



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Atul Bora's convoy

**Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, June 19 :  
Assam Agriculture Minister Atul Bora's convoy met with an accident killing a civilian. As per reports, this time the convoy rammied into pedestrians at Samaguri Tinali in Nagaon on Sunday afternoon. During the accident, the driver of the vehicle, an SUV along with several other people sustained injuries while on local resident of the area was taken to the hospital in a severe condition. He was shifted to the BP Civil Hospital in Nagaon as per reports, he succumbed to his injuries.

### Boys swept away

**Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, June 19 :  
Two boys have been swept away by high currents of the increasing flood waters at Septi in Rangia in Kamrup Rural district of Assam. According to locals of the area, four boys were video shooting themselves at a road submerged under water. At the same time, a strong flow of water swept away two of the boys. The two boys have been missing since then. The boys have been identified as 15-year-old Juman Das and Himangshu Das. They were class X students of the Premada Shivnath Bidyapith in Rangia. Meanwhile, the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) is carrying out extensive search and rescue operations at the area. The entire area has been gripped by a pall of gloom after the incident.

### Football team

**Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, June 19 :  
As many as 17 people including players of a local football team were injured in a massive road accident that took place on the national highway connecting Lanka and Lumding in Assam on Sunday. The accident took place today at an 'S-turn' on NH 27 which connects Lanka to Lumding in the Hojai district of Assam. A freight carrying Tata Magic vehicle which was carrying a total of 30 people, including 18 players of a football team, met with an accident at the turn injuring several people. The vehicle was travelling from Lumding and was headed to Singuri village in Lanka.

## Floods batter Assam, kill at least 63 peoples

**Nearly 31 lakh people in 32 districts**

**Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, June 19 :

Due to the Assam floods, more than 1.56 lakh people have taken shelter in 514 relief camps. Eight more people lost their lives on Saturday (June 18, 2022) as Assam continued to reel under devastating floods caused by incessant rain, which has so far hit nearly 31 lakh people in 32 districts. According to reports, as many as 63 people have so far lost their lives due to the Assam floods. The toll in the current second wave of floods and



landslides in the state has increased after two deaths each reported from Barpeta and Karimganj while one

each died in Darrang, Hailakandi, Nalbari and Sonitpur districts. Eight people, including three chil-

dren, were reported missing after a boat capsized in Hojai

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## Jammu and Kashmir 4 terrorists killed in twin encounters

**Srinagar, June 19 :**

Two terrorists were killed in an encounter in Jammu and Kashmir's Kupwara district

that killed another two terrorists. Two anti-terror operations are simultaneously underway in north



on Sunday (June 19), while another gunfight was going on in the Kulgam dis-

trict and south of Kashmir. IGP

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## Presidential Polls: Mamata Banerjee 'upset' with Sharad Pawar, to skip opposition meet

**New Delhi, June 19 :**

In a big setback to opposition unity, TMC chief Mamata Banerjee has decided to skip the meet called by NCP chief Sharad Pawar to pick the opposition

camp's presidential candidate. Instead of Mamata Banerjee, her nephew and senior TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee will attend the meeting in Delhi. This was reported by Trinamool sources on Sun-



day. On Saturday, Pawar e-mailed the leaders of the opposition parties for Tuesday's meeting. But Pawar's statement in that letter has hurt the Trinamool top leadership, sources said. Earlier, Mamata had written to everyone inviting them to the meeting. During the first such meeting called by Banerjee in Delhi on June 15 to formulate a strategy for the upcoming Presidential poll, it has been decided that a common candidate, who will "uphold the democratic ethos of the country", will be chosen as the opposition nominee. As many as 17 parties attended the meeting.

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## India grants e-visas to Afghan Sikhs, Hindus on priority after Kabul attack

**New Delhi, June 19 :**

A day after the deadly terror attack at Gurudwara Kartar



Parwan in Kabul's Bagh-e-Bala neighbourhood, in which two persons including a Sikh were killed, the

Union ministry of home affairs (MHA) decided to grant e-emergency visas to over 100 Afghan Sikhs and Hindus on 'priority', said people familiar with the matter. The e-visas will facilitate the evacuation of Sikhs and Hindus from Afghanistan, who are facing grave danger in wake of the terror threats there. Officials said

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## Heavy Rainfall Predicted Across Assam

**Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, June 19 :

The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) in Guwahati has predicted that several districts across Assam are likely to receive heavy rainfall in the next 48 hours. As per the weather bulletin issued by the department, isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely over Dhubri, South Salmara, Goalpara, Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Barpeta, West Karbi Anglong, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Dima Hasao, Cachar and Karimganj districts. Meanwhile, moderate rainfall will continue in several places till June 23. Meanwhile, the RMC has also predicted thunderstorm accom-



panied by one or two light to moderate spell of rainfall is very likely over Guwahati during the next 24 hours. This might lead to water logging, disruption of traffic

and various municipal services at many places across the city. The weather department has advised all people

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## 44 Anti-Poaching Camps In Kaziranga inundated In Flood



**Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, June 19 :

44 anti-poaching camps in the Kaziranga national park in Assam have been inundated as a result of floods hitting the northeastern state. According to officials of the national park, the flood water has submerged around 15 per cent area of the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. Authority informed that 44 out of the total of 223 anti-poaching camps of the park have been deluged by the flood waters after the Brahmaputra river overflowed. Further mea-

sures were taken for the protection of the wild animals, they said. Officials said that 14 out of the 44 submerged camps fall under the Agradoli wildlife range, eight fall under the Biswanath wildlife division, six under Kaziranga and Burhapahar and five under the Bagori range. It may be noted that as many as four animals including a leopard and three hog deer died after being run over by a speeding vehicle yesterday. With the view of protecting both animal and human lives in the flood

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## Agneepath protest: big announcement by the Indian Defence Ministry

**New Delhi, June 19 :**

As the anti-Agneepath scheme protestors continue to wreak havoc in the country by vandalising and burning down the public property, the Indian Defence Ministry on Sunday announced that those who were involved in any kind of violent protests and arson will not be admitted to the Agniveer programme. Addressing a press conference in New Delhi, Lieutenant General Anil Puri, Additional Secretary, Department of Military Affairs said, "Indian Army's foundation in the discipline. There is no space

for arson and vandalism. Every individual will have to give a certificate that they were not part of the protest or vandalism at the time of enrollment. Police verification is 100% and no one can join the forces without it. According to the recent announcement, Puri said that those who will register for the Agneepath recruitment scheme will have to provide a certificate that they were not involved in any kind of vandalism. The certificate will later be verified by the police and a background check will take place. "And if any FIR lodged against them, they can't join... They (aspirants)

will be asked to write as part of the enrollment form that they were not part of the arson, their police verification will be done," he added.

batch of Agniveers will commence on June 24 and subsequently, the online examination process will begin just a month after that. As



Air Marshal Suraj Kumar Jha on Sunday announced that the registration process for the enrollment in the first

the nationwide violent protests and outrage against

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## Selling diesel, petrol at up to Rs. 25 per litre loss: Private retailers tell govt

**New Delhi, June 19 :**

Selling diesel at Rs 20-25 a litre below cost and petrol at Rs 14-18 per litre below cost, as a result of a price freeze despite soaring crude rates is unsustainable, an industry body representing private fuel



retailers like Jio-bp and Nayara Energy has told the Oil Ministry and has sought its intervention to create a viable investment environment. On June 10, the Federation of Indian Petroleum Industry (FIPI), which besides private fuel retailers also counts state-owned firms such as IOC,

BPCL and HPCL as its members, wrote to the Petroleum Ministry saying losses on petrol and diesel will limit further investments in retailing business. International crude oil and product prices have risen sharply to a

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# 'Let's make history': Colombia could elect first leftist president in runoff

**London, June 19 :** Voters head to the polls in Colombia on Sunday in a historic presidential election that could see the left win for the first time in the conservative South American country. 'We have experienced authoritarianism over the last 20 years, and strong, coarse personalities connect with the electorate,' said one prominent political scientist. Gustavo Petro, a former guerrilla and mayor of Bogotá, will face off against Rodolfo Hernández, a populist business tycoon and the former mayor of the city of Bucaramanga, in a contest where both



candidates have cast themselves as political outsiders. Both men are divisive, gaff-prone and high-handed, and the campaign ahead of the election was bitter, with each candidate accusing the other of corruption. Hernández -

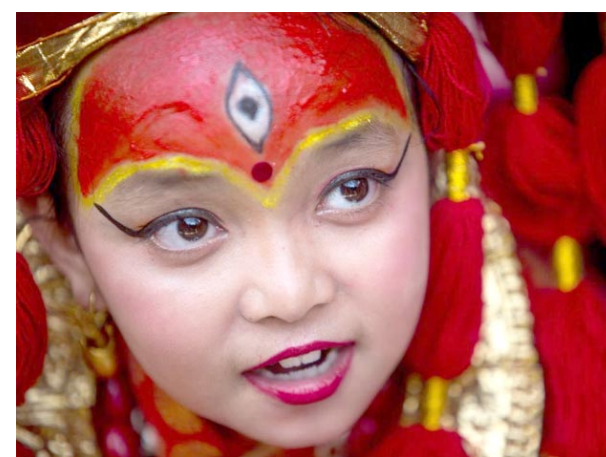
who is under investigation for graft - refused to debate Petro and briefly relocated to Miami after claiming his life was at risk. Hernández shocked

Colombia when he made it to Sunday's runoff after ousting a number of career politicians from the race in the first round of voting on 29 May. Petro took the most votes then, some 8.5m, but could not muster enough to pass the 50% threshold

required to win outright. Sunday would mark the first time Colombia is led by a leftist. 'We are one step away from achieving the real change we have waited all our lives for. There are no doubts, only certainties. Let's make history,' tweeted Hernández, who has eschewed traditional rallies and relied on social media - particularly TikTok - to

reach voters. Whoever wins on Sunday will have his work cut out. The country is still recovering from anti-inequality protests that shook the country last year, and the 2016 peace deal with the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc) hangs in the balance. That deal formally ended decades of civil war that killed 260,000 people and displaced 7 million, though has only been implemented haltingly. But whichever candidate triumphs, history will be made, as both men share their ticket with female Afro-Colombians - meaning that

Colombia's next vice-president will be a black woman. Petro's running mate, Francia Márquez is a rural activist who won the prestigious Goldman environmental prize; Hernández's partner on the ticket is Marelén Castillo, a little-known university director and conservative Catholic.



A girl dressed up as living goddess participates in the celebration of the traditional Kumari Puja in Kathmandu, Nepal

## Thousands ransack railway station as protests intensify over India's military hiring plan

**Lucknow, June 19 :** Protesters in India's eastern state of Bihar have damaged public property and ransacked offices in a railway station, expressing outrage at a new military recruitment plan and demanding the government

costs, but opponents believe it would limit opportunities for permanent jobs in the defence forces, with implications for salaries, pensions and other benefits. One person was killed this week and more than a dozen have been injured in a



reverse course. The government of the prime minister, Narendra Modi, has introduced a scheme called Agnipath, or "path of fire", designed to bring more people into the military on four-year contracts to lower the average age of India's 1.38 million-strong armed forces. A top military general, Lieut Gen Anil Puri, told the news channel that the aim of the plan was to make the military more modern and effective. Analysts said the new scheme would also help cut burgeoning pension

series of protests in some regions of the country against the new scheme. Thousands of young men attacked train coaches, burned tyres and clashed with officials at a railway station in Bihar, one of India's poorest states, on Saturday. Authorities cancelled 369 trains nationwide, many of them running through areas witnessing unrest. Sanjay Singh, a senior police official overseeing law and order in the state, said at least 12 protesters were arrested and at least four

## BJP to hold Yoga camps at 27,000 'Shakti Kendras' in UP

**New Delhi, June 19 :** The BJP in Uttar Pradesh will hold yoga camps at all its 27,000 'Shakti Kendras' across the state on June 21 to mark World

Yoga Day. All MPs, MLAs and MLCs of the party have been asked to attend the programme. BJP general secretary Priyanka Rawat,

said, "All the public representatives have been asked to attend the Yoga Divas events at division level, comprising a few booths in the party organisation structure." The state leadership has also asked MPs and MLAs to focus on increasing the party's vote base. While an MP has been asked to strengthen 100 booths in his constituency, an MLA has been asked to consolidate 25 booths. The state BJP unit had launched multiple programmes from May 30 to June 15 to mark the completion of eight years of the Narendra Modi government at the Centre. BJP general secretary Ashwini Tyagi, said, "In an extension of the schedule, all Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs from the state have been also asked to take active participation in the plantation drive being organised by the party. The plantation drive would start on June 23 and will continue until July 7. "According to party insiders, BJP is focussing on 100 booths on which the party has been relatively weak.

