



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Road accident

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 30 :

A minor boy and two others were killed in a hit-and-run accident that took place in Assam's Bongaigaon district late Sunday. Sources said that the trio, who was on a motorcycle, was hit by a speeding vehicle near Khagarpur area in Abhaypuri yesterday night. The vehicle then sped away soon after, sources said. While two of them died on the spot, the other was rushed to a hospital but was declared dead on arrival. The deceased were identified as Manik Rai, Gopal Rai and Sourabh Sutradhar.

Rape accused

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 30 :

Youth has been arrested for allegedly raping a minor girl in Kokrajhar district of Assam. The rape accused identified as Amir Hamja is a resident of Salakati Bazar Majidpara in Kokrajhar. According to police reports, the accused befriended the minor girl who belonged to a tribal community and allegedly raped her. The accused also reportedly clicked photographs of the incident and made it viral. The matter came to light only after some people of the area saw the viral pictures and informed the family members of the victim about the incident. A case has been registered at the Kokrajhar Police Station under cyber crime and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) act. Interrogation is currently underway.

Rhino poacher

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 30 :

A rhino poacher has been injured in police firing at Biswanath Charioli in Assam. The injured criminal has been identified as Zakir Hussain alias Zagir. He was arrested by the Biswanath Police from Juria in Assam's Nagaon district two days ago. According to police reports, Zakir Hussain is the associate of the deceased rhino poacher Nalkur. On Sunday night, Zakir tried to escape from the police custody when he was being taken to reveal the place where he had hidden illegal weapons. Zakir was shot in his leg after police resorted to firing.

Batadrava incident

Main accused killed while trying to 'flee custody'



Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 30 :

The prime accused, who allegedly incited a mob to burn down the Batadrava police station in Assam's Nagaon last week, died early on Monday, allegedly in a road accident while try-

ing to flee police custody. Three policemen were also injured in the incident. "The accused, Ashikul Islam, was booked by the police on Sunday, and we took him in for questioning," said Nagaon SP Leena Doley. During the interrogation, Ashikul had admitted that

he had stored arms in his house. "So, our team went looking for the arms. After the search operation ended, on the way back he tried to escape from the car and the escort vehicle behind him accidentally ran him over," Doley said, adding that he was declared brought dead by the hospital. In December 2021, Niraj Das, the prime accused in the lynching of a student leader in Jorhat, had died in a similar fashion - run over by a police vehicle while he was allegedly trying to escape custody. The torching of the Batadrava police station in Dhing circle last Saturday had followed the al-

leged custodial death of Safikul Islam, a 39-year-old local fish-seller from the Salonabori village. Safikul had been arrested on Friday night after police found him allegedly inebriated. Police claim he died since he was unwell. Safikul's family has alleged that police demanded Rs 10,000 and a duck as bribe to release him, and beat him up in custody, leading to his death. On

Saturday afternoon, an irate mob, primarily comprising Islam's family, including his wife and daughter, set fire to the police station. Since then, 11 people (including Ashikul, as well as family members of Safikul) were booked for arson. The police have said those booked were identified in the video footage of the incident,

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Investigation Will Bring all Facts of Batadrava incident to Light: CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Assam Rising
Guwahati, May 30 :



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said that the police will take action against all people involved with the Batadrava arson. Sarma said, "I was informed by the police this morning that the mastermind behind the Batadrava incident has died. I'm sure that the police will provide

justice to the needy and punishment under law to all the accused in the incident." The Nagaon

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State Govt. announced Rs. 50 cr. package to Dima Hasao

Assam Rising,

Guwahati, May 30: To give relief to flood and landslide affected families and immediate restoration of different sectors in Dima Hasao district, the State government has announced an immediate package of Rs. 50 crore. Under this package, Rs. 30 crore will be provided for immediate reconstruction of

critical roads. On the other hand, the state government will provide Rs. 2 lakh each to 590 families to reconstruct their damaged houses. A total amount of Rs. 11.80 crore will be allocated for this purpose. Out of the total restoration package, Rs. 23 crore will be provided from SDRF and Rs. 27 crore from SOPD. The deci-

sion on the restoration package was taken in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma at Janata Bhawan today, which was held to discuss about the restoration of Dima Hasao district. The Chief Minister also stressed on immediate steps for restoration of the critical sectors.

Sidhu Moose Wala killing

Bhagwant Mann to set up judicial commission to probe singer's murder

New Delhi, May 30 :

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday announced to set up a judicial commission under the sitting judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court to investigate the killing of Congress leader and popular Punjabi Singer Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu aka Sidhu Moose Wala, ANI reported. "CM Bhagwant Mann announces to set up Judicial



commission under the sitting judge of Punjab and Haryana High Court to probe the killing of

Shubhdeep Singh Sidhu, popularly known as Sidhu Moose Wala. CM says perpetrators of the heinous crime will be behind the bars soon," tweeted CMO Punjab. Sidhu Moose Wala was shot dead in Punjab's Mansa by a group of gunmen. According to the latest media reports, Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar, a close aide of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang has claimed the responsibility for the murder of Sidhu

Moosewala. Expressing condolences on the death of Sidhu Moose Wala, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Sunday said that he was shocked by the singer's gruesome murder. "I am Shocked and Deeply saddened by the gruesome murder of Siddhu Moosewala. Nobody involved will be spared. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and his fans across the world. I appeal to everyone to stay calm," tweeted Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann. Meanwhile, Six people have been detained in connection with the murder of Sidhu Moosewala, and the footage from five different CCTVs that have the videos of the movement of

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UPSC Civil Service final result 2021 declared; Delhi's Shruti Sharma tops

New Delhi, May 30 :

UPSC CSE 2021 Final Result, IAS 2021 Final Result Candidates can check their respective results from the official website - upsc.gov.in. The UPSC CSE preliminary exam was held on October 10, 2021, and the results of the examination The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has announced the final results for the UPSC Civil Services exam 2021 today on May 30. Candidates can check their respective results from the official website - upsc.gov.in. Shruti Sharma has secured all India Rank 1 in the final result declared today. All the top three po-

sitions have been secured by girl candidates this year. Shruti is an alumnus of St Stephens College and Jawaharlal Nehru University and have been preparing for UPSC Civil Services exam at Jamia Millia Islamia Residential Coaching Academy. The UPSC CSE preliminary exam was held on October 10, 2021, and the results of the examination were released on October 29. The main examination was conducted from January 7 to 16, 2022, and the results were declared on March 17, 2022. The interview was the last round of the examination which began on April 5 and concluded on May 26. Meanwhile, Prime Minister



Narendra Modi also congratulated the successful candidates. "Congratulations to all those who have

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Fetus in Fetus: 40-day-old baby in Bihar diagnosed with rare medical condition

Motihari, May 30 :

A rare medical anomaly has come to light in Bihar's Motihari, where a fetus was being developed inside the stomach of a 40-day-old infant. Recently, a 40-day-old baby was brought to the Rahmania Medical Center in Motihari for treatment. The doctor was told that the child was bloated near his stomach. Due to the bloating, the baby was not able to urinate properly. To find out the

reason behind the bloating, the doctor got the child examined. To find out the reason for the bloating of the stomach and the stoppage of urine, Dr Tabrez Aziz of Rahmania Medical Center prescribed CT scan for the patient. But the child's test results left everyone in shock after the doctors found that another fetus had developed inside his stomach. Dr Tabrez Aziz in the medical language it is called 'Fetus in Fetus' or the presence of a fetus in the stomach of the child. He

said that this is a rare case that happens only occurs in one out of five lakh patients. "A rare medical anomaly has come to light where a fetus was seen developing inside the stomach of a 40-day-old infant. It is called fetus in fetus. The infant has undergone surgery, condition stable," said Dr Aziz. Dr. Aziz said that the child, who became a witness to the unique enchantment of nature, is now completely fine after surgery and now the child has been discharged from the hospital.



Assam CM discussed about flood relief package & other issues at Janata Bhawan on May 30.



Children learn about metering at a construction site in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province

Hong Kong churches drop Tiananmen tributes after 33 years amid arrest fears

Hong Kong, May 30 : For the first time in 33 years, church services to commemorate the Tiananmen Square crackdown will not be held in Hong Kong, erasing one of the last reminders of China's bloody suppression of the 1989 protests. Since Beijing imposed a sweeping national security law in 2020 to snuff out pro-democracy demonstrations, once-packed candlelit vigils have been banned, a Tiananmen museum has been forced to close and statues have been pulled down. The annual Catholic masses

were one of the last ways for Hong Kongers to come together publicly to remember the deadly clampdown in Beijing on 4 June 1989, when the Chinese government set tanks and troops on peaceful demonstrators. But this year, they too have been cancelled over fears of falling foul of Hong Kong authorities. "We find it very difficult under the current social atmosphere," said Rev Martin Ip, chaplain of the Hong Kong Federation of Catholic Students, one of the organisers. "Our bottom line is that we don't want to breach any law in Hong

Kong," he said. The diocese, whose justice and peace commission was a co-organiser, said its frontline colleagues were concerned they might violate Hong Kong law. Discussion of the 1989 crackdown is all but forbidden in mainland China. But in semi-autonomous Hong Kong, its history was often taught in schools and advocacy for ending the rule of the Chinese Communist party was alive and kicking - until the imposition of the security law. In the space of months, decades of

commemoration have been wiped out as authorities wield the law to refashion Hong Kong in Beijing's authoritarian image. The Hong Kong Alliance, the most prominent Tiananmen advocacy group and the candlelight vigil organiser, was prosecuted as a "foreign agent" over incitement to subversion. Last September, its leaders were arrested, their June 4 Museum was shuttered after a police raid, and digital records of the crackdown were deleted overnight under a police order to close the group's website and social media accounts. For others, much

like the organisers of the masses, uncertainty over where the new red lines fall has been enough to make them pull back. Six universities removed June 4 monuments that had stood on their campuses for years. Just before Christmas last year, three were whisked away within 48 hours. The "Pillar of Shame" in the University of Hong Kong (HKU), an eight-metre-high sculpture by Danish artist Jens Galschiot, was dismantled, tucked into a cargo container and left on an HKU-owned plot of rural land.

Delhi University asks St Stephen's College to align its admission procedure to University's policy

New Delhi, May 30 : The Delhi University on Monday (May 30) asked St. Stephen's College to align its admission procedure with the varsity's policy, noting that the Common University Entrance Test will provide a level playing field to all applicants. The university and the college are at loggerheads over the admission process. The college had earlier said it will accord 85 per cent weightage to the CUET score and 15 per cent to physical interviews for all categories of candidates.

With the college refusing to do away with the interview process for admissions, the DU has said it is "firm" on its decision to declare "null and void" all admissions made by the college in violation of the CUET guidelines. In a letter to St Stephen's principal John Varghese on Monday, DU Registrar Vikas Gupta argued that adding a score based on an interview to the score which has already been obtained through a standardised statistically robust procedure -- CUET-UG -- will "eventually lead to discrimination". He also asserted that prolonging the discussion on the admission matter will be "antithetic to the smooth and timely conduct of admissions." Gupta contended that CUET will provide a level playing field to all applicants and merit shall be prepared for all applicants based on



"standardised, equitable, fair, transparent, nationalised common entrance examination i.e. CUET-UG". Adding a score based on an interview to the score which has already been obtained through a standardised statistically robust procedure i.e., CUET-UG would introduce subjectivity in the admission process and eventually lead to discrimination, which is not desirable," the registrar noted in the letter. "It is

expected that the college aligns its admission procedure with the admission policy of the University thus respecting the decision of the larger bench of the Supreme Court," the registrar said in the letter. It said prolonging the discussion will also unnecessarily lead to confusion and inconvenience to the candidates seeking admission, which can simply be avoided," the letter read.

