



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VII ■ Issue No. 126 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ THURSDAY ■ JUNE 23, 2022 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 10.00



**Hong Kong plunges lower in global human rights index**

02

**Transfer latest: Minamino poised to join Monaco, Pope heading...**

07

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sumita's appeal

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 22:

Amid the political drama unveiled in Maharashtra, Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Sushmita Dev on Wednesday said not to distract Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma from flood situation as the rebel Shiv Sena MLAs led by Eknath Shinde arrived in Guwahati today morning and are camping at Hotel Radisson Blu. "I hear MLAs of Maharashtra coming to Assam as part of the poaching exercise. Parts of Assam are so flooded that there is no drinking water or electricity. Pls don't distract @himantabiswa he needs to focus on this grave situation", Sushmita Dev shared a tweet with images of flooded areas in Assam.

### One Nation One Ration Card

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 22:

Assam has become the 36th state to implement the One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme. With this, the ONORC plan is successfully implemented in all 36 states and Union Territories (UT) making food security portable throughout the country. During the last two years of the Covid-19 pandemic, the ONORC plan has significantly contributed to ensuring subsidized foodgrains for National Food Security Act (NFSA) beneficiaries, especially migrant beneficiaries. This is a one-of-its-kind citizen-centric initiative in the country, which is swiftly implemented in a short span of time covering about 80 Crore beneficiaries.

### Sonu Nigam contributed

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 22:

Popular bollywood singer Sonu Nigam has contributed Rs 5 lakhs to the CM relief fund for the flood-affected people of Assam. This was announced by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on his official twitter account. CM Sarma tweeted, "Empathising with the flood-affected people of Assam, renowned singer Shri Sonu Nigam contributed 75 lakh to CM Relief Fund as assistance to our relief and rehabilitation measures. My deep gratitude to him for his concern and act of benevolence."

## Maharashtra maha crisis : Shinde claims support of 44 lawmakers as Shiv Sena rebels

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 22:

Eknath Shinde on Wednesday pledged to take forward Shiv Sena founder Bal Thackeray's legacy and claimed the support of 44 lawmakers as he arrived in Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled Assam from Gujarat's Surat along with other rebel members of his party a day after plunging the Shiv Sena-led Maharashtra government into crisis. "Forty Shiv Sena lawmakers are present with me in Guwahati and all of us will take Balasaheb Thackeray's Hindutva and legacy forward. I do not want to comment on others or other issues at present," Shinde told journalists at the Guwahati airport. People aware of the matter said Shinde arrived in Assam with 33 of his party legislators and seven



independent lawmakers. The Shinde faction needs the backing of 37 Sena lawmakers to avoid disqualification under the anti-defection law. In case of their disqualification, it will be easier for the coalition government to pass a floor test. Shinde-led rebels checked into a five-star hotel upon arriving from an-

other BJP-ruled state. Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma was among the BJP leasers, who visited them amid tight security. The media were pre-

vented from accessing the hotel. The rebels earlier moved to a resort in neighbouring Gujarat as simmering discontent within Shiv Sena boiled over on Tuesday. They left Mumbai on Monday night after voting ended in the legislative council polls, where the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) suffered a defeat as 12 members of the Sena appeared to cross-vote in favour of a BJP candidate. This was the second defeat of the alliance after the loss of its candidate in the Rajya Sabha polls this month. The Shiv Sena has 55 members in the 288-member state assembly. Its allies Nationalist Congress Party has 53 and the

Continued to page 6

## CM Dr. Sarma lays Foundation Stone for OIL's Office in Guwahati

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 22:

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today laid the foundation-stone for Oil India Limited's office-cum-skill development institute complex at Bamunimaidan, Guwahati. The multi-storied structure, to be completed at a cost of Rs. 200 crores on land measuring 5 bighas which has been allotted by the Government of Assam to the public sector oil major through a land-lease agreement, is slated to serve the twin purpose of being an office of Oil India as well as a skill-training institute. Addressing those present at the event, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said: "I am confident this upcoming structure would provide a major boost to the business expansion plans of Oil In-



dia Limited", adding, "The public sector oil major expanding its businesses has

Continued to page 6

## Shiv Sena MLA Nitin Deshmukh returns within hours of arriving in Assam



Assam Rising Guwahati, June 22:

Shiv Sena MLA Nitin Deshmukh, who arrived here along with fellow party MLAs on Wednesday from Surat, returned to his home state of Maharashtra with five other partymen within hours, sources said, as rebel Sena legislators remain encamped at a hotel here. Deshmukh, who arrived at Guwahati early this morning in a chartered air-

craft from Surat, did not accompany Maharashtra's rebel minister Eknath Shinde and other MLAs to a city hotel where his colleagues were lodged. After remaining at Guwahati's Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi international airport for a few hours, Deshmukh, along with five Shiv Sena activists, left for Nagpur in another chartered aircraft. Deshmukh and the five Sena men were part of the 89-member entourage - Maharashtra MLAs and others - who had arrived in the city early this morning from Surat. Deshmukh's wife on Tuesday

Continued to page 6

## Maharashtra political crisis opposition slams Assam govt

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 22:

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, known to have had a hand in making and breaking governments in the north-east, has emerged as a major player in the Maharashtra



political crisis. Soon after 40 Maharashtra

Continued to page 6

## CM Dr Sarma arrives at Kampur to inspect relief camps

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 22:

To review the flood scene in the greater areas of Kampur, chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma today rushed to Kampur station by train this afternoon and hence he visited several flood relief camps set up at Kampur Adarsh High school,

Kampur college, Kampur Higher Secondary school, etc. During his visit, Dr Sarma went to almost all rooms in those relief camps and inspected the facilities ensured in those camps by the district administration. Besides, he also interacted

Continued to page 6

## Assam floods : Toll from rises to 89



Assam Rising Guwahati, June 22:

The toll from the Assam floods rose to 89 as seven more deaths were reported from five of the 32 deluge-hit districts on Tuesday,

Continued to page 6

## Ready To Resign, Says Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray Amid Crisis



Mumbai, June 22:

Amid escalating political crisis in Maharashtra, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Wednesday said that he is ready to step down from his position and leave the official residence allotted to him if there is any official statement from the rebel MLAs. In an address to the state, Thackeray said: "I will give my resignation

letter is they come before me and ask for it," adding that a blow by the own is what hurts the most. Earlier today, as many as 34 rebel MLAs of the Shiv Sena declared Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde as their leader in a letter to the state governor and deputy speaker as the political scenario in Maharashtra remains in

Continued to page 6

## Puducherry Congress says Droupadi Murmu will be 'dummy President', BJP reacts

New Delhi, June 22:

The BJP on Wednesday accused the Congress's Puducherry unit of insulting the country's tribal community and women, as it shared the screenshot of a now-deleted tweet, in which INC Puducherry said Droupadi Murmu, the

BJP's candidate for the upcoming presidential polls, will be a 'dummy President'. "Congress has started insulting Tribal Community & Women. Official handle of Congress labels Draupadi Murmu Ji as 'dummy'. 1st woman tribal leader from

Continued to page 6

## Afghanistan Quake Kills more than 1,000 persons

Kabul, June 22:

A powerful earthquake struck a remote border region of Afghanistan overnight killing at least 1,000 people and injuring hundreds more, officials said Wednesday, with the count expected to rise as desperate rescuers dig through collapsed dwellings. The 5.9 magnitude quake struck hardest in the rugged east, where people already lead hardscrabble lives in a country under a humanitarian disaster made worse by the Taliban takeover in August. "People are digging grave after grave," said Mohammad Amin Huzaifa, head of the Information and Culture Department in hard-hit Paktika, adding that at



least 1,000 people had died in that province alone. "It is raining also, and all houses are destroyed. People are still trapped under the rubble," he told journalists. The death count climbed steadily all day as news of casualties filtered in from hard-to-reach areas in the mountains, and the

country's supreme leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada, warned it would likely rise further. Earlier, a tribal leader from Paktika said survivors and rescuers were scrambling to help those affected. "The local markets are closed and all the people have rushed to the affected areas," Yaqub

