



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Khorsing Engti resigned

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 15:

Former minister Khorsing Engti resigned from the party on Wednesday. Engti tendered his resignation to APCC President Bhupen Borah. He decided to resign from the party after it loses in the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council elections. Engti served as the Vice-President of the party and also served as the coordinator of the hill district.

### Caught red-handed

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 15:

The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption cell on Wednesday arrested a government employee on bribery charges in Assam's Cachar district. Madan Singha, Senior Account Assistant working at the office of Treasury officer in Cachar, was caught red-handed while receiving a bribe of Rs 10,000. It is learned that the bribe was demanded for processing of commutation loan of the complainant, who is a retired public servant. Taking to Twitter, Special Director General of Police (DGP), Law and Order, GP Singh informed, "Today, a team of @DIR\_VAC\_ASSAM caught red handed Sh Madan Singha, Senior Account Assistant O/O Treasury officer, Cachar in his office receiving bribe of Rs 10000. The bribe was demanded for processing of commutation loan of the complainant, who is a retired public servant."

### Paper mill employee

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 15:

Another employee of a defunct paper mill, earlier owned by Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC), in Assam's Cachar district died due to various ailments after failing to pay for his treatment, its union informed on Wednesday. The deceased has been identified as Gopal Chandra Bhar, a resident of Panchgram in Hailakandi district. He was 57. Its union, the Joint Action Committee of Recognized Unions (JACRU), said that Gopal was suffering from kidney related disease, Tuberculosis and other serious complications but failed to afford desired treatment due to financial crisis owing to non-payment of salary since last 64 months.

## Fresh landslides reported in Assam

Assam has registered 42 deaths due to floods this year



Assam Rising Guwahati, June 15:

Fresh landslides were reported from various parts of Guwahati for the second consecutive day on Wednesday amid incessant rainfall, which also led to heavy waterlogging in most parts of the city, officials said. The state has registered 42 deaths due to floods and landslides this year, including the four

who were buried under a huge mass of earth in Boragaon area on Tuesday. An official of Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) told PTI that debris pileup caused by landslides have blocked thoroughfares in Geetanagar, Sonapur, Kalapahar and Nijarapar areas. Heavy rain has also flooded roads in several parts of the city the worst affected among these

being Anil Nagar, Nabin Nagar, Rajgarh Link Road, Rukminigaon, Hatigaon and Krishna Nagar. NDRF and SDRF personnel, deployed in these areas, are using boats to rescue people and offer relief materials to those still stuck in flooded homes, the official said. Assam Power Distribution Company Limited (APDCL) is working round the clock to restore power supply in the city, which is reeling under

darkness since Tuesday, while drinking water tankers have been sent to the flood-hit areas. The Kamrup Metropolitan district administration has appealed to people to step out of their homes only if they have urgent or essential work. Deputy Commissioner of Kamrup Metropolitan, Pallav Gopal Jha, has issued an order directing all schools, colleges and educational institutions to suspend classes in the wake of

a rainfall alert issued by Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC). The RMC has issued 'red alert' for Assam and Meghalaya and predicted isolated and scattered "extremely heavy rainfall" from Tuesday to Thursday, and 'orange alert' for Friday and Saturday. A bulletin issued by the ASDMA said that flood situation is grim in several parts of the state, with eight districts inundated by the rising water in river Brahmaputra and its tributaries. Dima Hasao Deputy Commissioner Nazreen Ahmed has issued an advisory, asking people to restrict movements in public places. The advisory has urged people in vulnerable locations to shift to the nearest notified relief camps. Nazreen has issued another order directing all educational institutions to remain closed till

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## 'Congress party is custodian of Gandhi family's illegal properties': State BJP



Assam Rising Guwahati, June 15:

The BJP Assam Pradesh highly condemned the dastardly attack on police on duty by Congress party workers causing grievous injuries and termed it as an act against the rule of law and constitution. This was stated by BJP spokesperson Ranjib Kumar Sharma in a press statement issued from party headquarters in Hengrabari on

Wednesday. Criticising the Congress as a political party, Sharma said that the once grand old party has now become the custodian of illegal properties of Sonia Gandhi's family. "The Congress's only priorities now is to blow its own trumpet, family-centric and to encourage anti-national forces", Sharma said. It may be mentioned here that in the Rs 2000-

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## Former Assam Minister Lodges FIR Against Nupur Sharma

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 15:

Former Assam Minister Ataur Rahman Mazarbhuiya lodged an FIR against suspended BJP leaders Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal over their controversial remarks on the Prophet for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of his community. The FIR was lodged at Katigora police station and the former minister has asked the police to file a case under stringent sections of the Indian Penal Code against the two leaders. "These two persons have intentionally hurt the sentiments of a



section of the society and firm action should be taken against them as per existing law of the nation," Mazarbhuiya said. He also appealed to all sections of society to not indulge in any kind of violence while pro-

testing against Nupur Sharma and Naveen Kumar Jindal. "We believe in law and we should respect it," he added. BJP suspended its national spokesperson Sharma and expelled Delhi media cell chief Jindal after they made controversial remarks against Prophet Muhammad recently. Sharma's effigies were burnt in Assam's Cachar district

and other parts a few days ago. Considering the situation, the administration imposed Section 144 of the CrP in all districts of Barak Valley. "We have prohibited assembly of five or more persons at any place. No person shall carry arms, weapons, explosives, lathis, spears, stones, or any other

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Assam Rising Guwahati, June 15:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma hailed the Centre's 'Agnipath' scheme terming it a 'historic step'. Taking to Twitter Sarma wrote, "AGNIPATH - In a historic step steered by Hon RM Shri @rajnathsingh ji, so proud that Cabinet today cleared a first-of-its-kind recruitment scheme for youth into the Armed Forces. A momentous day



for our youth and we're grateful to Hon PM Shri @narendramodi ji. Congratulations." "The youth will be recruited for a period of four years. It will

provide an opportunity to aspiring youth keen to don uniform by attracting young talent from society, in tune with contemporary tech trends and plough back skilled, disciplined & motivated manpower into the society," added Sarma. "On behalf of our youth of the Nation, I express my gratitude to Hon PM and RM. The nation stands to immensely benefit by infusion of highly inspired youth with deeper understanding of self-discipline, diligence

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## Presidential polls

### Mamata convenes key Opposition meet, suggests Farooq Abdullah, Gopal Krishna Gandhi's names

New Delhi, June 15:

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday (June 15) reportedly suggested the names of Farooq Abdullah and Gopal Krishna Gandhi as opposition candidates for the presidential poll, RSP's NK Premchandran was cited by PTI. She convened a crucial meeting of the opposition parties to



field a joint candidate for the presidential election 2022. NCP supremo Sharad Pawar once again declined to be the

joint opposition candidate for the upcoming presidential election. "Leaders of all parties requested Sharad Pawar to contest the President's election and be the joint candidate, but he declined the offer," DMK leader T R Baalu told mediapersons. At least 17 parties including Congress, Samajwadi Party,

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### Pijush Hazarika took charge as minister of social justice and empowerment

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 15:

With departments like parliamentary affairs, water resources, information and public relations of the Assam government already under his belt, state minister Pijush Hazarika was on Tuesday handed the social justice and empowerment department by Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. Hazarika took charge of social justice and empow-



erment today and took stock of the work of the department. He directed

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## Gauhati University Exams Postponed Amid Flooding

The post-graduate students' union (PGSU) of Gauhati University (GU) on Wednesday held talks with the university authorities after several problems surfaced in the campus following fresh spells of heavy rains since Monday. Due to incessant rainfall in last 48 hours in Guwahati, several parts of the city was submerged as a result

of artificial floods. According to reports, students residing in hostels inside the university campus faced a shortage of drinking water. In addition, there is no electricity in the region, reports added. Students are also struggling as flood water entered several hostels and has made life difficult for the

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## Extremely Heavy Rains and Resultant Red Alerts to Prevail Across Assam

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 15:

The monsoon activity over Northeast India will continue in full force this week as well, with more extremely heavy downpours forecast in several parts of the region. In fact, the likes of Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh will remain on red alert for the majority of this forecast

period. As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the prevalence of strong southwesterly winds blowing onto Northeast India from the Bay of Bengal will lead to the continuation of the intense wet spell over the region. Under their influence, isolated heavy to very heavy rains (64.5 to 204 mm) are very likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim dur-

ing the next five days (June 14-18); and over Nagaland and Manipur from Wednesday to Friday, June 15-17. Furthermore, Assam and Meghalaya will also be in for isolated extremely heavy downpours (204 mm) for this five-day period, while Arunachal may experience similar conditions on Wednesday and Thursday,

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Guwahati- students leave hostel due 2 flood









## Illegal teak sawn timbers seized in Srirampur: held 2

**Assam Rising, Gossaigaon, June 15:** Simultaneous police on Wednesday seized a large quantity of teak woods from Assam-Bengal inter state border Srirampur from a truck and apprehended two persons in this connection. Police sources informed that based on the specific input from a reliable source a raid was carried out in Srirampur NH-31 (C) inter-state border and seized one truck loaded with teak woods bearing registration number HR-73/A-6769 which was heading towards Kolkata in West Bengal from Barpeta, Assam. Two people have been arrested so far by the police identified as Zahid Khan driver and Mustaq, handman of the truck both hails from Haryana.

## Sahitya Sangam Released in Udalguri

**Assam Rising, Udalguri, June 15:** The mouthpiece of Udalguri district Nepali Sahitya Sabha 'Sahitya Sangam' was released at a function organized to celebrate 91st birth anniversary of litterateur Tarapati Upadhyaya. A meeting was held to discuss the social and literary contribution of Tarapati Upadhyaya. Puspadhar Bastola the Principal of Udalguri H S School has delivered a speech on the life and works of Tarapati Upadhyaya. The meeting began with the lighting of lamps by Bidyapati Dahal. The Udalguri district committee of Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha organized the meeting and was presided over by Lakshman Adhikari and guest introduction was given by Mohan Kumar Chhetry. Lakshmi Sendai the general secretary of Assam Gorkha Sammelan, Rudra Baral the former secretary of Assam Nepali Sahitya Sabha, and leaders of All Assam Gorkha Students have wished a long life to Tarapati Upadhyaya. Lok Bahadur Chhetri the former Principal of Harisinga H S School has released the Sahitya Sangam the mouthpiece of Udalguri district Nepali Sahitya Sabha. Bhaben Dhamala and Rukmini Dhamala were felicitated for their contribution to publish the magazine.