Ukrainian MP urges west to supply long-range rockets or risk Russian victory



London, May 30 : A Ukrainian MP visiting Britain has urged the west to supply long-range rockets to her country - and warned without further military help her country

risked deadlock or defeat in its war against Russia. Kira Rudik, the leader of the opposition liberal Golos party, said she was afraid of the three-month long war "becoming the new normal"

and that the west would not supply the Nato-standard weapons Ukraine needed to push back the invaders. "One bad outcome is that this war becomes a stalemate, like a long-term frozen conflict," Rudik said in an interview with the Guardian. "One of our goals is to make sure that the world does not get used to a war being in Ukraine." The MP argued that Ukraine's "first and foremost need is weapons" because without battlefield success Kyiv would come under pressure to give up territory to Russia, as suggested by the veteran US diplomat Henry Kissinger - a suggestion Rudik said was "borderline ... how do I not say the word stupid?". The 36-year-old said she was in daily contact with frontline troops and conceded Ukraine's military was "not fine; they are under a lot of pressure" as Russian forces advance under heavy shelling in the eastern Donbas region. "We should not repeat Russia's mistake of underestimating us. We should not underestimate Russia right now," Rudik said. It remained possible that as well a deadlock, Ukraine could yet be more seriously defeated, she added. Ukraine's army needed multiple-launch rocket systems (MLRS) with a range of hundreds of kilometres, Rudik argued, which are already the subject of intense lobbying by Kyiv - and which could be supplied by the US and others within days. "We need to let our soldiers on the front fight better and for that we need MLRS systems, longer-range systems," Rudik said. "We know that there is like no peaceful agreement on this conflict. We will need to win it militarily."

Tory minister rules out new inquiry into claims of illicit gathering in Johnson's flat

London, May 30 : A minister has ruled out a new inquiry into claims of an illicit gathering in Boris Johnson's flat during lockdown that was not considered by the Sue Gray inquiry, claiming there had already been "unbelievably comprehensive" examination of the wider subject. Labour has called for an investigation into leaked text messages suggesting Johnson and his wife, Carrie, met two friends in their flat on the prime minister's birthday, 19 June 2020, when indoor socialising was banned. The evidence was not mentioned in last week's report into illicit social events in and around No 10, published last week by Gray, a senior Cabinet Office official. Labour said this resembled "yet another



cover-up". But Chris Philp, the junior culture, media and sport minister, told Sky News he thought there was no need for any further scrutiny: "We've had an unbelievably comprehensive set of investigations, going on now for nearly six months." There was obviously the Sue Gray investigation, published last week. She interviewed dozens if not hundreds of people in the course of her

investigation, with emails, message and everything else. And we've had the Metropolitan police investigation, which again has gone over a number of months, and they've conducted that with full police powers. "So, having

had two separate investigations, including by the police, over many months, it's not immediately obvious to me that we need any more, when this has rightly been the most investigated set of incidents in recent times." It was alleged that a Downing Street aide received a text from Johnson's wife confirming that she was with two male friends in the flat, where the prime minister later joined them. According to the Sunday Times, the aide wrote to the cabinet secretary, Simon Case, stating they had an offer to share the messages with Gray's team ignored. Sign

up to First Edition, our free daily newsletter - every weekday morning at 7am BST. But a Cabinet Office source said it was categorically not true that such evidence was ignored. They added that the exchange with the aide about the material was part of the information that had been provided to police. Philp said both Gray and police "had approached everybody, including this aide", inviting them to hand over the information, and that he believed an offer was also made to just view the texts, while stressing that he had "no inside knowledge".

Glastonbury festival announces full details of 2022 lineup

New York, May 30 : Glastonbury festival has announced full details of its lineup, allowing ticketholders to studiously plan their gig-going across the vast site, and those at home to plan their evenings watching and listening to BBC coverage. New additions to the lineup include AJ Tracey, Jamie T, Ziggy Marley, Kae Tempest, Yungblud, Little Dragon, Pa Salieu, Sea Girls and the Libertines. Until today, the only timed positions on the lineup were Billie Eilish, Paul McCartney and Kendrick Lamar headlining the Pyramid stage, with Diana

Ross on Sunday teatime. Supporting Billie Eilish's Friday slot will be Sam Fender, whose second album Seventeen Going Under was widely regarded as one of 2021's best, with Robert Plant & Alison Krauss and Wolf Alice before him. Before Paul McCartney will be Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds, making his solo debut at the festival though no doubt including a few Oasis numbers, with Haim and AJ

Tracey beforehand. Lorde will warm up for Kendrick Lamar on Sunday, with a stage show that has drawn admiring reviews, with Elbow playing between her and Diana Ross earlier in the afternoon. Laying before Ross - and representing octogenarians on the Pyramid stage alongside Paul McCartney, who turns 80 shortly before the festival - is another musical legend, 82-year-old jazz artist Herbie

Hancock, whose career began as a child prodigy in the early 1950s. The other stage headliners are Foals on Friday, trailed by St Vincent, Idles and Supergrass; Megan Thee Stallion on a pop-facing Saturday, with Burna Boy, Olivia Rodrigo and Glass Animals in support; and Pet Shop Boys on Sunday, fresh from a rapturously received arena tour, awarded five stars in the Guardian. Leading up to

them will be Fontaines DC, Kacey Musgraves and then Years & Years, sparking hopes of a team-up for Pet Shop Boys classic It's a Sin, which Years & Years recently covered with Elton John. Little Simz, Róisín Murphy and Bicep will all play rousing sets to headline the West Holts stage, while Primal Scream, Jamie T and Charli XCX are to headline the John Peel tent. There are two names to be confirmed on the lineup, on Sunday afternoon in the John Peel tent and Sunday evening on the scenic Park stage.



Children learn about metering at a construction site in Xi'an, northwest China's Shaanxi Province

SHORT NOTICE FOR QUOTATION

In continuation to the Press Notice No. CE/H&UA/Tech/17/PT-II/21-22/ 53 issued vide this office dated 30/05/2022 the Chief Engineer (Technical Cell), DoH&UA, Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites sealed quotations affixing court fee stamp Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) only in plain papers are invited from the registered firm, dealers, for supply and installation of Glowing sign board for The Office of Chief Engineer and 6 (Six) Divisional Office at various location in Assam.

The Bids/Quotation will be Valid for 180 Days. Details of the bid may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 14:00 hrs of 31/05/2022 to 06/06/2022 and The quotations must reach this office on or before 06-06-2022 at 2.00 PM and will be opened on the same date at 4.00 PM.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Technical Cell)
Department of Housing and Urban Affairs
Assam, Guwahati-03
Janasanyog/C/3441/22

NIT 0.0. No. 102

SHORT SALE NOTICE

Under the provision of rule 32,33,34,35,36 and 37 of Assam Minor Mineral Concession Rules 2013 bids are invited online by the undersigned from registered Companies/Firms/Societies/Individuals etc. for award of contract/permit for the following Minor Mineral Concession Area (Mahal).

Name of Range	Name of Mahal	Quantity	Area	Period
Golaghat Range	Bandarghat MCA-1 of 2022-24	6000 cu.m Sand 14000 cu.m Gravel	5.00 Ha	2 yrs

Details of E-Auction will be available on <https://www.assamforestonline.in> portal from 03/06/2022 onwards.

Janasanyog/C/3421/22

Divisional Forest Officer
Golaghat Division
Golaghat

Guest House

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

Education Eminence 2022 award conferred to USTM



Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 30, 2022: The University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) has been declared the "Best Private University of North East India" in the Education Eminence 2022 Award given by the News18 media group. The award was conferred by Dr Ranaj Pegu, Minister of Education, Assam and

was accepted by Prof G. D. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, USTM in a function held yesterday evening in Guwahati. On the same occasion, a Debate competition was held on the topic "New Education Policy: Career and Beyond" in which Sharmina Begum, a B Pharma student of

USTM received the best debater award from Dr. Pegu. Dr Ranaj Pegu and Editors of media groups, other eminent dignitaries present in the function congratulated USTM for receiving the award. USTM has students from all the NE states, and spe-

cially from the state of Assam. "I am very happy and congratulate the USTM family for receiving this award. My best wishes for USTM to go forward in its mission of becoming a world class university", said the minister. Speaking in this regard, Prof G.D. Sharma, VC, USTM said, "Based on our achievement in quality education as well as teaching learning process, the sports achievement and the NET qualifier students, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council has awarded 'A' grade to USTM in 2021. Getting 'A' grade in 1st cycle of NAAC assessment is actually rare and we achieved it." The NAAC grading takes into account different aspects about the quality of the syllabi, the teachers and students' interaction, teaching learning process, research and outreach activities and so on.

Pay Back policy of USTM is unique since all fees paid by students is returned by the university under this policy if they clear NET/GATE and other competitive exams like UPSC. For the holistic approach of the USTM, not only academic part, but also for extra-curricular achievements of the students, it has emerged as one of the best universities of the North East in imparting holistic education and also taking into account all those aspects set by UGC, AICTE and other higher education regulatory bodies. Committees from different regulatory bodies visited USTM and highly appreciated the USTM for imparting education, having the latest technology and creating sophisticated instrumentation centres.



State Jamiat Ulama helped 150 evicted families

Assam Rising Hojai, May 30: On the direction of Assam State Jamiat Ulama's State President Moulana Mustaque Anfar, the workers of Jamiat Ulama distributed relief among 150 evicted families at Shilhaku, Borbari, Guwahati on Saturday-a Press Communique stated here. As per the communique, Assam State Jamiat Ulama in co-operation with Guwahati (Metro) Jamiat Ulama

came forward to help the evicted families who are having tough time as being homeless due to the eviction drive carried on recently. The families are homeless amid this scorching heat and rainfall. Seeing their condition, the team of Jamiat handed over packets consisting of rice, da (lentils), sugar cheera (stepped rice), potato, onion, biscuit, tripal, mosquito net etc. The team also requested the government to take immediate

measures to rehabilitate these families who are in miserable condition. During the relief distribution, Firoz Ahmed, publicity secretary; Imran Hussain Khandar, Vice-President, Kampur (Metro) District Jamiat Ulama, sub-committee; Shijuddin Ahmed; Sheikh Abdul Mazid, General Secretary; Hafiz Parvez Maruf, Organizational Secretary and many other volunteers were present during this noble cause.

Menstrual Hygiene Day Observed



Chhaygaon, May 30 : Menstrual Hygiene Day is observed every year on May 28 to spread awareness about menstruation and educate women about hygiene practices to follow during periods. The Chhaygaon Block Primary Health Centre organized an awareness meeting on menstruation on the occasion of Menstrual Hygiene Day in Barbhitha Anchalik High School under Chhaygaon Constituency on last Saturday. At this awareness meeting Dr. Neelima Sarkar (M.O. Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram), Dr. Sukumar Das (M.O. R.B.S.K), Hiren Thakuria (Pharmacist), Filomina Muchahary (ANM), Dipika Thakuria (Teacher) created awareness about Menstruation

and safe as well as hygiene practices among the girls of Barbhitha Anchalik High School. It is needed to be mentioned here that this programme was started globally by Germany-based NGO WASH United in 2014. The day is Observed On 28th May because menstrual cycles average 28 days in length and women menstruate an average of five days each month - May is the fifth month of the year. The theme of Menstrual Hygiene Day 2022 is 'Making Menstruation a normal fact of life by 2030'. The goal is to build a world where no one is held back because they menstruate by 2030.

Assam Rising Nagaon, May 30: Ashikul Islam, the main mastermind of sensational Batadropa arson incident and was one among those who provoked an irate mob to set the PS on fire, was killed in a road mishap last night near at Raidongia village when he was being brought back to Nagaon in a police vehicle after conducting a raid at his Sunaibera residence, sources said. He was arrested from a hideout in the town on Sunday by Special Investigative Team (SIT) instituted by district police administration to investigate the arson case. Following the arrest, police took him to his native village Sunaibera under Juria PS for a raid late in the evening and raided his house during which police recovered the red T-shirt that he wore during the



arson of Batadropa PS, one 7.65 pistol, one point 32 pistol and 7 rounds live bullets from his house. Soon after the raid, police took him back to Nagaon in a police vehicle at night itself. But in a bid to escape from police, Ashikul Islam jumped out from the police vehicle near at Raidongia village and another police vehicle coming together from the same direction knocked him down and injured, sources said further. Police immediately brought him to Nagaon BP Civil Hospital in a critical condition where doctor on duty declared him dead, sources said, adding further that in the road mishap, one police official and 4 other police constables were also injured.

Asia's deepest Oil & Gas drilling at Sadiya



Assam Rising, Sadiya, May 30: Oil has been drilling the deepest Crude Oil and Natural Gas well at Sadiya. Quippo under the aegis of Oil India Limited is drilling the well which will be the deepest of all Asia i.e. 6500 metre deep at Sadiya sub division's Bishnupur Pohukhuwa Village. The new rig well was officially inaugurated on February, 3 last and is being dug from the day of inauguration with a pipeline radius of 12.25 inch of 9.62 inch casing and so far they are able to dig 4500m of total length. Moreover the officials of the company informed that the OIL will employ 99% of the local people in their new deepest well.

