "It is my parting gift to the party. Good luck and goodbye Congress," said Jakhar. Jakhar was upset with Congress for serving him a show-cause notice on April 11 for "breaching party discipline" and was directed to reply within a week. However, the leader did not respond to the Congress disciplinary committee panel. He announced his decision to quit the party during an almost 35-minute-long Facebook Live while Congress is holding a 'Chintan Shivir' in Udaipur currently. Attacking Sonia Gandhi, the former MP said he was issued a show-cause notice despite him not holding any position in the party. He was quoted as saying by ANI, "I don't hold any post (in the party); I have an ideology. I want to ask Sonia Gandhi that being Congress president, doesn't she know that I hold no position in the party? Then why a show-cause notice is being given to me?" Former Punjab Congress chief Jakhar also slammed senior party leaders Tariq Anwar, JP Aggarwal and Ambika Soni, who are members of the Congress Disciplinary Committee. Meanwhile, Jakhar has found an ally in Sidhu, who is likely to face disciplinary action after Punjab Congress in-charge Harish Chaudhary's complaint against him. In late April, Chaudhary wrote a letter to party president Sonia Gandhi seeking action against Sidhu for trying to "portray himself above the party".

## Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut bats

acceptability and is spoken in the entire country," he said. To drive home his point, the Shiv Sena leader also said that the Hindi film industry is influential in the country and the world. So, no language should be insulted, he added. "Union Home Minister Amit Shah should accept this challenge that there should be one language in all states. One country, one Constitution, one nishan (emblem/symbol) and one language should be there," Raut said. The chief spokesperson of the Sena further said Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray's rally, scheduled to be held later in the day, will be "historic and revolutionary". He added the entire country is "excited" to know what stand Thackeray will take during the public rally, first of the party in the last two-and-half years. "Some people want to vitiate the atmosphere in Maharashtra, want to defame the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government and want to destabilise the state (government)," Shiv Sena chief Uddhav ji Thackeray will give a befitting reply to all this," he added. Answering a question, Raut also said that Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray was, and will remain the only 'Hinduhridaysamrat' (emperor of Hindu hearts). To another question relating to the Congress's party brainstorming session in Rajasthan's Udaipur, Raut said the Grand Old Party should lift itself. "Only then the country can expect a change," he added.

## India bans export of wheat to

export conditions for onion seeds. "The export policy of onion seeds has been put under the restricted category, with immediate fact," it said. The export of onion seeds was earlier prohibited.

## ULFA (I) Demands Apology from

according to the outfit had committed suicide. He said that the militant chief was lying on the death of Gogoi and has been misleading the youths of the state for a long period. Reacting to Kishan's comment, militant leader Arunoday Asom in a statement said, "ULFA (I) has already clarified its stand on the death of Biju Gogoi and provided the evidence. If necessary we will give more proof to Gogoi's family. But the way Kishan has termed the group chief as 'liar' is unacceptable."

## 'We can't change regimes'

Vishwanath temple." Muslims cannot change a regime in the country. You have been misled. Muslims always thought they were a vote bank. But this is not true, this country never had and will never have any Muslim vote bank," the Hyderabad MP said. "In India, there has been a majoritarian vote bank and will be there. If we could change a regime, why would there be less representation of Muslims in Parliament? If we could change the government... then the court order came on Babri Masjid, and now Gyanvapi mosque issue has cropped up," Owaisi, who has accused Congress, Samajwadi Party and the Bahujan Samaj Party of betraying Muslims, added. The statement comes a day after Owaisi slammed the Varanasi court verdict on survey at the Gyanvapi mosque, calling it a blatant violation of Places of Worship Act 1991. The Lok Sabha MP also said that he doesn't want to lose another mosque.

## 'Done so much damage that even

Tripura few hours ago. He has already submitted his resignation letter to the governor. Speculation has begun as to why the resignation took place in the year of the assembly polls. Meanwhile, after resigning from the post of chief minister, Biplab Dev has opened his mouth. He told the media, "I resigned at the behest of the top leadership. If there is an organization, there will be a government. I made this decision to work in the organization.

## Ahead of Amit Shah's Visit

the Telangana leader covered subjects like BJP's ignorance of promises made under AP Reorganization Act, unavailability of central educational institution/medical college in Telangana and pending promise by late BJP leader Sushma Swara's election promise of national status to an irrigation project in the state. KTR also asked Mr Shah on the allocation of centre funds to Telangana in the past eight years. Mr Shah will inaugurate National Cyber Forensic Laboratory (NCFL) and address a public meeting on the concluding day of BJP's month-long 'Praja Sangrama Yatra' Phase-2 in Telangana in his day-long visit to the state. The second phase of Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) 'Praja Sangrama Yatra' began last month on the occasion of Dr BR Ambedkar Jayanthi. The first phase of the 'yatra' was held for 36 days covering 19 Assembly constituencies in eight districts last year starting from Hyderabad and traversing Rangareddy, Vikarabad, Sangareddy, Medak, Kamareddy, Sircilla and Siddipet. Through the 'yatra', the BJP has been projecting the party's strength in the state.

