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Azadi Ka  
Amrit Mahotsav



# 15<sup>th</sup> ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 2021-2026

## Glorious first year

### Amongst Eventful Legislative Programmes

- 58 Bills passed by the House
- 68 Presentations of Reports of the Departmentally Related Standing Committees
- 93 Meetings held of 20 Legislature Committees with 68 Presentations of Reports
- 3162 Questions admitted during last three sessions
- 20 Petitions disposed received from different individuals by the Committee on Petitions
- Hon'ble Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla addressed the Assembly



**Biswajit Daimary**  
Hon'ble Speaker  
Assam Legislative Assembly



**Dr. Numal Momin**  
Hon'ble Deputy Speaker  
Assam Legislative Assembly

### Innovative steps under Digital Reforms Programme

- **Simultaneous interpretation** of the Proceedings of the House in Assamese, Bodo and English
- **Online tabling** of questions and other notices relating to the session
- **Digitization** of the Assembly Library
- **RFID System** for Management of Assembly Library
- **Digital Time Keeping** of speeches during Assembly debates
- **Automated Hospital Management** system in Vidhan Sabha Swastha Kendra
- **RFID Digital Identification** process for MLAs for entry into the Assembly chamber
- **Online Entry Pass** service for visitors
- **Boom Barrier and Flap Barrier** security system at entry gates
- **Sophisticated Fire Alarm** system inside the Assembly Chamber

### Significant Initiatives of the year

- **Midyear Executive Committee** meeting of International Commonwealth Parliamentary Association – the first ever of its kind in the country
- **Regional Conference** of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of India
- **Formation of three groups of members** of the House to study the demographic, socio-economic and cultural pattern of societies of Assam
- **Introduction of Bodo Language** in Assam Legislative Assembly
- **Two-day long in-depth discussion on National Education Policy 2022 and Power Sector**
- **All Party Delegation visit to Assam-Mizoram Border** to assess problems at Lailapur
- **Launch of exclusive Health Care Centre** (Vidhan Sabha Swasthya Kendra and Yoga & well-being centre) for MLAs/ex MLAs
- **Launch of E-cart services** for members from Assembly to Hostel campus to minimize pollution and traffic jam

- Release of Bodo Edition of the "Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Assam Legislative Assembly" by Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam in the august presence of His Excellency, Ramnath Kovind, the President of India on May 4, 2022.
- Live streaming of Assembly Proceedings service through Youtube and Assembly Website [www.bidhansabha.org](http://www.bidhansabha.org).

- A deep sense of gratitude to Assam Government led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, for full support and cooperation towards the Assam Legislative Assembly.
- Nomination of Shri Biswajit Daimary, Hon'ble Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly, as Member of the International Executive Committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.



Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Janasanyog/D/3781/22

Exclusive 2022.05



# Yoga awareness event held at JNV



**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, May 20:** On the occasion of upcoming International Yoga Day, C/30 Bn CRPF organized a Yoga awareness event at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya School on May 20. Both boys and girls students along with the

teachers of JNV school participated with zeal and enthusiasm and joined the CRPF in this event to mark the awareness programme for the upcoming International Yoga Day. In order to bring awareness among the masses about the

healthy lifestyle and benefits of Yoga The 30 Bn CRPF which has headquarter at Chariduar, Sonitpur has conducted yoga awareness events and sessions on regular basis in different Districts of Assam. All the Yoga sessions were organized by trained instructors who explained and demonstrated the correct postures for various asanas while highlighting their benefits. On this occasion B.V Singh Jodha, Assistant Commandant 30

Bn CRPF briefed the participants about the importance of Yoga in daily life as it bestows health benefits and helps in inculcating self discipline which is very important for today's stressful and sedentary lifestyle. Further he explained that yoga is extremely effective for increasing flexibility, lubrication of joints, ligaments and tendons, massaging of all organs of the body and for excellent toning of the muscles etc. Participants were advised to perform Yoga exercises daily to lead stress free

life and remain physically & mentally fit. JNV school Principal Niranjana Singh also wished to all the Students, teachers, staff and CRPF Jawans for their good health and urge to take yoga as an important part of their healthy life. He also said that yoga also helps in all round fitness, loss of weight, relief from stress, prevents inner peace, improving of immunity, better relationship and other importance / benefits of Yoga in Human life.

## Medicity to organise free health check-up camp

**Assam Rising Guwahati, May 20:** Leading medical service provider in North East India, Medicity hospital is going to organize a free health check-up camp on Sunday next at Aditya Medicity from 11 am to 3 pm. The camp will be attended by specialist doctors from a total of 9 disciplines, through whom you will be able to get free health check-ups for yourself as well as family members. Gastroenterology, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Nose, Ear and Throat Diseases, Orthopedics, Cardiology, Medicine or Drugs, Respiratory Diseases, Orthopedics and Diabetes mellitus specialist doctors will attend the health check-up camp. A regular health check-up can save your money in the long run. Also, preventive health check-ups can reduce the risk of undergoing surgeries and other chronic medical conditions. For any other information one can contact on - 8486483479 - a release added.



## World Hypertension Day 2022-Measure Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer!

**Guwahati, May 20 :** School and College of Nursing NEMCARE Foundation, Santipur, Mirza have observed the World Hypertension Day on 17th May 2022 by organizing a free health camp based on the objective of the theme "Measure Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer" under the guidance of Mrs. Papori Pathak Choudhury, Principal SON & CON, NEMCARE Foundation and Ms. Jayashree Kakoti, Vice principal SON & CON, NEMCARE Foundation, along with the faculties of Medical Surgical Nursing Department. Hypertension is one of the global targets for non-communicable disease, to reduce the prevalence of hypertension by 33% between 2010 and 2030. There are complex challenges in the prevention and control of hypertension



globally. To help avoid this, all countries have participated and observed in the World Hypertension Day celebration with rigorous blood pressure measurement and awareness efforts in the community about Hypertension, its symptoms, and ways to manage it. The students of 3rd year, 4th year B.Sc Nursing and faculties of Medical Surgical Department, School and College of Nursing NEMCARE Foundation have come forward to educate the people across Mirza.

Around 150 participants from the local community, teaching and non-teaching staffs of NEMCARE Group of Institutions have come forward for the screening. The activities of the students includes BMI calculation and health assessment. They have also helped to spread an awareness regarding the dietary and lifestyle modifications on hypertension. A take home message was also given on how hypertension can be treated and controlled if right actions are taken at the right time.

## LTK College organised workshop on employment skill development

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 20:** Under the joint aegis of NSS unit and skill and personality development cell of Lakhimpur Telahi Kamalaboria (LTK) College, Azad, North Lakhimpur, a workshop on employment skill development was held at the college on Thursday in order to develop employment skills among the students. The workshop was inaugurated by the Principal of the college Dr. Bubul Kumar Saikia where chief executive of Vokniv Technology and regional manager of ITC Academy, an MBA from Castle University, USA, Pradip Chetty took part as the Resource Person. Skill and personality development cell co-ordinator Dr. Randip Borah also spoke on the occasion. More than four hundred students of the college participated in the workshop, besides ITC Academy officials and professors of the college. College NSS unit liaison officer Prof. Debajyoti Chetia anchored the workshop.

## Free eye check up camp among truck drivers concluded

**Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 20:** Jana Sewa Parishad in association with the Ministry of Road Transportation and National Highway, Govt of India organized a 10 day long mobile free eye check up camp among the truck drivers at various places across the state and the camp was concluded here at Nagaon Borghat bypass Chariali on Thursday last. During the drive, the organization checked the eyes of over 866 truck drivers and also distributed free spectacles among those truck drivers. Besides, over 116 drivers were prescribed for further treatment and care for their eyes. In the closing function of the mobile health camp held at Nagaon Borghat bypass, the new DTO, Nagaon Sunit Kr Bora, senior physician of Nagaon BP Civil Hospital Dr Pallabi Hazarika graced the occasion as chief guest, a release added.



## Social worker Ram Prasad Chetry passes away

**Assam Rising Biswanath Chariali, May 20:** Ram Prasad Chetry, the founder headmaster of Khanamukh high school breathed his breath this morning at around 9 AM at a private hospital at Guwahati. He was 66. Chetry had been suffering from heart related ailments for a long time. He was undergoing treatment. He was admitted to a private hospital after his health deteriorated last week. He was an existing member of zila parishad from Mansiri area under Sonitpur district. He was former vice president of Assam Gorkha Sammelan, Vice president of All Assam High School Teachers' Association, president of Sonitpur district high school teachers' association for two times, secretary of Adhibidya Parishad besides others. His untimely demise was widely mourned here. Various organisations like Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha, All Assam Gorkha Sammelan, AAGSU, the greater Khanamukh Gorkha

Samaj and individuals including Rangapara MLA Krishna Kamal Tanti paid rich tributes to the mortal remains at his Khanamukh residence. He leaves behind his wife, a son, two daughters along with a host of relatives.

**Assam Rising, Margherita, May 20:** Even though Union and Assam Government is strict against Child labour and continuously warning people to raise their voice against such crimes, but unfortunately some coke and coal bhatta, coal thieves hired child labour with low wages in Margherita which comes under Tinsukia district. In a joint operation conducted

by Margherita Executive Magistrate Pranta Pratim Patra, Tinsukia District Child Protection office Shyam Upadhaya SW, Nirupam Chutia PO, Dorithi Das Labour Inspector Tinsukia, Child line and Ledo Police on Wednesday rescued a child labour from a M/S Royal Coal Products Coke Coal Bhatta situated at Tirap Gaon. The Executive Magistrate of Margherita, Pranta Pratim Patra, stated

that "we received information from a reliable source regarding the presence of child labour under the age of 14 working at M/S Coal Products coke coal bhatta located at Tirap Gaon, Sail line, which is a violation of the Child Labour Act." Meanwhile, a case has been registered against Khitish Debnath, the owner of M/S Royal Coal Products. It is worth noting

that Coal Thieves hire school dropouts under the age of 14 to work at Coke Coal Bhattas, which is violation of Child Labour law. Furthermore, Palash Rajkumar Ahom, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Margherita, has ordered an investigation into those coal thieves and other businesses that employ children, primarily school dropouts. Support us on our social media platforms rescued child labour from Coal bhatta in Tinsukia district.



amongst the villagers. The villagers managed to escape leaving their houses and properties and took shelter in secured places. The herd of wild elephants destroyed several houses of seven families in the village. The herd of wild elephant has created terror by eating betel nut trees, coconut trees

and banana trees etc. The elephants have broken the houses and eaten all the crops and rice stored inside the houses. On getting information, a team of forest officials from Kumarkata forest range office rushed to the spot and sent the herd of wild elephants back towards hills after a long time.

