



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

'Agnipath' Protest

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 18 :

A group of students staged a protest in Raha in Nagaon district of Assam against the 'Agnipath' military recruitment scheme on Saturday. The protests were staged on the national highway near Raha Chariali. The protesters termed the scheme "disastrous". The students who were preparing themselves for Army exam said that the Agnipath scheme is nothing but a design to destroy permanent jobs in the armed forces. The students protested holding placards and protesters raising slogans against Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and demanding that the army examination is conducted immediately.

Financial assistance

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 18 :

The Assam Athletics Association (AAA) has announced to provide financial assistance to sprinters Hima Das and Amlan Borgohain. The association will provide Rs 1 lakh to Hima Das and Rs 50 lakh will be given to Amlan Borgohain. This was stated by the Vice President of the Sports Authority of Assam and General Secretary of the Assam Olympic Association, Lakhya Konwar on Saturday. The Assam Olympic Association and Guwahati Sports Association will organize a marathon run on June 23. It may be mentioned that Hima Das will represent India in the 4x100m relay at the Commonwealth Games.

Ganja seized

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 18 :

The Karimganj Police has seized 1003 kg of ganja from two dumper trucks along the Assam-Tripura border. According to the police, both the dumper trucks were coming from Tripura. Niranjana Das, I/C of the Churaibari police watch post said, "The police team had stopped two dumper trucks at the Churaibari area along the Assam-Tripura border which were coming from Tripura." "During checking, we found a secret chamber inside one dumper truck. While we moved towards to check the second dumper truck the driver fled from the area. We recovered 763 packets of ganja from one truck. We recovered a total of 1003 kg of ganja from both vehicles," Mr Das said.

We are able to predict pandemic based on changes in virus, other signals: Bharat Biotech founder

New Delhi, June 18 :

Covaxin maker Bharat Biotech founder on Thursday said that his company is now able to predict a pandemic based on



changes in virus and related signals. While speaking at India pavilion at Vivatex 2022, Bharat Biotech founder and chairman

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Assam Floods 54 deaths so far, PM Modi assures help

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 18 :

The overall death toll in Assam floods has reached 54. As many as 18.94 lakh people in 28 districts are affected by the flood situation. The deaths were reported from Hojai, Nalbari, Bajali, Dhubri, Kamrup areas. Assam Floods: Incessant rains and floods have been wreaking havoc in Assam for many days now. As many as nine more persons died in Assam due to the flood, taking the overall death toll to



54, according to Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) on Friday.

Indian Army's Gajraj Corps launched flood-relief operations in coordination with the civil administration in the state. In the latest development, Assam CM

Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said that PM Modi contacted him today and has assured help from the Centre. As many as 18.94 lakh people in 28 districts are affected by the flood situation. The deaths were reported from Hojai, Nalbari, Bajali, Dhubri, Kamrup, Kokrajhar, and Sonitpur districts of Assam. So far 54 people in the state have lost their lives in floods and landslides this year so far. As per the state data, 2,930 villages

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3 Children Missing As Boat Carrying Flood-Affected People Capsizes In Assam

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 18 :

A boat carrying flood-affected people has capsized in Assam's Hojai district, leaving three children missing while 21 others have been rescued, officials said on Saturday. A group of 24 villagers were moving to safety from inundated Islampur village late on Friday night when the boat hit submerged a brick kiln and capsized in Raikota area, they said. "Personnel of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Di-

saster Response Force (SDRF) rescued 21 people, while search operations are underway to trace the three missing children," Hojai Deputy Commissioner Anupam Choudhury told. He urged people not to take a risk and venture out in the dark in inundated areas. "If people want to move to safer places, they should contact the district administration. We will evacuate them in NDRF and SDRF boats," he said. Kopili River has inundated vast tracts of land and

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Floods Cut a Swath Across North East & Bangladesh

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 18 :



While incessant rains continued to pound the north-east and battered the region with floods, it brought much-needed relief from the severe heatwave in Northern and Western India, improving the air quality at the same time. At least 22 people, including 13 in Meghalaya and 9 in Assam, were killed in floods and landslide incidents caused due to the continuous heavy rainfall in the Northeastern

region. Meghalaya's Mawsynram, the wettest place in India, gauged an enormous 1003.6 mm of precipitation in 24 hours ending 8:30 am on Friday, the highest ever on a day in June, while neighbouring

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Leopard, 3 Hog Deer killed By Speeding Vehicle In Kaziranga

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 18 :

As many as four animals including a leopard were killed on Saturday after being run over by a speeding vehicle on the national highway 37 in passing through Kaziranga national park in Assam. The tragic development comes after several preventive measures introduced by the forest and transport departments. In light of rising animal deaths on the highway due to vehicular movement, the authorities had earlier introduced sev-



eral measures including setting a speed limit for vehicles for the stretch of road. According to officials of the forest department, three hog deer along with the leopard were killed in

the incident. Officials said that the incident took place early today morning as the animals were trying to relocate to higher lands in the Karbi hills to save themselves from the rising water

levels, following incessant rains in the state over the past week. Authorities mentioned that it was common for animals to cross the highway on to the hills during floods, and hence the department had issued guidelines keeping in mind the safety of both animals

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Agnipath scheme an attack on 'jawani' after 'kisaani': Punjab CM

Chandigarh, June 18 :

Condemning the recent decision of the NDA government to implement 'Agnipath' scheme in the Indian Army as a retrogressive step, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Friday asked the Union government to immediately roll back its decision in the



larger interest of the coun

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New Delhi, June 18 :

Gandhi said she empathises with the youths who are awaiting results and appointments after taking the test for induction in the Air Force. Youths across the country have taken to the

streets and are protesting against the new short-term recruitment scheme. Congress president Sonia Gandhi Saturday termed "directionless" the Centre's 'Agnipath' scheme for recruitment in the armed forces, and said her party will work for its withdrawal.



She also appealed to the youths protesting against the scheme to adopt peaceful and non-violent means to fight for their demands. "It is unfortunate that the government has announced a new armed forces' recruitment

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CM visits flood affected Kamrup and Darrang districts

Interacts with flood victims; assures all government helps towards rescue, relief and rehabilitation

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 18 :

Dispur, June 18: As the state is reeling under flood caused by incessant rain with most of the rivers in the state are following above danger level, impacting large number of people in 28

districts, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today visited the flood affected Kamrup and Darrang districts, took stock of the ground situation and talked to the flood affected people with direction of adequate government help. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma during his visit,

took stock of the flood situation prevailing in Rangia town and talked to the flood affected people taken shelter at Fatima Convent school in the town. He spent some time in the relief camp and took stock of the rescue, relief

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PM Shri Narendra Modi to his mother on her 100th birthday



Mother

Mother – is not just any other word in the dictionary. It encompasses a whole range of emotions – love, patience, trust, and a lot more. Across the world, irrespective of country or region, children have a special affection for their mothers. A mother not only gives birth to her children, but also shapes their mind, their personality, and their self-confidence. And while doing so, mothers selflessly sacrifice their own personal needs

and aspirations.

Today, I feel extremely happy and fortunate to share that my mother Smt. Heeraba is entering her hundredth year. This is going to be her birth centenary year. If my father had been alive, he too would have celebrated his 100th birthday last week. 2022 is a special year as my mother's centenary year is starting, and my father would have completed his.

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Agnipath Scheme: MHA Announces 10% Reservation For Agniveers In CAPF & Assam Rifles

New Delhi, June 18 :

The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to give a 10 percent reservation for recruitment in CAPFs & Assam Rifles for Agniveers. The MHA has also decided to give a three years relaxation in the upper age limit for the Agniveers to be recruited in the two forces. The Home Ministry also said that for the 1st batch of Agniveer, age relaxation will be for 5 yrs beyond the upper age limit. The information was shared by the Home Minister's Office



(HMO) on Saturday morning following the widespread protests across the country. "The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) decides to reserve 10% vacancies for recruitment in CAPFs and Assam Rifles for Agniveers," the MHA

tweeted. "The MHA also decides to give 3 years age relaxation beyond the prescribed upper age limit to Agniveers for recruitment in CAPFs & Assam Rifles. Further, for the first batch

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Congress president Sonia Gandhi terms 'Agnipath' scheme 'directionless'

New Delhi, June 18 :

Gandhi said she empathises with the youths who are awaiting results and appointments after taking the test for induction in the Air Force. Youths across the country have taken to the

streets and are protesting against the new short-term recruitment scheme. Congress president Sonia Gandhi Saturday termed "directionless" the Centre's 'Agnipath' scheme for recruitment in the armed forces, and said her party will work for its withdrawal.



She also appealed to the youths protesting against the scheme to adopt peaceful and non-violent means to fight for their demands. "It is unfortunate that the government has announced a new armed forces' recruitment

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Putin calls Ukraine war sanctions 'insane' in combative speech

Moscow, June 18 : Vladimir Putin has delivered a combative speech repeating his critique of the west and saying the sanctions "blitzkrieg" against Moscow never had any chance of succeeding. "If they are exceptional, then that means that everyone else is second class," the Russian president said of the US. "They live in the past on their own under their own delusions." The address on Friday, which the Kremlin had billed as "extremely important", was delayed by over an hour and a half after Putin's spokesperson, Dmitry Peskov, cited "large-



scale" cyberattacks on the conference's computer systems. In the speech, delivered at the annual St Petersburg International Economic Forum in front of much of Russia's political and business elite, Putin

sought to reassure his country that the economy was capable of overcoming sanctions that he called "reckless and insane." "We are strong people and can cope with any challenge. Like our ancestors, we will

solve any problem, the entire thousand-year history of our country speaks of this," he said. Putin also said the EU had completely lost its "political sovereignty", criticising the bloc for introducing sanctions against Russia on supposed orders from the US. "European countries dealt a serious blow to their own economies all on their own," he said. In his speech, which lasted well over an hour, Putin sought to further stress that the west was falsely linking economic turmoil in their countries to the war in Ukraine to distract the public from the actual

reasons behind spiralling inflation. "We all hear about so-called Putin inflation in the west," he said. "When I see this, I always think: 'Who's this meant for, this stupidity? For someone who doesn't know how to read or write.'" He said uncontrolled monetary spending in the west was at fault. Putin also accused the west, rather than Russia, of being responsible for looming food crises by "snapping up" supplies. "Famine in the poorest countries will be on the conscience of the US administration and the Eurocrats," he said.

At least 25 dead and millions stranded as floods devastate India and Bangladesh



New Delhi, June 18 : At least 25 people died as floods cut a swath across north-eastern India and Bangladesh, leaving millions of homes underwater, authorities said on Saturday. In India's Assam state, at least nine people died in the floods and 2 million others saw their homes submerged in flood waters, according to the state disaster management agency. Lightning strikes triggered by the storms had killed at least 21 people in Bangladesh since Friday afternoon, police officials said. Among them were three children aged 12 to 14 who were struck in the rural town of Nandail, local police chief Mizanur Rahman said. Another four people were killed when landslides hit their hillside homes in the port city of Chittagong, police inspector Nurul Islam

said. Both countries have asked the military to help with the severe flooding, which could worsen because rains are expected to continue over the weekend. The Brahmaputra - one of Asia's largest rivers - breached its mud embankments, inundating 3,000 villages and croplands in 28 of Assam's 33 districts. "We expect moderate to heavy rainfall in several parts of Assam till Sunday," said Sanjay O'Neil, an official at the meteorological station in Gauhati, Assam's capital. "The volume of rainfall has been unprecedented. Several train services were cancelled in India amid incessant rains over the past five days. In southern Assam's Haflong town, the railway station was under water and flooded rivers deposited mud and silt along the rail tracks. India's army

has been asked to help other disaster response agencies rescue stranded people and provide food and essentials to those whose houses are submerged under flood waters. "We are using speedboats and inflatable rafts to rescue flood-hit people," an army official said. In Bangladesh, districts near the Indian border have been worst affected. Water levels in all major rivers across the country were rising, according to the flood forecasting and warning centre in Dhaka, the capital. The country has about 130 rivers. The centre said the flood situation was likely to deteriorate in the worst-hit Sunamganj and Sylhet districts in the north-eastern region as well as in Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Rangpur districts in northern Bangladesh.



A salmon processing vessel harvests Atlantic salmon near Deep Blue No. 1 at a fish farming experimental area of Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province.