## Foundation day celebrated

**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, June 15:** The 44th year of foundation day of Istantik; a socio-cultural and environment friendly organization of the greater Sootea, was observed with a day-long programme on June 14. The open session and prize distribution ceremony was chaired by Ananda Handique at the office premises. Hemanga Hazarika, Secretary of the club conducted the proceedings while Dipali Bora, principal of Chatia college graced the occasion as an appointed speaker. The open session began with a borgeet by Niki Saikia. Late Hitesh Phukan memorial award 2022 was presented to Tinkle Das for her outstanding contribution in the field of art and culture. The programme was attended by Dipshika Handique, Pranab Saikia, Nilam Barua besides others. The meritorious students of the greater Sootea area who have passed the recently declared HSLC examination were felicitated. Parag Jyoti Hazarika, president of the club hoisted the flag in the morning.

## General Manager, N. F. Railway holds Press Conference on "StartUps for Railways"

**Policy aims to leverage innovative technologies for the improvement of operational efficiency and Safety of Indian Railways**

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 15:** Indian Railways has taken an important initiative in field of innovation through participation of start-ups and other entities. Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, recently had launched an innovation policy - "StartUps for Railways" on 13th June, 2022 in Rail Bhavan, New Delhi. In line with Indian Railways initiatives towards innovative solution to acquire operational efficiency and safety, Shri Anshul Gupta, General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway held a Press Conference at Guwahati today, on 15th June, 2022. The General Manager informed that the policy aims to bring scale and efficiency in the field of operation, maintenance and infrastructure creation through participation of the very large and untapped startup ecosystem. Shri Anshul Gupta said that the integration of disruptive technology into Indian Railways have taken a firm shape in form of this initiative. The General Manager said that



through this platform startups youth will get a good opportunity to connect with Railways. Out of various problem statements received from different field offices/zones of Railways, 11 problem statements like rail

fracture, headway reduction etc. have been taken up initially for this program. These will be presented before the startups to find innovative solutions. General Manager urged the startups to use this opportunity and ensured them of support from Indian Railways in form of 50 percent capital grant, assured market, scale and ecosystem. Under this programme, innovator can get a grant up to Rs. 1.5 Crore on equal sharing basis with provision of milestone-wise payment. Complete process from floating of problem statement to development of prototype is online with defined time line to make it transparent and objective. Trials of prototypes will be done in Railways. Enhanced funding will be provided to scale up deployment on successful performance of prototypes. Developed Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) will remain with innovator only. Assured development order will be provided to innovator. The General Manager said that the selection will be through open, transparent and fair process which will entail innovators uploading their concepts with necessary proof on a dedicated portal can be done at the Indian Railway In-

## Seminar on Politics & International Relations concludes at USTM

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 15:** Department of Political Science, University of Science & Technology Meghalaya (USTM) has organized a two-day National Seminar on "Contemporary Issues of Politics & International Relations: Assessing the Qualitative Trends in the Emerging World Order" here from June 13-14 in collaboration with Dispur College Guwahati, Karmashree Hiteshwar Saikia College Guwahati & Beltola College Guwahati. Delegates from TISS Guwahati, Aligarh Muslim University, NEHU, Cotton University, Gauhati University, IIT Bombay, Shiv Nadar University, Dispur College, Beltola College, Karmashree Hiteshwar Saikia College and other premier institutions joined the seminar. The event saw 125 registrations of participation from across the country and 54 delegates who presented papers on various pertinent issues of international politics and socio-political relations over the two days. The event was segmented into five sessions, which consisted of the inaugural session, three technical sessions and the valedictory session. The inaugural session commenced with Mr. Dwaipayan Choudhury, one of the event coordinators, welcoming the delegates. Prof. G.D. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor of USTM inaugurated the seminar and felicitated the keynote speaker, Prof. Abdulrahim Vijapur, Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, and the Principals of Karmashree Hiteshwar Saikia College Guwahati & Beltola College Guwahati respectively. This was followed by an insightful keynote speech delivered by Prof. Vijapur. His speech encapsulated crucial themes such as human security, human development, good governance and the 17 goals of sustainable development, as well as shedding light on several challenges faced by the north-eastern states of India. The inaugural session was followed by the first technical session themed "State and Society in North-east" which had 19 paper presentations. The delegates explored the issues such



as public administration in Nagaland, insurgency in Assam, tourism industry of Meghalaya, Garo Matrilineal society. A particularly interesting paper on gambling in Meghalaya was presented by Deidamaphishish Lyngdoh. The second technical session was themed "Politics in India: Prospects and Challenges" which had 15 papers, covering issues of caste politics and centre state relations, among others. Sishir Chetri and Dwaipayan Choudhury presented an innovative paper on how Indian cinema has dealt with issues of caste, class and gender over the years. The third technical session, themed "India and the Emerging World Order" took place on day two. There were papers on various global issues starting from "Nepal's transition from Monarchy to Democracy" to Ukraine-Russia Conflict. This session also saw papers on Chinese foreign policy, effect of BREXIT on British foreign policy and India's position in QUAD. The

## Kopili Hydroelectric Power project release additional water

*Dist. admin sensitises people to be alert*



**Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 15:** The authority concerned of Kopili Hydroelectric Power Project has released the additional water from its dam situated at Khandung in Dima Hasao and other places since this morning because of which the water level of the Kapili river has been rising till the time of filing this report, sources said. Meanwhile the district administration of Nagaon through an official notification today requested the people living in larger areas near the bank of Kapili river under Kampur and Raha revenue circles to be alert for any possible situation in the next few hours. Besides, in the same notification, the administration also banned fishing, swimming and bathing in Kapili river un-

**No. B/SFG/Tender/GGGC(SOPD)/484**  
**CORRIGENDUM: III**

In view of confusion among bidders regarding mode of submission of the Earnest Money Deposit for the tender works published vide this office notice no B/SFG/Tender/GGGC(SOPD)/448, Dt. 07/06/2022, in partial modification of the Standard Bid Document, the Article 3.9 may be read as "Earnest Money Deposit for each work may be deposited electronically at the portal [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in)" instead of "Each tender shall be accompanied by a demand draft of a Scheduled Bank in favour of the Divisional Forest Officer as Earnest Money Deposit for the work" to facilitate online submission of the Earnest Money by the intending Tenderers. The date of downloading and submission of Tender documents are extended up to 22/06/2022 upto 15.00hrs (IST) and technical bids will be opened at 11:00Hrs on 24/06/2022. All intending bidders are requested to take note of the modifications and submit the bid documents accordingly from the portal [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) by their own ID. The other conditions mentioned in the E-Tender notice shall remain same.

Sd/-  
Divisional Forest Officer  
Guwahati Social Forestry Division  
Basistha, Guwahati-29  
Janasanyog/C/4702/22

**NOTIFICATION**

In continuation to this office notification No.SLRC-G-IV/ASSAM/Advertisement for Analogous Posts-IV/2022-23/02/79 dated 25-03-2022, the State Level Recruitment Commission for Class-IV Posts notifies following details regarding examinations for the Posts/categories of Posts of Class-IV:

- There shall be two exams on the same day - one for Posts/categories of Posts for read upto Class VIII category and another for Posts/categories of Posts for HSLC passed or equivalent examination passed category.
- The syllabus of the examination for recruitment to the Class-IV Posts shall be in consonance with the prescribed SCERT syllabus of Class VIII Examination and Class X (HSLC examination) for read upto Class VIII category and HSLC passed or equivalent examination passed category respectively.
- The subjects for both the categories of examinations to be conducted for Class-IV Posts (i.e. Read upto Class VIII and HSLC Passed or equivalent examination passed) will be the same and is listed as below :
  - English
  - Social Studies
  - Mathematics
  - General Knowledge
  - Mental Ability and Logical Reasoning
- There will be a total of 135 multiple choice questions, carrying 1 (one mark) each, to be attempted in 120 minutes.
- There shall be no negative marking.
- The date and time of written examination will be intimated shortly.
- The selection of candidates for inviting them for interview / skill test will be in the ratio of 1:2
- Candidates scoring identical marks in the written examination will be invited for appearing in the interview/skill test, irrespective of ratio mentioned in para 7 above.
- The detailed SOPs for conduct of written examination for maintaining order and discipline shall be issued separately by SEBA.

Secretary  
State Level Recruitment Commission for  
Class-IV Posts, Assam Administrative Staff College,  
Jawahar Nagar, Khanapara, Guwahati -22  
Janasanyog/D/5562/22

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## THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 119 THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022

## The humane asylum system

Somehow, we have forgotten something that many of our grandparents learned during the second world war. When we ignore the human rights of those less fortunate than us, and the vital global warning system which refugees represent, we can no longer be proud of ourselves or confident in our world. The government has blatantly disregarded the UN refugee convention, which Britain helped draft in 1951, and of which we were a founding signatory. It's also a huge step backwards in the long and controversial history of UK immigration policy. Patel called the Rwanda agreement "groundbreaking" - but it is so for all the wrong reasons. Our government has never before sought to evade its responsibilities so completely, by shipping people seeking safety in this country off to another jurisdiction. It's more extreme even than the Australian near-equivalent, when refugees were detained on Nauru and Manus Island, because we are not merely offshoring, but outsourcing the entire delivery of our asylum system to another state. Quite apart from the well-documented concerns over Rwanda being a safe country, the principle is also deeply wrong. The vast majority of refugees (86%) stay in countries bordering their own. This is just another way in which we are shifting the responsibilities we should share, away from richer countries, on to the global south. It's also a terrible blow to our international role and standing. With this policy, so-called "global Britain" is signalling a withdrawal from efforts to seek multilateral solutions to major global challenges. And for what? Boris Johnson says shipping people to Rwanda will tackle people smugglers and deter men, women and children from risking their lives in flimsy vessels to cross the Channel from France. But even the top civil servant at the Home Office was unable to say this awful solution will act as a deterrent. We know the reality. Desperate people have continued to cross the Channel in greater numbers than last year, because of the different crises from which they are escaping. Asked why they want to come to the UK in particular, they often cite family ties, knowing the language, and the poor treatment they receive from police and authorities in other countries they have passed through. A very small proportion end up in the UK - many European countries take in more refugees, and our contribution is tiny when compared with other countries such as Pakistan, Uganda, Lebanon, and now - thanks to the war in Ukraine - Poland. And we know the solutions. We must look at the reasons people are forced from their homes. The vast cost of removing one person to Rwanda could be far better spent on improving hundreds of lives.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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## Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,  
The Assam Rising  
Guwahati, Assam

## It is important not to ignore common digestive problems.

On World Digestive Health Day, Dr. P. Piramanayagam, Consultant Medical Gastroenterologist, Apollo Hospitals, Chennai talks about the prevalence of digestive issues, diagnosis, management, treatment and prevention. He said "Common digestive problems are burning sensation in the chest or pain in the upper abdomen.