## Child labour rescued from Coal Bhatta

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## Erosion wreaks havoc at Ambari

**Assam Rising Chhaygaon, May 20:** Assam has faced the annual calamity of floods during the monsoon months but the yearly event seems to have arrived early this year as Assam already has witnessed several instances of flooding and land erosion in the last few days resulting in the loss of life and property. Similarly incessant rains in the state for several days have caused huge damage to the fields and public life along the Brahmaputra river. Due to this incessant rain, the flood of Brahmaputra has



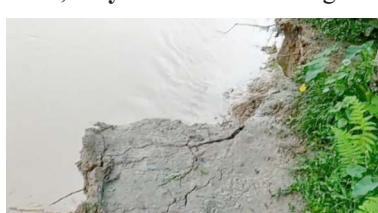
caused a great damage to the people of Ambari, Chhaygaon too. On the one hand, the water of the Brahmaputra has eroded a lot too in that area. The

residents of the area have been going through fear every day due to the erosion of parts of the embankment due to rain for nearly a week at the link area of Ambari-Kandulimari road connecting Palashbari and Gumi in South Kamrup. From young school children, from the elderly to pregnant women, everyone has to travel in danger of dying. If water enters the

places, large areas of Palashbari and Chhaygaon constituencies are feared to be affected by more heavy floods. It may be recalled that people of Ambari, Kandulimari in Chhaygaon as well as about 7-8 villages in the larger region have suffered hell in the traffic area. In parallel, the crop of beaded paddy as well as eri paddy has to be harvested ahead of time due to which raw paddy has to be cut in fear of a crisis. On the other hand the concerned department and authorities have not taken any major action in this regard even after more than a week of public complaints. It is noteworthy here what kind of actions will be taken by the concerned departments in this regard.

## Erosion of Budhidihing river in Margherita

**Assam Rising, Margherita, May 20:** The Budhidihing river in Margherita has been flooding and affected about 20 houses and hundreds of hectares of land in the area. The victims have appealed to the Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sharma and local MLA Bhaskar Sharma to take action to prevent the floods immediately.



### THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT AT GUWAHATI (The High Court of Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh)

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Quotations are hereby invited, affixing Court Fee stamp of Rs.8.25, from authorized agencies/suppliers for supply of approx. 430 (four hundred thirty) nos. of Digital Signature certificates (Class III with 2 years validity including USB Token) in respect of the Judicial Officers in the state of Assam.

The tenders should reach the undersigned on or before 1st June/2022

By order  
Sd/- D.K. Nath  
Joint Registrar Finance

Janasanyog/C/2837/22

RFQ No. APART/Seri-OPIU/28/2021-22/134/8809

### REQUEST FOR QUOTATION (RFQ)

Detailed Procurement Notice  
(Double Envelope Bidding Process)

The Government of Assam through the Government of India has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of 'Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART)' and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the contract, for which The Director of Sericulture, Assam, invites Quotations from Govt registered firms for conducting 06 days Skill Up gradation Training [Muga Reelers] for Sericulture farmers at Sericulture Training Institute, Titabor, Jorhat.

- The criteria for qualification, evaluation procedure, award of contract and relevant forms to be filled by bidders and the Procurement notice along with the RFQ may be obtained from the Office of the Directorate of Sericulture Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22 during office hours.
- The Quotation containing the Technical Part and Financial Part, shall be submitted separately in two sealed envelope mentioning Technical Bid and Financial Bid in a single envelop addressed to "The Director of Sericulture, Reshom Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022" on or before 30th May 2022 by 01.00 PM.
- The Quotations will be opened on the same day, i.e. 30th May 2022 at 2.30 PM in the presence of the bidders or their representatives who choose to attend at the office of the undersigned. The sealed envelope should be super scribed as "Quotation for Skill up Gradation Training (Muga Reelers) Sericulture farmers"; Not to be opened before 30th May 2022 at 2.30 PM". If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the Quotations as specified, the Quotations will be opened on the next working day at the same time.
- The Director of Sericulture shall not be held liable for any delay in the receipt of Quotations. A Bidder requiring any clarification of the RFQ document may visit the office for the same. Hard copy of the RFQ will be provided by the office to the bidder.
- The area of work shall be Sericulture Training Institute, Titabor, Jorhat

Sd/-  
Director of Sericulture, Assam,  
Reshom Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022

Janasanyog/C/2818/22

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# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Gerhard Schröder to be stripped of privileges fo ...

02

George Russell of Mercedes previously raised concerns

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Candidates List Assam Rising Guwahati, May 20 :

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) on Friday released its candidates list for Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Election (KAAC) 2022 to be held on June 8. Elections will be held in all 26 council constituencies of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong district. The counting of ballots will take place on June 12. Out of the 26, four candidates are yet to be announced by APCC. The last KAAC election was held on June 17, 2017, and the council was constituted on July 3 the same year. A total of 7,03,298 voters are registered to exercise their franchise in the election-3,55,503 male and 3,47,795 female. Five third gender voters are also enrolled in the voter list.

### Headmaster suspended

Assam Rising Guwahati, May 20 :

A school headmaster of a primary school in Assam's Sivasagar has been suspended for allegedly being drunk on duty hours. According to sources, the headmaster, identified as Bibhujyoti Gogoi, allegedly reported to school in an intoxicated state on multiple occasions. The suspension was ordered by the district commissioner. On Wednesday, a headmaster of a private institution in Assam's Darrang district was arrested for allegedly molesting a minor girl. The incident took place on Monday night at a girl's hostel of a private educational institution. The accused allegedly entered the hostel where he molested the minor girl.

### Girl drowned

Assam Rising Guwahati, May 20 :

A 15-year-old minor girl in Assam's Dibrugarh drowned in the Brahmaputra river. The minor girl, identified as Dipali Karmakar, is a resident of Majjan Tea estate. According to reports, the girl along with her sister went for a walk when she suddenly fell into the river. It is learned that she slipped due to erosion triggered by incessant rains. Her sister tried to rescue her but failed. Meanwhile, a joint team of Dibrugarh police and SDRF rushed to the spot and initiated search operation but is yet to recover her.

## Assam Floods : Death Toll Rises to 9

### Assam Rifles Mobilised to Provide aid



Assam Rising Guwahati, May 20 :

The flood situation in Assam worsened on Wednesday, with one more person killed in the Darrang district. The death toll in the current pre-monsoon floods and landslides in Assam has risen to nine, officials said, with more than 6.62 lakh people af-

fected in 27 of the state's 34 districts. According to the officials of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority, at least 6,62,385 people, including 1,25,491 children and 2,44,216 women, have been affected and nearly 8,260 houses have been either partially or completely damaged in 1,414 villages across 27 districts. Over 46,160-hect-

are crop areas have been affected in the flood-hit districts while more than 48,304

people have taken shelter in 135 relief camps. The worst-affected districts include Cachar, Dima Hasao, Hojai, Nagaon, Charaideo, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Bajali, Baksa, Biswanath and Lakhimpur. The situation in the hill section of the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) in the Dima-Hasao district remained critical on Wednesday as the rain continued to batter the hilly region, affecting the Lumding-Badarpur single line railway route, which connects Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur and the southern part of Assam with the rest of the country. "Out of the 56 affected locations, in around 12 locations resto-

ration work has been completed but the work in major affected areas is yet to start due to the inclement weather," an NFR official told IANS from the NFR headquarters in Maligaon. The officials said uninterrupted rains coupled with the difficult terrain severely affected the restoration and repair work, which might take several weeks. This rail link has been cut off for the past five days. Several Assam Ministers, including Health Minister Keshab Mahanta, Water Resources Minister Pijush Hazarika and Environment and Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, are

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## Centre advises states, UTs to expedite Covid-19 vaccination program



New Delhi, May 20 :

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Friday (May 20, 2022) reviewed the coronavirus vaccination program with all the states and union territories. During a meeting, Rajesh Bhushan advised them to expedite Covid-19 vaccination. According to ANI report, the Union

Health Ministry is also planning to start "Har Ghar Dastak-2.2" campaign for two months June and July for the same. India's cumulative Covid-19 vaccination coverage exceeded 191.96 crore but still a large number of population is unvaccinated or partially

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## CM Dr. Sarma attends North-East Research Conclave 2022

Govt of Assam & IIT Ghysign MoU for Rs. 546-cr State-of-Art Super-Specialty Hospital

Assam Rising Guwahati, May 20 :

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday attended as guest of honour the 3-day long North-East Research Conclave 2022 being held at the premises of the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati from May 20 onwards. A joint



collaboration between IIT Guwahati, Science Technology & Climate Change Department and Department

of Education of Government of Assam, the assemblage is aimed at providing a platform for academia and

industry players to showcase their expertise, products and technology and to offer a common interface mechanism between stakeholders for sharing of ideas. Speaking at the event, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma lauded the role of the

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

## Raj Thackeray Postpones Ayodhya Trip

Mumbai, May 20 :

Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray's visit to Ayodhya on June 5 is likely to be postponed. Raj Thackeray, who was on a visit to Pune recently, cancelled his visit due to health reasons and returned to Mumbai. According to the information received, Raj

Thackeray has injured his leg and is likely to undergo surgery. According to the information, Raj Thackeray will give official information about the visit only after consulting the doctor. MNS president Raj Thackeray was scheduled to visit Ayodhya on June 5. The MNS had also started

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## Union minister Teli visits LPG bottling plant at Puranigudam

Assam Rising Nagaon, May 20 :

Union minister of Natural Gas, Labour and Employment for state Rameswar Teli visited Puranigudam Bhoraaguri based Nishika Roadline LPG bottling plant this evening here. During the visit, the minister took stocks from the authority concerned of the privately run plant which is filling domestic as well as other commercial gas cylinders for the middle Assam districts like Nagaon, Morigaon, Hojai Dima Hasao, West Karbi Anglong Sonitpur, Biswanath Chariali Golaghat. The minister also took part in a felicitation



function held at the campus of the plant where the proprietor Sanjay Kumar Agarwal and other employees of the plant felicitated him. The minister also reviewed the entire plant. G Ramesh, ED, IOAOD, IOCL,

DP Vidyarthi, CJM, IOAOD, IOCL, Bhoraaguri panchayat president Anima Biswas were present during the visit of the minister. It is pertinent to be mentioned

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## Bridge over Pangong Tso lake: Rahul Gandhi takes jibe at govt



New Delhi, May 20 :

Following the report of China building a second bridge over the Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday said that India's national security and territorial integrity are non-negotiable while urging Prime Minister Narendra Modi to defend the nation. The Congress leader's remark came after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said that it was monitoring the situation after reports

claimed that the Chinese side was constructing a second bridge over the Pangong Tso Lake in the Union Territory of Ladakh. "China builds 1st bridge on Pangong. GOI: We are monitoring the situation. China builds 2nd bridge on Pangong. GOI: We are monitoring the situation," the Congress leader said in a tweet. "India's National security and territorial integrity is non-negotiable. A timid and docile response won't do. PM must defend the Nation," he added. The Opposition has been continuously attacking the NDA government over its response to China. Following the rise in tensions across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the summer

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## NRC authority files FIR Against former coordinator Prateek Hajela



Assam Rising Guwahati, May 20 :

Assam National Register of Citizens (NRC) authority on Friday filed an FIR against

former NRC coordinator Prateek Hajela. The FIR states that Hajela's act can be seen as "anti-national affecting national security". Hajela - who led the updating of the controversial document - has been charged with "intentionally avoiding quality check of data that may have facilitated inclusion of ineligible names in the NRC". In

