



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Heavy rainfall

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 29 :

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted isolated heavy rainfall over Assam and Meghalaya from May 29 to June 2 and over Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura on June 1 and 2. Meanwhile, scattered to fairly widespread light and moderate rainfall over Northeast India, Sub Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim and isolated to scattered rainfall with isolated thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds over Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Gangetic West Bengal have also been predicted in the next five days.

Punjabi singer

New Delhi, May 29 :

Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala was on Sunday (May 29) shot at by unidentified assailants. As per the reports coming in, the incident took place in Mansa city of Punjab. Following the shootout, Sidhu was immediately rushed to a hospital in Mansa where he has been admitted in a critical condition. Three people were injured along with Sidhu Moosewala in the firing. All the three have been admitted to the hospital. Sidhu Moosewala had contested the Punjab assembly election on a Congress ticket from Mansa and was defeated by the AAP candidate Vijay Singla by a huge margin. Vijay Singla was recently sacked by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann over corruption charges.

Death toll

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 29 :

Two more persons have lost their lives in the floods in the last 24 hours in Assam. With this, the death toll due to floods and landslides in the state has now risen to 32. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) report, two more persons including a child died at Raha of Nagaon district. A total of 4,49,136 people in 653 villages in 8 districts and 20 revenue circles are still affected by floods. A total of 29160.36 hectares of crop areas have been affected by floods in the last 24 hours. As many as 143 relief camps and 5 relief distribution centres are functional in affected areas and a total of 44,551 inmates are staying in these reliefs.

Indian Oil may Transport Fuel to Bangladesh

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 29 :

Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) on Sunday said that it is looking to transport fuel to Tripura through



Bangladesh as the rail network has been discontinued due to massive landslides in Assam. After the only rail link connecting

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Assam govt. to give minority certificates to six religious communities

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 29 :

The Assam Cabinet Sunday announced that the government would issue "minority certificates" to six religious communities - Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis. "This is the first time such certificates would be handed out," Assam Health & Family Welfare minister, Keshab Mahanta, said while addressing the press after the Cabinet



meeting in Guwahati. He added that the modalities of the decision are still being figured out. Explaining the rationale behind the decision, Mahanta said that it would help in "identification." "We have a number of schemes for minorities, we have a separate department for minorities... But who are the minorities? There is no identification. We need to identify them so that such schemes reach them," Mahanta said, adding that the request for cer-

tificates came from the Assam Minorities Development Board. Speaking to The Indian Express, Habib Mohammad Chowdhury, the Chairman of the Minorities Development Board, said that the move would "benefit" the minorities of Assam, especially in availing government schemes. "This has been our longstanding demand. Often, without a certificate, we face issues when it comes to government schemes, and even scholarships or

exams," he said. "Students are unable to prove their minority status and cannot avail the schemes. A lot of times, following their request, we issue official letters as proof from the [minorities] board but in many cases, they are not accepted," he added. He further said that the government is yet to inform them how they are going to go about issuing these certificates. As per the 2011

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Plane with 22 onboard, including 4 Indians, goes missing in Nepal



Kathmandu, May 29 :

A plane operated by a private airline in Nepal went missing on Sunday with 22 people on board, according to airline and government sources. They said the small plane was travelling from Pokhara, a vacation destination 200 kilometres northwest of Kathmandu, to Jomsom, about 80 kilometres northwest. Tara Air, which primarily flies Canadian-built Twin Otter planes, operates it. The missing plane was carrying four Indians,

two Germans and 13 Nepalese nationals, with 3 crew members. The remaining passengers were Nepalese citizens and among a total of 22 passengers, including the crew. The missing plane lost contact with the airport tower shortly after take-off at 9.55 am, a Tara Air official was quoted as saying by the Kathmandu Post newspaper. "The aircraft was seen over the sky of Jomsom in Mustang district and then had diverted

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Cabinet takes several decisions on many issues

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 29 :

The Assam Cabinet has taken several decisions on many issues. The Assam government has decided to provide minority certificates to six minority communities in the state, said state Health Minister Keshab Mahanta on

Sunday. Mahanta said that the people of Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis will be provided minority certificates. "Assam Cabinet has decided to provide minority certificates to the people of six religious minority communities - Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis,"

said Mahanta in a press briefing after the cabinet meeting. The decision was taken during the state cabinet meeting held in Guwahati under the chairmanship of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. The other decisions taken in the cabinet

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12 hijab-clad students denied permission to attend classes at Mangalore college, sent back home

New Delhi, May 29 :

Following a statement by Karnataka Education Minister B.C. Nagesh that only uniforms are permissible inside classrooms, authorities at a college in Dakshina Kannada district

on Saturday sent back hijab-clad students home. The incident took place in Mangaluru's University College. The college had banned the wearing of hijab as per the decision of its syndicate. Though majority of the Muslim students attended classes on Saturday without hijab, 12 students came in wearing

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Mann Ki Baat : PM Modi talks about Japanese animation film 'Ramayana

New Delhi, May 29 :

Sharing the experience of his recent visit to Japan Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday (May 29) talked about his meeting with Atsushi Matsuo and Kenji Yoshi in the 89th edition of the monthly radio programme, 'Mann Ki Baat'. PM Modi in the programme said Matsuo and Yoshi are associated with TEM Production



Company that is related to the Japanese Animation film 'Ramayana: The Legend

of Prince Rama', which was released in 1993. PM Modi further said, the animation was related to very famous Japanese film director Yugo Sako who came to about the Ramayana nearly 40 years ago in 1983 and it left a great impression on him. Sako started in-depth research on the Ramayana and

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Aadhaar Card Misuse: Government warns citizens against sharing Aadhaar photocopies

New Delhi, May 29 :

The government has issued an order prohibiting people from sharing their Aadhaar card photocopy with anyone, including organisations. The rule essentially states that sharing or distributing photocopies of your Aadhaar card may be exploited by others. "Do not share photocopies of your Aadhaar with any organisations because it can

be misused," the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) stated in a news release. The Ministry of Electronics and Informa-



tion Technology (MeitY) also advises you to use caution when utilising your

Aadhaar card for verification or documentation. People should also avoid downloading Aadhaar copies from public computers like those found in cyber cafes, according to the announcement. If you still wish to utilise this approach to obtain a copy of your Aadhaar, make sure to delete any e-copies from the system, including the recycling bin. In addition to warning individuals against misus-

ing Aadhaar duplicates, the MeitY directive also cautions entities involved in the usage of Aadhaar for various reasons. It seeks to ensure that organisations with the necessary licences use Aadhaar to identify people, and that they have obtained a User License from the UIDAI. Other firms, including hotels and movie theatres, are prohibited from

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Bihar To Allow Exploration Of India's Largest Gold Reserve Of 222 Million Tonnes

New Delhi, May 29 :

The Bihar government has decided to accord permission for exploration of the "country's largest" gold reserve in Jamui district, a senior official said on Saturday. As per a Geological Survey of India (GSI) survey, around 222.88 million tonnes of gold reserve, including 37.6 tonnes of mineral-rich ore, are present in Jamui district. "The state Mines and Geology Department

is in consultation with agencies engaged in exploration, including GSI and the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), for exploration of gold reserves in Jamui. "The consultation process started after analysing the GSI findings which indicated the presence of gold in areas such as Karmatia, Jhajha and Sono in Jamui district," Additional Chief Secretary cum Mines Commissioner Harjot Kaur Bamrah told. She said the State government is likely to



sign an MoU with a Central agency or agencies for G3 (preliminary) stage exploration within a month's time. In certain areas, G2 (general

exploration can also be carried out, Ms. Bamrah said. Union Minister of Mines Pralhad Joshi had last year informed the Lok Sabha that

Bihar holds the highest share of India's gold reserves. In a written reply, he had said that Bihar has 222.885 million tonnes of gold metal, which amounts to 44% of the total gold reserves in the country. "As per the National Mineral Inventory, the total resources of primary gold ore in the country as on 1.4.2015 are estimated at 501.83 million tonnes with 654.74 tonnes of gold

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Yogi Adityanath sets target for 2024 Lok Sabha polls for BJP : 75 out of Uttar Pradesh's 80 seats

New Delhi, May 29 : After winning the state assembly elections, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has now set his eyes on the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. Addressing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) workers on Sunday (May 29), the UP CM directed them to begin preparations for the 2024 General elections and set a target of bagging 75 out of UP's 80 Lok Sabha seats, PTI reported. "We have to prepare the ground for the



2024 Lok Sabha elections from now only. We should

move ahead with the target of winning 75 seats,"

Adityanath told workers at the BJP's one-day state executive meeting. Further, the UP CM said that honest implementation of the central and state government's schemes and the work done by the government during Covid-19 helped the BJP secure "better results" in the recently-concluded assembly polls. "In the 2024 general elections, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we have to march ahead with the target of winning 75 seats in Uttar

Pradesh," Adityanath added. The CM made the remarks during the first state executive party meeting after the assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh. Notably, in the 2019 general election, the BJP had won 62 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh and its ally Apna Dal(S) gained two seats. As per ANI, the meeting was conducted to discuss the preparations for celebrations of 8 years of Prime Minister Narendra

government, while the strategy for the upcoming by-polls to the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha biennial elections, and the Legislative Council polls was also chalked out. As many as 600 BJP officials including Deputy CMs Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, State President and minister Swatantra Dev Singh, State General Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Sunil Bansal, and National Vice-president of BJP Radha Mohan Singh were present at the meeting.

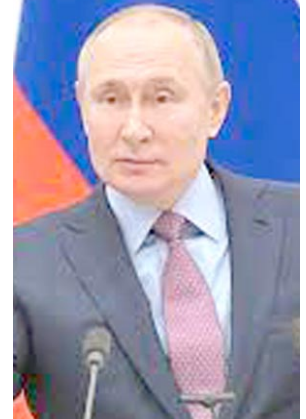
At least 27 civilians killed by rebels in Democratic Republic of the Congo

Kivu, May 29 : At least 27 civilians have been killed by members of a notorious rebel group in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the army and Red Cross said. The Kivu Security Tracker (KST), which monitors violence in the region via a team of experts on the ground, posted on Twitter to say that at least 27 civilians were killed in Saturday's attack by the rebel Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). "We heard bullets at dawn in the village of Beu Manyama," a army spokesperson Anthony Mualushayi told Agence France-Presse earlier on Saturday. "When we arrived, it was already too late because the enemy ADF had already killed more than a dozen of our fellow citizens with machetes." Described by Islamic State as its local affiliate, the ADF has been accused of killing thousands of civilians in

DRC's troubled east. After the attack early on Saturday, in the Beni region in North Kivu province, soldiers pursued the attackers and "neutralised seven ADF" and captured another, Mualushayi said. Earlier on Saturday, local Red Cross head Philippe Bonane had put the civilian death toll at 24 and was supervising the transfer of bodies to the morgue. The massacre comes after almost a month of relative calm in Beni, where the Congolese and Ugandan armies have been conducting joint military operations against the ADF since late November. On Friday another Red Cross representative said that soldiers in the neighbouring Ituri province had found 17 decapitated bodies, also believed to be victims of the ADF. More than 120 armed groups roam eastern DRC and civilian massacres are common.

Moscow, May 29 : Vladimir Kara-Murza's wife Evgenia thinks he will have been like a "hurricane contained inside a bottle" since he was arrested on 11 April in Moscow and held in pre-trial detention over a speech he had made in Arizona criticising the war in Ukraine. "He has so much energy, so many ideas, and initiatives, that being contained within the four walls of a prison will be the hardest part for him," said Evgenia, who has not been allowed to speak to him. As a Russian politician, campaigner and regime critic, Vladimir Kara-Murza worked for 15 years alongside Boris Nemtsov, another opposition leader, who was killed in 2015. Sitting in a hotel near Westminster on the same day she met the Foreign Office minister James Cleverly, Evgenia Kara-Murza warned the UK

government that her husband, a British citizen who has twice been allegedly poisoned by the Russian spy agency the FSB, may have reason to fear for his own life. She had no criticism of her husband's decision to repeatedly return to Russia, even after the invasion of the Ukraine, saying: "He believed that as a Russian politician, he cannot call on people to continue fighting if he himself is somewhere safe, and he believes that he has to share the same risks, the same challenges as the Russians who continue to oppose this war." Basically, by calling this war a war, instead of the 'special operation' as the government wants it to be called, by saying that, a person can end up in prison for up to 15 years. On the basis of the charges laid so far Vladimir is now facing up to 10 years. "No court date has been yet set, possibly because officials will press additional charges such as advocating personal sanctions against the regime, she said. "Our family



has been living like this for a long time," said Kara-Murza, who has three teenage children. "He was targeted by an FSB team that tried to kill him twice in 2015 and 2017." Thanks to an amazing independent investigation by Bellingcat and Insider, we now know the names and the faces of those people from the FSB, who had followed him before the poisoning. Both times Vladimir was left in a coma with multiple organ failure. And I brought him back to the US. He recovered and then he went back to Russia. "The Russian authorities have chosen this

new tactic of dealing with opposition figures, especially well-known opposition figures like [Alexei] Navalny, or my husband - they try to lock them away and hide them from the public eye and prevent them from continuing to work. It is because they're so effective when they're outside." Kara-Murza said that since the war started Russia had switched from being an authoritarian regime to a totalitarian one. "There is not one independent media outlet left, there is massive repression and propaganda pumped out on national TV ... There is a new iron curtain around this country." But she insisted dissent exists below the surface as people access news via virtual private networks or the Telegram messaging service. "I believe that Putin has not yet declared mobilisation because he knows how people will react to it. But a week or two ago, they said that there have already been 11 conscription centres burned down across Russia.

