



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Fire broke out

**Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 28 :**

A major fire broke out in Duliajan in Assam's Dibrugarh district on Friday night. The incident took place near the entrance to Kumud Nagar village in Duliajan late last night. As many as eight business establishments were completely burnt down in the fire. Locals believe the fire broke out from an electrical short-circuit, though the reason behind the fire has not been established yet. Meanwhile, local police reached the spot and initiated an investigation into the source of the fire.

'The Kaleido Conclave'

**Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 28 :**

The Centre for Studies in Journalism and Mass Communication (CSJMC), Dibrugarh University successfully hosted their two-day debut edition of 'The Kaleido Conclave' on Friday. The conclave, which started on Thursday was organized in collaboration with Oil India Ltd., Duliajan and Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Ltd, Lepetkata, at Indira Miri Conference Hall in Dibrugarh University. The dais was graced with the presence of eminent media dignitaries from northeast India namely Karma Paljor, Editor-in-Chief of East Mojo, seasoned journalist Oinemetom Ojah, OIL Spokesperson Tridiv Hazarika and independent film-maker Jaicheng Xzai Dohutia of Baghjan fame, on the first day and Guwahati-based Master Puppeteer Binita Devi, Ministry of Culture fellowship awardee, on the second day.

Boat accident

**Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 28 :**

A motor boat carrying cargo capsized at the River Brahmaputra flowing through Hatsingimari in South Salmara-Mankachar district of Assam. The incident occurred when the motor boat was coming from Dhubri towards Sukhsar. The motor boat capsized just before reaching the bank on the other side of the river. However, no loss of lives or any injuries have been reported in the incident. The incident occurred near Bau Bazaar at Sukhsar. Earlier in May, a 10-year-old girl drowned while several others were rescued after a boat ferrying them capsized in Morigaon.

30 Officers Complain To Assam Chief Minister Over BJP MLA's Threat



**Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 28 :**

At least 30 officers of the Cachar district administration have signed a memorandum and submitted to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma complaining against the behaviour of a BJP MLA. They accused the ruling

party MLA of misbehaving, insulting, threatening and abusing officers on duty. The memorandum said the MLA had questioned the integrity of the entire Assam Civil Services, or ACS, cadre. "We, the Civil Services Officers of Cachar district, having confidence in your able leadership, would like to bring to your

esteemed notice, the very shameful incident of gross misbehaviour by MLA Lakhupur towards the civil servants engaged in relief duty in Sonal Revenue Circle Dr. Dipankar Nath, ACS, Circle officer, Sonal Revenue Circle and Sri Bikash Chetri, ALRS, Circle officer (A), Sonal Revenue Circle, Sri. Hussain Mohammad Mobin, ALRS, BDO, Sonai in presence of Sri, Ashok Singhal, Guardian Minister, Cachar, who were reviewing the flood situation, who being accompanied by the District President, BJP, Cachar, Ex-

MLA, Sonal, the Panchayat representatives along with several party workers and their associates," the memorandum said. "That, while visiting the designated relief camps at Govindanagar Shivbari High School, the MLA, Lakhupur remarked that BDO of Sonai, Hussain Mohammad Mobin, ALRS should be beaten up in the same manner as he was once manhandled at block office by various party workers on 10th March, 2022." Other Panchayat Representatives further said that the Circle

Officer(s) should be punished as they have failed to distribute any relief and went on to quote derogatory Un Parliamentary words for the entire Government machinery who were working in Sonal and also, accused the concerned officers of working at behest of the opposition party and termed the officers as agent of the opposition," the memorandum said. "That, the very same shameful way of harassment continued further, while visiting the flood prone areas of Kaptanpur and Rupaibali

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Union minister Jaishankar kick off NADI-3 conclave in Guwahati

**Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 28 :**

External Affairs Minister Dr. Subramaniam Jaishankar in presence of Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated Asian Confluence River Conclave 2022 (Nadi 3) at a function held here today. Organised by Asian Confluence in association with External Affairs Ministry, Government of India and Act East Policy Affairs Department, the two day conclave has been organised to set an agenda



for a collective vision of sub-regional cooperation in the Bay of Bengal Region and in South East Asia. Speaking on the occasion Chief Minister Dr. Sarma expressed his happiness to have attended Nadi 3 and

hosted the conclave in Guwahati on the bank of the mighty Brahmaputra which he believed would act as natural allies in development and interdependence. He said, "NADI 3 Conclave gives us a remarkable opportunity for a collective vision of our shared prosperity. I am sure the deliberations at

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Aryan Khan drug case: After clean chit to star son, P Chidambaram asks 'who will..'

New Delhi, May 28 :

It was high drama on Friday (May 27) when the Narcotics Control Bureau gave a clean chit to Aryan Khan on the drugs-on-cruise case. The NCB's clean chit came as a big relief to Bollywood

superstar Shah Rukh Khan's son, who had spent 22 days in jail last after he was arrested in the Mumbai drug case. Talking about the case, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram

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On IAS couple who walked dog at stadium, Anurag Thakur says Delhi govt failed to act



New Delhi, May 28 :

Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Saturday said the Delhi government failed to act against the IAS couple over their alleged misuse of a sports stadium in the national capital, but the Ministry of Home Affairs transferred them to give a strong message that such facilities are meant for sportspersons. The leader further added that the Delhi government did not take any action against the bureaucrats. But Union home minister (Amit Shah) and the department took action against them and they were

transferred to give a strong message that stadiums are meant for sportspersons," he said. "There should be rules and they should be followed. Let everyone play, but professional athletes should be given preference. There should be no political interference," Thakur, who is also the Information and Broadcasting and Youth Affairs Minister, added. The statement came after the Centre on Thursday, shunted IAS couple Sanjeev Khirwar and Anu Dugga to Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, respectively, following media re-

ports about the misuse of facilities at Thyagraj Stadium by them. Khirwar was then posted as Principal Secretary (Revenue) in Delhi. According to reports, the IAS couple were caught on camera allegedly walking their dogs in a stadium. Union Minister Anurag Thakur made the remarks while inaugurating the Khashaba Jadhav Sports Complex spread over 27 acres in the Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) campus, he also said that traditional games of India, like mallakhamb, will be taken to the international level in future. "There should be more competitions for

sportspersons and they shouldn't only practice. This will help the sportspersons in testing their mental toughness. Grounds and facilities are made, but there are also restrictions imposed on some people. Recently in Delhi, an IAS officer with his wife was using the stadium, while the sportspersons were kept outside. It is a very unfortunate incident," he said. "There should be rules and they should be followed. Let everyone play, but professional athletes should be given preference. There should be no political interference,"

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CM Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma Issues Show-cause Notice to Sanjay Kishan for Apologizing to ULFA-I



**Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 28 :**

Assam Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma has issued show-cause notice to Minister of Tea Tribes and Employment Sanjay Kishan for apologizing to proscribed terror outfit ULFA-I chief Paresh Baruah. The

chief minister asked Minister Sanjay Kishan to reply as to why he had apologized to Paresh Baruah. The proscribed terror outfit had issued a statement threatening Sanjay Kishan to boycott him earlier on May 16. The incident has sparked a row, with many concerned citizens raising

questions about the minister's gesture. Sanjay Kishan, while participating in a government event in

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BHEJA FRY



The hope of growing up to be a political leader is now all disappointment.

Flood situation in Assam improves as water level of most rivers recede



**Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 28 :**

The flood situation in Assam improved considerably on Friday with waters receding in most rivers even as over 5 lakh people continued to suffer in the deluge in ten districts of the state, an official bulletin

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Kamrup District celebrated World Menstrual Hygiene Day

Riniki Bhuyan Sarma hailed the steps taken by Kamrup District Administration to sensitise and create awareness

**Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 28 :**

Kamrup District Administration today celebrated World Menstrual Hygiene Day. Synchronising with the event, a programme was organised at Guwahati Biotech Park where Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, Chief Managing Director, Pride East Entertainment Pvt. Ltd, Nishita Goswami, renowned actress and Ritika Chhetri took part in the interaction

sessions. The event was celebrated to dedicate towards the issues of Menstrual Health and Hygiene. The core agenda of the programme is to highlight the issues faced by women due to social taboos which was done through the medium of speakers from different fields, performances etc. and was followed by a felicitation ceremony for the people that have contributed towards the topic in the

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Residents and rescuers work at the flooded area in Qiubei County, southwest China's Yunnan

Another Unwanted Record: Kangana's 'Dhaakad' Sells Only 20 Tickets Across India On Day 8

Mumbai, May 28 : Razneesh Ghai's spy thriller Dhaakad, featuring Kangana Ranaut as Agent Agni, was released last week amid huge buzz and expectations. After its trailer received a positive response from fans, Kangana promoted it on almost every possible platform and was looking forward to a strong comeback after the debacle of Thalaivi. However, upon its release, only the unexpected happened for the team. Despite getting decent reviews, Dhaakad failed to cross even the Rs. 10 crore mark in the first week and has turned out to be a huge disappointment for Kangana as well as her fans. Within a few days, the action thriller



entered the list of all-time biggest disasters and joined the likes of Acharya, Radhe Shyam, and 83. Now, the latest buzz suggests that the film has made

another unwanted record. Reportedly, Dhaakad crashed completely on the eighth day of its release as only 20 people watched it across India on

the second Friday. Yes, you read that right! On day 8 of its theatrical journey, the movie is estimated to have collected just Rs. 4,420. For the unversed, Dhaakad was distributed by Zee Studios theatrically and also featured Arjun Rampal and Divya Dutta in key roles. It is among the costliest female-led films ever made in India, however, its box office performance has left everyone disappointed. Interestingly, the makers

decided to sell the OTT and satellite rights of Dhaakad only after its release, in the hope of a better deal. But, after its dismal theatrical performance, there are no takers for its digital and satellite rights and the producers are now going to bear huge losses. On the career front, Kangana now has projects like Tejas and Sita - The Incarnation in her kitty. The actress is also producing Tiku Weds Sheru, featuring Nawazuddin Siddiqui and Avneet Kaur in the lead roles.

DGCA slaps Rs 5 lakh fine on IndiGo for not allowing specially-abled teen to board

New Delhi, May 28 : The aviation regulator DGCA fined IndiGo airline Rs 5 lakh for denying a specially-abled child boarding at Ranchi airport on May 7. The child was denied permission to board the Ranchi-Hyderabad trip by IndiGo on May 9 because he was 'visibly in terror.' Because the youngster was not allowed to board, his parents, who were accompanying him, chose not to board as well. This is also the first time the aviation watchdog has imposed a financial fine on an airline. The DGCA had on May 9 formed

a three-member team to investigate the incident. "It has been observed that the handling of the special child by the Indigo ground staff was deficient and ended up exacerbating the situation," said a statement by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). More compassionate handling would have smoothened nerves, calmed the child and obviated the need for the extreme step resulting in denied boarding to the passengers, it mentioned. Special

situations deserve extraordinary responses, but the airline's staff failed to rise up to the occasion and, in the process, committed lapses in adherence to the letter and spirit of the Civil Aviation Requirements (regulations), it noted. "In view of this, the competent authority in the DGCA has decided to impose a penalty of Rs 5 lakhs on the airline under the provisions of the relevant Aircraft Rules," it mentioned.