Often these symptoms are caused by Acid reflux from the stomach into the food pipe, medically known as GERD (Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disease). Such digestive diseases are on the rise, possibly due to the changing dietary habits, western food influences, junk food, smoking, alcohol consumption, unhealthy food habits, not eating on time, lack of sleep, stress and late-night engagements, along with a sedentary lifestyle that leads to obesity". "These digestive conditions can be troublesome

as they leave patients suffering for a longer period of time. Their productivity comes down as these conditions affect concentration at work. Further, when digestive problems are left untreated for a long time, they may develop into Cancer in a small proportion of patients. So, digestive irregularities must not

### Dr. P. Piramanayagam

be neglected. Consult a Physician if any symptoms or discomfort persists for an unusually long time". "Various tests and procedures, particularly upper GI endoscopy are done to examine a patient with chronic GERD. Advancements in medical technology have ensured ways to find out how much acid is coming back from the stomach and further confirmatory tests are done." "Once the diagnosis is confirmed, the treatment is not just restricted to taking medication, managing symptoms

# UP Police's brutality shows Indian law enforcement remains true to its colonial heritage

Liar, 'sneak', 'coward': When the beatings ended, the young Marquess of Kedleston would be marched through the village in a red petticoat, his sins pinned on for the edification of bystanders. To teach a child to subjugate a people is no small task. Kedleston manor's governess, Ellen Paraman, the daughter of a prison warden, did an exceptional job. In 1901, as he considered how to discipline the rebels of the North-West Frontier, George Curzon, Viceroy of India, would turn to her teaching. "Is it possible to flog these horrible scoundrels before we execute them," Curzon wondered? Flogging, Peshawar district magistrate Harold Deane chimed in, "is infinitely more deterrent than hanging." "If only we could flog, hang and burn." Liberal Indians watched in horror this week, as bulldozers backed up by armed police demolished the homes of Muslims in Uttar Pradesh-thinly veiled reprisals for protests against the government. Videos circulated of protesters being beaten, some while in custody, he anger isn't surprising-but the shock is. From the slaughter of an estimated 250 people in firing on an Eid-ul-Fitr gathering at Moradabad in 1980, to the mass execution of at least 32 at Meerut in 1987, killing of Muslims and destruction of property has been a leitmotif of Indian policing of communal violence. From fake encounters in Telengana to custodial killings in Tamil Nadu, there is no shortage of non-Muslim victims, either. Late one night in 1890, the widow Goshain Thakurani began a descent through the circles of hell. The dead body of a newborn had been discovered in a small village near Allahabad, and the village chaukidar claimed the widow had killed the child to hide a sexual relationship. Five police officers dragged her from her bed, and questioned her all night. They urged her to confess: "If you do, you will get off." In court, the widow did exactly that, and was sentenced for murder. There was a catch: When she entered prison, a medical examiner determined Thakurani was seven months pregnant. The murdered child



simply could not have been hers. Thakurani was eventually acquitted; the police-officer in charge got a slap on the wrist. The murderer was never found. Few colonial judges-like modern Indians-were unaware of malpractices of the police. "It is far pleasanter to sit comfortably in the shade rubbing red pepper in some poor devil's eyes," the judge and philosopher James Stephens observed in 1883, "than to go about in the sun hunting up evidence." The colonial state, though, was concerned primarily with the extraction of revenue, and uninterested in spending the resources needed to raise a modern police force. The purpose of the police was to extinguish rebellion-not ensure criminal justice. From the mid-1830s, the Malabar coast began seeing a series of attacks against Hindu janmis (feudal landlords), reinstated to their landholdings after the East India Company defeated Tipu Sultan. Fights sparked off by the eviction of Muslim tenants escalated into the destruction of temples and killings of Hindus. Led by religious revivalists, martyrdom-seeking suicide-attackers also engaged in a series of bloody skirmishes with colonial troops. The British responded by seeking to strip the Malabar jihadis of their religious legitimacy. For a time, historian K.N. Panikkar has recorded, they considered burying the bodies of those slain with dogs or other ritually impure animals. They finally chose to burn them-a practice which would continue until 1921. Events in the North-West Frontier, where imperial officials came under growing attack from rebellious ethnic Pashtun tribes, went the same way. The Murderous Outrages Act, historian Elizabeth Kolsky writes, allowed administrators to burn the corpses of those who killed British officers. Lieutenant-Colonel Gilbert Gaisford was among many on the Frontier who insisted barbarism would work. "When I said they would be hanged, they answered they were quite prepared for that. But when I added that they would be subsequently burnt, their colour changed, and thenceforward they were different men." Eighteen months later, the officer was murdered in his bed. In the first thirty years of British rule on the Frontier, Kolsky notes, the British launched more than 40 punitive expeditions, in which crops were trampled, livestock slaughtered, and entire villages burned. Fighting continued until 1946, in spite of the frequent use of air power against Pashtun villages. The Malabar violence also dragged on until the murderous Malabar uprising of 1921. Forms of collective punishment began to run through colonial criminal justice practice by early in

principle: No crime need have been committed in order to be punished. Following the slaughter at Jallianwala Bagh, military law statutes were used to suppress an angry Punjab. The official Hunter Committee report recorded that of the 3,200 people arrested, one-fifth were never prosecuted, because "the evidence was ultimately considered insufficient." Even of those prosecuted, most were charged with waging war against the King-Emperor, not an actual crime, like arson or murder. Whipping was widely used-in one case, for attack on the missionary school teacher Marcella Sherwood, but also for offences ranging from tearing-down martial law notices, to "refusing to sell milk." In one case, the "three naughtiest boys" at a school in Kasur were sentenced to be whipped after students were accused of involvement in derailing a train. Assistant Commissioner Peter Marsden described this as "a most ordinary and healthy mode of discipline for schoolboys." "If the occurrence had been in England no one would have made the least demur," he claimed. Firing against unarmed civilians became routine. In Ahmedabad, Simeon Shoul has recorded, eighty rounds were fired into a crowd of political protesters; machine guns were fired at Chuharkana (present-day Farooqabad in Pakistan) against crowds that authorities decided were planning "mischief." In Gujranwala and nearby villages on 14 April 1919, Royal Air Force pilots fired over 800 rounds at fleeing crowds. Like the imperial police, independent India's coercive apparatus is designed to deliver terror-not ensure investigation and meaningful prosecutions, the bedrock of democratic criminal justice systems. For the most part understaffed, under-trained, and under-resourced, police have often shown themselves ineffectual in containing real threats, from terrorism to riots to sexual violence. The mass interment and torture of Advisis in Telangana, the burning of entire villages in Mizoram, or the killing of protesters in Kashmir leave little doubt that Indian police are the children of their colonial predecessors. Like Curzon, they've learned the wrong lessons well.

## Pakistan can't afford to keep national energies focused on checkmating India, and Kashmir

After the PTI-army 'same-page' relationship turned into a raging and ugly divorce, one expected some reluctance from Shabbaz Sharif's PML-N government in

contracting yet another fishy civil-military cohabitation arrangement. Instead, last week the prime minister upped the military's role in national affairs by another notch. Henceforth all potential candidates for government posts, including civil service officers awaiting promotions, must have their credentials check-marked by the ISI. To be screened are Supreme Court judges, top-level civil servants, university professors, and many others. Every intelligence agency - CIA, KGB, RAW, and Mossad included - provides intelligence on foreign operations, does counterintelligence operations, identifies sleeper cells, etc. Everywhere there is a temptation to use them against domestic opponents by casting them as anti-state. Although robust political systems can resist this, Pakistan's has certainly not. The government's new directive formalising the role of a military intelligence agency opens a can of worms. Nabbing a mischievous Kulbhushan Jadhav from here or there is relatively easy - an Israeli-made Pegasus system can do wonders. But evaluating the patriotism of those who were born and live within Pakistan - and consider themselves loyal but free citizens - is complicated. Certainly no intelligence agency is empowered to invent its own definition of patriotism. Instead it must follow the Constitution as interpreted by parliament and judiciary. But in practice, one question leads to the next. Is an



PERVEZ HOODBHOY

'anti-Pakistan element' someone acting against the people of Pakistan or, instead, someone opposed to a particular state policy? The visible usurpation of resources by the country's ultra-rich and ultra-powerful elite has blurred the boundaries separating national interests from personal or organisational interests. That thieves run Pakistan is now a thoroughly mundane, boring, universal accusation. Nevertheless, journalists or insiders exposing the theft of public resources are branded unpatriotic instead of being celebrated as exemplary. Still more problematic is the identification of individuals charged with being 'anti-Pakistani' because they oppose certain postures of the

state. Pakistan's political parties regularly accuse each other of being traitorous and puppets of foreign masters. On matters of religiously inspired militancy we have internal splits within the military, judiciary, and between politicians. How is some poor mid-level intelligence officer, whether uniformed or civilian, to know what is patriotic and what is not? This lies way above his pay grade. Example: In a string of speeches, ex-PM Imran Khan claims the Islamic Republic of Pakistan will shatter into three pieces unless the military establishment - which catapulted him into power - reverses its newfound neutrality and places him back on top. He hints the army's rank and file should disobey its top leadership and has asked families of military personnel to join his 'million-man' rallies. Some

call it sedition. Should Khan - together with his minions and toadies - be given a clean chit? Or, instead, declared traitor? Example: It was recommended in December 2019 through court papers submitted by the UK's National Crime Agency that Shabbaz Sharif be investigated for money-laundering, fraud and corrupt practices. Three years later, NCA decided not to prosecute. This made PML-N crow victory. But PTI says that withdrawal of the case does not constitute exoneration. It plausibly points to other parts of Mr Sharif's considerable wealth outside Pakistan. Until those allegations have been cleared, should the current prime-minister be certified as a patriot? Example: The security establishment is tasked to safeguard the life and property of Pakistanis but some insiders are allied with terrorist groups. The case of Ehsanullah Ehsan - who oversaw the horrific slaughter of hundreds of civilians and soldiers - is noteworthy. Have our intelligence agencies successfully ferreted out those from within who allowed this captured terrorist to escape to Turkey from a top security prison facility? Do the agencies have the capacity to police themselves? Or prove that only true patriots fill their ranks? Example: The Baloch belong to a multi-ethnic state but have long claimed mistreatment by a Punjab-dominated centre.