People arriving in UK on small boats to be electronically tagged

London, June 18 : Refugee rights campaigners have described a new Home Office scheme to electronically tag asylum seekers as "appalling", saying the move treats people fleeing conflict and persecution as criminals. Under a 12-month pilot, which began on Wednesday, some people arriving in the UK in small boats or in the back of lorries will be electronically tagged. Critics say the "draconian" move will do nothing to stop people from

returned to detention or prosecuted. Enver Solomon, the chief executive of the Refugee Council, said: "It's appalling that this government is intent on treating men, women and children who have fled war, bloodshed and persecution as criminals." This draconian and punitive approach not only shows no compassion for very vulnerable people; it will also do nothing to deter those who are desperately seeking safety in the UK. "The prime minister,

the rest of the country." The Labour leader, Keir Starmer, accused the government of "chasing headlines". "What I want is a serious response because nobody wants these journeys across the Channel to be made, these perilous journeys," he said during a visit to Wakefield, in West Yorkshire. "Everybody wants to clamp down on the gangs. That requires grownup work with the French authorities and upstream work to actually tackle these gangs. You don't do that if you're a government that is asking the National Crime Agency to make cuts." The Home Office said the trial programme would test whether electronic monitoring assists in maintaining regular contact with those given bail and helps to progress their claims more effectively. The first people to be tagged under the programme were likely to be those who avoided removal to Rwanda this week for processing, the BBC reported. It comes after the European court of human rights (ECHR) granted an injunction on Tuesday that resulted in the cancellation of a chartered flight to Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. The home secretary, Priti Patel, accused the ECHR of being politically motivated in its "absolutely scandalous" decision.



taking risky journeys to reach the UK in search of asylum. Boris Johnson defended the plans on Saturday morning, saying it was essential that people did not simply "vanish" into the rest of the country. Under the plans, asylum seekers will have to regularly report in person to authorities and may be subject to a curfew or excluded from certain locations, while failure to do so could result in them being

speaking to reporters at RAF Brize Norton after returning from an unannounced visit to Kyiv, said: "This is a very, very generous, welcoming country. Quite right too. I am proud of it, but when people come here illegally, when they break the law, it is important that we make that distinction. That is what we are doing with our Rwanda policy. That is what we are doing with making sure that asylum seekers can't just vanish into

Four jailed in Colombia for honeymoon murder of prosecutor

London, June 18 : Four people who confessed to taking part in the murder of a Paraguayan prosecutor who was on his honeymoon have each been sentenced to 23 years in jail. Marcelo Pecci, 45, known for fighting organised crime, was shot dead on the island of Barú near the Caribbean city of Cartagena, in Colombia, on 10 May. The Brazilian prison gang First Capital Command, a major exporter of cocaine, was involved in coordinating the murder, according to Colombian authorities, who

shortly before the couple were approached by two men on a beach near their hotel. "The final sunset in Barú, but we'll have millions more together," she wrote. She told authorities one of the men later shot Pecci. The organisers of the murder allegedly paid \$500,000 for the killing, the Colombian attorney general, Francisco Barbosa, said in a press conference earlier this month. Pecci, 45, had worked on several high-profile contract killing cases in Paraguay. He notably led an



also said the crime may have been connected to international drug trafficking and "radical terrorism". A fifth person has pleaded innocent, while a sixth suspect remains at large, according to Colombia's police. The judge presiding over the case in Cartagena said on Friday that a full sentence of 47 years for each of the four defendants was cut by half as part of a plea deal, but they ruled out other benefits such as serving any of the sentences at home. Pecci and his wife, the Paraguayan journalist Claudia Aguilera, announced her pregnancy on Instagram

investigation into the shooting of a drug trafficker, Marcos Rojas Mora, in a crowd of 20,000 people at a music festival in the town of San Bernardino, near the Paraguayan capital, in January. A bystander, Cristina "Vita" Aranda, a social media influencer, was also killed in that attack. Paraguay's president, Mario Abdo Benítez, last month condemned the "cowardly" murder, saying the "entire Paraguayan nation is in mourning" and that Paraguay would "step up our commitment to fight against organised crime".

Afghanistan: gunmen storm Sikh temple in Kabul

Kabul, June 18 : Gunmen have stormed a Sikh temple in the Afghan capital, throwing at least one grenade and wounding two people, the interior ministry and witnesses said. The number of bombings has dropped across the country since the Taliban seized

power in August, but there have been several fatal attacks in recent months. "I heard gunshots and blasts coming from the gurdwara," Gurnam Singh, a Sikh community leader said. The interior ministry spokesman, Abdul Nafi Takor, said a grenade blast had wounded two members of the Sikh community. Minutes later a car bomb detonated in the area but caused no casualties, he said. Singh, who was close to the scene, said the number of casualties could rise. "Generally at that time in the morning we have several Sikh devotees who come to offer prayers at the gurdwara," he said. The number of Sikhs living in Afghanistan has dwindled to about 200 compared with about half a million in the 1970s. The community has faced repeated attacks. At least 25 people were killed in March 2020 when gunmen stormed a temple. Islamic State claimed responsibility for that attack, which forced many Sikhs to leave the country even before the Taliban returned to power. The jihadist group has a history of targeting Afghan Sikhs,

Gunman, 70, kills three people at Alabama church dinner

Alabama, June 18 : A 70-year-old man shot and killed three people at a church potluck dinner in Alabama, police have said. Officers said the man, who had previously attended services at St Stephen's Episcopal church, pulled out a handgun and fatally shot three of the participants, one of whom died in his wife's arms as she whispered words of love in his ear. One of the church members rushed at the gunman, struck him with a chair and held him until police arrived, a former pastor said. The suspect, Robert Findlay Smith, was

charged with capital murder on Friday, the Jefferson County district attorney announced. The incident in a wealthy suburb of Birmingham stunned a community known for its family-orientated lifestyle. It also deepened the unease in a nation still reeling from recent gun attacks at a Texas school, a New York grocery store and another church in California. The Rev Doug Carpenter, St Stephen's pastor for three decades, said all three victims were members attending a monthly dinner at the church. Carpenter said another member, a man in his 70s, grabbed a chair and charged the gunman. "He hit him with a folding chair, wrestling him to the ground, took the gun from him and hit him in the head with his own gun," he said. Sign up to First Edition, our free daily newsletter - every weekday morning at 7am BST. Church members held the suspect until police arrived, Capt Shane Ware said. A police mugshot showed Smith with a blackened left eye and cuts to his nose and forehead. "The person that subdued the suspect, in my opinion, was a hero," Ware told a news conference Friday, saying that act was "extremely critical in saving



lives". Thursday's shooting happened just over a month after one person was killed and five injured when a man opened fire on Taiwanese parishioners at a Southern California church. It also came nearly seven years to the day after an avowed white supremacist killed nine people during Bible study at Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. A message posted by St Stephens said it would hold Sunday services, adding: "We will gather at the table that has taught so many that love is always breaking through in this world, no matter what we experience, whether it be doubt, anger, loss, grief, or death but yet also joy and life."



Firefighters work at the fire site at the ethylene glycol plant area of Sinopec Shanghai Petrochemical Co., Ltd. in east China's Shanghai

জাননী

ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই জনোৱা হয় যে অহা ইং ২৪/৬/২০২২ তাৰিখ শুক্ৰবাৰে দিনৰ ১০.৩০ বজাত স্থানীয় 'মুক্তি যুঁজাৰু ভৱন' (আৰত ভৱন পথ, যোৰহাট)ত অসম চৰকাৰৰ 'উদ্যোগ বাণিজ্য আৰু ৰাজস্বাৰ্থা' বিভাগৰ অধীনত জিলা উদ্যোগ আৰু বাণিজ্য কেন্দ্ৰ, যোৰহাটৰ সৌজন্যত এক 'উদ্যমীয়তা বিকাশ কাৰ্যসূচী'ৰ (Entrepreneurship Development Programme) আয়োজন কৰা হৈছে। উক্ত কাৰ্যসূচীত কেন্দ্ৰীয় চৰকাৰ আৰু ৰাজ্য চৰকাৰৰ বৰ্তমান ৰূপায়িত হৈ থকা আঁঠনিৰ জড়িততে যুৱক-যুৱতীসকলে উদ্যোগ সেৱা প্ৰতিষ্ঠান স্থাপন কৰি আত্মনিৰ্ভৰশীল হোৱাৰ ওপৰত আলোকপাত কৰা হ'ব। সেয়েহে উক্ত কাৰ্যসূচীত অংশগ্ৰহণ কৰিবলৈ ইচ্ছুক যুৱক-যুৱতীসকলক অনুৰোধ জনোৱা হ'ল।

সবিশেষ জানিবৰ বাবে নিম্ন উল্লেখিত ম'বাইল নম্বৰত জিলা উদ্যোগ আৰু বাণিজ্য কেন্দ্ৰ, যোৰহাটৰ লগত যোগাযোগ কৰিব পাৰে।
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BTC Principal Secretary visits flood affected areas in Chirang

Assam Rising

Chirang, June 18: Principal Secretary of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) Anurag Goel on Friday visited flood affected areas in Chirang district. He visited Laoripara and Gendargaon villages under Sidli Revenue Circle and Thuribari relief camp under Bijni Revenue Circle to take stock of the flood damage and the relief distribution measures being taken by the district administration



for the flood-hit people. The Principal Secretary directed the Executive Engineer of PWD and Sidli Block Development Officer present on the spot to temporarily repair the road immediately to ensure uninterrupted road connectivity

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for the public under MGNREGA. He called on the district administration to focus on sanitation, drinking water facilities and medical services and provide relief items as much as possible to the flood victims in time as per the government's relief manual. Additional Deputy Commissioner and in-charge Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Bijni, Rahul Gupta, Additional Deputy Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer, District Disaster Management Authority, Kokrajhar, Ajit Kumar Sarmah, Circle Officers of Sidli and Bijni Revenue circles and other officials concerned were present during his visit to the district.

Major Achievement by USTM with 5 Patents in Pharmacy Science

Assam Rising

Guwahati, June 18, 2022:

The role of pharmaceutical science in drug discovery and design with its contribution to healthcare is phenomenal. The School of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) has been working in this direction since its inception and is engaged in research and innovation apart from its regular teaching learning schedule. Recently till today, USTM has achieved publication of five Patents and one more Patent granted by the competent authorities in national and international level. The scientists who have worked for these innovative projects include, Dr. Pallab Kalita, Principal, School of Pharmaceutical Sciences USTM, Dr. Sudarshana Borah Khanikar, Aditya Bora, Gaurav Kumar Bhargav, Kamalochan Barman and Bhanita Das, all Assistant Professors at USTM, Dr. Mohibul Hoque, Principal, Allama TR College of Pharmacy apart



from other team members belonging to few other institutions. A patent is a type of intellectual property that gives its owner the legal right to exclude others from making, using, or selling an invention for a limited period of time in exchange for publishing an enabling disclosure of the invention. Speaking in this regard, Dr. Pallab Kalita said, "These are collaborative works where the patentees of USTM have addressed the various issues and incorporated their innovative designs and processes to help the general public or scientific societies to overcome those challenging issues". Elaborating the benefits of such innovation, he stated that it will

benefit the general public, health professionals, industrial workers, researchers and students globally. It is related to the field of designing and implementing a framework based on artificial intelligence, locating the presence of cancerous cells through non-invasive techniques, designing and implementing a framework based on blood sampling device that can be used for different haematological analytical work". The title of the patent granted is, "Device for blood sample analysis" while the five patents published include: "Non-Invasive targeted delivery of drug molecules for breast cancer using carbon nanotubes and AI", "A novel formulation for preventing skin from terrible consequences of sanitizers", "Experimental Investigation of effect of Pitch Augmentation in Fluro Polymer Spiral Tube in Tube Heat Exchanger and Optimization of Flow Parameter for Minimum Fouling", "Formulation of organic components control of infection for diabetic patients" and "Medical virtual reality device".

Submerged Assam : 1st BN NDRF floating on Flood water

Assam Rising

Palasbari, June 18:

Almost the whole of Assam has been submerged due to incessant rains for the last few days. In the event of this calamity, the 1st Battalion Disaster Response Force with all its strength, loyalty and dedication took quick action with its 14 teams in the heavily flooded districts of Kamrup, Kamrup Rural, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Bajali, Hojai, Nalbari, Darang, Tamulpur and Udalguri. Along with

the rescue work continuously day and night for the last two days, this hardworking force is also working with the district administration to distribute relief materials to the needy people. H P S Kandari, Commander 1st NDRF himself closely monitoring and taking active participation this rescue operation in every district. This rescue team has so far brought about 500 people trapped in the floods to a safe place and the process is still on.



Two schools submerged by flood at Biswanath

Assam Rising

Biswanath Chariati, June 18:

Two elementary schools under Naduar Elementary Block (Biswanath part) respectively Bogoriat LPS and Bhojmari JBS located to the southern part of Sootea have been submerged by flood water. Both the educational institutions that locate outside the Biswanath-Panpur embankment have been submerged by the flood water that comes out from the mighty river the Brahmaputra that flows beside the schools. Both the schools had been declared closed by the SMC (school management committee) till the flood scene to be improved. Notably, Jhankamari LPS uprooted by erosion recently. The school has been set up on the bank of Biswanath-Panpur embankment temporarily with the help of local people. The teaching-learning

practice of Jhankamari LPS is going on under a temporary shed on the embankment. If the southern

soon. The community burial ground of Bhojmari area and the Masjid of Bhojmari were uprooted by erosion



part of Sootea is not protected with scientific measures of erosion protection then the vast area will be engulfed by the Brahmaputra

while hectares of paddy field have been engulfed by flood water. Biswanath MLA Pramod Borthakur visited the flood affected site

KRSS will protest sit-in-stir in Dispur on July 12

Assam Rising

North Lakhimpur, June 18:

Koch-Rajbonshi Sangram Samitee (KRSS) has decided to protest sit-in-stir in Dispur on July 12 next

demanding proper justice, right and dignity for the Koch-Rajbonshi community. In a press release, the KRSS central committee executive president Rupiyoti Dutta stated that as per the declaration taken in the oath-taking ceremony of the newly formed central committee of KRSS, held at Abhayapuri, Bongaigaon on June 12 last, a sit-in-

stir protest program would be held in Dispur on July 12 next, then a national conference would be organised in Bongaigaon on August 30 which would be followed by a three-hour Dharma program in New Delhi in the first week of November and, the KRSS would organize meeting with different parties and organizations regarding ST status in the last week of December.

Tuipang COB of Lokra Battalion organised, Lecture on Anti Drug Awareness

Assam Rising

Biswanath 18 June :

Tuipang COB of Lokra Battalion under the aegis of Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) organised LECTURE ON ANTI DRUG AWARE-

of the major problem that illicit drug use represents to the society and particularly to young people. The goal of the campaign is to mobilise support and to inspire people to act against drug abuse and



NESS at Village Tipa I, Mizoram on 18 June 2022. It is one amongst a series of events carried out under "ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN" aimed at raising awareness

stay fit, total 15 members of TIPa I Village attended the lecture. The initiative taken by Tuipang COB is highly appreciated by the Youths and Village Council.

Farewell meeting of Assamese Department held in LCC

Assam Rising

North Lakhimpur, June 18:

The farewell meeting of BA VI Semester of Assamese honours of Lakhimpur Commerce College (LCC) was held in the college today. The farewell meeting was chaired by T.C. Deka, HoD, Assamese and was attended by teachers and current as well as outgoing batches of students. Addressing the farewell meeting, Principal of LCC Dr. Lohit Hazarika wished the VI Semester students best for



Bhagwati, Sazzad Hussain and others. VI Semester students were also presented felicitation letters at the farewell meeting. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Mridushmita Hazarika.