Moscow, May 28 : The gloating began just days after the missiles began falling on Ukraine. "Get ready for Nuremberg 2.0," one former Russian diplomat wrote in a WhatsApp message. Vladimir Putin's invasion to "denazify" the country has always pointed toward a purge and show trials. Now Moscow may seize on that chance. As Russia holds hundreds of prisoners from the Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol, its proxies in east Ukraine have floated the idea of holding a "military tribunal" inspired by Nuremberg that observers say would reflect a mass show trial meant to justify Russia's invasion to the world. "We



are planning to organise an international tribunal on the republic's territory," said Denis Pushilin, the leader of a Russian-controlled territory in the Donetsk region. A model could be the Kharkiv trial of

1943, he said, when the Soviet military tried, convicted and executed three Germans and one Ukrainian by hanging. One key audience was the world press. Photos of the

hangings were printed in Life magazine. Whether the Kremlin will follow through with such a gruesome spectacle remains unclear, but the idea has found backers in

Australian man killed in Ukraine while providing humanitarian aid

Melbourn, May 28 : An Australian man has died while providing humanitarian aid in war-torn Ukraine, the prime minister has confirmed. Michael O'Neill, 47, was killed on Wednesday, leaving behind three children as well as five siblings. "This is a tragedy and I want to give my condolences to the family of the man involved," Anthony Albanese said in Sydney on Saturday. "The family has requested that their privacy be respected and I ask the media to do that." In a public post on Facebook, one of O'Neill's sisters

said he had been driving trucks in Ukraine to help civilians flee the country as well as helping transport the wounded. She described her brother as a "larrikin" and "always a battler." "Always looking for a cause he headed to Ukraine to drive trucks," she said. Russia invaded Ukraine in February, with allegations of war crimes made against the federation's troops since the invasion. During his trip to the Quad leaders' meeting on Tuesday, Albanese said he had

expressed Australia's view that the Russian "unilateral, illegal, immoral attack" on the people of Ukraine was an "outrage." The atrocities which are being committed on innocent civilians is something that we couldn't have expected in the 21st century," he told reporters after the meeting. Earlier this month, the then foreign minister Marise Payne announced further sanctions on high-profile Russians, including media personalities and military higher-ups.

the foreign ministry and among top MPs who have angrily declared that there should be no prisoner exchanges of the soldiers captured in Mariupol. The head of annexed Crimea said that a tribunal in Russian-occupied east Ukraine, where local authorities support the death penalty, would serve as a "lesson for everyone who forgot the lessons of Nuremberg". The signalling of a great political trial has raised fears that Russia is about to pass yet another grisly landmark in its reliving of the second world war, simulating a triumphant legal process that would taint the legacy of the Nuremberg verdict. One expert called it an Orwellian distortion of the postwar language of human rights. It would be "a political trial whose aim is to present a particular narrative about the war that supports the argument about denazification that Putin has been putting forward, that supports his claim that Ukraine is being run by Nazis and that supports his claims that there are direct links between the Ukrainian collaborators during the second world war and Ukrainian soldiers today", said Francine Hirsch, a professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the author of Soviet Judgment at Nuremberg: A New History of the International Military Tribunal after World War II.



Tokyo, May 28 : The founder of one of the most feared terrorist organisations of the 1970s has walked free from a Japanese prison after completing a 20-year sentence for the siege of the French embassy in the Netherlands. Once described as "the empress of terror", Fusako Shigenobu founded the Japanese Red Army, a radical leftist group that carried out armed attacks worldwide in support of the Palestinian cause. On Saturday, 76-year-old Shigenobu left the prison in Tokyo with her daughter as several supporters held a banner saying "We love

Fusako." "I apologise for the inconvenience my arrest has caused to so many people," Shigenobu said after the release. "It's half a century ago ... but we caused damage to innocent people who were strangers to us by prioritising our battle, such as by hostage-taking." She is believed to have masterminded the 1972 machine gun and grenade attack on Tel Aviv's Lod airport, which left 26 people dead and injured about 80. Shigenobu had lived as a fugitive in the Middle East for around 30 years but was arrested in

Osaka in November 2000 after secretly returning to Japan using a false passport and checking into a hotel disguised as a man. The former soy sauce company worker was sentenced to two decades behind bars six years later for her part in the 1974 siege of the embassy in the Hague. Shigenobu maintained her innocence over the siege, in which three Red Army militants stormed into the embassy, taking the ambassador and 10 other staff hostage for 100 hours. Two police officers were shot and seriously wounded. France ended the standoff by freeing a jailed Red Army guerrilla, who flew off with the hostage-takers in a plane to Syria. Shigenobu did not take part in the attack personally but the court said she coordinated the operation with the Popular Front for the

Liberation of Palestine. Born into poverty in post-war Tokyo, Shigenobu's odyssey into Middle Eastern extremism began by accident when she passed a sit-in protest at a Tokyo university when she was 20. Shigenobu quickly became involved in the leftist movement and decided to leave Japan aged 25.

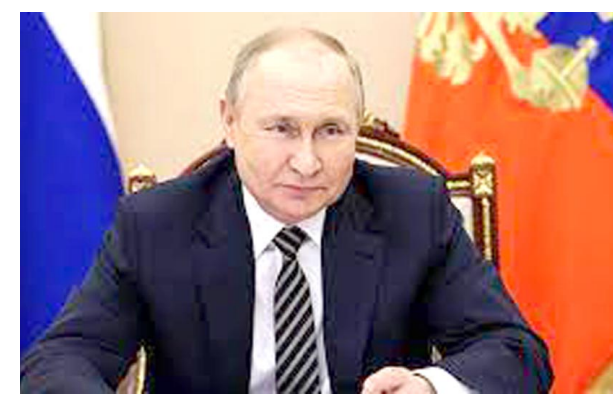


Firefighters conduct disinfection in a school in Putuo District of Shanghai, east China

Biden says Putin trying to 'wipe out' Ukrainian culture, as prospect of retreat looms in east

Washington, May 28 : Joe Biden has accused Vladimir Putin of trying to "wipe out" Ukraine's culture but suggested the plan had at least partially backfired by spurring the expansion of Nato in Europe. The US president told 1,200 graduating cadets in Annapolis, Maryland, on Friday: "Not only is he trying to take over Ukraine, he's literally trying to wipe out the culture and identity of the Ukrainian people. Attacking schools, nurseries, hospitals, museums, with no other purpose than to eliminate a culture." The Russian president tried to "Finland-ize" Europe, Biden said, but "instead he Nato-ized all of Europe", a reference to neutral nations Finland and Sweden's plans to join the alliance. On the ground,

in the besieged eastern Ukrainian city of Sievierodonetsk, the situation appeared bleak, with Luhansk's governor, Serhiy Haidai, saying Ukrainian forces may need to retreat after Russian troops entered the city, the largest in Donbas still held by Ukraine. "The Russians will not be able to capture Luhansk region in the coming days as analysts have predicted," Haidai said on Telegram, referring to Sievierodonetsk and its twin city Lysychansk across the Siverskiy Donets river. "We will have enough strength and resources to defend ourselves. However it is possible that in order not to be surrounded we will have to retreat." Haidai said 90% of buildings in the city were



damaged. The Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, accepted the situation in Donbas was "very difficult", saying in a Friday night address that invading forces "have concentrated maximum artillery, maximum reserves" to the region. "There are missiles

strikes and aircraft attacks - everything," he said. "We are protecting our land in the way that our current defence resources allow. We are doing everything to increase them. And we will increase them." If the occupiers think that Lyman or Sievierodonetsk will be theirs, they are wrong. Donbas will be Ukrainian."

Canada investigates after Tesla catches fire, forcing driver to 'smash the window'

Paris, May 28 : Canadian authorities are investigating an incident in which a Tesla caught fire in Vancouver, reportedly forcing the driver to smash his way out of the vehicle. Transport Canada, the Canadian auto safety agency, said in a statement on Friday that it had learned of the incident in Vancouver on 23 May and that it had "notified Tesla ... and is currently making arrangements for a joint

inspection of the vehicle in an effort to determine the cause of the fire". The US National Highway Traffic Safety Administration told Reuters on Thursday it "is aware of the incident and has reached out to the manufacturer for information". Video posted on the website Electrek shows smoke emerging from the vehicle for several minutes before the inside of the vehicle eventually

catches on fire. According to the website, the driver said that to get out he "had to smash the window", adding: "I kicked through the window because everything stops. The power didn't work. The door didn't open. The windows didn't go down." Approximately five minutes after the car began smoking, the fire department arrived and was able to extinguish the fire. According to the driver, he had purchased the car eight months ago.

Guest House

A/C Non A/C Rooms with
Car Parking At POGL
Brahmaputra,
Chandmari, Guwahati-21
Ph. WA : 9678009493
9707183470



Pengeri-Bordumsa NH disrupted

Assam Rising, Margherita, May 28: The Pengeri-Bordumsa National Highway in Tinsukia district has been devastated due to lack of repairs. National Highways from Pengeri to Bordumsa have become quite unfit for traffic. The concerned people of the area have also complained that the National Highways Authority has also not taken care of the

construction and repair of roads. The public is facing difficulties in commuting due to non-proper construction of road construction contracts. Many people have lost their lives in many accidents in the past due to the damaged roads. Gautam Baruah, acting president of the Tinsukia district Satra

Mukti Sangram Samiti (SMSS) has demanded the government as well as the National Highways Authority to construct the road at the earliest. Gautam Baruah, district executive president of the Satra Mukti Sangram Samiti (SMSS) otherwise threatened to implement a strong democratic movement in the coming days.

Batadroba arson case: Core accused Allah Uddin arrested

Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 28: Nagaon police arrested Allah Uddin, one of the core accused of Batadroba PS arson case from Darang district on Thursday night. Besides, two more accused of the same incident were arrested on Friday last by Nagaon police too, sources added. They have been identified as Moinul Haque and Imran Hussain. Sources claimed that the core accused of the Batadroba arson case - Allah Uddin was absconding from Nagaon police since the incident and was hiding at a household at Mousida in Darang dis-

trict. Based on secret inputs, Nagaon police in association with Dhula PS police conducted a search operation at Mousida. Being aware of the police search operation, Allah Uddin immediately tried to escape from police and ran away in darkness from the house where he was hiding. Meanwhile chasing him several kilometres from Mousida, police were able to detain him at the same night and brought him back to Nagaon, sources said adding that a slew of criminal cases including drugs

dealing and dacoity were registered against him in Batadroba PS. Allah Uddin is being interrogated at Nagaon by police here at Nagaon till filing of this report. While briefing the local media persons in this regard here, the additional superintendent of police, (security), Nagaon Nirupam Hazarika claimed that the SIT will complete the entire investigation into the mob arson case within 45 days while the charge sheet against Batadroba incident will be submitted to the court just within 60 days.

Assam CM & Union Minister Jaishankar visits IIT Guwahati

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 28: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today accompanied the Union Minister for External Affairs S Jaishankar to Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati premises for an interactive session of the latter with the faculty members, scholars and students of the premier institute dedicated to technical studies. Addressing those present at the event, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma stressed upon the role IIT Guwahati can play in giving shape to government of India's "Act East Policy", which is expected to economically connect the country's north-eastern region with that of the South-East Asian nations and provide the much-needed fillip to its growth ambitions. The Chief Minister, lauding the role of IITs in nation-building, requested everyone associated with it to use its expertise to work towards achieving a safer cyber security regime, apart from dedicating studies towards disaster management, water crises, among others, in the state. Speak-



ing about the importance of start-up ventures in an economy, the Chief Minister requested the IIT Guwahati administration to formulate a "start-up policy" for Assam so that the state can reach its full potential in the field of entrepreneurship and economic growth. He further appealed the students of IIT Guwahati to venture into the start-up sector once they graduate out the premier institute, and become "job-creator" rather than being "job-seeker". The Chief Minister, expressing his gratitude to the External Affairs Minister for visiting Assam, stated that the visit of one senior minister after another (referring to the visit of the Union Home Minister, the Union Defence Minister, and the Prime Minister himself) from the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led Cabinet within a span of just about a month speaks volume about the importance the current dispensation at the Centre attaches towards the growth and development of the north-eastern region. Earlier in the day, the Chief Minister, along with the Union External Affairs Minister, visited an exhibition in the IIT Guwahati

premises that showcased innovative products and items conceptualised, designed and produced by students from various streams of the premier engineering institute.



Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 28: The Department of Physiotherapy, School of Allied Medical Sciences, University of Science and Technology Meghalaya has launched its third best practice "Mobile Child Care Unit" today at Jorbil

Research journal of LCC released

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 28: The new issue of Lakhimpur Commerce College (LCC), North Lakhimpur Research Journal (ISSN No. 2320-5415), was released today at the college. The quarterly research journal, whose publications have been stalled due to the Covid pandemic, was released today with a back issue of October, 2014 to September, 2021 and the current issue of October, 2021 to March, 2022 in a solemn ceremony held at the seminar hall of the college. A meeting was organized for the occasion by the Research Cell of Lakhimpur Commerce College where the welcome address was delivered by Dr.

Lohit Hazarika, Principal of the college. Dr. Jiten Hazarika, Registrar of Dibrugarh University (DU) released the two issues of the research journal in presence of Dr. Kalyan Bhuyan, Director, IQAC, Dibrugarh University. Releasing the research journals the DU Registrar Dr. Hazarika said that teachers, like any other professionals, work in academic institutions to earn a living but their work towards academics and research comes out to be a great contribution towards the society. The registrar also said that works like research journals by college



teachers is an example of this social contribution. He expressed his optimism that the Lakhimpur Commerce College Research Journal will get enlisted into the UGC Care List of journals and elevated to Scopus Elsevier database in the coming days. Dr. Hazarika urged the teachers not to give up their efforts in contributing towards research. Registrar Dr. Hazarika also presented a talk on Restructuring Institutions under NEP: Ho-

listic and Multidisciplinary Education in the meeting. The meeting was also addressed by Dr. Sangeeta Borthakur Tamuli, the editor of the journal, who expressed gratitude to all who had contributed in various capacities to bring out the two issues of the research journal. This was followed by a workshop on code of conduct of college teachers in the college. The workshop was organized by the Code of Conduct Monitoring Committee of Lakhimpur Commerce Col-

lege and was inaugurated by Dr. Lohit Hazarika, Principal of the college. Dr. Jiten Hazarika, Registrar of Dibrugarh University attended the workshop as resource person. Another workshop on professional ethics was organized by the Code of Conduct Monitoring Committee of Lakhimpur Commerce College on the same day where Dr. Kalyan Bhuyan, Director, IQAC, Dibrugarh University attended the workshop as the resource person.