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New Delhi, Patna May 20 :

Weeks after he was granted bail in a fodder scam case, Lalu Prasad Yadav has been charged in a fresh corruption case over alleged irregularities in recruitment between 2004 and 2009 when he was Railway Minister. Besides Mr Yadav, his wife and former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi, daughter and Rajya Sabha MP Misa Bharti and other family members have been named accused in the new case,

sources said. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) today started searches at 15 locations linked to the Rashtriya Janata Dal patriarch, including his residences. In the new case, the CBI has alleged that Mr Yadav and his family members received land and properties as bribe for giving out railway jobs. The 73-year-old veteran leader walked out of jail last month after the Jharkhand High Court granted him bail in the ? 139 crore Doranda Treasury scam case. A CBI special court had in February sentenced him to five years in prison in the case. He was also fined ? 60 lakh. The treasury scam case was the fifth fodder scam case in which Mr Yadav was convicted. Visuals showed police personnel at the Patna residence of Mr

## Gyanvapi mosque row : Supreme Court transfers case to district judge in Varanasi



New Delhi, May 20 :

The Supreme Court on Friday (May 20) ordered the transfer of the Gyanvapi mosque case to the District Judge of Varanasi, adding that a senior and experienced judicial officer of UP Judicial

services will hear the case, ANI reported. The apex court said that considering the sensitivity of this civil suit, the court is transferring the case from civil judge senior division Varanasi to district judge in Varanasi. The apex court was hearing the

Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee's plea against the Varanasi district court order that allowed videographic survey of the Gyanvapi Mosque complex, located

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## THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 93 SATURDAY, MAY 21, 2022

## Landslides wreaked havoc

Over the last few days parts of the state of Assam in NE India has suffered from serious rainfall, resulting in flood and landslides. At least five fatalities have been reported, including three in a landslide in Dima Hasao district. As floodwaters entered fresh areas of Assam, the number of affected people has doubled in Assam to over four lakh since the previous day, while three more persons died due to the calamity taking the toll to eight. Landslides triggered by incessant rain snapped rail and road links to Barak Valley and Dima Hasao district of Assam and neighbouring states of Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur. Landslides wreaked havoc in Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya also snapping road connectivity in many areas. An Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) bulletin said the number of affected people has reached 4,03,352 across 26 districts from 1,97,248 in 20 districts on Monday. Cachar is the worst-hit district with 96,697 affected people while 88,420 and 58,975 people are reeling under the deluge respectively. The death toll has increased to eight, including five killed in landslides. Union Home Minister Amit Shah has assured Assam of all assistance from the Central government even as the state administration has been pursuing measures to ensure the supply of essential commodities to the affected areas and restore communication channels. In some cases human activities can be a contributing factor in causing landslides. Many human-caused landslides can be avoided or mitigated. They are commonly a result of building roads and structures without adequate grading of slopes, poorly planned alteration of drainage patterns, and disturbing old landslides. Integration of its national landslide susceptibility mapping (NLSM) with infrastructure development and planning in hilly or mountainous areas in the country can help avoid disasters and human fatalities, says the Geological Survey of India (GSI). The GSI has also marked a slew of human activities besides geological factors such as weathering of underlying bedrock and impact of earthquakes that make 4.2 lakh sq. km. hilly or mountainous areas in India landslide-prone. Such activities include unplanned excavation of slopes for road and railway projects, rampant dumping of slope-excavated material, quarrying, mining and building construction besides 'modification' of and encroachment on natural drainage systems.

## 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**  
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## Letter to The Editor

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

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

# When people use foodbanks, it's not because they've lost their copy of Nigella

Spare a thought for the Conservative MP Lee Anderson, who has spent the past few days single-handedly trying to solve Britain's cost of living crisis with very little thanks. It all started after he stated in the Commons that food banks are unnecessary in Britain because the main cause of food poverty is a lack of cooking and budgetary skills. "I think you'll see first-hand that there's not this massive use for food banks in this country," the MP for Ashfield in Nottinghamshire proclaimed. "You've got generation after generation who cannot cook properly. They can't cook a meal from scratch. They cannot budget." Nutritious meals, he added, could be easily cooked for 30p a time. Not one to see a hole and stop digging, Anderson has launched an ill-advised media round to defend himself after a backlash, including criticism from the anti-poverty campaigner and budget cooking expert Jack Monroe. Anderson told Times Radio he was glad he had whipped up a "leftwing" furore "because at the moment all we're hearing in

chamber is 'food bank use is on the up'". Probably because it is. Anderson doubled down in an interview with the deputy leader of the Reclaim party, Martin Daubney, even alleging that Monroe was profiteering from the poor. Monroe has since instructed libel lawyers. It's all very Wagatha Christie, except rather than embarrassing himself by allegedly selling soundbites to the press, Anderson is seemingly doing it for free. He is hardly the first Conservative MP to make such comments. Multiple ministers over the past decade have publicly argued there isn't really a reason for food banks, coincidentally just as they pulled tens of billions of pounds from the social safety net. Jacob Rees-Mog suggests that hardship isn't "rather uplifting". Michael Gove believes those turning to food donations just haven't made the right "decisions ... to manage their finances". Dominic Raab said people visit food banks because they have a "cashflow problem". Indeed, Anderson isn't the only Tory MP to make such a remark this week. On Monday, minister

Rachel Maclean suggested that in the long term, people struggling with the cost of living could just take on more hours at work or move to a better-paid job. Such comments are grossly insulting at the best of times, but land particularly badly with the public in a time of a mounting food and energy costs. When people are hungry from skipping meals, I suppose they do tend to get tetchy. It

**Frances Ryan**

would be easy to dismiss such comments as thoughtless anger-bait, but they serve a political purpose. Discrediting food banks or casting work as an easy route out of poverty suggest that hardship isn't down to low wages, benefit cuts, high energy prices or unaffordable housing, but rather that working-class people are too stupid to budget properly or too lazy to look for a better job. This reduces the fact of millions of people going hungry and cold in this country to a few families who can't cook.

Fundamentally, such remarks attempt to shift responsibility from the government and place it firmly on the individual. If a single mum is wasting her universal credit, why should ministers increase benefits in line with inflation? Tory MPs are playing their get-out-of-jail cards, taken from the old deck that if only the poor tried hard enough, they wouldn't be in poverty. Or as rightwing commentator Isabel Oakeshott put it recently: having to survive on low rate benefits "concentrates the mind". It is ignorance that leads to these comments, sure, but it is also a wilful refusal to accept the facts. Charities such as the Trussell Trust have been explaining the reasons for growing use of food banks for years. (Spoiler for Anderson: it is less their copy of Nigella's latest cookbook people have lost, more their disability benefits.) Similarly, as Monroe points out, it is not hard to understand that "30p meals" don't actually exist, not least because buying a hot meal means being able to afford both food and the energy to cook it. These are not exactly radical ideas; even the boss of Iceland recognises that some

food bank users are declining items such as potatoes because they can't afford the energy it would take to boil them. Rightwing MPs and pundits choose to believe these myths because it suits them. It is in the Conservatives' interests to depoliticise poverty, to propagate the idea that hardship is a result of an individual's bad decisions rather than government policies. We see this in the bizarre trend of Tory MPs posing at food banks in their local constituencies, which is not dissimilar to an arsonist taking a selfie next to the fire. The problem for Anderson and his ilk is that the rising inflation crisis means the dots are only going to get easier for the public to join: families are well familiar with the political events that mean they're now unable to afford the weekly shop. No amount of budgeting will help if the money coming in is less than the bills going out. What

people in Britain need is benefits that match inflation, a living wage, energy profit taxes - and politicians that understand the position they're in. I'll give Anderson that food for thought for free.

## Letter to the Editor

### AP is on the top, Kudos to Jagan

Dear Editor,

SKOCH, a Think Tank for socio economic development, gave an award to Andhra Pradesh Government for its effort to develop different schemes for the benefit of different segments - Farmer welfare schemes, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, e governance, e learning, disaster management, solar panels on rooftops of AP Buses etc many peoples friendly schemes since beginning. Next to AP, West Bengal and Odisha were given awards. One has to realise the fact that Jagan is interested in rescuing the public from suffering during inflation coupled with pandemic. (But the financial position of the state reached its rock bottom during the previous government itself.)

**KLRao**  
Visakhapatnam

# Indian law needs to account for women, make finance inclusive

For decades, India's economic and financial growth story has suffered due to a critical missing piece: women. Women across all segments, be it entrepreneurs or retail customers, face multiple barriers in accessing finance in an equitable manner. These are spread across legal, socio-cultural and infrastructural barriers such as restricted mobility, lack of traditional collateral, lower ownership of mobile phones and access to internet, lower financial literacy levels, to name a few. Research suggests that the business case for a financial institution to serve women customers is strong and adding a gender lens to existing laws and financial products is crucial. For instance, the unmet credit gap for women-owned enterprises is 70.37 per cent, which translates to a financing gap of Rs 1.37 lakh crore and presents a huge market opportunity for financial institutions. Vidhi's working paper titled 'The law needs to account for her: Reforms to make finance inclusive' focuses firstly on select legal and policy reforms which directly impact financial inclusion of women customers; and secondly on certain gaps in

the financial products and services offered to women customers and recommendations to make these more suitable for women. The Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, women specific loan schemes of banks, Public Sector Undertaking policies (for meeting the mandate of three per cent procurement from women-owned enterprises under the Public Procurement Policy 2018), government credit schemes for women, state-specific industrial policies, all define women-owned enterprises differently on the parameters of ownership, management and control. The lack of a uniform and suitable definition of women-owned enterprises in the Indian legal framework poses problems in extending benefits of government schemes offering credit products, and collecting accurate gender disaggregated data to understand the needs of the segment. The paper recommends that the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 be amended to add a criterion classifying MSMEs based on whether they are owned/led by women. Following this amendment, a new circular may be issued or the circular issued by the Ministry of MSME on 26 June 2020 may be amended to include a

definition of women-led enterprises. The use cases of such a definition range from earmarking of credit to women-led enterprises by banks; better targeting of women-centric schemes, initiatives and products; collection of gender disaggregated data; and a consolidated digital platform for such enterprises - all of which contribute towards creating an enabling ecosystem for women entrepreneurs. Business

**MANVI KHANNA**

correspondents further the agenda of financial inclusion in all parts of the country by providing basic banking facilities to the unserved customers at their doorstep. Their role is crucial, especially for women customers as they solve the mobility, time and hesitancy constraints a woman may face in accessing financial products and services. Research suggests that women prefer using female business correspondents for most of their banking transactions due to the level of comfort and trust they have with them. However, the

representation of female business correspondents in the total business correspondent network is less than 10 per cent. Onerous minimum qualification criteria, mobility and safety challenges, lack of ability to invest in technical equipment and lack of life and health insurance coverage are few of the issues, impeding the enhanced representation of female business correspondents. We suggest that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issue a circular laying down broad principles for support measures to be extended to female business correspondents by banks and Business Correspondent Network Managers (BCNM). The measures most suitable to female business correspondents may be in the nature of technical equipment support, mobility support and other financial measures such as insurance, in addition to efforts to transform female business correspondents from mere cash-in cash-out (CICO) agents to relationship managers. In November 2021, NITI Aayog released a discussion paper proposing the licensing and regulatory regime for digital banks, setting the tone for a

framework to be released by the RBI. Recognising the immense potential digital banks have in serving the specific needs of a specific customer segment, the paper lays down recommendations for the RBI to regulate digital banks with an objective to deepen financial inclusion in its legal framework as and when it is formulated, along with a gender lens. Our recommendations include: (a) stating explicitly the policy objective of financial inclusion for digital banks along with the target segments to include women customers and MSMEs (specifically women-led MSMEs); (b) not prohibiting physical presence of digital banks, as in developing countries, physical networks are critical in enabling customers to convert cash into e-money and vice versa and hence, for transitioning from a cash economy to a digital one; and (c) components of a business plan with financial inclusion targets to be included in the framework (also requiring banks to specify their target segment) in addition to compliance with the objective of financial inclusion as a pre-condition for transition from the regulatory sandbox to a full bank.