Batadropa arson case: accused- Jyotsnara Begum surrendered

Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 30: Jyotsnara Begum, the woman who aroned Batadropa PS and also attacked the police personnel inside the police station campus itself a week ago, finally surrendered to Nagaon police at Nagaon police station this afternoon here. She was absconding from police since the incident and took shelter at several hideouts in the remote riverine area under Dhing PS, sources said adding that in quest of her, police intensified serial operations one after another at various places where police achieved no breakthrough in this regard. Significantly, following the unfortunate death of Ashikul Islam, the main mastermind behind the plan and conspiracy to arson Batadropa PS, being afraid, Jyotsnara Begum came out from her hideout and surrendered herself to Nagaon police, sources said. It is however expected that some other people allegedly involved in the gruesome act of burnt down the police station, will also surrender to police soon, sources added further.

Noted educationist Balendranath Sarma remembered at Nagaon

Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 30: On occasion of 25th death anniversary of noted educationist, national awardee as well as founder of the leading news papers distributor of the middle Assam districts - Balendra Nath Sarma, the family members of the educationist organized a commemorative programme here at the au-

ditorium of Nagaon Sangskritik Prakashan near Nagaon Nehrubali field today. Noted scholar of Sankari tradition and culture Naren Kalita, Assamese short story teller Apurba Sarma, litterateur Upendra Borkatoki, senior journalists - Monuj Kr Goswami, Naresh Kalita and Prakash Mahanta respectively graced the occasion as invitees

and also spoke on the dedicative life and unparalleled contributions of Balendranath Sarma towards the society of the greater Nagaon. During the programme, a book penned on the life and works of Balendranath Sarma titled as 'Balendra Nath Sarma Jiban aru Karma' was also ceremonially released by noted Assamese short story teller and Sahitya akademi awardee professor Apurba Sarma. In his speech, Apurba Sarma said that Balendra Nath Sarma created

an atmosphere for study and also designed a mental attitude to go through the newspapers among people of the region for which he had to lead a rough and tough time till the end of his life. Rupak Sarma, local MLA and the only son of Birendra Nath Sarma while delivering the welcome address, said that he lost his father when he was just 25 years old and he tried to go ahead with his ideology. During the programme, MLA Rupak Sarma said a trust in the name of Lt Balendra Nath Sarma will be instituted soon.

Memorial meeting of new art players held

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 30: The New Art Players(NAP), arranged a Memorial Meeting on May 29 in the premises of the newly constructed New Art Players Performing Arts Cultural Centre of Excellence, Guwahati. Every year NAP pays homage to its members who have passed away during its journey since 1954

and recalls their enormous contributions to bring this organisation in today's status. In the beginning, Ramen Barua, a senior member of NAP and renowned music director, lit the traditional lamp and NAP members offered floral tribute to its past members. The members held a one-minute

silence in memory of the departed souls. Memorial meeting started with a Mangalacharan followed by Nam-Ghoxa and Borgeet. Rathindra Narayan Bhattacharya, General Secretary of NAP welcomed the gathering and read out



the names of the members who have left for heavenly abode and recalled their contributions to the organisation. He has also informed that similar to 'Sraddhargha' (first part), its second part has also been published to keep memories of the past members alive and enable members of the future generation of NAP to remember them. The members of NAP specially recalled their experiences and the immense contributions of thirteen members, including club President Dipok Kumar Barthakur, who have passed away during the recent past. The programme was anchored by Melody Patgiri with aplomb.

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SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Scaled lenders affixing a non-refundable Court fee Stamp of Rs 8.25 (Rupees eight & paise twenty five) only With a validity period of 180 (one hundred eighty) days, which will subsequently to be converted and drawn up in the printed F-2 form are invited from the registered Contractors of class-III and above category under PWD (Roads & Building Department, Assam and Bodoland Territorial Council) according to their eligibility for submitting tenders for the work as stated below. The tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00 PM on 07/06/2022 and will be opened on the same date & place at 2.15 P.M.

Sl. No	Name of work	Approximate tender Value	(Earnest Money Deposit)	Cost of tender Paper	Time of Completion of work
1	Restoration of shoulder to be damaged due to laying of Optical Fiber Cable from Goreswar Khoirabari Bhergaon Chariali Langhunu Bazar Ulubari Bangalipara under Teleonic Networks Ltd (From Ch 0.00 m to Ch 12000.00 m) (12.00 Km)	Rs 8,69,500.00	(2% for Gen) & (1% for Reserved Category)	Rs. 300.00	2 (two) Months from the date of issue of F.W.O.
2	Providing and fixing M S Grills at Circuit House at Tamulpur	Rs 6,00,000.00	(2% for Gen) & (1% for Reserved Category)	Rs. 200.00	3 (two) Months from the date of issue of F.W.O.

Details NIT may be seen in all working days in the office of the undersigned Tender paper will be issued to the contractor or their authorized agent up to 4 30 PM on all working days on 01/06/2022 & 02/06/2022 in the office of the undersigned on submission an application with payment in the form of Bank Draft duly pledged to the undersigned. The Contractors has to submit 2% in case of General and 1% in case of Reserved category as earnest money in the form of FDR/CDR/BC under any Nationalised Bank duly pledged in favour of the undersigned at the time of submission of Tender paper The Contractor should submitted attested copy of Registration Certificate for the year 2021-22, PAN Card, latest clearance certificate of Income Tax and Sales Tax, GST along with the tenders. In case the office remain closed on day of the tender receiving/opening the same will be received/opened on the next working day.

N. B. :-

- 1 Date of receiving application for Tender documents - 01/06/2022 & 02/06/2022
- 2 Date of issue of Tender Paper - 04/06/2022 (up to 4.30 PM)
- 3 Date of receiving of Tender Paper 07/06/2022 (up to 2.00 PM)
- 4 Date of opening of Tender Paper 07/06/2022 (at 2.15 PM)
- 5 Place of opening Tender Paper - Office of the EE. PWD Mushalpur (R&D) Division. Mushalpur

Sd/- (A K Deb)
Executive Engineer,
Mushalpur PWD (R&D) Division
Mushalpur

IPR(BTC)-69/2022

THE ASSAM RISING

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Decline in monsoon rainfall

The variability manifested itself in a decline in monsoon rainfall over north central India starting in the 1950s, which persisted for as long as five decades before a reversal from 1999 onwards. Dr Xin Huang and Professor Tianjun Zhou from the Institute of Atmospheric Physics (IAP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences have been examining the issue more closely using data provided by the UK Met Office and Germany's Max Planck Institute. "We found that neither the five-decade long decline before 2000 nor the subsequent increase can be solely explained as a response to external climate forcing," said Huang in a paper published in Journal of Climate. "Instead, we have demonstrated the crucial role of natural variability". External forcing includes changes in greenhouse gases, anthropogenic aerosols, and land use, etc. Natural variability refers to variations in the mean state due to internal processes within the climate system. They are often regarded as "signal" and "noise" in climate studies, respectively. "Increase of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere generally tends to increase rainfall over India. Up to the year 2000, however, it appeared that the natural variability had been able to override this effect, resulting in the overall decrease," explained Huang. In addition to anthropogenic climate change, rainfall changes in recent decades are also influenced by natural sea surface temperature oscillation over Pacific basin. The prominent natural variability in Pacific sea surface temperature is usually described as the Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation (IPO). The scientists found that the differing phases of the IPO played subtle, but crucial supplementary roles in the recent interdecadal variations of the ISM rainfall. Fluctuations in the IPO induced anomalous thermal contrasts between the north and south and changes to ascent and descent throughout the region. These, in turn, resulted in changes to the horizontal advection, from the west and east, of moisture into India, the authors wrote. The study supports, and brings together, for the first time, many of the different explanations that have been proposed in previous studies.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Israel knows it will get away with the attack on Shireen Abu Aqleh's funeral

Many were shocked by the images of Israeli border police attacking the funeral procession of the prominent Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Aqleh - not merely by the police's cruelty, but also by their willingness to ride out the reputational damage from the attack. Abu Aqleh's killing, likely by an Israeli sniper, the subsequent raid on her family home and the police's intimidation of her brother prior to her funeral all point to the growing sense of impunity among Israel's decision-makers and military. Israel's leadership had promised the Biden administration that the funeral of Abu Aqleh would be "respectful". They are likely displeased with the viral videos showing policemen attempting to tear the Palestinian flags from Abu Aqleh's coffin while beating pallbearers with clubs, causing her coffin to almost fall to the ground. Yet the country's leadership has not faced any

 **Elizabeth Tsurkov**

repercussions for its actions in the occupied territories in years. In his meek statements concerning the assault on the funeral, the US secretary of state, Antony Blinken, described Israeli forces as "intruding into the funeral procession", as if they were merely uninvited guests. Israel can count on international inaction, while any steps to discipline the policemen or hold to account the sniper who shot Abu Aqleh, who was wearing a vest clearly indicating that she was a journalist, will open the government to attack from the Israeli right. For over a decade, the near-total disappearance of the Israeli left has meant that political competition of any consequence comes from within Israel's rightwing bloc. Together with the growing strength of Israel's far right (bolstered by former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu), this has led mainstream politicians to move further to the right in order to avoid losing support among their base. Israel's prime minister, Naftali Bennett, and Netanyahu have tried at all costs to avoid appearing soft on the Israeli security forces, no matter their crimes. In 2016, after the Israeli soldier Elor Azaria was caught on camera killing an incapacitated Palestinian attacker in Hebron, Netanyahu initially condemned his actions. Later, after seeing poll results, he reversed his position and called for Azaria to be pardoned. Azaria ended up serving merely nine months in military prison. After his release, he became a major celebrity in rightwing circles. Policemen caught on camera beating journalists in Jerusalem, or soldiers involved in the detention of an elderly Palestinian-American man, who was bound, gagged and blindfolded, and who died shortly afterwards from an apparent heart attack, have not been tried.

Mudra Loan: Building Bridges To Equitable Prosperity

Right from the early days, the Modi Government has wanted to essentially change the exclusion culture that was surreptitiously built in the six decades after independence: excluding those at the fringe and at the bottom of the pyramid! It made the new policy makers restless in their quest for equitable entrepreneurial development through nook and corner of our vast country. In this regard, two schemes viz. PM Jan Dhan Yojana and MUDRA loans have changed the landscape of financial inclusion, both deposit and lending, in this country with promise of a new independence to the entrepreneurial spirit of the country. In the last seven years, Banks (including RRBs)/NBFCs/MFIs have together disbursed 35.32 crore MUDRA loans for an amount totalling around Rs 18.4 lakh crore, translating into an average of Rs 52,000 loan for the smallest of borrowers. Around two-third of these loans are sanctioned to Women entrepreneurs. Assuming that each unit employs a minimum 2 persons, on a conservative basis, these units are providing

employment in excess of 10 crores of individuals. The Government, aware of the varied needs of those a little short on financial understanding but rich with business acumen and dreams to make it big, created three categories of MUDRA loans to take care of different categories of entrepreneurs exclusively, SHISHU, TARUN & KISHOR. The guiding philosophy was that over time, a SHISHU loanee will not remain in SHISHU category forever, it will grow into a TARUN, a TARUN will become a KISHOR with time and so forth, ensuring equity and prosperity!

But, Government had to overcome many challenges post-2014. There was no enabling system in place. No architecture or infrastructure to anchor the humongous volumes proposed. The Government disciplined the prevailing culture by building an atmosphere of trust that was mutual. The government was promoting entrepreneurship through a clean model and on such a colossal scale that was never tried before. There were opportunities for growth and income generation but the people who were on the margins were not sure whether their spirit of entrepreneurship would receive the enthusiastic support from the banking system.

The creation of a guarantee trust (CGFMU) by the Government ensured Banks and other Financial

intermediaries became confident in loan acceptance and disbursements. Loans up to Rs 10 lakhs now enjoy a guarantee from the Federal Government-sponsored Trust. Lenders have the additional comfort to lend without asking for any other collateral security. Soon this became an all-encompassing phenomenon



Soumya Kanti Ghosh

whereby ordinary citizens of this country found the portals of big financial entities open for them seamlessly!

The Government also used technology to deliver and monitor the process. Banking Correspondents were roped in to promote wider acceptance of the scheme and to make people familiar with the scheme particulars and nitty-gritties.