Central govt. team visits Nagaon to review flood damages



Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 28: To review and assess the damages caused by the ongoing flash flood in the undivided Nagaon district, a special team from the central government visited Nagaon and Hojai district today. Sources claimed that following the breakfast early this morning here at Nagaon circuit house, the team went to Kamrup revenue circle and reviewed various flood ravaged areas. During the visit, the team first rushed to the breaching spot on Kothiatoli - Kamrup connecting PWD road near Monuhargaon village under the circle and reviewed the entire situation. Subsequently, the team went to Navajyoti LP and ME School at Bamunijan, Kolaikhuwa LP, Palashbari LP school, Pub Tetelisara Irrigation scheme, Pachim Khalobhanga irrigation scheme and irrigation scheme at Bamunijan and also took stocks about damages caused by the recent flash flood in the revenue circle, sources said, adding that the central team later went to Hojai district and also visited various flood ravaged areas under Jamunamukh and Hojai to review as well as to assess the damages caused there by the flood. It is pertinent to be mentioned here that during the fresh wave, the flood hit over 3.5 lakhs people and claimed the lives of 7 people in Kamrup revenue circle in the district. Besides, the flood water ravaged several thousands hectares of land with various crops and vegetables which were still reeling under flood water.

Minister Suklabaidya laid foundation stones of Model Anganwadi Centres

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 28: Minister for Environment and Forest, Fisheries and Excise, Parimal Suklabaidya laid the foundation stones of two Model Anganwadi Centres in Dholai constituency in Cachar district on Friday last. Minister Suklabaidya laid the foundation stones of 16 No. Basti Model Anganwadi Centre at Narsingpur development block under Putikhal Gaon Panchayat and 240 No. Madhya Panibhara Model Anganwadi Centre under Putikhal Panibhara Gaon Panchayat at a cost of Rs.25 lakh each. Speaking at a function, Minister Suklabaidya said the Anganwadi Centres play a pivotal role in physical and mental development of a child. "The Anganwadi Centres mold the character of a child at a very tender age and they are the centres where the

child gets the first light of knowledge," said Suklabaidya. The Minister said after the BJP Government took over the reins of power at the Centre and State, concrete steps have been taken to galvanise the education sector, and one of these steps is setting up of Model Anganwadi Centres under the bold leadership of Chief Minister, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. Suklabaidya said the state government headed by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma following its completion of one year in office on May 10 has reiterated its commitments towards Assam's welfare, and marking the event, a series of programmes are going on across the state till June 10. He informed that 66 Model Anganwadi Centres have been sanctioned for Cachar district and out of these, 11 Anganwadi Centres fall under Dholai constituency alone. Suklabaidya said that two Adarsha High Schools will come up in tea garden areas under Dholai constituency soon and these schools will bring about a sea change in edu-

cation in tea garden areas. Suklabaidya further said that after the BJP Government came to power at the Centre and State, various welfare schemes have been taken up and these schemes have been wholly dedicated to the people. The Minister laid the foundation stones of a cultural centre at Jibangram Gaon Panchayat at Mahadev Bari at a cost of Rs 10 lakh, a community hall at Shyamcharanpur Colony at a cost of Rs.5 lakh under Jamalpur Gaon Panchayat, construction of a boundary wall at Shyamcharanpur Sarbajanin Shivbari Mandir at a cost Rs.5 lakh and a cultural centre at Khewartal Gaon Panchayat at Khulichorai at an estimated cost of Rs.10 lakh. Later, Suklabaidya inaugurated a newly constructed cultural centre under Bhubandar Gaon Panchayat at an estimated cost of Rs 10 lakh. He also distributed school uniforms to the students of Panibhara Krishna Charan High School. Member of Madhya Dholai Zilla Parishad, Sashanka Chandra Paul was present on the occasion.

USTM launched Mobile Child Care Unit

of providing free good quality physiotherapy services along with health checkup to the children of neighbouring villages who are not able to afford such treatment. Dr Pooja Choudhury, HoD of the Department of Physiotherapy stated that this service will be given thrice every week covering different areas. "The main objective of the mobile child care unit is to help the children with cerebral palsy to access quality rehabilitation. It would help the patients and attendants to understand the rehabilitation treatment and to acknowledge the benefits very closely", she added.

Wild elephant kills one



Assam Rising, Udalguri, May 28: Chantola Basumatari of village Bongurung under Paneri police station area was killed by a wild elephant yesterday. He went to village Bormukuli where he was plucking lemon. The wild elephant chased him and trampled at the field where he succumbed to death. He left behind two daughters, two sons and a wife.

Menstrual hygiene day observed in North Lakhimpur

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 28: Under the aegis of Purva Bharati Educational Trust and PRAYAS and in collaboration with District Level Centre for Women (DLCW), the Menstrual Hygiene Day was observed at Adivasi Junubasti High School, North Lakhimpur today. In the meeting, held on this occasion, the Headmaster along with teachers of the school, members of School

Managing Committee (SMC) and local Gaon Panchayat, ASHA, AWW and students of other two Schools were present. The team of DLCW was attended as the Resource Person in the meeting. Besides explaining the theme of the Day for this year, the Resource Person also briefed on good practices of menstrual hygiene management, it's taboos and myths and how it leads to social issue like drop out, child marriage etc., food habit and do's and don'ts during menstrual period, role of school and role of SMC for proper management on menstrual Hygiene etc.



State Kung fu competition is going on at Golaghat from May 27.

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Heatwaves have multiple and cascading impacts

Heatwaves have multiple and cascading impacts not just on human health, but also on ecosystems, agriculture, water and energy supplies and key sectors of the economy. The risks to society underline why the World Meteorological Organization is committed to ensuring that multi-hazard early warning services reach the most vulnerable," said WMO Secretary-General Prof. Petteri Taalas. "The extreme heat in India and Pakistan is consistent with what we expect in a changing climate. Heatwaves are more frequent and more intense and starting earlier than in the past. The heat was prolonged and widespread and coupled with below-average rainfall, impacting hundreds of millions of people in one of the most densely populated parts of the world. The national meteorological and hydrological departments in both countries have working closely with health and disaster management agencies to save lives, in line with the WMO drive to strengthen early warnings and early action and to implement heat-health action plans. Daily power outages driven by a surge in demand for electricity have resulted in blackouts as long as eight hours in some parts of India, while coal stocks — the fuel that accounts for 70% of the country's electricity generation — are running low, prompting warnings of a fresh power crisis. The northern wheat crop is scorched. It was the hottest March in 122 years. The record warm temperatures in April provide an example of how global warming can combine with natural variability to produce record heat waves. This spring portends yet again that higher frequency, duration, intensity and area covered by such heatwaves are expected in these regions with continued warming — not only locally but also because of the Indian Ocean and the Arctic.

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Not Sun Tzu or Confucius, Xi Jinping & elite Chinese politicians are reading this philosopher



In the past weeks, visuals of police and health workers in Shanghai forcing themselves into people's homes and spraying massive quantities of disinfectant captured headlines worldwide. But what justifies China's authority over people's personal space under Xi Jinping? Han Fei, an ancient Chinese political philosopher, may have some answers to offer. Confucius and Sun Tzu are probably the most well-known Chinese political philosophers outside China. But the philosopher who has grown very popular lately among elite Chinese politicians is Han Fei. Sometimes referred to as China's Machiavelli, Han Fei-of Korean origin—was a prince of the ruling family of Han and is known to have lived during the Warring States period. The books that leaders read impact their governance style—leaving a long shadow. And Xi Jinping regularly quotes from Han Fei. "When the

law changes with the times, it is governed well, and when the law and the world are appropriate, there is merit," Xi Jinping said quoting Han Fei on the need for legislation to keep up with time. Even Mao Zedong admired Han Fei's ideology. "What Han Fei meant by 'force and strength' was power," Mao said about Han Fei's work, concluding, "A smart emperor must control power." The Warring States period from 475-221 BC was a brutal phase of Chinese history when small kingdoms were fighting amongst each other for supremacy. But the period saw the origins of philosophical traditions, including Confucius thinkers such as Mencius and Xunzi. The rich history of this period laid the foundation for governmental structures and philosophical traditions that define the relationship between people and the State to this day. Han Fei is attributed as one of the founders

of the 'legalist school' of Chinese philosophy. Han Fei's 'Defining the Standards' (Ding fa) is the primary text of the legalist school. Han Fei takes a materialist and a realist view of politics, which he supports with a maximalist legalistic action to shore up a sovereign's authority. Other philosophers of the legalist school are Shang Yang and Shen Buhai, but Han Fei has emerged as the modern-day face of the legalist school. Unlike Confucius, whose philosophy prescribes a patriarchal morality at a more personal level, Han Fei is more concerned with macro legalism that he forwards as the basis of

Aadil Brar

the State's authority. The core tenant of Han Fei's philosophy is the legalistic adherence to agriculture and war, which requires a militaristic fervour to maintain the State's power. Han Fei promoted a system of rewards and punishment by the State to govern the people. He suggests using the harshest punishment for minor infringements to condition the subjects of a State and stop them from breaking the law. "Therefore, an enlightened ruler will make use of men's strength but will not heed their words, will reward their accomplishments but will prohibit useless activities. Then the people will be willing to exert themselves to the point of death in the service of their sovereign," Christopher Rand

quotes from the original text of Han Feizi. The Warring States period was marked by new militarism defining the legalist school's preoccupation with harsh punishment and some rewards. These ideas underlying the philosophy would return at different periods of Chinese history. Han Fei's philosophy had a profound impact on emperor Qin Shi Huang, the leader who finally united the small states (approx. 221 BCE) into the kingdom of Qin - known as the Qin dynasty. Qin Shi Huang even adopted the legalist governance model by issuing maximum punishments to alleged criminals for petty violations. But Han Fei wasn't entirely devoid of morality in the political context. He argued for collective morality by the State power, which works for the 'good of the subjects.' Hanfeizi believes that human beings are selfish; hence, conflict cannot be eliminated, and only if a state is strong can it uphold state interests." Yan Xuetong summarises Han Fei's views. One of the modern-day applications of the legalist philosophy in China is the Social Credit System (SCS). The SCS has an in-built system of rewards and punishment to nudge people into following a collective morality in different sectors of society. "As with the legalist ideal, these schemes do not apply a single behavioural code to every area of society. Rather, there are sector-specific criteria. There are different rules, rewards, and punishments for the healthcare sector, heavy industry, tourism, business, and education. This mirrors the ancient system of 'names and tallies'," Samuel Parsons writes about underlying legalist philosophy in the Social Credit System. Legalism began to fall out of

favour under Emperor Wu of Han between (141-87 BCE) as the philosophy came under criticism for its excessive harshness and oppression of the people. Han Fei's end was tragic. Han is said to have been poisoned while in custody King of Qin, and some experts speculate his poisoning was approved by the king - the same person Han wanted to serve. The legalist school of philosophy has been used to justify a more hierarchical control of the Chinese Communist Party. When Xi was consolidating his rule in 2014, he quoted Han Fei several times to justify his power consolidation campaign. "No country is permanently strong, nor is any country permanently weak. If those who impose The Law ding f? are strong, the country will be strong; if they are weak, the country will be weak," Xi's top quote from Han Fei reads. The gilded age of wealth accumulation under Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao (1989 to 2013) witnessed the rise of a new entrepreneurial class that considered itself above the law. Xi views his rise as part of a course correction by reinforcing the State's authority through the legalist school of governance - and in the process, justifying his policies. Xu Zhangrun, a law professor who was detained in 2020, has reflected on Han Fei and the legalist school's influence on Xi's governance style.