Ukraine war is Putin's death warrant, says wife of jailed politician



An aircraft gives aerobatic performance during the Museum Air Show Festival in Nairobi, Kenya

Drone, carrying magnetic bombs and grenades, shot down in J&K's Kathua

New Delhi, May 29 : A drone coming from the International Border side was shot down on Sunday (May 29) in Jammu and Kashmir's Kathua district, PTI reported.



The drone bomb disposal squad, which inspected the drone's payload, discovered seven magnetic bombs and seven grenades compatible with Under Barrel Grenade Launchers (UBGL) attached to it. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu, Mukesh Singh informed. Singh said a police search party discovered the drone at the border in Talli Hariya Chak area in the morning. The Pakistani drone was shot down after being

hit by the ground fire at the border in Talli Hariya Chak area, Singh said. "Rajbagh Police Station team was on a normal search when info about the drone was received. The drone was shot down and 7 magnetic type Bombs IEDs and 7 UBGLs (Under Barrel Grenade Launcher) were recovered. We have averted a major incident by recovering this material," Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kathua, RC Kotwal said. The surveillance has been increased and police search parties were being regularly sent to the area in the wake of the frequent drone activity from across the border. This comes as Jammu and Kashmir is all set to host the annual pilgrimage to the Amarnath cave shrine, in view of which security has been strengthened in the union territory. Moreover, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags have been made compulsory this year for those undertaking the yatra for security reasons.

Cannes 2022: South Korea scoops record awards haul

Cannes, May 29 : South Korean cinema went from strength to strength on Saturday, scooping two major prizes at Cannes for the first time in the country's history. Park Chan-wook clinched the best director award for his

Chihwaseon. Song's best actor prize was his first, and he is now the first South Korean male actor to win an acting prize at Cannes. "I couldn't help running to him," said Park, who hugged Song after his win. "He has appeared in many



A contestant shows her Chinese calligraphy work during a Chinese language competition in Belgrade, Serbia,

Blinken criticises Chinese 'manipulation' of high-profile UN visit to Xinjiang

Taipei, May 29 : US secretary of state Antony Blinken has expressed concern over China's "efforts to restrict and manipulate" the visit of the UN's top human rights official to the Xinjiang region.

rights environment in the PRC, including in Xinjiang, where genocide and crimes against humanity are ongoing. "Earlier, Bachelet said she had urged the Chinese government to

the press conference, China's vice foreign minister, Ma Zhaoxu, told state media that Bachelet's visit had "provided an opportunity to observe and experience first-hand the real Xinjiang". Xinjiang is the site of a years-long crackdown by Chinese authorities on Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities, with sweeping policies of religious, cultural, linguistic and physical oppression. Rights organisations and several governments have labelled the campaign a genocide or crime against humanity. Beijing denies all allegations of mistreatment and says its policies are to counter-terrorism and religious extremism. Bachelet had been seeking access to the region for several years, with negotiations stalling over Covid restrictions and the office's demands for unfettered access, and Beijing's that it be friendly and not an investigation. The tour has faced widespread concern that it would be co-opted by authorities as propaganda.



"The United States remains concerned about the UN high commissioner for human rights Michelle Bachelet and her team's visit to the People's Republic of China (PRC) and PRC efforts to restrict and manipulate her visit," Blinken said in a statement on Saturday. "We are concerned the conditions Beijing authorities imposed on the visit did not enable a complete and independent assessment of the human

review its counter-terrorism policies in Xinjiang and appealed for information about missing Uyghurs at the end of a six-day visit to China. She made the claim while addressing more than 120 reporters on Zoom conference from Guangzhou, but was criticised by rights groups for giving few details or condemnation of China while readily giving long unrelated statements about US issues. Within hours of

Boris Johnson is trashing Tory identity, party grandees warn

London, May 29 : Boris Johnson has plunged the Conservative party into an acute identity crisis as a result of Partygate and U-turns over tax policy, senior Tories warned last night, as more MPs called for him to resign as prime minister. Former Tory leader Iain Duncan-Smith told the Observer his party had been left with an "enormous identity problem" because it had raised taxes instead of cutting them under Johnson and the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, undermining a core Tory message that had helped win it successive general elections. Doubts about Johnson's ability to survive as prime minister, and fears that the Tories are now on a terminal electoral slide, grew as party grandee Sir Bob Neill said the combination of collapsing trust in the prime minister, coupled with a lack of clarity over what the Conservatives stood for, had created a

"toxic mix" in the minds of voters. Neill called on Friday for Johnson to go. Yesterday two more MPs - former health minister Steve Brine and Anne Marie Morris - said



they had also lost confidence in Johnson, taking the total who have gone public to 24. Several others are understood to have written letters of no confidence to 1922 chair Sir Graham Brady without

going public, and more have privately indicated they will do so. If 54 or more MPs submit letters to Brady, a leadership contest will be triggered. "I reckon we are in the 40s," said one rebel MP. Another added: "We are just a few off." On Thursday and Friday there was a mood of relief bordering on jubilation in Downing Street as Johnson and his team believed they had survived the publication of a damning report on Partygate by the senior civil servant Sue Gray, and then switched focus on to measures to address the cost of living crisis on Thursday. While a £15bn package of measures announced by Sunak was broadly welcomed, many Tories were unhappy that the government funded part of it by performing a massive U-turn which saw it adopt Labour's plan for a windfall tax on the profits of oil and gas companies.



Villagers take part in a barrel rowing competition in Baoguo Village, Donglin Township of Huzhou



erotic crime movie Decision to Leave, while Song Kang-ho, best known for his role in the Oscar-winning Parasite, picked up the best actor award for Broker. In his acceptance speech, Park, 58, spoke of the challenges the pandemic had presented: "Fans didn't visit movie theatres, but it was the time that we were aware of the value of cinema," he said. "As we have hope and power to overcome this pandemic, I believe that we cineaste will keep theatres and cinema for good." Park is only the second South Korean director to win in his category, 20 years after Im Kwon-taek won for historical drama

good films, and it is time for him to win the prize. "Song said: 'I'm so moved as an actor who has worked with director Park and joined hands with him in winning a prize with Thirst. I'll not forget the moment when he ran to me and embraced me.' Park's Cannes entry came nearly two decades after his Oldboy film, which won the festival's second-highest prize in 2004. The dark thriller helped catapult South Korean cinema on to the global stage - years before Parasite, which won the 2019 Palme d'Or and best picture at the 2020 Academy Awards.

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CM attends valedictory session of “Asian Confluence River Conclave, 2022”

Cooperation and connectivity is key to economic progress: CM

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 29: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today said that better cooperation and connectivity with judicious use of natural resources in a far-sighted and ecologically sound manner, is the key for overall prosperity of the BBIN, ASEAN and BIMSTEC regions. The Chief Minister said this at the valedictory session of “Asian Confluence River Conclave, 2022” in the presence of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. The Conclave was organized by “Asian Confluence” in collaboration with Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and Government of Assam at Guwahati on May 28 and 29, 2022 aiming at promoting sub-regional co-operation in the BBIN, ASEAN and BIMSTEC regions. Underlining the importance of connect-



tivity for boosting economic progress, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that enhancing connectivity should not be looked at building bridges, roads or waterways and airways alone. He said that there is a need to go beyond physical connect-

ity infrastructures and equally focus on data corridors, education and tourism, energy and cultural links. He also sought cooperation from countries of the region to strengthen bamboo value chains in the north-east and stressed on opening borders

for peace and prosperity by setting up of Border Haats. He further said that best efforts are being by the central and state government to give a tangible shape to connectivity with the ASEAN and Bangladesh through roadways, railways and airways. He informed that river-

ine connectivity in the state is witnessing a remarkable change and under a World Bank project, state government is modernizing ports and vessels. The Chief Minister also spoke about the potential in people to people connect, cultural exchanges, student exchanges and tourism and hoped to have meaningful future collaboration in these sectors. Stating that due to the Act East Policy of the Government of India, the north eastern region is in the threshold of an unprecedented transition, Dr. Sarma observed that meaningful engagement on important areas of economy can be the game changer for the region. The Chief Minister also highlighted the Guwahati Declaration, which was announced as part of North East Research

Conclave 2022 held at IIT Guwahati recently. Dr. Sarma said that the Guwahati Declaration has been crafted with a vision to foster science and technology education, promotion of research, encourage innovation, start-up eco system and entrepreneurship, and would be a multi-stakeholder platform in the northeast that would address societal problems in the region and beyond. Minister of Act East Policy Affairs Chandra Mohan Patowary, Finance Minister Ajanta Neog, Chief Secretary Jishnu Baruah, Chairman Governing Council of Asian Confluence MP Bezbaruah, Executive Director Sabyasachi Dutta and host of others were also present at the valedictory session of the Conclave.

Mastermind of Batadroba arson case arrested from hideout at Nagaon
Gang of 5 including 2 girls from Meghalaya held with fake Indian currencies at Nagaon

Assam Rising

Nagaon, May 29: The main mastermind of the Batadroba incident - Ashikul Islam was finally arrested from a hideout in Nagaon town by Special Investigative Team (SIT) today. He was absconding from police since the arson of Batadroba PS, sources added. Sources claimed that Ashikul was the main culprit behind the plan and a conspiracy to arson Nagaon Batadroba PS just after custodial death of a youth under mysterious circumstances in the PS. He was one among those who provoked the irate mob to set it on fire that day, sources said adding that he is a resident of Sunaibera in greater Jura area. On the other hand, a police team from Nagaon town police and Jajori police busted a gang of fake Indian currencies dealers near at Nagaon Borghat bypass Chariali today while the gang was on the way to Meghalaya from Hojai. Police arrested 5 members in-

cluding two girls hailing from Meghalaya and also seized a vehicle bearing registration number ML 05U 9020 and several bundles of fake Indian currencies - estimated worth over Rs 5 lakhs from the gang, sources said. Sources claimed that based on a secret inputs, a police team led by Town Sub Inspector Ashyut Phukan and officer in charge of Jajori PS Abhajiya Rabha set up a roadside police checking point near Borghat bypass Chariali for over hours today. During the checking, the vehicle in which the gang was coming directly hit a police vehicle and tried to escape from police when police signalled it to stop. In the meantime, police on duty chased the gang and were able to intercept on NH 37 bypass road after a while and arrested all of them along with the bundles of fake Indian currencies. Meanwhile police registered a case in this regard and further investigation into it is on, sources added further.

Social activist Bhadrashwar Nath dies

Assam Rising
Sipajhar, May 29: Leading social activist, writer and Educationist of Darrang district Bhadrashwar Nath dies today at his Sipajhar residence. He was 92 and left behind his wife, two son and two daughters. He has retired as the principal of Pachim Rangamati Higher Secondary School, Aulachouka in 1992. He also served as the founder Principal of Sipajhar B.Ed.College and Sipajhar College. Furthermore he was also one of the founder Secretary of Sipajhar Academy High School and also associated with Sipajhar Jatiya Bidyalaya. As one of the literary activist he has written a good number of books and also served as the president of Sipajhar branch of Assam Sahitya Sabha. He was the chief advisor of the reception committee of the Sipajhar session of Assam Sahitya

Sabha. During his teaching service he was awarded State Efficient Teacher Award by Government of Assam in 1990. He was actively associated with the most of the social organizations of the greater Sipajhar area. He was one of the president of Pachimchuba Binapani Puthibharal, Leading non government public library. His death is widely mourned in the entire Sipajhar area. Sipajhar Branch of Assam Sahitya Sabha, Sipajhar College, Sipajhar BEd College, Sipajhar Press Guild and MLA, Sipajhar Legislative Assembly Constituency, Dr Paramananda Rajbanshi and many other organizations and prominent persons have expressed condolences to his death.