## Urban floods in Guwahati



The city of Guwahati is located at the banks of the river Brahmaputra and several of its tributaries pass through the city. Urban growth in the city of Guwahati has been rapid, with uncontrolled development activities. These activities have had a detrimental impact on the ecology and environment of the city. The city is surrounded by wet lands that under threat due to the encroachment and unplanned urban development of the city. The city is prone to floods and landslides and is located on the earthquake prone (zone V) belt. In addition to being vulnerable to these natural hazards, the city of Guwahati and is frequently affected by seasonal flash floods, which are not entirely caused by natural factors alone. There are many sectors which are directly related with the resilience of Guwahati city against floods and their related impacts. Following are the key sectors that should be studied to understand the risk profile of the city for devising suitable strategies for resilience. These include, housing and urban planning; urban infrastructure and services (water supply, sewerage, natural and storm water drainage, solid waste management, electricity, health); informal settlements and slums; poverty and livelihood; ecosystems and land-use; emergency response capacity. Based on the above-mentioned situation (hazards and vulnerabilities), number of agencies (government, humanitarian and development) several experts have conducted studies on or linked with Guwahati and floods. These studies differ in their scope, timeframe and focus on different aspects such as socio-economic factors, climate change, city development plans, disaster management planning, focus on single or multiple hazards etc. These studies reflect useful and micro level findings that are relevant to Guwahati and the surrounding areas. There are different studies which reflect the same findings with minor changes in the recent development of new vulnerabilities. Instead of conducting new study, it is better to conduct a review of studies that focus on Guwahati and floods. This serves as the rationale behind conducting this study. The exercise is to bring all the flood study works in one place and review the same for arriving at the short term and long term measures for Guwahati for finding a solution to the problem related to risk of floods in the city. Urban flooding is one of the most recurrent hydro-meteorological disasters presently in the world. A sizeable portion of the world's population suffers from floods every year in major towns and cities. Conveyance of floodwaters in wash corridors and arroyo floodplains that were once predominantly overland sheet flow or flow in rills and gullies, are now obstructed by houses, fences, small buildings, streets, and other obstructions inhibiting their free flow. Guwahati city situated in the north-eastern state of Assam is fast becoming one such victim of flash floods that occur due to unplanned growth. Traditional one-dimensional back-water models are inadequate to predict the unconfined flow behaviour in such urban envi-

ronments like Guwahati and if used, require too many assumptions regarding flow diversions and potential confinement. Two-dimensional flood routing programs can efficiently simulate these complex urban flood environments with accuracy and detail. Flood hazard mapping and flood inundation modelling are the vital components in flood mitigation measures and land use planning, and are prerequisites for the flood insurance schemes. As flood itself cannot be prevented but the damages due to floods can be mitigated with proper planning and preparedness at community level. For that it is very important to identify the degree of hazard associated with various portions of a flood plain. Hence flood hazard zonation is an important component of overall flood management strategy. During monsoon season, the river Brahmaputra flows over the danger level and the low lying areas of Guwahati City face problems of water logging and floods. The feeder drains to the main channels run overflowing, and because of siltation problem of drains, the carrying capacity is also reduced significantly. The water resource department in response to these existing problems took some effective remedial measures like construction of flood walls, installation of high capacity pumps in low lying areas, providing sluice gates on the channels to control flow of wa-



ter and other significant measures. Some more proposed interventions are under way, which will address the existing flooding problem like re-sectioning of existing channels, construction of storm water drains to carry off excessive flow into the main channels, clearing the existing channels from waste disposal and restricting the drop of sewer in those channels. The remedial recommendations are provided at several levels covering structural and non-structural aspects. The proposed structural measures include: Inter basin transfer of load, so that in case of excessive flow in one channel, the flow can be directed to other river with lesser load. The capacity of existing drain channels need to be increased as the amount of excessive water coming to them will be beyond the handling capacity of these channels currently. Defining the sections of existing channels, so that the problem of encroachment over them and the waste disposal in them can be checked. The action points in this report are derived from a literature review that considered

evaluations, reviews, reports, lessons papers and existing practices relating to the city of Guwahati and floods. Most of these documents relate to particular issues of Guwahati with different direct or indirect link with urban floods with focus on humanitarian and development aspects, as this is where government and humanitarian actors are most likely to be involved in disaster response and risk reduction. Many factors, such as rapid urban growth and a potentially increased risk of extreme weather events (especially floods), suggest that government and other development actors will increasingly be involved in urban humanitarian response in the city. This will be a steep learning curve: Guwahati urban areas present unique challenges in terms of complexity and scale, and many existing ways of working were originally developed to address these challenges. However, the situation currently appears to be a topic with several unanswered questions, and where many lessons have not been tested in the context of Guwahati. As a result, this report should be seen as an attempt to capture what is known at a specific point in time and based on existing studies. The report based on different studies shows that the existing vulnerabilities are too debilitating for Guwahati and addressing these now, will also help in building resilience in the long run. The last two chapters have listed recommendations and measures for undertaking actions at different levels. There are some efforts that concern departments can incorporate in their response and on-going actions. The state and district government could support some of the suggested actions. A mainstreaming plan has

been provided by TERI to implement the sectoral strategies in a recent (2013) study for climate resilience in Guwahati. A policy level support from the state government will ensure sustainability of the initiatives and also lead to encouraging implementable actions. The solar system consists of the sun, eight planets, and sixty-seven satellites of the planets, and a large number of small bodies (comets and asteroids). Earlier, Pluto was considered the smallest planet but now Pluto is not recognized anymore as a planet. The inner solar system comprises Sun, Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune form the outer solar system. These four planets are massive in size; hence they are called Giant Planets. Each planet revolves around the sun in its own orbit at its own speed. Let us explore all the celestial bodies present in the Solar system - The Sun was born

# Environment and Its Impact on Life

The Earth's Environment makes Earth the only planet on the solar system where life and sustainability is possible. From the beginning of time, the Earth has provided all the inhabitants of the planet with everything they need for their survival. On the other hand, human beings have exploited all the natural resources for their own selfish needs and have rendered the planet like a barren and ramshackle land. Human beings are an integral part of the environment and hold a huge responsibility to upkeep the living conditions for their own sake and for the sake of all the inhabitants of the planet, including plants and animals. The balanced management of natural resources and the environment as a whole is crucial for the well-being of all living beings and for the economic growth of the entire world. Managing the use of resources effectively, both renewable and non-renewable, can help solve the many disputes between countries, states and people for the power to claim at least a part of the resources as their own. It is high time people understand that the

health of the environment is vital, and only if the environment is healthy will all living beings have a chance of survival. The environment is the basic life support system for all living things on planet Earth. It is a combination of natural and human-made components. Natural components include air, water, land and living organisms. Roads, industries, buildings, etc., are human-made components. The natural environment can be differentiated into four main components - Biosphere, Lithosphere, Hydrosphere and Atmosphere. The top-most layer of the Earth is called the Lithosphere, which is a thin layer of soil made of rocks and minerals. The hydrosphere consists of various types of water bodies like seas, oceans, rivers, lakes, ponds, etc. Atmosphere, consisting of water vapour, gases and dust particles, is the layer of air that surrounds the Earth. The living world consisting of human beings, plants and animals constitute the biosphere. The environment is dependent on the interaction between all the different components. However, human beings play a huge role in the making and break-



ing of the environment. Being the supreme most intellectual power on Earth, human beings influence the wellness of the environment to a great extent. The impact of the environment on all living beings is directly proportional to the way human beings treat the environment. Any kind of existence would not be possible without air, water or land. Nothing to eat, not a drop to drink and nowhere to go is not what we or our future generations should expect to have. Every living thing depends largely on the environment for survival, and having a clean and safe environment is solely in the hands of the human beings. It is required to conserve the environment in order to protect wildlife and to preserve the different species. With the disastrous pace of climate change, a result of pollution and exploita-

tion of the environment, finding out ways to protect the environment from any further damage should be the first priority. Bringing back the environment to its original state is critically important and is the only solution. Working towards a common goal will be the easiest and fastest way to keep the environment from any more harm. According to Ban Ki-moon, "Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all". This is what we have to act on and look forward to - finding the dots, connecting them and providing

solutions. The leaders of the world are working to reduce the rapid degradation of the environment, and there are organizations like the United Nations who come up with initiatives to create awareness and get people to take actions to curb the problems of the environment. Some of these initiatives include the 2019 Sustainable Development Summit, 2019 Climate Action Summit, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Paris Agreement and many other programs that include river conservation, afforestation, coastal management, wetland conservation and so on. While all these measures are in action, individuals are also obliged to take steps to preserve the environment that everyone is a part of. With everyone's efforts, we can be sure that all of it will definitely make a difference and help the environment in becoming healthy and sustainable.