US blames failure to shut Pakistan border for Afghan defeat. India, please take note



Praveen Swami

to do this". There are important lessons there for all militaries fighting insurgencies with transborder bases—India is among them. From the outset, the Soviet military understood that its real problems lay across the border. In 1982, former KGB officer Vladimir Kuzichkin has recorded, the Soviet military developed plans to seal the border with Pakistan by building a chain of watchtowers and minefields and then using airborne troops to "annihilate the partisan formations shut up in Afghanistan." The plan, however, would have needed more than 3,00,000 Soviet troops—far more than the political leadership would sanction and the country could afford. Large-scale mining of the border, the Soviet military's Plan B, did little to deter transborder movement—and as the United States enhanced funding for the mujahideen, the lethal insurgency against the Soviet Union grew. From 1984, the Soviets launched a series of offensives targeting mujahideen supply routes, aimed at cutting off the insurgents from their bases in Pakistan. Large-scale use of airpower, which included the carpet-bombing of villages, created a 50-kilometre-wide

depopulated zone along the border. "The destruction of Afghan villages," military historian Thomas Bruscino has observed, "while morally reprehensible, did create problems for the guerrillas fighting deep in the country." Technology, though, levelled the field again. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) supplied the FIM-92 Stinger, man-portable air-defence missiles, which made it increasingly dangerous for Soviet aircraft to fly low. That meant mujahideen supply convoys could again resume crossing the border. Frustration grew among mid-level Soviet commanders in Afghanistan. In February 1985, mujahideen Black Storks—reputed, though never proved, to be Pakistan Army Special Service Group (SSG) personnel—annihilated a company of the 154 Battalion. In defiance of express orders, the unit planned an assault on the mujahideen base at Krer, across the border in Pakistan. The initial assault

went well—but a mujahideen counter-attack, using forces called in from the town of Bajaur, trapped the soldiers of the 154. Even though the attack was a disaster, there's further evidence that raids took place in the following years. In December 1987—long after the Soviet decided to withdraw—the special forces again struck at Krer, this time ambushing the mujahideen in the darkness. The mujahideen, Ali Jalali and Lester Grau have recorded, withdrew—only to return once the Soviets were gone. The Soviet high command knew this kind of fighting would achieve little: To truly crush the mujahideen, they would have to go to war with Pakistan. That would risk outright confrontation with the United States—and a war the Soviets didn't want to pay for. Like everything else, wars have something to do with arithmetic. To fight insurgencies, conventional wisdom holds, militaries need 10:1 numerical superiority. Government forces, after all, have to guard infrastructure and populations. The combined strength of the Soviet and Afghanistan government forces, expert Charles Dudik has noted, never exceeded 2,00,000—the same as the mujahideen. Eighty-five per cent of those were committed to static duties, leaving less than 23,000 for counterinsurgency operations. Even in the face of these odds, Soviet soldiers fought heroically. A single company famously held off hundreds of mujahideen at Hill 3234, holding the Khost-Gardez highway and enabling their comrades to retreat home in 1988. The victories, though, were to little avail. "There is no single piece of land in this country that has not been occupied by a Soviet soldier," noted Marshal Sergey Akhromeyev, architect of the military's Afghanistan invasion plan, at the 1986 meeting. "Nevertheless," he continued, "the majority of the land remains in the hands of the

rebels." "There is no single military problem that has arisen that has not been solved, and yet there is no result," he added. From the outset, though, planning for the Afghan military did not include capacities to close the border with Pakistan. At its peak, the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, or ANDSF, were some 63,000 personnel short of its sanctioned strength of 3,50,000. The contrast with the Indian Army in Jammu and Kashmir is stark — of an estimated 3,52,000 soldiers serving in the troubled region, not counting Central and state police, over 3,00,000 are used to plug the Line of Control today. American strategic planners, like their Soviet counterparts, understood the problem. In 2011, then-chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mike Mullen, testified that the Taliban "operate from Pakistan with impunity." "Extremist organisations serving as proxies of the government of Pakistan are attacking Afghan troops and civilians as well as US soldiers," he complained. Technology, for a time, offset some of the Taliban's advantages. The withdrawal of the United States' support, though, was a death blow. "The withdrawal of US-funded contractors in 2021," an official study noted, "left aircraft overtaxed and the Afghan Air Force overtaken. Taliban operations isolated ANDSF units, and chronic Afghan government failures to provide food or logistical, hardware, and manpower support to many units meant that Afghan soldiers quickly became unable to fight." Like so many insurgencies—think of the United States in Vietnam or the French in Algeria—both Afghan wars saw a series of tactical battlefield victories for the government, followed by eventual strategic defeats. The insurgents did not win the powers they fought were worn down and lost interest. Few militaries have found real solutions. Like the French in Algeria, India has tried building physical barriers along its borders with Pakistan. Although evidence suggests that such barriers can increase insurgent attrition, they're a far-thank-total obstacle. Airstrikes and cross-border raids can have some effect too as lessons from the Soviet war in Afghanistan to India's own experiences show, but their deterrent effect can be short-lived. The United States, unlike the Soviet Union, could have used its vast coercive and economic resources to compel Pakistan to shut down the Taliban's transborder sanctuaries. It chose not to, believing its relationship with Islamabad was of more strategic value than the war-torn country it chose to abandon. The wisdom of that choice will, in time, reveal itself.

Letter to the Editor

Waste of time hurts us

Sir,

"Time is a storm in which we are all lost," said the American poet William Carlos Williams. Time is like a hurricane, where we all get lost. Time is the treasure of the future; But if we look at it in a practical way, we see that most people are ignoring time. If we look at the time outside of the clock, then time is a fact. For which the process called 'change' is possible. Many people say that we face challenges in the workplace because we do not have the time to manage them properly. But in our view, we want to disprove this concept because we are being challenged, not just for the sake of time, but for the sake of our own short-sightedness or inattention. We should say goodbye to time by thinking of others. Which is why time tests us.

"Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life," said Apollo company creator Steve Job.

Nilam Kalita,

Student, NEF Law college, Guwahati

Menstrual Hygiene Management is vital to the empowerment



Menstrual Hygiene Day is a global advocacy platform that brings together the voices and actions of non-profits, government agencies, individuals, the private sector, and the media to promote safe menstrual hygiene management (MHM) for all women and girls. Observed on May 28th every year, the day seeks to break the silence, raise awareness, and change the negative social norms surrounding menstrual hygiene. In this context, under the Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen, the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, will be celebrating Menstrual Hygiene Day 2022 by spreading awareness on safe menstruation and safe disposal of sanitary napkins, as a part of our efforts towards safe sanitation and hygiene for all. Starting in 2022, Menstrual Hygiene Day will focus on translating increased attention for menstrual hygiene into measurable action and investment so that together, we can create a world where no woman or girl is held back because of her period. Although menstruation is a natural biological process, which affects half of the world's population at reproductive age (12 to 49), it continues to remain a cause of embarrassment and shame, coupled with deep seated stigma about menstrual impurity, creating a barrier to gender equality. In India, an alarming number of girls drop out of school every year, when they start menstruating and owing to improper menstrual hygiene, face severe health issues. Further, archaic practices observed for generations in families, forbid girls from participating in normal activities. In the wake of such challenges that women, particularly the girl child face, Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) is not just about sanitation. It is a vital step towards protecting the girl child while safeguarding her dignity and giving her a life of opportunities to pursue her dreams, towards achieving a gender-balanced world.

MHM in SBM-G: To address this vital aspect, MHM has been included as an important component in the Government's flagship programme, the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G). In addition to improving the overall sanitation coverage in rural areas of India, it aims at promoting dignity of women and children and to maintain sustainable health and hygiene benefits. It underlines the need for construction of toilets in households and schools which is integral to menstrual hygiene and encourages safe men-

strual hygiene practices. It further calls for skill development and setting up of sanitary napkin dispensers and incinerators in schools and public toilets. The MHM Guidelines issued by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) to support all adolescent girls and women, outlines what needs to be done by state governments, district administrations, engineers and technical experts in line departments; as well as school heads and teachers. The Guidelines highlight the essential elements of a MHM programme that should be integrated into other government schemes. This includes access to - knowledge and information; safe menstrual absorbents; water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and safe disposal of used menstrual absorbents. This would result in dignity for adolescent girls and women; and the ability of adolescent girls to stay in school during menstruation. Additionally, they call for awareness generation in the society, community, family and individuals and the need to provide informed and trained support for girls and women; and the importance of supportive policies, guidelines and behaviours.

NFHS Survey: Unsafe menstrual management does lead to girls dropping out of school early when they start menstruating. As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) a large-scale, survey conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in India, only 77.3% of women age 15-24 years use hygienic methods of protection during their menstrual period. However, as per Ministry of Education the drop-out rate has decreased from 4.61 per cent to 2.61 per cent in Upper Primary and 16.89 per cent to 13.71 per cent in Secondary level since 2015-16 to 2020-21 respectively. The Ministry of Education reports that in 2020-21, out of total schools only 16.85 per cent schools have incinerator facilities within the school campus for safe disposal of sanitary waste. Furthermore, as on date the data entered by states on the SBM-G Phase-II IMIS via the Mobile App, shows that 15,786 villages have ensured availability/access to menstrual absorbents (other than cloth) and 13,684 villages have made provisions for safe disposal of menstrual waste in the village through incinerators or deep burial methods (3248 villages at school level; 4707 villages at community level).

Initiatives in States: Under SBM-G programme funds are available under the IEC component to raise awareness and skills on Menstrual Hygiene Man-

agement, and self-help groups are to help in propagating such efforts. In keeping with this, States have initiated various programmes that have dispelled myths and taboos surrounding menstruation, encouraging girls and women to talk about it and clarify doubts. For instance, in Jharkhand, Men 4 Menstruation (M4M) campaign was launched in Ranchi on World Menstrual Hygiene Day - May 28, 2020. The purpose of the campaign was to break the societal silence on menstruation and to overcome 'Period Poverty.' Period poverty refers to the inadequate access to menstrual hygiene tools and education, including but not limited to sanitary products, washing facilities, and waste management. In May 2021, UNICEF Maharashtra held an IEC campaign called 'It's time for action, let's talk Menstruation Maharashtra' during which various events were held, encouraging people to talk about menstruation. An interesting video circulated during the campaign was 'Pass the Pad' where people from all sections of society, men and women passed around sanitary pads - helping to break the barrier on the subject. On the other hand, in 2020, Raigarh in Chhattisgarh launched a project titled 'Pawna' with

'LalKapada' the Pawna pads cost less, were biodegradable and of good quality. As of now 3 villages in Raigarh are using the Pawna pads. SBM(G) has also been supporting the installation of incinerators as part of the program. Karnataka is one of the states that has installed incinerators that can effectively dispose menstrual waste. The pilot project has been introduced in 32 locations - hostels, schools, and Gram Panchayats (GPs) across Karnataka. Post monitoring of their technical and analytical performance, similar sanitary napkin incinerators will be scaled up in more locations. Meanwhile, Maharashtra has taken a major initiative towards creating awareness for MHM in the aspirational district of Gadchiroli. With the support of UNICEF, it has embarked on a silent revolution in which they are gradually eradicating the cruel practice of exiling menstruating girls and women to a KurmaGhar or Period Hut during their monthly periods. In other parts of the country, campaigns are being conducted to make adolescent girls and women aware of ways to reduce menstrual waste, through use of products like menstrual cups, reusable sanitary pads, etc.

IEC material: DDWS has



the support of UNICEF to provide information to adolescent girls and women about best practices for improving menstrual hygiene management and make available to them affordable and biodegradable sanitary napkins. To ensure supply of safe and biodegradable pads, the Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were provided with two machines and empowered to manufacture 30,000 pads a day to meet the demand of the communities. A safe alternative to the

also produced various IEC materials that States and districts can use to promote: MHM for health and dignity; the use of safe absorbents for healthy menstruation; the importance of safe infrastructure (accessible toilets, water, covered bins); methods for safe disposal of menstrual waste; healthy behaviours for hygienic menstruation (nutritional needs, healthy habits and taboos related to going to school or work, refraining from going to the

kitchen or certain foods and participating in religious and social activities); and education of the community that menstruation is not a disease but a natural biological phenomenon. The Department has also produced brochures with the support of UNICEF to promote MHM.

Funding mechanism for MHM activities: SBM Grameen Phase 2 has earmarked funding for IEC purposes, which is being used to generate awareness about menstrual hygiene management. This funding is being used to support MHM communication and capacity building activities at the state, district, grampanchayat and village level. Additionally, disposal of menstrual waste including incineration, etc. is supported at the gram panchayat level using 15th Finance Commission tied grants on sanitation. Further, as per a joint advisory issued, funding under the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education can be utilized for the purchase of sanitary vending machines and incinerators for schools.