Assam Governor visits Chamaguri & Dakhinpat Satra in Majuli

Assam Rising
Majuli, May 29: Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish along with the first lady today visited Chamaguri Satra in Majuli which is world famous for its age-old mask making practices. Visiting the satra he interacted with the Satriahikar and other devotees. He said that he is mesmerized by the range of performance of mask making. He said, “It is an important form of traditional art and the entire process about the mask making is quite crafty and unique and the final output is that the mask becomes so real that it feels like original characters of the Indian epics”. The Governor said that the Government is paying great efforts for the enrichment of the Satras of the state. Encroachment is one of the major problems that satras have faced. However, the present government



took decisive steps to free satra lands from encroachment. He also called upon everybody in Majuli to work concertedly to uphold the spirit of the Satras which are the very basis of Vaishnavite culture. Exhibition of the mask making process was shown to the Governor by Satriya Artiste Khagen Goswami and Bhaona was also organized there by the Satra Authority where some epic scenes from the Ramayana were depicted by the artists. Later Governor Prof. Mukhi also visited Dakhinpat satra where he witnessed a cultural program performed by little satriya artists. On the occasion he said that the vaishnavite saint Sankardeva reformed the Assamese society. His disciples like Madhavdev played a pivotal role to uphold and promote his ideals and philosophies. Before Sankardeva, the Assamese society had faced huge societal challenges like superstitions, illiteracy etc. But

Sankardev had wiped off everything using the method of spiritualism. He also said that Satras are playing a significant role to uphold the ideals of the Gurujona. Majuli is the cradle of satriya culture which reflects the identity of beautiful Assam and they are carrying ethos of vaishnavite far and wide transcending all boundaries. He expressed hope that Majuli Cultural University which is unique in several ways in imparting education of the rich and colourful culture of the land is being developed into a centre of excellence for cultural education in the Northeast. He said that the university will certainly play a significant role in disseminating the regal ethos of Satras and culture of Majuli.

State Level Kung fu Competition ended successfully



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 29: State Level Kung fu Competition had ended successfully which was organized by Golaghat District Kung

fu Sports Association from May 27 to 29 at the Prabin Kr. Gogoi Indoor Stadium of Golaghat. About 400 competitors from different districts of Assam partici-

pated in the event. On the beginning day, the competition was inaugurated by Mrigesh Narayan Baruah, ACS, Deputy Commissioner, Golaghat.

PAD conducts IAG meeting on Climate Change

Assam Rising
North Lakhimpur, May 29: People's Action for Development (PAD), an NGO conducted Inter Agency Group (IAG) Meeting on Promoting Climate Resilience Systems and Practices at Zila Parishad Conference Hall, Lakhimpur district, North Lakhimpur on Friday. The venue is abuzz with over 45 registered participants from three districts - Lakhimpur, Dhemaji and Mahuli. “The focal objective of the program was to discuss on present situation of climate change related issues and its impact and to strengthen the coordination between the NGOs/ Government departments of Lakhimpur, Majuli and Dhamak districts,” said the Director Wilfred Topno of People's Action for Development (PAD) NGO. The keynote address was given by Nomita Bailing, the Documentation and Advocacy Manager of PAD NGO. She gave a presentation on the activities conducted in the project areas of Lakhimpur and Majuli districts of Assam under the project entitled: “Strengthening resilience: sustainable adaptation to climate change in flood affected areas of Assam through multisectoral prevention and adaptation mechanisms and advocacy.” She mentioned the SDG Goal no.13 Urgent Climate Action, how to combat climate change and its initiatives. The key facilitator of the program was Anand Prakash Kanoo, Program Officer, Risk and Resil-

ience (UNICEF). During the session, Kanoo informed the participants about reducing disaster risks through climate adaptation. He stated, “Risk is ultimately the result of decisions that we all make, either individually or collectively, as to what we do and don't do”. He highlights on various topics like what is happening now, climate change, projections for Assam, Interconnectedness between SDGs, Paris Agreement and SFDRR, Avoiding Maladaptation and spoke on Prime Minister of India addressing COP 26 side event hosted by Government of UK in Glasgow. Dr. P.K. Pathak, Sr. Scientist and Head of KVK, Lakhimpur, explained to the participants about the Importance of Natural Resource Management and Rain water harvesting. A panel discussion was held after the session and the Moderator for the discussion was Manoj Gogoi, the Government Board Member of PAD NGO. Open discussion was led by Rajen Saikia, the Chairperson of Inter Agency Group (IAG), Dhemaji. Pinamoni Baruah, DPO, District Disaster Management Authority of Lakhimpur, Prangana Borah, Women Welfare Officer of Lakhimpur district also lectured in the meeting. The

program concluded with few initiatives to identify one each village from three districts under IAG and to work on climate change issues. Dharani Payeng, Assistant Manager of IGSSS, Luit Goswami, Director of RVC and K.K. Chatradhata, Director of Parivartan NGO took a lead on the discussion in the meeting on the topic “Climate Change and its impact in Assam.”



will not hold any further discussions with the Centre, Zeliang said. The Core Committee requested the NSCN (IM) to continue the talks as any settlement can take place only through it, he said. The Core Committee will convey to the Centre whatever has been

Chief Minister and North East Democratic Alliance (NEDA) convener Himanta Biswa Sarma. “It is better that someone can speak for both the Centre and even for the Naga people.” Asked if the NSCN (IM) has agreed to involve Sarma in the process, Kronu said it has no problem.

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केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

SALE NOTICE

TINSUKIA BRANCH
Babupatti, Chirapatty, Chailha Nagar,
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E-auction Sale Notice For Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rules 8(b) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/ physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Tinsukia Branch of the Canara Bank will be sold on “As is where is” and “Whatever there is” on 27.06.2022 for recovery of dues to Tinsukia Branch of Canara Bank from Borrower & Guarantor provided hereinafter.

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Details of branch, borrower/guarantor, liability, description of the property and EMD, reserve price:

Sl. No.	(A) Name & Address of Secured Creditor/Branch (B) Name of Borrower/ Guarantor	Brief Description of Immovable Property	(A) Total Liabilities (Rs.): (B) Reserve Price (Rs.): (C) EMD (Rs.): (D) Increment Amount (Rs.):
1.	(A) Canara Bank, Tinsukia Branch (DP-1152) Babupatti, Chirapatty, Chailha Nagar, Tinsukia- 786125, Phone: 0374-2331447 (B) Borrower/Mortgagor: M/s. Swarupnanda Steel Crafts Proprietor Shri Haradhan Das (Mortgagor Shri Haradhan Das) Tingrai- Habi Gaon, P.O. Sripuria, Tinsukia- 786125	EMT of Land and Building covered by Land under Dag No. 97(P), Periodic Patia No. 11 measuring 0-Bigha 1-Katha 14.73-Lessas Equivalent to 5001.33 sq.ft. in the District of Tinsukia, Assam. Boundaries of Properties / Dimensions: North: 5.25 m wide Road, South: Land of Sri K. K. Baruah, East: Plot No. 5, West: Land of Dag No. 88.	(A) Total Liab.: 52.36 Lakh + further interest & cost. (B) Reserve price: 27.00 Lakh (C) EMD: 2.7 Lakh (D) Increment Amount: 50,000/-

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Date: 27.05.2022, Place: Tinsukia **Authorized Officer, CANARA BANK**

THE ASSAM RISING

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Introduction of digital currency

Lately the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposes to adopt a graded approach for the introduction of digital currency in the country, according to the RBI's annual report for FY 2021-22. The Reserve Bank is engaged in the introduction of a central bank digital currency (CBDC) in India. The design of CBDC needs to be in conformity with the stated objectives of monetary policy, financial stability, and efficient operations of currency and payment systems, the report noted. "The Reserve Bank proposes to adopt a graded approach to the introduction of CBDC, going step by step through stages of Proof of Concept, pilots and the launch," the report said. Reacting on the report, BJD National Spokesperson and Rajya Sabha MP Amar Patnaik said, the government should adopt the graded approach even in the case of private crypto space. In the annual report, the RBI said it has been exploring the pros and cons of the introduction of CBDC in India. The design of CBDC needs to be in conformity with the stated objectives of monetary policy, financial stability and efficient operations of currency and payment systems. Accordingly, the appropriate design elements of CBDCs that could be implemented with little or no disruption are under examination. The introduction of CBDC was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 and an appropriate amendment to the RBI Act, 1934 has been included in the Finance Bill, 2022. The Finance Bill, 2022 has been enacted, providing a legal framework for the launch of CBDC.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

A tale of two summits
Quad under a Chinese shadow & Davos searching for a solution to Russia

Against the backdrop of deepening global frictions, this week saw the hosting of two key international events — the second in-person Quad Summit in Tokyo and the World Economic Forum annual meeting in Switzerland. Though the events were held in two different parts of the world, the attendees were largely concerned with the same idea: geopolitical health of the world. The Quad Summit, held on 24 May, saw the meeting of four partners: India, US, Japan, and Australia. A photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi walking ahead of other leaders down a flight of stairs became an example of "leading from the front". But apart from the optics, the grouping outlined new collaborations in the areas of technology, climate action, disaster prevention, counter-terrorism and "illegal fishing" — almost



all of which are concerned with the actions of China in the Indo-Pacific. Take illegal fishing: China is reportedly the source of 80-95 per cent of illegal fishing in the Indo-Pacific. The Quad's launch of the 'Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness' seeks to counter this and other "dubious operations" of the Chinese maritime militia by using advanced satellite imagery and technology. Asserting that the Quad partnership is a "force for good", the message from Tokyo was one of solidarity at a time when the world, still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, has been shaken by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Similarly, the WEF annual meeting, held from 22-26 May, was more political than ever. Compared to last year's theme, 'The Great Reset', which was mainly concerned with post-pandemic economic recovery, this year's theme was 'History at a Turning Point'. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy tuned into this year's event via video call and said that the words "turning point" have

"become more than just a rhetorical figure of speech". Sure, the WEF summit has long had an image problem with billionaires flying in on their private planes to discuss climate action at a ski resort. But if we look at the event less as a source for solutions and more as a platform, it's clear to see how the geopolitics, specifically the Ukraine war, permeated almost all discussions — the state of the world economy, the global food and energy crisis and climate action were discussed parallel to the war. That's why the Quad summit and the meeting in Davos are 'The Print's Newsmakers of the Week'. The Quad summit in Tokyo was attended by PM Modi, US President Joe Biden, Japanese PM Fumio Kishida and Australia's newly elected PM Anthony Albanese. But there was one attendee that didn't necessarily need to be present: China. Without naming Beijing, the Quad leaders said that their countries will adhere to international law in order to meet "challenges to the maritime rules-based order, including in the East and South China Seas": "We strongly oppose any coercive, provocative or unilateral actions that seek to change the status quo and increase tensions in the area, such as the militarisation of disputed features, the dangerous use of coast guard vessels and maritime militia, and efforts to disrupt other countries' offshore resource exploitation activities," said the leaders' joint statement. China and Russia's shadow over the Quad summit was clear. On the day of the summit, the two nations launched their first joint military exercise by flying bomber flights over the Sea of Japan. They almost entered Japan's airspace. Though the Quad has repeatedly said it is not an alliance against any one country, many see it as a group to counter growing maritime aggression and other Chinese activities in the Indo-Pacific region. Let's not forget that the summit came weeks after China inked a security pact with Solomon Islands, a move that irked Canberra, Washington and others as they fear Beijing could use the island nation to build a military base. Not to mention, a troubling report emerged earlier this week that China is seeking a region-wide deal with almost a dozen Pacific Island nations, covering policing, security and data communications cooperation.