## SpiceJet plane makes emergency landing in Patna after engine suffers technical glitch



**New Delhi, June 19 :** SpiceJet plane makes an emergency landing at Patna airport. SpiceJet flight number 723 had taken off from Patna to Delhi. A technical fault was encountered in the engine of the aircraft as soon as it took off. In the emergency, the plane was made to land back at Patna airport. It managed to land back safely. The engine of the plane is said to have caught fire, soon after it took off. In fact, the fire and smoke were reported by locals first. However, the primary reason for the fire is not known yet. The plane has over 180 passengers on board along with the crew. Thankfully, everyone walked out of it safely. "The

Delhi-bound flight had returned to Patna airport after locals noticed a fire in the aircraft and informed district and airport officials. All 185 passengers were safely deboarded. Reason for the fire is a technical glitch. The engineering team is analysing," said Chandrashekhar Singh, DM Patna, Bihar. Also, recently Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director SpiceJet said in a statement that an increase in air fares of at least 10-15% is required to ensure that the cost of operations is better sustained. "This massive increase is not sustainable and governments, central and state, need to take urgent action to reduce taxes on ATF that are

amongst the highest in the world," he said. In the last few months, SpiceJet has tried to absorb as much burden of this fuel price rise, which constitutes more than 50 per cent of our operational cost as we could, he said. "The weakening of the Indian rupee against the US dollar further significantly impacts airlines as our substantial cost is either dollar-denominated or pegged to the dollar," he added.

## Macron's majority at risk as France votes in parliamentary election

**Paris, June 19 :** France has begun voting in the final round of parliamentary elections as Emmanuel Macron's centrists attempt to hold on to their majority against a challenge from a new left alliance. Sunday's vote will set the balance of power for Macron's second term, defining his capacity to deliver domestic policy such as raising the retirement age and overhauling state benefits. Macron, who was re-elected president in April against the far right's Marine Le Pen, needs a majority for his centrist

grouping in the lower house of parliament in order to have a free hand for his proposals to cut taxes and make changes to the welfare system. Pollsters have been unable to predict whether Macron will cling to a majority in what is likely to be a record low turnout. All polling firms predict that Macron's centrist alliance, Ensemble, will be the biggest grouping in parliament, but it could fall short of the 289 seats needed for a majority. Final polls this week suggested it would take between 255 and 305 seats in the 577-seat house.



A woman wears mermaid fins in the sea after the 2022 Mermaid Parade at Coney Island in New York

## Outrage over scheme to electronically tag asylum seekers arriving in UK

**London, June 19 :** The Home Office has been accused of "victim blaming" asylum seekers after launching a scheme to electronically tag refugees arriving in the UK. Ministers faced calls to abandon the "farce of a policy" after suggestions that those who recently avoided being sent to Rwanda after a legal challenge could be among the first to be tagged under the programme. Under the 12-month pilot scheme, which began last week, some of those arriving aboard small boats from France or in the back of lorries will be tagged. The Home Office has said the trial will examine whether electronic monitoring can help maintain regular contact with migrants and help to progress their claims. It will also collect data



on how many people abscond from immigration bail. However, critics said that there was no evidence that asylum seekers were absconding. Clare Moseley, founder of the Care4Calais charity, said: "I think it's outrageous. Refugees in general do not abscond. There's no data that shows that they do - they never have done. They are here to claim

asylum, so why would they? They're not criminals, they're victims. Things happen to them. They didn't cause it. It's just another part of the government criminalising refugees, which is basically victim-blaming." Boris Johnson defended the plans on Saturday. He said it was important that people entering the country did not "vanish" from the system. "This is a very, very generous, welcoming country," he said. "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." Stephen Kinnock, shadow immigration minister, said the policy was "yet another desperate attempt

to distract public attention from the fact that under this home secretary asylum decisions have plummeted, the backlog has grown and they are completely failing to tackle the criminal gangs". Labour leader Keir Starmer accused the government of "chasing headlines". Alistair Carmichael, home affairs spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, said: "Conservative ministers have got themselves into a complete mess over this. The stench of incompetence is unbearable. This is almost like a determined effort to waste as much taxpayers' money as possible. Each day they trash the Great British tradition of treating people with respect. It's time they did the decent thing and just gave up on this farce of a policy."

## Ukraine mourns 'our golden generation' killed on frontlines

**Kyiv, June 19 :** There are funerals every day in Kyiv, but this one felt particularly poignant. Hundreds of friends and fellow activists, clad in Ukrainian flags, gathered on Saturday to pay tribute to Roman Ratushnyi, a prominent political and environmental campaigner who was recently killed fighting near Ukraine's second-biggest city, Kharkiv. "All our brightest, bravest guys are dying. The war's toll on society is immense," said activist Ivana Sanina, 23, on Thursday during an earlier remembrance ceremony for Ratushnyi. He was one of the student protesters beaten by the brutal Berkut riot police on the first night of the pro-western Maidan revolution in 2013. The pro-Russian then

president Viktor Yanukovich's decision to crush the student demonstrations soon triggered bigger protests and eventually led to Yanukovich fleeing Kyiv for Moscow. After Maidan, Ratushnyi worked as an investigative journalist, exposing local corruption. But he is best known in Kyiv for leading a campaign in 2019 to protect Protasiv Yar, a green area in central Kyiv that developers wanted to take over. It was near Protasiv Yar that mourners gathered last week. His death, a few weeks before his 25th birthday, underlines the massive toll Russia's invasion is having on Ukraine's promising new generation. "He was the voice of the free, independent Ukraine. He had such a big

future ahead of him," Sanina said, adding that none of her friends was surprised when Ratushnyi decided to join the army at the start of the war. Thousands of young Ukrainians, who have only ever known an independent Ukraine, volunteered to join the army and its territorial defence forces when Russia launched its invasion on 24 February. And while the country has been successful in repelling Russian forces, it is now suffering some of its heaviest losses since the start of the war as the battle for the east of the country enters its decisive stages. Between 100 and 200 Ukrainians are believed to be dying every day as the fighting turns into a prolonged war of attrition with no end in sight.

## Network of Syria conspiracy theorists identified

**London, June 19 :** A network of more than two dozen conspiracy theorists, frequently backed by a coordinated Russian campaign, sent thousands of disinformation tweets to distort the reality of the Syrian conflict and deter intervention by the international community, new analysis reveals. Data gathered by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue (ISD) identified a network of social media accounts, individuals, outlets and organisations who disseminated disinformation about the

conflict, with 1.8 million people following their every word. The three principal false narratives promoted by the network of conspiracy theorists involved misrepresenting the White Helmets, the volunteer organisation working to evacuate people in Syria. They also focused on the denial or distortion of facts about the Syrian regime's use of chemical weapons and on attacking the findings of the world's foremost chemical weapons watchdog. The White Helmets became a target of

Russian ire after documenting incidents such as the chemical attack on Khan Sheikhoun in 2017, which killed 92 people, a third



of them children. A UN unit later concluded there were "reasonable grounds to believe that Syrian forces

dropped a bomb dispersing sarin" on the town in Idlib province. The new analysis, contained in a report by The Syria Campaign, also found that official Russian government accounts played a key role in creating and spreading false content, with the Russian embassy to the UK and Syria playing a prominent role. Of the 47,000 disinformation tweets sent by the core of 28 conspiracy theorists over seven years from 2015 to 2021, 19,000 were

original posts, which were retweeted more than 671,000 times. Among those named in the report as an influential spreader of disinformation are Vanessa Beeley, a self-described independent journalist whose conspiracy theories have been cited as evidence by Russia at the UN security council. In September 2015 Beeley accused White Helmets of being in league with al-Qaida and other terrorist organisations, claiming that the footage they gather as they rescue civilians from bombed-out buildings is staged.



People walk past a celebratory decoration illuminated for the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong's return to the motherland in Hong Kong



# Reo Reoa Narzhary distributescash prize among students in Kashiabari

**Assam Rising**  
**Gossaigaon, June 19 :**  
BTC, Executive Member



Reo Reoa Narzhary in a felicitation programme held at

the school premises for the meritorious students who have excelled in recently

High School distributed one time financial assistance Rs. 5000 to each 29 students and Rs. 50,000 to Hasina Khatun for securing 87.16 percent in HSLC along with phulam gamocha. It is noteworthy to mention that it was a promise announced by the EM, Narzhary on the eve of HSLC examination before the students of Kashiabari High School and students after achieving the prize money appreciated Narzhary for implementing his promise. Ad-

ressing the felicitation programme Narzhary said that a Super 50 scheme has been launched in BTR where successfully passed out students will be able to get free education at IIT, IMT, ITI institutions and hence students are urged to focus on their study more positively. On the other hand, those who have passed in second and third division have been motivated by the EM, Narzhary and requested to bring more percentage in their career so that they can establish themselves as successful people in the

society. Pointing to the first division holder, he said that to move forward one should set determination and then only they can shine as today's student is tomorrow's future. In the felicitation programme Susil Hajowary, Head Master, Kashiabari High School along with local intellectuals welcomed the students and gave valuable speeches relating to their success and appealed to the students community to shine in their career.



Assam state OBC federation felicitated Chairman of Assam OBC commission Santanu Gogoi in Guwahati.

## Over 160 villages reel under flood water in Nagaon

**Assam Rising**  
**Nagaon, June 19 :** The flood scene in entire Nagaon district remains critical as the flood water submerged over 160 villages under Kampur, Nagaon, Raha, Samaguri and Kaliabor revenue circles fearing that more villages will be covered by flood water within next few hours as the Kolong, Kapili, Nishari and the mighty Brahmaputra river are still flowing above the danger levels, sources added. As per a report of District Disaster Management Authority, Nagaon this afternoon, during the second wave, the flood water affected over 2,41,191 people and inundated over 5174.74 hectares of farmland in the district till the time of filing

this report while it hit over 50,788 various domestic animals. During the second wave of flood, over 105 villages under Kampur revenue circle, 29 under Raha,

water and have been breached at various places for which road connectivity to Kampur town from all those headquarters are being disrupted since this



12 under Nagaon, 5 under Samaguri and 2 villages under Kaliabor revenue circle, were reeling under flood water till the time of filing this report. Apart from this, the second wave of flood has created panic among the flood hit people in greater Kampur areas as due to the second wave of flood, the Kampur township has been isolated from all headquarters of the neighboring districts like Nagaon, Hojai and West Karbi Anglong etc. All the surface routes towards Kampur township have been submerged by flood

## Thieves loot gold ornaments worth over Rs 2 lakhs & cash

**Assam Rising**  
**Chirang, June 19:** The sensational robbery took place in Kashikotra under Sidli police station in Chirang in the

house on a motorcycle while closing his medicine shop at Kashikotra intersection at 7:45pm and initially threatened other members of the

early hours of the day by taking out pistols. Then they took Biran Basumaty inside the house and physically thrashed him and took off his steel cupboard and looted gold ornaments worth about Rs 2 lakh. The robbers' robbery has created a stir in Kashikotra area by showing such pistols in the evening. It may be recalled that the local people requested the government and the administration to take appropriate action against such miscreants in the wake of the firing and robbery that has been observed in the peaceful BTR area for the past few days.