# Ukraine repels Russia's attempt to cross Donbas river

**Kharkiv, May 14** : Ukrainians have repelled multiple attempts by the Russians to cross a strategically significant river in the Donbas, inflicting heavy losses in the process, according to local officials and British intelligence. Ukrainian forces have also driven Russia from the second-largest city of Kharkiv in their fastest advance since Kremlin troops pulled away from Kyiv and the north-east over a month ago to focus their offensive on the Donbas. The city, which had been under fierce bombardment, has been quiet for at least two weeks and Ukraine now controls territory stretching to the Siverskyi Donets river, around 40 km (25 miles) to the east. Serhiy Haidai, the governor of the Luhansk region, said Russian forces had been repulsed three times as they tried to cross the river, losing armour and bridging equipment. "We have eliminated Russian speedboats and helicopters which they used to cover their attempts," the governor added, while aerial photography showed destroyed pontoon bridges and armour by the riverbanks. Earlier on Friday, British defence intelligence said Russia had lost "significant armoured manoeuvre elements" from a battalion tactical group - a formation with about 800 personnel at full strength - from the failed efforts. Russian attempts to gain territory in the Donbas are increasingly focused on Severodonetsk, the easternmost town held by Ukrainian forces - and the Russian forces were trying to cross the river in an attempt to cut off the town. Ukraine's defence ministry tweeted pictures of a smashed pontoon bridge and destroyed armoured vehicles in Bilohorivka on Wednesday, describing them as showing victims of "artillerymen of the 17th tank brigade". Another open source analyst estimated 73 Russian pieces of equipment, including tanks and armoured vehicles, were destroyed, relying on aerial photography of the aftermath of the battle. "Conducting river crossings in a contested environment is a highly risky manoeuvre and speaks to the pressure the Russian commanders are under to make progress in their operations in eastern Ukraine," the British Ministry of Defence said on Friday morning. Russian forces in the Donbas have made incremental progress on the north side of the Siverskyi Donets, and are assessed to be in control of Rubizhne to the north-west of Severodonetsk by the Institute for the Study of War. Winning control of the town has taken Russian forces "two to three weeks", western officials added, representing an incremental pace of advance by Moscow. "Russian doctrine in this kind of conflict would have its forces moving at some 40km a day," an official added.

# Sonia Gandhi Meets Congress Top Brass On Next Phase Of Mass Agitation

**Udaipur, Rajasthan, May 14** : Congress president Sonia Gandhi today discussed the party's action plan for the second phase of the mass agitation/contact programme to take on the policies of the government as well as rising inflation and unemployment in the country. She presided over the meeting of the All-India Congress Committee general secretaries, Pradesh (state) Congress Committee presidents and legislature party leaders during the party's 'Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir' in Rajasthan's Udaipur. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi also spoke at the meeting and called for planning the next stage of the action plan for 'Jan Jagran Abhiyan', sources told Press Trust of India. The Congress launched the mass agitation/contact programme - 'Jan



Jagran Abhiyan' - from November 14 to November 29, 2021 to highlight various issues, including inflation, price rise, recession, unemployment rate and farm distress. Top Congress leaders from across the country are here for a three-day brainstorming conclave to decide on the party's strategy on key issues and revamp of the organisation.

# Bengaluru acid attack: Accused, posing as religious man

**Bengaluru, May 14** : The youth, who had made him scarce in a well-planned manner after flinging acid on a 23-year-old woman in Bengaluru last month and seriously injured her, was finally nabbed by the Karnataka Police from Tamil Nadu's Tiruvannamalai city, where he had disguised himself as a religious seer, officials said on Friday. Meanwhile, the 23-year-old acid victim has been shifted to general ward following the recovery in her health, 16 days after treatment in Intensive Care Unit (ICU). The Karnataka Police had formed 10 special teams to nab acid attacker Nagesh, as pressure came from all corners over the delay in arresting him. On the delay, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant had, on Wednesday, said: "The efforts that are being put into this case have never been put to any other case this year. No case has ever received such efforts and attention ever. The investigations have shown that the accused had preplanned the act and told his family to vacate the house and disappear." "The accused has conspired and committed the crime. He has left no clues. Police are putting in efforts to trace the attacker. He will be arrested soon," he added. Police were working on clues that the attacker was a devotee and visited pilgrimage centres. Despite searching in various religious sites, the police could not get any clue as he had managed to hide in the ashram as a religious sage, police sources said. The accused went about clad in saffron and pretended to be a spiritual man. Police personnel also went to the ashram as devotees and after observing and working tirelessly managed to get clues about him and finally nabbed him. The incident had taken place on April 28. Nagesh, who was waiting in an auto near the workplace of the girl in Sunkadakatte in Bengaluru, had chased and poured acid on her. The woman sustained 35 per cent burn injuries. The police said that the accused studied in the same school with the victim in SSLC (Class 10). He had proposed to her but she outrightly rejected him, and he had attacked her. Meanwhile, Karnataka Health Minister K. Sudhakar had visited the acid attack victim in the hospital and assured free treatment. He also announced that the government would provide her with a suitable job once she recovers. The victim has been shifted to the Special Burning Ward from ICU and she is talking to her parents. Her family sources said that since the victim had responded to the treatment, it was possible for her to recover. The skin transplantation treatment process is almost done and only 10 per cent is remaining. The girl has been told to take soft food intake.