# The return of a Marcos to power in the Philippines is a warning to the world

Last week, Adarna House - a publisher of children's books in the Philippines - posted on social media about a discount it was offering: 20% off on a #NeverAgain book bundle. The selection includes Ito Ang Diktadura, the Tagalog translation of Equipo Plantel's Asés la Diktadura, or This is a Dictatorship. The book was originally published in Spain when the country was transitioning from the Franco regime. What seems like a mundane moment of online marketing was in fact a significant political act. Two days before the sale, Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, the son and namesake of the late dictator, won the Philippines' presidential election by a landslide. Marcos Sr was one of the dictators identified in the children's book, alongside others such as Nicolae Ceaușescu, Idi Amin and Pol Pot. Under Marcos's two-decade rule, thousands were killed, tortured and "disappeared". The Philippines became a kleptocracy as the Marcos family and their cronies

plundered up to US \$10bn. In 1986, the Philippines decided that time was up for the Marcoses. A peaceful mass uprising forced the family into exile in Hawaii. Democratic institutions were rebuilt, albeit slowly and imperfectly. But in 2022, the nation seems to have changed its mind. Marcos Jr was a consistent frontrunner in the presidential campaign. His victory was expected. There are various factors that contribute to the Marcoses' political comeback. Some argue that this started more than 30 years ago, when the Marcos family was allowed to return to the Philippines from exile. Since then, they have been normalised as part of the Philippines' political life. Imelda Marcos ran for and lost the presidency twice but won a congressional seat in her home town. The Marcos children, Bongbong and Imee, also won seats in congress and the senate. Lifestyle magazines and talkshows glamourised the family, instead of ostracising them. A magazine called Metro put Bongbong on their anniversary issue's cover page in 1990 next to

the words, "the best and the brightest". For Imee's 60th birthday in 2015, she posed for the cover of the Philippine Tatler's fashion issue wearing a gown in blood red. This glamourising has gone into overdrive during the last 10 years. Media studies scholars tracked the sharp increase of YouTube channels that portrayed the Marcos legacy as the building of bridges,

**Nicole Curato**

hospitals, cultural centres and windmills, which made the Philippines the envy of the world, without any mention of the alleged corruption and massive debts that this "edifice complex" incurred. Stories about the source of the Marcos wealth have also gone viral on TikTok. According to a pro-Marcos theory, Marcos Sr, a lawyer, received payment for his legal work in gold bars - thus explaining away the source of the family's wealth.

Marcos Jr himself is active on social media - so active that he refused to take part in any debate and press conferences during the campaign. He said he preferred to talk directly to the people, often through his vlogs which showed him and his family living their best lives. TikTok influencers portrayed his son Sandro as a heart-throb worthy of a Korean drama. "Family rebranding" is how a Cambridge Analytica whistleblower described the memo from the Marcos family when they reportedly requested their services. (The Marcos family denied that these reports were accurate.) Adarna House's book bundle is one of the many ways publishers, historians, teachers, researchers and journalists are pushing back against the now prevailing narrative that the Marcos era was a golden age. Two days into the Marcos presidency, there have been calls to digitise and protect the historical archives that document the atrocities and plunder committed by the regime. Artists and celebrities

have also pushed back on TikTok with videos that counter the revisionism. But this will be an uphill battle. Already, the national taskforce founded to counter "communist insurgency" called out Adarna House for "radicalising" young children. Before the election, independent bookstores that carried literature critical of the dictatorship were vandalised with anti-communist graffiti. One of Marcos Jr's first cabinet appointments has been to put his running mate, Sara Duterte, at the department of education. Duterte is the daughter of the incumbent president, Rodrigo Duterte, whose brutal drug war prompted the international criminal court to approve an investigation into crimes against humanity - this was paused last year at the request of the government. Rodrigo Duterte's spokesperson has said that any deaths were due to a "legitimate police exercise". Educators wonder what kind of human rights education will be conveyed to young Filipinos in the years ahead. Social media will also be a challenging field for dissent, for opposition voices have been constantly harassed on various platforms by an army of trolls. The experience of Marcos Jr's main opponent, vice-president Leni Robredo, is exemplary. Throughout her campaign, TikTok was flooded with spliced videos that portrayed her as dumb and incoherent. These attacks are consequential, for they send a signal to all critics that they too could go viral for the wrong reasons.



## QUIZ

- Q.1- How many primary colors are there?  
 Ans-  
 Q.2- What do you call a house made of ice?  
 Ans-  
 Q.3- Which festival is called the festival of light?  
 Ans-  
 Q.4- Who is the power minister of Assam?  
 Ans-  
 Q.5- How many medical colleges are there in Assam?  
 Ans-

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

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

## Short-Story

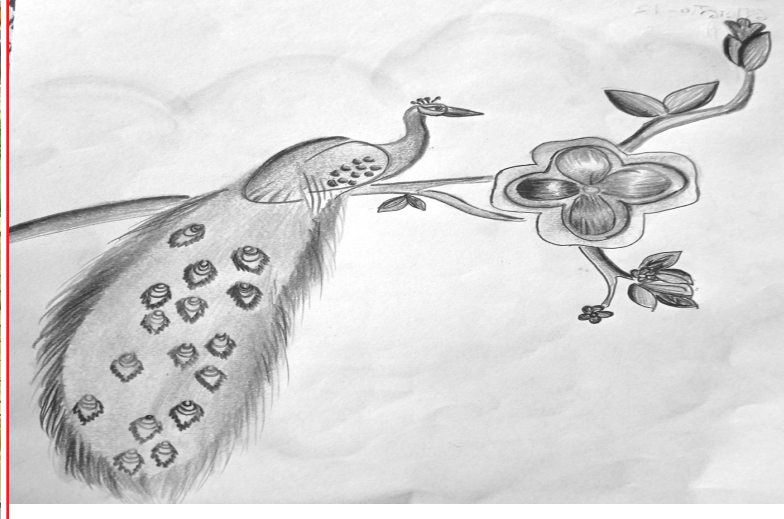
### The Pot of Wit



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



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



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

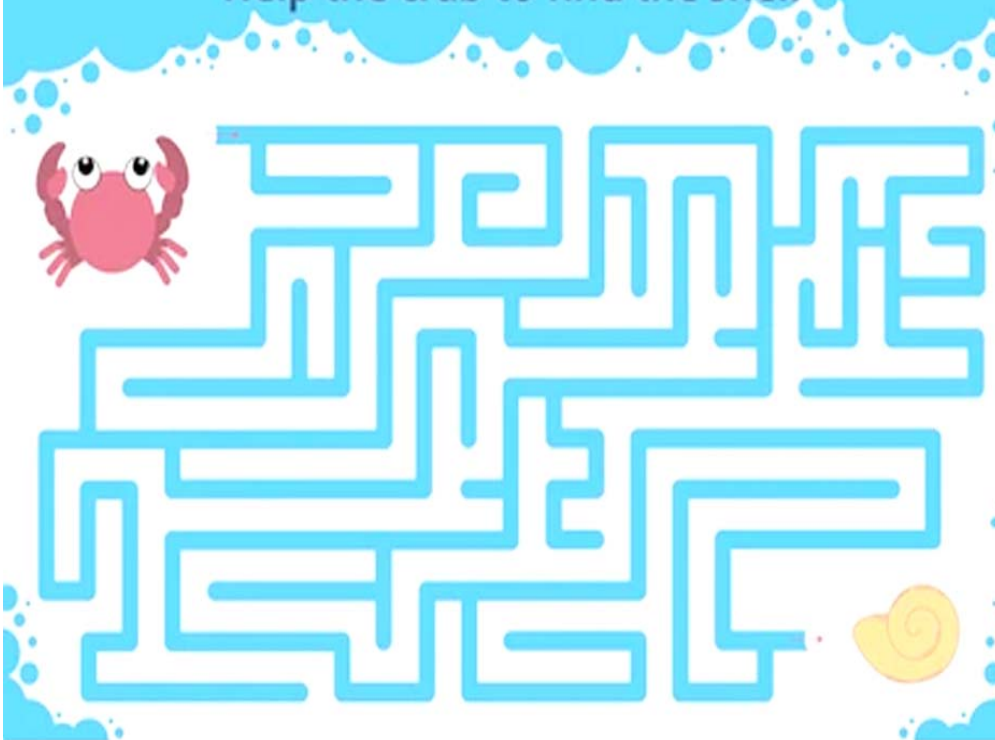


Bhargab Buragohain, Class V, Mon ati akha group

Home work : Fill the picture with colour



Help the crab to find the shell



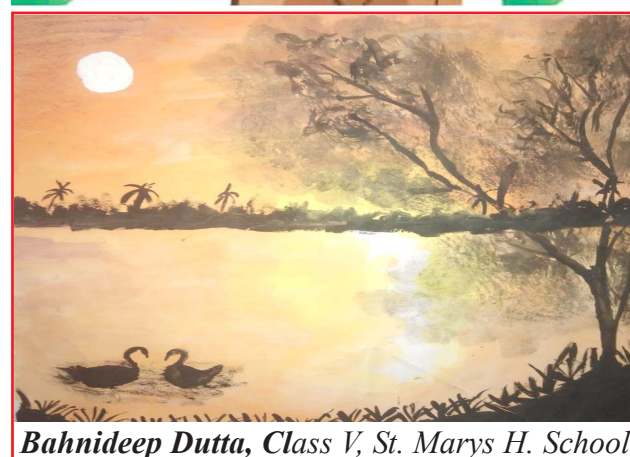
### A Happy Child

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

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



## Find 5 differences



Bahnideep Dutta, Class V, St. Marys H. School



Momi Chetia, Class III, Bidyabhanwan Sivsagar

Open a book  
 And you will find  
 People and places  
 Of every kind.

Open a book  
 And you can be  
 Anything that  
 You want to be.

Open a book  
 And you can share  
 Wondrous worlds  
 You find in there.

Open a book  
 And I will, too.  
 You read to me,  
 And I'll read to you.