## Workshop held at Chhaygaon College

**Assam Rising**  
**Chhaygaon, June 19 :** A Career Counseling Workshop was held in Chhaygaon College under Chhaygaon Constituency on last Thursday. This event was organized by School of Banking and SSC, Guwahati in collaboration with Internal Assurance Cell, Chhaygaon College. The workshop was

anchored by Professor Dr. Banamali Nath and inaugurated by Dr. Naba Kumar Kalita, principal of Chhaygaon College. More than hundred students took part in the workshop. It is to be mentioned here that Akbar Hussain and Sridhar Mishra from School of Banking and SSC were present as a resource person.



President provided relief materials which include rice, pulse, mustard oil, salt, biscuits etc. to the flood hit affected families in Ballamjhora. The flood hit areas also inspected by Raimona Golden Langur Ecotourism Society Joint Secretary, Probeswar Basumaty, Raimona Western Range i/c, Biswajit Basumaty, Members of Raimona Golden

Langur Ecotourism Society, RGES, President Sugustine Borgoyary and local leaders. Information received from Raimona National Park authority states that no animal is affected in the recent flood in the area and Raimona Golden Langur Ecotourism Society is patrolling day and night for the safety of the animals.

## Demonstration in support of SSC job seekers held

**West Bengal, June 19 :** The SSC movement fell in 462 days in 3 phases. Various student organizations; Teacher organization; etc. today staged a



peaceful protest in front of the College street Coffee House demanding the recruitment of all the merit listed deprived candidates at the secondary and higher secondary levels. 29 days in front of the press club in 2019; 187 days near Gate 5 of Salt

Lake Central Park in 2021; This movement has been going on for 246 days from October 8 in the last year for the deprived candidates in the ninth-twelfth merit

list. Merit-listed candidate Toma Hossain; Prothoma Mitra; Rekha Roy; Lakshmi Pal; Lubana Parveen stated that school service commission did not publish the number based merit panel; they have violated the gazette of 1: 1.4 ratio for teacher recruitment pro-

cess; some candidates have been appointed illegally through SMS. This movement is going on in a completely apolitical manner in protest against the corruption of the recruitment process of the school service commission. They have illegally recruited back row candidates depriving the front row candidates. Even they have recruited the unsuccessful candidates. Eminent educators; Intellectuals, people from different sections of the society, the representatives of different political parties have come out in support of the legal demands of the deprived and have requested to ensure the job of all the deprived job seekers on merit list by implementing the promise of the Chief Minister.

## Congress Leader Arrested In Margherita

**Assam Rising,**  
**Margherita June 19:** Digboi Congress leader Basant Pradhan and Bhaskar Jeevan

Ahom. But Bhaskar Jeevan Baruah was subsequently released by the police. On the other hand,



Baruah arrested after coming to give a bribe to Margherita SDO. Congress leader Basant Pradhan wanted to give Rs 5000 as bribe to the SDO for doing the work on the soil. Basant Pradhan was accompanied by Digboi Congress leader Bhaskar Jeevan Baruah. Margherita police have already detained the duo on the basis of an FIR by Margherita SDO Palash Rajkumar

a case was registered against Pradhan on 16/8/22. The arrest of the Digboi Congress leader in hand to give a bribe to the SDO has created a stir in the area

## Cultural programme postponed

**Assam Rising,**  
**Guwahati, June 19:** In view of the incessant rain, red alert announced by the local authority and uncertainty over weather conditions in coming days, the cultural programme arranged by New Art Players (NAP) on the occasion of the death anniversary of Kaliguru Bishnu Prasad Rabha have been temporarily suspended. However,

members will pay their homage to this legendary figure on the June 20 evening at a function organized at its club premises located behind Kamrup Academy HS school. It may be recalled that NAP in association with Kamrup Natya Samiti organized a programme to pay homage to this legendary figure of Assam on June 20 at Kumar Bhaskar Natya Mandir.

## NEJDMA condemns on journalist attack

**Assam Rising**  
**Margherita, June 19:** The North East Journalists and Digital Media Association has expressed strong displeasure over the increasing number of attacks on journalists day by day. North East Journalist and Digital



Media Association has strongly condemned the attack on Dainik Amar Pranam Paper editor and owner Debojit Sarkar. Advisor Dharmakanto Gogoi, president Rasmamani Gogoi and general secretary Bikash Baruah termed the journalist's attack as unfortunate. Association has urged the government to prevent this repeated incident, the fourth pillar of democracy, and ensure the safety of journalists. North East Journalist and Digital Media Association has demanded the Assam police administration to take immediate action against the criminal youths who were involved in the attack on journalist Debojit Sarkar.

sources added further. The Kapili as well as Nichari river is also flowing over their danger levels and created panic even among the people of Kampur town as almost all the wards of Kampur town committee are reeling under flood water. It is reported by sources from the district disaster management authority, Nagaon that over 17 relief camps have been set up at greater Kampur areas and 11 in Nagaon Sadar revenue circle while 5 relief camps have been set up in Raha revenue circle in which over 8715 inmates are taking shelter till filing of this report.

numbers of forest camps under Bagori range and 6 among 25 forest camps under Burhapahar range in Nagaon district portion of Kaziranga National park today. It is how ever feared that more areas will be submerged by flood water within next few hours as the mighty Brahmaputra is flowing over its danger level there till the time of filing this report,

## MLA Jiron Basumatary takes stock of flood affected families

**Assam Rising**  
**Gossaigaon, June 19:** Jiron Basumatary, MLA 28 Gossaigaon LAC along with SDO-Civil cum ADC, i/c, Gossaigaon Smt. Masanda Pertin on Friday visited the flood hit affected families at Ballamjhora Forest Village, Sengmari, Gritingakuti and Simultapu Block falling under Gossaigaon

Sub-division and assured all possible help. Around 398 people from 92 households have been stranded in Ballamjhora due to incessant rain and are sheltered at Ballamjhora Bazar Shed. As a precautionary measure immediate assistance has been assured like PHE, the department arranged supply of

## Sewahi society's protest against Basugaon municipality president

**Assam Rising**  
**Chirang, June 19:** Two years after the formation of a new government in BTR, the newly elected 13-member Managing Committee of The Basugaon Municipality took oath in the presence of Amit Ranjan Barman, Executive Officer of Basugaon Municipal Board cum Sidli Circle Officer on Saturday last. Based on this, an organization called Sewahi Sangha has been strongly opposed since morning through the sit-in programme at the entrance of the municipality but was forced to quit the dharna programme in the presence of a strong administration. It may be recalled that due to non-running committee of Basugaon Municipality for the last two years, the local people have always been harassed in the case of various workers and various party organizations have protested on multiple



times before, but today the local people will be relieved even if the swearing-in programme is finally completed. It may be recalled that even after two years, questions were raised among the people as all the

constructive work in the area was stalled as the governing body of The Basugaon Municipality had not been constituted for so long. It may be recalled that Basugaon Subhash Nagar resident Sadhan Mandal as

## Flood situation in Nagaon more worsens

**Assam Rising,**  
**Nagaon, June 19:** The flood situation in Nagaon district remains grim covering more new areas under 5 revenue circles within the last 24 hours. Over 230 villages under those revenue circles are reeling under flood water in the district and affected over 3,64,459 people with 57189 domestic animals till the time of filing this report, sources said. The



overflowing water from the mighty Brahmaputra has submerged 5 among 38

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## THE ASSAM RISING

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## Inequality in income

A significant change in inequality in income and wealth is possible only in a longer term perspective. Employment structure of an economy is the normal instrument that can cause a change in inequality either way, i.e. an increase or a decrease in the equality. Other economic instruments such as target group policies and programmes have a short term impact, but the redistribution through employment is sustainable. Since the governments function within the administrative and fiscal constraints, the target group programmes normally have a marginal impact on income redistribution. Income of labour enables flow of resources across income classes of people and across the social and ethnic groups. Flows of income across locations are influenced both by assets available and by other modes of creating employment opportunities. However, income generated by employment of migrant labour, facilitates flow of resources across regions for a given regional distribution of capital assets. Employment and equity of income across classes of people and across regions are, therefore, closely related to each other in the long term. The two important indicators of structural transformation in any economy are rates of growth and changes in the structural composition of output and the workforce. India has experienced fairly consistent changes in the first indicator, especially after the 1991 reforms, but the trend in employment has not revealed any consistent or clear pattern. Though the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) shows increment in worker to population ratio and narrowing of the gender gap in employment in recent past, the unemployment scenario of India still remains disappointing. The growth rate of the economy (measured by Gross Value Added (GVA) at constant prices) accelerated from 4.27% in the 20 years before the economic reforms to 6.34% in the 20 years following the reforms and to 6.58% between 2010-11 and 2019-20 at 2011-12 prices.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

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

**Editor,**  
**The Assam Rising**  
G.N.B. Road, Chandmari Colony,  
Guwahati, PIN 781003  
E-mail Id : [assamrising@gmail.com](mailto:assamrising@gmail.com)

## Letter to The Editor

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

**Editor,**  
**The Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, Assam

## There is a war on nature. Dom Phillips was killed trying to warn you about it

Dom Phillips and Bruno Pereira have been killed in an undeclared global war against nature and the people who defend it. Their work mattered because our planet, the threats to it and the activities of those who threaten it matter. That work must be continued. The frontlines of this war are the Earth's remaining biodiverse regions – the forests, wetlands and oceans that are essential for the stability of our climate and planetary life-support system. The integrity of these systems is under attack from organised crime and criminal governments who want to exploit timber, water and minerals for short-term, often illegal profits. In many regions, the only thing standing in their way is Indigenous communities and other traditional forest dwellers, supported by civil society organisations, conservation groups and academics. My friend Dom knew how important this story was. It is why he took a year off to research a book, How to Save the Amazon, and it is why he took the risk of travelling to the bandit territory of the Javari valley with Bruno, who was one of Brazil's most effective, courageous and threatened forest defenders. It was to have been a book for everyone: accessible and useful, looking at solutions as well as problems. That was typical of Dom, whose journalism was always aimed at making the world a fairer, more accountable and enlightened place. To my mind, this made him a 21st century war correspondent as well as a witness to a crime that probably led to his death. Dom was no activist. He was a journalist's journalist, who wanted to find out what was happening and share it with everyone who might be affected. In this case, all of us. If anything positive

can come from the mind-numbingly horrendous news, it should be for more journalists to cover this frontline, especially those regions controlled by leaders aligned with criminal interests. Dom knew the threat posed by the president of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, who has encouraged illegal logging and mining, dismissed Indigenous land rights, attacked conservation groups, and slashed the budgets and personnel of forest and Indigenous protection agencies. Shortly after Bolsonaro won the first round of the 2018 Brazilian presidential election, Dom shared his fears about the fate of the Amazon in a

## Jonathan Watts

WhatsApp message: "This is a very dark and worrying period and it's only going to get worse," he wrote to me. "My sense is that it is also going to become more dangerous for journalists." But his real fear was for defenders living on the edge of the areas of the Amazon where criminals were trying to encroach on Indigenous territories and conservation zones. Dom was sure a second-round victory would give thugs a green light to step up their assault. "If he wins, what will living here be like?"