Communication between villages breached due to incessant rain Bridge swept away in river

Assam Rising

Gossaigaon, June, 18:

The incessant rain from the last few days and alarming rise of water level of river Modati have caused a severe damage in the areas like Madati, Lalpara, Thuribari, Hongshobil, Halgara, Kuribasti under Gossaigaon sub-division. The lone Babubil-Modati bridge that connects these villages have been breached away in the river due to heavy downpour and the people of the villages have been distracted from proper communication is a matter of serious concern. The concern villagers alleged that due to the negligence of the concerned department even af-

ter submission of complaints again and again no fruitful result was found. And then finding no alternate solution with the help of villagers pocket money



the bamboo made bridge over river Modati was repaired for communication for commuters. The villagers avowed that this lone bridge was used for all kind

of communication like-to go school, to reach market etc. Due to this bamboo made bridge the people of the villages also deprived from proper medical facility including ambulance service. The conscious people of the society further alleged that neither concerned department nor any minister thought of renovating the bridge for the greater interest of the villages. The villagers have appealed before the BTC government to take necessary steps to build a RCC bridge as soon as possible and a temporary solution for the moment to restore communication between the villages for a normal life.

Name Change

I am Md Abdul Rezak S/O- Mafij Uddin, Vill- Kupatimari, P. O. - Bhuragaon, P. S. - Bhuragaon, Pin- 782121 Dist- Morigaon, (Assam). I have change my name to Abdul Rezak, S/O Mafij Uddin vide affidavit dt 24/5/22 Sworn before notary in Morigaon district judicial court.

Regards

Abdul Rezak
S/O- Mafij Uddin
Vill- Kupatimari
P.O. - Bhuragaon
P.S.- Bhuragaon
Pin- 782121
Dist- Morigaon
Ph.- 7994940512

Name Changed

My real name is Samsuddin Ahmed. But it is stated in my High School leaving Certificate as Md. Samsuddin Ahmed. I've changed my name as Samsuddin Ahmed instead of 'Md. Samsuddin Ahmed' through an affidavit bearing SI no-05 on dated 15/6/22 before Kamrup Notary Office. From today I'm introduced as Samsuddin Ahmed.

Samsuddin Ahmed,

S/O: Baru Shekh
Village: Bangalpara
P.O : Tapabori
P.S : Hajo
Dist : Kamrup, Assam

Name Changed

I Roshna Begum, W/o- Md. Rahim Uddin Ahmed, resident of Vill-Niz Chalchali, P.O-Chalchali, PS- Samoguri, Dist- Nagaon, Assam, declare my name has been changed from Roshna Begum to Rushna Begum by an affidavit before Addl. District Magistrate, Nagaon

Rushna Begum

Name Changed

I Labanya Bangthai (Existing name of spouse as per change of next of kin (record/service document) spouse of Ex - No 14553724X Rank -NK Name Rakheswar Bangthai presently residing at Vill - Gamari Gaon, P.O - Sarubori, P.S - Morigaon, Dist Morigaon, State - Assam, PIN 782105 (Address) have Changed my name from Labanya Bangthai (Existing Name of spouse as per change of Next of kin in Record/Service Documents) to LABANYA BORDOLOI (Proposed/adopted name) vide Affidavit dated 13th June 2022, sworn before Nagaon (Assam) Addl. District Magistrate Nagaon Court.

Labanya Bordoloi.

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FORM G INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Under Regulation 36A (1) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)	
RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1. Name of the corporate debtor	BHUMYA TEA COMPANY PVT. LTD.
2. Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	28.03.2005
3. Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	Registrar of Companies, Kolkata
4. Corporate identity number / limited liability identification number of Corporate Debtor	U0149WB2005PTC102542
5. Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	34A Metcalfe Street, Jain Centre, 7th Floor, Kolkata 700013, West Bengal
6. Insolvency commencement date of the corporate debtor	05.04.2022
7. Date of invitation of expression of interest	21.06.2022
8. Eligibility for resolution applicants under section 25(2)(h) of the Code is available at:	Detail can be obtained by sending mail at: crip.bhumyateas@gmail.com
9. Norms of ineligibility applicable under section 29A are available at:	Available at website of IBBI (https://www.ibbi.gov.in) and can also be obtained by emailing at: crip.bhumyateas@gmail.com
10. Last date for receipt of expression of interest	06.07.2022
11. Date of issue of provisional list of prospective resolution applicants	16.07.2022
12. Last date for submission of objections to provisional list	21.07.2022
13. Date of issue of final list of prospective resolution applicants	26.07.2022
14. Date of issue of information memorandum, evaluation matrix and request for resolution plans to prospective resolution applicants	19.07.2022
15. Manner of obtaining request for resolution plan, evaluation matrix, information memorandum and further information	Will be shared in electronic form with eligible Prospective Resolution Applicant.
16. Last date for submission of resolution plans	18.08.2022
17. Manner of submitting resolution plans to resolution professional	Physical copy to be delivered in sealed envelope by speed post or by hand and 'Digital Copy' through email at crip.bhumyateas@gmail.com
18. Estimated date for submission of resolution plan to the Adjudicating Authority for approval	16.09.2022
19. Name and registration number of the resolution professional	CA Santanu Brahma IP Regn. No. IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P-01482/2018-2019/12251
20. Name, Address and e-mail of the resolution professional, as registered with the Board	CA Santanu Brahma Address: AH-276, Salt Lake, Sector II, Kolkata 700091.
21. Address and email to be used for correspondence with the resolution professional	WB E: ip.santanubrahma@gmail.com Address: AH-276, Salt Lake, Sector II, Kolkata 700091, WB E: crip.bhumyateas@gmail.com Other details can be sought by email to crip.bhumyateas@gmail.com
22. Further Details are available at or with	
23. Date of publication of Form G	19.06.2022

CA Santanu Brahma
IBBI Regn. No.: IBBI/IPA-001/IP-P-01482/2018-2019/12251
Resolution Professional for M/s. Bhunya Tea Company Pvt. Ltd.
AH-276, Salt Lake, Sector II, Kolkata 700091, WB

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ANNEXURE-9

**[RULE - 8(1)]
POSSESSION NOTICE
(For Immovable property)**

Whereas,
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the State Bank of India under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice dated 03.08.2021 calling upon the Borrower Shri Sudeep Bhattacharjee to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.52,40,060.00 (Rupees Fifty two lacs forty thousand sixty only) as on 02.08.2021 with further interest and other incidental expenses within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on this 17.06.2022.

The Borrower / Guarantor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charges of the State Bank of India for an amount of Rs.52,40,060.00 (Rupees Fifty two lacs forty thousand sixty only) as on 02.08.2021 with further interest and other incidental expenses thereon.

We invite your attention to the provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI Act which speaks about the time available to the borrower/guarantor to redeem the secured assets.

Description of the immovable property:
A residential flat measuring 800 sq ft & 1000 sq ft terrace area in the 4th floor along with one car parking space of the RCC residential building named as "Nice n Novel Landmark" over a plot of Land measuring 2 Katha covered by KP Patta no.33(O)/140(N) and Dag no.275(O)/673(N) situated at village- Jatia, under Mouza- Beltola in the district of Kamrup (M), Assam, bounded by North- Land of Ajit Baruah, South- Own land of first party, East- Road, West- Vacant plot of the land.

Date : 17.06.2022
Place : Guwahati.

(Authorised Officer)
SBI, SARB, Guwahati-781021

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 122 SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 2022

Ukraine's aspiration to join the EU

Ukraine's aspiration to join the EU did not start yesterday. I will never forget standing on a freezing Maidan in Kyiv during the Orange Revolution in 2004, amid a sea of European flags such as I have never seen in any EU capital. Ten years later, the 2014 protests in Kyiv were sparked by President Viktor Yanukovych's rejection of an association agreement with the EU – and those demonstrations were christened the Euromaidan. The war has confirmed this settled will of the Ukrainian nation. From the outset, Zelenskiy made candidacy for EU membership one of his three main asks to the west, alongside his urgent request for more weapons and sanctions. A recent opinion poll conducted in Ukraine's western and central regions – polling was impossible in the east because of the war – found 89% support for EU membership. Who can doubt that Ukrainians have been fighting and dying for Europe? Explaining the commission's positive recommendation, a senior Brussels official said: "The commission does not forget that Ukraine is the only country in Europe where people died, where people were shot at because they were on the streets carrying EU flags. Now we cannot tell them, 'Sorry, guys, you were waving the wrong flags.'" But this is also a strategic choice for Europe as a whole. At issue is not just Europe's second-largest country. Besides recommending that Ukraine should be given candidate status, "on the understanding that" certain specific steps will be taken, the commission proposes the same status for Moldova, which is sandwiched between Ukraine and EU member Romania, "on the understanding that" somewhat broader changes are made. It has also recommended opening accession negotiations for Albania and North Macedonia. Beyond that, there will be the rest of the western Balkans, Georgia and potentially, one day, a democratic Belarus. Handled right, this second great eastern enlargement would make the European Union not just bigger but also more self-sufficient in food, stronger militarily and with more potential for economic growth. We Europeans would end up better able to defend our interests and values as we sit precariously between a revanchist Russia, a rising China and a declining United States. This widening of the EU would also require further deepening, since otherwise a community of 35 member states would be dysfunctional. In the long run, the inclusion of Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia would mean that Russia would finally have to reconcile itself to having lost an empire – and start seeking a role as a modern nation state. (Britain shows how long that process can take.) So this second wave of eastern enlargement would be another big step towards a Europe whole and free.

PM Shri Narendra Modi to his mother on her 100th birthday

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Just last week, my nephew shared a few videos of Mother from Gandhinagar. A few youngsters from the society had come home, my father's photograph was kept on a chair, there was a kirtan, and Mother was immersed in singing bhajans while playing the manjira. She is still the same-age may have taken a toll physically, but she is as mentally alert as ever.

Earlier, there was no custom of celebrating birthdays in our family. However, children from the younger generations planted 100 trees to remember my father on his birthday.

I have no doubt that everything good in my life, and all that is good in my character, can be attributed to my parents. Today, as I sit in Delhi, I am filled with memories from the past.

My Mother is as simple as she is extraordinary. Just like all mothers! As I write about my Mother, I am sure that many of you would relate to my description of her. While reading, you may even see your own mother's image.

A mother's penance creates a good human being. Her affection fills a child with human values and empathy. A mother is not an individual or a personality, motherhood is a quality. It is often said that the Gods are made according to the nature of their devotees. Similarly, we experience our mothers and their motherhood according to our own nature and mindset.

My Mother was born in Visnagar in Mehsana in Gujarat, which is quite close to my hometown Vadnagar. She did not get her own mother's affection. At a tender age, she lost my grandmother to the Spanish Flu pandemic. She does not even remember my grandmother's face or the comfort of her lap. She spent her entire childhood without her mother. She could not throw tantrums at her mother, as we all do. She could not rest in her mother's lap like we all do. She could not even go to school and learn to read and write. Her childhood was one of poverty and deprivation.

Compared to today, Mother's childhood was extremely difficult. Perhaps, this is what the Almighty had destined for her. Mother also believes that this was God's will. But losing her mother early in her childhood,

the fact that she couldn't even see her mother's face, continues to give her pain.

Mother did not have much of a childhood due to these struggles – she was forced to grow beyond her age. She was the eldest child in her family and became the eldest daughter-in-law after marriage. In her childhood, she used to take care of the entire family and manage all the chores. After marriage too, she picked up all these responsibilities. Despite the onerous responsibilities and everyday struggles, Mother held the entire family together with calm and fortitude.

In Vadnagar, our family used to stay in a tiny house which did not even have a window, let alone a luxury like a toilet or a bathroom. We used to call this one-room tenement with mud walls and clay tiles for a roof, our home. And all of us - my parents, my siblings and I, stayed in it.

My father made a *machaan* from bamboo sticks and wooden planks to make it easier for Mother to cook food. This structure was our kitchen. Mother used to climb on the machaan to cook, and the entire family would sit on it and eat together. Usually, scarcity leads to stress. However, my parents never let the anxiety from the daily struggles overwhelm the family atmosphere. Both my parents carefully divided their responsibilities and fulfilled them.

Like clockwork, my father used to leave for work at four in the morning. His footsteps would tell the neighbours that it is 4 AM and Damodar Kaka is leaving for work. Another daily ritual was to pray at the local temple before opening his little tea shop.

Mother was equally punctual. She would also wake up with my father, and finish many chores in the morning itself. From grinding grains to sifting rice and daal, Mother had no help. While working she would hum her favourite bhajans and hymns. She loved a popular bhajan by Narsi Mehta Ji - '**Jalkamal chhadi jane bala, swami amaro jage'**. She also liked the lullaby, '**Shivaji nu halardu'**.

Mother never expected us, children, to leave our studies and assist her with the household chores. She never even asked us for help. However, looking at her work so hard, we considered helping her our foremost duty. I

used to really enjoy swimming in the local pond. So, I used to take all the dirty clothes from home and wash them at the pond. The washing of clothes and my play, both used to get done together.

Mother used to wash utensils at a few houses to help meet the household expenses. She would also take out time to spin the charkha to supplement our meagre income. She would do everything from peeling cotton to spinning yarn. Even in this back-breaking work, her prime concern was ensuring that the cotton thorns don't prick us.

Mother avoided depending on others or requesting others to do her work. Monsoons would bring their own troubles for our mud house. However, Mother ensured that we faced minimum discomfort. In the searing heat of June, she would clamber over the roof of our mud house and repair the tiles. However, despite her valiant efforts, our house was too old to withstand the onslaught of the rains.

During the rains, our roof would leak, and the house would flood. Mother would place buckets and utensils below the leaks to collect the rainwater. Even in this adverse situation, Mother would be a symbol of resilience. You will be surprised to know that she'd use this water for the next few days. What better example than this of water conservation!