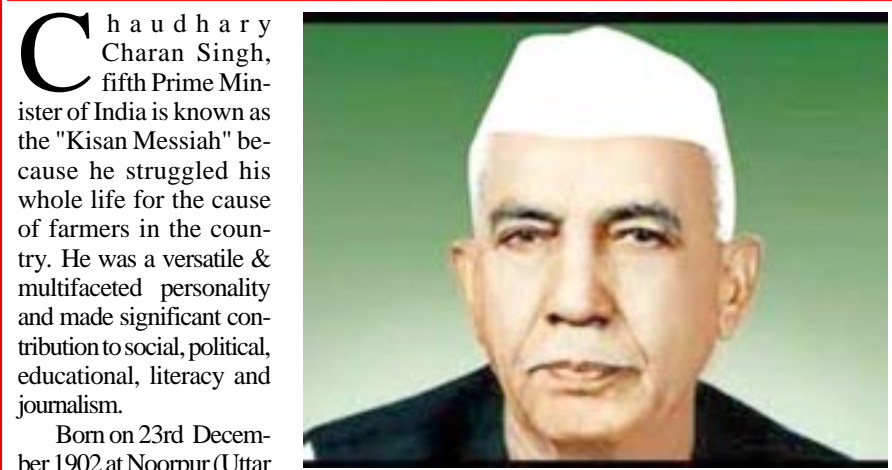
Way forward: Going by the activities in various states, clearly the subject of menstruation is not as much a taboo now and is talked about far more openly in the rural areas, compared to earlier days. Women and girls are aware of the importance of menstrual hygiene and those who have access to them are using sanitary pads. They are questioning ancient practices of being asked to refrain from entering the place of worship or kitchen etc. Incinerators are being installed in some schools. But this needs to be expanded to all households and schools around the country. More work needs to be done to help women and girls reach their full potential which effective MHM can ensure. That said, the silence surrounding the subject of menstruation needs to stop. Men need to be brought into the conversation. They need to be educated and made comfortable during discussion about menstruation, so they can put an end to the attached stigma. Girls and women should no longer feel embarrassed to talk about menstruation and get their doubts cleared. If we do not encourage girls to grow to their full potential, we would be restricting the growth of our country by half.

Chaudhary Charan Singh: The Messiah of Kisan

Chaudhary Charan Singh, fifth Prime Minister of India is known as the "Kisan Messiah" because he struggled his whole life for the cause of farmers in the country. He was a versatile & multifaceted personality and made significant contribution to social, political, educational, literacy and journalism.

Born on 23rd December 1902 at Noorpur (Uttar Pradesh) in a peasant family, Charan Singh

struggled his student life in Meerut and Agra. In 1927, he graduated in Law from Meerut College and started his work as an advocate at Ghaziabad. In 1928, he was married to Gayatri Devi (who was later elected as a member of the Lok Sabha). In childhood, he was highly influenced with the vision of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and associated himself with Arya Samaj. As an Arya Samaji, he did not use caste as a rallying point and performed inter-caste marriages of his two daughters. He was highly influenced by Sant Kabir, Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel. Charan Singh's political journey started in 1929, when he became a member of the Congress. He was imprisoned in 1930, 1940 and 1942 during the freedom movement. In 1937 he was elected to the United Province Vidhan Sabha. He was the chief architect of land reforms in UP. He introduced the Agriculture Produce Market Bill to safeguard the interests of farmers against the rapacity of traders. Later on most of the provinces of India adopted this bill. In 1952, he became the Revenue Minister and on 1st July 1952 the Zamindari system was abolished through the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act in the UP Vidhan Sabha. In 1953, the Lekhpal system was introduced in place of the Patwari system and in 1954 the Chakbandi Act was implemented in the state. In 1959, he publically opposed Jawahar Lal's Soviet-leaning economic and collective land policies at the Nagpur Congress Session. Being the son of the soil, his vision was clear that collective farming was not possible in the country and the farmers must have ownership right as against just a tiller. Due to opposition of Nehru's Policy, his political career suffered a lot. His position in the Con-



■ **Er. Prabhat Kishore**

gress weakened, but the positive thing was that the peasant community started rallying behind him. On 1st April 1967, Chaudhary Saheb parted away from the Congress and formed the Bharatiya Kranti Dal. He joined hands with socialist leaders Raj Narayan, Ram Manohar Lohia and other opposition parties and became the first non-Congress Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. He served the State as CM since 3rd April 1967 to 25th February 1968 and again since 18th February 1970 to 1st October 1970. He implemented various welfare schemes for farmers and depressed communities. Due to his initiatives, salaries and various privileges of ministers in UP was drastically reduced.

In 1977, the Janata Party was formed with the merger of several non-Congress political parties, of which Charan Singh's Bharatiya Lok Dal was also a constituent. The Janata Party adopted the Lok Dal's party symbol "Haldhar Kisan" for the election. The Janata Party and its allies got 345 seats in the Lok Sabha election, out of which the erstwhile Bharatiya Jan Sangh faction got 102, Bharatiya Lok Dal faction 64, Socialist groups 35, Congress for Democracy 28 and rest others factions like Congress (O). Charan Singh was a strong contender for the post of Prime Minister as the number of MPs from his faction was next to that of the Jan Sangh and the leaders of Jan Sangh were not in the race. Jagjivan Ram was also trying to be elected as the leader of the party with the help of Jan Sangh and socialist groups and pressed for open election. But Jai Prakash Narayan and Acharya Kripalani, who were authorized to nominate the PM candidate, went in favour of Congress (O) leader Morarji Desai with Charan Singh to hold the heavyweight portfolio of the Home Ministry. Following disagreement with PM Morarji Desai, Charan Singh resigned in June 1978; but was brought back to the Cabinet in February 1979 as Deputy PM along with Finance Ministry. Shortly there was rebellion in the Janata Party

and in July 1979 break up in the Janata Party took place when 64 MPs, supporting Charan Singh, formed a separate group in the Lok Sabha. Chaudhary Charan Singh became the Prime Minister on 28th July 1979 when a coalition of the Janata Party (Charan faction) and the Congress (Socialist)-led by Y. B. Chavan formed the government with outside support of the Indira Gandhi-led Congress (I). When he was to prove vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha, Indira Gandhi withdrew support and Charan Singh had to resign without facing the House. The Lok Sabha was dissolved and Singh worked as caretaker PM till 14th January 1980. Charan Singh said that he resigned because he was not ready to be blackmailed into withdrawing emergency-related court cases against Indira Gandhi and Sanjay Gandhi.

Between 1946 to 1986, Charan Singh wrote several books namely "Abolition of Zamindari: Two Alternatives" (1947), "Joint Farming X-rayed: The Problem and Its Solution" (1959), "India's Poverty and Its Solution" (1964), "India's Economic Policy: The Gandhian Blueprint" (1978), "Economic Nightmare of India: Its Cause and Cure" (1981), and "Land Reforms in UP and the Kulaks" (1986). All his books and most of the articles written during his lifetime focused on villages and agriculture in India's political economy and planning.

Charan Singh was a true champion of farmers and whenever he got opportunity in various governments and organizations, he tried his best for the well-being of the Annadata. He was a thinker, fearless writer and agriculturist who used to inspire people. He took his last breath on 29th May 1987 after a long illness. On enlightening the path of Indian politics for decades through his determination, constructive leadership, nationalist vision, strong willpower, political proficiency and popularity, Chaudhary Charan Singh will always be memorable for the Indian masses.

How to get rid of Body Acne during Summer

While there's a lot to love about this time of the year, acne can really ruin your fun. Experiencing a higher level of acne breakouts during the summer is extremely common on both the face and the body. During summer, acne not only appears on the face but also on chest, upper back, shoulders, and even the buttocks due to excessive sun exposure and heat. Be it pimples on arms in summer or summer pimples on body, they're everywhere. Different people get body acne for different reasons: genetics, oily skin or hormonal imbalances but there are a few lifestyle factors that can exacerbate it. If you're someone who struggles with summer pimples on a routine basis, this one's for you. This summer, get rid of tight-fitting and occlusive clothes! Use more

looser, lightweight breathable fabric like cotton and linen especially while exercising to reduce friction on your most sensitive, acne-prone areas in the body. You can benefit from simple practices such as showering or changing their clothes more often to avoid sweat from sitting on the skin and blocking pores. You need to pay attention to your cleansing routine during summers,

as a lot of dirt and oil gets accumulated on the face which attracts acne and other skin concerns. The longer bacteria sits on your skin, the more closely it bonds with it, making it increasingly difficult to remove. So make sure that you wash your face at least twice a day using a gentle cleanser that cleanses your skin without much harm. A cleanser that contains acne-fighting ingredients like salicylic acid can exfoliate and

inhibit inflammation. However washing your face more frequently can also lead to over washing and drying out of the skin, and induce acne. If you have been working out and sweating the whole day, it's best to immediately take a bath and avoid acne on the body. However, wiping your sweat with a damp cloth may also help prevent breakouts if you're short on space or

■ **Shahnaz Husain**

time. Follow up with a light moisturizer and sunscreen before heading to your next stop. Also, once a week use a good exfoliant to get rid of the dead skin accumulation and to clean your pores. Ensure that hair and scalp are kept scrupulously clean. Keep the hair away from the face while you sleep. Wash pillow covers and towels in warm soapy water, after adding one teaspoon antiseptic lotion. Acne can also lead to scarring, which can be diffi-

cult to remove. So, it is important that an acne and oily-skin condition be checked from spreading. Acne on the back is quite common, because back is very rich in oil glands. This



makes the skin prone to blackheads, spots and pimples. One should pay extra attention to the back while bathing. Use a long-handled brush, loofah, or a rough washcloth to scrub the area gently while bathing. This keeps the pores clean and free of clogged pores. Use an Ayurvedic medicated soap for bath-

ing, which will help the acne condition on the back. In fact, anti-acne lotions and medicated ointments are also available. Sandalwood paste can be applied on the pimples, acne and boils on

the back. If there is a rash, mix sandalwood paste with a little rose water and apply on the entire area. Wash it off with plain water after 20 minutes. Mix together one teaspoon cinnamon (dalchini) powder, half teaspoon methi seed powder, lemon juice and a few drops of honey. It should be a sticky paste. Apply it only on pimples, boils or acne and

leave on for a couple of hours, or even overnight. A body scrub will also help to get rid of blackheads, which eventually lead to acne. You can make one at home by mixing rice flour with curd and pinch of turmeric. Apply the mixture and rub gently on the skin. You may need some help, or apply it with a long handled brush. Rub the mixture gently on the back and then wash off with plenty of water. This helps to remove dead cells, making the skin clearer and brighter. It also dislodges and discourages blackheads. In fact, a scrub will also help to minimize dark acne marks. Mix 2 table-spoons oats with egg white; apply it on the back and wash off when it dries. Lemon juice mixed with rose water in equal quantities can also be applied on the areas with dark acne marks.

Contd. From Page 1

PPE Kits: No Corruption

the pandemic started in India, a business establishment has announced that they would bring PPE kits from China. At the time when the entire nation was under lockdown, some Indian aircrafts had been sent to China to procure the kits."Himanta Biswa Sarma and myself had gone to the airport to express our gratitude to all those involved in the task. But, the Assam government decided not to procure any more PPE kits from China as many people started to question them in the social media platforms," Hazarika added.He further said that the central government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi had started to manufacture PPE kits and Assam was also able to receive many kits from the centre."When the state government had not brought any PPE kits from China, the news that is now spreading against the government is vague and meaningless in nature. Such news creates confusion in the minds of people. This news is completely false and imaginary," he further said.

30 Officers Complain To Assam

GP under Lakhipur Constituency, Sonal Revenue Circle in a Power-boat. Going further, he personally attacked both the Circle Officers of Sonal Revenue Circle as 'rice chors' and thereby, calling them as thieves and quoted that their bodies shall be infested by maggots. He further, threatened the Circle Officer, Dr. Dipankar Nath, by abusing him, and also, personally attacked him by raising questions on his educational qualification about how he have earned the Dr initials in front of his name and also hurled abuses and raised his hand as a symbolic gesture for slapping..." the memorandum said.It said the civil service officers of Cachar district condemn such treatment.

Scrub Typhus: Over 80 cases

cases in Coochbehar district has started increasing. In the last few months, the number of Scrub Typhus cases in the district (Cooch Behar) has crossed 80. The district health department has been rushed to deal with the situation. The coochbehar district health department is already forming special teams with health workers in gram panchayats and municipalities. The team includes health workers as well as municipal and gram panchayat workers. They are roaming around the area and collecting the blood of those suffering from fever along with the awareness campaign of Scrub Typhus infection. The health department officials are hopeful that Scrub Typhus cases will be found and the prevalence of the disease can be prevented only if the public is aware. According to the district health department, Last year, the number of cases of Scrub Typhus was 4. This time in the first five months, the reason for the increase in the number by almost 15 times, the health officials of the district say that more tests are done. Like the common fever, the symptoms of this disease are:1. Pain in the hands and feet. 2. Insect bite marks are found on the body. 3. Headache.4. Persistent fever .5. Low blood pressure.6. In some cases cough and cold.7. Rash all over the body. 8. Stomach trouble .Scrub Typhus: Causes 1. Doctors say that just as dengue is bitten by the Aedes mosquito, the Scrub Typhus bacteria enter the body by the bite of a type of insect called trombiculid mites!2. If caught first, it is possible to quickly deal with scrub typhus.3. Scrub typhus becomes life-threatening when the diagnosis is delayed.