There are many fascinating success stories of empowerment of people, through the MUDRA scheme. Many of such success stories belong to women borrowers who have established themselves at the forefront of livelihood support to their families and even provide employment to other families. They have freed themselves from the perennial bondages of informal money lenders and

have scaled up with finance from Banks. Women beneficiaries make two-third of MUDRA loanees, many of them coming from socially disadvantaged groups changing the socio-cultural fabric of the country.

These success stories remind that micro business through hardships and follies, through turmoil and challenges can only grow bigger! No challenge could break their indomitable spirit and resilience.

The country also witnessed the resolute spirit of entrepreneurial India during Covid phase. Some learned people said that there would be great stress in the system, the sticky loans will grow manifold. But, to their dismay, the system was strong enough to come through unscathed. The government kept the pledge to support this fearless new breed of business class intact. Government also introduced a 2% interest subvention scheme to lessen the burden of borrowers to a great extent that continues till today.

A new digital India has been unfolding that is revolutionizing our financial systems. Today, India has a streamlined system that helps a person to use a Bank's app to apply for a

loan from the comfort of his/her home. New opportunities are being created, witnessing NBFCs and Micro Finance institutions joining hands with Banks/RRBs to dole out MUDRA loans in. Corporates are finding new supply chains. There is a multiplier effect in play, one rupee of credit given is making much more in the circular economy. There are social securities embedded, for the borrowers and their families that was never thought of before! Going forward, various government welfare schemes and promotional schemes in agriculture and MSME could be better integrated with MUDRA schemes, as also better usage of fin-tech and start-up ecosystem to bring forth an immersive, 360 degrees development perspective that transcends boundaries.

MUDRA is a success story that just goes on to show how right political intent can meet socio-economic-cultural forces for a multiplier effect on change that is sustainable and equitable. We, somehow believe that this is just the beginning of AMRIT KAAL for an entrepreneurial India that believes in itself!

(The author is Group Chief Economic Advisor, State Bank of India. Views are personal)

Tanks will win you battles. Just don't leave them alone like Russians did in Ukraine

The tank has maintained its place as the centrepiece of the 20th-century battlefield ever since its introduction to overcome the trench warfare in World War I. They came into their own during World War II, mainly as part of manoeuvre warfare and the deep battle, symbolised by the Blitzkrieg and the vast enveloping manoeuvres in Operation Barbarossa. But the tank also proved its mettle in the attrition-oriented warfare as witnessed at Stalingrad and Berlin. The armour's effectiveness was greatly enhanced when used as part of a combined arms team comprising mounted infantry, self-propelled artillery, air defence and engineers supported by requisite logistics. Air and helicopter support always proved crucial on the modern battlefield. Post-World War II, mechanised battles were mainly fought between unequal adversaries, be it Korea, Vietnam, Arab-Israeli or the Gulf wars. Only in the India-Pakistan conflicts were the adversaries evenly matched, with Indians proving their superiority in hard-fought battles at the tactical level. Threats to the tank have kept pace, especially after the introduction of shoulder-fired guided missiles in the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. As the tank advanced technologically, so did these missiles, reaching their peak in recent years with the tandem warhead fire and forget anti-tank missiles, fired from multiple platforms, including helicopters and armed drones. As for tanks, they too have been upgraded and mounted with many countermeasures, including active protection systems, both for soft and hard-kill of incoming missiles. The inter se battle between the tank and the anti-tank missile continues, one getting the better of the other. Multiple factors such as battlefield environment and training of the crew influence the outcome. However, on the 21st-century battlefield, as seen in recent conflicts in Syria, Armenia-Azerbaijan and now Russia-Ukraine, the tank has taken some knocking, and this has raised questions on its preeminent role on the modern battlefield. With massive superiority, especially in tanks, Russia launched a four-pronged offensive with the main

focus on Kyiv, both from the north and northeast.

After making swift progress over hundreds of kilometres on a very vast front, and reaching the outskirts of Kyiv, the offensive stalled. Largely confined to the roads, the sight of long Russian armour columns stalled and ambushed

 **Lt Gen. A.K. Singh (retd)**

indeed a disturbing sight. Ukraine's success in stalling the Russian offensive was largely based on small teams, equipped with most modern shoulder-launched missiles like the Javelin (provided by the US and other NATO countries), who skillfully used the ground and took advantage of poor Russian tactics, to inflict heavy losses and large delays on the advancing columns. The unarmed drones for scouting and the armed Bayraktar TB2 drone, which carries up to four laser-guided munitions have also played a significant role. The use of shoulder-launched, surface to air missiles like Stinger took a toll on Russian helicopters, including attack helicopters and inhibited the Russians from using the airspace effectively. Maintenance and logistics issues also plagued the Russian forces and contributed to their slow progress, after the initial success. It will be incorrect to take all published news reports and footage coming from the battlefields of Ukraine at face value because apart from information, they also carry a fair mix of misinformation and disinformation. A balanced analysis can be only undertaken once the Russian side is more forthcoming. Having said that, it can be summarised that the Russians were surprised by the stiff resistance from Ukraine. The early spring thaw and resulting Rasputitsa prevented the Russian manoeuvre through the countryside and confined them to roads, where the Russian armour became vulnerable to tank ambushes and hit and run raids. But it's incredulous how the Russians, who are the masters of the combined arms concept, did not follow it, leaving their tanks most vulnerable. The tank is most effective when operating as part of the combined arms team, with infantry covering its vulnerable flanks, artillery providing speculative and covering fire and air defence, electronic warfare and engineers shaping the battlefield. A similar mistake was committed by the Armenians who left their tanks isolated and vulnerable to drones of Azerbaijan. Air cover for the stalled Russian tank column was also not very visible. The tank remains the most potent weapon on the battlefield, but is also vulnerable to multiple threats, both from the ground and air. And these threats get

magnified whilst operating in close-country and built-up areas. It should also be remembered that tanks and Infantry are the only instruments that can capture ground and hold it. Attack is the most challenging operation

platforms to optimise the combined arms effect. This should include both manned and robotic platforms. As far as the drone threat is concerned, it has to be tackled as part of the combined arms team response. Starting with an intelligence appreciation of the adversary's drone capabilities, air and artillery strikes on likely operating bases, air defence and electronic

warfare protection and finally the active protection system of the tanks. The importance of vanguard reconnaissance forces in the front and on the flanks has again become important. In the competitive market of tanks, where the Russian tanks have earned a great reputation, one can also see a subtle effort to do down their reputation by competitors from the West.

Letter to the Editor

DC Keethi Jalli's visit to the flood affected areas

Respected Sir,

Recently on social media platforms, visuals of DC Keethi Jalli's visit to the flood hit areas of Cachar district have gone viral. Everyone appreciated and praised this young and talented IAS officer for reaching out to the flood affected people of Cachar. She visited the flood affected areas by walking through the muddy roads. According to the media report, 1,63,000 persons across 291 villages of Cachar have come under recent flood. Local people said that it was the first example of a Deputy Commissioner's visit to their village at the time of flood. Such types of on spot and on time visits by the Deputy Commissioner may surely help the district administration and disaster management authority to emphasize on protecting villages so that damages can be reduced in future.

Yours faithfully,

 **Rupak G. Duarah,**
Rajahnagar, Guwahati

Footpath woes

Sir,

Pavements and footpaths are built in cities and towns for pedestrian safety and also for smooth flow of traffic but in most cities and towns footpaths turn out to be 'free platforms' for vendors and shopkeepers to display their objects for sale and do excellent business simply ignoring rules and regulations. In almost all our towns and cities we find pavements encroached by shopkeepers and street vendors. From billboards and foot racks to mannequins, are all placed right on the footpath. Electric wires to light up the hoardings of the shops hang freely over the head and the boards fixed with iron bars are also installed on the footpaths, posing inconvenience and danger to pedestrians. In many towns and cities small eateries can be spotted right on the middle of pavements causing hindrances to pedestrians. Besides the aforementioned hindrances in most of the towns pedestrians face another big problem - that of vehicle users parking their two wheelers and cars right on the pavement! As a result most often pedestrians are forced onto the road causing inconvenience to traffic. As the concerned authorities turn blind and deaf to the woes of the public vendors, shopkeepers and vehicle owners and users have made footpaths their "property"!

 **M Pradyu**
Kanpur

Airgun worth Rs 3.5 lakh surrendered in Arunachal

Roing, May 30 : In a major boost to the 'Airgun Surrender Abhiyan' of the Arunachal Pradesh's Forest and Environment Department, one Puinnyo Apum, a native of Lower Dibang Valley district on Thursday voluntarily surrendered his .22 caliber airgun worth Rs 3.5 lakh to the department. This is the most expensive gun to be voluntarily surrendered by any individual till date under the Airgun Surrender Abhiyan, a campaign that aims to dissuade wildlife hunting and create awareness on the ill-effects of killing wildlife in the state. Apum said he does not expect any compensation from the department in exchange for the airgun as it was more of a voluntary move and "for a good cause". "The Airgun Surrender Abhiyan is a great initiative and we should all support it in the ways we can," he said, appealing to all to come forward and surrender their airguns as well. Apum said he had bought the airgun from Assam for shooting purposes, as he is also a member of the Arunachal Pradesh Shooting Association (APSA). "I occasionally used the gun for target shooting practice but never for hunting. I know the airgun I've surrendered is a costly one but it is more important to protect wildlife," he said. Apum suggested that the department should try to compensate or at least provide incentives in some form or the other to those who are not



financially sound and have still been surrendering their airguns. "Nevertheless, the idea of the forest and environment department to build a hall to archive the guns and also engrave the names of the people who surrendered them is not bad at all," he said. The Airgun Surrender Abhiyan, a brainchild of Forest and Environment Department minister Mama Natung, has been spinning a new hope for wildlife conservation in Arunachal since it launched in March last year. Over 2,000 weapons have been given up by the people voluntarily since the launch of the campaign which has also witnessed the appreciation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi among many others. A total of 76 airguns were voluntarily deposited by the locals at the Airgun Surrender Abhiyan programme organised by the Dibang

forest division in the GidiNotko Hall in Roing on Thursday. Addressing the gathering, Forest minister Natung appreciated the people for showering their support to the campaign. "It is time that we come forward to protect and preserve the environment by participat-

ing in the campaign. Killing of wild animals and the destruction of forests needs to be stopped. The public leaders from the village level should voluntarily create awareness of the importance of conserving wildlife and environment," he said. Natung said the message of the campaign

is very clear. "People should know this campaign directly helps in minimising global warming," he said. The minister also appealed to the neighbouring states to initiate such campaigns so that the environment and wildlife can be protected on a large scale. Natung said that around 550 bird species discovered in the state need to be protected before they become extinct. The Lower Dibang Valley district administration should immediately issue an order in the public domain to surrender airguns and guns, he added. Roing legislator MutchuMithi said the outcome of the campaign had been huge and that the people should not forget that protection of wildlife is a tradition in many tribes, especially among the Idu-Mishmi.

Doyang polytechnic finally opens doors for students

Wokha, May 30 : Good news for students aspiring to pursue technical courses. The Government Polytechnic Doyang in Nagaland's Wokha district was inaugurated on Friday, after more than a decade's wait. The institute was inaugurated by Minister for Higher Education and Tribal Affairs TemjenImna Along, Advisor of Technical Education and Election MedoYhokha in the presence of Advisor for Border Affairs and Horticulture MhathungYanthan and other officials. Mhathung Yanthan, Advisor for Border Affairs and Horticulture, lamented the delay in completion of the project and urged all stakeholders to work on covering the losses incurred over more than a decade. "The polytechnic institute, which was sanctioned in 2008, could only be launched today. I appealed to the administration and every stakeholder to be versatile and cover up the loss incurred due to the delay," Yanthan said. He said there is a huge challenge ahead as the institute is still in an infant stage with no basic amenities or adequate infrastructure while apprising



the department concerned to provide necessary facilities to students at the earliest. Yanthan said, "The Education department needs to come up with certain measures and guidelines for safety and healthy environment as the polytechnic institute is located near Doyang, which is a major water body." Highlighting the availability of fruits and vegetables in the district, he also suggested if the department could introduce a course in food technology, besides architecture, in the next academy session, saying that it could help people in

the food industry. He also invited students from various districts take advantage of the first technical institute at Doyang. Speaking at the event, TemjenImna Along said that land ownership is one of the major problems that cause delay in commencement of projects in Nagaland. Imna lauded the efforts and resilience of Yanthan for taking personnel interest in setting up the polytechnic institute. He said students from different districts can now

come to study near one of the beautiful landscapes in the state. "I appeal to the people to send their children to the institute and architecture is a job-oriented course. The teaching faculty should impart quality education to students," he added. Expressing optimism, Advisor for technical education and election MedoYhokha said that the institute could offer various courses in near future apart from the existing diploma in architecture. The institute could become a learning centre in technical education, he said.