## Manas National Park



passes through the heart of the national park. The Manas National Park was declared a sanctuary on 1 October 1928 with an area of 360 km<sup>2</sup>. Manas bio reserve was created in 1973. Prior to the declaration of the sanctuary, it was a reserved forest called Manas R.F. and North Kamrup R.F. It was used by the Cooch Behar royal family and Raja of Gauripur as a hunting reserve. In 1951 and 1955, the area was increased to 391 km<sup>2</sup>. It was declared a World Heritage Site in December 1985 by UNESCO. Kahitama R.F. the Kokilabari R.F. and the Panbari R.F. were added in the year 1990 to form the Manas National Park. In 1992, UNESCO declared it as a world heritage site in danger due to heavy poaching and terrorist activities. On 25 February 2008, the area was increased to 500 km<sup>2</sup>. On 21 June 2011, it was removed from the List of World Heritage in Danger and was commended for its efforts in preservation. There is only one forest village, Pagrang, in the core of the national park. Apart from this village 56 more villages surround the park. Many more fringe villages are directly or indirectly dependent on the park. Political Geography: The park area falls in the following districts: Chirang, Baksa in the autonomous territorial region, i.e. BTR in the state of Assam in India. The park is divided into three ranges. The western range is based at Panbari, the central at Bansbari near Barpeta Road, and the eastern at Bhuiyapara near Pathsala. The ranges are not well connected; while two major rivers need to be forded in going from the centre to the Panbari, there is a rough trail (the Daimari road) connecting the centre to the eastern range. Most visitors come to Bansbari and then spend some time inside the forest at Mathanguri on the Manas river at the Bhutan border. Physical Geography: Manas is located in the foot-

## Natural beauty of Haflong

Haflong is the only hill station of Assam, laced with lush greenery, scenic views and mist-covered hills. Sitting at an altitude of more than 600 m above the sea level, it is one of the best places to escape when the sun is beaming with pride in the plains. This hilly terrain is complemented with panoramic landscapes is not only a nature lover's haven but also a place for those seeking tranquillity. There is another element that makes it a favoured destination for its visitors; its location, i.e., Northeast India, which further offers you ample options to have an exciting trip itinerary. All in all, it is an ideal getaway option for a memorable vacation. If you are in for a trip that will offer both tranquillity and adrenaline rush, Haflong, also known as White Ant Hillcock, is a must-visit place. Read on to get all details about this beautiful destination from Northeast India. Located in the heart of the town, Haflong Lake is a beautiful quiet for spending some quiet and memorable hours. In fact, it is one of the best

scenic spots in this region. Here, you will get an opportunity to indulge in some leisure water activities and also boating facilities. Fish lovers can go for angling, whereas one can even opt for spending some time in solace by the lakeside.

often captured and killed by locals using bamboo poles," explains Dey. The mystery remains largely unexplained by ornithologists, and can be viewed from an observatory tower between the months of August and November. There is also a variety of species of



Jatinga, also known as the 'valley of death for birds', is located around 9 km from Haflong town. The shocking phenomenon of migratory bird suicides attracts visitors and ornithologists to the south of Haflong, a 20-km drive to Jatinga. "That used to absolutely fascinate us as children; it usually happened on those moonless, foggy nights, and this huge number of birds just flew straight down towards the searchlights, completely dazed, and died. Unfortunately, they were

flowers and fruits to enjoy at Jatinga, famous for its hills covered with the gorgeous and rare purple orchid species, Blue Vanda. One can also take a look at and relish the delicious fruits grown here at the weekly farmers' market, such as pineapples, peaches, and oranges, which are also sent to other parts of India. The hot springs at Umrangso, also known as Garampaani, are an exceptional gem that tourists can enjoy, especially as a delightfully contrasting relief during winter snowfalls.

# The Solar System

4.6 billions of years ago and it was formed from a giant rotating cloud of gasses and dust known as solar Nebula. The sun is the biggest star present at the center of the solar system. It is a self-luminous sphere of gasses. Its gravitational force holds the entire solar system. It has a radius of 695,508 kilometers and is 150 million kilometers away from Earth. Mercury is the smallest and closest planet to the sun. It is also called Swift planet because it completes its revolution in 88 earth days. Its diameter is only one third of Earth but its density is about the same. The temperature of this planet is as high as 450 degrees Celsius in the mornings and nights



are freezing cold. The surface of this planet is filled with craters, mountains and valleys. Venus is the second closest planet to the sun and the hottest. Venus is the brightest planet and hence called the morning star. Venus is named after the Roman Goddess of love

sustains life. It is called the Blue planet because 70% of the earth's surface is covered with water. Earth takes 365 days to complete one revolution around the sun. This planet has only one natural satellite, the Moon. The fourth planet from the sun in the solar system is Mars. It appears as a red-orange ball because of the presence of iron oxide and so it is called the Red planet. It is the second smallest planet after Mercury. Mars is named after the Roman God of war. Its surface is covered with volcanoes, craters all over. Jupiter is the largest planet in the solar system. Jupiter is rich in hydrogen and helium

gas and so it is also called a Gas Giant planet. Jupiter takes 4333 earth days to complete one revolution around the sun. This planet has 79 satellites. Jupiter has four rings. Saturn is the least dense planet in the solar system. It is the second-largest planet. Saturn can float in water because it is made up of gasses like helium. The beautiful rings around the planet are made up of bits of ice, rock, and dust. Saturn revolves very slowly around the sun. This planet is named after the Roman God of agriculture and wealth.





Contd. From Page 1

## Fresh landslides reported in Assam

May 17, an official release said. The mighty Brahmaputra is flowing above the danger mark at Nimatighat in Jorhat district. According to officials, embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by flood waters in Barpeta, Cachar, Chirang, Dhemaji, Goalpara among other areas. Meanwhile, state Congress president Bhupen Borah led a rally of party members here to protest against the state government's alleged apathy to the situation arising out of flash floods in the 'smart city'. The protesters, who were wading through knee-deep water, were stopped by the police from proceeding further at a distance from the state party headquarters.

## Former Assam Minister Lodges

lethal weapons which can cause injury, except by army and paramilitary. No person or organisation shall take out any procession, rallies, agitational protests, or hold any public meeting without specific permission from the district magistrate. No person shall burst any crackers, bombs, or other sound-producing materials and display any fireworks in public places. No person or organisation shall use any loudspeakers, microphones, or sound-amplifying devices without obtaining specific permission from the district magistrate. This order comes into force with immediate effect and shall remain valid until further order comes," the Cachar administration said in its order. Cachar superintendent of police Randeep Kaur said there were some protests in the Sonai and Katigorah areas of the district recently. "After the protests, we reached out to the persons involved and urged them not to provoke anyone. They agreed to the terms, and there have been no protests since. To prevent any further agitation or untoward incident, the district administration has imposed Section 144 of the CrPc," Kaur said. The Congress party in Assam has also lodged an FIR against Sharma and Jindal.

## 'Congress party is custodian

core National Herald case pertaining to Sonia Gandhi-Rahul Gandhi, the central agency ED has been interrogating the vice-president of the party for the last two days. The Congress party has been organising protests in New Delhi and different parts of the country to put spanner in the interrogation process initiated by the independent organisation. As part of such programmes, the Congress party created a volatile situation by staging demonstration in front of Rajiv Bhawan in Guwahati today. Congress goons attacked ACP Himanshu Shekhar Das who was present there with a posse of policemen to control the situation. "This act is nothing but a barbaric act", opined Sharma. The spokesperson said the Congress party always talks about law and order, constitutional related matters and criticises the government but it seems that they do not believe in democracy as come to the fore once again following the attack on the police official Das. Similarly during the CAA movement the Congress's act of vandalism perpetrated out by its goons at the historic Kalakshetra; chaos and anarchy in other parts of the city is still fresh in the minds of the people of Assam, Sharma added. Sharma further urged the government to take stern action as per law against the Congress goons who attacked the police on duty.

## CM Himanta Biswa Sarma praise

& focus who would be adequately skilled," the Assam CM tweeted. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled a new scheme called "Agnipath" for the recruitment of soldiers in the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, largely on a short-term contractual basis, with an aim to cut the ballooning salary and pensions bill. "The Cabinet Committee on Security has taken a historic decision today to approve the transformative scheme of 'Agnipath'. Under this, Indian youth would be granted an opportunity to get inducted into the Armed services. Under the 'Agnipath' scheme, efforts are to create a youthful profile of the Armed forces," Singh said while addressing a press conference in the national capital today. The Union Minister said, "It would help to train them for new technologies and also improve their health levels. This scheme will increase employment opportunities with new skills in different sectors." The Defence Minister said that the entire nation, especially our youth, treats the armed forces with respect. "Every child aspires to wear an army uniform at some point in their lifetime," he said. Asking the youth to have a "youthful profile", he said, "Youthful profile will also have the advantage that they can be easily trained for new technologies, and their health and fitness level will also be better." Agnipath scheme aims to make the Army a future-ready fighting force capable of meeting multiple challenges across the full spectrum of conflict, Indian Army Chief General Manoj Pande said on Tuesday. Speaking at the press conference today, the Indian Army chief said, "Agnipath scheme aims to make the Army a future-ready fighting force capable of meeting multiple challenges across the full spectrum of conflict and it will increase the technical threshold of the Army by recruiting 'Agniveers' through ITIs and other tech-institutes." The Army chief highlighted that 'Agniveers' will be assimilated and integrated into Army in every way. "We will institute a fair, transparent and scientific method in screening initial intake of four years and apply similar yardsticks to select those who will get enrolled... 'Agniveers' will be assimilated and integrated into Army in every way," he said. "There won't be any compromise on the skillset of Agniveers. We will deploy Agniveers on borders," Chief Of Army Staff General Manoj Pande said.

## Mamata convenes key Opposition

NCP, DMK, RJD and the Left parties attended the meeting at the Constitution Club of India in Delhi. However, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and Odisha's ruling BJD have stayed away from the Opposition parties meeting. As per ANI sources, AAP will take a decision only after the candidate for the Presidential election is announced. CPI's Binoy Viswam said it was decided that "there was consensus in the meeting that there should be only one candidate who is acceptable to all". RJD's Manoj Jha said the Opposition leaders would convince Pawar to reconsider his decision as he was the "right" candidate. Congress, Shiv Sena, CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML), National Conference, PDP, JD(S), RSP, IUML, RLD and the JMM were among the parties that attended the meeting called by TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee. NCP's Sharad Pawar and Praful Patel, Congress' Mallikarjun Kharge, Jairam Ramesh and Randeep Surjewala, H D Deve Gowda and H D Kumaraswamy of the JD(S), Akhilesh Yadav of the SP, Mehbooba Mufti of the PDP, Omar Abdullah of the National Conference were among the significant leaders present at the meeting in Delhi. On Tuesday, Banerjee and Left party leaders met NCP chief Sharad Pawar at his residence separately to convince him to be the consensus opposition candidate for the top constitutional job. PTI reported. Last week, the West Bengal CM had reached out to the Opposition leaders urging them to attend a meeting on June 15 in New Delhi to chalk out a joint strategy for the polls. The Election Commission announced earlier that polling for the next President of India will be held on July 18. As many as 4,809 electors comprising MPs and MLAs will vote to elect the next President. Incumbent President Ram Nath Kovind's term ends on July 24. The BJP's candidate is expected to secure a comfortable win considering the saffron party's strength in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, as well as in several state assemblies.