Union minister Jaishankar kick

this Conclave will promote coordination for revitalizing our riverine connectivity to facilitate faster economic growth in the region". The Chief Minister also said that India has always shared ancient civilizational linkages with the countries belonging to East and South East Asia. These links have passed through Assam and Northeast. He also said that the ties between Northeast and ASEAN blocs are historical, cultural, social and economic. Taking this into consideration, Assam and Northeast can be used as a launch pad for intensifying mutual cooperation. He also underscored some vital areas of Assam's economy where collaboration can be done for shared growth and prosperity. The Chief Minister said that Assam is the largest economy in the Northeastern region and due to its proximity with the rest of India and availability of quality infrastructure; the state offers best opportunities and environment for industrial growth. Presenting a snapshot of the bouquet of potentials available in Assam, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma referred to the promotion of natural farming which is based on production of natural cow based fertilizers and pesticides. This approach is climate friendly and highly sustainable as it eliminates the requirement of chemical fertilizers, State government is working on value chain approach addressing not only the production gaps but also post-harvest value addition and nutrition related aspects. Dr. Sarma also said that Assam's biggest contribution to the world is tea. Assam produces some of the finest and most expensive teas in the world. The petroleum industry is another sector which is also contributing to the growth of Assam's economy. Moreover, tourism has come up as a potential economic sector as the state is bestowed with rich cultural and natural heritage which is a home to many diverse ethnic communities offering varied and rich tourism experience. The Chief Minister also said that the State government has initiated a unique step to augment the medical sector in the state and therefore, it has joined hands with Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati and Tata Trusts for an advanced healthcare innovation system. These collaborations have given a major fillip to transforming the healthcare scenario of the State. He also said that to strengthen industry-oriented and flexible skills education and training systems in Assam, the State government has taken steps for setting up Northeast India's first Skill University at Darrang district with funding from ADB. The university would be a major step towards reshaping all vocational skilling efforts in the state, by providing quality technical and vocational education and training. Dr. Sarma while drawing the attention of the delegates present at the conclave said that Assam is today amongst the top three states in the country in terms of attracting funding for Externally aided projects. Significant investments by the funding agencies in Assam is also a testimony to the immense potential that the state holds. Industries and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary while speaking on the occasion, said that India's Northeastern states, and her immediate eastern neighbours, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar and China and extended neighbours in the Bay of Bengal, together comprise a geographically compact region connecting South and South East Asia. But what used to be barriers impeding connectivity and human exchange in the past today stand out as windows of opportunity in the current scenario. These windows of opportunities are the rivers as this conclave would essentially draft a future action plan for connectivity and development using the network of rivers. External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh Dr. Abdul Momen, High Commissioner of Singapore to India Simon Wong Wie Kuen, Ambassador of Cambodia to India Ung Sean also spoke on the occasion. A host of delegates from ASEAN countries and other stakeholders were present on the occasion.

CM Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma

Nagaon asked by the reporters about the recent activities of the terror group ULFA-I. In response, the minister labelled Paresh Barua, the fugitive leader of the terror outfit as a liar. Taking offence, the group sent an email statement to the media, threatening to ban him in Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts and demanded an apology within 24 hours.Soon after the statement was issued by ULFA, the minister apologized to Paresh Baruah.Extending apology the minister said, "I was attending Gunutsov in a school in Nagaon where a journalist asked me about Paresh Barua and I, being on a busy schedule, never said anything which would have hurt Paresh Barua. I just said that under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, if the youths of Assam work for the development of the state, I wanted to speak about their self-dependence and nothing else. If I have hurt Hon'ble Paresh Barua, I'm hurt too," said Sanjay Kishan, in a press conference.

Kamrup District celebrated World

district. It may be noted that the day is celebrated to break the taboos and stigma surrounding menstruation. The day aims to break the silence, raise awareness and change the negative social norms around menstrual health and hygiene. Addressing the occasion, Chief Guest, Riniki Bhuyan Sarma hailed the steps taken by Kamrup District Administration to sensitise and create awareness regarding the issues related to menstruation among people especially among women and girls.Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup Kailash Karthik N, actress, Nishita Goswami, Ritika Chhetry, RJ Pallavi also delivered speech highlighting various issues related to maintain hygiene during the time of menstruation.Superintendent of Police, Kamrup Hitesh Ch. Roy, Officials of District Administration, students and other dignitaries were present in the programme. A cultural programme was also held in the programme. Meanwhile as part of the celebration, Dr. Jayanta Barua, Senior Medical and Health Officer, Tolaram Bafna Kamrup District Civil Hospital was felicitated for his contribution towards the online Menstrual Health and Hygiene Training Programme at Kamrup. Barnali Ghosh, State Consultant-WASH in Institutions, Ritu Geu Goswami, Assistant Director, NIPCCD, Subhojit Bakshi from Project Baala were also felicitated for their contributions towards providing online training programme in the district.

Aryan Khan drug case: After clean

asked who will bear the responsibility for the young man's trauma and said in many cases, arrest comes first and investigation follows which was a "perversion" of the procedure established by law.NCB officials said Aryan Khan and five others were not named in the agency's charge sheet due to "lack of sufficient evidence". Reacting to the development, Chidambaram said it is now admitted that there was no evidence against Aryan Khan. "Who will bear responsibility for the trauma of the young man?" the former home minister said. "Investigation must lead to arrest. Sadly, in many cases, arrest comes first and investigation follows," he said. This is a "perversion" of the procedure established by law, Chidambaram added.Congress' chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala tweeted, "Art of News plants by Govt Agencies, Fallacious nature of News debates, Ruining of reputation without proof, Holding people guilty without trial, This is - New India!" "Do think, if all this was done not to a celebrity child but to a loved one?" he said.The NCB on Friday filed a nearly 6,000-page charge sheet before a Mumbai court against 14 accused in this case of 2021 even as it did not charge six, including Aryan, due to "lack of sufficient evidence." SIT sleuths found the NCB team did many "grave irregularities" and were allegedly just trying to "implicate" Aryan in this case. The SIT, which was created to re-investigate the case, found "grave irregularities" in the original NCB team's actions like not conducting a mandatory medical test of the accused, no video recording of the raids, or no corroborative evidence against WhatsApp chats.

On IAS couple who walked dog

Thakur, who is also the Information and Broadcasting and Youth Affairs Minister, said.He also stressed the need to have "healthy sports competitions" between universities and states, among others.Talking about the traditional games, the minister said that at the Khelo India event in Bengaluru, people were interested in watching mallakhamb."In future, this kind of traditional game will be taken to the International level. We are trying to have traditional games at all the sports facilities," he said.Thakur said the Modi government has increased three times the sports budget in the last eight years.

Flood situation in Assam improves

said.The toll due to flood and landslides remained at 30 with no reports of any death in the last 24 hours, as per the bulletin issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).Kopili in Morigaon district was the only river flowing above the danger mark, it said.At least 5,00,852 persons are suffering due to the floods in Cachar, Dima Hasao, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailakandi, Hojai, Kamrup, Kamrup (Metro), Morigaon and Nagaon districts.Nagaon is the worst affected with over 3.11 lakh people affected, followed by Cachar with nearly 1.47 lakh persons and Morigaon with more than 41,036 people suffering.More than 62,289 people have taken shelter in 201 relief camps, with the highest of 47,749 people displaced in Cachar, the ASDMA said.An Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) visited the flood-affected areas of Cachar and Darrang districts during the day to assess the damage.At present, 799 villages are still under water and 35,384.12 hectares of crop areas have been damaged.Massive erosions were reported from Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Nalbari, Sivasagar, South Salmara, Tinsukia and Udalguri districts.Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure were damaged by floodwaters in Cachar, Udalguri, Dhubri, Karimganj, Nagaon, Nalbari, Dima Hasao, Goalpara and Hojai, the ASDMA said.

Fingers burnt last time, AAP picks two Padma Shris for RS seats

Chandigarh, May 28 : There is never a dull day in Punjab. This week was no different. While the state was still coming to terms with the imprisonment of former Punjab Pradesh Congress chief Navjot Singh Sidhu and his "torturous" diet plan that has become the latest conversation starter, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann dropped a bombshell with a very public sacking of a senior minister for corruption.Vijay Singla, a first-time legislator from Mansa, the hotbed of farmer suicides, and the first minister from the seat in three decades, held the important portfolio of health, an area in which the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has been promising a revolutionary badlav (change).The Singla example - he has been sent to judicial custody till June 10 - has evoked both fear and sympathy among party members, with many expressing hushed dismay at the gladiatorial way in which he was sacked. But on the ground, it has given a big boost to the anti-corruption image of the party that will see its first electoral test after coming to power in the June 23 Sangrur bypoll. The parliamentary seat, won by Bhagwant Mann the last two times with margins of over one lakh, fell vacant after he took over as the CM.But right now, all eyes are on the party's choice for two Rajya Sabha seats, for which nominations have to be filed by May 31. The party, which had received a lot of flak for choosing "outsiders" to send to Parliament's Upper House last time, on Saturday nominated two Padma Shris, Sant Balbir Singh Seenchewal and Vikramjit Singh Sahni.An environmentalist and Padma Shri winner, Seechewal is one of the rare godmen in the state to have made social work, especially looking after the environment, the cornerstone of his spiritual philosophy. He enjoys a large following in the Doaba region and is much-feted for, among other things, successfully cleaning and regenerating Kali Bein, a 160-km-long rivulet in Kapurthala. Considered holy because Guru Nanak Dev is believed to have gained enlightenment after taking a dip in it, the bein had become a dumping ground for industries in the area and was overgrown with weeds when Seechewal started kar

sewa (volunteer work) to reclaim it in 2000.As head of the Nirmal Dera at his village, he had also mobilised his congregation to make motorable roads in Kapurthala. In the past, he had refused a Rajya Sabha offer from the BJP.Sahni, who founded the Sun Group and runs a business conglomerate, is also an educationist and philanthropist. President of World Punjabi Organisation, Sahney was in the news last year for helping evacuate over 500 Hindus and Sikhs from Afghanistan.A seat for Seechewal is a push to the Mann government's claims of being serious about the environment, especially the dwindling groundwater in the state. One of the first agrarian initiatives of his government was announcing Rs 1,500 per acre to farmers for using the direct seeding of rice technique that requires much less water.The AAP government, which swept 66 of the 69 seats in Malwa, the epicentre of farm agitation in Punjab, is also pushing for diversification to other crops and has an-

Yasin Malik won't be given any work in Tihar, will be alone in his cell

New Delhi, May 28 : Kashmiri Separatist leader Yasin Malik will now spend the rest of his life, all alone, 'separated' from the rest of the world at Jail No. 7 of the Tihar Prison.Malik, 56, was sentenced to life on Wednesday by a special NIA court in Delhi.During the previous hearing, Malik told the Court that he was not contesting the charges levelled against him. He may not even challenge the sentencing in higher courts as he has himself pleaded guilty which means by all means, Malik will spend the rest of his life in Jail.But the catch is, Malik will not be just separated from the outside world, he is even kept alone inside the prison, away from nearly 13,000 prisoners."He is already in jail no.7 and will continue there presently. He is alone in his cell," Director General (Prisons), Sandeep Goyal, told .The Tihar prison's Jail Number 7 has been always in the limelight as it has housed several high-profile prisoners, including former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram, former Union Minister A. Raja, Sahara head Subrata Roy, Christian Michel

nounced procurement of moong at a minimum support price, in the first such step in the state. Grown in the gap between wheat harvest and paddy sowing, moong cultivation is expected to boost farmers' income as well as nurture the soil. The Centre has also promised to procure 4,585 metric tonnes of moong.On another front where AAP hoped to make an impact, the news that Punjab had topped the National Achievement Survey-2021 of schools, outperforming also Delhi, must have left a tinge of dismay. The party had tomtommed the 'Delhi Model' of AAP government in Delhi as one of its major poll promises, with Education Minister Meet Hayer taking a tour of schools in the national capital after AAP formed the government.While AAP has stayed mum on the achievement, the Congress that led the previous government understandably crowed about it. But the survey also showed that the Mann government has a good foundation for launching its education reforms.

among several others.On October 12, as many as 32 Tihar Jail officials were found complicit with the former Unitech promoters. It was alleged that the Chandra brothers, Ajay Chandra and Sanjay Chandra, were conducting business from inside the Tihar Jail in connivance with the prison staff. Interestingly, all the said 32 jail officials were posted in Tihar's jail number 7.The Court in its Wednesday's sentencing had awarded two life sentences and five punishments of 10 years of 'Rigorous Imprisonment' each to the convict.Rigorous imprisonment means confinement of the offender in a manner that increases the hardship of the jail term based upon the nature of the offence by subjecting the offender to special arrangements in the jail.However, despite court orders, Malik will not be given any work inside the prison. "He won't be assigned work at all due to security reasons," the top prison official said, adding the work is assigned subject to security concerns and the decision is taken as per jail rules.