Sikkim to penalise govt employees for delay in public work: CM Golay

Gangtok, May 30 : Sikkim Chief Minister Prem Singh Golay has announced that government will pass the Sikkim Public Service Delivery Act 2022 for timely execution of public works. If it goes beyond the date, the public can file a complaint. The complaint will go to the District Magistrate, and the DM can penalise the officer concerned with a fine of Rs 500 per day. If the officer fails multiple times, then the officer will face disciplinary action," Golay said. The Chief Minister further said that the best performing employees would get the best civil service award or get an increment or even a cash prize. Chief Minister Golay said, "We were committed to working for the development of the state. All government employees have helped us in our endeavour. We considered all the employees as part of our team, while the previous government considered employees as mere servants. During our 3-year tenure, we have created a friendly environment among employ-

ees, politicians and the public." Highlighting the achievement, the chief minister said "We are the most improved state in terms of law and order. We are the best-performing state in governance among small states in 2021. We are the most film-friendly state in the country with adequate policies for the development of films and artists development in the state. We were the best-performing state in the COVID-19 pandemic vaccination drive. Three of our districts were awarded for outstanding performance in sustainable developmental goals." He asserted that the SKM-led government had worked for the holistic development of the state and would continue to do so. Taking a dig at the former Sikkim Democratic Front government and former Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling, Golay said "Many in the

opposition, as well as people, put expiry date of 6 months to 1 year on our governance. The opposition party didn't recognise our government, but those in the centre have and they have been doing so. I had to be responsible as the chief minister for everything that happens in the state. After the toppling of the previous government in 2019, there were high



chances of the eruption of violence in the state. I urged the party workers to not resort to any sort of violence." On Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) scam worth Rs 45,000 crore, Golay said that investigation is being carried out by state vigilance as well as by the enforcement directorate. "With regards to the MCX scam, we have registered the

case. The investigation is underway and people of the state need not be worried." Speaking on developmental projects, he said "We are trying to bring the state back on track. So many incomplete projects, dating back to the early 2000s, had carried on as a liability till 2019. There was almost Rs 11,000 crore of liabilities in the state when we formed the government in 2019. Rs 4928 crores were the liabilities earmarked by the state. Rs 5,600 crore were additional liabilities while Rs 681 crores were on incomplete projects. We are trying to clear the pending liabilities. Had the development model of the past government been better, it would have been easier for us. But we are currently correcting their wrong developmental model which was not taking Sikkim forward." "Our STNM Hospital is well equipped with the manpower and state-of-the-art healthcare facilities. We have worked towards strengthening the healthcare sector during the pandemic," Golay added.

Itanagar civic body to launch mobile app



Itanagar, May 30 : The Itanagar Municipal Corporation (IMC) will soon launch a mobile application through which people of the Itanagar Capital Region (ICR) can avail several services of the corporation sitting in the comfort of their homes. This was on Saturday informed by IMC Mayor Tame Phassang who said besides making available several services of the ICM at the fingertips of the people, one can also lodge complaints, if any and give suggestions to the corporation through the app. The name of the application would be 'IMC-101'. Mayor Phassang said the corporation will also introduce automatic highway sweeping machines and compaction equipment in a bid to keep the highways of the ICR clean. The mayor, meanwhile, has once again appealed to the people of Itanagar Capital Region to shun the habit

of throwing garbage on roads, especially near the dumping zone in Chimpu. Phassang, who along with the IMC corporators and commissioner conducted a cleanliness drive at the dumping zone area on Friday, said throwing garbage on the roadside not only creates an unhygienic environment but also affects the attractiveness of the capital city. "Kindly dispose of the waste at the designated locations instead of throwing them in public places or leaving them on the highways. The IMC staff collects the garbage from 5 am to 10 am, so kindly adjust your schedules accordingly," Phassang said. He further informed that around 60 mt of garbage is being collected by the IMC from homes, shops, malls,

schools, hospitals and markets every day. With regards to the High Court directives to impose fines on those who litter in public places, the mayor informed that the IMC has already submitted the relevant files to the state government for seeking its consent and the same would be regulated soon. With regards to the High Court directives to impose fines on those who litter in public places, the mayor informed that the IMC has already submitted the relevant files to the state government for seeking its consent and the same would be regulated soon. The Itanagar Bench of the Gauhati High Court had earlier this month directed the IMC to impose fines on those who throw garbage on roads and create or aggravate solid waste pollution in the city under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016.

PK Sangma inaugurates new facilities at Civil Hospital

Shillong, May 30 : Meghalaya Minister for Health and Family Welfare James PK Sangma on Thursday inaugurated the Biological Waste Management System, 10-bedded Geriatric Ward and P.S.A. Oxygen Generation Plant at Civil Hospital, Shillong. The programme held in the premises of the hospital was organized by the office of the Joint Director of Health Services, Civil Hospital, Shillong. Speaking on the occasion, Sangma appreciated the hard work and dedication of the medical and non-medical staff of civil hospital in the way they efficiently run the hospital in a systematic manner, in spite of numerous challenges. Adding that Civil Hospital, Shillong, has set a high benchmark which is worthy of emulation by other district hospitals, he stated that the inauguration of the three new facilities is an indication of the progress that Meghalaya is seeing in the state. Terming the new addition as a "new start", he stressed on the need of replicating the same in all medical health facilities across the state. Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Sampath Kumar, while lauding the role played by Civil Hospital in tackling the Covid-19 Pandemic and enthusiasm shown in improving the delivery service of the hospital, stressed on the need for a positive and contagious spirit to be shared by all medical and non-medical staff to bring about further transformations in the future. Informing that the Cancer wing in the hospital is now fully operational, he also said that with hard work and right attitude, Civil Hospital, Shillong, can also be upgraded to a super speciality hospital in the years to come.

Shirui Lily Festival concludes in Manipur

Ukhrul, May 30 : The 4th edition of the state-level Shirui Lily Festival, which was celebrated in Ukhrul district in honour of the state's flower 'Shirui Lily' or KashongTimrawon, concluded on Saturday. The four-day long festival started on Wednesday. Biswajit Singh, minister for environment, forest and climate change, power, agriculture, science & technology graced the valedictory ceremony of the festival at Bakshi Ground, around 83 km from Imphal. MPL LeishembaSanajaoba, ministers H Dingko Singh, KhashimVashum, MLAs Ram Muivah, LeishiyoiKeishing, SagolsamKebi Devi, BJP Manipur unit chief A Sarda Devi and state officials also attended the closing ceremony. Addressing the closing ceremony, Singh said that Shirui Lily flower is not only promoting the sustainable eco-tourism but is also unifying communities by bringing them together under one roof to celebrate the beauty of oneness. We need to put more effort to develop responsive tourism and to raise awareness among the people to conserve the endangered flower of the state, said the minister. During the closing ceremony, artists from various communities of the state also performed on the HingminashiEikhoi (let's live together) song. The festival is organised by the department of tourism in collaboration with Ukhrul district administration and Shirui village authority. The festival aims to raise awareness about the rare Lily, which cannot be replanted anywhere else in the world except at the Shirui Peak (ShiruiKashong) at Shirui village. Spread over four days, the festival featured the rich traditions and heritage of the state. Moreover, it featured various events such as rock music competition, traditional dances, beauty pageant, indigenous games, art and culture, local handicrafts and many other activities.



Mizoram records lowest infant mortality rate

Aizawl, May 30 : Mizoram registered the lowest Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in the country for the second time in a row, according to Sample Registration System (SRS) Bulletin 2020 published by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India recently. Registering only 3 infant deaths per 1000 live

births, the northeastern state has the lowest IMR in the country in 2020, followed by Nagaland, whose IMR is 4 and Sikkim and Goa, which registered IMR of 5 each, the bulletin said. The national average of IMR for the year 2020 was 28, it said. Madhya Pradesh has the highest IMR at 43.

Contd. From Page 1

Investigation Will Bring all Facts

police will carry out through investigation and bring all facts to light," CM Sarma added. It may be mentioned that the mastermind of the Batadrava arson, Ashikul Islam died in a car accident at Raidongia in Nagaon district on Sunday night. Himanta Biswa Sarma visited Karbi Anglong district of Assam today to kick start the election campaign for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the upcoming Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) elections. In regard to the KAAC polls, Sarma said, "I'm in Karbi Anglong till June 4. I will attend two meetings here. I'm confident that BJP will win with a huge margin in the KAAC elections." Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday also opined on the Batadraba incident and stated that some radical elements are active in the state. Speaking about the incident where a violent mob set a local police station on fire, CM Sarma said that a probe into the matter was underway and that further action will be undertaken. The Assam CM also added that the state government is actively working towards eliminating all radical elements in the state. CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the matter was under inquiry by the police. "We are investigating it. We have emphasised that some radical elements and fundamental elements are active in the state. I'm not talking specific to the Batadraba incident, because these are the subject matter of investigation," he said.

Batadrava incident :Main accused

which was recorded by bystanders. "Ashikul can be seen wearing a red T-shirt in the video, inciting people," said Doley. She added that a 7.2 MM pistol as well as the red shirt Ashikul was seen wearing in the video were recovered from his home. Following Saturday's mob violence and arson, the authorities on Sunday had demolished homes of those who had allegedly set fire to the police station. This included Safikul's home. According to police, the accused were "encroachers" and were staying on government land with "forged" documents. The accused were also booked under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for their suspected terror links. Speaking to the press after the incident, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said the incident was a reflection of the "dangerous" times people of Assam were living in. "A police station was burnt down. Till our government is in power, we will not pardon such crimes," Sarma had said. Since Sarma took over as CM in May 2021, he has emphasised on a "zero tolerance policy" on criminals, giving the police "full operational liberty within the ambit of law" to function. According to a PTI report, between March 2021 and May 2022, at least 47 people have been killed and 116 injured in police action, while they allegedly tried to flee police custody or attacked police. In the last 24 hours, two people (a rhino poacher from Biswanath district and an alleged rapist in Karbi Anglong district) have been injured in police action while trying to escape custody.

Sidhu Moose Wala killing

Mossewala and the assailants is being investigated, as per the reports. Police have confirmed a gunshot was also heard in one of the CCTV videos, say media reports. Mossewala was shot dead by gangsters close to his ancestral village in Mansa in Punjab, police said. He was 27 years old. He was travelling in his vehicle when the assailants fired at the singer and his two friends. He was taken to a nearby hospital where he was declared dead. The murder plot of Sidhu Moose Wala is suspected to have been hatched in Delhi's Tihar Jail, as a phone number in connection with the singer's killing has been tracked back to the jail, according to sources. A few days ago a criminal namely Shahrukh was arrested by Delhi Police. He was found to be using a messaging app to communicate from jail with Canada-based gangster Goldy Brar, who has claimed responsibility for the death of the singer. Since Brar is a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, Delhi Police Special Cell suspecting the involvement of the gang is questioning gangster Bishnoi and his aides Kala Jathedi and Kala Rana in connection with Moose Wala's murder. Bishnoi is currently lodged in a jail in Rajasthan. Punjab Police on Sunday said that the attack on Moose Wala seemed to be due to an inter-gang war. Earlier today Delhi Police said that it suspected that the murder of Moose Wala could be in a result of the killing last year of Vikramjit alias Vicky Middukhera. According to the Delhi police special cell both the names of Moose Wala and his manager, Shaganpreet came up in connection with the murder of Vicky in August last year. Special Cell of Delhi Police recently became aware of the nexus of notorious gangster Neeraj Bawania and Tilly Tajpuria. Bawania and Tajpuria teamed up with different gangsters Kaushal Chaudhary, Davinder Bhambha, and Lucky Patial from Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Delhi Police had arrested about a dozen miscreants of this five-member gang in connection with the murder of Vicky. Those arrested were identified as sharpshooter Sajjan Singh alias Bhola, Anil Kumar alias Lath and Ajay Kumar alias Sunny Kaushal. During interrogation, the arrested trio had revealed about the involvement of a Moose Wala and his manager in the Vicky murder case. Moose Wala's manager was named as accused in the FIR registered in this case. As per reports, Vicky was a close friend of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi who is serving time in jail in Bharatpur, Rajasthan since 2017 for various crimes. In a post on his purported Facebook page, gangster Bishnoi has taken responsibility for the murder of singer Moose Wala. Meanwhile, a forensic team on Monday investigated the vehicle which Moose Wala was driving when he was shot dead in Mansa village. Punjab Police has constituted a three-member SIT to probe the killing.