Mother was fond of decorating the house and would devote considerable time towards cleaning and beautifying it. She would smear the floor with cow dung. Cow dung cakes emit a lot of smoke when burnt. And Mother would cook with them in our windowless house! The walls would get blackened by soot and require fresh whitewashing. This too Mother would do herself every few months. This would give our dilapidated home a scent of freshness. She would also make pretty little clay bowls to decorate the house. And she was a champion in the famous Indian habit of recycling old household items.

I can recall another unique habit of Mother. She would make a glue-like paste with old paper dipped in water and tamarind seeds. She would make beautiful paintings by sticking mirror pieces on the walls with this paste. She would get small decorative items from the market to hang on the door.

Mother was extremely particular that the bed should be clean and properly laid out. She would not tolerate even a speck of dust on the bed. A slight crease meant that the bed sheet would be dusted and laid again. All of us were very careful about this habit as well. Even today, at this age, Mother expects that there should not be a single crease on her bed!

This striving for perfection prevails even now. And though she stays with my brother's and my nephew's families in Gandhinagar, she still tries to do all her work herself at this age.

Her focus on cleanliness is evident even today. Whenever I go to Gandhinagar to visit her, she offers me sweets with her own hands. And just like a young child's doting mother, she takes out a napkin and wipes my face once I finish eating. She always has a napkin or small towel tucked into her saree.

I can fill many reams of paper recalling anecdotes about Mother's focus on cleanliness. She had another quality - a deep respect for those involved in cleaning and sanitation. I remember, whenever someone would come to clean the drain adjacent to our house in Vadnagar, Mother wouldn't let them go without giving them tea. Our house became famous amongst safai karamcharis for tea after work.

Another habit of Mother that I always remember is her special affection for other living beings.

Every summer, she would put out water vessels for the birds. She ensured that stray dogs around our house never went hungry.

Mother would make delicious ghee from the cream that my father would bring back from his tea shop. And this ghee was not just for our consumption. The cows in our neighbourhood too were entitled to their share. Mother would feed rotis to the cows every day. And rather than just giving dry rotis, she would spread them with homemade ghee and love.

Mother insisted on not wasting a single grain of food. Whenever there was a wedding feast in our neighbourhood, she

would remind us to not waste any food. There was a clear rule in the house - only take as much as you can eat.

Even today, Mother takes only as much food in the thali as she can eat and doesn't waste even a morsel. A creature of habit, she eats on time and chews her food to digest it properly.

Mother would find happiness in other people's joys. Our house may have been small, but she was extremely large-hearted. A close friend of my father used to stay in a nearby village. After his untimely death, my father brought his friend's son, Abbas, to our home. He stayed with us and completed his studies. Mother was as affectionate and caring towards Abbas just like she did for all of us siblings. Every year on Eid, she used to prepare his favourite dishes. On festivals, it was commonplace for neighbourhood kids to come to our house and enjoy Mother's special preparations.

Whenever a Sadhu visited our neighbourhood, Mother would invite them to our humble home for a meal. True to her selfless nature, she would request the Sadhus to bless us children rather than asking anything for herself. She would urge them, "**Bless my children so that they are happy in others' joys and empathetic in their sorrows. Let them have bhakti (devotion for the Divine) and sevabhav (service to others).**"

Mother has always had immense confidence in me and the samskaras she imparted. I recall a decades-old incident when I worked in the organisation side. I was extremely busy with organisational activities and could hardly get in touch with my family. During that period, my elder brother took Mother to Badrinath Ji and Kedarnath Ji. Locals in Kedarnath Ji came to know that my mother would be visiting once she completed Darshan in Badrinath Ji.

However, the weather suddenly took a turn for the worse. Some people came downhill with blankets. They kept asking elderly women on the roads whether they were Narendra Modi's mother. Finally, they met Mother, and gave her blankets and tea. They made comfortable arrangements for her stay in Kedarnath Ji. This incident made a deep impression on Mother. When she met me later, she said, "**It seems you are doing some good work, as people recognise you.**"

Today, many years later, whenever people ask her if she is proud that her son has become the country's Prime Minister, Mother gives an extremely deep response. She says, "**I am as proud as you are. Nothing is mine. I am a mere instrument in the plans of God.**"

You might have noticed that Mother never accompanies me for any government or public programme. She has accompanied me on only two

occasions in the past. Once, it was at a public function in Ahmedabad when she applied tilak on my forehead after I had returned from Srinagar where I had hoisted the national flag at Lal Chowk completing the Ekta Yatra.

That was an extremely emotional moment for Mother because a few people had died in a terror attack in Phagwara at the time of the Ekta Yatra. She became extremely worried at that time. Two people then called to check on me. One was Shradhday Pramukh Swami of Akshardham Temple, and the second was Mother. Her relief was palpable.

The second instance is when I first took oath as Gujarat's Chief Minister in 2001. The oath-taking ceremony held two decades ago was the last public event that Mother attended with me. Since then, she has never accompanied me to a single public event. I remember another incident. When I became the Chief Minister in Gujarat, I wanted to publicly honour all my teachers. I thought that Mother had been my biggest teacher in life, and I should also honour her. Even our scriptures mention that there is no bigger guru than one's mother - '**Nasti matr samo guruh'**. I requested Mother to attend the event, but she declined. She said, "**See, I am an ordinary person. I may have given birth to you, but you have been taught and brought up by the Almighty.**" All my teachers were felicitated that day, but for Mother.

In addition, before the event, she inquired if anybody from our local teacher Jethabhai Joshi Ji's family would attend the event. He had overseen my

early learning and even taught me the alphabet. She remembered him and knew that he had passed away. Though she did not come to the event, she made sure that I called someone from Jethabhai Joshi Ji's family.

Mother made me realise that it is possible to be learned without

being formally educated. Her thought process and farsighted thinking have always surprised me.

She has always been very aware of her duties as a citizen. Right from the time elections began, she has voted in every election, from Panchayat to Parliament. A few days ago, she had also gone out to vote in the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation elections.

She often tells me that **nothing can happen to me as I have blessings from both the public and the Almighty.** She reminds me that leading a healthy lifestyle and ensuring personal well-being are necessary if I want to continue to serve the people.

Earlier, Mother would strictly follow the Chaturmaas rituals. She also knows my own personal habits during Navratri. **Now, she has started telling me that I should ease these strict personal rules as I have followed them for quite a long time.**

I have never heard Mother complain about anything in life. Neither does she complain about anyone, nor does she keep any expectations from anyone.

Even today, there are no assets in Mother's name. I have never seen her wear any gold ornaments, and she has no interest either. Like earlier, she continues to lead an extremely simple lifestyle in her small room.

Mother has immense faith in the Divine, but at the same time, she remained afar from superstitions and inculcated the same qualities in us. She has traditionally been a Kabirpanthi and continues to follow those customs in her daily prayers. She spends a lot of time doing japa with her mala of beads. Engrossed in daily worship and japa, she often ends up even forgoing sleep. Sometimes, my family members hide the prayer beads so that she falls asleep.

Despite her advanced age, Mother has a good memory. She remembers decades-old incidents vividly. Whenever some relatives visit her, she immediately recalls their grandparents' names and identifies them accordingly.

She keeps herself abreast of developments in the world. Recently, I asked her how long she watches TV every day. She replied that **most people on TV are busy fighting with each other, and she only watches those who calmly read out the news and explain everything.** I was pleasantly surprised that Mother keeps track of so much.

I recall another incident relating to her sharp memory. In 2017, after campaigning in Kashi for the Uttar Pradesh assembly elections, I went to Ahmedabad. I carried some Prasad for her. When I met Mother, she immediately asked me if I had paid obeisance to Kashi Vishwanath Mahadev. Mother still uses the full name - Kashi Vishwanath Mahadev.

Then during the conversation, she asked me if the lanes that lead to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple are still the same, as if there is a temple inside someone's household premises. I was surprised and asked when she visited the temple. She revealed that she had gone to Kashi many years back, but surprisingly remembered everything.

Mother is not only extremely sensitive and caring but also quite talented. She knows innumerable home remedies for treating young children. At our Vadnagar home, every morning, there used to be queues of parents bringing their infants for examination and treatment.

She often required a very fine powder for treatment. Collecting this powder was a collective responsibility of us children. Mother would give us ash from the stove, a bowl, and a fine cloth. We used to tie the cloth on the bowl and place some ash on it. Then we would slowly rub the ash on the cloth, so that only the finest granules would get collected in the bowl. Mother would tell us, "**Do your work well. The children should not be troubled by bigger pieces of ash.**"

I can recall another instance that reflects

Mother's innate affection and presence of mind. Once, our family had gone to the Narmada ghat for a puja that my father wished to conduct. To avoid the gruelling heat, we left in the early morning for the three-hour journey. After getting off, there was still some distance that had to be covered on foot. As it was extremely hot, we started walking in the water along the riverbank. It is not easy to walk in the water, and soon we became tired and, also hungry. Mother noticed our discomfort immediately and asked my father to stop and rest for a while. She also asked him to go and buy jaggery from somewhere nearby. He went running and managed to get it. The jaggery and water gave us instant energy, and we started walking again. Going for puja in that debilitating heat, Mother's alertness, and my father swiftly bringing jaggery, I distinctly remember each of those moments.

Since childhood, I have noted that Mother not only respects others' choices but also refrains from imposing her preferences. In my own case especially, she respected my decisions, never created any hurdles, and encouraged me. Since childhood, she could feel that a different mindset grew inside me. I used to be slightly different compared to my brothers and sisters.

She often had to make special efforts to accommodate the special needs of my distinct habits and unusual experiments. However, she never considered this a burden and never expressed any irritation. For instance, I would often abstain from salt for a few months, or refrain from consuming any grains for a few weeks only having milk. Sometimes, I would decide to avoid sweets for six months. In winters, I would sleep in the open and bathe with cold water from an earthen pot. Mother knew that I was testing myself and did not object to anything. She would just say, "**It's alright, do as you please**"

She could sense that I was going in a different direction. Once, a Mahatma had come to the Giri Mahadev temple close to our home. I started serving him with great devotion. Around that time, Mother was extremely excited about her sister's upcoming wedding, especially as it was an opportunity to visit her brother's home. However, while the entire family was busy preparing for the wedding, I went and told her that I did not wish to go. She asked me for a reason, and I explained about my service to the Mahatma.

Naturally, she was disappointed that I was not going to attend her sister's wedding, but she respected my decision. She said, "**It's alright, do as you wish**" However, she was worried about how I would manage to stay alone at home. She cooked food and snacks that would last a few days for me before leaving so that I wouldn't go hungry!

When I decided to leave home, Mother already sensed my decision even before I told her. I would often tell my parents that I wanted to go out and understand the world. I would tell them about Swami Vivekananda and mention that I wished to visit the Ramakrishna Mission Mutt. This went on for days.

Finally, I revealed my desire to leave home and asked them for their blessings. My father was extremely disheartened, and in irritation, he told me, "**As you wish**". I told them that I would not leave home without their blessings. However, Mother understood my desires, and blessed me, "**Do as your mind says.**" To assuage my father, she asked him to show my horoscope to an astrologer. My father consulted a relative who knew astrology. After studying my horoscope, the relative remarked, "**His path is different.**"

The Assam Rising

He will go only on the path the Almighty has chosen for him."

A few hours later, I left home. By then, even my father had come to terms with my decision and gave me his blessings. Before leaving, Mother fed me curd and jaggery, for an auspicious new beginning. She knew that my life would become extremely different henceforth. Mothers may be extremely adept at controlling their emotions but always find it hard when their child leaves home. Mother was teary eyed but there were immense blessings for my future.

Once I left home, her blessings were the only constant that remained with me irrespective of where I was and how I was. Mother always speaks with me in Gujarati. In Gujarati, '**tu**' is used to say 'you' to those who are younger or equal. If we wish to say 'you' to someone older or senior, we say '**tamé**'. As a child, Mother would always address me as 'tu'. However, once I left home and embarked on a new path, she stopped using 'tu'. Since then, she has always addressed me with 'tamé' or 'aap'.

Mother has always inspired me to have a strong resolve and focus on garib kalyan. I remember when it was decided that I would be the Chief Minister of Gujarat, I was not present in the state. As soon as I landed there, I went straight to meet Mother. She was extremely ecstatic and inquired if **I was going to again stay with her.** But she knew my answer! She then told me, "**I don't understand your work in the government, but I just want you to never take a bribe.**"

After moving to Delhi, my meetings with her are even fewer than before. Sometimes when I visit Gandhinagar, I call on her for a short while. I don't get to meet her as often as I used to earlier. However, I have never felt any discontent from Mother over my absence. Her love and affection remain the same; her blessings remain the same. Mother often asks me "**Are you happy in Delhi? Do you like it?**"

She keeps assuring me that **I should not worry about her and lose**

focus on the larger responsibilities. Whenever I speak to her on the phone, she says "**Never do anything wrong or anything bad with anyone and keep working for the poor.**"

If I look back at my parents' lives, their honesty and self-respect have been their biggest qualities. Despite struggling with poverty and its accompanying challenges, my parents never left the path of honesty or compromised on their self-respect. They had only one mantra - hard work, constant hard work!

In his life, my father never became a burden on anyone. Mother too tries to ensure that - she does her own chores as much as possible.

Today, whenever I meet Mother, she always tells me "**I don't want to be served by anyone, I want to go with all my limbs working.**"

In my Mother's life story, I see the penance, sacrifice, and contribution of India's matrushakti. Whenever I look at Mother and crores of women like her, I find there is nothing that is unachievable for Indian women.

Far beyond every tale of deprivation, is the glorious story of a mother,

Far above every struggle, is the strong resolve of a mother. Ma, a very happy birthday to you.

Best wishes as you start your birth centenary year.

I have never been able to muster the courage to write at length publicly about your life until now.

I pray to the Almighty for your health and wellbeing, and your blessings on all of us.

I bow at your feet.