Bangladesh foreign minister meets Assam Governor



Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 28: Bangladesh Foreign Minister Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen along with Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Muhammad Imran today met Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi at Raj Bhavan. During the brief meeting they talked on issues of mutual interests of Assam and Bangladesh. They talked on trade and commerce and the collaborative approach to increase the volume of trade from Assam to Bangladesh and vice versa. They also talked about the defunct communication links and the necessity to revive them. Moreover, they also talked about the on-going works of connectivity with regard to rail, air and water between Assam and Bangladesh. The Foreign Minister also informed the Governor about the potentials of water resources in Bangladesh and the steps that the Bangladesh government is taking for optimum use of the resources for resurgent regional connectivity. They also discussed projects related to digital connectivity. Assistant High Commissioner of Bangladesh Dr. Shah Mohammad Tanvir Monsur was also present during the visit.

Review meeting on Tato Mechukha Highway double laning work held



Assam Rising,Mechukha, May 28: Under the chairmanship of Mito Dirchi, Deputy Commissioner Shi Yomi to review on the Tato Mechukha Highway double laning work a meeting was conducted in Deputy Commissioner's Office Mechukha on May 28. The meeting was attended by S.P. DLRSO Shi Yomi, ADC Mechukha, CO Rupam and Tato Circle, OC BRTF,AE BRTF along with all the contractors from various firms working in package I, II and III. Discussion on clearing the mucks from already widened road, and filling up the potholes for smooth movement of the vehicles, equipping the men on the ground with walkie-talkie by the contractors for easy and quick communication while responding to medical emergency cases, identification of green fields as dumping ground and sending of proposals for additional damage compensation were discussed. While the OC BRTF clarified on various concerns, the contractors also spoke their mind and on the challenges they faced. plans were also made for periodical ILP drives as per the provision of BEFT 1873 and to take adequate action against the violators of the ILP. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Hojon Perme, CO Mechukha and i/c CO Rapum.

Manchester United consider bid for Chelsea's N'Golo Kanté

Nadal and Djokovic remain on collision course for French Open quarter-finals

Manchester, May 28 : Manchester United are interested in signing N'Golo Kanté from Chelsea. Kanté's contract expires next year and United, desperate to strengthen their midfield after underperforming last season, are keen to find out whether the France international could be sold this summer. At the moment it seems unlikely Chelsea would be willing to sell. Kanté has been a crucial player for Thomas Tuchel and although there are concerns over the 31-year-old's injury record he remains one of the best players in the Premier League when 100% fit. He was outstanding when Chelsea won the Champions League in 2021 and the club's new owners would have to think long and hard before deciding to sell to United. Tuchel has



made no secret of his desire to work with a fully fit Kanté. Equally the manager has hinted at frustration with the former Leicester player's struggle to put a run of games together. "I think he is our key, key, key player; but key, key, key players need to be on the pitch," Tuchel said this month. "He plays only 40% of the games. So it's maybe a miracle that we arrived in third place." Because he is

but his involvement has come at a cost. Chelsea have often had to play without Kanté since and his contract situation means they could have a decision to make if United make a suitable offer. United are rebuilding under Erik ten Hag and Kanté, who has won the title with Chelsea and Leicester, would improve their midfield. Ten Hag is also interested in Barcelona's Frenkie de Jong and West Ham's Declan Rice, who is likely to be too expensive.

Chelsea are planning a rebuild and would like a commanding midfielder. However, it is expected that they would prefer to make space by selling Jorginho instead of Kanté. Jorginho also has a year left on his deal and he is wanted by Juventus. Tuchel is expected to find space in midfield for Conor Gallagher after the youngster's impressive loan at Crystal Palace. He too is interested in Rice. Chelsea have fallen behind Liverpool and Real Madrid in the race to sign Monaco's Aurélien Tchouaméni.

Washington, May 28 : Rafael Nadal continued to build momentum at the French Open as he moved into the fourth round by easing past Botic van de Zandschulp of the Netherlands 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. In the process, Nadal set up a notable encounter against Félix Auger-Aliassime, the ninth seed, who coolly navigated three tight sets to beat Filip Krajinovic 7-6 (3), 7-6 (2), 7-5. Since last April, as he has risen up the rankings to become a top 10 player, Auger-Aliassime has been



working closely with Nadal's uncle, Toni, who was the Spaniard's primary coach from his childhood until 2017, and played a defining role in so much of his success. Toni Nadal remains the director of the Rafa Nadal Academy, meaning he is essentially employed by both players. Asked in his post-match press conference whether or not he would talk to his uncle in the build-up to his match with Auger-Aliassime, Nadal responded, to widespread amusement, by noting that they had already spoken in the short window after his match. "He's my uncle," said Nadal, shrugging. "I don't think he will be able to want me to lose, without a doubt, but he's a professional and he's with another player. I don't know what's gonna happen, if he's gonna stay

in the box or not, but I don't care. I have zero problem with that. So it's not a story at all for me. I know what's the feelings that we have between each other." Toni, for his part, has said that he will sit out the match rather than provide Auger-Aliassime with advice to defeat his nephew. "If we have to play with Rafa, I will not be on either of the two benches out of respect for both players and because I'm still the director of the [Rafa Nadal] Academy. I'm still working for him and I'm Rafael's uncle," he said, according to Marca. Auger-Aliassime's press conference was naturally dominated by questions about Toni Nadal's decision to recuse himself from the match, which the Canadian shrugged off by pointing out that Nadal's career is greater than this one encounter.

Barassi and Couilloud lead Lyon to Challenge Cup final win over Toulon

London, May 28 : Toulon had been hoping to replicate the old glory days of Jonny Wilkinson and co but it was Lyon who emerged with the Challenge Cup spoils on a warm night in the south of France. This is the first European title ever claimed by the up-and-coming Top 14 side and, with their confidence now boosted, it is unlikely to be the last. They might have won by an even wider margin, having been denied at least three more potential first-half tries, but were still good enough to turn a slender 10-7 half-time advantage into a 20-point cushion by the start of the final quarter. Lyon's coach Pierre Mignoni, ironically, is returning to Toulon this summer and will hope this outcome has a suitably

galvanising effect on the losers. As an occasion it proved to be a slightly mixed aperitif for the main event involving Leinster and La Rochelle. Toulon may have seen off Saracens in some style in the semi-final but, with their international winger Gabin Villière forced off prematurely with a knee injury, they could not summon anything like the same zest and inspiration. It was, even so, another indicator of the growing appetite for big rugby occasions in France. The crowd of over 51,000 was a record advance for a Challenge Cup final and, amid the spills and occasional thrills, there were a few more reminders for the watching Eddie Jones that Les Bleus will take some

beating at next year's Rugby World Cup. Jones and his assistant coaches were also on a scouting mission to check out the ground where England will potentially play a quarter-final. If this steep-sided, curving arena is even half as noisy and atmospheric in the absence of Toulon's fanatical supporters, it will be special regardless of the weather. The temperature was still up around 26 degrees Celsius at 9pm local time when the game kicked off but it was Lyon who initially kept the cooler heads. Only a belatedly spotted knock-on in the buildup prevented Baptiste Couilloud from scoring with barely a minute gone and the scrum-half had a legal try on the board after eight minutes.



London, May 28 : Huddersfield Giants can "put the town on the map" if they win the Challenge Cup for the first time since 1953 this weekend. The Giants face Wigan Warriors in Saturday's final at Tottenham, their first major final since 2009 and the first under the stewardship of Ian Watson, who has his own personal score to settle along with several members of his squad. Watson and the likes of Tui Lolohea and the Giants' captain, Luke Yates, were part of the most surreal final in history in 2020, when Salford narrowly fell short against

Leeds Rhinos inside an empty Wembley Stadium due to the Covid-19 pandemic. With Huddersfield Town bidding for promotion to the Premier League 24 hours later, the Giants are one half of a momentous weekend of sport for the West Yorkshire town. And Yates insists it is a chance to ensure Huddersfield are considered as a force in rugby league once again after decades in the shadows. "The whole town is going to be down in London pretty much, so it's up to us to start the weekend off right," he said. "We can put the town on the map but from our own perspective, it's a chance to do something

historic. It's long overdue for this club, nearly 70 years without a trophy, so it's time to make some history." Huddersfield full-back Lolohea was also part of the Salford squad that lost 17-16 to Leeds in 2020. "It was a surreal day," he admitted. "Playing in a final is supposed to be one of the best days of your career but it ended up being one of the worst given the result and the fact it was empty, and my family weren't there. You do wonder if you'll ever get another chance to do it properly, so to speak, so to have this chance is something we aren't taking for granted.

Wigan's Matty Peet follows unusual route in search of Challenge Cup glory



London, May 28 : The amateur club Westhoughton Lions could hardly be more different from the occasion Matty Peet will be faced with in Saturday's Challenge Cup final, but ask the Wigan Warriors coach about his unconventional route to the rugby league summit and he would almost certainly tell you both ends of his story are equally important. Barely six months after being unveiled as Wigan's new head coach, Peet is one win away from securing the Challenge Cup for rugby league's most famous club for a record-extending 20th occasion. While most head coaches fall into the role after a distinguished playing career,

Peet's own time as a professional barely extended beyond a short stint as a reserves player with Leigh Centurions. He called time on his playing career in his early 20s, instead heading to university before taking his first steps into coaching with Westhoughton's under-12s. Eventually securing a job helping coach Wigan's young players, Peet has subsequently taken on pretty much every coaching role at the club either side of a short stint in rugby union with Sale. He is far from your ordinary head coach, but he is a man the Warriors have earmarked for the top job for years. "I remember I watched him do a training session once with the academy," Wigan's executive director, Kris Radlinski, says. "He just did things I had never seen before. After the session I went back and reported it to the chairman and said, 'There's something different in this lad'. He is a thinker and he was doing things I'd never seen." It was an appointment that caught many Wigan fans off-guard last year given his lack of experience, but not the Warriors. In recent seasons Wigan have lacked any sort of attacking flair, or indeed success. Peet has set about changing those things and the impact has been immediate, with the Warriors now in Saturday's final against Huddersfield at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. His unique style has caught the eye of his players, too. "He's a brilliant listener and communicator, and pretty much unlike any other coach I've had before," Wigan's long-serving England international Liam Farrell says.

Johnny Sexton and Ronan O'Gara test rivalry to the limit in Champions Cup final

London, May 28 : Forget the Cannes film festival which has been running all week. If people want to enjoy absorbing, character-heavy drama they need only venture down the Mediterranean coast to the Stade Vélodrome where a brooding, Shakespearean-style duel awaits. For Romeo and Tybalt, read Johnny Sexton and Ronan O'Gara. Because while Saturday afternoon's Champions Cup final is nominally between Leinster and La Rochelle, there should be a twinkling neon sign outside the ground with the strapline: "When Johnny met ROG". Two great Irish No 10s, two of rugby's most relentlessly competitive men, only one

winners' podium. Sport is full of classic rivalries but the pair's former Irish teammate Brian O'Driscoll laughs out loud when asked if O'Gara, once of Munster and now the head coach of La Rochelle, might have a personal motive to outwit Sexton and his impressive Leinster posse. "Of course," snorts O'Driscoll. "He's a competitor. All rugby players have egos. No one wants someone else to be considered better or to have had greater achievements. That's the reality and if they say otherwise they're an absolute liar. You can be sure it'll be some motivation." In the case of O'Gara and Sexton there has been a distinct edge ever since they were vying for the same Irish No 10 shirt. There is also that



famous photo from the 2009 European semi-final between Leinster and Munster, with the younger Sexton screaming down at

his fallen rival as the game turned in favour of the boys in blue. For a while the pair went out of their way to avoid each other. As

O'Gara once put it, it was "the trickiest relationship I've ever experienced with any player". The permafrost did thaw slightly when they were both employed by Racing 92 in Paris and O'Gara sent Sexton a text suggesting a shared coffee in Marseille on Friday. The timings did not work, though, leaving both men to concentrate on the job in hand. Following a productive spell with the Crusaders in New Zealand, the 45-year-old O'Gara's credentials as a top coach have been burnished by reaching three major finals with La Rochelle in 12 months. Sexton, meanwhile, continues to defy the laws of rugby gravity, looking more assured than ever at the controls of the smooth-running Leinster machine.