UPSC Civil Service final result 2021

cleared Civil Services (Main) Exam, 2021. My best wishes to these youngsters who are embarking on their administrative careers at an important time of India's development journey when we're marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav," PM Modi tweeted. UPSC Civil Service final results 2021: Check this year's toppers list 1 Shruti Sharma, 2 Ankita Agarwal, 3 Gamini Singla, 4 Aishwarya Verma, 5 Utkarsh Dwivedi, 6 Y a k s h Chaudhary, 7 Samyak S Jain, 8 Ishita Rath, 9 Preetam Kumar, Harkeerat Singh Randhawa. In 2020, a total number of 761 candidates cleared the UPSC CSE final examination out of which 545 were men and 216 were women. Shubham Kumar was the first place holder in the examination, second was Jagrati Awasthi, and third was Ankita Jain.

Delhi Minister Satyendar Jain Arrested

to the tune of Rs 4.81 cr, sources said. Earlier, the CBI had also registered a case of disproportionate assets against Jain. Reacting to Jain's arrest, AAP legislator Somnath Bharti slammed the BJP for "misusing" the agency. "ED is no god in the country... we have seen how they have been misused by the BJP. It's just an extension of the BJP," Bharti told. He also added, "This is in response to our popularity increasing day by day... I am sure he will come out of this."

Attackers throw ink at Rakesh Tikait, chant 'Modi-Modi'

New Delhi, May 30 : Bhartiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait was attacked with black ink in Bengaluru while he was addressing a press conference to dismiss the allegations made by prominent farmer leader Kodihalli Chandrashekar. A video of the incident emerged as on social media platforms. In a 30-second long video shared by the news agency, the BKU leader's face is seen smeared with black ink and his supporter are seen shouting and throwing chairs at people who are said to have attacked Tikait. The attackers were also heard chanting 'Modi-Modi' after throwing the ink at Tikait. The scuffle between Tikait's supporters and the people who did the act of throwing ink at the farmer leader broke after the incident and people can be seen throwing chairs at each other in the video. Rakesh Tikait, a prominent farmer leader who spearheaded farmers' protest against Central Government was in Bengaluru, addressing a press conference when around a of dozen people barged into the venue and threw ink at him.

'Modi hai to mumkin hai' is voice of common man today

JP Nadda on 8 years of NDA govt

New Delhi, May 30 : As Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government is all set to complete its 8 years in power, BJP National President JP Nadda on Monday said that "Modi Hai to Mumkin Hai" has become the voice of every common Indian today. 'Modi Hai To Mumkin Hai' slogan was the part of BJP's campaign for the 2019 General Elections, in which PM Modi won his second term with a full majority. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi to mark eight years of the Modi government, Nadda said, "PM Modi has changed the culture of Indian politics. Today we see a responsible, proactive, pro-responsive govt. 'Modi Hai to Mumkin Hai' is now the voice of every common man and they believe that it is really possible if Modi is there." Talking about the principles and ethics of his government, Nadda said 'Seva, Sushasan and Garib Kalyan (service, good governance and welfare of poor) are souls of the Modi government." Nadda, flanked by Union ministers Smriti Irani, Dharmendra Pradhan and Anurag Thakur, also released a theme song to mark the Modi government's anniversary that described it as the creator of modern India. The BJP president said ensuring the last-mile delivery of various government schemes has been the biggest challenge of the Modi government. "Prime Minister Modi has himself taken care of last-mile delivery," Nadda said. Nadda also launched a special campaign, called 8 Years of Seva, Sushasan & Garib Kalyan', to reach out to the youth and citizens through the NaMo App. "This special platform on the NaMo App has a lot of interactive as well as informative features. The platform has a collection of videos, graphics and articles which detail the work done by the Modi government in eight years, Nadda said.

PM Narendra Modi releases benefits under PM CARES for children scheme, says 'Maa Bharti is with you'

New Delhi, May 30 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday (May 30) released benefits under the PM CARES for children scheme via video conferencing. Under the scheme, a passbook of PM CARES for Children, and a health card under Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has been handed over to the children during the programme. The Prime Minister transferred scholarships to school-going children. Addressing the function virtually, PM Modi said, "I am talking to the children not as the PM, but as a member of your family. I am very relieved to be among children today. PM Cares for Children is a reflection of the fact that every countryman is with you with the utmost sensitivity." He said, "no effort/support can replace the affection of your parents. In their absence, 'Maa Bharti' is with you. India is fulfilling this through PM Cares. This isn't just a mere effort of one individual, institution or govt. In PM Cares, people have added their hard-earned money." "PM Cares fund helped a lot in preparing hospitals, buying ventilators, and setting up oxygen plants during the pandemic. Because of this many lives could be saved. Those who left us untimely, today this fund is being used for their children, for the future of all of you," ANI report quoted PM Modi as saying. PM Modi further said, "Children are also being given Ayushman Health Card through 'PM Cares for Children', from this free facility of treatment up to Rs 5 lakhs will also be available." Under the PM CARES for Children Scheme, those children who lost their parents during the Covid-19 pandemic will get support. PM CARES for Children Scheme was launched by the Prime Minister on May 29, 2021, to support children who have lost both their parents or legal guardian or adoptive parents or surviving parents to the COVID-19 pandemic, during the period from March 11, 2020, to February 28, 2022. The objective of the scheme is to ensure comprehensive care and protection of children in a sustained manner by providing them boarding and lodging, empowering them through education and scholarships, and equipping them for self-sufficient existence with the financial support of Rs 10 lakh on attaining 23 years of age and ensuring their wellbeing through health insurance, according to Prime Minister's Office communique. The government also launched an online portal to register children. The portal is a single-window system which facilitates the approval process and all other assistance for children.

Rajya Sabha polls: Vasundhara Raje bete noire Ghanshyam Tiwari fielded as BJP candidate from Rajasthan

Jaipur, May 30 : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has fielded Ghanshyam Tiwari, a known Vasundhara Raje bete noire, for the Rajya Sabha elections from Rajasthan. A 6-time MLA, BJP's candidate Tiwari openly rebelled against former Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje during her second tenure. Tiwari, known for his anti-Raje stand, also left the party during the 2018 Assembly polls and formed his own party. For a short period, he joined hands with the Congress too, but then made a homecoming on the persuasion of the BJP leaders. Tiwari comes from the RSS background with over 45 years of experience in politics. Tiwari speaking to the media said, "I express my gratitude to the central leadership of the party. I am indebted and grateful to it for choosing me for the job. I also express my gratitude to the state leadership of the party." When asked if his selection was a direct message for the Vasundhara camp, "I had joined the BJP after forgetting everything. For me all are equal. I will work together with everyone." On Sunday, the BJP announced 18 candidates for the June 10 Rajya Sabha polls, fielding Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Nirmala Sitharaman from Maharashtra and Karnataka respectively. Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi's name is also missing from his party's list. He has also not renominated Dushyant Gautam, Vinay Sahasrabudhe and OP Mathur. The party is yet to announce at least two more Rajya Sabha candidates from Uttar Pradesh. Of the 18 candidates, six are from Uttar Pradesh. Former BJP MLA Radha Mohan Das Aggarwal who had left his Gorakhpur Urban constituency for Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to contest the recent assembly polls was among the candidates. From Uttar Pradesh, the party has also fielded former state unit chief Laxmikant Vajpayee, sitting Rajya Sabha MP Surendra Singh Nagar and Bauburam Nishad, the chairperson of the UP Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation. The party has fielded two women - Darshana Singh and Sangeeta Yadav -- from the state. Singh is a former state head of the party's women wing, while Yadav is a former party MLA from Chauri Chaura in Gorakhpur. The party announced the names of two candidates each from Karnataka and Bihar and one candidate each from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Haryana. The party has given a ticket to former MLA Krishan Lal Panwar from Haryana in place of Gautam, while Kavita Patidar will be the party's nominee from Madhya Pradesh, and Kalpana Saini from Uttarakhand. From Bihar, the party has fielded Satish Chandra Dubey and Shambhu Sharan Patel. The BJP has fielded three candidates from Maharashtra, Union Commerce and Industry Minister Goyal Anil Sukhdevrao Bonde and Dhananjay Mahadik. As per numbers, the BJP will comfortably win two seats while there could be fight on the third. Aditya Sahu is now BJP's candidate from Jharkhand, from where Naqvi was Rajya Sabha member. Union Finance Minister Sitharaman and actor-turned-politician Jaggesh will be the party's nominees from Karnataka. Elections will be held on June 10 to fill 57 Rajya Sabha seats from 15 states falling vacant due to the retirement of members on different dates between June and August. The last date for filing nominations is May 31. Notably, the current polls for the Upper House assume importance as it is taking place just a month before the presidential elections.

Bank of Maharashtra tops PSU lenders chart in loan growth in FY22

Guwahati, May 30 : State-owned Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during 2021-22. The Pune-headquartered lender recorded a 26 per cent increase in gross advances at Rs 1,35,240 crore at the end of March 2022. It was followed by State Bank of India and Union Bank of India with 10.27 per cent and 9.66 percent growth, respectively. However, in absolute terms, aggregate loans of SBI were nearly 18 times higher at Rs 24,06,761 crore while Union Bank of India's five times higher at Rs 6,99,269 crore compared to that of BoM's at the end of fourth quarter. With regard to deposit growth, BoM witnessed a 16.26 per cent growth and mobilised Rs 2,02,294 crore at the end of March 2022. Union Bank of India was second with an 11.99 per cent growth in deposits (Rs 10,32,102 crore) while Indian Bank recorded a 10 percent increase at Rs 5,84,661 crore, according to the published data. Total business growth of BoM was also the highest at 20 per cent at Rs 3,37,534 crore followed by Union Bank of India at 11.04 per cent at Rs 17,31,371 crore at the end of FY'22. In terms of RAM (retail, agriculture and MSME) segment, BoM registered the highest growth rate of 18.65 per cent at Rs 80,669 crore. The bank's gross NPAs nearly halved to 3.94 percent from 7.23 per cent in March 2021, while net NPAs more than halved to 0.97 percent from 2.48 per cent in March 2021. For the full year to March, the lender saw its net profit rising two-fold to Rs 1,152 crore as against Rs 550 crore in FY21. BoM is eyeing a 25-30 per cent growth in its net profit in the current financial year, aided by a healthy growth in net interest income (NII) and fall in provisions for bad assets. NII grew by 23.42 per cent on a year-on-year basis to Rs 6,044 crore in FY2022, as against Rs 4,897 crore in FY2021.

Colombia goes to the polls in historic election that could see turn to left

Bogotá, May 30 : Colombians head to the polls today in a presidential election that may give the conservative South American country its first ever leftwing leader and first black vice-president. Frontrunner Gustavo Petro, a former M-19 guerrilla fighter and senator, faces several rivals, but his main challenger is Federico Gutiérrez, the former mayor of Medellín - Colombia's second city - who leads a rightwing coalition with close ties to the incumbent government of President Iván Duque. Rodolfo Hernández, a business magnate and social media firebrand, has also seen a late surge in the polls. If no candidate secures more than 50% of the vote, a run-off election will take place in June. Petro's campaign has been boosted by support from a generation of young voters politicised during an unprecedented wave of protest last year. "In Colombia we're tired of the same thing," said Rosa Botero, a student, at Petro's final campaign rally in the city's historic Plaza Bolívar last week. "Petro could change Colombia." Petro's opponents, meanwhile, claim that his victory could portend a nationwide collapse like that ushered in by the late Hugo Chávez, who led neighbouring Venezuela to economic and social ruin. Whoever wins the presidency will face severe challenges. The country was paralyzed by protests last year against inequality, while violence by dissident rebels and drug militias continues to plague cities and the countryside. Inflation is rising, and the country is struggling to cope with nearly 2 million migrants from neighbouring Venezuela. The historic peace deal signed with the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) in 2016 is also on the ballot. That deal formally ended half a century of civil war that killed 260,000 people and displaced 7 million, but the government has been accused of slow-walking its implementation. "This is a historic election because it is the first time that the left has a real chance of getting in power, and that is a result of the peace process," said Laura Gil, a political scientist and columnist. "It is a proposal that brings together social movements that weren't able to express themselves electorally due to the sword of Damocles that hung over them during the armed conflict."