# 'Incredible cruelty': gang battles leave 150 dead in Haitian capital

**Port-au-Prince, May 14** : Nearly 150 people have been killed and scores wounded during gunfights between warring gangs in Haiti, as the latest surge of violence has paralysed much of the sprawling capital, Port-au-Prince. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said on Thursday that it had treated more than 96 people with gunshot wounds in its medical facilities in Port-au-Prince since 24 April. "The number of trauma admissions received per week tripled compared to mid-April, and most of them are very serious gunshot wounds that require extensive care," said Mumuza Muhindo, MSF head of mission in Haiti, in a statement on Thursday. "The Haitian population is in an extremely vulnerable situation." Earlier this week, the National Human Rights Defense Network found that as many as 148 people had been killed during intense battles between the 400 Mawozo and Chen Mechan, two feared rival gangs. During a bloody fortnight of battle, gang members raped women and girls and burned people alive, the organisation said in a report on Tuesday. In one neighbourhood, gangs killed 47 people before burning 17 of the bodies and burying the rest in mass graves. "A massacre of incredible cruelty was perpetrated," claims the report, which says that authorities did little to stem the violence. "At the highest level of the state, there was no reaction." Many residents fleeing violence have arrived to makeshift shelters, sometimes just a few blocks from their homes, where they face little humanitarian assistance and risk exploitation, according to charities working in the capital.

# Cornish pub will not change name despite letter from Vogue owner

**London, May 14** : Standing seven storeys tall in Mayfair's Hanover Square - a short walk from Savile Row, Oxford Street and Michelin-starred restaurants - there is little mistaking Vogue House for what it is: the home of the fashion bible's British edition. However, a six-hour drive away, a pub in the Cornish countryside has become a site for concern for bosses at the fashion giant. Despite the pub having stood for hundreds of years, the landlords have been asked to rename it. The Star Inn at Vogue, named for the hamlet in which it is situated, has received a message from the magazine's owner asking for the change because, it says, a link between the two businesses "is likely to be inferred". In a cease-and-desist letter, Condé Nast's chief operating officer, Sabine Vandenbroucke, argued that the company was the proprietor of the Vogue mark, not only for the magazine first published in 1916 but for "other goods and services offered to the public by our company". At first the pub's landlords, Rachel and Mark Graham, were surprised. But it did not take long for their shock to dissolve to humour. "If someone had obviously taken the time to look us up, it wouldn't have taken five minutes to say: 'Oh, there's a place called Vogue,'" said Rachel, 49, who is not a reader of the magazine. The letter, dated 1 March, said: "We are concerned that the name which you are using is going to cause problems because as far as the general public is concerned a connection between your business and ours is likely to be inferred." The Star Inn has been in the small village of Vogue, near St Day, for hundreds of years, Mark wrote in response - in which his answer to the request was a "categorical no". The magazine's letter was "hilariously funny", he wrote. He believes it was sent in confusion after the couple changed their trading status to a limited company.

# Turkey 'not positive' about Sweden and Finland joining Nato

**London, May 14** : The Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdoan, has cast doubt on Finnish and Swedish membership of Nato, saying he does not have a positive opinion of the two Nordic nations joining the military alliance after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. His remarks came as a Swedish parliamentary security review said membership would reduce the risk of conflict in northern Europe and a day after neighbouring Finland said it aimed to join the alliance. Finland and Sweden, while both Nato partners, have long viewed membership as an unnecessary provocation of Russia, their powerful eastern neighbour. Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, however, has led to a radical rethink of their security policies. Membership of Nato would require ratification by all existing members, and Erdo'an remarked to journalists after leaving Friday prayers in Istanbul that Turkey would not welcome either. "We are currently following developments regarding Sweden and Finland, but we don't feel positively about this," he said. Turkey has been a Nato member since 1952 and its membership remains a cornerstone of its foreign policy towards western countries. The comments appeared directed at the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which Turkey regards as a terrorist organisation, although they appeared to encompass the communities of Kurdish origin in Scandinavia as a whole. "We don't want to commit a mistake," he added. "Scandinavian countries are like guesthouses for terrorist organisations. To go even further, they have seats in their parliaments, too." Sweden has a large Kurdish diaspora, and prominent Swedish citizens of Kurdish origin currently include six members of parliament. The Turkish authorities have not provided any evidence for claims that the parliamentarians have links with the PKK or similar groups outside Sweden. The Kurdish-speaking population of Finland was estimated at just over 15,000 people as of 2020, less than 0.3% of the population. Finland's foreign minister, Pekka Haavisto, on Friday urged patience and called for a gradual approach in response to Turkey. "We need some patience in this type of process, it's not happening in one day ... Let's take issues step by step," he told reporters. Finland's prime minister, Sanna Marin, and president, Sauli Niinistö, on Thursday said the country "must apply for Nato membership without delay". Government confirmation of the decision is expected on Sunday, with parliamentary assent likely early next week.