## Agnipath gives Indian military 'four-year interns'. It's an assault on Army bonding

This is an imaginary letter from an Adjutant General about the Narendra Modi government's Agnipath scheme. This is one of those 'I write with a heavy heart' letters, but I am writing it to myself, to an inner something — rarely seen but which exerts enormous pressure. Especially when it comes to matters of soldiering, something which I've been doing for more than 35 years. Now I'm at the fag end of my career, and dealing with a decision that pricks my conscience like nothing else has in all these years of service. As a second Lieutenant in Sri Lanka during Operation Pawan, I felt no pangs of conscience; after that on Siachen, there was only rage against Pakistan. During counter-insurgency operations in Nagaland and Kashmir, there were moments when something stirred inside and bothered me. But then I was fired at, by weapons and ammunition sourced outside of India, so the conscience hurt only momentarily. We were defending the country against those who didn't accept the idea of India, so all was ultimately kosher. But now as Adjutant General, I'm dealing with a matter that hurts the insides and is humiliating as well worrisome. Especially when veterans' groups post pictures like this: As AG, my branch will now issue orders to recruit young boys for four years under a scheme named like some Hindi movie—Agnipath. This includes six months of training, way too little. Training centres take about ten months to prepare a soldier with basic military skills, just basic. Hell, that Delhi Police constable deployed outside my house in Lutyens' Delhi when the Prime Minister's cavalcade moves has been trained longer than these poor boys will. So whoever thought that 18-year-olds, with six months of training, will be worthy of kasam parade, really doesn't

know the Army, and never will. It is distressing to be on this chair and sign off these youngsters, which is really what it is — making them redundant. No battalion receiving these soldiers will accept them. They won't be rejected of course, but they will not be accepted

## Manvendra Singh

in an emotional sense, for being unprepared. The Company Havaldar-Major will, of course, say it far more crudely, and more accurately than me. And by the time they leave after four years, it would be sans skills or embrace. They won't be able to take the



bonds of service with them, because they will remain unbaked. Twenty years in an infantry battalion, I know a lot more about bonding than any civilian. The bonds began fairly early in service, within the officer fraternity and with the soldiers. Gunasekharan onwards every buddy kept my wallet, freely using it to pay bills. I still remember Dar beating up a Kashmiri man who drew blood when he bit my hand. Both may well have been from the same district, but the bonds of uniform are deeper than blood. Or Shamsuddin stepping up to do the cremation

ceremony of Ramesh Kumar by the Lidder River because bodies weren't sent home then. These new-age soldiers, or four-year interns as some veterans call them, will not learn this bonding. They wouldn't even be able to absorb the ethos of the unit before their tenure finishes. The brain behind this scheme is clearly some civilian too, clear by half. India seems obsessed with 'reforms', whatever that may mean. My soldiers coming from home leave would always complain about harassment by revenue officials or police, the two biggest concerns in rural India. Both these departments remain untouched in terms of reforms,

in absorbing the deep Indian ethos into the Army and gave them regimental names and numbers. Nothing more nothing less. This four-year scheme is actually an assault on the culture and makeup of the Army. Within a combat unit, it is impossible for soldiers to operate together when on different employment contracts. The seasoned soldier won't trust the 'intern' with his life, and the 'intern' will reciprocate by not taking a risk with his life. Simple as that. But the economist with a foreign degree who cooked up this scheme will never understand that simple equation because they haven't had that bond sharpened by hot lead. As AG, this breakdown of unit cohesion is the biggest worry. So now I remember the humiliation burning into my cheeks when the private secretary to the defence minister had said something to me about Pay Commission issues raging then. He said, you keep talking about military leadership but the Generals asking me about their pay haven't asked about soldiers' salaries. Being an IAS officer, he, of course, loved the opportunity to rub this into me. And in a way, this continues even today as we Generals endorse a disaster on our institution, while the retired soldiers are the most vocal in their opposition. They outdo the retired Generals too, who seem rather tepid. In the last few years, we have stopped mobile canteen sales for veterans in villages by an order of the QMG's Branch. Then we stopped recruitment for over two years leaving thousands in the lurch, with the clock ticking toward over-age. And that was the failure of my branch. But this 'intern' scheme outdoes even those errors. I wonder if my equivalent colleagues in the Navy and Air Force fret over this decision as I do. They must, for we all have a conscience, and as warriors, we have a greater responsibility to give India the best we can.

## As urban temperatures climb, here's what the modern city should look like

The UK is facing its first heatwave of the summer, and while many will be basking in the hot weather it is also a warning of challenges to come, particularly for those who live and work in our biggest cities. Extended periods of high temperatures are becoming more frequent and intense all over the world because of climate change,

and we are learning just how much our metropolitan areas struggle to cope with heat. Our cities were designed for cooler climates, but as temperatures climb with rising greenhouse gas levels they need to be transformed to prevent hot weather from threatening lives and livelihoods. Cities are particularly at risk during heatwaves because of the urban heat island effect. The

dark-coloured, human-made surfaces of buildings and roads tend to absorb sunlight and trap

## Bob Ward

heat. As a result, the temperature of urban areas is often several degrees higher than the surrounding countryside. The very fabric of our urban areas makes them prone to overheating. And the high temperatures can be deadly, particularly for people with underlying health conditions, such as respiratory illness. Cities can also become suffocating

removing excess heat from our city buildings, we will need to prevent the sun's rays from creating the problem in the first place. Offices and homes will need tinted glass, blinds or shutters fitted to keep out sunlight. And white roofs should become standard to reflect the sun's rays rather than absorb them. New and retrofitted old buildings will need to be designed to increase ventilation with natural flows of air to keep internal temperatures down. These are features of well-designed cities in hot countries, which we must adopt. We need

So we have to get used to simply avoiding direct heat at certain times. More cities will need to follow the example of those closer to the equator by banning construction and other strenuous work during the middle of summer days. It is high time that Englishmen left the mad dogs alone to brave the midday sun. London is already following many other cities by setting up "cool spaces" where the capital's residents can find respite during hot weather. And it is also planting more trees help



because bright sunlight often leads to higher levels of air pollution. And sweltering offices make workers less productive, creating a hit to the economy. We cannot simply bulldoze our cities and build them again in a way that is better suited to our warming climate, so we have to retrofit and adapt them. Although it might seem tempting to rely on air conditioning, this would lead to huge increases in electricity use. Large, hot cities, even in rich countries such as the US, can suffer blackouts in the summer owing to the power load as homes and offices try to maintain comfortable room temperature. And air conditioning can be prohibitively expensive for people on lower incomes to install and operate, exacerbating the climate injustice between the haves and have-nots. And of course, air conditioning units simply transfer heat from inside buildings into the surrounding area, making the outdoors even hotter. We have to take a different approach. Instead of desperately

building regulations that force developers to design buildings so that they do not overheat. Public transport systems, particularly underground trains, will need to be fitted with ventilation and air conditioning. The London Underground already encourages passengers to carry water during journeys on hot days to avoid dehydration, but the heat can also lead to mechanical and electrical failures on the network. Road surfaces will need to be treated to prevent them melting, and train tracks and overhead cables will need to be made of materials that do not expand and change shape too much in sweltering temperatures. In recent summers we have already seen the chaos that high temperatures cause to our rail system. But people who live or work in cities also need to change their behaviour to protect themselves from hot and humid weather. Once temperatures exceed 40°C (104°F) even fit and healthy people can be at risk if they exert themselves too much.

to filter out sunlight and stop pavements from becoming unbearably hot. Our cities should also develop stronger social support systems so that help and advice is offered to those most at risk from heat, particularly older people. Care homes must be a priority for measures to counteract overheating. But most of all, our cities need integrated heat risk-management strategies, which bring together all the many public- and private-sector players, at both national and local levels. They may need to follow the example set by Miami, Phoenix and Athens to appoint chief heat officers to coordinate action. We will all need to change our attitude to summers. Yes, they are opportunities to enjoy the hot weather. But unless we adapt to our warming climate, our cities will become ever more unbearable and perhaps even inhospitable.



# 5G deployment to begin in August-September

**Delhi, June 19** : Telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said 5G deployment will commence in 20-25 cities and towns by the year-end, and indicated that India, with its current data prices significantly lower than global average, will continue to set rate benchmarks as new services are rolled out. The 5G deployment will start from August-September, Vaishnaw said. The minister said India is developing 4G and 5G stacks, and is set to bolster its position as a trusted source for the world, in digital networks. Speaking at a media event, Vaishnaw said that nations are keen to give preference to 4G and 5G products and technologies being developed by India. To address the issue of unsolicited calls, an "important" regulation is in the works, which will enable KYC-identity name of a caller to be displayed, when someone calls, the minister informed. On 5G



services, he said: "I can say with confidence that 5G deployment will start in at least 20-25 cities and towns by year end." Asked about the pricing for 5G services, Vaishnaw observed that even today data rates in India are at about USD 2, against global average of USD 25. "We are already the lowest in the world, at least by a factor of 10X...10X we are cheaper than the world, that same trend will be in other areas too," he said. As India prepares to usher 5G services, it has also developed 4G and 5G technology stacks. Outlining India's resolve to match

global strides in 4G and 5G and to take technology lead in 6G, the minister said the world has taken note of the country's progress, and shown serious interest in the indigenous technologies being developed. "The telecom network supporting mobile phones has to be a trusted network. India's name is on the top of the list of trusted network providers. When India develops a technology, entire world is interested in it," he said. It is pertinent to mention that 5G services will usher in high speeds -- about 10 times faster than 4G -- and spawn

new-age offerings and business models. The government will auction about Rs 4.3 lakh crore worth of airwaves capable of offering fifth-generation or 5G telecom services, including ultra-high-speed internet, and has also given its nod for setting up of captive 5G networks by the tech firms. As much as 72 GHz of spectrum will be put on the block during the 5G auction, set to commence on July 26, 2022. On the issue of unsolicited calls, Vaishnaw said a new regulation in the offering will enable KYC name (as given in the mobile SIM application) to be displayed, when someone makes a call. The consultation process on this is currently underway. "Once industry stakeholder consultation is completed, this will be implemented all over the country," the minister said. To a question on the slow download speeds experienced by customers, the

minister pointed out that India's average data consumption at 18 GB per month, exceeds the global average of 11 GB per month. "India's data consumption is more than what is seen in highly-developed nations. More investments are needed in infrastructure. Massive investments in infrastructure are important in the backdrop of data rates, calls drops, call quality," he said. The telecom sector reforms announced in September last year have brought stability to the industry, the minister noted. He further said that in places like Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai and in other cities, many a time tower installations become difficult as people object to mobile towers. Electro-Magnetic Field (EMF) radiation norms in India are more stringent than stipulated global limits, he said and assured that there is no reason to be concerned on this aspect.

## Assam Rising

**Guwahati, June 19** : Dr. Subhash Khanna, a laparoscopic, bariatric and robotic surgeon successfully removed a splenic cyst of a 13 year old boy through Robotic surgery on June 16 managing to preserve the spleen in the process. Such large splenic cyst is quite rare in children. The patient Rihan complained of vague abdominal pain associated with occasional vomiting for the past 3 months. He initially consulted Doctors at another reputed private Hospital in Guwahati where a provisional diagnosis of splenic lymphangioma/hydatid cyst (?) was made in May and he was treated with medication. However as there was no significant improvement his parents approached the surgical Department Dr. Subhash Khanna at Swagat Super Speciality Surgical Institute & NH, Maligaon, Guwahati where he was reevaluated and diagnosed to have cholelithiasis with splenomegaly with large splenic hilar cyst (15x11 cm) which was clinically palpable. All his blood reports were normal with the exception of serum bilirubin

which was just borderline elevated. His Doppler study of the portal venous system was absolutely normal. The parents and the child were counselled by the team of Doctors as spleen is a very important immune organ which filters the blood, fights the germ infecting the blood and removes old or damaged red

blood cells. "As spleen is a highly vascular organ, so chances of bleeding were very high more so, as the cyst was located in the hilar region" said Dr. Subhash Khanna. There are many advantages of Robotic over open surgery such as minimal scars, speedy recovery, reduced pain, shorter dura-



Lipika successfully carried out derofing and excision of the large splenic cyst with aspiration of all his contents along with removal of Gallbladder Robotically. Incidentally this is the first such splenic giant cyst in a boy of 13 yrs removed robotically with the new robot "Versius".