Letter to the Editor
Agnipath

Dear Editor,

Government did not learn lesson from year long Protest by Farmers. In any democracy any Policy Decision should not be made without discussion with Public Representatives and the Target Group. When Job Aspiring Youth is protesting, Government should ascertain their views and revise the scheme before launching. It is not fair for the Government to recruit as per the scheme framed without making necessary modifications as sought by the youth.

✍ **Kantamsetti LakshmanRao**

Visakhapatnam

International yoga day Yoga for health beauty and immunity

How often do we consider yoga as a tool to enhance beauty, mental peace and boost our immune system? Our immune system is of utmost importance and plays a significant role in keeping us fit, beautiful and healthy. While there are many ways to stay calm, healthy and look attractive this time of year, yoga has proven to be one of the best ways to not only avoid getting sick but to strengthen your overall immune system along the way. Yoga helps us fight infections by boosting our immune system, reducing stress and strengthening our body's functions and systems which leads to healthy and attractive outlook. As the country continues to battle the Covid-19 pandemic, India's traditional system of Yoga has been established as a means to boost immunity and improve overall health and well-being. A



to you a complete yoga routine that you can follow to maintain your immunity. You do not have to be born beautiful. You can acquire beautiful, supple, glowing and flawless skin by treating yourself from inside through selection of yoga poses and exercises rather than relying on expensive cosmetics and time-consuming salon treatments. You can enhance your beauty with yoga by incorporating strict guidelines in your daily life. Regular

hanced cognitive function. Those who regularly practice yoga and meditation have a certain glow about them that comes from within and radiates outward. Yoga helps lower stress hormones that compromise the immune system, while also conditioning the lungs and respiratory tract, stimulating the

■ Shahnaz Husain

lymphatic system to oust toxins from the body, and bringing oxygenated blood to the various organs to ensure their optimal function which helps us to remain healthy and attain inner beauty. Mindfulness meditation can have benefits for health and performance, including improved immune function, reduced blood pressure and enhanced cognitive function. Meditation produces more antibodies in people. It significantly increases left-sided, anterior brain activation (pattern indicating positive emotions) in meditators (compared to non-meditating controls) and that this activity was associated with the rise in antibodies. The practice of yoga may greatly aid in helping you look more youthful and more refresh. I have always said that a strong immune system, good health and beauty are complementary to each other. Unless you are healthy from the inside, you cannot reflect true beauty. For a flawless skin, shiny hair and a slim figure, good health must be on top of the list. In fact, I promoted the Ayurvedic principles of holistic health, with yoga as an integral part of the program. This concept of holistic beauty care was unique and caught on worldwide. In fact, I believe that yoga is very relevant to our modern lifestyle, in terms of both health and beauty. Personally, it has been a part of my life and I have experienced its numerous benefits. The appeal of Yoga

lies in the fact that it helps both body and mind. It not only works on all the muscle groups, but also increases vitality, tones the internal organs, stimulates the nerve centres, relieves stress and clears the mind which boost immunity and gives you attractive personality and beauty from within. Although it is an ancient Indian discipline, it has also gained relevance as a means of attaining a well-balanced personality and delaying the visible signs of ageing. The other important aspect of Yoga is that it involves breath control and specifies the inhalation and exhalation of breath during the exercises. Thus, it helps oxygenation which boost immunity imparts a feeling of physical and mental exhilaration. This is so important for beauty, because feeling good is an integral part of looking good. Yoga improves blood circulation, including the circulation of blood to the skin surface. This is so important for the good health of the skin, as it helps to supply essential nutrients to the skin. It also promotes the removal

beauty of the face. It also includes the figure, giving it suppleness, good posture and grace. Where the appearance is concerned, a slim figure can take years off and helps in staying youthful for a longer time. It supplies oxygen to every tissue and this, itself makes way for both health and beauty. If you are leading a life that does not provide enough physical activity, you are actually encouraging ageing. Exercise is a potent remedy for pre-mature ageing, not only because it strengthens the body, but also keeps it looking trim, fit and enhances immunity in body. The yogic asanas are designed to keep the spine and joints flexible and supple. They make the body strong and agile, tone the muscles, improves blood circulation, imparts vitality and enhances both beauty and good health. Many beauty problems are triggered off by stress. Since yoga helps to induce relaxation and reduce stress, it certainly helps in dealing with stress-related condi-



of toxins through the skin which boost immunity. This is so important, especially in cases of skin congestion. It tones the skin, improves oxygenation to the skin, imparts a beautiful glow and keeps the skin youthful and free from problems. The same goes for the hair. Yoga helps to promote blood circulation and oxygenation to the scalp and hair follicles. This helps to supply nutrients in the bloodstream to the hair follicles. It promotes hair growth and keeps the scalp healthy. When we talk of beauty, we do not talk only about the

tions like acne, hair loss, dandruff, etc. Studies conducted on those who practice yoga have shown that positive changes also occur in the personality, in attitudes, emotional stability, self-confidence. It has a direct effect on the mind, emotions and mood. In fact, it is a regular stress-buster and puts the glow back on the skin. You will feel instantly rejuvenated and good about yourself. Indeed, the benefits of Yoga reflect as external beauty. For a flawless skin, shiny hair and a slim, graceful figure, make yoga a part of your daily life.



consistent yoga practice - along with certain poses in particular - can support and boost the immune system. Lack of sleep, poor nutrition, and stressful life all lead to a weakened immune system and vulnerability to sickness. In addition to the basic measures taken this time of year - getting enough sleep, eating whole foods, stressing less - yoga is a proactive way to take control of your health so you can feel cheerful, all year long.

In this fast-moving world where one hardly gets time to take care of himself, here we bring

yoga practice pranayama, and meditation aid you in reverse the signs of ageing including wrinkles, saggy skin, crow's feet and fine lines amongst other. Pranayam helps purifying the blood because of the increased intake of oxygen, which is very crucial for improving immunity. Yoga is one of the most effective and time-tested natural immunity boosters that can lead to a healthy, sickness-free body. Mindfulness meditation can have benefits for health and performance, including improved immune function, reduced blood pressure and en-

VidhanParishads Irrelevant in Indian democracy

VidhanParishad or Legislative Council is the upper house in some states of the Indian Republic, which have a bicameral legislature with VidhanSabha as the lower house. Article 169 of the Constitution of India deals the abolition & creation of this permanent House. The composition of VidhanParishad is multilayered. As per Article 171, one-third of its member are elected by the State VidhanSabha, one-third are elected by the state's local bodies, one-twelfth are elected by the registered graduates and one-twelfth are elected by the teachers; whereas remaining one-sixth members are nominated by the Governor. Presently, out of 28 states of India, only six states, namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh, have a VidhanParishad. Earlier existing VidhanParishads have been abolished in some states like Assam (in 1969), Madhya Pradesh (in 1969), Punjab (in 1969), Tamilnadu (in 1986), West Bengal (in 1969) and Jammu & Kashmir (in 2019). The Andhra Pradesh VidhanParishad was abolished in 1985 during N.T. Rama Rao led TDP Government regime, but was revived in 2007 during T.R.S. Reddy led Congress government regime. The Andhra Pradesh VidhanSabha has again passed a resolution in January 2020 to abolish the existing VidhanParishad, but withdraw the resolution in November 2021. It has also been discontinued in the newly carved out states like Jharkhand and Uttarakhand, whose parent states still own it. A resolution to create VidhanParishad in Assam, Rajasthan, Madhya

Pradesh, Odisha, Tamilnadu and West Bengal have been passed by their VidhanSabha. The VidhanParishads are criticized for being unnecessary and considered a burden on the state budget. After considering 100 years of its functioning and other aspects, it is argued that VidhanParishad has no relevance in Indian democracy. It cannot be said that the six states, which own VidhanParishad, have progressed more in comparison to the other states. Obviously, the VidhanParishad has nothing to do with the development & well-being of any state and it has no special utility. Secondly, the VidhanParishad is a passive house as it has been given nominal power. It can withhold a general bill for a maximum of 4 months (3 months for the first time and one month for the second time) and a finance bill for only 14 days. However, in the administrative field, it enjoys equal rights & importance with the VidhanSabha and its members (called MLC) become Chief Ministers and Ministers. They ask questions, raises public issues and participate in the debates of the House. Some argue that despite being a weak house, it can stall a dictatorial bill passed by the VidhanSabha for some time and compels the VidhanSabha to reconsider the bill. But this logic is applicable to those states where the opposition has a majority in the VidhanParishad. Thirdly, according to the constitution, there is a system of nomination of eminent persons in the fields of literature, art, science, cooperative, social service etc. in the VidhanParishad and some seats

■ Er. Prabhat Kishore

are reserved for them. But now-a-days in place of such personalities, politicians rejected by the people or hand picked men of political supremos are being frequently sent to this house. It is serving as refuge of those who are defeated in assembly elections. However, such nominations can not be objected in the present circumstances, because today large-scale incidents of encroachment of polling booths are happening and democracy is turning into a 'criminal-system'. The more high-ranking the criminal is today, the more sure his victory is. As a result, the deserving person loses the election, despite being popular among the masses. If there is no arrangement for nomination, the people will be deprived of their services. In this way, the system of nomination is like a sword with a sharp edge at both ends, which strikes from both sides. Fourthly, with the increasing influence of money power in society and politics, the entry of resourceful people into this "back door" house has become easier. It enables unpopular, rejected and ambitious politicians to occupy the post of CM, Minister or a member of the legislature. The emergence of supremocracy in place of internal democracy in political parties has guaranteed the entry of outsiders into the House while denying grassroots activists. The expensive democratic elections have compelled the political parties, especially regional parties, to embrace the power-hungry money-holders, as they contribute towards election expenditure. Fifth, the

most discussed topic about the VidhanParishad is its "economic aspect". The VidhanParishad is a white elephant, on which billions rupees of earnings of the people's blood and sweat are shed like water, who are not able to afford food even for two times despite day and night hard work. On functioning of VidhanParishad in a state an average expenditure of Rupees 600-800 Crore is done with no much purpose, curtailing the people's basic amenities. Today, there is a lot of debt on the government and various welfare schemes are not being implemented properly due to paucity of funds. According to a survey conducted some time ago, each member of the VidhanParishad spends on an average four-five lakh rupees as traveling allowance. Recently, their salary and other allowances have been increased and provision has also been made to give vehicle allowance. As a result, the cost per member will increase even more. They are also being paid lifelong pension on the lines of government employee. All these expenses will be recovered from the poor people in various forms. The above analysis reveals that the people gain less and lose more from the VidhanParishad. In the present circumstances, VidhanSabha is sufficient to fulfill the will & wish of the people. The VidhanParishads are just a copy of the constitution of the rich & developed nation in which there is a second chamber for the elite. Overall, keeping in mind the interests of the people, the existing VidhanParishads are said to be irrelevant in Indian context and should be abolished in all states.

Father's Day special

Role of Parents vs Responsibility of Children

■ Rupak G. Duarah



... The place and position which we reach by today, that becomes possible only for the contribution and hard works of our parents....

Former Golf Champion Tiger Woods said "My dad was my best friend and greatest role model. He was an amazing dad, coach, mentor, soldier, husband and friend." Like him, we also find numerous qualities in a father, who dedicates and sacrifices his whole life for the welfare of the family. He is considered as the main hero and role model for most of the children. On 19th June, 'Father's Day' is going to be celebrated all over the world to recognize the contribution of a father to a family and to express one's respect and love for him. The Day celebrates fatherhood, male parenting and cherishes the father's figure in one's life. But now-a-days, in modern and aristocratic family, the parents become a burden in their old age to some children. After marriage, they forget their age old parents and take a decision to send them to 'Old Age Home' to get rid of the burden. Moreover, a number of old parents do not get proper medical treatment when they become sick. Children do not like to spend money for the treatment of their age old parents. This type of act is really inhumane and pathetic. We must not forget the hard labour of our parents to bring up us well and sacrifices to make us self-dependable. The place and position which we reach by today, that becomes possible only for the contribution and hard works of our parents. It is true, if we respect and nurture our old parents well, then no need to go to the temple for receiving blessings from God. Our parents are the visible Gods for us and their blessings are always with us at every moment of our life. Everybody knows that child development lies its root in their parents. They act as a visionary to their children and main strength and support of them. The civilized children never ignore the values of their parents whether they are old or young. Majority of the people of our society offer their best and sincere ser-



vices to their old parents. For them, no need of any special day like Father's Day or Mother's Day to realise or remind the importance and sacrifices of parents in their life. They believe that such types of days ought to celebrate daily as a mark of honour and respect to their old parents.

A couple of years ago, a news item surprised the readers that a son had paid a huge amount of money as medical bill for his sick father. This incident was happened in the capital city of the USA, Washington D.C. A 70 years old Corona patient Michal Flor was under the treatment in the 'Swedish Medical Centre' hospital. For many days, he was senseless in the hospital. After prolong treatment, surprisingly he was recovered from the disease. He was at last released from the hospital after 62 days long treatment with a bill of 181 pages amounting to Rs. 8.9 crore (11 million US dollar). Such huge amount money mentioned in the bill could make any person shocked and surprised. But the son of Michal Flor, paid the bill without any hesitation at the hospital. He was very happy on that day because his father was returned home well from the death bed. Such types of utmost love and respect to the old parents are really very rare at present in our society. His exemplary work can teach those children a lesson who considers their old parents as burden of life. On the Father's Day, we may say that it should be our basic duty and responsibility to show respect and regards to our old parents. We must take utmost care to them for their sincere hard work and sacrifices which they have done in our tender age to make us educated and civilized person in the society.