PMAY(U) : Transforming Lives in Urban India

To fulfil the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister to provide every eligible beneficiary a pucca house, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U) was launched in 2015. Over the past seven years, PMAY-U has sanctioned around 1.22 crore houses, with an investment of around Rs. 7.80 lakh crore, out of which Rs. 2.03 lakh crore is Central Assistance. As of May 2022, more than 1 crore houses have been grounded and are in various stages of construction; out of which more than 60 lakh houses have been completed and delivered to the beneficiaries. PMAY-U is arguably most ambitious and largest housing programs in the world. It is highly relevant and aligned with national development priorities and global goals for providing 'Housing for All'. Recognizing the need for tenure security, the Mission acknowledged the demand for housing across all income groups including Economically Weaker Section, Lower Income Group and Middle Income Group, and is aimed to build adequate physical and social infrastructure by providing all-weather, decent housing units with water connection, kitchen and toilet facilities. Accelerating gender inclusion in housing, the Mission mandates women as joint or sole owners in housing units. The Mission comprehensively addressed the commitment in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: goal 1 of no poverty, goal 5 of gender equality, goal 6 of clean water and sanitation, goal 11 of sustainable cities and communities, and goal 13 of climate action. PMAY-U is a shift from the erstwhile housing schemes with cookie cutter units and silver-bullet solutions in five fundamental ways. First, PMAY-U caters to differing housing 'demand' of different segments of urban families through a cafeteria approach, with supply side or demand side support through four verticals. The differing housing demand was captured through ambitious demand surveys at local level which allowed interested beneficiaries to sign-up for suitable vertical and thereby allowed cities to formulate

housing demand based on which national targets for each vertical were formulated. With such bottom-up approach, the Mission has appropriately developed different design elements over the time to meet the needs of the different target groups for housing and dignified living. The ethos of PMAY-U are inclusive in

 **Dr. Sejal Patel**

nature, providing equal opportunity to all, irrespective of gender, caste, creed or religion. Second, the vision under PMAY-U is 'Housing for all' rather than 'Slum-free city' of earlier housing programs, implying it addresses housing need for all income groups across housing ladder rather than only



one segment and submarket. Third, it offers ULBs opportunity to converge PMAY-U with other missions of MoHUA such as AMRUT, SBM, NULM and thereby provides integrated housing policy framework across housing value chain and ladder. Fourth, the Mission adopts a demand-driven approach, strengthening the ethos of cooperative federalism. There is presence of National and State level

institutions which provide a strong backing for the implementation of the Mission. Fifth, to minimise leakage to unintended groups and to ensure that intended benefits reach the genuine and eligible beneficiaries, digital technology has been deployed. This includes various linkages which have been placed with UIDAI portal for Aadhar validation of beneficiaries, transfer of construction linked subsidy through DBT mode with PFMS and GIS based central MIS, etc. A comprehensive and robust MIS system has been developed which helps all stakeholders to seamlessly manage information and record-keeping pertaining to physical and financial progress. The MIS is equipped with five staged Geo-tagging features for monitoring the progress of

construction of houses. The MIS has also been integrated with various dashboards and DBT Bharat Portal for dissemination of information. Apart from the direct physical and financial progress, the Mission has propelled a cascading effect on the economy, due to its backward and forward linkages which impact about 130 sectors of economy. It is estimated that construction activity under the Mission

would have consumed approximately 413 MT of cement and 94 MT of steel, as a much-needed impetus for the economy. It is estimated that the Mission has been able to generate 246 lakh jobs. Further, PMAY-U has enabled promotion of new construction technologies by giving Technology Innovation Grant. Global Housing Technology Challenge-India and Indian Housing Technology Mela were organised to for this purpose. The push to make affordable housing a reality rightfully led to the start of Light House Projects under the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister. Construction of over 6,000 flats is underway in six locations of the country- Chennai, Indore, Rajkot, Lucknow, Ranchi and Agartala. The innovative technologies being used in the construction process were shortlisted under GHTEC-India and are helping now in building affordable, comfortable, inclusive, energy-efficient and disaster-resilient homes for the poor. The use of these technologies is being taught to students, professionals, builders and different stakeholders so that they can replicate them in Indian context. Recently, LHP Chennai was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister. The project was completed in a record time of 12 months. The COVID-19 pandemic prompted the need for providing affordable rental housing to the migrant workforce in the cities, which led to the start of the Affordable Rental Housing Complexes scheme in 2020. As of date, around 80,000 dwelling units have been sanctioned under ARHCs while construction work has begun in another 22,000 units. Through the Mission, efforts have been put in to work towards improving the quality of life of people and giving them a dignified space in the society. Over the years, the efforts towards ensuring 'Housing for All' has always got a new momentum with the support of all States/UTs and especially, PMAY-U beneficiaries. It has been glorious seven years journey of PMAY-U: an inspiring story for people to know about across the world.

It's time we stop seeing Northeast as 'punishment posting'
The racism is showing

On the one hand, Anubhav Sinha's Anek hits the screen across India, and on the other, two IAS

officers who walked their dog in a stadium in Delhi are transferred by the Ministry of Home Affairs to Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh. What's the connection between the two? While Anek makes an attempt to chip away at the racism meted out to the Northeast, people still consider postings to regions such as Arunachal Pradesh and

paintings in 2006. In bureaucracy lingo, actions such as transfers are counted as punishment. The quick transfer of the IAS couple of the AGMUT cadre out of Delhi is also being seen as one — it hits their reputation and their seniority. The idea of punishment is, of course, simple — send an individual to an unfamiliar,



Ladakh as 'punishment postings'. Just look at the comments on the transfer. Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra tweeted, "Why shame Arunachal by transferring errant Delhi bureaucrat there? Why pay lip service to North East & then treat area like a dump for your rubbish, MHA?" While Jammu Kashmir National Conference leader Omar Abdullah asked why Ladakh was being considered a 'punishment' and said 'it's demoralising for the people there to be given the impression that officers only get sent as a punishment.' The IAS officer couple in question — Sanjeev Khirwar and Rinku Dugga — were transferred after The Indian Express reported that the Thyagraj Stadium was emptied and athletes told to leave at 7 pm so that they could walk their dog. While we may not know the whole truth, the incident highlights how transfers to the Northeast are still seen by many — as a penalising move. From Napoleon to Bahadur Shah Zafar, people who 'fail' at war have often been exiled by the victors. While in the case of Zafar, it was the British who exiled him for his crime of revolt, artist MF Husain lived in self-imposed exile outside India after the controversy around his

potentially hostile location. However, what forms unfamiliar and punishment today is clearly laced heavily with racism. Just look at this tweet: While Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh are places people would love to visit and take a million selfies, living and working there is clearly considered punishment because who would like to navigate a difficult terrain when they can have a stadium to themselves in the national capital? These states are fine when wanderlust hits you in peak summers. Otherwise, it's a 'lesson' for errant bureaucrats. After all, these places do not have high-end facilities for the privileged, the way Delhi does. In the case of the IAS officers, there is no deduction on salaries and the cost of living actually reduces. So what is the punishment? It's the perceived social and cultural exile. India's northeast and tough terrains such as Ladakh have for long been considered a punishment posting not just for civil servants but across various types of government jobs. In 2014, then-governor of Maharashtra, K Sankaranarayanan resigned instead of accepting his transfer to Mizoram. Kashish Mittal, a 2011-batch IAS officer, resigned in 2019 after he was transferred

from NITI Aayog in Delhi to Arunachal Pradesh. That same year, Madras High Court Chief Justice Vijaya Tahiramani reportedly resigned after she was transferred to the Meghalaya High Court. While a decision to resign would have made perfect sense in '80s and '90s due to the rampant insurgency in the Northeast, in current times, it's a sheer display of racism. Even the idea of 'hardship allowance' for IAS officers appears derogatory to those who actually live in the northeast or Ladakh. The Northeast with its green cover and less densely populated cities surely can be a reward for the bureaucrats. Thankfully, people have called out the concept of 'punishment' posting on Twitter. Arunachal Times

journalist Tongam Rina pointed out how the issue had shifted from the blatant misuse of power by the IAS officer to racist, stereotypical comments on punishment postings to Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. I would only say, it would take a film and a change in both policies and mindset to actually hope for an end to racist overtures when it comes to certain regions of India. As long as we privilege Delhi for its connectivity and facilities instead of actually promoting similar if not equal facilities in all parts of India, postings to Northeast and Ladakh will continue to 'haunt' officers, and they would rather choose the 'dignity' of walking dogs in Delhi than 'jungles and mountains'.

Letter to the Editor
Night Accident

Sir

Though the centre and the various state road transportation authorities and the police take all necessary measures and come out often with awareness tips and caution drivers to be extra careful during night driving to avoid and minimize accidents it is unfortunate that accidents continue to occur due to negligence, carelessness and rashness on the roads. Night accidents have become a common sight on our roads and the main reason for this is carelessness, drowsiness and total ignorance of the norms drivers have to follow during night trips. Most often fatal nocturnal accidents happen due to drunken driving, sleepiness and tiredness. Drowsy driving is a major problem and heavy disasters occur when those at the wheels, who have to have their eyes wide open, wink for a second out of drowsiness. Many tragic incidents have occurred because of drowsy driving. Drowsiness occurs when drivers do not have proper rest and sleep. It is unfortunate that though the transportation department, the police authority and other stakeholders do come out with stern warning whenever such accidents happen it is just forgotten after a few days. Night patrolling, checking and lessening the speed of heavy vehicles, shift work scrutiny, anti sleep devices in drivers cabins, cautioning and alerting drivers to avoid medication and strict prohibition of consuming alcohol while driving have to be implemented. Resting places or zones for heavy vehicle drivers must be provided.

 **M PRADYU KANNUR**

SpiceJet and Axis Bank launch co-branded credit card

SpiceJet, the country's favourite airline and Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, have partnered to launch the most rewarding co-branded credit card, powered by Visa that will offer a host of privileges and benefits to customers. The card comes in two variants - SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black, and is aimed at facilitating a superlative travel experience for flyers through SpiceClub, the first frequent flyer program by a low cost carrier in India. Through this collaboration, the two brands hope to capitalize on the resurgent demand for travel following two years of stagnation caused by the pandemic. Further, with the shared goal of expanding their reach to Tier 2 & 3 cities and other synergies, the brands are committed to serving a much larger populace. SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage & Voyage Black credit cards were officially launched at Indira Gandhi International airport in the presence of Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD, SpiceJet and Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO, Axis Bank, where they unveiled a special

SpiceJet-Axis Bank credit card livery on a SpiceJet Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The products are designed to enable customers use the rewards earned on their daily

demand, and are on first-come basis. Cardholders would get exclusive SpiceClub membership with direct entry in either Silver or Gold tiers, and special benefits like compli-

mentary or discounted travel add-ons, priority check-in, SpiceMax upgrade, preferred seat selection, complimentary meal etc. Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I am delighted to announce the launch of the SpiceJet-Axis Bank co-branded Credit Card. This card will make every customer journey an even more rewarding one. We are the pioneers of the frequent flyer

program for budget airlines in the country and this partnership with Axis Bank significantly strengthens the value offering of SpiceClub. Our association with Axis Bank - founded on the shared vision to offer unparalleled customer experience - is yet another innovative step towards creating a world class travel experience. I hope to see our customers enjoying the benefits of this rewarding collaboration as much as they love to fly with us." Commenting on the occasion, Amitabh Chaudhry, Managing Director & CEO, Axis Bank said, "We are delighted to partner with SpiceJet, a brand that shares our vision of expansive reach and unmatched services. As we strive to give our customers a hassle-free payments experience across all touchpoints, this partnership becomes key, especially as we witness travel opening up again and becoming a leading category. The two teams will work together to bring in the synergies, with best of offers and services, thereby truly making a difference to the customers and their travel experience. "Sandeep Ghosh, Group Country Manager, India and South Asia, Visa said, "With air travel across the country coming back to pre-pandemic levels, consumers rely on credit cards for unique benefits and value-adds while on the move. Globally, credit cards that offer the best of on ground and inflight experiences remain a popular choice for air travellers. At Visa, we have helped power the SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage credit card to cater exclusively to the needs and indulgences of the discerning Indian air traveller. We are confident of the card setting a new benchmark for air travellers in the country."



spends for booking flights and add-ons, thus encouraging both travel and digital payments embedded with benefits of SpiceJet's frequent flyer program, SpiceClub. Customers can earn benefits up to 7% on the Voyage Black credit card which is a Top-tier offering in the travel credit card segment. In addition, the redemption of earned points does not have any limitations on blackout dates, festival

mentary or discounted travel add-ons, priority check-in, SpiceMax upgrade, preferred seat selection, complimentary meal etc. Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I am delighted to announce the launch of the SpiceJet-Axis Bank co-branded Credit Card. This card will make every customer journey an even more rewarding one. We are the pioneers of the frequent flyer

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Newly launched OnePlus Mobile Price

OnePlus is looking to strengthen its position in the Indian market and is planning to launch an array of devices, to join the current line of the OnePlus 10 lineup in India. These included the budget-oriented OnePlus Nord CE 2 Lite 5G, OnePlus 10R 5G, and the much anticipated OnePlus Nord Buds launched at 7:00 PM, on the 28th of April. The specifications of the de-

processor. All of this will be powered by a 4500 mAh battery, which will support 80W or 150W SuperVOOC charging. As for the camera setup, the OnePlus 10R 5G will have a primary camera with 50MP, an 8MP ultrawide shooter, and a 2MP macro sensor. For the front-facing camera, users will be getting a 16MP shooter. The OnePlus Nord CE 2 Lite 5G will also be available in two vari-



vices have been known for quite some time, given that these phones, or rather, some versions of these phones have already been launched in international markets. It was the pricing that had people making all sorts of speculations. The OnePlus 10R 5G will be available in two variants. The base variant will be available with 8GB RAM + 128GB storage and comes with a 5,000 mAh battery, with support for 80W fast charging. This variant will cost customers Rs 38,999. The device will be available in two colours, black and green. The second variant will be available with 12GB RAM + 256GB storage, will support 150W superfast charging, and will be priced at Rs 42,999. The Sierra Black version, which is only available in the 12GB RAM + 256GB variant, will cost Rs 43,999. The OnePlus 10R 5G will be equipped with a 6.7-inch FullHD+ AMOLED display with a refresh rate of 120Hz. It is expected to be shipped with an octa-core Media TekDimensity 8100 Max

ants. The base variant will be available with 6GB RAM + 128GB storage and will support 33W fast charging. This variant will cost customers Rs 19,999. The device will be available in black and blue colours. The other variant will be available with 8GB RAM + 128GB storage, will support 33W superfast charging, and will be priced at Rs 21,999. OnePlus Nord CE 2 Lite 5G will be equipped with a 6.5-inch Full HD+ display, with a 120Hz panel. The phone will be driven by a Qualcomm Snapdragon 695 SoC. The device will be powered by a 5000 mAh battery. As for the cameras, the device will come with a triple camera setup at the back. The primary camera is a 64MP unit, which has been paired with a 2MP macro sensor, and a 2MP mono sensor. For the front-facing camera, users will be getting either a 16MP or a 32MP unit. It will be interesting to see what kind of discounts and bank deals does OnePlus offers its customers, given the anticipation and buzz around these devices.