## Mahindra XUV300 gets new look

**Delhi, June 19** : Mahindra & Mahindra has given a minor update to the XUV300 subcompact SUV in the country. The range-topping W8 (O) trim now comes with the newly-designed multi-spoke five-prong alloy wheels replac-

model will borrow some of its design bits from the XUV700. It will carry a newly-designed, larger front grille with bigger vertical chrome slats and full LED headlamps at the front end. The SUV will also come with a new set



ing the old units. No other changes have been made to the SUV. The Mahindra XUV300 W8 (O) comes with some exclusive features such as 17-inch alloy wheels, leatherette upholstery, auto dimming rear view mirror, powered sunroof, heated wing mirrors, second row seat belt reminder, three-point seat belt for middle rear seat, tyre pressure monitoring system, front parking sensors and 6 airbags. Launched in 2019, the Mahindra XUV300 is ready to receive its first significant update in early 2023. The updated

of alloy wheels and tweaked taillamps. Interior of the new XUV300 could be revised with a new touchscreen infotainment system. With the mid-life update, Mahindra's subcompact SUV will receive a 1.2L, 3-cylinder turbo-charged petrol engine making 131bhp and 230Nm. The new motor will be 21bhp more powerful than the existing 110bhp, 1.2L petrol unit. The carmaker will boost the turbo-petrol engine with the mild hybrid and start-stop system that will make it comply to the CAFE standards. It will

also reduce carbon emission levels. The existing 110bhp, 1.2L turbo petrol and 1.5L engines will continue to be on offer. In early 2023, the home-grown automaker will bring in the Mahindra XUV300 electric SUV that's reported to be named XUV400. The model will be designed on the brand's MESMA platform and measure 4.2 metre in length. There will be two variants - Standard and Long-range - ensuring a range of around 200km and 375 km respectively. Hyundai has officially announced the much-awaited 3-row MPV, the Stargazer via multiple teaser images in Indonesia. The company has also confirmed that the new Hyundai Stargazer entry-level MPV will be launched very soon. It is expected that the new model could be launched at the 2022 GIIAS (Gaikindo Indonesia International Auto Show) in August. In a press release, Hyundai said that the Stargazer MPV has been "specifically designed for Indonesia". The Korean-media report claims that the Hyundai Stargazer will also go on sale in the Indian market. However, Hyundai is yet to make an official announcement on the same. In Indonesia, the Stargazer will rival the Suzuki Ertiga, XL7, Toyota Avanza and the Mitsubishi Xpander.

## RBI flags 'deteriorating' global economic climate

**Delhi, June 19** : The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday said global economic conditions continued to deteriorate as ratcheting up of commodity prices and financial market volatility have led to heightened uncertainty. Forecasts of global growth and inflation by various agencies paint a grim picture and it is increasingly becoming clear that in advanced economies, the war against inflation would entail significant monetary tightening, complicating the growth-inflation outlook, the RBI said in its 'State of the economy' report. "Emerging market economies grapple with the global trade slowdown, capital outflows and imported inflation. Some abatement of supply chain pressures and relaxation in lockdown measures by key industrial hubs have emerged as silver linings amidst the dark clouds looming over the global economy," the RBI

said. "In the midst of this increasingly hostile external environment, India is better placed than many other countries in terms of avoiding the risks of a potential stagnation. With most con-



stituents of GDP surpassing pre-pandemic levels, domestic economic activity is gaining strength," it said. The inflation print for May has brought some relief as it recorded a decline after seven months of continuous rise, the report said. "The recovery remained broadly on track. This demonstrates the resilience of the economy in the face of multiple shocks and the innate strength of macro fundamentals as India strives to regain a sustainable high growth trajectory," it said.

## Electric Scooter Sales May 2022

**Bangalore, June 19** : In spite of many setbacks with regard to fire incidents involving electric scooters, sales are on a solid rise. Sales of some of the top selling electric scooters in May 2022 increased to 28,120 units, a YoY increase of 1,394.95 percent over 1,881 units sold in May 2021. MoM sales however, dipped marginally by 1.44 percent from 28,531 units sold in April 2022. Ola Electric and Okinawa Autotech continued to lead the way. Ola S1 Pro sales numbers are retail while those of others are wholesales. Though the two are different, it does give an understanding of sales performance. Electric Scooter Sales May 2022 Ola Electric has registered retail sales of 9,225 units of the



S1 Pro electric scooter in May 2022. It commanded a 32.81 percent share. Sales in April 2022 had stood at 12,698 units, relating to a MoM de-growth of 27.35 percent when share percentage had stood at 44.51. Ola S1 Pro, which till date was priced at Rs 1.29 lakh (ex-showroom, excluding FAME II subsidy), is priced at Rs 1.39 lakh, (ex-show-

room). Okinawa Autotech also noted increased YoY sales for the Praise Pro e-scooter to 7,339 units, up 972.95 percent over 684 units sold in May 2021. This was a 6,655 unit volume growth with 26.10 percent share. MoM sales increased 1.99 percent over 7,196 units sold in April 2022 when share percentage had stood at 25.22.

## PNB Positive Pay System new role

### Assam Rising

**Guwahati, June 19** : In a move to protect the bank customers against large value cheque frauds, Punjab National Bank (PNB), nation's leading public sector bank has implemented Positive Pay System (PPS) mandatory for the cheque of Rs.10 Lacs & above. As per bank's guidelines, customers are required to submit the details of their cheques at least one working day prior to clearance to enable a smooth verification process and avoid cheque returns. As per the Positive Pay System (PPS) developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), a customer issuing the high-value cheque has to reconfirm some essential details like cheque number, cheque alpha, cheque amount, cheque date, beneficiary name which are cross-checked while presenting the cheque in clearing before payment. Reserve Bank of India had issued the guidelines to provide the



facility of Positive Pay System for the cheque of Rs.50000 and above and advised that the banks may consider to make it mandatory for the cheque of Rs. 5 Lacs & above. Accordingly, this facility was made available by the PNB for cheque of Rs.50000 and above since January 2021 and then made mandatory for high-value cheques of Rs. 10 Lacs and above in April 2022. Punjab National Bank has made the PPS facility live through all branches, Internet Banking Services - Retail & Corporate, PNB ONE & SMS Banking. The customers may avail the facility of PPS by submitting the requisite details of the cheque issued by him/her

through Branch/IBS (Retail & Corporate)/PNB ONE/SMS Banking.

## NSDL's Market KaEklavya - Express Program covers all States of India

### Assam Rising

**Guwahati, June 19** : National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), successfully conducted series of educative programs titled 'Market KaEklavya - Express' specially crafted for students. The programs conducted in 8 languages were attended by more than 4,000 students across 75+ cities covering all Indian States under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. An audio-visual film on NSDL's initiative on Market KaEklavya-Express was screened at India's

Economic Journey @75, a program by DEA and SEBI held on June 8, 2022 at New Delhi. Smt. Nimkala Sitharaman, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance, who presided over the meet lauded the initiative and underscored the importance of scaling up such efforts. Out of 130 Crore people in India, about 7% only invest in securities market. India has one of the youngest populations globally with an average age of 29 years. As this vast resource of young citizens enters the workforce, it

could create demographic dividend. 'Market KaEklavya' is a program presently targeted towards the college students and aims at empowering them with financial knowledge. This is the right time to prepare them for future and train them to be prudent investor. Ms. Anukrati Sharma, College Coordinator of University of Kota which participated in the program said "I am enriched with the basics of investment which I was unaware of. 'Market KaEklavya-Express' was an informative

program and was highly beneficial for my students. It is a good initiative and we must encourage this kind of initiative for the students. Smt. Padmaja Chunduru, MD & CEO, NSDL said about the programs "There has been an overwhelming response from the colleges and students. The fast-track version of the course 'Market KaEklavya - Express' has reached over 4000 students from different places, including many Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities across India.

## Union Bank raises interest rate on Deposit

### Assam Rising

**Guwahati, June 19** : Union Bank of India today announced increase in Interest Rates on Term Deposits across all maturity buckets. The revised rates would be applicable across various tenures for

tenure more than one year to two years is increased by 35 bps to 5.45 percent from 5.10 percent. And for tenure 181 days to less than one-year interest rate has been increased by 20 bps to 4.60 per cent from 4.40 per cent earlier. Interest



Domestic Term Deposits, Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) and Non-Resident External (NRE) Term Deposits. Interest rates on Domestic/NRO Term Deposits (Below Rs 2 crore) of 46-90 Days tenure increased by 55 bps to 4.05 percent from 3.50 percent,

Rate on NRE /NRO Rupee Term Deposits for below Rs 2 crore for a period of 1 year is increased by 35 bps to 5.35 per cent from 5.00 percent. Interest Rate on Domestic/NRE/NRO Rupee Term Deposits below Rs 2 crore has been increased by 20-55 bps across tenures.



Contd. From Page 1

## Floods batter Assam, kill at least

district on Friday night. They are from the districts of Hojai, Bajali, West Karbi Anglong, Kokrajhar and Tamulpur.Prime Minister Narendra Modi called up Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to take stock of the situation. Assam continues to reel under devastating floods that have killed over 60 people and affected the lives of millions more . As of Sunday morning, the death toll is 63 after eight people died by drowning in flood waters. The northeast region is witnessing torrential rains that have caused flash floods, landslides and even left major roads in big cities like Guwahati flooded. Besides Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh are among the most affected states. According to a forecast by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the region will receive rains at least till June 20. Local disaster management officials say this could worsen the flood and landslide situation in Assam and Meghalaya.In Assam, about 2.6 million people across 30 districts have been affected.1.5 lakh have taken shelter in 765 relief camps, according to a state disaster management report. Guwahati is the worst-hit city in the state, with low-lying areas like Anil Nagar, Nabin Nagar, Zoo Road, Six Mile, Bhootnath, Maligaon, Rajgarh Link Road, Hatigaon, Rukimingaon and Gotanagar all facing floods.

## Heavy Rainfall Predicted Across

to follow traffic advisories and stay updated about the weather.Two persons have been buried under debris after a landslide hit Cachar district of Assam on Sunday.The incident has been reported from the Borakhai tea estate following incessant rainfall since the past few days.Mud from the hills trapped a house which led to the death of the two persons on the spot. The deceased duo has been identified as Champa Ri (19) and Shibu Ri (50).The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) along with the help of the locals of the area carried out rescue operations and retrieved the bodies from the debris.The bodies have been shifted to the Silchar Medical College and Hospital for post-mortem report.It may be mentioned that as many as 62 people have died so far this year due to floods and resultant landslides across Assam.Out of 63 people, 51 people died in floods while 11 were in landslides so far, according to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA).

## 44 Anti-Poaching Camps In

situation in Kaziranga, the Bokakhat sub-divisional magistrate imposed several restrictions including regulation of speed of vehicles on the stretch of road on NH 37 starting from Panbari animal corridor to the district/sub-divisional western boundary near Bagori."The animals are yet not come out of the park, but we are on alert," said Ramesh Gogoi, the divisional forest officer (DFO) of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve.Gogoi said, "From May 12, four animals including a leopard died in the vehicle hit incidents. The water level is now increasing and if the water level of Brahmaputra river will increase more then it will inundate more areas of the park."

## Owaisi Says Nupur Sharma can

registered. I also wanted to ask the CP and CM of this state to send police to Delhi and bring Mohatarama (Sister Nupur Sharma). You should bring her (Nupur Sharma)." Owaisi said.Owaisi further targeted the UP government for its demolition drive in which activist Aafreen Fatima's house was razed. "In Allahabad, Prayagraj Afreen Fatima's residence was demolished, why did you demolish? Because her father organised protest. Principles of natural justice are the basic structure of the Constitution. Who will decide? The court will decide if he organised or not. The court will do justice and the court will not punish his wife and children." Owaisi said. Earlier, Maharashtra Congress leader Naseem Khan also sought immediate arrest of suspended BJP spokesperson Nupur Sharma and expelled BJP leader Naveen Kumar Jindal.BJP leader Nupur Sharma's comments on Prophet Muhammad last month caused violent protests in the country killing two people in Ranchi. Post her comment, India garnered sharp criticism from the Gulf countries as well resulting in the suspension of Sharma and expulsion of BJP leader Naveen Kumar Jindal.