Contd. From Page 1

Assam Floods : 54 deaths so far

under 96 revenue circles are currently underwater. Meanwhile, the flood situation in Assam's Kamrup district deteriorated after the flood waters entered new areas affecting more than 70,000 people in the area. The water level of the Borolia river and other major rivers of the district are rising up following incessant rains. The Gajraj Corps of Indian Army has launched flood-relief operations in Assam in coordination with the civil administration. Following heavy rainfall in various parts of Assam, nine composite tams of Gajraj Corps were swiftly launched during day and night in coordination with local administration to carry out rescue and relief operations in the flood affected districts of Baksa, Nalbari, Bajali, Darrang, Tamulpur, Hojai and Kamrup. The columns include engineers and medical staff for relief and rescue were mobilised on the request by the local administration. In Nalbari district, the Indian Army columns which were on standby quickly reached Sathikuchi village and rescued 105 stranded locals. Simultaneously another column of Gajraj Corps out relief operations in Damdama of Baksa district and assisted the locals. Relief and rescue operations in six districts are underway, the Army said. As many as nine more persons died in Assam due to the flood, taking the overall death toll to 54, according to Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) on Friday. As many as 18.94 lakh people in 28 districts are affected by the flood situation, the flood bulletin said. The deaths were reported from Hojai, Nalbari, Bajali, Dhubri, Kamrup, Kokrajhar, and Sonitpur districts of Assam. So far 54 people in the state have lost their lives in floods and landslides this year so far. As per the state data, 2,930 villages under 96 revenue circles are currently underwater. The flood waters have submerged 43338.39 hectares of cropland in the flood-hit districts. The water level of Beki, Manas, Pagladiya, Puthimari, Jia Bharali, Kopili and Brahmaputra rivers are flowing above the danger level mark in many places of the state, the ASDMA bulletin said. As many as 1,08,104 flood-affected people are currently, taking shelter at 373 relief camps set up by the district administration. Of which, 3.55 lakh people have been affected alone in Bajali district followed by 2.90 lakh people affected in Darrang, 1.84 lakh in Goalpara, 1.69 lakh in Barpeta, 1.23 lakh in Nalbari, 1.19 lakh in Kamrup and 1.05 lakh in Hojai district.

Floods Cut a Swatch Across North

Cherrapunji received 972 mm of rainfall, the IMD said. The rainfall in Cherrapunji, also one of the wettest places in the world and at an aerial distance of 10 km from Mawsynram, was the highest in June since 1995 and the third highest in 122 years. Mawsynram had gauged 710.6 mm of rainfall in 24 hours ending 8:30 am Wednesday. Before Friday's record rainfall, it had received 944.7 mm of precipitation on June 7, 1966, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data showed. "Mawsynram is at present the wettest place in India, with an average annual rainfall of 11802.4 mm (average of the 1974-2022 period), Cherrapunji receives 11359.4 mm of rainfall in a year (average of the 1971-2020 period)," Sunit Das, Scientist E at IMD's regional centre in Guwahati, said. One of the wettest places in the world, Cherrapunji has recorded more than 800 mm of precipitation on a June day on nine occasions since the IMD started keeping records in 1901. Till Friday, Cherrapunji has received a total of 4081.3 mm rainfall this month. In 24 hours ending 8:30 am on Wednesday, the town nestled in the East Khasi Hills gauged a copious 811.2 mm of rainfall. On June 16, 1995, Cherrapunji logged 1563.3 mm of rainfall. A day before, on June 15, 1995, it received 930 mm of precipitation. The hill station reported 973.8 mm of precipitation on June 5, 1956. The flood situation in Assam turned critical on Friday with nine more people, including two children, losing their lives, taking the death toll in this year's floods and landslides in the state to 55, a bulletin said. The deaths were reported in Hojai, Nalbari, Bajali, Dhubri, Kamrup, Kokrajhar, and Sonitpur districts. Two people were reported missing in Hojai and Sonitpur districts. A total of 18.94 lakh people remained affected in 28 districts of the state, the bulletin issued by Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) said. Landslides were reported in Dima Hasao, Goalpara, Hojai, Kamrup and Kamrup (Metropolitan) and Morigaon. Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal called up Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and discussed the situation with him. Several rivers including Brahmaputra, Kopili, Paladadiya, Jia-Bharali, Manas and Beki were flowing above the danger level. Workers at the under-construction dam site of 2,000 MW Lower Subansiri Hydroelectric Power Project were asked to leave as the Subansiri River was flowing above the danger level due to heavy rain in neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh which inundated several villages in Dhemaji and Lakhimpur districts, an official said. An alert has been sounded in Karbi Anglong, Morigaon and Nagaon districts after the opening of four sluice gates of NEEPCO's Karbi Langpi Hydro Electric Project at Langdong in Dima Hasao district. Flooding in urban areas was reported in Kamrup Metropolitan, Bajali, Barpeta, Darrang, Goalpara, Morigaon, Kokrajhar, Nalbari and Udalguri districts, the ASDMA bulletin said. Guwahati has been severely affected by continued water logging in most parts of the city for the fourth consecutive day, with areas such as Anil Nagar, Nabin Nagar, Zoo Road, Six Mile, Noonmati, Bhootnath, Maligaon, Bamunimaidam, Rajgarh Link Road, Hatigaon, Rukimigaon, Fatasil and Gotanagar remaining severely affected. Road communication has been affected in several districts with 234 roads and 16 bridges being damaged, while landslides on NH 6 in neighbouring Meghalaya disrupted traffic movement between Guwahati, Shillong, Silchar and Agartala. Sonitpur district administration has closed down NH 15, connecting Lakhimpur, Dhemaji along with Itanagar and Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh, for heavy vehicles and the situation was being strictly monitored, an official said. The second wave of floods this year have impacted 96 revenue circles and 2,930 villages while 1,06,677 people have taken shelter in 363 relief camps. Over 24 hours of heavy to moderate rainfall have left Tripura's Agartala city and its suburbs areas inundated. Most of the areas were inundated with massive water-logging across the city. Not only the city roads, houses in the city were in most of the localities were flooded.

Agnipath scheme an attack on

serious attack on the youth (jawani) which is unwarranted and undesirable. It is a huge loss for Punjabi youth who are ever ready to serve their motherland by joining the Army," said the CM. Mann added that it reflects the sorry state of affairs in the country as the party in power is running the country without bothering about its youth. He said that this mindless decision has put the country on boil as the youth of the country have come on roads to protest against this irresponsible move of the centre. He said that AAP opposes this move, which deprives the youth of the opportunity to serve the country throughout the life and rendering them useless after service of mere four years. Bhagwant Mann said that it is unfortunate that the Union government has not employed even a single youth in the Army during last two years. He said that now through this 'Agnipath' move the Centre is allowing a youth to serve the Army merely for four years and that too without pension. Mann said that this is sheer humiliation of the Indian Army which has a glorious heritage of serving the country with valour, sacrifice and selfless service. The CM said that the Union government has backstabbed the youth of the country through this move. He said that anger prevailing amongst the youth is result of this senseless move of the Union government. Mann impressed upon the Union government to immediately roll back this decision in the larger interest of the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the county.

We are able to predict pandemic

Krishna Ella said that the company had predicted Zika virus around two years before it was noticed and he had also predicted about a pandemic in December 2019 before COVID-19 surfaced across the world. "Zika, we were the first one to file a global patent. Even Atlanta was not aware of Zika. We were the first one in the world. This means we are able to predict the pandemic ahead of the game. In 2019 December, there was a meeting in Carnegie Mellon, Bengaluru. I said a pandemic will come because signals are coming. What I said, exactly three months later COVID came into picture. As a scientist, we are able to look into how a virus is emerging, re-emerging and how it travels and can spread the disease," Ella said. "Zika, we were the first one to file a global patent. Bharat Biotech started in 1997 as a start-up, he said. He said that his old team helped the company make Covaxin and no new talent was engaged into this. Bharat Biotech head said that India has the largest BSL-3 (Bio Safety Level 3) laboratories facility in the world that are used to study infectious agents that can be transmitted through air and are potentially lethal. "I think we will lead the globe in terms of containment facilities," Ella said. He said that a lot of machines required for the labs were imported from US and Europe where Indian startups need to come in and start developing equipment required for biotechnology. Bharat Biotech chairman said that the government should give incentives to potential investors in startups to support their research and innovation. "I am for giving some tax incentives to potential investors, private equities, which are funding support areas of the startups in the country. They should be given exemption. Then automatically too much money will flow into startups," Ella said. He said that 150 per cent tax deduction on research and development expenses is also no longer available in India and called for continuing such exemption further with higher level of exemption.

CM visits flood affected Kamrup

and rehabilitation works being undertaken by the sub-division administration in association with the district administration. While talking to the camp inmates, he asked DC Kamrup Kailash Karthik N to make available the relief materials in adequate quantity so the affected people do not suffer from any shortage of essential commodities. He also asked the DC to ensure medical facilities along with clean drinking water and hygiene in the relief camps. The Chief Minister also asked the DC and SDO (C) to reach out to the marooned people, evacuate them and put them in relief camps. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also visited the flood affected places of Kolajol areas of Kamalpur Revenue circle in Kamrup and interacted with the people took shelter at the make shift relief camps set up along the national highway. Walking along the national high way in spite of inclement weather and heavy downpour, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma visited three make shift relief camps on the highway, talked to the flood affected people and assured them of all government help including repairing their damaged houses. MLA Rangia Bhabesh Kalita, MLA Hajo Suman Haripriya, MLA Kamalpur Dignata Kalita also accompanied the Chief Minister during his visit to the flood affected places in Kamrup district. Dr. Sarma also visited Salmara area in Kamrup district where surging flood water posed a threat on the National Highway No. 52. The Chief Minister during his day long tour to North Assam, also visited the flood ravaged areas of Darrang district where he inspected a breached embankment namely Nonoi RB Embankment near Dipila at Pathurughat in Darrang district. He assessed the magnitude of flood and resultant damage caused by the breached embankment and took stock of the measures taken by Water Resources Department to mitigate the sufferings of the people. He asked the concerned officials of Water Resources department to repair the breached portion at the earliest as soon as the flood water recedes. He also talked to local people affected by flood and asked DC Darrang Pranab Kumar Sarmah to reach out to the people with adequate relief materials. He also asked the administration to rescue the marooned people and keep them in relief camps. Dr. Sarma also asked the accompanying MLA Paramananda Rajbongshi to prepare a list with the help from district administration enlisting the names of those people whose houses have been damaged by the flood waters to enable the government to help them in getting their shelters reconstructed. Wading through gushing flood water Dr. Sarma also visited Bor Athiabari area in Darrang district where flooding caused by the breach of an embankment by the surging Saktola river inundating large areas leading to sufferings of the people. He held talks with the officials of Water Resources Department to plug the breached portion at the earliest. Assuring the flood affected local people of the area Dr. Sarma informed that the embankment that saves the local people of Bor Athiabari area from recurring floods would be reconstructed with new alignment to provide fortification to the existing embankment. Moreover, he said that after the flood water recedes and life limps back to normal, Minister Water Resources and Minister Irrigation will visit the breached embankment areas and oversee their construction. Member of Parliament Mangaldoi Dilip Saikia, MLA Rangia Bhabesh Kalita, MLA Sipajhar Paramananda Rajbongshi, MLA Mangaldoi Basanta Das, former MLA Gurujyoti Das were present during Chief Minister's visit to the flood affected areas.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi

policy, which is completely directionless and it has done so while ignoring your voices," she said in a statement in Hindi, addressed to the youths. Declaring her party's support for them, the Congress president said along with the youths, several ex-soldiers and defence experts have questioned the scheme. Gandhi, who is being treated at a hospital here for a lower respiratory tract infection and post-Covid symptoms, said she can understand the pain of the youths over the "three-year delay" in recruitment despite lakhs of vacancies in the Army. Gandhi said she also empathises with the youths who are awaiting results and appointments after taking the test for induction in the Air Force. "The Congress stands with you with full force and promises to struggle for your interests and for the withdrawal of this scheme.""Like true patriots, we will articulate your voices following the path of truth, non-violence, resilience and peace," she told the youths in her letter. "I appeal to you to use peaceful and non-violent means to protest for your rightful demands. The Indian National Congress is with you," the Congress chief said. Youths across the country have taken to the streets and are protesting against the new short-term recruitment scheme for entry in the armed forces. There have been violent protests in several places and irate youths have torched trains and damaged public property at various places.

Leopard, 3 Hog Deer killed By

and humans. It may be noted the Bokakhat sub-divisional magistrate had imposed speed limits of 40 kilometers per hour on the stretch, installed speed trap cameras and deployed interceptors. However, despite so many measures, carelessness on the part of people travelling through lead to unwanted animal deaths. The official order read, "During high flood season, the wild animals of the Kaziranga national park have a natural tendency to migrate for shelter towards the Karbi Anglong Hills thereby crossing NH-37." "While migrating, there is every likelihood of wild animals falling prey to the hands of miscreants or meeting with accidents that may put the lives of passengers as well as wild animals at risk," it added. The order further stated, "There are sufficient grounds to regulate the speed of the vehicles and impose restrictions in the scheduled area, so as to protect human lives and wild animals."

Agnipath Scheme: MHA Announces

of Agniveer, the age relaxation will be for 5 years beyond the prescribed upper age limit," it further added. Agniveers refer to the recruits under the new Agnipath short-term contractual recruitment scheme for the defence services. Announced on Wednesday, Agnipath scheme sparked major protests across the country. On Thursday the central government extended the upper age limit was extended from 21 to 23 years. However, the protests still have been rocking the nation as angry protestors have set several trains on fire in Bihar, UP, Telangana, and many other states.

3 Children Missing As Boat Carrying

affected over 55,150 people in the district, which was also severely affected in the first wave of floods earlier this year. A total of 29,745 people have taken shelter in 47 relief camps in the district. According to a bulletin issued by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), another person was reported missing in a separate incident in Hojai on Friday. In Sonitpur district, a person was reported missing when the boat in which four people were travelling capsized on Friday. Three of them were rescued while a search was underway to trace the missing person. Assam is severely affected by floods with 18.95 lakh people suffering in 28 districts and 55 people dying due to the deluge and landslides in the state this year.