KVIC clocks record Rs 1.15 lakh crore turnover

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has clocked a record turnover of Rs 1.15 lakh crore for the year ended March 2022, making it the only fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company in the country to reach Rs 1 lakh crore turnover. KVIC's turnover for 2021-22 grew 20.54% year on year at Rs 1,15,41,52,22 crore against Rs 95,74,17,4 crore in 2020-21. As per the state-owned entity's data, overall production in khadi and village industry sectors registered a growth of 172% between 2014-15 and FY22, while gross sales during this period increased by over 248%. KVIC chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said PM Narendra Modi's constant support and appeals to go 'swadeshi' were critical to this growth story.

FISME plans collateral-free MSME lending platform

The platform is being set up by the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) and Equo Surety Pvt Ltd, a provider of financial guarantees. Aimed at fulfilling the need for urgent funds, a digital lending platform is being created to provide access to collateral-free capital up to Rs 25 lakh to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The platform is being set up by the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) and Equo Surety Pvt Ltd, a provider of financial guarantees. A memorandum of understanding in this regard was signed by Prashant Patel, president of FISME, and Vikash Khandelwal, CEO of Equo, in Delhi recently. "Lending has traditionally been collateral based. This unique, first time in India initiative will help MSMEs get easier access to credit backed by a surety guarantee without the need to put up collaterals," Khandelwal said. According to Patel, it is like an overdraft facility, initially pegged at Rs 25 lakh, which could be tapped anytime from anywhere should an MSME need funds. Former Secretary, Department of Financial Services, DK Mittal termed the initiative "path-breaking", adding, "Lack of collateral is the single biggest bottleneck that small entre-

preneurs face in accessing institutional funds and obviating the need for asset-based collateral by sureties can revolutionise MSME lending."

Tata Motors has increased its capital expenditure by 30% or Rs 9000 crore or 900 million pounds in FY-23 hoping to extend a strong recovery path after the pandemic and buoyed by hopes of the supply chain scenario improving. Tata Motors will be making its highest ever domestic investment of Rs 6000 crore in the current financial year to fund expansion of portfolio of capacity across all its businesses - commercial vehicle, passenger vehicles and electric vehicles under both businesses. Whereas Jaguar Land Rover will be investing about 2.6 billion pounds or Rs 26000 crore. Compared to FY-22's capex of Rs 23000 crore, Tata Motors will be spending about Rs 32000 crore at a consolidated level in FY-23. The company will use this money to accelerate its shift towards EVs across

and generate market interest, Saxena said.

India, Mauritius pact may include safeguard mechanism related provisions

India-Mauritius trade agreement may include safeguard mechanism related provisions to protect the domestic industry from a sudden or unusual surge in imports of goods, according to sources. The agreement between the two countries came into force on April 1, 2021. After the implementation of such pacts, provisions can be added to the agreement if both sides agree to that. The sources said a chapter on general economic cooperation is also expected to be included in the pact, which is officially termed as Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA). The safeguard mechanism comes into play when there is a sudden increase in imports of any commodity, which can impact domestic industry and under that provision, concessional customs duty on that par-



ticular good is replaced with existing taxes, which is applicable to all nations. The mechanism also includes stricter rules of origin to prevent any routing of products from a third country. The sources said that the finalisation of both these issues - inclusion of safeguard mechanism and general economic cooperation in the pact - would require approval from the Union Cabinet. The commerce and industry ministry has sought views of differ-

Pharma companies should research affordable therapies for our people which can then be exported to the world. That is the best way to stay in the market - and India is a large market," he says. Shah's confidence in the Indian pharma sector stems from the enormous successes several companies have had over the past two years. "While the Covid segment has plateaued now, we are seeing a massive



push in our cardiac, urological, lifestyle diseases and dermatology portfolios," he says. Covid-19's impact on the pharma sector has been unlike anything else of late. It was chaotic in the beginning of the pandemic, but most firms found their feet in a few months. Large multidivision pharma companies began benefitting immensely from their new Covid portfolios although they lost out heavily on nonCovid segments as people stopped visiting hospitals and elective surgeries got postponed in the middle of an infection wave. Mid-sized, branded generic drug manufacturers like BDR

flourished as sales of Covid peripherals such as anticoagulants, antipyretics, antihistamines, painkillers and multivitamin tablets went through the roof. Companies that were narrowly positioned, in terms of product profile, had to wait a little longer - till the second wave of Covid subsided and people started visiting hospitals. Now, as Covid cases have dropped, and the fear of getting out for a

hospital visit has subsided, most pharma companies see a thrust in their non-Covid portfolios. Kirti Ganorkar, CEO (India Business), Sun Pharmaceutical NSE 3.82%, said in an investors' conference call recently: "We have witnessed growth across most of our therapies. This was driven by a combination of factors such as improved demand for non-Covid treatment, which led to higher growth in the chronic and semi-chronic segments, better patient flow to doctor clinics and increased healthcare awareness." Growth is there for every-

ent ministries on the matter, after which it would approach the Cabinet. India and Mauritius signed the CECPA, a kind of free trade pact, on February 22, 2021. Several Indian products, including textiles and chemicals, are enjoying the benefit of greater market access at concessional duties in Mauritius under the agreement. The pact covers 310 export items for India, such as food and beverages, agricultural products, textile and

textile articles, base metals, electrical and electronic items, plastics and chemicals, and wood. Mauritius has benefited from preferential market access into India for its 615 products, including frozen fish, speciality sugar, biscuits, fresh fruits, juices, mineral water, beer, alcoholic drinks, soaps, bags, medical and surgical equipment and apparel. The current pact is a limited agreement, which covers trade in goods, rules of origin, trade in services, technical barriers to trade, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, dispute settlement, movement of natural persons, telecom, financial services, and customs procedures. CECPA is the first trade agreement signed by India with a country in Africa. India's exports in April-February 2021-22 to Mauritius stood at USD 666.44 million, while imports were at USD 64.83 million.

Tata Motors goes big bang with Rs 32,000-crore capex plan



all businesses right from Jaguar Land Rover, the truck and bus and car businesses and in debottlenecking capacity and supply chain to deliver more cars. From a demand perspective, the company is sitting on a record booking of over 2.5 lakh units or Rs 1.1 lakh crore of business, which needs to be delivered in the coming 6-9 months. Jaguar Land Rover is sitting on its highest ever

booking at 1.68 lakh units, whereas the passenger vehicle business is at little over 75000 units to 1 lakh. Speaking to media after Q4 earnings were announced, P B Balaji, Group CFO, Tata Motors, said "The businesses will be well funded to transition to the EV roadmap. We will be investing Rs 5500 to 6000 crore for the domestic business and it will be used across CV, PV and EV

businesses." The management said that it was making all possible effort to advance EV product launches at JLR too. "Jaguar goes all electric by 2025. 2024 onwards - there will be half a dozen Land Rover BEV. From a management perspective, we will try to bring forward the launches, if we are able to bring a breakthrough," he added. On improved capacity for passenger vehicle business, Balaji added, "Our focus on debottlenecking continues. We will take it closer to 50000 units per month, we will continue to look at options (including buyout) to meet future demand." The company's confidence can be gauged from the fact it guided for 1 billion pounds cash flows for the current fiscal year both for JLR and domestic operation despite it raised capital expenditure spending. JLR had guided for

capital expenditure of 2.5 billion pounds for FY22, however curbed it by 500 million pounds amidst a drop in volume due to chip shortage. The capital expenditure as percentage of revenue of the JLR was 11% in FY22. It has a long-term average of capex to revenue percentage of 14.5%. This is getting revived. In the last ten years JLR has cumulatively spent 30 billion pounds on capital expenditure. JLR's full year revenue dropped to 18.32 billion pounds in FY22, the lowest in the ten years as volume dropped 15% to 294,000 units. Back home, the PV and CV businesses spent Rs 2202 crore on R&D, besides Rs 1462 crore on capital investment in FY22 taking cumulative investment to Rs 3664 crore for full fiscal. Tata Motors' stock gained 8.6% to Rs 404 a piece on Friday trade on the BSE.

Contd. From Page 1

Assam govt. to give minority

Census, Hindus comprise 61.47 per cent of Assam's total population, while Muslims constitute 34.22 per cent. Christians account for 3.74 per cent, while the percentage of Buddhists, Sikhs and Jain is less than one per cent."Assam Cabinet has decided to provide minority certificates to the people of six religious minority communities - Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and Parsis," said Mahanta.The decision was taken during the state cabinet meeting held in Guwahati under the chairmanship of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

26 Rohingyas held in Silchar

the country. Rohingya Muslims represent the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar, with the majority living in Rakhine state.They have their own language and culture and say they are descendants of Arab traders and other groups who have been in the region for generations.Police said the Rohingyas, who were travelling from Jammu were detained by police on Saturday after they were found without any valid documents."A patrolling team of police, around 2 am, noticed suspicious movement of a group of people at Central Road. They were all found to be travelling in three different cars. After being approached by the cops they could not provide any valid documents after which they were detained," Cachar SP Ramandeep Kaur said.Kaur said that preliminary investigations revealed that they had travelled to Guwahati in train on Saturday from Jammu."It has also been found during the initial probe that someone from Silchar had communicated with them over phone and asked them to come to Silchar. We are now investigating to find out details of the person who had asked them to come to Silchar. After a thorough probe we will know about their plans and intentions for coming to Silchar," she said. "These 26 Rohingyas have been residing in Jammu and Kashmir for a long time. We are trying to find out why suddenly they travelled to Silchar and what their actual motive is," the SP said.Police said the 26 Myanmar nationals, comprising six men, eight women and 12 kids, were being questioned at Silchar Sadar police station.

Mann Ki Baat : PM Modi talks

read 10 Japanese versions of Ramayana and he put it into an animation film.Indian animators also helped Sako in making the film and guided him was guided about the Indian customs and traditions shown in the film, PM added. He was informed about the traditional Indian attires and the family values of children in Indian families, PM Modi said.PM also informed that the animated film is now being remade in 4k and the project will be completed soon.Appreciating the Japanese people's efforts PM said, "Thousands of kilometers away from us in Japan, people who do not know our language, who do not know much about our traditions, their dedication and respect to our culture is very much appreciated."

Aadhaar Card Misuse: Government

obtaining and storing copies of the Aadhaar card. It is a violation under the Aadhaar Act 2016 if they engage in such acts.People in the country should utilise the disguised Aadhaar card, which only shows the last four digits of your Aadhaar number, according to the press release. Anyone having a valid Aadhaar number can obtain it by visiting the UIDAI's official website.Make sure you choose the "Do you want a masked Aadhaar" option before downloading a copy of your Aadhaar card from this page.The UIDAI has also mentioned a safe method of confirming any Aadhaar number. You can get the official status of the number by going to. In offline mode, the verification stage is also feasible. All you have to do is use the QR code scanner in the mAadhaar mobile app, which is accessible for both Android and iPhone users, to scan the QR code on the e-Aadhaar card.In India, Aadhaar is a mandatory document for all applications. To avoid misusing it, you should immediately begin following the Indian government's guidelines.