# Maharashtra down Assam in sub-junior women's hockey meet

**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, May 14 :** Assam went down to Maharashtra in their Group E encounter of the Hockey India Sub-junior Women's National Championship at Khuman Lampak Hockey Stadium in Imphal. In the last match of the day, which remained goalless for 29 minutes, Maharashtra earned a 3-1 win and grabbed the three points on offer. In the other matches of the day, Bengal beat Jammu & Kashmir 2-1 in a hard-fought Pool A match, Chhattisgarh registered a comfortable 7-0 win over Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh beat Hockey Uttarakhand 3-0. As for the last match of the day, it was Maharashtra captain Sukanya Dhaware who broke the deadlock



when she scored at the very end of the second quarter in the 30th minute. Assam did not have to wait too long for the equalizer as Neeshu Vihan made it 1-1 three minutes into the third quarter. However, Maharashtra got back in the lead once again when

Sanjana Khetawat scored in the 40th to make it 2-1. As the match progressed, Assam failed to find the equalizer and it was Hetal Goswami who sounded the target in the 54th minute and helped Maharashtra earn a 3-1 win. Earlier in the day, Barsha Mondal (28') and

Sumaiya Sultana (51') scored a goal each as Bengal defeated Jammu & Kashmir in a closely fought encounter. For, Jammu & Kashmir captain Palvi Devi found the target in the 41st minute. In the match between Chhattisgarh and Gujarat, Geeta Yadav (15', 50') and

Aradhana Rajbhar (36', 38') scored two goals each while Sanjana Raikwar (10'), captain Raj Rani (54') and Shalu Sonkar (59') sounded the board once as Chhattisgarh earned an easy win on the third day of the tournament. Meanwhile, Hirva Purohit (4'), Tahir Naaz (35') and Gungun Kaur (39') scored one goal each as Madhya Pradesh beat Hockey Uttarakhand easily. On Saturday, Chandigarh will take on Arunachal in Group F in the opening encounter of the day. It will be followed by the match between Punjab and Tripura in Group G. The last two matches will see Bihar take on Karnataka and Mizoram face off against Telangana.

# Nuruddin Senior Inter District Cricket semi finals will kick off on May 24

**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, May 14 :** The final round of the Nuruddin Senior Inter District Cricket Tournament kicked off in different venues in Guwahati. Altogether 12 teams will participate in the final round and they are divided into four groups. Guwahati, placed in group 'A', has started their campaign against Morigaon with a 3-day game. On the same day Nagaon faced Tinsukia and Barpeta will clash against Biswanath. Both the semi finals will kick off on May 24 and final will begin on May 28. Guwahati team for Nuruddin: Gokul Sharma



(capt), Rahul Hazarika (VC), Sumit C Ghadigaonkar, Hrishikesh Tamuli, Nipon Deka, Romario Sama, Erik Roy, Dharani Rabha, Bipal Saikia, Abdul Ajij, Rohan Hazarika, Pradyun Saikia, Rohit Singh, Jitu Ali and Hirak Jyoti Choudhury. Head Coach-Palashjyoti Das, Coach-Bhaskarjyoti Barman. Manager-Nabajit Narzary.

# Leinster 'best team in Europe', says Toulouse coach before semi-final

**Leinster, May 14 :** Leinster have been heralded as the best team in Europe by the Toulouse head coach, Ugo Mola, before Saturday's European Champions Cup

side with Cyril Baille and Anthony Jelonec coming into the pack and Juan Cruz Mallia selected on the right wing. "We play a team that totally masters the European

in a repeat of last season's semi-final. Racing have selected Virimi Vakatawa at centre in place of Henry Chavancy and handed a starting place to the



semi-final clash in Dublin. Toulouse, the defending champions, return to the Aviva Stadium, having last week edged past Munster in a place-kicking shootout following their 24-24 draw at the same venue. The match is a repeat of the 2019 semi-final, also played at the Aviva Stadium, with Leinster running out 30-12 winners. Toulouse have won the tournament five times but Leinster are the favourites to add to their four titles, having ruthlessly dispatched Leicester in the previous round. Leinster are unchanged from that match while Mola has tweaked his

games," said Mola. "Three years ago, they took us out [in] the semi-finals. We learned a lot that day, and three years later we are no longer the same [team]. But neither [are] they." Leinster remains in my eyes a reference of European rugby, with this ability to provoke things, to have a structured, inspired and inspiring rugby. I remain convinced that they are the best team in Europe, for a very long time, in their rugby. In his way of thinking about rugby, with a philosophy and a whole organisation around this philosophy." On Sunday, Racing 92 face La Rochelle

Springbok prop Trevor Nyakane. La Rochelle have made just one change with Jonathan Danty coming in at inside-centre. Meanwhile, in the Challenge Cup, Saracens are away to Toulon in their semi-final while Wasps travel to Lyon. The Wasps scrum-half Dan Robson said: "You can see the pedigree of the last four teams in it. We know this is a chance of getting silverware which would make the season a great success. We've proven this year that in one-off games we can beat anyone. We've had some big games and when we've turned up we've been pretty good."