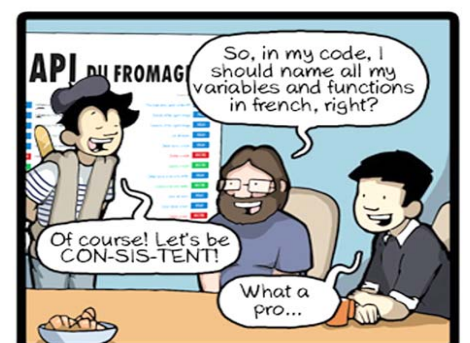
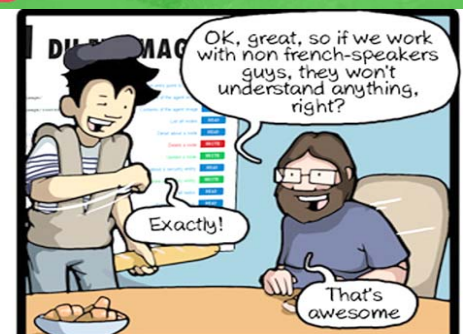
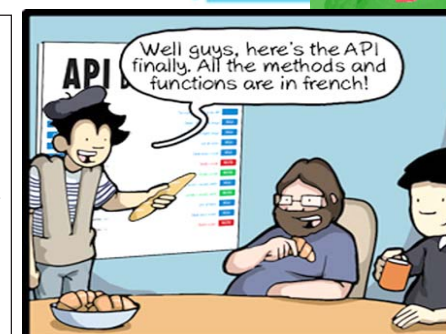
### 'Deka Chang'

Rupak G. Duarah

Deka Chang is a Chang Ghar (one type of house) where unmarried tribal young youths use to stay there. It is built specially in hilly and flood affected areas by bamboos, woods or other materials just above the ground level. It is known as Murung Ghar in Missing tribes, Nodreng in Dimasha tribes, Morung in Naga tribes, Jalbak in Mizo tribes, Nokpet in Garo tribes, Yenshi or Ajughu in Aao tribes, Musup in Adi tribes, Pharla in Karbi tribes etc. Deka Chang is a learning place for the young youths before starting their marriage life. They are taught how to make the necessary house hold items, how to develop their different types of skills, how to progress their literary or cultural qualities etc. in the Deka Chang.

### Ben 10

Ben decided to go out to the woods and have an adventure. Kwen, Ben's cousin, decided to come along with him. Ben's Grandfather Max found some killer glow worms to eat for dinner. Then Grandpa said, "after dinner we will have supper. For supper we will have a slice of mushroom cake." Ben said, "Uh grandpa do we have to eat all of that stuff?" Grandpa said, "Ben just one bite." "Okay I will." Ben then said, "this is delicious. It tastes like spaghetti. Can I have some more?" "Sure, anything for my grandson. Why don't you have a walk in the woods?" "Sure thing." Ben saw a meteorite in the sky. Then Ben looked inside the meteorite. There was a watch called the Armitrix. Ben saw an alien on the watch. Its name was Heatblast. Heatblast used a very strong flame thrower. It burnt the woods down. Grandpa thought that Ben had turned into a monster. Ben was a monster and Ben was an alien then Ben was a person again. Ben was going to turn into another alien monster. He then turned into a strange alien. Suddenly there were robots coming down from the sky. Ben started to fight them, then when they were destroyed Ben started to be a hero like he wanted to be.



Dear Bhagins,

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

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





## Contd. From Page 1

## Centre advises states, UTs to expedite

vaccinated.As per the Union Health Ministry's data on Covid-19 vaccine, more than 193.53 crore vaccine doses are provided to States and UTs and over 16.72 crore unutilized vaccine doses are still available with them."The Union Health Secretary has advised those States and UTs who already have extra doses to utilise timely before the expiry of vaccines," said sources.The government of India, through the nationwide vaccination drive, has been continuously supporting the States and UTs by providing them with COVID vaccines free of cost.Over 3.24 crore doses of vaccine have been administered in the age group of 12-14 years. India has reported 2,259 new cases of Covid-19 in the last 24 hours and the recovery rate currently stands at 98.75 per cent. Meanwhile, India reported 2,259 new Covid-19 cases taking the total tally of coronavirus infections to 4,31,31,822, while the active virus cases declined to 15,044, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Friday. Today's virus tally is slightly lower than that of yesterday. A decline of over 350 cases has been observed in the active caseload in the span of the last 24 hours. The death toll climbed to 5,24,323 with 20 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated.

## Assam Floods : Death Toll Rises to 9

supervising the rescue and relief operations camping in the flood-ravaged areas.The Army, Assam Rifles, National Disaster Response Force and State Disaster Response Force along with the district administrations are working round the clock to rescue the stranded people to provide relief to them.Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday discussed the overall flood situation in Assam with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over the phone and assured all possible help from the Central government.According to Defence Spokesman Lt. Colonel Angom Bobin Singh, two columns of Army and Assam Rifles men from Masimpur Garrison hurried for flood rescue operations in various parts of the district after receiving an urgent request from Cachar's Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli.A risky boat ride through flood waters and a walk for a few miles through inundated paddy fields lead to the fringes of Hatigarh in Assam's Nagaon district - one of the worst-hit in the state.The area is completely submerged by an overflowing Kopili river.and water released from the Barapani dam in neighbouring Meghalaya.In a matter of only two days, hundreds of families find themselves marooned as the excess water submerged village after village.41-year-old Lilabati Das can't hold back her tears as she looks at her home. Her mud hut has already given way to flood waters, waist-deep currently and rising higher by the hour.She and her family of seven are stranded, with their ten bigas of farmland destroyed. The yield from these lands would have fed them for a year and fetched the family an income of at least ? one lakh. But there is nothing left now."We had taken a loan of ? 50 thousand for paddy cultivation in our ten bigas of land. How will we repay now? We are eating only one meal a day and we don't have resources to move somewhere else as well. We are waiting for government help," Lilabati Das told .Her 80-year-old father-in-law has seen many floods, but this one, he says, is unprecedented."This time it's massive," said Mangal Das.Amid rising flood waters in Assam, the challenge for the government is to fast track its rescue and relief operations but for hundreds of families like Lilabati's, every flood is a challenge for survival. This time around many are left without cropland, without grains, money and even a country boat to go to safer places, all they are waiting for is government help to reach them.Although Nagaon and adjoining Hajo districts have been the focus of rescue operations, involving the Army, NDRF and state forces, it's not enough.In many areas, locals are trying to rescue marooned people without any outside help."In a vast area in circle, people are stranded with villages completely inundated. They have no resources left. Many don't have boats as it's the first time in many years that a massive flood has come their way," Ranjit Sarkar, a local, told .Locals are trying to rescue people even at the dead of the night."Many panchayats here are cut off from all sides by rising flood waters, resulting in shortage of essential items. Government is trying to but it's not adequate," said Harmohan Roy, who is leading the rescue operations by the locals.In Dima Hasao, there's a sense of slight relief with the internet back, and Air Force sorties bringing essential supplies and airlifting stranded villagers.The main link road is now partially open to traffic but it's still a long journey back normalcy.

## Union minister Teli visits LPG bottling

here that the bottling plant is the only of its kind private LPG bottling facility of IOCL in the entire India which has the capacity of 30 TMTPA built in an area of 7.5 acres of land generating 330 employment from the nearby areas, a release added.

## Bridge over Pangong Tso

of 2020, including at Pangong Tso, India and China have held 15 rounds of talks for disengagement to defuse the tensions in the area.

## NRC authority files FIR Against

September 2019, the Assam police had registered two cases against Hajela and other unidentified officials for alleged "discrepancies" in the final draft NRC published that year.

## Gyanvapi mosque row : Supreme

near the famous Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The court said that the Masjid Committee's plea should be decided on priority by the district Judge on the transfer of suit. Its May 17 interim order directing protection of the 'Shivling' area and free access to Muslims to offer namaz will continue, the Supreme court added.The court observed, "A slightly more seasoned and mature hand should hear this case. We're not making aspersions on trial judge. But more seasoned hand should deal with this case and it'll benefit all parties." Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi mentioned that the Commission report is being selectively leaked to the press, to which the court asserted that the selective leaks must stop. the Supreme Court said that "once the Commission's report is there, there cannot be selective leaks. Do not leak things to the press, only judge opens the report." In a significant remark, the Supreme Court said that ascertainment of religious character is not banned under section 3 of the 1991 Places of Worship Act."Forget there is mosque on one side and temple on the other. Suppose there is a Parsi temple and there is a cross in the corner of the area. Does the presence of 'Agiary' make the cross Agiary or Agiary Christian? This hybrid character is not unknown." "Here a structure of Zoroastrian faith will not make the Christian structure Zoroastrian or vice versa, but the ascertainment of religious character of a place may not necessarily fall foul of section 3 of the 1991 Act," the court said.

## CM Dr. Sarma attends North-East

Chief Minister stated. Later in the day, the Chief Minister visited the exhibition that had a display of various innovations and technologies by various industry players working in the field of science and technology. On the side-lines of the North-East Research Conclave, the Government of Assam and IIT Guwahati signed a Memorandum of Understanding for setting up of a state-of-the-art "connected" multi-disciplinary super-specialty hospital in the premier technical education institute's premises to be built at a cost of Rs. 546 crores approximately. Elaborating on the upcoming hospital, the Chief Minister stated that this initiative would provide a platform for cutting-edge research in the field of medical science through use of latest technologies and scientific innovations. "We shall be supporting IIT Guwahati with a financial grant of Rs. 546 crores and would also extend other support for a period of seven years in the first phase. This is for the first time that a state government has come forward to support a centrally funded technical institute in medical research and innovation," the Chief Minister said. Attending the event as Chief Guest, Union Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan praised Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma for the enthusiastic steps for development of science and technology he has taken ever since taking over charge as executive head of the state.

## Raj Thackeray Postpones Ayodhya Trip

preparations for the Ayodhya visit. At the same time, Raj's visit to Ayodhya was strongly opposed by the leaders of Uttar Pradesh. Yet Raj was adamant on his visit to Ayodhya. On April 17, Thackeray had announced in Pune that he would visit Ayodhya on June 5 to seek the blessings of Lord Ram.Raj Thackeray also tweeted about the postponement of the Ayodhya tour. He wrote, "The visit to Ayodhya has been postponed. The decision will be taken after the rally to be held in Pune on May 22. Ever since raj thackeray's ayodhya visit was announced, BJP MP from ayodhya Brij Bhushan Singh opposed his visit. He said, "First Raj Thackeray should apologise to north Indians and then he should come to Ayodhya." Iqbal Ansari, who was a litigant in the Babri Masjid case, had also opposed MNS president Raj Thackeray's visit to Ayodhya.After Raj Thackeray postponed his much-awaited Ayodhya visit on Friday, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut hinted that the 'BJP was using the MNS chief' for political gain. He said, "I got to know from the media that the other party (MNS) cancelled some programs in Ayodhya. We would have supported them. After all, there's a huge section of Shiv Sena supporters in Ayodhya. He (Raj Thackeray) is being used by the BJP. Some people understand it late."