Plane with 22 onboard, including 4

to Mt. Dhaulagiri after which it hadn't come into contact," Chief District Officer Netra Prasad Sharma told .According to an air traffic controller at Jomsom Airport, they have an unconfirmed report about a loud noise reported in the Ghasa region of Jomsom, according to the Post report.The officer also announced that the search operations for the plane are underway, "We are deploying helicopter to the area for the search operation," Ram Kumar Dani, DSP of District Police Office, Mustang, told ANI. The last contact was made in Lete Pass region. An airline official said the plane was carrying four Indians and two other foreigners, though their nationality was not known. Nepal, home to the world's highest mountain, does have a record of accidents on its extensive domestic air network, with changeable weather and airstrips in difficult mountain locations.The airline has issued the list of passengers which identified four Indians Ashok Kumar Tripathi, Dhanush Tripathi, Ritika Tripathi, and Vaibhawi Tripathi. They are all the members of the same family from Mumbai.Heavy rains have been reported in the region over the past couple of days, but flights have been operating normally. It is a popular route for tourists and Indian and Nepalese pilgrims who visit the revered Muktinath temple, which is situated on the foot of the Thorong La mountain pass in Mustang.A Nepal Army helicopter has located the site where the small plane of a local airline with 22 people on board, including four Indians, has possibly crashed, media reports quoted the country's civil aviation authority as saying on May 29. A Nepal Army helicopter carrying 10 soldiers and two employees of the civil aviation authority landed on the bank of a river near the Narshang Monastery, the possible site of the crash, according to a local newspaper."A Nepal Army helicopter has landed on the riverbank near Narshang Gumba," Prem Nath Thakur, general manager of the Tribhuvan International Airport was quoted as saying by the newspaper. Interestingly, the airplane was located after Nepal Telecom tracked down the cellphone of the airplane's pilot Captain Prabhakar Ghimire through the Global Positioning System (GPS) network."The cell phone of Captain Ghimire of the missing aircraft has been ringing and Nepal Army's helicopter has landed in the possible accident area after tracking the captain's phone from Nepal Telecom," Thakur said."We have also sent Nepal Army and Nepal Police personnel on foot for the search," he added. There are four Indian nationals, two Germans, and 13 Nepali passengers besides a three-member Nepali crew, said Sudarshan Bartaula, a spokesperson at the airlines.The Twin Otter 9N-AET plane belonging to Nepal's Tara Air took off at 10:15 am from Pokhara, and lost contact with the control tower 15 minutes later, according to an airline spokesperson. The airline has issued the list of passengers, which identified four Indians as Ashok Kumar Tripathi, Dhanush Tripathi, Ritika Tripathi, and Vaibhawi Tripathi. The aircraft was scheduled to land at Jomsom Airport in the Western mountainous region at 10:15 am.

Indian Oil may Transport Fuel to

Dima Hasao, Barak Valley, Mizoram, Manipur and Tripura with the rest of the country was washed away earlier this month, IOC started moving all its supplies by road via Meghalaya, bearing more than double the cost.The company is planning to send its convoys of fuel through Dawki in Meghalaya to Bangladesh. It will then re-enter India at Kailashahar in Tripura. Once the discussion is finalised and an agreement is signed, the Indian Oil-AOD will move its products from primarily Betkuchi depot in Guwahati to Dharmanagar depot in Tripura through the neighbouring nation.After the destruction of the rail link, the IOC is supplying all its fuel through the road via Meghalaya.Notably, the Indian Railways has begun the restoration works to rebuild the railway infrastructure damaged in Dima Hasao, which was ravaged by floods and landslides.According to the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), incessant rains caused floods and landslides which damaged the railway network at 60 locations in Dima Hasao under the 170 kilometer long Lumding-Badarpur section.The Union ministry of railways recently sanctioned Rs 180 crores for the restoration of the network in the hill district that was ravaged by the recent floods. Meanwhile, the Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma had earlier met with Union railways minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in New Delhi on Sunday and assured to complete the restoration of railway network by July 10 this year.

12 hijab-clad students denied

them.They insisted on allowing them to attend classes with hijab. However, the college principal stopped them from attending classes and were also denied permission to go to the library, after which the students returned home. As the hijab row is resurfacing in the district, the College Development Committee has decided to allow students to take it off in rest rooms and then attend classes.

'Abhishek Banerjee crossed a red line..'

inquiry into SSC scam is most condemnable," the governor said, adding, "the honourable Member of Parliament crossed the red line".The Calcutta High Court has ordered CBI investigations in a number of cases in the last year, including post-poll violence and recruitment of teachers by the School Service Commission (SSC).TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee, at a rally in Haldia on Saturday, lashed out at "1 per cent of the judiciary" for ordering CBI investigation in "every case" in the state."I feel ashamed to say that there are one or two people in the judiciary who are in hand in gloves and have a tacit understanding and are ordering CBI investigation in every case. This is just 1 per cent of the judiciary," Banerjee had said, without clarifying the allegations."If you think you will take action against me for speaking the truth, then I will speak the truth a thousand times," he had said.The development seemed to have opened another front in the turf war between the TMC government and the governor, which has been on since he assumed office in July 2019.

'Only unfortunate success of

the screenshot of a media report which cited Reserve Bank of India's annual report to state that there was a 100 per cent increase in fake Rs 500 notes and 50 per cent increase in counterfeit Rs 2,000 currency notes - both of which were issued after the banning of the old 500 and 1,000 banknotes."The only unfortunate success of Demonetisation was the TORPEDOING of India's economy," Gandhi said in the tweet.TMC leader Derek O'brien also slammed the government over the RBI's findings. "Namaskar Mr PM @narendramodi, DEMONETIZATION? Remember? And how @MamataOfficial swiftly took you on? How you promised the nation Demo would WIPE OUT ALL COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY. Here's the latest RBI report pointing out the huge increase in counterfeit notes," he said in a tweet.Shiv Sena MP Priyanka Chaturvedi took a dig at the Modi government over the RBI report and said "one of the benefits of demonetisation being realised".On November 8, 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the demonetisation of old Rs 1,000 and Rs 500 banknotes with a stated purpose to wipe out the black money and stem terrorist funding.

Bihar To Allow Exploration Of

metal and out of this, Bihar is endowed with 222.885 million tonnes (44 per cent) of ore containing 37.6 tonnes of metal," Mr. Joshi had said.

Cabinet takes several decisions on

meeting are: The government will provide one time assistance of Rs. 2lakhs to 288 expedited people, 57 exploited women.Fund of Rs. 142 crores 5 lakhs has been released to deposit in the PF account of labourers of Assam Tea Corporation.Rs. 1lakh grant to 1263 tea labourers of Doloo Tea Estate as a goodwill grant.The Cabinet has also requested Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for economic package for Dima Hasao.The tea estates could be used for eco tourism other than the plantation of tea by using additional 5% land by the owner but it cannot be provided in lease. 1328 Dr. Banikanta computer teacher will get regular salary

Webinar on Srimanta Sankaradeva and Guru Nanak

Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 29 : As part of the international webinar series on Different facets of Sankaradeva Studies, organized by Society for Srimanta Sankaradeva, the sixth webinar was held in association with Naamghar Association of America, USA (NAAM) and Delphic Council of North East India on 29th May, 2022. Dr Ratul Chandra Bora, former Registrar of Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya was the resource person. He delivered lecture on "Srimanta Sankaradeva and Guru Nanak". The webinar was moderated by Dr Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti, author and scholar of Sankari culture, who is also President of Society for Srimanta Sankaradeva. Dr Ratul Chandra Bora said that both Srimanta Sankaradeva and Guru Nanak preached the message of universal brotherhood. He dwelt on the biographical narratives of both the saints and pointed out some interesting anecdotes. He said that both were against idolatry and caste hierarchy. Both were monotheistic, but on the point of incarnation, they differed, he said.



Chanting of God's name and company of devotees are given emphasis in both the orders. God's name is treated as the form of God in Nirguna nature. The holy book kept in the altar is considered as the Guru itself and it is treated as object of worship in both the orders.

ders. Dr Bora also said that 31 Ragas are used in recitals of Granthsahib just as Srimanta Sankaradeva's hymns are rendered in different Ragas. Dr Binoy K Bordoloi, an eminent bio-technologist and Chairman, NAAM said that the two saints of the medieval era worked for humanity in similar fashion. Mr Ramesh Prasanna, Secretary General of International Delphic Council said in his speech that the sub-cultures of India have great commonalities and these need to be explored. He lauded the venture of Society for Srimanta Sankaradeva. Ashok Singh from Jammu & Kashmir also appreciated the initiative of the Society. Dr Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti in his comment said that there are many similarities between Eka Sarana Nama Dharma and Sikhism. He said that the two saints met in 1505 when Guru Nanak came to Bardowa in Assam to meet Srimanta Sankaradeva. Pointing to the huge scope of comparative study between the two religious orders, he said that there are resemblances in the social structures created by the two saints. Earlier Mridu Moucham Bora, Secretary of Society for Srimanta Sankaradeva welcomed the guests.

Sanjoy Swargiary's Plea for Harisinga Area Development

Assam Rising

Udalguri, May 29 : Mr. Sanjoy Swargiary, the BTC MCLA of Harisinga constituency has written a letter to Assam Chief Minister to step up development activities in the area. He has highlighted the problems people are facing in the area. He urged to construct an institution of Para Medical and Nursing Sciences at Ambagaon, Agricultural Training Centre at Sarubengra, establishment of Police Station at Kabirali, SBI branch at Haraisinga, Harisinga to declare as Municipal town, construction of road from Bhangabaruah to Bogonital via Puthiakhat, road construction from Sonaripara to Bagsalchuburi with RCC bridges over Sapkhaiti and Ranganadi river, construction of road from Kuptimari to 2 No Jhargaoon with RCC bridge over Chandana river, construction road from Bannamguri High School to Bannamguri RCC bridge via Garo basti, construction of road from Ranipukhuri to 1 No Jhargaoon to Bholabari and construction of road from Puthimari market to Ranipukhuri Police out post with RCC bridge over Kawadanga river via Borpukhuri, Kadamtala. Mr. Swargiary requested the Chief Minister to take initiatives to relieve the people from the age-old backwardness.

Loophole could let North Sea oil and gas giants slash UK windfall tax bill

London, May 29 : North Sea oil and gas companies that already benefit from huge tax breaks could use fresh rules to slash how much they pay under a new windfall tax announced by Rishi Sunak as part of his £15bn cost of living package, according to a thinktank.The chancellor risks raising a fraction of the £5bn he expects from the complex scheme - which allows the cost of new investments to be offset against profits - should oil and gas companies take the opportunity to dramatically reduce their contribution to the exchequer, said the left of centre Common Wealth.The warning comes after the Liberal Democrats said the chancellor's refusal until last week to introduce a windfall tax meant he missed out on £3bn from the "extraordinary profits" reported by oil and gas firms in 2021 and another £8bn this year.Christine Jardine, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesperson, said Sunak's "11th hour" 25% windfall tax on oil and gas company profits allowed them to carry on "with business as usual" and direct most of their profits to shareholders."It's bad enough that the chancellor waited until the 11th hour to tax big oil and gas, when Liberal Democrats first called for a windfall tax last October. Now it looks like it may not even raise what he said it will. That's more levy lite than windfall tax."She accused the chancellor of "going soft on huge companies making a killing out of a crisis".Oil giants BP and Shell are on course to make a combined profit of about £40bn this year from the rocketing price of petrol and gas.Jardine added: "He chose to leave billions on the table that could have been used for support while slamming families with unfair tax hikes instead. It goes to show how out of touch he and the Conservatives are with people that are suffering."Common Wealth said North Sea oil and gas firms currently benefited from a range of subsidies to cover the costs of extracting new wells and decommissioning ones that are spent.It pointed to research carried out with the New Economics Foundation, which found that the government had handed firms operating in British waters tax breaks worth about £3.1bn in 2019-20 and £2.5bn in 2020. Most of the funds were directed to shareholders in share buy-back schemes, the thinktanks said.The Treasury has not calculated how much of the £5bn in extra tax could be lost if North Sea operators claim extra investment allowances over the next three years.Labour said the lack of consultation with the industry before Thursday's statement by Sunak revealed that the plans were hurried and designed to distract from the Partygate scandal.

China funnels its overseas aid money into political leaders' home provinces

Beijing, May 29 : China's financing of overseas projects has disproportionately benefited the core political supporters of incumbent presidents or prime ministers of those countries that receive the funds, according to a new book.During the 20th century, China was mostly known as a recipient of international development finance. Its overseas development programme was modest - roughly on a par with that of Denmark. But over the course of one generation, as Beijing emerged as the world's second-largest economy, its footprint began to extend far beyond its borders - often in the form of infrastructure initiatives such as Belt and Road.Its use of debt rather than aid to bankroll big-ticket overseas projects created new opportunities for developing countries to achieve rapid socio-economic gains, but it also introduced major risks, such as corruption, "political capture" and conflict.The authors of the new book, Banking on Beijing, published by Cambridge University Press, found that in those countries that receive Chinese aid, funding for the political leader's home province increased by 52% during the years when he or she was in power. But this political capture effect vanished when the leader left office.They also found that, in the run-up to elections, these areas often saw sharp increases in Chinese government-backed funding."There is rot in the system that Beijing created to fast-track the implementation of development projects," said Dr Bradley Parks, executive director of the AidData research lab at William & Mary college in Williamsburg, Virginia, and one of the five authors of the book."Beijing often asks for project proposals and loan applications from senior incumbent politicians rather than technocrats. And this often leads to projects being green-lit that disproportionately benefit the core political supporters of the president or prime minister."In Sri Lanka, for example, during his tenure as president, from 2005-2015, Mahinda Rajapaksa tried to transform the remote Hambantota district at the southern tip of the island - his birthplace and home to only 12,000 residents - into a second capital through Chinese-backed infrastructure building, including a huge international airport.