# Stradivarius sweeps to record 18th victory under Frankie Dettori

**York, May 14 :** Stradivarius and Frankie Dettori opened a new chapter here on Friday in what was already one of the more remarkable racing stories of recent decades, as the chestnut set off on his seventh - and surely final - campaign with a one-length win in the Group Two Yorkshire Cup. The victory, the 20th of Stradivarius's 33-race career, set a new record for Group-race wins in Europe and took his unbeaten streak on the Knavesmire to six races. Perhaps most importantly, though, given



the recent drop in attendances at many high-profile meetings, it also sent the crowd home with an "I was there" moment that will keep them coming back for more. Stradivarius's 18th Group-race success took him one clear of Cirrus Des Aigles among

European-trained Flat horses, and his record is all the more remarkable for having been achieved without a gelding operation at some point to keep his mind on the job at hand. He hit a brief flat spot just over a quarter of a mile out on Friday but once Dettori had persuaded Stradivarius to lengthen, he showed all his old and familiar enthusiasm to sweep into the lead a little more readily, perhaps, than even his rider had expected.

# Phil Mickelson withdraws from US PGA Championship title defence

**London, May 14 :** Phil Mickelson will not defend his title in next week's US PGA Championship at Southern Hills, tournament organisers have announced. Mickelson has been taking a break from golf since the fallout from his explosive comments about the PGA Tour and the Saudi-backed breakaway spearheaded by Greg Norman. The six-time major winner officially registered for the US PGA and next month's US Open on 25 April and also requested a release from the PGA Tour to play the first LIV

Golf Invitational Series event from 9-11 June, a request that was denied earlier this week. Greg Norman, the chief executive of LIV Golf Investments, speaks during a press conference in St Albans ahead of the inaugural LIV Golf Invitational. His agent said at the time that Mickelson was simply keeping his options open and did not have "concrete plans" about his return to action. In a post on Twitter on Friday evening, the PGA of America wrote: "We have just been informed that Phil Mickelson has

withdrawn from the PGA Championship." Phil is the defending champion and currently eligible to be a PGA Life Member and we would have welcomed him to participate. We wish Phil and Amy [his wife] the very best and look forward to his return to golf." Mickelson's victory at Kiawah Island last year made him the oldest ever winner of a men's major championship, his two-shot win over Brooks Koepka and Louis Oosthuizen coming only a month before his 51st birthday. The left-hander has

not played since February's Saudi International, shortly after which his comments about the PGA Tour and the Saudi-backed events were made public.



# 3 from Assam held for stealing sports bikes

**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, May 14 :** A team of the Navi Mumbai Crime Branch unit-2 have arrested three fraudsters, hailing from Assam, who posed as prospective buyers on Olx and after meeting the owners of



sports bikes, decamped with the vehicles after taking a trial ride. A total of five bikes were recovered from the accused, including two from theft cases registered last month at Khandeshwar and Nerul police stations. Owners of three other

recovered bikes are being traced, informed DCP (crime) Suresh Mengade. Mengade further said that accused, Abdul Mujumdar, 28, Abdul Lashkar, 26, and Hujjarhul Choudhary, 26, confessed to have cheated two persons in Khandeshwar and Nerul and

bike owner, they would buy a cheap mobile and a SIM card and dispose them after accomplishing their motive," he added. "From the CCTV camera surveillance on the streets, we zeroed-in on the three suspects who were the same persons who had cheated the bike owners in Nerul and Khandeshwar. After apprehending them in police custody, they revealed that they had used their bike's registration number plate on the five stolen bikes and sent them as goods parcels by train from Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) to Kamakhya junction in Assam. Soon crime branch unit-2 senior inspector Giridhar Gore and his team communicated with the officials at the goods parcel department at LTT and also at Kamakhya junction in Assam, and recovered the five KTM sports bikes collectively worth Rs 5.50 lakh," Mengade further informed.

# National swimming Rajib Dey appointed as team coach

**Assam Rising**  
**Guwahati, May 14 :** Swimming coach Rajib Dey is selected as the coach of the Indian swimming team for the forthcoming ISF World School Gymnasiade. The Gymnasiade, which is the largest international multi-sport and educational event for school students aged 16-18 years, held at Normandy

in France from May 14. The Ministry of Health Affairs in its recent guidelines allowed to open swimming pool only for training purpose of sportspersons. National level swimming coach Rajib Dey advises the state swimmers to go slowly at the initial stage of their training and increase the level gradually.