## CBI Registers Fresh Corruption Cases Against

finish off the Opposition. There is no basis for these cases. This is an attempt to silence criticism."""The BJP is getting uneasy about Nitish Kumar and Tejashwi Yadav coming together on the demand for a caste Census. The timing of these raids points to this, Otherwise, why has the CBI suddenly taken up this case at a time when Nitish Kumar is set to call an all-party meeting on the demand for caste Census," Mr Tiwary said.The RJD tweeted from its official handle that numerous raids have been conducted in connection with the "so-called Railway scam" but nothing has been found."Lalu ji was Railway Minister from 2004 to 2009. If the CBI needs to conduct raids 13 years later, then you can understand what a nasty agency it is. The Lalu family will not bow and get scared," the tweet in Hindi said. BJP leader and MP Sushik Modi termed Mr Yadav and his family "a symbol of corruption in Bihar" and alleged that the RJD leader's "modus operandi" was to lure the people seeking jobs in exchange for land."The modus operandi was that you give me land and in return, I will give a Group D job in the Railways. Here, the land was first granted in someone else's name and after 5-6 years it was gifted to Yadav and his family (by the said group-D employee)," he alleged.

## Medical awareness campaign held at Nagaon

Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 20:

Nagaon Lions Club in association with Joint Director Health Services, Nagaon organized a day long health as well as awareness campaign at Nagaon Haiborgaon Boys' School on Thursday last. Over 350 students, teachers of the school and other participants took part in the health camp and also checked up on their health. The leading club of the town led by its president - Mala Sarma Bordoloi, Jiten Agarwal, Paban Bora, Biswajit Mahanta, Sushanta Borthakur Khabor Uddin Ahmed, Basanta Bordoloi also distributed various medicines among the participants during the health camp. Physicians Dr Nirmali Bonia, Arif Khan, Manobendra Bhuyan, Shahjahan, Daisy Bora and other nursing assistants extended their loyalty as well as helping hands to conduct the health camp, a release added.

## Lakhimpur Commerce College conducted outreach service

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 20: Lakhimpur Commerce College completed a teaching programme at high school level under its outreach services in North Lakhimpur today. The two-day long outreach service was conducted at North Lakhimpur Govt. HS School from May 19 to May 20 in which departments of English, Assamese and Mathematics rendered services in taking classes for the school students. These departments of the college took classes on English, Assamese and Mathematics to the students of Class X of



North Lakhimpur Govt. HS School for two days. Prof. Sazzad Hussain and Pankaj Lochan Das of English, Dr. Biva Dutta and Mridushmita Hazarika of Assamese and Deepjan Gohain and Binod Panging of the Mathematics department of the college participated in the outreach programme. On the other hand, a webinar on financial literacy was organized at Lakhimpur Commerce College today. The webinar was organized by IQA Cell of the college in association with Bombay Stock Exchange, which was inaugurated by Principal Dr. Lohit Hazarika. The objective of the webinar was explained by Dr. Dadul Rajkonwar, Co-ordinator, IQAC, Lakhimpur Commerce College. Gayatri Joshi, CEO, Pagdandi Edousal Group attended the webinar as the key speaker. Again, a workshop on access to e-resources by N-LIST and NDLI was held at Lakhimpur Commerce College today. The workshop was organized by the Library department of the college. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Lohit Hazarika, Principal of the college. Runjun Baruah, the librarian of Lakhimpur Commerce College attended the workshop as the resource person. In her presentations, librarian Baruah informed the college about the latest update of the library in terms of number of books and journals and stocks. She further explained the faculty of the college on online access to books, journals and other resources that the library has linked online through various gateways and platforms and their accessibility through individual login. Prasanta Bora, faculty of computer application department, provided assistance in the workshop

## Hojai still grim, flood claims lives of three at Kampur

Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 20: The flood situation in Nagaon as well as Hojai district is still grim and critical. The surging water from Kapili, Haria and Nishari rivers are on rolling to submerge more and more revenue villages under Kampur, Nagaon and Raha revenue circles in Nagaon district. Besides, the flood claimed the lives of over 3 persons in Kampur revenue circle identified as Binanda Nath, Dhunu Shah and Sunny Gowala during the last 24 hours and affected over 3.5 lakhs people under Kampur, Nagaon and Raha revenue circles till the time of filing this report, sources from the district disaster management authority, Nagaon said, adding that during the first flash flood, 11,865.94 hectares of land with various crops and vegetables were ravaged by flood water and inundated over 204 revenue villages under 3 revenue circles in the district among which over 100 under Kampur revenue circle, 78 villages under Raha revenue circle while 28 revenue villages under Nagaon revenue circle were being under the grip of flood water. Similarly, Jamunamukh, Kathkotiagaon, Kumargaon Lakhimigaon, Kahargaon, Changjurai gaon, Potiapam, Komargaon, railway station road under Doboka revenue circle in Hojai district have been submerged by the overflowing water from Kapili river for over a couple of days. Meanwhile, one concrete culvert on Kothiatoli Charnali to Kampur town PWD road and Kampur - Nagaon Dakshinpat PWD road were breached by the flood water on Thursday afternoon. Further, all surface routes for public transportation towards Kampur township from Nagaon, West Karbi Anglong and Hojai district headquarters remain closed consecutively for over the last three days due to inundation of flood water, sources added. Over 12,752 flood victims are presently taking shelter in over 36 relief camps set up by district administration among which 15 camps under Kampur revenue circle, 18 under Nagaon revenue circle while 3 in Raha revenue circle.



Summer Carnival started at LGBIA, Barjhar. Photo: Abhijit Kalita

## Research scholars' meet held at MSSV

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 20: The first Research Scholars' Meet of Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya was held today at Rupnagar, Guwahati Unit. Dr. V. Kalyan Chakravarty who was the Chief Guest of the programme appreciated the effort of the University to enhance quality of research. Dr. Chakravarty spoke on "Higher Education— Need of Realignment on Global Skill Taxonomy". He highlighted the integration of Skill components in higher education in the light of market demand. The programme was hosted by Dr. Nayanmoni Saikia, Deputy Registrar (Academic) where Dr. Mrinal Kr Borah; Registrar delivered the welcome speech. The interaction session that followed was conducted by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mridul Hazarika. He spoke on developing global professionals and acquiring skills for inter-cultural competencies. He answered various questions from Research Scholars. Dr. Shekhar Kanti Sarkar; Deputy Registrar (Admin.) also spoke on the programme. Dr. Ajit Debnath, Coordinator, IQAC proposed the vote of thanks.

## DDMA ready to fight against disaster

Assam Rising, Aalo, May 20: West Siang District Disaster Management Authority(DDMA) Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Penga Tato Deputy Commissioner West Siang District. DC welcomed all the line departments during the meeting and requested them to be fully ready and well equipped for any eventuality during



the monsoon season. Tato stated that during the monsoon season surface communication is badly affected to the entire West Siang and adjoining Districts. During this monsoon season he requested all the line departments to keep ready for their services for the people of West Siang and nearby districts. He requested the T.C.C Company to keep all the man and machinery in vulnerable landsliding zones. The department of Food & civil supply must maintain the Buffer stock of rice and other ration items. During the meeting officers from ITBP,BRTF and Indian army were present and their forces and equipment were ready for any natural calamities. Rujum Raksap, ADC kamba requested all the departments to keep a good coordination specially during rainy season. All the line departments are ready for any unforeseen natural calamities. During the Meeting all the HoDs, admin officers were present. West Siang DDMO Nima Dorjee requested all the related departments to cooperate during the monsoon season.

## Augmentation and retrofitting meeting held



Assam Rising, Aalo, May 20: A Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Penga Tato Deputy Commissioner West Siang District to discuss the construction of allied departments office building. The purpose of the meeting was augmentation and retrofitting of the old DC office. During the meeting it was agreed that the affected office buildings of different departments will be shifted to nearby government buildings for normal official works. The govt has sanctioned for the office building augmentation and retrofitting of old DC office Aalo(Phase-I). The construction will be started after completion of all the required formalities.All the Head of officers and admin officers were present during the meeting.

## 1988 road rage case: Navjot Singh Sidhu, given 1-year rigorous imprisonment

New Delhi: Punjab Congress leader Navjot Singh Sidhu, who has been sentenced to one-year rigorous imprisonment in a 1988 road rage case, surrendered himself before Chief Judicial Magistrate in Punjab's Patiala court on Friday (May 20). According to ANI, his media advisor Surinder Dalla said, "He (Navjot Singh Sidhu) has surrendered himself before Chief Judicial Magistrate. He is under judicial custody. Medical examination and other legal procedures will be adopted." After surrendering, the former Punjab Congress chief reached Mata Kaushalya Hospital in Patiala for medical examination.A few hours back, Sidhu had approached the Supreme Court seeking a few weeks' time to surrender saying he wanted to "organise his medical affairs". Senior advocate A M Singhvi, representing Sidhu, told the bench headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar, "He will, of course, surrender shortly." "We want a few weeks to surrender. It is after 34 years. He wants to organise his medical affairs," the advocate added.The Supreme Court on Thursday sentenced the cricketer-turned-politician to one-year rigorous imprisonment in the three-decades-old road rage case. However, in May 2018, the apex court, while holding him guilty of the offence of "voluntarily causing hurt" to a 65-year-old man, had spared Sidhu a jail sentence and only imposed a fine of Rs 1,000. In 2018, the apex court had also set aside the Punjab and Haryana High Court 2006 verdict convicting the Punjab Congress leader of culpable homicide and struck down a three-year jail term in the case. On December 27, 1988, Sidhu and his aide Rupinder Singh Sandhu allegedly thrashed 65-year-old Gurnam Singh in Patiala. As per the prosecution, the duo was present in a Gypsy parked in the middle of a road near the Sheranwala Gate Crossing in Patiala when the victim and two others were on their way to the bank to withdraw money.



## Jofra Archer ruled out for season in latest England injury setback



**London, May 20 :** The England and Sussex seamer Jofra Archer, whose injury troubles have kept him out of all forms of cricket since last July, has been ruled out for the rest of the English summer after suffering a stress fracture to his lower back. The 27-year-old becomes the third England seamer to be diagnosed with the same injury in the past week, after Lancashire's Saqib Mahmood and Yorkshire's Matt Fisher. Mark Wood, Olly Stone, Chris Woakes, Sam Curran and Ollie Robinson were also unavailable for selection for the first Test squad, announced on Wednesday, because of injury or illness. Dr Peter Alway, research and operations manager at the England and Wales Cricket Board with a PhD in the field of lumbar stress fractures, said that bone density lost during Covid lockdowns could be contributing to the spate of injuries. "Fast bowlers have very, very adapted spines," he said. "The loads are around 100 times the impact of running and, in response, they get super-dense spines. But if you don't bowl for a while that

adaptation decreases and you lose the protection offered by it. Covid lockdowns deconditioned bowlers a considerable amount. It could be a contributing factor." Alway said research had shown that bowlers lose between 3% and 5% of their lumbar bone density within the first eight weeks of enforced inactivity. "That number may not seem like a lot but the rate of loss is equivalent to what we see from astronauts in space," he said. "It's basically as fast as anyone has ever seen bone density decrease." Archer's setback comes a week before the start of Sussex's Vitality Blast campaign, in which he was hoping to make his comeback from a long-term elbow injury. In a statement the ECB said "no timeframe has been set for his return" and that "a management plan will be determined following further specialist opinion over the coming days". It is more than a year since Archer last played international cricket, a Twenty20 against India in Ahmedabad last March. He missed last year's T20 World Cup and the Ashes because of the injury to his

elbow, which was operated on last May and again in December. His latest setback has put in doubt his participation in this year's T20 World Cup, which starts in Australia in October. Archer admitted this month that he had feared his career might be over during his long spell out of the game. "In a situation like this, when you are forced to have operations, you do think about whether you are going to play cricket again," he said. "It's natural for anyone to worry about the future in that kind of situation. Suppose I had rushed my comeback, I might have messed things up more or injured something totally unrelated to what I had done previously and then I would be even further down the pecking order."