'Too much fear, too much grief' Biden to visit Uvalde amid scrutiny of police response to shooting

Washington, May 29 : Joe Biden lamented "too much violence, too much fear, too much grief" after the latest US mass shooting as he prepared to visit Uvalde, where police face intensifying scrutiny for waiting outside the classroom where a teenage gunman with an assault rifle killed 19 children and two teachers.The US president and first lady, Jill Biden, plan to travel to the small southern Texas city on Sunday.And on Saturday, the vice-president, Kamala Harris, called for a ban on such military-style assault weapons for the general public, while she attended the last funeral of the 10 people killed just two weeks ago in a racist attack on a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, carried out with a similar gun.The center of Uvalde was busy but hushed on Saturday afternoon as a long line of people lined up quietly in heat approaching 100F, waiting to place flowers and other tributes at the hurriedly-created memorial of crosses set up for those killed five days ago at nearby Robb elementary school.An ambulance was standing by and a state trooper assisted members of the public who came to mourn.But as well as grief there was anger that has been simmering since Tuesday, when local police waited at least an hour, while young children trapped with the gunman repeatedly called 911 and parents outside pleaded with officers to go in, before federal agents arrived and shot the 18-year-old local man dead.The police department specifically assigned to oversee school security in the area, led by Pedro Arredondo, appeared not to have followed state protocols advising that an "officer's first priority is to move in and confront the attacker".The head of the Texas department of public safety, Steve McCraw, admitted on Friday afternoon that "of course it was the wrong decision" for local officers to wait to enter the classroom.And Texas's governor, Greg Abbott, said he felt "misled" and was livid after several days of conflicting accounts about the law enforcement response.Biden spoke about the tragedy in Uvalde during a commencement speech he gave on Saturday morning at the University of Delaware, his alma mater."As I speak, those parents are literally preparing to bury their children. In the United States of America. Too much violence, too much fear, too much grief," said Biden and called the Uvalde and Buffalo mass shootings acts of "evil". "In the face of such destructive forces, we have to stand stronger. We cannot outlaw tragedy, I know, but we can make America safer. We can finally do what we have to do to protect the lives of our people, and of our children," he said.

Silchar enters final of Nuruddin Senior Inter District Cricket

Guwahati, May 29: Silchar will take on Biswanth Chariali in the final of the Nuruddin Senior Inter District Cricket here from June 30. The four-day final



will be held at the ACA Stadium, Barsapara in the city. Silchar entered into the final by virtue of the first innings lead against Tezpur after the game between the two sides ended as a draw

at the ACA stadium, Barsapara here today. In the other last-four game at the Nehru Stadium, Biswanth Chariali defeated Dibrugarh by 15 runs. Tezpur 281 in the

contributed 81 runs with the help of 12 boundaries. Jugen narrowly missed a century as the batter lost all his partner and remained not out on 97 when Tezpur's second innings came to an end. Two openers of Silchar made a solid start in the second innings and the side were 76-0 when the match came to an end. Subham Mondal remained not out 32 and Pradip Sarkar (30) was giving him support. Meanwhile at the Nehru stadium, Dibrugarh chasing 151 runs to win were bowled out 135 runs in the second innings. Gunjanjyoti Deka (42) and Mukhtar Hussain (41) were the major contributors. Among the bowlers of Biswanth Chariali, Mintu Kumar Roy and Siddhartha Shankar Baruah picked up two wickets each.

second innings today. Rahul Singh performed well with the ball and picked up 6-80. Second innings of Tezpur witnessed two good knocks from Sidharth Sarma and Jugen Das. Sidharth

Liverpool 'hugely disappointed' by treatment of fans outside Paris final

Paris, May 29: Kick-off in Saturday's Champions League final between Liverpool and Real Madrid in Paris had to be delayed by 36 minutes amid safety concerns. There were chaotic scenes as security checks led to bottlenecks and police deployed pepper spray or tear gas, again raising serious questions



about Uefa's organisation of a major event. Video footage showed fans standing outside a locked gate about half an hour after the scheduled kick-off time of 9pm local time at Stade de France. One mournfully held up a ticket only to be repeatedly pepper-sprayed by a gendarme in full riot-gear standing on the other side of the fence. Uefa said Liverpool fans "who had purchased fake tickets

which did not work" were to blame for blocking turnstiles and said it would review the events that led police to use tear gas. Liverpool said they were "hugely disappointed" by what had unfolded. "Supporters should not have to experience the scenes we have witnessed tonight," the club said. "We have officially requested a

police vans. They were then funnelled to a ramp that led up towards the stadium concourse where bags and tickets were checked. Given the chaos at Wembley at the final of the Euros last July when thousands of fans turned up without tickets (and what had happened when Liverpool fans without tickets had charged through inadequate security at the Champions League final in Athens in 2007), perhaps a pre-check of tickets made sense, but the bottleneck soon caused a dangerous buildup of fans. As the situation became dangerous, the initial check was waived, which allowed fans up to the fence surrounding the stadium concourse. There was footage of some, presumably without tickets, climbing the fence and running past stewards, but the vast majority remained in the overcrowded queues for security checks. Many were pepper-sprayed, apparently for a failure to disperse, although it was far from clear where they should have dispersed to. Unsurprisingly, fans who had paid hundreds of pounds for tickets were reluctant to pack up and go home.

Monoj Debnath achieved Gold Medal at National Arm Wrestling Championship

Guwahati, May 29: Monoj Debnath brought laurels for Dibrugarh by clinching gold medal at National Arm Wrestling Championship

held at Goa from May 18 to 20. He won the Gold medal in both right and left hand in 63kg senior men category. A total of 18 states

from India participated in this massive event which was inaugurated by Goa's tourism minister Manohar Ajaonkar. He was also

selected for World Arm Wrestling Championship which will be held in France on September, 2022.

Trent Alexander-Arnold's error costs Liverpool but he remains essential

Liverpool, May 29: As the final whistle blew at the Stade de France Trent Alexander-Arnold was closest to the Madrid bench, swaying to one side as the white shirts came haring on, gripped with an entirely familiar delirium. At which point Alexander-Arnold just stopped. For the next five minutes, in the middle of the smoke, the pounding noise, the crackle of static across this vast craning bowl, he stood completely still at the edge of the centre circle, bent forward slightly as though in physical pain. Jürgen Klopp came across to offer a hug. A phalanx of photographers skirted past tactfully. Eventually, as the Uefa plinth was rigged into place, he just lay down alone on the turf and held his head. Oh, Trent. There will of course be a temptation, one that will be eagerly taken up, to single out Alexander-Arnold in the wake of this 1-0 victory for Real Madrid, to



linger on the error of defensive cover in the buildup to the only goal of the game, a mistake that will be flagged and sighed over, subjected to the light pen of doom, the gifts of death, the eight-shot still montage of

story of this season will now be one of glory, but also of falling short, or rather seeing others fall just a little further. One point to lose the league, one goal to lose this final. Close, but only two cigars. There is though another side to that equation. Madrid are exceptionally good at this, so cruel, so surgical in the way they find and prey on weakness. They've done this to every single one of the Premier League's top three now. This is a thing that happens. And secondly, Alexander-Arnold is also how Liverpool win. He is how they got here, what this team is built for. Alexander-Arnold is the project. For an hour, as so often, he looked like the way Liverpool might win this game. Then suddenly he wasn't, was instead that other thing. You could see it coming, too, and in the most agonising way. Vinicius Junior had barely touched the ball in the opening 10 minutes after the break. As Madrid broke

through the centre of the pitch he was way out wide, stuck to the chalk line. He held his position, held it a little long, daring himself to stay out there as the ball was funnelled to the opposite side. Watching this there was an urge to stand up and shout and point. That white shape on the touchline, 40 yards from the ball, sprinting now, still completely untracked. That's the danger. Through all this there was the oddness of Alexander-Arnold's reactions. Not his position, close to his centre-half, covering that hole. But his failure to look behind him, the sudden blankness, as though simply refusing to acknowledge that the man in white could exist. If you can't see it, it can't hurt you. The cross from Federico Valverde split the six-yard box, and Alexander-Arnold finally looked, in time to see the net

billow in front of the Madrid fans. In that moment the day simply slid away from Liverpool. The first few seconds brought a kind of saloon bar brawl on the left, as Liverpool pressed furiously high. And Alexander-Arnold was very good in the opening 20 minutes, playing without fear, strolling, watching, then suddenly appearing high up the pitch, pressuring the game into his spaces. He forced the first real chance of the game, producing a lovely dribble, surge and spin, easing his way past Ferland Mendy, crossing for Mohamed Salah to shoot, scruffily. Moments later there was another slick, smart interchange, another Salah shot. Sadio Mané spun and clipped a shot on to the foot of the post. This is the best of Liverpool, those waves of attacks that add up, wear you down, induce a kind of mental disintegration.

Charles Leclerc claims superb Monaco F1 GP pole as Pérez and Sainz collide

London, May 29: Charles Leclerc certainly had the feel for his home streets with some fine touch and judgment to secure pole for the Monaco Grand Prix. He has every chance to see off the curse that has blighted his luck here. Better still for Ferrari's Monégasque driver, qualifying ended with the track reminding his rivals that it punishes the tiniest of errors, with a two-car crash ending the session and preventing title rival, Red Bull's Max Verstappen, from doing better than fourth on the grid. Leclerc beat his teammate, Carlos Sainz, into second, with Red Bull's Sergio Pérez in third but only after the two had gone

out on their final hot laps. Pérez had been pushing hard but lost the rear and flicked into the barrier at Portier. That left him sideways on the track and Sainz could do nothing as he turned into the corner and hit the Red Bull. A red flag was immediately issued ending the session. Mercedes struggled, with their car a real handful, running stiff suspension and a low ride height on the bumpy circuit. George Russell and Lewis Hamilton are in sixth and eighth. Qualifying left the seven-time champion once more rueing his ill-fortune. Hamilton has suffered some unlucky safety car calls this year and here he was on a new set of soft tyres and on course

to improve his final lap when the session was stopped. Hamilton knows a long slog lies ahead on Sunday. "I am hoping that the weather plays up and creates opportunities, it would be nice to have some luck for once," he said. "I've been having that [bad luck] all year. At some stage it's bound to stop." In a race where grid position is all, Pérez's accident was most costly for his teammate, Verstappen, who was putting in his final lap and also improving when the session was stopped. Starting from fourth with overtaking set to be all but impossible, he faces an afternoon where Leclerc is in position to once more



retake the championship lead. Pérez held his hands up to the error. "The rear tyre was not gripping and I lost it," he said. "It was shame what happened and I feel sorry for Carlos and the rest of the guys but this is Monaco." "The day,

however, belonged to the hometown boy, looking to beat his poor run at Monaco. He has failed to finish any of his races here, two in F2 and three in F1, and with the form he and Ferrari have displayed this is surely his best shot yet.

Lester Piggott, the outstanding jockey of the postwar era, dies aged 86



London, May 29: Lester Piggott, the outstanding jockey of the postwar era and a figure who transcended the sport of racing when the popularity of the Derby was at its height, has died aged 86. Piggott's son-in-law, Derby-winning trainer William Haggas, said: "Sadly we can confirm that Lester died peacefully in Switzerland this morning. I really don't wish to add much more than that at this stage, although [my wife] Maureen will be making a statement later." Frankie Dettori, the only jockey since Piggott to share similar fame as a jockey, was quick to pay tribute. He told Racing TV: "Lester

was very special and was one of my heroes. I was one of the lucky ones [to have ridden alongside him]. I was in that [Breeders' Cup] race when he won on Royal Academy [in 1990] and I've never seen anything like it in my life. A month out of retirement and he did what he did - it proved what a legend he was." Piggott earned the nickname "The Long Fellow" because of his relative tallness among jockeys at 5ft 8in but became popularly known as "the housewives favourite" during a period when he won nine Derbys and the Epsom Classic was the most famous race in the world. Piggott's influence on racing was such that he spawned a new "shorter" race-riding style with pulled-up stirrup leathers which changed the art of jockeyship. His father Keith, a former champion jumps jockey turned trainer, provided his son with his first public ride in 1948 at the age of 12. The boy, whose shy exterior resulting from partial deafness and a speech impediment masked a ruthless streak and a fiercely competitive will to win, was successful on The Chase at Haydock, laying the foundations for a glittering career in the saddle. Piggott won his first Derby at 18 on Never Say Die and was champion jockey 11 times between 1960 and 1982. Despite his height there was no more natural rider in the saddle during a golden age for the sport which included rivals Pat Eddery and Willie Carson.