# Upper Assam Prize Money Table Tennis Tournament at Dibrugarh



**Assam Rising**  
**Dibrugarh, May 14 :** The Jnanadayani Sabha has organized Jitendra Nath

Chakravorty Memorial Upper Assam Prize Money Table Tennis Tournament at Jnanadayani Table Tennis Academy, Dibrugarh from May 14. Over 200 paddlers along with guardians from Duliajan, Namrup, Moran, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Golaghat, North Lakhimpur are expected for the event.

# Durham bowler Matthew Potts in frame for first England Test call-up

**Durham, May 14 :** Durham's Matthew Potts is pushing for a first Test call-up next week as England's newly formed triumvirate of Rob Key, Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes start out with a worrying shortage of seam bowlers. Of the 11 frontline seamers to be capped in the past two years only five are playing in the current round of the County Championship, the last before selection for the first Test against New Zealand on 2 June. Ollie Robinson, among them, has bowled just one over for Sussex against Leicestershire. Robinson's stomach complaint after a single outing so far and a winter of fitness woe, plus no sign of Chris Woakes yet due to shoulder and knee issues has opened the door for Potts, this season's leading wicket-taker with 28 victims. Fresh from four for 61 against Glamorgan on Friday, he is now being considered for an upgrade after standby status during the recent Caribbean tour. Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad, frozen out of

that trip, will be back at the behest of Stokes and like Craig Overton, who struggled with the new ball in their absence, are playing this week. Saqib Mahmood is missing the Roses match with a stiff back, however, and has turned out just once for Lancashire in April. Mahmood's scans are clear but Jofra Archer and Mark Wood must first return from elbow injuries in white-ball cricket; so, too, Olly Stone after his lower-back stress fracture. Sam Curran is in the foothills of a comeback from the same issue and Matt Fisher, a debutant in Barbados, is out with a "stress reaction" to his back. Potts, tipped for higher honours by Stokes last week and with three five-wicket hauls in a surging summer, looks the likely beneficiary. Surrey's pacy Jamie Overton will also be discussed when Key, the newly-hired McCullum and Stokes - plus performance director Mo Bobat and head scout James Taylor - convene.



# Luton's Wembley dream alive as Sonny Bradley secures draw with Huddersfield

**London, May 14 :** For Luton, the miracle is still on. This was a frayed, scrappy but thoroughly engrossing tie that ended with Wembley in sight, although Huddersfield will have their own perspective when they host Monday's second leg. A draw was the correct outcome, meaning Nathan Jones' players are two games from confounding every expectation and taking the Hatters, buffeted from pillar to post for long periods in their 30 years out of the top flight,

yet another chapter in their fairytale. "If we weren't confident, we might as well save on the hotel bill and stay here," he said. "We haven't lost the game and that's really important. It's a wonderful tie, to go away to Huddersfield now." This was a pretty special occasion too. Kenilworth Road is a wonderful, creaking, crumbling anachronism that has not hosted a top-flight game since April 1992. It appears to have frozen in time since then; on the pitch Luton,

Norwich had space to exploit when, in attempting to pursue him, Kai Naismith stumbled. Harry Toffolo found the gap with a slide-rule pass and, with Bradley unable to stop the shooting opportunity despite drawing him wide, Sinani shot crisply inside Matt Ingram's near post. Bradley had fretted before the game that, at 30, this may be his first and last chance for a tilt at the highest level. He had not helped matters in affording Sinani too much space but atonement arrived on the half-hour, just as it did for his fellow centre-back Naismith. Luton had put Huddersfield under the pump with a succession of crosses and, when Cameron Jerome was felled by Tom Lees, had a left-sided free-kick.



back to heights few thought they could scale again. Few except Jones, perhaps. The Welshman's infectious optimism and bullishness are duly mirrored by his team, who could have crumbled on their big night after Danel Sinani's well-taken opener but recovered to equalise through the captain Sonny Bradley. Luton could have been ahead by the interval; by the same token they might have finished the game in arrears and Jones, chipper as usual, saw enough to scent

sinking into non-league via three spells in administration, have done anything but and the sight of their orange-clad fans roaring them on in search of the promised land must have been giddy for those who have been on board throughout. A raucous, hostile atmosphere felt like another throwback, breeding a tempo that rattled and throbbed from the off. It was sternly tested after 12 minutes when, amid the tumult, Huddersfield's Sinani kept a cool head. The loanee from