## Pijush Hazarika took charge

departmental officers to ensure the smooth implementation of government schemes for persons with disabilities. The minister also took stock of the scholarships and other benefits of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Other Backward Classes (OBC) students. The department will provide special assistance to SC and OBC candidates who have passed the preliminary examination of the national public service commission, announced Hazarika.

## Gauhati University Exams

students. A member of the student body said that to top it all, semester examinations are underway in the university and all of the hindrances has made it difficult to concentrate on studies for the students. In that regard, the students' union held talks with the vice-chancellor of GU, Professor Pratap Jyoti Handique to try and come up with a way to ease the problems for students. At the end of the meeting, the union member mentioned that talks were fruitful. Meanwhile, the university authorities announced that all examinations till June 20 will be postponed. The GU authorities also mentioned that other examinations to be held on later dates will go ahead as scheduled.

## Extremely Heavy Rains

June 15-16. According to weather.com meteorologists, the daily precipitation in the region could be as high as 150-200 mm. And with the total five-day rainfall likely to pile up beyond 500 mm, flooding and landslides will be genuine possibilities across the northeastern states this week. In view of these predictions, Assam and Meghalaya have been placed on a red warning during the entirety of this forecast period; the alert instructs their residents to 'take action' in order to protect themselves from inclement weather. The rest of the northeastern states, meanwhile, will be placed under an orange alert, which urges the people to 'be prepared' for rough conditions. Meanwhile, in the same forecast period, the same meteorological factors are expected to dump some precipitation in the neighbouring eastern states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Gangetic West Bengal as well as the adjoining central subdivisions of East Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra's Vidarbha. But unlike in the northeast, the onset of the southwest monsoon is yet to occur over most of these states. Lastly, as far as the monsoon precipitation over the Northeast is concerned, its distribution has varied from state to state. Between June 1 and 13, Meghalaya (555mm) has recorded a whopping 120% 'large excess' rainfall as compared to its long-term average for this period, whereas the rains over Arunachal (181.7 mm), Assam (177.2 mm), Nagaland (97.4 mm) and Sikkim (189.6 mm) have remained in the 'normal' category. But on the flip side, Mizoram (72 mm) and Manipur (58.4 mm) have recorded 'deficit' precipitation figures, while Tripura (79.9 mm) has suffered a 'large deficit' thus far.

## Police Detain Congress Leaders for Protesting Against ED's Summon to Rahul Gandhi

Guwahati, June 15: The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) leaders including President Bhupen Borah have been detained by police following a protest at Rajiv Bhawan against the summon issued by Enforcement Directorate to party leader Rahul Gandhi. Today is the third day that the Congress leader has been questioned by the probe agency. The Congress leaders also staged protest on Monday against the ED summon to Rahul Gandhi after which they were detained. The supporters were marching from Rajiv Bhawan to the ED office in Chandmari when the police detained them at Bhangagarh. Police had been deployed outside Rajiv Bhawan and barricades had been erected to stop the rally. When the protesters tried to breach the barricades, the police arrested them. They were later released. On Wednesday too, they carried a protest march after which they were detained by police. Borah alleged that Rahul is being quizzed to downplay the Nupur Sharma backlash. "In the same allegation brought by ED, Rahul Gandhi got a clean chit way back in 2015. Since the Nupur Sharma case has tarnished the image of the Prime Minister globally, the ED is being used to divert attention," Borah told media persons. Several Congress legislators, even those who were planning dissidence, joined the protest march, expressing solidarity with Rahul Gandhi. Deputy CLP leader Rakibul Hussain, MLA Nurul Hooda and MP Abdul Khaleque among several other leaders joined the protest along with other wings of the party.

## Pakistan in trouble: Whole country is plunged into 'Darkness', Imran Khan in a state of shock

Islamabad, June 15: Pakistan's economy is going through a difficult time. The rate of price rise has reached 13.8 per cent. Due to which the food crisis has also reached a miserable state. Pakistan's electricity crisis is becoming more and more acute. Due to lack of fuel, electricity cannot be generated in the country. As a result, the period of black out is getting longer. Which increased to 12 hours now. This situation is reminiscent of Sri Lanka. Meanwhile, adding to the fears, the Pakistani administration has said that the blackout period may be extended in the coming days. In fact, the amount of fuel in the country is increasingly running out. A few days ago, the Shahbaz Sharif government took several decisions as a precautionary measure. 1. Work from home has been made mandatory in many offices. 2. Orders have been issued to end the wedding ceremony before 10 pm. 3. Steps are also being taken to turn off the street lights at certain intervals. 4. The use of air conditioning devices has been restricted. However, despite these warnings, it is not possible to pull the plug on the fuel crisis. So the time limit of black out is increasing. Many cities of the country, including Islamabad, are submerged in darkness. Pakistan's economy is going through a difficult time. The rate of price rise has reached 13.8 per cent. Due to which the food crisis has also reached a miserable state. Imran Khan, who has just been in a state of shock, has expressed fear that this time the common Pakistani citizens will have to burn more in the burning of hunger. All in all, the situation is becoming increasingly dire. New Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is desperate to get out of this situation. But he's getting more and more of a hard job. The price of natural gas is becoming more and more expensive. Realizing that in this situation, it is no less challenging to handle the situation by continuously buying it at the cost of the knot, he said in the beginning of June that it is difficult for them to buy expensive fuel in this way. Because there is also a shortage of money in the treasury. All in all, the Pakistani administration, which is very uncomfortable, is trying to get rid of this situation, but the task is becoming increasingly difficult.

## 'I respect Hinduism a million times more than Islam', says politician who supports Nupur Sharma

New Delhi, June 15: Dutch far-right politician Geert Wilders, who courted controversy for supporting suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma who made controversial comments on Prophet Muhammad, has come up with another explosive comment. Wilders was being trotted after supporting Sharma and many people asked him when 'going to criticise Hinduism'. In one of his latest tweets, Wilders wrote, "Cultural relativism is a misleading concept. People are equal but cultures are not. A culture based on humanity and freedom is always better than a culture based on intolerance and submission. Therefore I respect Hinduism a million times more than Islam." Geert Wilders, who is known for repeatedly taking a tough stance against Islamic extremism in his country, had extended his support to the BJP leader after she made controversial comments about Prophet Muhammad during a TV debate. The Dutch politician took it to Twitter and shared multiple screenshots of threats. "So this is what I get supporting the brave #NupurSharma. Hundreds of death threats. It makes me even more determined and proud of supporting her. For evil may never win. Never. #supportNupurSharma," he said in a tweet. The screenshots Wilders posted on Twitter contained vulgar threat messages and even indicated a desire to assassinate him. Earlier, on June 6, he claimed that Nupur Sharma gave the right information. India should stand in her support. Wilders in a tweet, that supported Nupur Sharma's controversial comments, has said, "It is ridiculous that Arab and Islamic countries are angered by Indian politician Nupur Sharma's statement for speaking the truth about Prophet Muhammad who indeed married Aisha when she was six years old and consumed the marriage when she was nine."

## Retail outlets opened at LGBIA

Assam Rising, Palasbari, June 15: Observing the increasing number of passengers daily, Three new retail outlets were opened at the LGBI Airport during last week. The outlets were inaugurated by Chief Airport Officer Utpal Baruah. The new outlets like WK Life, Toscee and Feeling perfume were opened at the security holding area of the terminal. WK Life is a London based company that deals in electronic gadgets and accessories. Toscee deals in an impressive line-up of fashion garments, scarves and accessories whereas, Feeling perfume deals in a sophisticated and understood oriental gourmand scent that is pleasing, happy and classy.

## World Elderly Abuse Awareness Day observed

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, June 15: World Elderly Abuse Awareness Day observed in Lakhimpur Commerce College today with calls to extend support to the ageing people. On this occasion, a meeting was organized by the Anti-Sexual Harassment Cell of the college which was chaired by the Vice-Principal of the college Gopal Kumar Chetry. The objective of the meeting was explained by Mahesh Bhagawati, convener of the cell. Sazzad Hussain, HoD of English of the college and eminent columnist, attended the meeting as resource person. In his address, Hussain laid the programme of action adopted by the UN on elderly care in the current decade. The meeting was also addressed by Dr. Sikhmoni Borgohain of the Department of Economics. The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks by Bahnisikha Bordoloi, member of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Cell of Lakhimpur Commerce College.

## House torched by wild elephant in Kachugaon

Assam Rising, Gossaigaon, June 15: Fear and psychosis looming large among the people in Panbari village as a group of wild elephants recently damaged everything in one Gaida Narzary's residence in Kokrajhar District. The victim said that a group of wild elephants at about 9.30 pm entered Tipkai, Panbari village and damaged everything that came before him. The victims have called upon the government to compensate for the damage caused by the wild elephants. The victim also regretted that damaging of houses by wild animals has become a common phenomenon for which the people of the village have been spending a nightmare everyday and to stop this sought forest personnels help. He also said that proper fencing of the area might help to overcome the problem.

## School awareness program held at Angerkhowa Chariali

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, June 15: Under the aegis of District Tobacco Control Cell (DTCC), Lakhimpur and in collaboration with Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF), a school awareness-cum-sensitisation programme on Tobacco and Health was held at Angerkhowa Chariali H.S. School, North Lakhimpur today. In the programme, which was anchored by the Principal of the school Khirod Gogoi, DNO, DTCC, Lakhimpur Dr. Dhiren Saikia, District Health Manager, ACCF, Dr. Dipitmoni Das, ACCF Dentist Dr. Ankita Ghosh and ACCF team member Sanjiv Kumar Baitha attended and highlighted before the pupils on the harmful aspects of using tobacco. Sanjiv Kumar Baitha further spoke on various facilities available in Lakhimpur Cancer Hospital. Organizing such a beneficial programme for the students, Principal Khirod Gogoi thanked the organizer as well as the collaborator. Besides the students, all the teaching and non-teaching staff of Angerkhowa Chariali H.S. Schools were present in the awareness programme.



Diphu- BJP State Executive meeting





## ATTS announced its squad for the forthcoming Junior and Youth National Table Tennis Championship

**GUWAHATI, June 15 :** Assam Table Tennis Association announced its squad for the forthcoming Junior and Youth National Table Tennis Championship which will be held in Kerala from June 17. Current Sub Junior National champion Priyanuj Bhattacharjee will also represent Assam in the competition. The squad: Junior Boys: Hriday Jyoti Sarmah, Adhiraja Hazarika, Ayaan Aziz and Shreyas Das. Girls: Bhumika Kaushik, Harshita Das, Bhavna Kashyap, Dhanistha Saikia. Youth Boys: Agniv Bhaskar Gohain, Arka Kumar Gogoi, Hriday Jyoti Sarmah and Ahnik Gautam Bhatta. Youth Girls: Trisha Gogoi, Harshita Das, Bhumika Kaushik and Akansha Deka. Coach: Hrishikesh Bora. Manager: Ranjit Kumar Dutta.