Rajya Sabha has become a parking lot: Congress leader Manish Tewari slams his own party

New Delhi, May 30 : Congress leader Manish Tewari took a dig at his own party after many prominent Congress leaders failed to receive a ticket to Rajya Sabha. On Sunday (May 29), the Congress party announced the names of 10 candidates from seven states for the Rajya Sabha elections. The names of many prominent leaders are missing from the list leading to voices of dissatisfaction rising in the party. Regarding the same, Manish Tewari said, "In my personal opinion, Rajya Sabha has stopped carrying out the functions for which it was constituted. Rajya Sabha has now become a parking lot. It needs to be examined whether or not the country needs Rajya Sabha now: Manish Tewari, Congress MP from Anandpur Sahib in Punjab. "Earlier, he had also issued a statement after the unfortunate killing of artist and Congress member Sidhu Moose Wala in which he claimed that 'somebody' is trying to test the red lines of the new Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. Tewari observed that since Bhagwant Mann's government had taken to office, there have been 'series of unfortunate incidents'. He gave examples of 'killing of some Kabaddi players, attack of Punjab Intelligence HQ in Mohali, attack on a police personnel in Jalandhar and killing of Sidhu Moose Wala. He said, "Since new govt was formed in Punjab there've been series of unfortunate incidents beginning with killing of some Kabaddi players, attack on Punjab Intelligence HQ in Mohali, attack on a police personnel in Jalandhar and now killing of Sidhu Moose Wala." Manish requested Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann to take police into confidence and ensure law and order in Punjab. Tewari also suggested an objective audit be carried out to determine which people need security as it is the responsibility of state and Centre to protect them. For the unversed, in less than 24 hours after the Punjab government withdrew the security of Sidhu Moose Wala, the music artist and Congress member was brutally murdered on Sunday (May 29) evening. According to police sources, Canadian gangster Goldy Brar has claimed the responsibility for the murder, and the infamous gangster Lawrence Bishnoi is said to have planned the murder while sitting in Tihar Jail.



European roundup

Fans storm pitch after St-Étienne lose relegation playoff

Paris, May 30 :Auxerre returned to Ligue 1 after 10 years away, winning a playoff with St-Étienne that ended in rancorous, violent scenes when fans of the relegated team stormed the field. After a draw in the first leg, Auxerre won on penalties at the Geoffroy-Guichard stadium before a cauldron-like atmosphere gave way to chaos. Following a goalless first half, Hamza Sakhi opened the scoring for Auxerre with a header. Madhi Camara levelled for St-Étienne following a corner taken by Enzo Crivelli. Physically fresher, the Greens were the better team at the end of the 90 minutes and in extra time but eventually fell foul of spot-kicks. On penalties, Ryad Boudebouz, the first St-Étienne taker saw his effort saved by Donovan Leon while the Auxerrois were perfect with all their kicks. Birama Touré, the Auxerre captain, scored the winning penalty, and that immediately set off an

Sadio Mané wants to leave Liverpool for new challenge as Bayern prepare offer

Liverpool, May 30 : Sadio Mané has resolved to leave Liverpool this summer, with Bayern Munich among the clubs hoping to sign the 30-year-old forward. He has been at Anfield since 2016 and feels the time is right for a new experience. Mané has one year left on his contract and whereas Mohamed Salah, who is in the same situation, has declared that he will stay, the Senegal international intends to tell Liverpool he wants a transfer. Jürgen Klopp consoles the Liverpool captain, Jordan Henderson, after the defeat against Real Madrid in the



invasion of the pitch by furious supporters. Smoke bombs, firecrackers and fireworks were thrown and players quickly had to be escorted to the dressing room, making their escape as fans piled on to the pitch. Flares were also launched down the tunnel as smoke filled the air. RMC Sport reported that tear gas was also thrown and that

journalists and cameramen were struggling to deal with the smoke bombs let off. St-Étienne were relegated

alongside Bordeaux and Metz to Ligue 2, ending a run of 18 seasons in the top flight. Former Brazil striker

Ronaldo celebrated Valladolid's return to the Primera División. The team owned by the Brazil great secured a spot in the top flight after beating Huesca 3-0 at home and Eibar lost 1-0 at Alcorcón. Almería, bought by the Saudi Arabian Turki al-Sheikh in 2019, finished top after drawing 2-2 at Leganés and will return to the top tier for the first time since the 2014-2015 season. Eibar still have a chance to be promoted, but will have to fight for the final spot in the playoffs. Las Palmas, finishing in fourth place after winning 1-0 at Sporting Gijón, also made it to the playoffs. Fifth-place Tenerife and sixth-place Girona had already guaranteed their spots in the playoffs.

Sergio Pérez triumphs in Monaco GP as Charles Leclerc fumes at botched stop

London, May 30 : With the opening to the Monaco Grand Prix subjected to an absolute deluge of rain, Formula One had to ride out the weather but the downpour ultimately left Ferrari brutally exposed. Sergio Pérez's win for Red Bull was a body blow for the Scuderia, whose failure to call tactical decisions at tense moments cost them the win. This was potentially a crucial moment in a fiercely fought championship and Ferrari were found wanting, so much so that their title contender Charles Leclerc was left screaming in frustration. Pérez won, with a fine drive from Ferrari's Carlos Sainz in second place and the Spaniard's teammate Charles Leclerc, who had started from pole, managed only fourth behind his title rival

Max Verstappen. Mercedes struggled, with Lewis Hamilton and George Russell making little progress from their starting positions, finishing in fifth and eighth respectively and Hamilton critical of the FIA for the hour-long delay before they went racing. Leclerc, who is in a tooth and nail scrap with Verstappen this season, was more than aware of how costly these moments could prove in the title fight. "We cannot do that, we cannot do that," a forlorn Leclerc, at his home GP, told his team over the radio. He was spot on: failing to convert a front-row lockout and a pace advantage is inexcusable against a Red Bull squad that is so competitive. Leclerc had a 46-point lead after the third round in



Australia. Verstappen countered with three wins in a row - including when his rival retired with a mechanical problem while leading at the last round in Spain - and now enjoys a nine-point lead. The Monegasque driver, an equitable and calm young man, was uncharacteristically critical of his team, knowing they had to take every chance this season. "Let

down is not the word," he said. "Some mistakes can happen but there have been too many mistakes today. We cannot do that, especially in the moment we are in now, when we are extremely strong. We need to take these opportunities, and it's not even first to second, it's first to fourth, because after the first mistake we've done another one." It was two errors as he identified, small but with the margins at the front of the field so small that they made the difference. After a delay of more than an hour to the start of the race because of the heavy rain, Leclerc held all the cards. He led from pole and was in control. As the track dried, however, Red Bull acted swiftly and boldly. Pérez took the inters but Ferrari only pitted Leclerc two laps later, too late it transpired. Pérez put in some very quick laps on his new rubber and made the undercut work. When Leclerc emerged he was behind the Mexican.



produce a performance to pore over but, for the 40,000 in red, that was of no consequence. They had stumbled around the Championship for a decade since their last tilt at the playoffs, frequently resembling a bloated and incoherent mess. Under Steve Cooper they are sleek, agile and steely; lucky too, as it turns out, but few get this far without being able to admit that. At full-time Ryan Yates, the academy product whose presence in the box had brought about Levi Cowill's decisive own goal, ran towards his public and thumped the badge. Brennan Johnson, another who has come through the system and shone, produced a selfie stick from somewhere and wandered around half-dazed; Djed Spence, a loanee but just as integral a part of the fabric in this remarkable team, flung off his shirt and absorbed it all. On the pitch Cooper wrapped his arms around Steve Cook, his defensive lieutenant, and then hugged everyone else in sight. His transformation

of this club from relegation battlers to worthy promotion winners is arguably the story of the season. Their city's advance on Wembley had brought to mind Don DeLillo's description of an assembling sports crowd: a vast shaking of the soul. Forest might have been 23 years away from the Premier League but it had been three decades since their previous visit to this place. Fans queued at Nottingham station in such numbers that they were urged to travel from neighbouring towns; "make sure you take this in," one told his companion when they had finally emerged at Wembley Park within view of the arch. Old friends, perhaps veterans of the days when Forest journeyed all over Europe and generally won, chanced upon one another outside. That is what Wembley finals do: they are about winning but also about kinship, the throwing back together in plain sight of connections that wax and wane over time.

Nadal overcomes Felix Auger-Aliassime to set up Novak Djokovic quarter-final

London, May 30 : Rafael Nadal has played 112 tennis matches at Roland Garros over the course of his career and he has somehow lost just three times on these courts. But an even more absurd measure of his total dominance lies in how few players have even managed to push him close to the edge; to have made him truly doubt. Before Sunday afternoon, only twice over his 17 years had any opponent extended him to five sets at the French Open. Along came Felix Auger-Aliassime, who stepped on to Court Philippe Chatrier with quality, courage and belief in his capabilities, and he took advantage of a sub-par Nadal to force a fifth set and push him all the way. But even as Nadal struggled with his game, when he desperately needed to step up, he soared. Still in the fight for his 14th French Open title, Nadal edged out Auger-Aliassime 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 to reach the quarter-finals. As a consequence of Nadal's victory, he and Novak Djokovic will resume their historic rivalry on the biggest stages when they face each other in the quarterfinal for their 59th meeting on Tuesday. "In the end, the sport is normally very simple, no?" said Nadal afterwards. "When you play better you have better chances; if you play worse, then you have of course less chances, no? In that case, when I played well, I won the match. When I played not that well, I had a lot of troubles, no?"

Hardik Pandya leads Gujarat Titans to IPL triumph in their first season



London, May 30 : Gujarat Titans won the Indian Premier League at their first attempt on Sunday with all-rounder Hardik Pandya leading his team to an emphatic seven-wicket victory over Rajasthan Royals in the final. Pandya grabbed three for 17 with impeccable medium-fast bowling to restrict Rajasthan to 130 for nine after Sanju Samson won the toss and chose to bat. Pandya then made a crucial 34 off 30 balls as Gujarat reached 133 for three in 18.1 overs in front of a raucous crowd of more than 100,000 at the Narendra Modi Stadium. Opening batter Shubman Gill top-scored with an unbeaten 45 and sealed the memorable win

with a six off Obed McCoy over deep square leg. "This title is going to be a special one because we talked about creating a legacy and the coming generations will talk about it," said Pandya, who won four IPL titles with Mumbai

Indians but switched franchises this year and was appointed Gujarat captain. "This is the right example for every team in the world that if you can play as a team, you can do wonders." Pandya's superb bowling in the middle overs was well supported by Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan and derailed Rajasthan's bid for a second IPL title since winning the inaugural edition in 2008. Jos Buttler made only 39 off 35 balls but still finished as the tournament's top scorer with 863 runs, and Samson scored 14. Both batters fell

to Pandya. Samson tried to accelerate the scoring rate and was caught at third man off Pandya's second ball. Buttler, who scored four centuries and four half centuries this season, got a faint edge as he tried to guide a short ball to third man. The Gujarat skipper then made sure Rajasthan were without power-hitters in the death overs. Pandya had Shimron Hetmyer (11) caught off his own bowling in the last ball of a terrific four-over spell. Trent Boult and this season's top wicket-taker, Yuzvendra Chahal, bowled well for Rajasthan but Pandya

carefully negotiated the middle overs by combining in a 63-run stand with Gill for the third wicket. "Batting comes first to me, it's been always close to my heart," player-of-the-match Pandya said after hitting three boundaries and a six in his knock at No 4. "When the IPL auction finished, I knew I would have to bat at No 4."