If you want confrontations, vote for BJP, if you want work, vote for AAP: Arvind Kejriwal

New Delhi, June 18 : If you want confrontations, vote for BJP, if you want work, vote for AAP: Arvind Kejriwal at bypoll roadshow New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday hit the campaign trail in Rajinder Nagar and appealed to people to ensure victory of his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) candidate Durgesh Pathak if they want development works to continue in the assembly constituency. Exhorting people to reject the BJP candidate in the by-election, the AAP national convenor alleged that people are fed up with the BJP wherever they have won the elections as the saffron party follows "politics of confrontation" and knows nothing beyond "picking fights". The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has fielded Rajesh Bhatia as its candidate for the Rajinder Nagar seat, which recently fell vacant necessitating the by-election after AAP legislator Raghav Chadha was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Punjab. "There is no use of voting for the BJP. If you vote for the BJP candidate, he can't get any work done. Those from the BJP keep fighting with us all the time," Kejriwal said while addressing people in a roadshow organised by his party in Rajinder Nagar in support of AAP candidate Pathak. The Delhi chief minister said his government has done "a lot of work" in the national capital over the past seven years as his party follows the "politics of work", unlike the BJP's "politics of confrontation". "In the last assembly polls, you made us victorious with a huge margin. I am grateful to you. This seat has fallen vacant. Once again, extend your love, trust and support to us and ensure our party's victory by twice the number of votes cast last time," Kejriwal said. "You have to choose between the BJP's politics of confrontation or our politics of work. If you want work, vote for me (AAP candidate). If you want confrontations, vote for the BJP. I am giving you the guarantee that I will get all of your works done. After all, we have to work because it is our government," he added. This was Kejriwal's first roadshow in Rajinder Nagar during which AAP candidate Pathak was present along with party's Rajya Sabha MP Chadha, former MLA from the assembly constituency, and Karol Bagh MLA Vishesh Ravi and other leaders. According to the party, Kejriwal will hold two more roadshows in Rajinder Nagar—one on Saturday and another on Sunday—to campaign for Pathak. Battle lines for the bypoll have been drawn with 14 candidates filing their nominations. Of the candidates in the fray, the AAP, BJP and Congress have fielded one candidate each while three others are from unrecognised parties. Another eight candidates are contesting the bypoll as Independents. The AAP has been winning the seat for the last two consecutive terms since the Arvind Kejriwal-led party came at the helm in 2015 while the BJP had last won the seat in 2013. AAP's Vijender Garg Vijay had won the seat in 2015 and it was retained by the party in the 2020 assembly polls with Chadha defeating BJP's R P Singh by a margin of over 20,000 votes. For the last six terms since 1993, the Congress, which has fielded Prem Lata as its candidate in the Rajinder Nagar bypolls, could win the seat only once in 2008.

Agnipath scheme: Violent protests continue in Bihar-railway station, police jeep set ablaze, cops injured

Patna, June 18 : A railway station and a police vehicle were torched and several law enforcers injured in stone-pelting incidents on the fourth consecutive day of protests against Agnipath scheme on Saturday when a bandh was also called to press for the demand for rollback of the new scheme for recruitment in armed forces. In the capital city, bandh supporters were restrained by police from forcing shops to down their shutters, but they registered their protest by performing push-ups on the roads and scampering away after hurling stones at commercial establishments. On the outskirts, bandh supporters set fire to Taregana railway station in Masaurhi sub-division of Patna district and torched a jeep belonging to the GRP. They also exchanged gunshots with GRP personnel, engaged in heavy stone-pelting and beat up journalists covering the clash. "Police and RPF have been deployed in Masaurhi. We have, so far, no information of anybody getting injured in the violence there," RPF DIG, East Central Railway (ECR) S Mayank told reporters. In Danapur sub-division, bandh supporters vandalised an ambulance as the driver alleged that a patient and attendants inside were also beaten up by the mob. State police chief, DGPS K Singhal, toured the Patna Junction and took stock of the security arrangements there. The ECR headquarters in Hajipur said that in view of the prevailing situation, 32 trains have been cancelled. "To ensure safety and security of passengers and railway property, trains originating in other zones will be plied through ECR only after 8 PM on Saturday and continue till 4 AM on Sunday. Movement of such trains will be restored at 8 PM on Sunday," said ECR Chief Public Relations Officer Virendra Kumar. Notably, the railways have suffered massive losses in the state during protests in the last three days. More than 60 train coaches, 10 engines and some stations have been torched by mobs protesting the introduction of the new recruitment system wherein 75 per cent of jawans will be retired after four years of service, with no pension benefits. Earlier, bandh supporters had attacked a police outpost in Jehanabad district, leaving several personnel injured. In Munger, shops remained open although bandh supporters burned tyres on roads, amid heavy police presence. A large police contingent was deployed in front of the state headquarters of the BJP, which has been at the receiving end of the protests, with many of its senior leaders having been physically attacked and its offices in at least three districts being set ablaze since Thursday. "We can say that the bandh has had negligible effect on normal life. Barring stray incidents, peace has prevailed across the state," said Deputy Chief Minister Tarkishor Prasad, who is also the party's leader in the assembly. Large-scale violence in the past few days has led to the suspension of internet services, barring the ones controlled by the government, in 12 severely affected districts of the state. A home department notification said the restrictions will remain effective for at least three days. Prohibitory orders have also been clamped in a number of towns as a preventive measure. The bandh has received in-principle support from all opposition parties— RJD, Congress, the Left and the Aam Aadmi Party. Former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi's Hindustani Awam Morcha has also extended moral support to the day-long shutdown. The BJP has squarely blamed the RJD, known for strong-arm tactics in politics, for the violence. However, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U), partner of the BJP in the state and the Centre, has sought a review of the scheme, and urged the Union government to allay the fears of the protesters.



Gymnasts to demand action from governing bodies after abuse scandals

London, June 18 : A global alliance of gymnasts will demand the sport's governing body and the International Olympic Committee make major reforms to prevent further shocking abuse scandals, the Guardian has learned. Advocacy groups representing abused gymnasts have joined forces to call on the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG) to review the minimum age for athletes to compete, introduce significantly stronger welfare standards and establish an international register of banned coaches. The groups - which include Gymnasts for Change in the UK, Gymnasts Alliance in the US, and others in Australia, New Zealand and Canada - believe the FIG and the IOC have failed to address the underlying issues exposed by Athlete A, the Netflix documentary about the former USA Gymnastics team doctor



Larry Nassar, the Whyte review into British Gymnastics and other major scandals. As things stand, female gymnasts can compete internationally as young as 16 - which requires

male competitors, would allow them to step up their training when they were older. Gymnasts in multiple countries have also reported shocking stories of sexual, physical and mental abuse as well as fat shaming and cultures where medals take precedence over athlete welfare. The Whyte review, which was published on Thursday, also revealed that coaches would sit on girls as young as seven in a bid to improve their flexibility while some gymnasts would hide food in their knickers and in hotel ceilings because they were so starved by their coaches. Kevin McKeever, the communications director of Gymnasts for Change UK, confirmed to the Guardian that the groups were now working together and hoped to pressure the FIG and the IOC into making fundamental reforms. He said the groups had realised there was only so much that could be achieved by reforming

Lewis Hamilton says porpoising injuries are unacceptable before Canadian GP

London, June 18 : The Canadian Grand Prix has long been a happy hunting ground for Lewis Hamilton. The seven-times champion counts it as one of his favourite meetings but this year, while a win appears as far off as ever, Hamilton is at least taking some pleasure from the FIA's determination to eliminate the porpoising of the cars that has been identified as a potential long-term health risk. After a bruising weekend in Baku, where the porpoising - a vertical jarring of the car - was particularly violent, a variety of drivers called for the FIA to intervene. On Thursday the governing body issued a directive stating it would examine the problem and implement rule changes on safety grounds, in the short-term likely mandating teams to run their cars with higher rear ride-height. At 37 and in his 16th season in Formula One, Hamilton wears his years of competition well but at the circuit Gilles Villeneuve was explicit that the toll the porpoising was taking was severe regardless of age. "I have not spoken to a specialist on [spinal] discs but I can feel mine," he said. "I am a little bit shorter this week and my discs are not in

the best shape right now. That's not good for longevity. There is no need for us to have long-term injuries. There's a lot more bruising in the body after the race nowadays, it is taking more of the week to recover and you have to do a lot more to do it. I don't think that's to do with age, it's because the bruising can be quite severe. When you experience up to 10-Gs on a bump which

the Canadian GP, with a majority of drivers welcoming the proposed changes. However, championship leader Max Verstappen, showing superb form in a Red Bull that has all but eliminated the porpoising problem, was less enamoured of a mid-season regulation adjustment. That is not surprising given that a driver in a potentially



I had in the last race that is a heavy, heavy load on the lower and top part of your neck. I have had a lot more headaches in the past few months, I am not taking it too seriously I am just taking painkillers, hopefully I don't have any micro-concussions "The FIA's position has dominated discussion in the build-up to

Highfield Princess can nab Royal Ascot's Platinum prize

London, June 18 : Royal Ascot's first £1m race on Wednesday attracted just five runners but the second - Saturday's Platinum Jubilee Stakes - has drawn

for an each-way alternative, and Highfield Princess (4.20) stands out as a live contender at around 14-1. John Quinn's mare won the seven-furlong handicap



a record field of 27, headed by the top-notch Australian sprinter, Home Affairs. Home Affairs is a stable companion of Nature Strip, Tuesday's impressive King's Stand Stakes winner, and beat him by a short-head over five furlongs at Flemington in February. He has Group One-winning form at six furlongs too but is nowhere near as far clear of several in this field on ratings as the betting might suggest. The market's focus on Chris Waller's three-year-old makes the market

at this meeting 12 months ago but remains unexposed at six, having run at today's trip just twice in a 23-race career. She was second home in her group in last season's Champions Sprint and put up a big new career-best to win the 1895 Duke Of York Stakes in May. This is another step up in class, but not an insurmountable one with just a little more improvement. Royal Ascot 2.30: Aidan O'Brien has taken this in four of the last six seasons and Alfred Munnings looks as good a

World Rugby to extend concussion stand-down period by five days

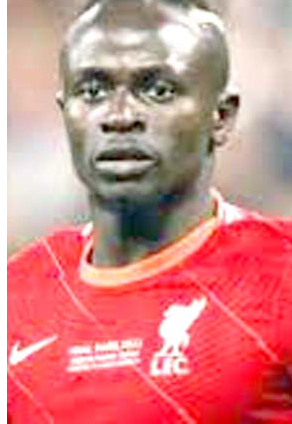
London, June 18 : A major change to the regulations on concussion management will be announced next week, with World Rugby ready to extend the compulsory stand-down period for affected players to 12 days with effect from 1 July. At present a top-level player who fails a head injury assessment (HIA) is permitted to take the field again as early as the following weekend if they

Sadio Mané leaving Liverpool after £35m Bayern Munich deal accepted

Barcelona, June 18 : Liverpool have accepted Bayern Munich's latest offer for Sadio Mané and the forward is due to have a medical before signing a three-year contract. Bayern are paying a guaranteed £28m and the fee could reach £35m with add-ons. Mané told Liverpool of his desire to leave soon after the Champions League final and made Bayern his preferred destination. Bids from the German club were turned down before a deal was reached on Friday. Bayern's sporting director, Hasan Alihamdizic, confirmed the move to Sky Sports in Germany on Friday evening. "Yes, Sadio is coming to Bayern," he said. The Senegal international has been at Liverpool since 2016 and decided the time was right for a new experience. He had one year left on his contract. Liverpool wanted a replacement - as well as a suitable fee - and this week secured Darwin Núñez from Benfica in a deal that could

reach £85m. Núñez, who turns 23 next week, is seven years younger than Mané. At Bayern, Robert Lewandowski is determined to leave for Barcelona, who are preparing a new bid for the striker after personal terms were agreed. The Pole is also being pursued by Chelsea and Paris Saint-Germain but Bayern have said they have no intention

sign for the Serie A champions. Mané started 32 of Liverpool's Premier League games last season and 11 of their 13 Champions League fixtures. In 269 appearances for the club he scored 120 goals and assisted 48. Liverpool appreciated the respectful way in which Mané went out about communicating his desire to go. They had tried to persuade him to extend his contract but he was clear he saw his future elsewhere. Attempts to get Mohamed Salah to sign a new deal have also been unsuccessful but the Egyptian has said he will stay for next season, at the end of which he is due to become a free agent. Núñez is the most high-profile of Liverpool's summer signings but two other players are joining Jürgen Klopp's squad. Fábio Carvalho's move from Fulham has been confirmed and a £6.5m deal has been agreed with Aberdeen to buy the right-back Calvin Ramsay.