## Wales comeback thwarted by Memphis Depay's last-gasp Netherlands winner

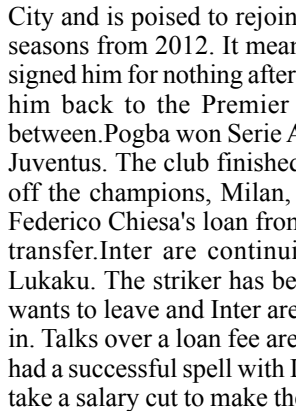
**London, June 15 :** Last week, after the Netherlands snatched victory in the 94th minute in Cardiff, Gareth Bale conceded that Wales must master the dark arts and add a streetwise streak if they are to prosper at their first World Cup in 64 years. After Memphis Depay rattled in a stoppage time winner here, seconds after Bale equalised from the penalty spot, it was an agonising case of déjà vu. But even if another game against the same opposition ended in maddening fashion, succumbing to defeat at the last for the second time in six days, Wales may be the only of the home nations to come out of the past fortnight of never-ending matches with any discernible credit. Twenty minutes before kick off the stadium announcer made a point of congratulating Wales on reaching Qatar 2022 and while they appear generally in rude health, this was another galling denouement. Bale, who entered from the bench with 20 minutes to play, levelled two minutes into added time but Depay, also a substitute, feasted on some sloppy defending to render Wales's comeback worthless. Brennan Johnson's second nerveless finish in four



days had pulled a goal back after the Netherlands raced into a two-goal lead courtesy of Noa Lang and Cody Gakpo. Afterwards, Bale could be forgiven for thinking he was repeating himself. "It's hard to take but I'd rather this happen now and we address it than it happen at the World Cup," he said. "We have to use these Nations League games to improve and get better. I was saying in the changing room, we're in league A playing against big teams, and of course we are disappointed we conceded late, but we're competing with these big teams in every game now and it's just the finer details we need to iron out. If we can do that it will put us in a good place for the World Cup." Louis van Gaal has never been one to mince his words and so his criticism of De Kuip

## Paul Pogba reaches verbal agreement to rejoin Juventus on free transfer

**Milan, June 15 :** Juventus expect Paul Pogba to sign a contract with them at the beginning of next month after a verbal agreement was reached for the midfielder's return. Pogba's departure from Manchester United at the end of his deal has been confirmed and Juventus have agreed to pay a net salary of €8m (£7m) a season before bonuses. Final details for the move are being discussed. The France international rejected an approach from Manchester



City and is poised to rejoin the club where he spent four seasons from 2012. It means Juventus would twice have signed him for nothing after his exits from United and sold him back to the Premier League club for £93.2m in between. Pogba won Serie A in each of his four seasons at Juventus. The club finished fourth last season, 16 points off the champions, Milan, and have turned the forward Federico Chiesa's loan from Fiorentina into a permanent transfer. Inter are continuing to push to sign Romelu Lukaku. The striker has been clear with Chelsea that he wants to leave and Inter are the only club he is interested in. Talks over a loan fee are continuing and Lukaku, who had a successful spell with Inter from 2019-21, is ready to take a salary cut to make the move.

# Saracens Premiership title would be career highlight, says Maro Itoje

**London, June 15 :** Maro Itoje says victory for Saracens in Saturday's Gallagher Premiership final would rank alongside the most satisfying achievements of his career after the upheaval caused by the club's relegation to the Championship for salary cap breaches. The England lock forward was among a number of senior players who gathered for a summit meeting in the Wicked Lady pub near Harpenden to decide how they should respond to the club's demotion to the second tier

for the 2020-21 season. Once they had been reassured England would still consider them, Itoje and his most experienced teammates all resolved to stay at Saracens with the aim of propelling the club back to the kind of big occasion that awaits at Twickenham. "It was a tumultuous period where there was a lot of uncertainty, a period when we didn't really know what was happening," said Itoje. "That coincided with Covid so there was double trouble. But I still felt



Saracens was the environment where I could achieve all of my goals. No one really wants to play in the Championship but I still felt Saracens was the right long-term place for me to have the type of career I want to have. "Having finished second in the regular season table and battled past Harlequins in the semi-final, Itoje now wants to finish the job by overcoming Leicester at Twickenham. The squad have recently been picking the brains of guest speakers such as Eddie Howe, Sean

Dyche and Alastair Campbell and are hungry to secure a first title since 2019. "I don't really like ranking things, but this would be right up there," confirmed Itoje. "Leicester are a top team and we need to make

sure we play our best rugby but this would be an amazing achievement for the club if we do achieve it. The mentality of the players at this club, particularly the senior players, is that we want to have successful careers. Not just a successful year or couple of years but a successful career. "In order to have that you need to have the hunger to go again. If you look at the top athletes from different parts of the world, whatever sport they play, they go after it year after year. That is the mentality of a lot of players at this club." Itoje, meanwhile, believes the final needs to be made more tempting to non-rugby supporters if the club game is to boost its popularity. "If you were to compare it to other major sporting events - the Champions League final, the Monaco Grand Prix - they're events people don't want to miss.

## Royal Ascot

### Bay Bridge can step up to big time in £1m Prince of Wales

**London, June 15 :** Just five runners go to post for the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Royal Ascot on Wednesday,

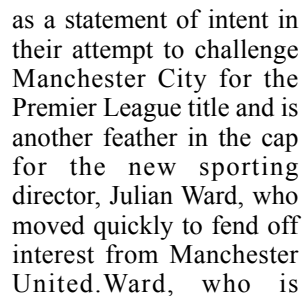


the first £1m race at the meeting, and while that might seem a poor return for a seven-figure investment, all five have a live chance on the pick of their form. It is an international field, too, with Shahryar, the Sheema Classic winner on World Cup night in Dubai, attempting to become the first Japanese-trained winner at the Royal meeting, while Joseph O'Brien sends State Of Rest from Ireland, hoping to add a win as a trainer after having taken this race as a jockey aboard So You Think in 2012. Baaeed ridden by Jim Crowley, on their way to winning the Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot. Like Lord North and Grand Glory, those two also have Group One-winning form in the book. But all four have a big fight on their hands against Bay Bridge (3.40), who is stepping up to the highest level for the first

time. Sir Michael Stoute's colt was a deeply impressive winner of the Brigadier Gerard Stakes, looking every inch a Group One performer as he powered five lengths clear in the final furlong. That was just the seventh start of his career and offered every sign that the best is yet to come. Royal Ascot 2.30 Wesley Ward has won this four times since 2009 so Love Reigns, highly impressive on debut at Keeneland in April, will be a popular choice. She could face an unusually strong opponent in Dramatised, however, as Karl Burke's filly posted a good time to win at Newmarket in April. Royal Ascot 3.05 The race was over before it had really started for Nahanni in the Derby at Epsom, as he was slow to stride and then stayed on into seventh. His earlier form puts him very much in the mix here, however, and the step up to 14 furlongs should suit.

## Liverpool confirm Darwin Núñez signing in £85m deal from Benfica

**Liverpool, June 15 :** Liverpool have announced the signing of Darwin Núñez from Benfica for a fee that could reach £85m. The Uruguay international, who turns 23 next week, was the top scorer in Portugal's top flight last season with 26 goals and scored 34 in total, including one in each leg of Benfica's Champions League quarter-final with Liverpool. His arrival on a six-year contract should clear the way for Sadio Mané to join Bayern Munich. Talks are continuing over a transfer for the Senegal forward who has indicated he wants a new challenge. The initial fee for Núñez will be £64m but that fee could rise to £85m should he reach certain milestones in his Liverpool career, including winning the Champions League. The signing is subject to international clearance and work-permit approval. Liverpool see the signing



as a statement of intent in their attempt to challenge Manchester City for the Premier League title and is another feather in the cap for the new sporting director, Julian Ward, who moved quickly to fend off interest from Manchester United. Ward, who is stepping into the role vacated by the influential Michael Edwards, was a key player in the January recruitment of Luis Díaz and the club believe getting the deal done early will allow Núñez to settle in and enjoy a full pre-season. The striker, who is expected to earn around £140,000 per week at Anfield, told the official club website: "I'm really happy and delighted to be here at Liverpool. It's a massive club. I'd like to thank my partner and my parents and my son, who is a real source of pride for me. They've been really important to me in the stages in my career.



I'm really proud of them, and for the work we do, me and my partner, as a team and I'm grateful to her that I'm here. "It's a pleasure to be here in Liverpool and I'm very happy to be a part of this great club. I've played against Liverpool and I've seen them in lots of games in the Champions League, and it's my style of play. There are some great players here and I think it's going to suit my style of play here. "As I say, I've watched quite a lot and it's a very big club and I hope I can give everything that I've got in order to help the team."

## British wildcard Ryan Peniston stuns top seed Casper Ruud at Queen's Club

**Wimbledon, June 15 :** In his first ATP main draw

match, Great Britain's Ryan Peniston pulled off the greatest win by far of his young career as he toppled Casper Ruud, the top seed and recent French Open finalist, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (2) in the first round of the Queen's



Club Championships. "I can't really believe it, it feels like a dream," he said. "I didn't get much sleep last night thinking about this match. It doesn't feel real." Peniston, 26, spent the formative years of his career playing in college at the University of Memphis, making his first full professional season in 2019. He is a survivor of rhabdomyosarcoma, a soft tissue cancer that was diagnosed with him as a toddler. "I went into hospital and had to have chemotherapy and then surgery, and then more chemotherapy," he said. "Lasted about 18 months. So yes, it was

definitely a difficult start to my life. I don't remember much but from my parents and my brothers I think it must have been a pretty tough time, but yes, I had the amazing doctors, amazing nurses that helped me through that and my family." He arrived at Queen's Club in his best season, rising from his ranking of 268 at the beginning of the year to his current ranking of 180, a career high, after back-to-back Challenger quarter-finals at Surbiton and Nottingham. Those victories earned Peniston his first main-draw wildcard at Queen's Club. Faced with an unwelcome draw against Ruud, the world No 5, Peniston soared. He served well and continually set the pace with his tricky lefty game, controlling the baseline and making Ruud, 23, uncomfortable in defence.