Real Madrid's golden era sustained by myth, epic and cold intelligence

Paris, May 30 : As the world turned a shade of white close to midnight in Paris, dissolving into a familiar frieze - the same shapes and songs, the Champions League trophy waved about with the same sense of dieu et mon droit - there was also a feeling of something revealing itself, of a question being answered. In the build-up to Real Madrid's narrow but decisive victory at Stade de France on Saturday night there had been a lot of talk in England about claims on

greatness and ultimacy, born out of Liverpool's own thrillingly sustained attempt to chase the sun right to the seasons's end. For Jürgen Klopp's team there is only glory in falling just short of the peak, a point, a goal, a game from the perfect season. But one mystery was at least solved in Paris. Greatness you say? A team for the ages? I can tell you, messieurs et mesdames, the killers are in this room right now. This is the big thing about ultimacy. It doesn't happen very often. Or rather, it keeps on happening the same way. Other empires will rise, other seats of power, tactics, systems and economic might. But this is still by any reasonable measure the age of the Mercuries. Albeit an age that is still hard to explain or define without falling back on things like magic and bloodline, leftover



brilliance. What is the model here? What does the age of Madrid mean? How do we replicate it? The obvious response is that you can't, not without actually being Real Madrid, and there is space for only one of those. This is the great thing about believing your own divine right of kings myth. Just telling that story, repeating over and over that Madrid know how to win, is a source of power in itself. There is an epic, almost bardic quality to these five Champions League triumphs in eight

years. Epics repeat: the same scenes, the same story details, the same outcome, embedding itself as part of football's daily script, its dream life. The more we tell this story of victory the more it becomes true, to the extent even writing the words "an almost bardic quality" or "the more we tell this story" becomes another small note in this self-fuelling epic, with its bardic qualities, with its repetitions, with its epic heroes, its bardic qualities, its white light, the same shapes and songs.

Tottenham's Challenge Cup final shows rugby league there is life outside Wembley

London, May 30 : You do not even need to step inside Wembley to understand rugby league's lengthy and rich history with the national stadium. A statue immortalising five of the game's greatest players - Eric Ashton, Billy Boston, Martin Offiah, Alex Murphy and

Gus Risman - has pride of place outside the ground but, in an ever-changing sporting landscape, history alone is not enough to guarantee a long-term future. That never felt more evident for the game than on Saturday, when the Challenge Cup final took in new surroundings across

the capital at Tottenham. For some traditionalists, moving the cup final away from Wembley is an act of sin, tantamount to rugby league turning its back on a history and heritage of which the game is fiercely proud. But as Liam Farrell and Thomas Leuluai lifted the cup for

Wigan, it was hard not to think of an alternative, post-Wembley world for rugby league. After the Rugby Football League was forced into a switch for the final this year because of a clash with the EFL playoffs, the early noises about Tottenham as hosts are promising. The

Guardian has been told the Premier League club was exceptional to work with on all levels in terms of staging the event and has left the door ajar for a return at some stage, though it has already been confirmed that the final will return to Wembley next year.

Johnson-Thompson 'not panicking' after third lowest score of career

London, May 30 : Moments after Katarina Johnson-Thompson crossed the finish line here in Götzis after posting the third lowest heptathlon score of her glittering career, a shard of light broke through the darkened clouds and lashing rain. It rather matched her mood. The message was clear: don't panic - and don't give up on her. Not when this was the first heptathlon she has completed since winning the worlds in October 2019, before two serious injuries to her achilles and calf in 2020 and 2021 threatened to poleaxe her career. "I've been in worse situations before," Johnson-Thompson said. "I'm walking away completely healthy. I don't have to go into rehab now and worry about that. It's disappointing but I am not panicking." The record books show that she has only posted a lower heptathlon score as a teenager before the London 2012 Olympics - and then at the 2015 world championships in Beijing, when she was forced to continue after scoring zero points in the long jump. She knows some people will be quick to write her off. You sense she likes it that way. It will make her train even harder in the weeks ahead. "I love being an underdog and I always root for the underdog. So it is good to have



that label." Yet Johnson-Thompson, 29, must know she faces an uphill task to retain her world title. In Doha she scored 6,981 on the way to winning gold. A total of around 6,600 usually is good enough for a podium position. The brutal truth is that she has to find more than 400 points in the next few weeks. "But I think I could have got extra points in the high jump, shot put and definitely the 800m," she said. "And in the javelin there was a tricky crosswind too. So I think it's all there. And I always show up for championships." Götzis has long been a multi-events mecca: the tiny Austrian town where Daley Thompson famously broke two world records in 1980 and 1982 and Jessica Ennis-Hill won three times before her London 2012

gold medal. Often there is alchemy in the rarified festival air. But amid conditions more akin to Liverpool in February than Austria on the verge of summer, Johnson-Thompson could not find her best form. However there were at least signs of optimism on day two, with a solid long jump of 6.37m followed by a javelin throw of 40.78m - her best for nearly three years despite the rain lashing down and the temperatures plummeting towards single figures. Conditions were even worse before the final event, the 800m, and Johnson-Thompson wisely took it easy, jogging around in 2:19: 34 - 12 seconds slower than her personal best. Afterwards her highly regarded new coach Petros Kyprianou admitted that things had not gone

entirely to plan but insisted there was still time to turn things around. "When you support a champion, you have to support her in the good, the bad and the ugly," he said. "And right now we're between bad and ugly. But I have said it 100 times, it is the major championship in July or August that matters." Kyprianou accepted Johnson-Thompson had fallen short of her pre-event target of 6,400 points. But he insisted it was entirely feasible for her to improve by an average of 50 to 60 points per event by July - and then challenge for a medal. "I'm a

bottom line guy," he said. "I'm more realistic than optimistic. And 6,600 is the magic number for a medal. Kat likes when I give her the target numbers for each event. And honestly she missed it in every single event, except the 200m and got close in the javelin." But remember she started training very late - she only began jogging at the end of January. So getting 50 or 60 more points per event at the world championships is extremely realistic. "Britain's other competitor Holly Mills had a superb second day to finish a place ahead of Johnson-Thompson in sixth. After a 6.25m long jump, the 23-year-old threw a 39.07m PB in the javelin before a superb gun-to-tape 800m in 2:08:07 took her to a new personal best of 6,260 points. "I wasn't looking to beat her, or think about her beating me," said Mills, who will skip the worlds in favour of a crack at the Commonwealth Games and European championships. "It's quite an achievement to beat the world champion. She might not have been at her best but to do that is something cool that I can say."

Sergio Perez wins chaotic Monaco GP, Ferrari blows it for Charles Leclerc

Monaco, May 30 : Red Bull denied Sergio Perez a chance to race for the win in Spain with team orders that left the Mexican star unsettled. Assured that he'd be allowed to race for wins this season, Perez moved on to the Monaco Grand Prix with Red Bull's disappointing decision in his rearview mirror. Then he scored his first Formula One victory of the season. Perez rebounded from the Red Bull team orders one week ago to pick up the win Sunday in the rain-marred Monaco Grand Prix. The third win of Perez's career came after a questionable strategy call by Ferrari that cost pole-sitter Charles Leclerc a win on his home circuit. Although Leclerc finished the race for the first time in four tries, he finished fourth and allowed reigning world champion Max Verstappen to extend his lead in the standings. Carlos Sainz Jr. finished second for Ferrari and Verstappen was third for Red Bull. But Ferrari protested



both Perez's win and Verstappen's finish, alleging the Red Bull drivers failed to stay to the right of the yellow line at pit exit following their stops. "We made the protest because we believe it was right to seek clarification," Ferrari team principal Mattia Binotto said. Verstappen has a nine-point lead over Leclerc in the standings; Leclerc has two wins this season, Verstappen and Perez have combined for five victories as Red Bull and Ferrari have claimed all seven races. The win on the slick city streets of Monaco went to Verstappen's teammate just one week after Perez was ordered to cede the lead to Verstappen during the Spanish Grand Prix. Leclerc had dropped out

of the race with an engine failure and Red Bull chose to capitalize by manipulating the finish to get Verstappen the win in Spain. The team promised Perez he'd be allowed to race for wins and held its word Sunday. "You dream of winning this, and after your home race, there is no place more special to win," Perez said after waving the Mexican flag. He is third in the standings and only six points behind Leclerc. Red Bull team principal Christian Horner patted Perez on the back as he walked alongside him. Perez is in a contract year and both Red Bull and Perez have said discussions on an extension would ramp up over the summer months.

Gorgeous batsman and a gritty calm leader: Dreamy IPL season accelerates evolution of Sanju Samson



London, May 30 : Before this IPL, Sanju Samson was all about gorgeous bat-swings, a signature chuckle, and a gobsmacking talent. After this season, he will be known as a man with substance, a captain who always remained calm, had an ever-present smile and inspired Rajasthan Royals to reach the final. In character, he couldn't be more different than the first Royal, Shane Warne, who had done it before, but there is a similarity. Warne needed that triumph to prove to Australians that he was the

best captain Australia never had. Samson needed this season to prove to Indians that he is more than just a pretty batsman. When Samson sat down and meditated deeper on captaincy at his seaside house in Vizhinjam, after he was installed as Rajasthan Royals captain last year, he reminisced about his early days with the franchise. The memories, the faces, the heartbreaks, the triumphs, like through a kaleidoscope, flowed and flickered through his mind's screen. Somewhere in that deluge of

emotions, he found his captaincy philosophy. "We didn't win any titles, but we enjoyed playing together, enjoyed each other's success and there was warmth. I wanted to bring the same atmosphere into my team," he tells Basil Joseph, the brightest young director in the Malayalam film industry, in the Sanju and Basil Show. Some of the speeches of former captain Rahul Dravid rang between his ears. "His speeches were profound. He often spoke of the higher purpose of life. His words had a hypnotic power to hold our attention for a long time. But as much as his speeches, he was so caring and understanding. He loved us, and thus inspired us to produce our best. That's the atmosphere we are trying to create in Rajasthan," Samson says. At the same time, he does not blindly imitate Dravid's ideals, or anyone else's.

Bedbugs, anxiety and friendships The ups and downs of life on tennis' lower rungs

London, May 30 : On this day, however, I'm finally returning home after one month of being on the road. Coming home brings on so many emotions, making players like myself hyper-aware of the instability that professional tennis can bring. It's a reminder that even your closest friends and family can't fully understand your life and experiences. It means realizing that the world you leave in order to chase ranking points continues on without you - and that while you're gone, you're missing out on important events and moments. Every time I come home, my nieces and nephews are impossibly bigger. When I'm traveling, I sometimes avoid FaceTiming my family on Friday evenings - because I know they are all out to dinner. They call

me anyway. I put on a smile for them, even though I'm sad that I can't be at my favorite restaurant, too. I snap myself into being present, focused on where I am and what I'm doing. Daydreaming can make me homesick, so it's better not to. When talking to the people closest to me - or anyone, really - I constantly remind myself to not sound ungrateful. As a professional athlete, I don't work a traditional 9-to-5 job. In many ways, I'm fortunate. But at the same time, trying to make it in my sport is anything but glamorous. Tennis pros have a need to be understood when expressing how lonely, how unrelatable, and, for players ranked outside the top 250 or so, just how scrappy our lives are. And that need is often unmet. So coming home can be unsettling. Even if you're home for only a week, it can take a few



days to adjust - to see where I fit into the schedules and routines of my family, friends, and boyfriend. Just when I start to feel comfortable, it's time to leave again. Depression and anxiety creep in. I'll make up a hundred reasons to delay, knowing in my heart that if I want to be successful in tennis, I can't afford to be anything but committed to my career. The best way I can share and explain the mental health challenges of professional tennis is to walk through a typical trip. Finding the balance between

competing enough to improve, win, and move up the rankings while maintaining your physical health through training blocks at home can be difficult - especially at the beginning of your career. In our sport, there is no real offseason. A missed tournament opportunity can be career-changing. For this reason, I usually travel four to six weeks at a time. Sometimes, I'm gone for eight weeks straight - by myself. While training at home, I'm trying to figure out where in the world is going to be the best place for me to play. I could end up literally any-

where, from Africa to South America, if I let the International Tennis Federation system choose for me. But I don't have that luxury. Money is tight, and booking a flight with just under one week before a trip is expensive. Sometimes, however, I'll take a chance. I recently decided to play a series of tournaments in Brazil. I booked a one-way flight for nearly \$1,000 and started my research on how I will get from city to city by bus or plane each week. I am really hoping that I can tag along with other players. Even though I am lucky enough to have financial support from sponsors and family, I coach and write to support myself as much as I can. That makes my days longer and more tiring, but it takes some of the pressure to win off my shoulders. I have 40 hours of travel ahead of me.

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