## Jammu and Kashmir

Kashmir Vijay Kumar said, "A Pakistani terrorist affiliated with Lashkar-i-Toiba has been killed, whole two to three terrorists along with arrested terrorists are trapped in an ongoing encounter in Kupwara border district of North Kashmir." The identity of the second slain terrorist was yet to be ascertained.Earlier, Kupwara Police launched a joint anti-terrorist operation along with the Army's 28RR on the disclosure of an arrested terrorist Showket Ahmed Sheikh in Lolab area of Kupwara. "During search of hideouts, hiding terrorists fired upon joint search parties and our team also retaliated, in which one terrorist got killed. The arrested terrorist also got trapped. Encounter in progress," said a police officer monitoring the operation.Meanwhile, two terrorists have been killed in the encounter that broke out in the Kulgam district of south Kashmir. It's the second gunfight underway in the Valley. The gunfight broke out after Jammu and Kashmir police got specific input about the presence of terrorists in Gujjar Pora, DH Pora area of Kulgam district of South Kashmir. A police officer said, "A joint team of Police and army launched a cordon and search operation in Gujjar Pora after the input about the presence of terrorists in the area. He said, "As the joint searching party of forces cordoned the suspected spot, the hiding militants fired upon the forces which was retaliated, and encounter started."IGP Kashmir Vijay Kumar confirming the exchange of fire said "Encounter has started at D.H Pora area of Kulgam. Police and Army is on job. Further details will be shared."On the other hand, the Handwara Police has arrested three over ground workers (OGW) of Al-Badr terror outfit and recovered arms and ammunitions from them at Wagam crossing on the highway in Kralgund area of Handwara.A police officer said, "On preliminary questioning, the individuals were identified as Nazim Ah Bhat, Siraj din Khan, and Adil Gull all residents of Khaipora, Kralgund," he added. "On their search, one pistol along with a magazine and eight rounds, besides, two hand grenades were recovered from their possession,". Officer said the investigation suggests that the trio is affiliated with the banned terror organisation Al- Badr, and that they were assigned task by Pakistan-based handlers to carry out militant acts in the area.It is pertinent to mention here that 67 encounters have occurred in Kashmir since January this years and security forces have managed to kill 109 terrorists, out of which 31 are Pakistani. However, 16 security personnel and 18 civilians too have lost their lives. While 46 active terrorists mostly hybrid terrorists have been arrested alive, and 189 terrorists' supporters have also been nabbed including today's three terrorist associates.

## Agneepath protest: big announcement

the Centre's recently launched Agneepath Recruitment Scheme continue to intensify, the government has made some amendments to address the concerns of protesting students and defence aspirants. On Saturday, the Centre announced 10% reservations for the 'Agniveers' In various Central government jobs after completion of the four-year service tenure as per the Agneepath scheme.Apart from this, the age limit for recruitment during the first year has also been raised. Addressing the amendments made in the scheme following the nationwide outrage, Puri said, "The announcements regarding the reservations for 'Agniveers' announced by the different ministries and departments were pre-planned and not in reaction to the arson that happened after the Agnipath scheme announcement."

## Selling diesel, petrol at up to Rs. 25

decade high but state-owned fuel retailers, who control 90 per cent of the market, have frozen petrol and diesel prices at rates equivalent to two-third of the cost. (ALSO READ: Petrol, Diesel rates drop after excise duty cut, check prices in your city) This has left private fuel retailers like Jio-bp, Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy and Shell to either raise prices and lose customers, or to curtail sales to cut losses. (ALSO READ: Gold price today, June 19: Gold rates slashed, Check prices in your city) Retail selling prices for petrol and diesel were held for a record 137 days between early November 2021 and March 21, 2022 despite soaring prices."With effect from March 22, 2022, the retail selling prices were revised on 14 occasions at an average of 80 paise per litre per day, leading to an overall increase of Rs 10 per litre on both petrol and diesel."However, the under-recoveries (losses) continue to be very high in a range of Rs 20-25 per litre for diesel and Rs 14-18 per litre for petrol," FIPI director general Gurmeet Singh wrote.While retail rates have been on a freeze since April 6, the price of diesel sold to bulk users like state transport undertakings increased in line with the rise in international oil prices."This resulted in rapid diversion of bulk diesel (direct consumers) sales to retail outlets amounting to widening of losses incurred by private fuel retailing companies," FIPI wrote."We urgently seek your support in matters related to retail selling pricing of petrol and diesel, as all private oil marketing companies, who are making investments in the retailing sector are experiencing a difficult investment environment," it said.Losses, it said, will limit their ability to "make further investments as well as to operate and expand their networks.""The stakeholders of private fuel retailing companies, namely dealers (including prospective dealers), transporters, direct and indirect employees and end-consumers also inadvertently bear the impact of under-recoveries," Singh wrote.FIPI sought the ministry's intervention to provide some relief to fuel retailers, create a more viable investment environment for private fuel retailers and support development of the right environment and ecosystem to attract further investments and job creation in the sector."The continuing uncertainty around the oil and gas sector and delay in equitable policy implementation like following free market determined pricing principles, providing access to infrastructure and bringing oil and gas under GST could potentially discourage foreign investors to make investments," it said."With no triggers for reduction in prevailing crude and product cracks, the under-recovery situation shall only aggravate for the fuel retailing companies."Higher prices at private company outlets and some of them curtailing sales had in recent days led to heavy traffic at PSU petrol pumps, leading to some of them in states like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Gujarat running out of stock.To ensure private companies don't curtail operations, the government on June 17, expanded the scope of Universal Service Obligation (USO), mandating licensed entities to maintain petrol and diesel sales at all petrol pumps, including in remote areas, for specified working hours."The government has now expanded the horizon of USO by including all retail outlets (petrol pumps) including remote area ROs under their ambit," the oil ministry had said in a statement on Friday.After this, entities that have been granted licences to retail petrol and diesel will be "obligated to extend the USO to all the retail consumers at all the retail outlets."Failure to meet norms can lead to the cancellation of licences.The USOs include maintaining supplies of petrol and diesel throughout the specified working hours and of specified quality and quantity; making available minimum facilities as specified by the central government, the statement had said.Moreover, maintaining minimum inventory levels of petrol and diesel as specified by the Centre from time to time; providing services to any person on demand within a reasonable period of time and on a non-discriminatory basis and ensuring availability of fuel to customers at reasonable prices, are also part of USOs.

## Presidential Polls: Mamata

Leaders of the Congress, Samajwadi Party, NCP, DMK, RJD and the Left parties attended the over two-hour-long meeting called by the Trinamool Congress supremo, while the AAP, SAD, AIMIM, Telangana Rashtra Samithi and Odisha's ruling BJD skipped it.Leaders of Shiv Sena, CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML), National Conference, PDP, JD(S), RSP, IUML, RLD and the JMM were among those present.Pawar's four-sentence letter has no reference to the previous meeting. So Mamata decided not to go to that meeting.Abhishek Banerjee, party's all-India general secretary, is likely to visit Delhi for the meeting. According to Trinamool sources, he is scheduled to go to Tripura on Sunday before going to Delhi. By-elections are being held at four seats in Tripura. That's why Abhishek will take part in the last minute campaign. He is likely to hold a press conference in Agartala at 11 am on Monday. Abhishek will also hold a public meeting later in the afternoon in Agartala. According to sources, the Diamond Harbour MP will fly straight to Delhi to attend the opposition meeting from Tripura in the evening.In 2012, the meeting in which Pranab Mukherjee's name was announced as the UPA camp's presidential candidate was attended by the then All India General Secretary Mukul Roy on behalf of the Trinamool supremo.

## India grants e-visas to Afghan

considering the security situation, the emergency visas have already been granted in discussion with the intelligence agencies. Several blasts were reported at the gurudwara in Kabul on Saturday morning followed by a gun-battle between the attackers and Taliban fighters. Three attackers were killed by the Taliban fighters.Prime Minister Narendra Modi condemned the attack saying "Shocked by the cowardly terrorist attack against the Karte Parwan Gurudwara in Kabul. I condemn this barbaric attack and pray for the safety and well being of the devotees".Global terror outfit, Islamic State, also known as Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), is suspected to be behind the attack.Taliban chopper shot down by NRF resistance fighters in Panjshir - Afghan mediaThe officials cited above said that the National Investigation Agency (NIA) is likely to be handed over the probe into yesterday's terror attack. The central agency is already probing the March 25, 2020 attack on a gurudwara in Kabul, in which 27 Sikh devotees including an Indian national were killed.While there were around 700 Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan in 2020, a large number of families left the country last year in the wake of unrest and following Taliban's takeover of the country when the US troops left on August 15.Indian officials said around 150 Hindus and Sikhs are living in Afghanistan currently. "But this miniscule minority is under severe threat right now," said an official.Following change of regime in Kabul last year, Indian government extended help to Afghan citizens, who were looking to flee the country and seek refuge in other countries including India, by starting a new visa category - "e-Emergency X-Misc".Around 200 Afghan nationals were given this visa till December 2021.Prior to this, Afghanistan nationals were not eligible for e-visas for India because the country came under the Prior Reference Category (PRC). Under PRC, people travelling to India have to be cleared by the ministry of home affairs. Citizens of Pakistan, Iraq and Sudan, foreigners of Pakistani origin, and stateless persons come under this category. China is in the PRC category only for employment visas.

# Sydney Harbour Bridge to fly Aboriginal flag permanently by end of year

**Sydney, June 19 :** The Aboriginal flag will have a permanent spot on the Sydney Harbour Bridge, with the New South Wales government committing \$25m to install a third flagpole by the end of the year.Flying the Aboriginal flag alongside the Australian and NSW state flags was an important gesture towards closing the gap, the state premier, Dominic Perrottet, said about the 2022-23 budget announcement."Our Indigenous history should be celebrated and acknowledged so young Australians understand the rich and enduring culture that we have here with our past," Perrottet said on Sunday."Installing the Aboriginal flag permanently on the Sydney Harbour Bridge will do just that and is a continuation of the healing process as part of the broader move towards reconciliation."The flagpoles are about 20 metres high, the same as a six-storey building, and the flags require an attachment

# Nasal Vaccine's Phase 3 Trials Completed, Says Bharat Biotech Chief

**Paris, June 19 :** Dr Krishna Ella, Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Biotech on Saturday said that the clinical phase III trials of the COVID-19 nasal vaccine have been completed and the company will submit its data with Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) next month.In an exclusive interview with ANI, Dr Ella said, "We just completed a clinical trial, a data analysis is going on. Next month, we will submit the data to the regulatory agency. If everything is okay, then we will get permission to launch and it will be the world's first clinically proven nasal COVID-19 vaccine".Dr Ella was in Paris as a speaker at Viva Technology 2022 where India was declared country of the year.India's drug controller had in January this year given permission to Bharat Biotech to conduct standalone phase III trials on its COVID-19 nasal vaccine.On the booster dose of COVID-19, Dr Ella said that those who had taken the second dose must take the booster dose."Booster dose of vaccine gives immunity. I always say the booster dose is a miracle dose for every vaccination. Even in children first, two doses don't give much immunity, but the third dose gives an amazing response to the child. The same thing for adults also. The third dose is very important for adults. COVID-19 can't be eradicated 100 per cent. It will be there and we have to live with it and handle it and more intelligently how to control it," he said.Talking about the Vivattech 2022, Dr Ella said that this is really great achievement for India, building a brand name in France."I am glad to say 65 startups from India, under NTITi Aayog they all came, showing that technology to a lot of people, what India can do, how India can innovate for the world. They are vibrant because I was a startup in 1997."He said that earlier United States was the centre of startups but for the first time Indians are getting exposure in France."I am so happy to say the French government is very practical. They are really encouraging India and with truthfully a good heart. Again, they are really pushing how more the government can work together. How about the country's startups can work together? How government policies can create an ecosystem that is scalable, even French President Macron was talking about how to scale it up between the two partnerships, how to scale up for globe and the digitalization all that is talking about infrastructure, digitalization all that they are talking and that is a good sign between the two countries and the first time French is coming closer to India," he added.