## James Maddison strikes as Leicester earn draw to further frustrate Chelsea

**Leicester, May 20 :** This season cannot finish quickly enough as far as Chelsea are concerned. They have secured third place but this is a club crying out for a fresh start. Everything feels messy. There are gaps in Thomas Tuchel's defence, his attack remains infuriating and the worry is that nothing can move until Todd Boehly's consortium has finally ushered in the end of the Roman Abramovich era. Time is of the essence. Stamford Bridge will not be full again until Abramovich is gone and it was easy to see why Chelsea are lagging so far behind Manchester City and Liverpool during this draw with Leicester, who earned a point mainly because their opponents are so blunt in front of goal. The numbers were damning. Tuchel's side had 20 shots but only seven on target. No wonder they have won one of their last six home games. The issue, as Tuchel pointed out, is Chelsea keep inconveniencing themselves. It feels as if every defensive mistake invites disaster - Leicester's goal was a case in point, Marcos Alonso dozing off



when James Maddison opened the scoring - and nobody typified the lack of edge more than Christian Pulisic, who missed a glaring chance to win the points for Chelsea during the second half. It was that kind of night. There was a weariness to Chelsea as they looked to move on from their defeat to Liverpool in the FA Cup final. They had spent the day celebrating the 10th anniversary of their first Champions League triumph but only so much comfort can be found in the past. The present is uncertain and when the cameras picked out Boehly in the directors' box it seemed the American was seeing why Tuchel believes Chelsea will struggle to

catch City and Liverpool next season. That much was clear when Leicester scored after six minutes. The laxness, epitomised by Alonso allowing a clearance from Kasper Schmeichel to reach Timothy Castagne on the right flank, was appalling. There was still no reaction when Antonio Rüdiger cut out Castagne's cross, nobody smelling danger when the ball ran to Maddison. Where was the cover? Thiago Silva stepped up but the centre-back seemed off the pace after playing on with an injury against Liverpool. Maddison swept past the 37-year-old and his thumping finish from 20 yards gave Edouard Mendy no chance.

a person at the end of the day. You can't just rule someone out." Prescod's stance is notably more sympathetic than that of the British Olympic Association and his other teammates. Richard Kilty, for instance, who was one of the other members of the 4x100m team, has called Ujah's behaviour "sloppy and reckless" - and said he would never forgive him. What particularly frustrated Kilty was that Ujah was using supplements from a manufacturer that was not part of the Informed Sport programme, under which a sample of each batch is retained to be tested if necessary. This meant he had no defence when banned substances were found in his urine in Tokyo. Ujah is now facing a four-year ban, although he is hoping that his



contaminated supplement defence may get that reduced. "I personally think he'll run again, definitely," added Prescod. "Of course I'd like him to. Got to see where his legal situation goes but CJ was extremely talented, one of the most talented sprinters we've ever had. It would be nice for him to get back on a track and run again. It's one of those unfortunate things that can happen." Prescod,

meanwhile, competes over 100m in the Birmingham Diamond League on Saturday hoping to make up for lost time after overcoming injuries and the weight he piled on during lockdown due to too many Deliveroo orders. The talented 26-year-old also believes he is a much stronger athlete after a hard winter with his coach, Marvin Rowe, and is capable of running both the

100m and 200m at major championships. "Marvin is actually building a stronger Reece, a more robust Reece," said Prescod, who faces a strong field on Saturday including the 200m Olympic champion, Canada's Andre De Grasse. "So when it actually comes down to the championships, when you have to run round after round, I will be ready."

## George Russell of Mercedes previously raised concerns

**Barcelona, May 20 :** Carlos Sainz has warned he fears for the long-term health of Formula One drivers because of the violent bouncing they are being subjected to on track. The Spanish Ferrari driver said he will discuss the issue with other drivers with a view to bringing it up with the FIA. Speaking in the buildup to his home grand prix this weekend in Barcelona, the 27-year-old was unequivocal in expressing his concern over the effects of what is known as porpoising - the car bouncing on straights as it gains and loses ground-effect downforce - on the necks and backs of drivers. The problem has plagued many teams on the grid, including Ferrari and Mercedes, and was an unexpected side-effect of this year's new regulations. "We need to consider how much of a toll a driver should be paying for his back and his health in a Formula One career," he said. "With these kinds of cars' philosophy we



need to open a debate more than anything. "I have done checks on my back and neck tightness and this year it is tighter everywhere, I am already feeling it. I don't need expert advice to know that 10 years like this is going to be tough." The Mercedes driver George Russell had previously warned the health issues were unsustainable and that after the Emilia Romagna GP at Imola he had suffered with back and chest pains from the porpoising. To combat it, teams have been running their cars with stiffer suspension, which pushes more impact force through the driver, exacerbated by

the increased weight of these cars, which was making it harder to deal with, Sainz said. "To run as stiff for our necks and backs as we are having to run lately with this car mass, it's a question for F1 and everyone to think about," he said. "How much a driver needs to pay a price in his career and his health in order to combat it. I am thinking long term." The new regulations were brought in with the intention of increasing overtaking, which thus far seems to have worked, and Sainz acknowledged it was the right direction for the sport to take, but insisted the unforeseen side-effects must be considered.

## Rory McIlroy takes lead at US PGA as Tiger Woods struggles with leg pain

**London, May 20 :** Tiger Woods was suffering enough without being afforded front-row viewing as Rory McIlroy raced into the lead at the 104th staging of the US PGA Championship. As McIlroy was rolling back the years - a 65 is the Northern Irishman's finest start to a major since the 2011 US Open, which he won easily - Woods provided a grim reminder of the scale of his ongoing physical struggles. Woods, playing in just his second event since his right leg was shattered in a car crash in February last year, actually opened brightly at Southern Hills. He birdied the 10th hole, his 1st, and sat two under par after five. Yet by the time Woods limped heavily towards post-round media duties, he had signed for a 74 and was in obvious pain. "My leg is not feeling as good as I would like it to be," he said. "We'll start the recovery process and get after it tomorrow. I just can't load it. Loading hurts, pressing off it hurts, walking hurts and twisting hurts. It's just golf. If I don't play that, then I'm all right." Which, given Woods is so intrinsically linked to this sport, seems like a pretty big problem. This is early in Woods's latest comeback process but there may be a time in the not-so-distant future when he questions "My leg is not feeling as good as I would like it to be," he said. "We'll start the recovery process and get after it tomorrow. I just can't load it. Loading hurts, pressing off it hurts, walking hurts and twisting hurts. It's just golf. If I don't play that, then I'm all right." Which, given Woods is so intrinsically linked to this sport, seems like a pretty big problem. This is early in Woods's latest comeback process but there may be a time in the not-so-distant future when he questions whether his body can withstand golf at the highest level. The 15-time major champion added: "I did not hit a lot of good iron shots. I drove it well but my iron shots were not very good. I didn't get the ball very close."

## Zac Stubblety-Cook breaks world 200m breaststroke record at Australian swimming championships

**London, May 20 :** Zac Stubblety-Cook is struggling to grasp the fact that he has become Australian swimming's latest world record-holder. Stubblety-Cook had a simple goal in Thursday night's final of the 200m breaststroke at the Australian championships in Adelaide: swim fast. But faster than anyone in the event's history? "It's a lot to wrap your head around," Stubblety-Cook said. "It's a bit surreal, to be perfectly honest. "I was obviously hoping to swim fast and hoping to swim close to my best. But that is just something else." The quietly spoken 23-year-old is arguably Australia's lowest-profile Olympic swimming champion. Stubblety-Cook's 200m breaststroke triumph at last year's Tokyo Olympics was overshadowed by the multiple gold medal-winning feats of the likes of Emma McKeon and Kaylee McKeown. The Brisbane-born athlete, who cites being curious, driven and stubborn as his top-three character traits, had pondered breaking the world record in his pet event. But it wasn't a burning motivation. "I had thought about it ... but I never have been like, 'Yes, that's it, I want to break the world record,'" Stubblety-Cook said. "It happened obviously ... but I didn't think we were going that fast." His benchmark came on a night when Kyle Chalmers signalled a backflip which will deny the pop star Cody Simpson an international swimming debut at the looming world titles

## Boston Celtics throttle Miami Heat to level East finals at one game apiece

**London, May 20 :** Jayson Tatum scored 27 points, Marcus Smart and Jaylen Brown each had 24 and the Boston Celtics dominated the first half to roll past the Miami Heat 127-102 on Thursday night and tie the Eastern Conference finals at a game apiece. Smart was a rebound shy of a triple-double, after adding 12 assists and nine rebounds. Grant Williams scored 19 points for Boston, which used a 17-0 run late in the first quarter - fueled by five three-pointers in the span of six possessions - to take control. Payton Pritchard and Al Horford each had 10 for the Celtics. Jimmy Butler had 29 points in 32 minutes for Miami, which fell to 7-1 at home in these playoffs. Gabe Vincent and Victor Oladipo each scored 14 points, and Tyler Herro added 11 for the Heat. The Celtics - now 4-0 in these playoffs in the game immediately following a loss - made 20 shots from three-point range to Miami's 10. Game 3 is Saturday in Boston. And the margin could have been worse: Boston led by as many as 34 points in the fourth, putting this game on the cusp of really good Celtics history and really bad Heat history.