Marshall grabs Challenge Cup glory for Wigan to break Huddersfield hearts

London, May 29: Six years ago Liam Marshall, who has now written himself into Wigan folklore, faced an uncertain future. The winger, by his own admission, was hardly pulling up trees in Wigan's junior setup and the club's coaching staff were unsure he would make it



professionally. How fitting, therefore, that the man who fought his corner to keep him at the club lifted the Challenge Cup as his head coach. Matty Peet, who was Marshall's academy coach back then, had promised he would not consider himself a true Wigan head coach until he won a major trophy. Barely six months on from becoming coach of his home town club, he has ticked that box in the most

dramatic way. With three minutes to go here, Wigan seemed beaten. Two points behind, they were desperately hurling the ball looking for an opening that was not there. But these games are about clutch moments and how Harry Smith and Marshall delivered. Smith feigned one

moment, I would have picked Liam Marshall," Peet said. "I'm just delighted. I'm so happy for everyone. There's so much character in this group." The reaction from Huddersfield as Marshall raced in for the winning try told their side of the story. They gave everything in a quest to win their first major trophy for 69 years, but were undone by Marshall's late try. They could look back on the four missed goals from Tui Lolohea as crucial, as well as the loss of their prop Chris Hill in the opening quarter to injury. But they still battled back to lead heading into the final moments before having their hearts broken once again. "Wigan don't go away, especially in a game like this," the beaten coach, Ian Watson, said. "But this is the start for us, we've got to build from here and use this as fuel going forward. The best team lost the final." Huddersfield led for large periods of an engrossing final, including for most of the first half. A penalty from Lolohea put them ahead in the early stages but that was the only goal he would kick.

Brendon McCullum bets future on reviving Test cricket in England

London, May 29: After Brendon McCullum finished with Test cricket, he decided to get into the horse racing business. He had been dabbling for years, but had big ideas for expanding on it by building a public syndicate. The plan was to start off small but "grow to the point of purchasing some of the southern hemisphere's most sought-after colts and fillies to attack the world's biggest races" and turn his business into "a sexy, recognisable, funky name in the equine game".

enough to admit that it won't be for long unless it does a better job of selling itself to the public and the players. And just like with his syndicate, he's hoping he will be able to persuade



everyone else to buy in to his ideas about how to do it. That includes Jos Buttler, who is just about the biggest English star in cricket at the minute after his feats in the IPL. Which doesn't mean Buttler is about to walk back into the Test team. McCullum was part of the selection panel that picked Ben Foakes and Jonny Bairstow in the squad for these first two

Tests against New Zealand, opening at Lord's on Thursday. But McCullum is eager to make Test cricket feel so exciting that Buttler wants to be back in the mix. And not just Buttler. McCullum also mentions Moen Ali, Adil Rashid and Liam Livingstone, "all guys have played international cricket before, who have been successful in the other forms of the game and who you'd think would be able to transition across". Never mind that Moen actually retired from Test cricket last autumn ("Has he?" says McCullum with a smile - "We'll see."), that Rashid hasn't played a first-class match since his last Test, in January 2019, or that Livingstone hasn't even made his Test debut. All four of them have, to varying extents, ended up prioritising their T20 careers over Test cricket and now McCullum wants to change their minds. "If we're playing an attractive brand of cricket and we're successful and people are getting right behind what we're doing, then that might pique a bit of the interest of some of those guys."

IPL 2022: Making Rajasthan Royals cool again

Ahmedabad, May 29: It may not have been the year in which the Indian Premier League title finally landed in Royal Challengers Bangalore's cupboard, despite the call of ee saala cup namde going viral. But Rajasthan Royals, forever the butt of jokes about flattering briefly and deceiving unfailingly, have had a season that has naturally drawn comparisons with their title run in the inaugural IPL in 2008. Naturally, because there hasn't been anything to compare in the years between 2008 and 2022. There was the briefest of sparks when they actually won the Eliminator in IPL 2013, only to go out in the Qualifier 2 to Mumbai Indians. The norm instead has been of RR having a neat little run of wins, usually early in the season, before predictably running out of steam at the business end. On a couple of occasions, they dragged themselves into the top-four, but were instantly chucked out in the Eliminator. Alternating between massive bets on stars that more often than not don't come good, and 'in-

vesting' - an RR favourite buzzword - in unknown local talent, the franchise has done little more than make up the numbers for an overwhelming majority of its

[Rajasthan will win] when the DJ prompts them with the classic 'jeetega bhai jeetega'. The Orange and (joint) Purple Cap holders, Jos Buttler and Yuzvendra



existence. This year has been, finally, refreshingly different. Nine wins in 14 league games have meant the crowds have actually participated with gusto, with shouts of 'Rajasthan jeetega'

Chahal, are both from RR. Buttler began the tournament with three centuries in seven games, and then tapered off in the second half of the season, before coming back with a record-

equalling fourth ton in the Qualifier 2 against RCB. "I had some really honest conversations with some close people around me, (coaches) Kumar Sangakkara and Trevor Penney," Buttler said after Friday's win. "I was feeling a bit of pressure, getting distracted and I was trying to suppress it and it was only until a week ago or so I opened up inside and talking about that made me feel a lot better going into Kolkata and that innings gave me the confidence that helped (against RCB)." Some credit for creating this kind of an enabling atmosphere, as well as for some smart tactical calls throughout the season, has to go to the skipper Sanju Samson. Even in the Qualifier 2, seeing that Glenn Maxwell was targeting his two veteran spinners, Samson brought back Trent Boult. It is beside the point that Boult dismissed Maxwell with the last ball of his over, but Samson had been receptive enough to deny Maxwell his stronger suit - hitting spin. Samson's

performances in the past have been a window into how RR's seasons have come apart. He leaves people gaping at the timing of his strokes at the start, but then he loses that touch and consistency and it all meanders into another decent season that could have meant something big. But he's led a side full of stalwarts this time and also done reasonably well with the bat. "Sanju has been exceptional. He started off with quite a tough test last season with a young side and a lot of upheaval because of Covid bubbles, a tournament of two halves but he has really grown into his role," Sangakkara said after the Qualifier 2. "He is a very soft-spoken, very reserved individual. He is exceptionally skilled with the bat. He has shown a lot of passion and hunger to take on this testing role of captaincy. Wicket-keeping, captaining 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."

Asia Cup hockey: India beat Japan 2-1 in first Super 4 league match

New Delhi, May 29: The Indian men's hockey team scored two fantastic field goals

ing as the match progressed. It was a moment of brilliance from Manjeet that handed India the

Karkera. Pepped up by the goal, Japan continued to put pressure on the Indian defence



to beat Japan 2-1 in its first Super 4 league match and avenge its loss in the pool stage of the Asia Cup on Saturday. The defending champions, who lost 2-5 against Japan in the pool stage, scored two eye-catching field goals through Manjeet (8th minute) and Pawan Rajbhar (35th) to register a narrow win. Japan's lone goal came from a penalty corner through Takuma Niwa in the 18th minute. Japan threatened India initially and secured a penalty corner as early as in the opening minute but the Indians thwarted the danger. The Indians grew in confidence and got their foot-

lead. He made a brilliant solo run down the left flank after receiving a pass from Pawan Rajbhar and used 3D skills to perfection to beat Takashi Yoshikawa under the Japanese bar. Maninder Singh earned India a penalty corner in the 13th minute but Nilam Sanjeep Xess' effort was saved by the Japanese defence. As was the case in the first quarter, the Japanese started the second 15 minutes on a promising note and secured a penalty corner in the 18th minute from which Takuma Niwa scored from a rebound after Ken Nagayoshi's initial flick was saved by Indian goalkeeper

Washington, May 29: For the first time at the French Open this year, Iga Swiatek was struggling. As she faced Danka Kovinic of Montenegro in the third round, she had not produced her best but still coolly moved to a 6-3, 4-1 lead with a double break. Just as Swiatek seemed to be progressing to victory, she hit a wall. Her forehead, already lagging in the first set, crumbled. Within a few minutes, Swiatek had lost

and earned two more penalty corners, which the Indian defence kept at bay. Minutes later, Karthi Selvam missed a golden chance as he failed to get past Japanese goalie Yoshikawa from one-one-one situation. Rajbhar restored India's lead five minutes into the second half, slotting home from close range after being set up by Uttam Singh's brilliant stick work. Five minutes later, India conceded another penalty corner but the Japanese failed to capitalise on the chance. Trailing by a goal, the Japanese mounted relentless

pressure on the Indian citadel but the Birendra Lakra-led backline stood firm to keep their lead intact. Just three minutes from the final hooter, Japan secured a penalty corner but the Indians defended in numbers to register the win. India will play Malaysia in their next Super 4 stage match on Sunday. Meanwhile, in the other Super 4 match of the day, South Korea and Malaysia played out a 2-2 draw. In the Super 4s, India, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia will play each other once with the top two teams progressing to the final.

Iga Swiatek fights off Danka Kovinic at French Open to extend winning run

Washington, May 29: For the first time at the French Open this year, Iga Swiatek was struggling. As she faced Danka Kovinic of Montenegro in the third round, she had not produced her best but still coolly moved to a 6-3, 4-1 lead with a double break. Just as Swiatek seemed to be progressing to victory, she hit a wall. Her forehead, already lagging in the first set, crumbled. Within a few minutes, Swiatek had lost

four consecutive games in a row, including a run of 11 points. As she flailed, Kovinic, a talented shotmaker with an enormous first serve, played freely. Suddenly, it was over. Swiatek's forehead returned right as she served to stay in the set at 4-5 and as Kovinic made crucial errors on important points, Swiatek won the final three games to reach the fourth round with a 6-3, 7-5 win. Swiatek has won 31 matches in a row, moving her to one win shy of equaling

Justine Henin's winning streak at her ultimate peak in 2007. The No 1 is 38-3 this season and she has won 17 of her 19 career matches at the French Open. In her four appearances in Paris, she has never failed to reach the second week. In an era of parity in women's tennis, at a time when there has never been so much belief among the lower-ranked players when they step on the court against top 10 players, the final games underlined an increasingly rare

spectacle: the aura. Over the course of her immense winning streak, Swiatek's on-court presence has only grown and it is a challenge in itself. Beating her will not only require an opponent to match her tennis level, but also to overcome her reputation. All the while, in the tight, crucial moments, she remains so confident in everything she does. How do I Swiatek said that even after her 31 wins, thinking about defeat is inevitable during matches. The im-

portant thing is managing them. "There are thoughts," she said. "I try to be really strict in terms of my thoughts and try to really focus on some solutions and finding solutions. The biggest part of the job is to manage them properly and to really shift the focus on the right things. "While Swiatek advanced, the top women's seeds continued to fall. She is the only remaining top 10 player left after Paula Badosa, the third seed, retired from her third-



round match as 29th seed Veronika Kudemetova led 6-3, 2-1. Aryna Sabalenka, the seventh seed, was defeated 4-6, 6-1, 6-0 by Camila Giorgi, the 28th seed.

Aalo ITBP football tournament kicked off

Assam Rising
Aalo, May 29: The 6th inter frontier football competition was inaugurated at the

cently in the world Boxing Championship, 2 lady Jawans have brought laurels to the nation by win-

ous show. S.P. Lingh, DIG Cops North- East frontier along with other senior Officers were also present at



20th BN ITBP football ground on Thursday. Teams from all five frontiers are participating in the tournament. The ITBP Force has produced several stalwarts in the field of sports especially mountaineering and skiing re-

ning medals for the country the ITBP has excelled at every level and is confident to do. The Chief Guest at the inaugural ceremony was Chyam Mehrotra, IG North-East frontiers and inaugurated the function with full fan fare and pomp-

the Occasion. The inaugural match was played between the North East frontier and North West frontier. The Final Match will be played on May 28 at the football ground. The Closing ceremony will be graced by R.S Chandel, DIG SHQLKB.

Katarina Johnson-Thompson's painful reality check on return to action

Paris, May 29: Katarina Johnson-Thompson suffered a painful reality check in her first heptathlon since tearing her calf at last year's Olympics. She ended day one of the prestigious

peak form. "It hurts when you're out here and the competitive juices come back," she said. "It's hard and frustrating that I'm not competitive but I've accepted that's where I'm at right now." The



Hypometting with her knee badly bruised and her ambitions of defending her world title in July seriously blunted. After four of the seven events, Johnson-Thompson sits in ninth place with 3,695 points - 245 off the lead held by the young Pole Adrianna Sulek, but broadly in line with her own expectations as she seeks to return to

good news at least is that Johnson-Thompson showed no lingering signs of her calf injury that forced her to hobble off the track during the 200m in Tokyo or the serious ruptured Achilles that threatened to end her career in 2020. But when asked whether she could take any positives from the first day, she was admirably blunt.

"You have to," she said, smiling. "But you have to dig pretty deep for them. "Johnson-Thompson's first event, the 100m hurdles, offered an uneasy portent of what was to follow. The 29-year-old's personal best put her the third-quickest in the 23-strong field, but she was slowly away and having hit three hurdles was last in her heat in 13.80sec for a score of 1,007 points. That put her 13th and there was no solace to be found in the high jump. At her best, Johnson-Thompson is world-class and holds the British record with a leap of 1.98m. But after clearing 1.77m, she failed three times at a modest 1.80m for 914 points - although she appeared unlucky on her first and third attempts. "My knee is black and blue because I hit about three hurdles, which is a shame because I felt like I was in good shape for that event," she said. "The high jump was similar because I felt like I was getting some spring back in this leg. I just don't really understand what knocked it on my three attempts."

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