# After Chief Justice Concerns On Parliament Debates, Speaker's Response

**New Delhi, June 19 :** Amid concerns expressed in some quarters over the debates in Parliament, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday said quality debates take place in the House and he is working on further improving those.Mr Birla listed several initiatives such as upgrading the library and providing research material to MPs, taken by the Lok Sabha Secretariat during his tenure as the Speaker.Continuous efforts are being made to improve the quality of debates, he said.Chief Justice of India N V Ramana had last year expressed concern over the debates in Parliament and had said that it was in a "sorry state of affairs". "There are a lot of gaps and ambiguity in the law-making process due to lack of debates," he had said.Asked about the remarks made by Justice Ramana, Mr Birla said that quality debates do take place in Parliament."Debates take place in Parliament...quality debates take place. We are working on further improving the quality. The Lok Sabha Secretariat has been organising briefing sessions by domain experts for MPs on bills listed for introduction. Research note is also given to them," the Lok Sabha Speaker said.Several efforts have been made to further improve the library and now home-delivery of books for MPs have also been started, he said."It should be noted that on an average each bill is discussed for more than two hours," Mr Birla said.Mr Birla, who is set to complete three years as Lok Sabha Speaker on Sunday, said the productivity of the House is above 100 per cent and it has worked for nearly 1,000 hours in eight sessions so far in the 17th Lok Sabha.

# Pervez Musharraf's wish to return to Pakistan reopens debate about his rule

**Islamabad, June 19 :** The possible return to Pakistan of its former president Pervez Musharraf for the first time since he left the country in 2016 has reopened a bitter debate about the military dictatorship he led for more than a decade.Musharraf came to power in a coup in 1999 that toppled Nawaz Sharif's government, and went on to hold the presidency from 2001 to 2008, when he resigned to avoid impeachment. Since then he has spent most of his time in self-imposed exile in the UK and the Middle East.A key ally of the US in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, his time in power became notorious for oppression and rampant human rights abuses, especially in its latter years. In 2007 he suspended the constitution, imposed martial law, sacked the chief justice of the supreme court and arrested activists and lawyers, prompting mass protests. The 78-year-old is suffering from amyloidosis, a rare disease that occurs when an abnormal protein builds up in organs and interferes with normal functions. He has been in hospital in the UAE for the past few weeks and his family say he is not expected to make a recovery. Local media reported that he has expressed a desire to spend the "rest of his life" in his home country, and on Tuesday a military spokesperson said this wish should granted.Raza Rabbani, a former chairman of the senate, said he was strongly against allowing the ailing former president to return, describing the Musharraf era as "a saga of oppression in Pakistan".Rabbani told the Guardian that Musharraf had left a trail of institutions weakened by his attempts to "rewrite civil-military relations in favour of the military". He also accused him of overseeing political murders and of "selling and bartering away Pakistanis to America and capitulating Pakistan's interests [to the US] after 9/11".Musharraf once infamously said in an interview: "I think the constitution is just a piece of paper to be thrown in the dustbin."During his rule, Sharif and another former prime minister, Benazir Bhutto, were barred from contesting elections and went into exile. Bhutto returned to Pakistan amid death threats in 2007. She claimed she had faced threats from Musharraf. Soon after her return, Bhutto was assassinated in Rawalpindi.

strong enough to withstand all weather conditions.Transport for NSW andAboriginal Affairs will engage with key Aboriginal stakeholders about the project.The flag has been flown above the bridge on 26 January, in place of the NSW flag.When Perrottet first announced the plan in February, he said he had been told it could take as long as two years to build the third flagpole, a timeframe he said was too long. He said he would "climb up there and and put it up myself if I need to".Meanwhile, the state government has also committed \$37.9m to improve before- and after-school care services and \$206m towards a sustainable farming program.The NSW treasurer, Matt Kean, said the landmark program would reward farmers who voluntarily reduce their carbon emissions and protect biodiversity.The Perrotet government is due to hand down its 2022-23 budget this week.



## Leicester's drop-goal finale against Saracens leaves Burns lost for words

Twickenham, June 19 : Leicester's matchwinner, Freddie Burns, has admitted he could barely



believe the sensational conclusion to the Premiership final which saw him kick the match-winning drop-goal to deny Saracens in the final minute

of the game. Burns was required to play a more prominent role than he expected when George

right now. I'm normally not short of words but I can't believe I'm sitting here. I managed to shin it over - it was like a dead duck - but I don't care. It went through. "We've been a team of fighters all year and shown that in numerous games. I don't think people really gave us much of a shot. Everyone was talking about Saracens' big game players but I wouldn't have swapped any of our boys for theirs. We just kept fighting and came out at the right end of it. To give the supporters this moment and reward for their support means everything to everyone at Tigers. "Their head coach, Steve Borthwick, also saluted the calm way in which his players engineered the

chance for Burns to prevent the match spilling over into extra time. "The composure to get themselves into a better position was phenomenal," said Borthwick. "To think as clearly as they did that far into a very tough game was very impressive. I watched him [Freddie Burns] striking these balls yesterday at the training ground ... he's got nerves of steel, hasn't he?" The recent death of former club captain Tom Youngs's wife, Tiffany, generated additional emotion for all involved with Leicester's first title for nine years. "Everybody in the whole club has worked hard to get to this position," said Borthwick. "I'm just delighted for everyone. Everybody at the club is still hurting for the Youngs family.

## Beterbiev throttles Smith Jr to unify three light heavyweight title belts



London, June 19 : World light heavyweight champion Artur Beterbiev knocked out American rival Joe Smith Jr inside two rounds on Saturday to add the WBO title to his WBC and IBF belts. The unbeaten 37-year-old Canada-based Russian scored three knockdowns and had Smith in deep trouble with just under a minute remaining in round two before the fight was stopped. Beterbiev improves to 18-0 - all by knockout - and can now set his sights on a possible unification fight against Russia's WBA

champion Dmitry Bivol for the undisputed light heavyweight crown. However, ESPN reports the far likelier prospect is an October fight with Anthony Yarde, the 30-year-old Londoner who nearly defeated Sergey Kovalev in his lone previous title shot back in 2019. "Joe is a little bit open, and it was more easy for me to get him," Beterbiev said afterwards, before turning his attention to the prospect of a fight with Bivol. "I've had two unification fights and unification fights are more interesting,"

Beterbiev said. "I prefer to unify. I want to be undisputed. "Smith, who was reportedly taken to hospital immediately after the bout and did not speak to media, meanwhile fell to 28-4 after the fourth defeat of his career. The 32-year-old American underdog, who also has 22 knockouts on his record, started aggressively but was quickly overwhelmed by his hard-hitting and skilful opponent. Beterbiev had Smith wobbling in the first round, connecting with a series of overhand rights. He had the

## Leicester win popularity contest in narrative shaped by Davies's card

Twickenham, June 19 : This was popular. The most well-supported club in English rugby, so far from their customary place at the top of it for so long, have retaken the podium. They took it courtesy of a last-minute drop goal by one of the most popular players in English rugby, so long of



career that it came as some surprise to learn this was his first Premiership final. And, boy, did it go down well. And they did it all against ... well, we can safely say, fairly or not, Saracens are not the most popular club in English rugby. Here was something inevitable about the way they hung around in this one, riding the 12 points they conceded during a spell in the sin bin for their scrum-half, Aled Davies, in the first half, before waxing noticeably in the final

quarter, when all the best champion teams make their pedigree tell. They might even have scored the try that could have won the game with five minutes to go, had Wayne Barnes, the most popular referee in English rugby, not found himself caught between Billy Vanipola, on his umpteenth charge into the heart of the Tigers defence, and those self same defenders. Saracens were swarming on the Leicester line, just as they gathered to attempt their customary thrust in the last minutes of a final. And they had to stop for a scrum. Moment gone. Them's the breaks, as they say. They came away with just the penalty from that visit, which set up a finale of one's dreams. Blink and Saracens let the latest of a seemingly eternal bombardment of kicks go unsecured and suddenly it was Leicester swarming instead. Freddie Burns assumed position, strangely to the right of the posts and actually some way further back than he needed to be. No matter. His drop goal was good - the reaction of him, the bench, the crowd in general enough on its own to bring a tear to the eye. "I thought moments like this were just not made for me," he said. "I'm in disbelief! When I

started playing at five years old, I had two ambitions - to play for England and to win the Premiership. I've done both now. "As the euphoric scenes played out at the end, the richness of the story made itself clear.

Yorkshire, June 19 : "The world keeps on ending, but every year new people too dumb to know it show up as if the fun's just started." John Updike's creation Harry Angstrom, antihero of the Rabbit novels, may have been musing on life as a weary middle-aged car salesman in rust belt America. But he could just as easily have been speculating on the fate of English cricket down the years: a sport that is always in crisis, that is always dying, that has been dying in some form since the day it was born. No doubt the denizens of 18th-century Hambledon's Broadhalfpenny Down spent their evenings sighing around the innkeeper's fire about the collapse of batting techniques, the impatience of the young and how the whole thing will never survive the invention of the

win came at this illustrious venue in 2013, will start day four in a tie for the lead. At four under par, Fitzpatrick has Will Zalatoris for company. History favours Fitzpatrick. To his credit, Fitzpatrick spoke confidently about the impact of nine years ago. "I certainly think it gives me an edge over the others, yeah," he said. "I genuinely do believe that. It's a real, obviously, positive



Thomas. A67 for Zalatoris was the performance of day three. Curiously, the 25-year-old has five top-10 finishes in seven major starts but is yet to win a mainstream tour event. "The US PGA gave me a lot of belief and confidence that I belong in this situation," Zalatoris said. "There's a difference in thinking it and then actually being in the situation and believing it.

electric telegraph. Even the Ashes, Test cricket's golden-age souvenir and commercial life force, was born out of a funeral rite. Zoom out and it is tempting to conclude that End Times and lost idylls are English cricket's natural



state, a function of where it sits in the calendar, a sporting season that dies every autumn as the skies grow dark, where sunlit days are only ever snatched

rank cricket just below lacrosse and eating sand in lists of favourite activities; along with hard, inconvertible evidence of racism, elitism, exclusion, a

## Max Verstappen takes Canadian F1 GP pole in wet with Leclerc near the back

London, June 19 :

Relentless in both reliability and form of late, Max Verstappen can only expect to leave the Canadian Grand Prix with what is swiftly becoming an ominous championship lead after claiming pole position in Montreal. However, Formula One's young charger will have fierce company off the start line from the old guard, with Fernando Alonso showing all his experience and class to claim second place in treacherous wet conditions at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve. Certainly Verstappen's lap was a magnificent performance for pole but Alonso, at 40, 16 years senior to the Dutchman, also delivered a masterclass, an object lesson when a wet track proved the great leveller over car performance.



Alonso was last on the front row in Germany in 2012 and knows his Alpine will not be able to challenge for the win but was clearly revelling in showing off his sublime touch during qualifying. "It feels great, it was an unbelievable weekend so far for us," he said. "The car was mega and the fans pushed me to make an extra push. I

think we'll attack Max on the first corner." Verstappen remains strong favourite over race pace but admitted he would take nothing for granted alongside the Spaniard. "I used to follow Fernando as a kid, he's getting a bit old but I know he starts really fast so I will have to be ready," Red Bull's lead driver said, smiling. His

title rival Charles Leclerc, however, can hope at best only to minimise the damage this weekend as he was compromised by penalties that will see him start his Ferrari from 19th. Verstappen's teammate Sergio Pérez, second in the title standings, crashed in Q2 and will start 13th.