# India script Thomas Cup history beat Denmark 3-2

**New Delhi, May 14 :** India reached their first-ever Thomas Cup final in the 73-year-history of the prestigious team tournament on Friday, May 13. The Asian side stunned 2016 champions Denmark 3-2 in an exhilarating tie that delighted badminton fans at the Impact Arena in Bangkok, Thailand. World Championships silver medalist Kidambi Srikanth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty and HS Prannoy were among the ones who came up with victories for India in the pulsating Thomas Cup semi-final tie against Denmark. Leader of the pack Srikanth has had a perfect record at Thomas Cup 2022, winning all 5 of his matches so far while Prannoy has delivered twice in must-win situations. India retained the same line-up from Thursday's quarter-final win and it worked for them as they won two singles ties to outclass Denmark, bronze medalists from the previous edition. On Thursday, India had secured their first-ever medal by



reaching their first semi-final since 1979. They had defeated Malaysia 3-2 to reach the last 4. On Friday, the men from India went one step further and are assured of at least a silver medal. India women, who have won two bronze medals (in 2014 and 2016) in the Uber Cup, failed to medal in the ongoing edition, crashing out in the quarter-final with a 0-3 defeat to hosts Thailand. However, there was no let-up in energy and grit from the men's team as they took the

Danish stars head-on on Friday. The spirit and energy that was evident when they celebrated the historic win over Malaysia were carried forward to the court on Friday. Like Thursday, India came back from behind and scripted a 3-2 win over Denmark. India's win also ended Denmark's streak of winning medals at the Thomas Cup for 2 successive editions. Denmark had come back from behind twice earlier in the tournament, including their semi-final win over

Korea, but India did not allow Denmark to complete a comeback from 1-2 down. Like Thursday, it was HS Prannoy who came out all guns firing in the deciding match, the final singles contest of the tie. The World No. 23 went down in the opening game to World No. 13 Rasmus Gemke 13-21. However, Prannoy, who has been vocal about the team spirit in the Indian contingent, pulled off a special effort to beat Gemke 13-21, 21-9, 21-12 to help India script

history. As expected, Prannoy let out a huge roar of victory as India celebrated one of the biggest moments in their badminton history. Prannoy's teammates rushed on the court as the fans at the Impact Arena cheered on the victorious Indian team. It did not begin well for India as Lakshya Sen, India's highest-ranked men's singles shuttler, lost to reigning Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen in straight games (13-21, 13-21) in 49 minutes. However, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, India's top-ranked doubles pairing, won the first doubles match of the tie to make 1-1. It was then Srikanth's turn to face World No. 4 and former All England champion Anders Antonsen. The in-form Indian shuttler, the winner of the world championship silver medal, held his nerves and completed a 21-18 12-21 21-15 win over Antonsen in a hard-fought battle that extended to an hour and 20 minutes. India will take 14-time champions and holders Indonesia in the final on Sunday, May 15.

## Shooting : India picks up four more gold at Junior World Cup

**New Delhi, May 14 :** Indian shooters continued to dominate the proceedings at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, winning four more gold medals in the women's and men's air rifle and air pistol team events on Friday. India's tally currently stands at 14 medals, including eight gold and six silver. Australia, France, Poland and Bulgaria have won the other four gold medals on offer. India's gold rush on Friday began when the men's 10m air rifle trio of Rudranksh Patil, Paarth Makhija and Umamahesh Maddineni beat Spain's Jesus Oviedo, Adrian Diaz and Jorge Estevez 16-8 in the gold medal match. It was a second gold in the competition for both Rudranksh and Paarth, who had won the individual men's 10m air rifle and the mixed team rifle competitions earlier respectively. It was then the turn of the junior women's 10m air pistol team of Manu Bhaker, Palak and Esha Singh who outplayed Georgians Salome Prodiashvili, Mariam Abramishvili and Mariami Prodiashvili by the same 16-8 margin. Then the air rifle women's team consisting of Arya Borse, Zeena Khitta and Ramita



downed the Korean trio of Yeeun AN, Eunji Kwon and Jeongin Jang 17-9 in the title decider to give India the third gold of the day. Finally, the men's air pistol team of Saurabh Chaudhary, Shiva Narwal and Sarabjot Singh outclassed Uzbekistan's Mukhammad Kamalov, Veniamin Nikitin and Umidbek Komolbekov 17-9 to clinch India's fourth gold of the day. India have also reached the gold medal round of the men's and women's trap team competitions, assuring

themselves of two more silver medals at the very least. Shardul Vihan, Arya Vansh Tyagi and Vivaan Kapoor will clash with the US trio of Patrick Thompson, Ernest Carvahlo and Christian Kutz later in the day for the junior men's trap team title. Then India's Preeti Rajak, Sabeera Haris and Bhavya Tripathi will be up against the Italian trio of Marika Patera, Sofia Gori and Sofia Littame in the women's trap team gold medal contest.