**London, May 20 :** And then there were two. Burnley picked up a precious point at Aston Villa to head into the final day outside the relegation zone and, crucially, with the upper hand on Leeds, who must better Burnley's result on Sunday to avoid dropping into the Championship. As this game rolled into the sixth of what started as four nervy minutes of second-half stoppage time, Burnley's supporters celebrated a free-kick on halfway like they did Ashley Barnes's cool first-half penalty. Even the straight red card shown to the Burnley substitute Matt Lowton could not taint a fine evening. If Burnley do end up securing safety by virtue of their far superior goal difference then they will surely reflect on Nick Pope's superb showing as a significant chapter in an impressive escape mission. Pope made a trio of fine stops, saving the best until last to deny Bertrand Traoré glancing in, but Burnley will equally wonder how Tyrone

Mings prevented the substitute Wout Weghorst from tucking in a winner five minutes from time after Emiliano Martinez instinctively saved from Connor Roberts. Burnley earned one win from their first 21 league games this season but their resurgence since the surprise sacking of Sean Dyche continued here, despite Emi Buendia's equaliser forcing a draw. Burnley can finish on a high at home to Newcastle on the

final day, when Leeds, with whom they are level on points, visit Brentford. In the buildup to this game Burnley's caretaker manager, Mike Jackson, told how several of his players had pledged to play their part even if not 100% fit and James Tarkowski, who is out of contract next month, impressed after returning to the heart of defence following a hamstring injury sustained in the reverse fixture less than a fortnight ago, which Villa won 3-1 at Turf Moor. Ashley

Westwood, who is recovering from a broken ankle, has been mucking in with opposition analysis and Matej Vydra recently paid the squad a visit on crutches after knee surgery. Ben Mee, Tarkowski's usual sidekick and Burnley's club captain, recently returned to training but remained on the sidelines in a club tracksuit here, instead helping Jackson with the warm-up and instructing from the away dugout.





# India's Nikhat Zareen Wins Gold At Women's World Boxing Championships

**New Delhi, May 20 :** India's Nikhat Zareen won the gold medal in the 52kg category at the Women's World Boxing Championship with a win over Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the fly-weight final in Istanbul, Turkey on Thursday. Nikhat thus becomes only the fifth Indian women's boxer after Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, Jenny RL and Lekha KC to win a gold at the World Championships. The 25-year-old Zareen is a former junior youth world champion. Against her Thai opponent in the final, Nikhat fought with brilliance and brought home the gold medal. The judges scored the bout 30-27, 29-28, 29-28, 30-27, 29-28 in the Indian's favour. Zareen was in top form as she used her technical acumen and covered to court



well to outwit her nimble-footed opponent. Nikhat managed to impress all the

judges in the first round as she landed far more punches than the Thai

boxer. The second round was tighter and Jitpong clinched it 3-2. Needing to

get just one judge on her side in the final round, Nikhat went all in and slammed the door on her opponent to eventually record a 5-0 unanimous decision in her favour. The Nizamabad (Telangana)-born boxer became the only fifth Indian woman to secure gold medal at the World Boxing Championships after record six-time champion Mary Kom (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018), Sarita Devi (2006), Jenny RL (2006) and Lekha KC (2006). It was also India's first gold medal since boxing great Mary Kom won it in 2018. Nikhat got off to a lively start and hit some sharp punches to quickly take the upper hand in the opening three minutes against confident Jutamas, who came into the match defeating the three-time World Championships medallist Kazakhstan's Zhaina Shekerbekova. The 25-year-old Indian took full advantage of her long reach and maintained her dominance against the Thai boxer, whom she had beaten in the 2019 Thailand Open semi-final—the only meeting between the two, enroute her silver medal finish. However, Jutamas tried to fight back in the second round with a counter-attacking display but hardly managed to cause any trouble for the swift-moving Nikhat, who looked in complete control. Hitting straight and clear punches, strength proved to be a key factor as Nikhat threw caution to the wind in the final round and kept attacking relentlessly before

securing the gold quite comfortably. "Winning a medal at the world's is always a dream and Nikhat could achieve it so early is extremely commendable. We, at BFI, are proud that our boxers have not only made all of us proud but each of their boxing journeys is inspiring for the upcoming generations," BFI President Ajay Singh said. "On behalf of the Boxing Federation of India, I congratulate Nikhat and bronze medal winners Parveen and Manisha as well as the coaches and support staff for this achievement. Our eight boxers qualified for the quarter-finals which was joint-most and shows the strength of Indian boxing," he added. With Manisha (57kg) and Parveen (63kg) signing off with bronze medals after their semi-finals finish, Indian contingent concluded its campaign with three medals at the world's biggest boxing event, which witnessed exciting competition in presence of record 310 boxers from 73 countries and also marked the 20th anniversary of the Women's World Championships. Out of 12 participating Indian boxers, eight made it to the quarter-finals in this year's tournament—the joint highest alongside Turkey. With the addition of three medals in Istanbul, India's overall medal tally has gone up to 39, including 10 gold, eight silver and 21 bronze, in the 12 editions of the prestigious event—third highest after Russia (60) and China (50).



## New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr returns to Brisbane Heat for Women's Big Bash League

**Brisbane, May 20 :** New Zealand all-rounder Amelia Kerr will return to Brisbane Heat for the next season of Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) after missing last year's tournament due to her break from the game to manage and focus on her mental health. Leg-spinner Kerr has taken 31 wickets in 30 matches and made 204 runs with the bat since signing up for Brisbane in 2019 and will reunite with Australia left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen to form a formidable spin combination. "We were so pleased to see Melie back smiling and enjoying cricket again and are really looking forward to having her join us for the WBBL. Her batting during the World Cup was impressive in spite of some challenging conditions and it will be great to see her continue to develop her skills further," said head coach Ashley Noffke in a statement. "We're excited to have her back in the squad this summer and I think her experience and insights will be very valuable for the group. Our young players will really enjoy the chance to learn from her as they play alongside her," added Noffke. In the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup in New Zealand this year, Kerr scored 201 runs at an average of 33.50 and claimed nine wickets, averaging 31.77 in seven matches. In the run-up to the World Cup at home, Kerr made 353 runs at an average of 117.66, including three half-centuries and a hundred apart from picking seven wickets in five-match ODI series against India. She was also named women's ODI Player of the Year at the 2022 New Zealand Cricket awards. "Ash and the team were in regular contact while I was having a break, and the Heat have been nothing but supportive. I kept an eye on how they went last year and so I'm looking forward to coming back to Brisbane and having some fun with the Heat girls. The WBBL is an exciting tournament and I'm keen to make the most of the opportunity this summer," said Kerr. Kerr will also be representing London Spirit in the second edition of The Hundred in England and will also be involved in New Zealand's matches during the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Brisbane had reached the semi-finals of last year's WBBL before being knocked out of the tournament by Adelaide Strikers in the Eliminator.

## Ellyse Perry in Australia's Commonwealth Games cricket squad but may bat only



**Berlin, May 20 :** A lower back stress fracture is restricting Australian cricket star Ellyse Perry to batting

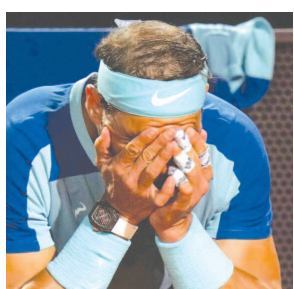
only ahead of the Commonwealth Games. Perry has been named in the powerful 15-player national squad for Birmingham, where women's T20 will make its Games debut but Cricket Australia has revealed the all-rounder is nursing the injury and it is unclear for now whether she will bowl during their tour. Australia will play a T20 series against Ireland and Pakistan in Derry between 16 and 23

July before the Commonwealth Games. Their first Games match will be against India on 29 July. "Ellyse is recovering from a stress fracture in her lower back and is expected to play as a batter," team physiotherapist Kate Beerworth said. "Her availability to bowl will be dependent on her progress in the coming weeks and on the medical advice." By competing at a Commonwealth

Games, Perry will add to her unique sporting resume. The 31-year-old is the only Australian to have played in a cricket and a football World Cup, the latter in 2011 in Germany. Perry is part of the same 15-player squad that dominated the one-day World Cup earlier this year in New Zealand. The one change is the coach - Matthew Mott has left for the head role with the England men's one-day team.

## French Open 2022: Rafael Nadal on the back foot as injury clouds Roland Garros prospects

**London, May 20 :** A chronic foot issue may be the biggest threat to Rafa Nadal's bid for a record-extending 14th French Open trophy this month, with the injury preventing the Spaniard from rediscovering the kind of form he will need to see off a host of challengers. Nadal, who is also looking for a 22nd major title that would give him a little more breathing space ahead of Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer, had said he considered retirement after missing the bulk of 2021 due to the problem. The 35-year-old did not look to have lost a step at the Australian Open earlier this year, however, his triumph on Melbourne's hardcourts giving him a record 21st Grand Slam title to break a three-way tie with Federer and Djokovic. Injury issues struck again in March



when he suffered a stress fracture in his rib during his run to the Indian Wells final and the left-hander only returned to competition in Madrid this month. In a further jolt to his French Open hopes, Nadal was beaten by 19-year-old Carlos Alcaraz in the Madrid quarter-finals before losing to Canadian Denis Shapovalov in the third round of the Rome Masters. "I had my foot again with a lot of pain," a frustrated Nadal told reporters after his loss to Shapovalov. "I am a player living with an injury - it is nothing new. Unfortunately,

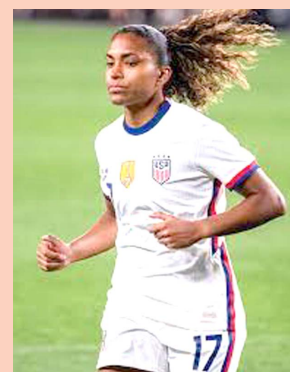
my day-by-day is difficult, honestly. Even like this, I am trying hard ...

it can be frustrating that a lot of days I can't practise the proper way."

## Lyon's Catarina Macario: 'Choosing Europe was for moments like this'

**Barcelona, May 20 :** The journey of the striker Catarina Macario from the Brazilian city of São Luis to a first Champions League final with the seven-times winners Lyon has been long but not surprising to those familiar with her remarkable backstory. Macario is used to making bold decisions to further her steady and goal-laden rise. Her family swapped São Luis for Brasília for her mother's job as a surgeon when she was seven and, when Macario was 12 and no longer allowed to play with boys, her father decided to split the family. He,

awarded to the nation's best player, it followed a pattern of change and adaptation she has become used to. "Choosing to go to Europe was definitely based on wanting to play in moments like these, wanting to compete for a Champions League," she says before Saturday's final in Turin against the holders, Barcelona. "So, the fact that we're doing it is incredibly special. It means that I made a good decision. It's been working out so far. I just wanted to play with the best of the best and be with them every single day in training and playing against



them." This final is "set up to be one of the biggest Champions League finals thus far", says the 22-year-old forward who has found her feet in France after a tough start. "I had a lot of ups and downs, to be honest, in the begin-

ning," she says. "So the first six months really was a big transitional period. One in which I found myself almost doubting my abilities, just because it was very different from what I was used to in terms of speed of play, the culture, a new country, a new team. Of course, those things are always expected. But it definitely took some time to get up and running. I'm very grateful that I'm now able to say I'm out of that zone, and I'm currently playing my best football and able to help the team." Macario has scored 10 times in Lyon's past 12 games to help them to the top of Division 1 with two matches

to play and to the Champions League final after the team finished without a trophy last term. "I'm glad that I can experience moments like these and be playing in big-stage games. That's helped prepare me the most to be the type of player that I want to be and in order to help my national team as well." She is also learning from the best, with the Women's Champions League's record goalscorer, Ada Hegerberg, also at Lyon. "She has a crazy mentality," says Macario. "Very professional every single day. She just prepares like no other."

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