## Australian cricketer enters record books with 309 off 140 balls

**Melbourn, June 15 :** Australian blind cricket team opener Steffan Nero has smashed a longstanding world record with an astonishing unbeaten 309 off 140 balls at the International Cricket Inclusion Series. The wicketkeeper-batter's triple century broke the previous benchmark of 262 not out, set by Pakistan's Masood Jan at the 1998 Blind Cricket World Cup. "It's a dream in itself to play for Australia so to make a century for Australia is one of those lifelong memories you will never forget," Nero said after making his third straight century at the tournament in Brisbane. It followed knocks of 113 (off 46 balls) and 101 not out (47), and leaves him with a scarcely believable average of 523. It also included the first six of the tournament, a magnificent reverse sweep over the ropes at Shaw Park. "Sometimes in an over I decide, 'OK I'm going to try to take this guy downtown and hit him out of the park,'" Nero said. "This ball hit the right spot. One of my strengths is the reverse. I've built that up

over the years, playing that reverse sweep all the time." When it went over the boundary for six I was very happy with that. But I was also annoyed I hit the ball in the air, because when you verse the best nations in the world, they'll most likely catch you. "Needless to say, after Nero's innings propelled his side to a

total of 541-2 off 40 overs, Australia won the match by a mammoth 269 runs. The host nation leads the series against New Zealand 6-0, with two further ODIs to be played before the series concludes on Friday. The tournament in Brisbane is the first time since 2019 that all three Australian squads - blind, deaf and intellectual disability - have



competed at international level. Due to the disruption of Covid-19, Nero has not represented Australia since 2018 at the ODI World Cup in Dubai. "It's been a long time," he said. "But no matter who we are playing, we always like to put in 100% and put the Australian spirit on show. All we really want to do is play cricket." Nero said the secret to his success was a lot of hard work and dedication. "It's a lot of evenings, weekends, along with university and work it can be quite a lot at times," he said. "But also the support around me. There have been days when I didn't want to train but [coach Jason Stubbs] said 'keep going' and pushed me through." "Blind cricket is much like the conventional form of the game, with a few key differences - the ball is plastic and makes a noise when it moves, and the stumps are made of metal to generate more noise when struck by the ball. Bowling is underarm and the ball must bounce at least twice before it reaches the batter.



# Serena Williams granted wildcard into Wimbledon singles draw



**Wimbledon, June 15 :** Serena Williams will make her long-awaited return to the game from a one year layoff after she was granted a wildcard into the Wimbledon singles draw. In an Instagram post on Tuesday, she announced her return by including a picture of her trainers and ankle braces on grass with her tennis bag in the background. Williams captioned the photo: "SW and SW19. It's a date. 2022, see you there." The All England Club later confirmed Williams's return to individual competition by announcing her as a wildcard recipient. The wildcard announcements were supposed to be made on Wednesday but the fanfare around Williams's possible presence led to an

earlier reveal. Wimbledon begins on 27 June. In her post, Williams additionally tagged the Eastbourne international, the pre-Wimbledon WTA event that begins next week. She will take her first steps back on to the match court when she competes in the doubles draw with Tunisia's Ons Jabeur, the singles world No 4. "I am excited to return to the Rothesay International Eastbourne in England and to be back on the grass - a surface that has been so good to me throughout my career. Eastbourne has a unique charm that you don't see anywhere else on tour and I'm looking forward to playing in front of the fans again," Williams said in a statement. Williams has not competed

since a Wimbledon first-round match against Aliaksandra Sasnovich last year, when she slipped on the wet grass and was forced to retire early in the first set with a left leg injury. In the meantime, her ranking has fallen to 1,208. Since she did not apply for a protected ranking before Wimbledon, she did not appear on the entry list and she required a wildcard to enter the event. With 23 grand slam singles titles, Williams holds the Open Era grand slam record. At Wimbledon, she has won seven singles titles, six women's doubles titles alongside her sister, Venus, and also the mixed doubles title in 1998. After winning her 23rd grand slam title

while pregnant with her daughter, Olympia, in Australia in 2017, Williams returned from maternity leave in 2018. While she has reached four grand slam finals since then, including at Wimbledon in 2018 and 2019, she was unable to win a set in those finals. She turns 41 on 26 September. Despite not competing over the past year, Williams has remained in the public eye. She was most a producer along with her sisters, Venus and Isha, for the Oscar-nominated film King Richard. This article includes content provided by Instagram. We ask for your permission before anything is loaded, as they may be using cookies and other technologies. To view this

content, click 'Allow and continue'. As Williams failed to appear on entry lists throughout the season, there was ample uncertainty about whether she would ever return to the sport. Such discussion was only accentuated by Williams's longtime coach, Patrick Mouratoglou, announcing in April that he would no longer be working with Williams after joining forces with the former world No 1 Simona Halep. Williams will instead be accompanied by Eric Hechtman, who normally coaches Venus. The status of Venus Williams remains uncertain. The elder Williams, a five-time Wimbledon champion with seven major singles titles overall, has not competed since August.

## US Open will allow Russian and Belarusian players after Wimbledon ban

**New York, June 15 :**

The US Open will allow tennis players from Russia and Belarus to compete this year despite the ongoing war in Ukraine, which prompted Wimbledon to ban those athletes. US Tennis Association CEO and executive director Lew Sherr, whose group runs the US Open, said in a telephone interview with the Associated Press on Tuesday that the USTA Board decided to let Russians and Belarusians enter the tournament because of "concern about holding the individual athletes accountable for the actions and decisions of their governments". Sherr said athletes from Russia and Belarus will play at Flushing Meadows under a neutral flag - an arrangement that has been used at various tennis tournaments around the world, including the French Open, which ended 5 June. Since Russia began its attacks on Ukraine in February, Russian athletes have been prevented from taking part in many sports, including soccer's World Cup qualifying playoffs.



Belarus has aided Russia in the war. Russia also was held out of two international team events in tennis in which it was the reigning champion: the Billie Jean King Cup and Davis Cup. The All England Club, where main-draw play for Wimbledon starts on 27 June, announced in April it would bar all Russians and Belarusians from its fields - which means current men's No 1, Russia's Daniil Medvedev, is not eligible to participate. Medvedev is the defending champion at the US Open. Wimbledon's ban drew immediate criticism from the WTA and ATP, along with some prominent players, such as defending champion Novak Djokovic. In May, the WTA and ATP said they would not award any ranking points for Wimbledon this year, an unprecedented rebuke of the All England Club. Some players, including four-time major champion and former No 1 Naomi Osaka, said they would consider sitting out Wimbledon. The ATP has said all points earned at Wimbledon in 2021 will fall off a player's record and no new points will be earned there this year. The WTA has not decided exactly how last year's rankings points from the All England Club will be treated, but no new points can be added based on how a player performs there this time. Sherr told the AP that what happened with Wimbledon - both the All England Club's move to keep players from certain countries out and

## Team bonding and fan attention: Rituraj Gaikwad on life in and out of the bubble

**New Delhi, June 15 :** The ongoing T20 series against South Africa is the first one for the India players without a bio-secure bubble environment following the covid pandemic. After the third match on Tuesday in Visakhapatnam, Rituraj Gaikwad spoke about the differences between the two phases, saying that team bonding had increased during bubble

life, and that players were now adjusting to the increased attention and distractions of a normal existence. "Being in a bubble was tough for a longer period of time," Gaikwad said. "But one good thing I felt was that the team bonding increased, in whichever team I played for, be it an IPL (Indian Premier League) team or for the Indian team. There were a lot of team activities

together. That has really helped and that will stay for the coming years as well." Coming out of the bubble, there are a lot of fans in this country, and a lot of people are gathering near you. And this is the first series (without the bubble) so everyone is taking time to adjust to it," Gaikwad added. "Because everywhere we go we are used to enclosed environments (in a bubble).

## Khelo India Games

# 'My mother supported my dream, she must be watching from heaven,' says Ankit

**Chandigarh, June 15 :** "I had lost my father years ago and last year I lost my mother too. After the death of my father, my mother supported my dream of becoming a boxer. It was tragic that she could not see me winning the Khelo India Youth Games gold and I knew that they must be watching me from heaven. There was a time last year when I wanted to quit the sport and did not feel the desire to fight again but coach Bhuwan Singh Bisht motivated me to continue boxing," said Ankit. Khelo India Achalveer (second from left) and Ankit (fourth from left) with coach Bhagwant Singh

(third from left) and other medalists from Chandigarh. Jaipal Singh Ankit started boxing in 2013 and became the national sub-junior champion in the 40kg when he won the nationals in Hyderabad. The youngster has won 13 Chandigarh state championship titles in various age categories so far and had reached the quarter-finals in the 48kg category in the junior nationals in 2018. At Khelo India, Ankit first defeated Anand Yadav of Madhya Pradesh before winning the final. Both Ankit and Victor had won medals for the Indian junior team recently and coach Bhuwan Singh Bisht sees this title win as the biggest motivation Ankit. "The biggest strength of Ankit has been



his willpower since the day he started training under me. He idolised his mother and when he lost her last year, it was devastating for him. He wanted to quit the sport and we had to spend many days with him to ensure that he returns to boxing. He boxes aggressively and that's what he showed

at the Khelo India Youth Games with wins over boxers who have been part of Indian junior teams. I am sure he will make his way into the Indian youth team soon and win an international medal," said Bisht. Another Chandigarh youngster Achal Veer, whose father Satpal Singh

works as a library assistant, won gold in the boys' 57kg final with a win over Anjani Kumar of Andhra Pradesh. Veer, nephew of former Indian international boxer Jai Bhagwan, started boxing under coach Jagdish Singh at Bhiwani before shifting base to Chandigarh in 2018. "The

reason I started boxing was due to my uncle Jai Bhagwan. When I shifted to Chandigarh, it meant that I had to stay away from my family. To win the gold medal for Chandigarh is a special feeling," Veer said. Chandigarh boys bagged the third spot with four medals in the overall boys boxing championship under coach Bhagwant Singh. "Four of our boxers reached the final and two won gold. The boxers trained through online practice sessions when the sports complexes were closed due to Covid-19 restrictions earlier. These medals will act as a huge motivating force for them," said Bhagwan.

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