## Christine Truman 'Watching Emma Raducanu brought back memories'

Wimbledon, June 19 : A year ago Emma Raducanu was focused on her A-levels. Most aspiring tennis players need to have a backup plan. A talented junior, Raducanu was not being touted as the next big thing even by those within tennis. And then came Wimbledon, breakthrough wins and an abrupt fourth-round exit that put her on the front pages, before that incredible, magical run to the US Open title. While some parts of Raducanu's story are wildly different from previous eras, Christine Truman finds echoes. "Watching Emma Raducanu in 2021 making her Wimbledon debut as an 18-year-old girl brought back memories of my own debut at 16 in 1957," she writes in her new memoir, Christine Truman to Serve. Truman was - still is - the youngest British semi-finalist in the women's singles since Lottie Dod in 1887. "Like Emma I was unseeded with no expectation, but two weeks later everyone knew my name. "Two years later Truman reached a ranking of world No 2 and became the youngest women's singles champion at the French Open. Her prize? A £40 voucher. When Truman is asked whether she felt

pressure walking on to Centre Court, she smiles, a little perplexed: "Pressure? I did not feel pressure. I wasn't thinking about what pressure

the semi-final was an achievement in itself. No. I was upset because my mind was set on being the best tennis player in the world."



was. I was just thinking: 'I've been practising for this, I've been dreaming of this. Here I am. I'm going to play on Centre Court. Wow. Terrific. This is what I've been waiting for.' When I lost in the semi-final I was miserable. "Straight after the match I was invited by Princess Marina to the royal box to celebrate. 'What are we celebrating?' I thought. I just lost. It didn't occur to me that getting to

This earnest, intense drive to be the best sits surprisingly comfortably alongside her father's tendency towards understatement: "Christine enjoys a game of tennis." Her father refused to miss a day's work to watch her play and so missed all four of her Wimbledon semi-finals. Her mother was, says Truman, very strict. "She did not do nerves or pressure. 'Just get on with it and don't make a fuss!'"

## Roglic seals Critérium du Dauphiné triumph as Jumbo-Visma dominate

London, June 19 : Primoz Roglic underlined his credentials as one of the favourites for the Tour de France this year by winning the Critérium du Dauphiné. With his Slovenian compatriot and two-times Tour winner Tadej Pogacar

absent for this race, Roglic cruised to victory on the back of a dominant showing by Jumbo-Visma on the mountainous stages. With nobody able to match their pace on the final climb, Roglic and his teammate Jonas Vingegaard crossed the finish line holding hands, the Danish rider taking the stage win and second place overall. The Jumbo-Visma duo were in the breakaway group of riders on the eighth and final stage - a 137.5km ride from Saint-



had everything under control from the start. "Jonas was super strong on the last climb and it's crazy, an incredible day for our team. As you can see, things are going in the right direction so we can be confident. We have some more time, some more work to do and should be ready for the Tour."



## 'I'll see you next time' Osaka pulls out of Wimbledon with achilles injury



**Wimbledon, June 19 :** The four-time grand slam winner Naomi Osaka has pulled out of Wimbledon after failing to recover from an achilles injury. An update posted on Wimbledon's official website on Saturday confirmed that the world No 43 had been added to the withdrawals list alongside Canada's Eugenie Bouchard, who has a shoulder injury. "My achilles still isn't right so I'll see you next time," she said later on Twitter. "I feel like life keeps dealing cards and you're never gonna be used to them but it's how you adapt to uncomfortable situations that really says stuff about your character. I've been repeating mantras a lot in my head recently. 'I don't know if it's to subconsciously help myself through stressful times or to ease my mind into realising that everything will work out fine as long as I put in the work. Cause what more can you do?'" Osaka, 24, recently posted a video of herself doing rehab on a water treadmill in which she said her achilles was "being stubborn still". There were already doubts about whether she would compete at SW19 after she said playing the tournament without ranking points made it feel like an "exhibition". Osaka also pulled out of Wimbledon last year on the back of a much-publicised withdrawal from the French Open, after which she chose her competitions carefully to protect her mental health. She has not played on grass since 2019 and lost a month ago in the first round of the French Open. Matteo Berrettini celebrates winning his semi-final against Botić van de Zandschulp at Queen's Club. Matteo Berrettini reached his fourth consecutive grass court final as he overpowered the unseeded Dutchman Botić van de Zandschulp. The defending champion maintained his hot streak on grass to win 6-4, 6-3. The second seed was briefly held up in the second set by a short rain delay, but he returned to break serve and cruised to victory, ending the contest with a neat drop volley. The world No 10 reached the Wimbledon final last year, losing to Novak Djokovic, his only defeat in his last 20 matches on grass. The Italian beat Andy Murray in the Stuttgart Open final last Sunday. Berrettini, 26, will be a big favourite in Sunday's final against Serbia's Filip Krajinović who took advantage of a poor display by the double former winner Marin Cilic. Krajinović, who had never won a grass-court match before this week, won 6-3, 6-3 against the seventh-seeded Croat Krajinović, 30, continued to surprise himself as he took apart Cilic whose usually strong serve malfunctioned. "I don't like playing on grass, normally I skip the grass-court events, then turn up and lose in the Wimbledon first round. But maybe I'm starting to like it," he said.

# England tune up for Women's World Cup with assured victory over France

**Paris, June 19 :** The bigger tests are to come for England but as preparations for the World Cup go, this was about as perfect as it gets. France are not on the level of Australia and New Zealand, the two sides who will pose the greatest threat to England's hopes of lifting the World Cup on home soil this autumn. But as the fifth-best side in the world and the next best in the northern hemisphere behind England, they were certainly a test on the level the head coach, Craig Richards, would have wanted. For large periods the visitors made this mid-season Test tough for the hosts in Warrington. However, the class England have throughout their star-

studded spine proved too much for France at crucial junctures. This Test was the start of what could be a groundbreaking six months for the women's game in England. There is no doubting what victory in a home World Cup could do for a sport making encouraging strides forward. How heartening it must have been for England's squad to see that a large portion of the crowd were youngsters, many of them girls, possibly in awe of the players who could become well-known names if success materialises. There is no shortage of players to marvel at in this England team. That includes Courtney Winfield-Hill, the Australia-born Leeds captain and former Big Bash

cricketer who made an assured debut after qualifying for England via the residency rule. She formed an effective pairing with her



Rhinos teammate, Georgia Roche, to help England to a second victory in a week after success against Wales last time out. France

made things difficult in the opening exchanges, though. There was no shortage of spirit and endeavour from them and when the opening try came for England, it was against the run of play. It arrived courtesy of an inch-perfect pass from Roche that released Hollie

Dodd, and the York forward stepped around two defenders to touch down and give Tara Stanley a simple conversion that made it 6-0. That lead was quickly extended when Winfield-Hill and Jodie Cunningham combined to free Caitlin Beevers, who went down in the corner. Stanley was wide with the conversion but she was on target three minutes later when the outstanding Amy Hardcastle cut through, showing too much speed for the covering defence to claim her 20th Test try. The St Helens centre is another England player who could end up being one of the most exciting to track at the World Cup. France were rewarded for their efforts with a try on half time as Cristina Song Puche snuck

over from dummy-half to deservedly put the visitors on the scoreboard. Any notion of a comeback after half-time was quickly rebuffed by England. They were ruthless for large periods of the second half and Hardcastle's 21st international try in 21 games, after Winfield-Hill and Roche had combined to devastating effect, put them back in control. Roche then scored the try her performance merited when she broke free and while France scored a second through Fanny Ramos, England finished with a flourish. Roche claimed her second after a superb ball from Cunningham before Fran Goldthorpe rounded off the scoring in the final minute with her side's seventh try.

## Grace Brown and Caleb Ewan headline Australia's cycling team for Games

**New York, June 19 :** Caleb Ewan, Grace Brown and Rohan Dennis will lead a formidable Australian road cycling squad at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. Ewan will be one of the top favourites in the men's road race at Birmingham, while Dennis and Brown will target gold in the time trials. Brown will also be one of the top Australian hopes in the women's road race, with the team boasting several riders capable of a big result. Australia's Games cycling team of 34 was announced on Thursday morning, with sprinter Matthew Glaetzer leading the track squad. He is one of few familiar names in the track group, which is rebuilding after a disastrous Tokyo Olympics. Para-powerlifter Hani Watson, who was born with bilateral metaphyseal dysplasias, has



been selected for Australia's Commonwealth Games team. In-form mountain biker Bec McConnell is a notable missing from the team, but she is concentrating on the World Cup circuit and was unavailable. Her husband Dan will compete at his third Games in the cross-country event. Giro d'Italia winner Jai Hindley and Tour de France contender

Ben O'Connor also do not feature in the road team. But, as Ewan's selection indicates, the road course at Birmingham is more suited to sprinters or classics specialists than climbers such as Hindley and O'Connor. Australia has been the top-ranked nation in cycling at the last seven Commonwealth Games. Birmingham offers the chance for a reset, especially at the velodrome, after Australian only managed one bronze on the track at the Tokyo Olympics. Apart from road, track and mountain bike, there will also be tandem para cycling events at the Games. Jess Gallagher, the first Australian to win medals at a summer and winter Paralympics, will compete in Birmingham and she will form a powerful combination with pilot Caitlin Ward.

## Cycling's governing body sets stricter rules for transgender athletes

**Washington, June 19 :** Transgender cyclists face tougher eligibility rules after the sport's governing body doubled the period of time before a rider transitioning from male to female can compete. Riders were previously required to have testosterone levels below five nanomoles per litre (nmol/L) for a 12-month period prior to competition. Under new regulations, which will be introduced by the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) from 1 July, the permitted level will be 2.5 nmol/L for a 24-month period. The previous policy had been under review after

the important role played by muscle strength and power in cycling performance, the UCI has decided to increase the transition period on low testosterone from 12 to 24 months. "Bridges, who began hormone therapy last year, was blocked by the UCI from competing at the

champion. The UCI said Bridges' participation could only be allowed once her eligibility to race in international competitions was confirmed. During the subsequent debate, British Cycling suspended its transgender policy, pending a review. Bridges has in-



brought to attention by British rider Emily Bridges, one of cycling's most high-profile transgender competitors. A UCI statement read: "The latest scientific publications clearly demonstrate that the return of markers of endurance capacity to 'female level' occurs within six to eight months under low blood testosterone, while the awaited adaptations in muscle mass and muscle strength/power take much longer (two years minimum according to a recent study)." Given

national omnium championships in April amid threats of a boycott from other riders. The 21-year-old had met requirements in time to race in Derby, but the UCI did not grant her a switch in licence. Had she competed, Bridges would have faced Dame Laura Kenny, sparking debate as to whether a rider who had previously set a junior men's record and won the men's points race at the British Universities' championships a month before could have beaten the five-time Olympic

sisted it is wrong to believe she would have any advantage over her rivals. She will now be unable to compete in women's races until 2023. "I understand how you'd come to this conclusion because a lot of people still view trans women as men with male anatomies and physiologies," she said in an interview with DIVA magazine. "But hormone replacement therapy has such a massive effect. The aerobic performance difference is gone after about four months."

## Sri Lanka economic crisis: Former SL cricketer Roshan Mahanama serves tea and buns to people

**New Delhi, June 19 :** The economic crisis has prompted an acute shortage of essential items like food, medicine, cooking gas and other fuel, toilet paper and even matches, with Sri Lankans for months being forced to wait in lines lasting hours outside stores to buy fuel and cooking gas. Former Sri Lanka cricketer Roshan Mahanama shared images of him serving tea and buns to those waiting in long queues at the petrol



station around Ward Place and Wijerama mawatha. "We served tea and buns with the team from Commu-

nity Meal Share this evening for the people at the petrol queues around Ward Place and Wijerama mawatha. The queues are getting longer by the day and there will be many health risks to people staying in queues," Mahanama wrote on Twitter. "Please, look after each other in the fuel queues. Bring adequate fluid and food and if you're not well please, reach out to the closest person next to you and ask for support or call 1990. We need to look after each other during these difficult times." Sri

Lanka is going through the worst economic crisis since its independence from Britain in 1948. The island has been experiencing long lines for fuel refilling since mid-February with pressure coming on the diesel supplies for thermal power generation. India has helped Sri Lanka with thousands of tonnes of diesel and petrol, apart from food and medical supplies, to help ease the acute fuel shortage in the debt-ridden island nation.

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