## MS Dhoni hints he will be back next season



**New Delhi, May 14 :** MS Dhoni ducked under a bouncer and hared down the pitch at the other end. CSK were nine down and the skipper wanted to keep the strike. Mukesh Choudhary, 15 years Dhoni's junior, was slow off the blocks. He was run-out to a direct hit from Ishan Kishan. Dhoni shook his head. Even at 40, he was way quicker than a player in his mid-20s. Solely on fitness, Dhoni can play a few more IPLs. His running between the wickets is still a joy to watch. The last few IPLs have had a Dhoni's retirement plans subplot. The player dead-bats it. During

a recent conversation with The Indian Express, a CSK official spoke about the franchise's expectations of having their captain as a player next year also. But Dhoni has a mind of his own. A defeat against Mumbai Indians on Thursday ended CSK's playoffs hopes and after the game Dhoni spoke about the future, dropping a hint that he would be part of it. "... we have a few positives that we will take into the next season. But what is important is that whatever gaps are there, to try to fill in those gaps so that leakages don't happen," he said at the post-match presentation.

## Dina Asher-Smith off the pace in opening Diamond League meeting

**Doha, May 14 :** Dina Asher-Smith's season began with unwelcome turbulence as she finished a well-beaten third in the 200m at the opening Diamond League meeting in Doha. Asher-Smith had promised that she was fit and flying but after powering around the bend she tailed off sharply as the American Gabby Thomas and Jamaican Shericka Jackson fought it out at the front. Thomas, the bronze medalist in Tokyo and third fastest woman in history, came through to win in an impressive 21.98 sec. But Asher-Smith's face - and words - said it all after she finished in 22.37. "I feel like I was in a bit better shape than that time," admitted Asher-Smith, who had the benefit of a +1.3m tailwind. "I'm a little bit disappointed but at the same time, it is the first race. I've got to get a few more under my belt." At least Asher-Smith can take some comfort in it being her fastest ever season opener - while the other Briton in the race, Beth Dobbin, was sixth in 23.06. "It takes me a while to warm up," added Asher-Smith, who will race over 100m in Birmingham next Saturday. "So it's all good." Asher-Smith knows she has plenty of time to improve, and opportunities for medals in 2022 - starting with the world cham-

pionships in Eugene in July, followed by the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham and the European Championships in Munich in August. Earlier in the evening Daniel Rowden finished fourth in a high-quality 800m won by new Kenyan star Noah Kibet. Kibet, who only turned 18 last month, has already won a world indoor silver surprise in the women's 400m as the Olympic and world indoor champion Shaunae Miller-Uibo was beaten by Tokyo 2020 silver medallist Marileidy



der pressure, the crowd makes me excited," said Lyles. "I feel good about my position right now. My plan for the world championship is to win, to always win." However Olympic gold medallist Andre De Grasse looked off the pace and could only finish fourth in a modest 20.15. There was another minor surprise in the women's 400m as the Olympic and world indoor champion Shaunae Miller-Uibo was beaten by Tokyo 2020 silver medallist Marileidy

Paulino. Miller-Uibo started hard but struggled in the wind and could only finish third in 51.84, with Paulino coming through to win in 51.20. The highly-anticipated clash between Olympic 1500m champion Faith Kipyegon and world 2000m record holder Francine Niyonsaba over 3000m went the way of Niyonsaba in a sprint finish.

## Taylor tips Manchester City and Chelsea to 'slug it out' in Women's FA Cup final

**London, May 14 :** Gareth Taylor expects Manchester City's Women's FA Cup final against Chelsea at Wembley on Sunday to be a slugfest and is clear that even if his team fail to win their season has been a success. City go into the game in sparkling form, having won 13 games in a row, a sequence that includes beating Emma Hayes's side 3-1 in the League Cup final, the second trophy of Taylor's three-year tenure after he guided his side to the 2020 FA Cup. Victory against Reading on the final day of the Women's Super League campaign secured Champions League qualification for City and they face a Chelsea team who are the FA Cup holders and WSL champions. Taylor is relishing Sunday's showpiece. "It's going to be fantastic - it is two good teams going at it, slugging it out, two teams who have shown really good quality this season," the manager said. "It's great for fans of both teams to see

their teams going at it; hopefully for the neutral as well it will be an exciting game. We hope to see some good football played, some good talent on display and worthy victors at the end." Of course it's massive [to beat Chelsea]. We want to do it, there's no doubt about that. But there's a really healthy respect between the clubs, a healthy respect between the players, between myself and Emma, the two organisations. Why wouldn't we commend what they've done? Emma's been there a long time [10 years], she's been supported, she's won trophies, got to finals, she's done amazingly well. "We've been there before in cup finals and so have Chelsea, so there's no real edge for either team. It's just who goes out and performs best." City's closing phase of the campaign came after a start that featured four losses from the opening seven games. Taylor received criticism despite his squad being seriously hampered by injuries, the nadir a



5-0 loss at Arsenal in the league for which 10 players were unavailable. "Unfortunately there is a lot of criticism out there - hopefully people have seen how we turned it around," he said. "I was a player for more than 20 years; we do struggle to say: 'Well done.' Unfortunately we can all highlight the negative stuff. But even when we were missing huge personalities and players, what we were doing wasn't a million miles off."






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