Jos Buttler unleashes mayhem against Dutch as England smash ODI record

Amstelveen, June 18 : It was as if a popcorn machine had exploded: hot, sweet, buttery kernels flying this way and that to the delight of onlookers, while the desperate owners pressed buttons at random, willing it to stop. England's highest one-day

a carefully constructed ton, or Livingstone, who entered the arena like a coiled spring and wound up with England's fastest one-day fifty, off 17 balls. But most eye-opening of all was Buttler, whose IPL warm-up had brought him 46 sixes as



follow a graduated sequence of return-to-play protocols. The new policy will extend that stand-down period by five days. That will bring World Rugby into line with bodies such as the Rugby Football League and the AFL, who earlier this year increased their return-to-play periods to 11 days and 12 days respectively. Player welfare groups have campaigned for a change in rugby union for some time, with several high-profile former players having revealed they are now suffering from the effects of early onset dementia. The

Saracens' Owen Farrell fresh in mind and body to regain Premiership title

London, June 18 : It is a long old road to the Premiership grand final but it is the last 80 minutes of the season that shape everything. This is the 20th edition since the playoffs were introduced in 2002-03 and it remains striking how many past winners have had to endure bleakly dispiriting days before graduating to the English domestic game's highest prize. Between 2005 and 2013 Leicester were in the final every year but lost three of their first four and could not always instantly adjust to the more urgent rhythms of sudden-death rugby. Remember, too, Saracens being beaten in extra time by Northampton in 2014 only to win four of the next five domestic crowns? It is the setbacks en route that define teams as much as the cool sensation of sprayed podium

champagne. Which is why this season's finale already means such a massive amount to both sides. So low had the Tigers fallen a couple of years ago it seemed they might struggle to regain their old snarl. And Saracens? Their salary cap defrocking is a matter of historical record but it is their resurrection, they believe, that is revealing the club's true character. No one, certainly, can accuse them of having taken the easy route back. Step forward, then, the man around whom so much invariably revolves on these major occasions. Owen Farrell was a teenager playing like an old-timer the last time Sarries and

have been times where I've probably worried about the next phase too much instead of the phase that I'm in. It's not about being flat to the line or anything like that. It's just about not 'setting up' as much... about playing the phase that's in front of you and getting everything out of it. I always find that when you're 'in' the game you're getting your hands on the ball and you're popping up in the right areas. When you're constantly worrying about everything and everybody else you sometimes take too much of a step back. It is a perceptive slice of self-analysis and, just maybe, tacit recognition the game is tilting towards fly-halves with more variety in their toolbox and, à la Marcus Smith, a desire to take on the defensive line.



international total - a world record score of 498 for four - annihilated a wilting Netherlands attack as Jos Buttler, Phil Salt, Dawid Malan and Liam Livingstone put the God Damn into Amsterdam. In an innings so stuffed full of superlatives it was hard to know when best to time a quick scratch of the ankle, let alone shimmy off to buy a drink, England walloped 26 sixes - another record - in a three-and-a-bit-hour blitz with short boundaries. Blink and you would miss Salt on the way to his first hundred in an England shirt or Malan building

well as both the most valuable player and leading run-scorer awards. It was safe to say he had his eye in at Amstelveen. "Any time you manage to play like that and play like that as a team is a great day out," Buttler said, as softly spoken as ever. "This is the most fun environment I've ever played in. It's been great to be back, on a normal tour and not worry about bubbles." England's previous highest score was 481 against Australia at Trent Bridge in 2018, when Alex Hales and Jonny Bairstow biffed hundreds, with Jason

Roy and Eoin Morgan chipping in generously. Hales and Bairstow were not in contention for this tour, for different reasons, and neither Jason Roy, bowled by his cousin Shane Snater for one in the second over of the day, nor Morgan, lbw for a golden duck with the score 407 for four, will take much personal joy from their scorecard entries. Buttler took England past the record with a whipping chip down the ground for six in the last over of the innings, before Livingstone finished things off with a four and six over midwicket. It was that kind of day. They had not quite made it to 500 but they had beaten their own record, the women's highest ODI record of 491 and Surrey's domestic 50-over record of 496. The shell-shocked Netherlands players applauded England off; they had been well and truly tangoed. Worse, they had won the toss and decided to bowl. Salt had been the ignition, punching down the ground and pulling with gumption and reaching 50 with a four over mid-off, his second ODI fifty in only his fourth game.



Emily Rudge's England grateful for women's rugby league trailblazers

London, June 18 : With equal participation fees to the men, prize money for the first time and a mainstream platform, this year's Rugby League World Cup represents a seminal moment for the women's game. And if it is Emily Rudge and her England teammates lifting the trophy this autumn, there will be one group of women watching on with particular pride at how far the game has come since they took a leap into the unknown 26 years ago. Rudge, the captain, and the leading female players will go into camp and be treated like professionals this autumn, just as they have been in the run-up to Saturday's friendly against France. Warrington-born Rudge will helm an England side that kickstart a double-header at her hometown's Halliwell Jones Stadium, followed by the men's team taking on a combined nations all-star squad. The preparations for a groundbreaking tour in 1996 could hardly have been more different. "We were lucky if we could get a professional team to let us in back then," says Lisa McIntosh, one of the stars of the British Lionesses' trip to Australia in 1996. "Halifax hosted us for 10 minutes at



half-time once, we played a game on the pitch while the punters were having a pie and a pint." Brenda Dobek, who later coached Rudge with England, adds: "We couldn't really worry about training because we had to self-fund the Australia trip ourselves. We needed to raise money just to get there, and the girls nowadays can thankfully just worry about playing. There was no help back then. You name it, we did it. Car-boot sales, sponsored walks, bucket collections - even bag-packing in supermarkets. "Women's rugby league has made incredible strides in recent years. The introduction of the Women's Super League in 2017 resulted in a surge of interest but the pandemic put paid to that, with the competition cancelled in 2020. It was able to restart in 2021 thanks to funding from

the National Lottery, which remains instrumental as the World Cup approaches. "There were a few months when we were sat around worrying if all that momentum was going to be lost," Rudge says. "We weren't allowed to train, teams couldn't get together and it has a massive impact on the development of the game. The fact we could get up and running quicker with that funding was incredible. I think we'd have lost so much momentum without it. It could have completely derailed us. "None of this would be possible without McIntosh, Dobek and the Lionesses' historic tour. It was the first time a women's side from Britain had toured overseas and, while the significance of the trip was overlooked at the time, those involved can now look back and understand what a breakthrough mo-

ment it was, not least because the Lionesses won the three-match series against Australia 2-1. "It was all unknown to us really," McIntosh says. "We just wanted to play. We weren't really aware nobody had gone out there and beaten Australia on their own turf. Australia and New Zealand played each other all the time and we just wanted to muscle in and be part of it really." Dobek recalls: "We were only out there for 12 days and played every other day, basically. We had no recovery time, minimal players because of the funding and the accommodation wasn't exactly first-class. But it was the start of something and it's really grown into something special, not least because of National Lottery funding that's provided the stage for the girls to shine on this year. "Rudge, who remembers the time before the WSL when crowds barely reaching 100 watched women's rugby league, will not have to head to her local supermarket to pack bags raising funds for England's World Cup campaign. But before the first match, against Brazil in Leeds on 1 November, she will remind her players of the sacrifices

and commitment those before them have made in order to give them this opportunity. "It's so easy for younger players to forget what those before us have had to do," she says. "They didn't have the same opportunities or the funding we've got. I think some of the girls don't know how lucky they are. It's so important that girls realise the tough times previous players have had just to pull on a shirt. Now, girls are given huge support to help them get to this point." McIntosh, Dobek and co already have their place assured as trailblazers for women's sport. Now, the opportunity is looming for Rudge and her teammates to take a similar position and potentially take the game to even greater heights with World Cup success. "The thought of winning a World Cup on home soil is incredible," Rudge says. "We'd see a whole new generation of players in years to come and there's only going to be more funding put into the sport when there's success. So that will help grow the sport even more and get more people watching the sport. The potential is huge, it adds to the pressure, but that's why we're here."

Ranji Trophy semifinal Mumbai young guns Jaiswal, Jaffer hit hundreds before title clash

Mumbai, June 18 : Yashasvi Jaiswal continued his superb run of form as he slammed back-to-back hundreds in the ongoing Ranji Trophy semifinal against Uttar Pradesh. The left-hander had scored 100 in the first innings and followed it

and I just couldn't get off the mark yesterday. It took me some 54 balls to get my first run. But I had told myself that I will bat for as long as possible, and not throw my wicket. I want to score big hundreds because they matter more. At the same time, I wanted to

prove himself in red-ball cricket. "Days' cricket keeps checking your patience. Like in this game, UP bowlers kept bowling outside the off-stump, hoping I will poke or try to cut one ball. In such a situation, batsmen's temperament is tested and we need to start finding answers. The crux of success is to give some time and play shots as per the merit of the ball, and runs will come," Jaiswal added. Despite Mumbai being in a strong position, Jaffer didn't want to take things for granted. "I didn't want to waste this opportunity. It's always good to have some good runs before any big game. Jaiswal and I were just giving respect to their bowling in the beginning and knew when they get tired, they will give us chances to score. It was all about waiting for our time." Jaffer said. Only three wickets fell the entire day. Shivam Mavi got Jaffer, medium pacer Prince Yadav managed to get Suved Parkar caught and bowled and three overs later, had Jaiswal caught after the batsman tried to pull a ball that hurried onto him and ballooned in the air. Mumbai are assured of their spot in the Ranji Trophy final and the final day will be just about completing the formalities.



with 181 on Friday. It was his third hundred in the past three innings. It was not only Jaiswal who reached the three-figure mark. Mumbai middle-order batsman Armaan Jaffer too slammed 127 as the domestic heavyweights continued to punish the UP bowlers on Day Four of the clash in Bengaluru, reaching 449 for 4 at stumps. From 0 off 54 balls to scoring 181 off 372, Jaiswal passed the transition phase successfully. "They were bowling well

prove a point that I can bat in red-ball cricket as well," Jaiswal told. Mumbai resumed at the overnight score of 133 for 1. The 41-time Ranji Trophy champions already had a 346-run lead and wanted their batsmen to gain more match confidence going ahead. At close, Sarfaraz Khan and Shams Mulani were batting on 23 and 10 respectively. Mumbai has a pretty inexperienced batting line-up. Jaiswal had a decent showing for Rajasthan Royals in the IPL but knew he had to

Dinesh Karthik leads comeback as India level series 2-2

New Delhi, June 18 : From teetering on the edge of the cliff, India have crawled back to breathe again and take the series to the final game in Bangalore. Sizeable credit for the series-levelling 82-run victory in Rajkot goes to the unflustered big-hitting brilliance of Dinesh Karthik and Hardik Pandya, whose 65 runs in 5.3 overs pro-



pelled India to 169 runs on a tacky surface, as well as the synchronised utility of its bowling firm. Give these set of bowlers conditions that remotely abet their craft, they make life impossibly difficult for overseas batsmen to live, let alone prosper. The surface was not as con-

ducive to stroke-play as the other venues in this series. Some balls stopped, some skidded along, some just leapt off good-length areas. The bounce was spongy rather than a trampoline. Both seamers and spinners mixed their pace shrewdly, hammering out even a toe-hold of the advantage South Africa were trying to gain.

acted revenge on his tormenter, Heinrich Klaasen, with a straighter ball; Avesh Khan enjoyed his best night in international cricket with a four-wicket haul. They were bundled out for 87, just half as India had put on (169/7). For India, there were several heroes. Foremost among them was Dinesh Karthik, whose 27-ball 55 conveyed an impression that he alone batted on a different pitch. He certainly batted on a different plane, batting fluently on a surface where most batters consistently struggled to time the ball and find the boundary. The background was perfect for him to flourish - team reeling, series at stake, last of the specialist batsmen, it was the time to not only play a winning hand but also make him an indispensable player in the side. In his prime, he had let golden opportunities slip through, but at 36, probably at the last stretch of his career, he is desperately making even half an opportunity count. Amidst the reverse pulls and sweeps, the sheer wattage of destruction

Karthik ratcheted up, a straight drive stood out. South Africa's left-handed spinner Keshav Maharaj, after he was fiercely swept through midwicket, seared one onto his pads. Karthik could have bent low and swirled his wrists over the ball and whirled it over long-on. His design seemed just that, before at the last moment, he changed his mind, as if suddenly seized bound by classical batsmanship. He just pressed his front-foot forth and drove the ball between the bowler and the long-on fielder, aerial but a stroke of pure, pristine timing. For this stroke alone, he kept the pose, the front-elbow winking at the inky sky, the bat-maker's name proudly staring at the audience after tracing a delightful arc. He struck eight other boundaries and a brace of sixes to complete his maiden T20 international half-century and propel India to a competent score, but a photograph of this stroke is the likeliest to adorn the walls of his drawing-room. This stroke held the breath; most others

rushed the blood. Karthik was in full flow, the currents lashing furiously like a river in monsoon. There was a sweet-six of Dwaine Pretorius, wherein he simply walked outside the off-stump and whacked the ball over deep midwicket. Fast feet, faster hands and even faster brains. The ball was not too full for the slog, but he hyperextended his bat, got under the ball and heaved it over the drops. In such a mood for carnage, he could be unstoppable. His range of strokes and as importantly his eye for boundaries is astounding. Anything even marginally shot, he moves back with the rapidness of an electric wave, and cuts, often in front of square. Anything full, he has the whole canvas to find a boundary. The ball could vanish into any corner of the field. Length balls could disappear over deep square leg; he could reverse pull, reverse sweep, and if need be, ramp and scoop (there was no need for such improvisation). He manufactures the lengths that suit him, like

sashaying down the track and pummelling Andre Nortje down the ground. The shot, his second boundary, rattled the strapping South African seamer. Perhaps the entire team too, as they suddenly looked deflated, and let the game drift away from them in the next 30 minutes or so. That was the precise moment South Africa would rue, after the penetration and planning they showed in the early exchanges. Until then, they had bottlenecked the hosts and chipped away with wickets, the last being Rishabh Pant. India were, at this juncture, 81 for 4 in 13 overs, having already lost Ishan Kishan, Ruturaj Gaikwad and Shreyas Iyer. Escalating their woes, Hardik Pandya too had hit the straps with a few lusty blows, the trademark back-cuts and flick-slogs, where he wrists the ball at the final moment of contact, making the crowd erupt in joy. This burst of boundaries made all the difference - from teetering on the edge of the cliff to taking the series to the last match in Bangalore.

FINA to vote on transgender policy on Sunday

Sydney, June 18 : FINA, the global governing body of swimming, will vote on a new policy regarding transgender swimmers at an extraordinary general congress in Budapest on Sunday, Australia's Telegraph newspaper reported on Saturday. The regulations could have a major impact on the career of American Lia Thomas, the first known transgender woman to win a NCAA Division I title in the female class. The agenda for the FINA congress, which is taking place on the sidelines of the World Championships, lists a "report of the transgender task force". The Telegraph, which cited unnamed senior FINA sources, said the governing body would make a definitive ruling on the matter on Sunday. The issue of transgender inclusion in sport is highly di-

visive, particularly in the United States where it has become a weapon in the so-called "culture war" between conservatives and progressives. Opponents to transgender athletes in women's sport, which include British former Olympic medallist Sharron Davies, maintain that anyone who goes through male puberty will always have a major physical advantage over women. Advocates for transgender inclusion argue that not enough studies have yet been done on the impact of transition on physical performance, and that elite athletes are often physical outliers in any case.







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