Giro d'Italia: Carapaz holds firm as Bouwman wins after final-corner drama

London, May 28 : Richard Carapaz held on to the pink jersey as Koen Bouwman won stage 19 of the Giro d'Italia, a mountainous 178km ride from Marano Lagunare to Santuario di Castelmonte, in bizarre fashion on Friday. Carapaz held a three-second lead over Jai Hindley in the general classification going into Friday's stage, and was joined by three Ineos



Grenadiers teammates in a packed peloton right up until the final few kilometres. Third in the GC before a stage that passed through parts of Slovenia and needing to close the gap, Mikel Landa made the first move as the top three riders were left alone as the leaders' group approached the end of the stage. Carapaz led Hindley and Landa in

that order to the final sprint, with the Ecuadorian coming home in front of his rivals at the crucial moment to keep the maglia rosa, with only one more mountain stage to come on Saturday, before Sunday's time-trial finale. There had already been plenty of drama further ahead of the overall leaders, as a bizarre finale for the five riders vying to win the stage saw

three of them overshoot the final corner - after Bouwman had arrowed towards the inside line - allowing the Dutchman to come through with ease for his second stage victory of this year's Giro. "I knew there was a corner to the left but I didn't know it was this sharp," Bouwman said. "I had to brake quite hard and I knew I had to take the inside [of the corner].

Now, to win two stages in the Giro, I'm just so happy I don't have words." There was some bad news for Carapaz on Friday, however, as teammate Richie Porte dropped out of the race through illness, leaving the leader missing a key domestique for the final two stages this weekend. The 20th stage is a 167km ride from Belluno to Marmolada on Saturday.

Jimmy Butler's heroics spur Heat to victory and Game 7 decider against Celtics



Paris, May28 : Jimmy Butler had 47 points, nine rebounds and eight assists and the Miami Heat forced the Eastern Conference finals to a decisive seventh game by beating the Boston Celtics 111-103 on Friday night. Ten years after LeBron James scored 45 points in Boston to help the Heat avoid elimination

in Game 6 of the conference finals en route to the first of their back-to-back NBA titles, Butler had 17 points in the fourth quarter to top James and send the series back to Miami. With a victory at home on Sunday, the Heat would advance to the NBA finals for the second time in three years. In the most back-and-forth game of the series, Boston took a 97-94 lead on Derrick White's three-pointer with under five minutes to play - the first time all series the lead has changed hands in the fourth quarter. Kyle Lowry answered with a three

and then added two free throws as Miami scored 11 of the next 13 points. Lowry finished with 18 points and 10 assists before fouling out with 2:18 left. Butler made 16 of 29 shots, hitting 4 of 8 from three-point range and all 11 free throws. Jayson Tatum had 30 points and nine rebounds and Derrick White came off the bench to score 11 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter for Boston. The Celtics are trying to reach the finals for the first time since 2010. Boston's Jaylen Brown scored 20 points, missing a pair of free throws with the game tied at 99 after Lowry fouled out. Brown fouled out himself on a charge offensive that was assessed after a challenge on a missed dunk with 13 seconds left and the Celtics down by four.

Leylah Fernandez turns final set around to sink Belinda Bencic at French Open

Paris, May28 : For a short while during a cool afternoon on the vast Court Philippe Chatrier, it would have been fair to assume that Belinda Bencic was moving away with her third-round match at speed. She had fought back from a first-set deficit to level at one set all, and then she had established a 2-0, 40-0 lead, distancing herself in the final set. But over the course of her short career, Leylah Fernandez, who stood unmoved across the net, has shown that these tight moments with her back to the wall are often when the best version of herself emerges. Fernandez retrieved the break in that game, breezed through five of the next six games and defeated Bencic 7-5, 3-

6, 7-5 to reach the last 16 of the French Open for the first time. It has been eight months since two teenagers, Fernandez and Emma Raducanu, faced off in the US Open final and it is not only Raducanu whose experiences have demonstrated the complicated nature of following up a breakthrough result. While Fernandez, 19, has won a round at most tournaments and even won the Monterrey Open in February, her second career WTA title, that tournament brought the only quarter-final she has reached since September. The Canadian is extremely ambitious and focused, and these results have not lived up to the extremely high standards she sets for herself. But as Fernandez described her



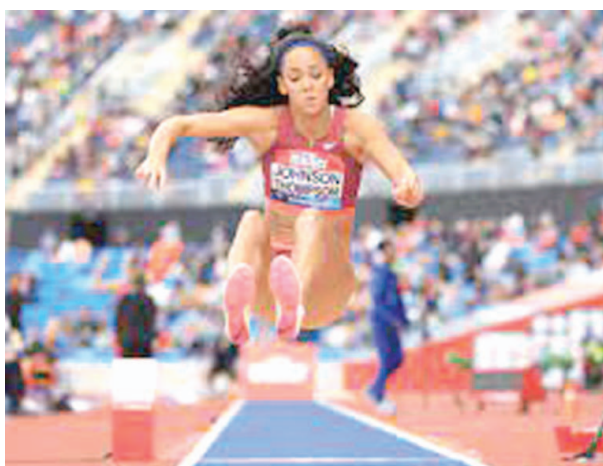
first five months of the season as "up and down", she assessed her progress with striking maturity. "We don't see it as - how do I say this? - as a failure, the first five months," she said. "I see it more as I've got a lot to improve and I can just get better. What we want to do is just to get better, because that's the beauty of tennis, that we have a tournament every week and I can just keep working on some technical things, some tactical things. If it works, that's great. If it doesn't work, we can just go back to the

drawing board and get ready for the upcoming weeks and tournaments." In the time since New York, Fernandez has seen her profile transformed in Canada and a flurry of endorsements have followed. Her Subway commercial airs often, she has a new apparel deal with Lululemon, and her new outfit is marked with adverts for Morgan Stanley and Easypost. More than anything, however, she was determined to replicate the tennis she produced there. "I think af-

ter the US Open I did put a little bit more pressure on myself," she said. "That's normal, because I want to reproduce what I did in the US Open over and over again. I think after the first few tournaments, I accepted that I will not be playing the same way every single time." "I will just have to find solutions and keep working hard. Over the course of the year I have just been sticking to that, just putting my head down and just grinding it out every day." The Parisian clay courts are an apt venue for Fernandez's first decent showing in a major this year. She already has pedigree on clay: a French Open junior champion in 2019, a year later she returned as a top 100 player and reached the third round. Against Bencic, she demonstrated all of the different accents of her game that fit so snugly with the surface: her heavy lefty forehand, the sharp angles she can generate off both wings from all parts of the court and her penchant for slick drop shots are all at home on the surface.

Katarina Johnson-Thompson: 'I still want to do it. I still love heptathlon'

London, May28 : "Against all the odds, I'm still here," says Katarina Johnson-Thompson, smiling wryly as she strokes a three-inch scar that snakes down her left achilles tendon. Another mark, on her right leg, is a cruel legacy from a torn calf muscle that ripped her Olympic dream away from her in Tokyo. There have been plenty of other scars - to groin and knee, as well as head and heart - down the years. Yet despite so many painful setbacks, Britain's most compelling athlete is back, and planning the greatest renaissance of her career. "I have unfulfilled goals, that's why I'm still competing," says Johnson-Thompson, looking happy and relaxed before her first heptathlon of the season at the prestigious Götzis Hypomeeting in Austria. "That's why I continued after an achilles rupture in 2020, which for many is a career finisher. I still want to do it. I still love the sport. I still love heptathlon. And I want to win as many medals as I can over the next couple of years." There have been six major senior medals in her career, including a world outdoor title in 2019, and two world indoor gold medals in 2014 and 2018. But in the shadow of the Bregenzerwald mountains, Johnson-Thompson makes it clear that she has even loftier ambitions. Asked whether they include becoming only the fifth person to break into the 7,000 points club and winning an Olympic



gold medal in Paris, she is emphatic. "Yeah completely." "I'm happy with what I've achieved so far," she says. "But I want more before I retire. I don't want to be sitting back and retiring, and then thinking in two years: 'Well, I could have competed for another two years.' So I'm in the mindset where I just want to try to squeeze everything I can out of the next two years." Johnson-Thompson and her highly regarded new coach, Petros Kyprianou, stress that any rebirth will not happen overnight. But Kyprianou is in no doubt just how much talent his athlete has. "I told her the first time we met: 'You're probably the only one right now in the world that has Jackie Joyner-Kersey potential,'" he says. "And if there's somebody that could challenge the world record, given you're healthy, everything's good, everything's fine, it's you." Unfortunately, she is somebody that went through a lot. But I've never coached anybody over 7,000

points and I want her to be my first. "However for this weekend Kyprianou has set Johnson-Thompson a modest target of 6,400 points - more than 500 less than her personal best - in order to get her body back to the stresses of high-level competition. "When you're coaching an ultra competitor like Kat, a world champion, the pressure is tremendous," he

says. "But my job is to basically give her realistic expectations this time of the year. She hasn't completed a heptathlon since October 2019. She's come off of an achilles rupture - arguably the worst injury in track and field - but she's healthy and happy, so we have to manage our expectations and have fun. That's what I really, really want to see her do is just have fun." Kyprianou is keen to use an analogy to further make his point. "She's a Ferrari that went into a complete revamp of the super powerful V12 engine," he says. "There's a certain time to teach the engine when to function on high revs. She's got a brand new achilles on her jumping leg and that, whether psychological, physical and everything in between, needs some

sort of adjustment." But she's so hungry to see that light at the end of the tunnel. And I think it will start showing this weekend. And if we end this year with something positive at the world championship, that would be huge building on to the next two years. "Johnson-Thompson will face a strong field in Götzis, including the Tokyo 2020 silver and bronze medallists, Anouk Vetter and Emma Oosterwegel, as well as the world indoor bronze medallist, Kendell Williams, who is her training partner in Florida. Only the brilliant Belgian Nafi Thiam, the double Olympic champion, is missing having only recently returned to competition after a back injury. However Johnson-Thompson insists her only goal is to get round, not lay down a marker.

IPL 2022: Sanju Samson has been exceptional as player and skipper, says Kumar Sangakkara

Ahmedabad, May28 : Rajasthan Royals director of cricket Kumar Sangakkara finds Sanju Samson "exceptional" as the Kerala man has been able to perform triple roles of wicket-keeping, captaincy and batting with aplomb in a tournament of IPL's magnitude. RR easily beat Royal Challengers Bangalore by seven wickets on Friday to reach their first IPL final since 2008 and have a shot at a second

title. "Sanju has been exceptional. He started off with quite a tough test last season with a young side and lot of upheaval because of COVID bubbles, tournament of two halves but he has really grown into his role," Sangakkara said at the post-match press conference. "He is very soft-spoken, very reserved individual. He is exceptionally skilled with the bat. He has shown a lot of passion and hunger to tak-

ing on this testing role of captaincy. Wicket-keeping, captaincy and being the best batter in your side along with Jos Buttler is not an easy kind of role to fill but he has done it really well this season," he added. "He has become more and more aware of what his role is. His tactical awareness has improved right throughout. He has really trusted his team. The team really looks up to him as a leader," the former Lankan skipper added.

IPL Final: I am trying to hold one end up and let bowler from other end attack, says Rashid Khan

Ahmedabad, May28 : The risk-free tactic used by opposition batters has helped Rashid Khan deploy a defensive game-plan of trying to hold one end up while allowing the bowler at the other end go for the kill. In his fifth IPL season, Rashid is no longer an unknown quantity and the batters across franchises re-trying to see off his overs while trying to go after other bowlers in Gujarat Titans lineup. While an economy rate of 6.73 in 15 games is very impressive, Rashid is currently ninth in the overall list with 18 wickets. "My mindset wasn't any different in play-offs. The energy and the thought process is the same throughout. But teams are playing it safe against me. So, I am trying to keep it tight and that increases the chance of picking up wickets by the bowler at the other end," the Afghan spinner said ahead of Sunday's final. Irrespective of whether it is a league game or knockouts, my mindset is



to bowl in a certain area and I don't try anything different. My objective is to build pressure," Rashid said at the pre-final press conference. Rashid has shown that he is no mug with the bat with nine sixes and a strike-rate of 206 plus in this season. Having developed a second skill obviously boosted his confidence and especially after contributing in finishing a couple of close games this season. "There are more batting practice sessions for me, batting more than before and the belief that everyone has on me, that this guy can deliver and score some runs for the team, crucial runs. I always had that belief that I can score those 20-25 runs

for the team at the end, if the team needs," he added. Rashid also praised his team-mate David Miller, stating that he makes the job of the top-order easy. "Having David, someone who's in form in the middle, making scores, makes the job of top order easy. Numbers 4, 5 and 6 are important in T20 and once you have them in form, it does help to win games and doesn't matter whatever the target is." They have scored without any fear, especially when you look at the game against CSK (Chennai Super Kings), the kind of innings David played, he showed his class," Rashid signed off.

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