Manzor told AFP by telephone. Photographs and video clips posted on social media showed scores of badly damaged mud houses in remote rural areas. Some footage showed local residents loading victims into a military helicopter. Even before the Taliban takeover, Afghanistan's emergency response teams were stretched to deal with the natural disasters that frequently struck the country. But with only a handful of airworthy planes and helicopters left since the hardline Islamists returned to power, any immediate response to the latest catastrophe is further limited. "The government is working

Continued to page 6

## Ambubachi started, Goddess Kamakhya Temple Door Closed at 8.15 PM

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 22:

The Ambubachi Festival in the Kamakhya temple is kickstarted on Wednesday (June 22) and will continue till June 26. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mela was amidst an interlude for two years. Now, that it is finally here, there are certain restrictions in place due to the ongoing flood situation in Assam and also because of fear of rising CPVID-19 cases. The main door of Kamakhya temple closed at 8.15 pm

today for the pilgrims and will reopen on Sunday morning (June 26). The worshippers of Goddess Kamakhya eagerly look forward every year to the grand celebrations of Ambubachi Mela, but this year to their dismay, will have to tone down their vigour in lieu of the current crisis in the state. While everyone is warmly welcomed to attend the festival, the government is slightly skeptical about the rainfall situation during the celebration. List of Restrictions Imposed 1. No lodging will be permitted in close proximity to the

Kamkhya temple 2. No unauthorised food distribution services shall be allowed either. The District Administration will be enabling food services at designated camps only in compliance with the guidelines. As of now, only dry fruits, biscuits, and drinking water are permitted. 3. Only vehicles associated with essential services, Kamakhya temples, and a few locals will be allowed. 4. No inter-district, long-distance buses including the ones under ASTC shall be allowed to ply on D.G Road, M. G Road and T.R Phukan Road dur-



ing the festival dates. 5. No good carrying heavy, medium and small commercial vehicles shall be allowed. However, three wheelers commercial good carrying vehicles will be allowed

from 12 am to 6 am only. 6. No vehicles to ply on the newly constructed road from Pandu Ghat to Kamakhya Trinath

Continued to page 6

# Hong Kong plunges lower in global human rights index



**Hong Kong, June 22 :** Hong Kong has plunged further in a human rights ranking report, bringing it on a par with Saudi Arabia in some indicators, and closer to converging with China as the Communist party government deepens its control on the region. The rankings report by the Human Rights Measurement Index (HRMI) also highlighted a deepening divide in China between high scores in quality of life indicators and some of the world's lowest for civil and political rights. But the organisation found rights to basic essentials were often

stripped from people for political reasons. Now in its fifth year, the HRMI conducts national surveys to assess a country's quality of life, safety from the state and empowerment, against what that government can afford to offer. It also provides a ranking against other countries. Hong Kong's political rights dropped dramatically after a crackdown on the 2019 pro-democracy protests and the introduction of the national security law in 2020. In 2021 it plunged even further, dropping to second-last place in empowerment rights, falling below Vietnam and bringing it on par with Saudi Arabia's margin of error. "What we see here is Hong Kong's scores are converging downwards [last placed] China's score," said Thalia Kehoe Rowden, a spokesperson for the HRMI. Indicators

for the right to freedom of assembly and association, opinion and expression, and participation in government were also all "very bad", with average scores of 2.5. The scores were 4 or above in 2019. The survey found the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest in Hong Kong was in the lowest "very bad" range, with a score of 3.5 out of 10. The risk of torture and ill treatment was also considered high, falling in the "bad" range at 5.5. The human rights experts surveyed said those most at risk were protesters, political activists, people with "particular political affiliations or beliefs" and human rights advocates. However, the fifth most cited group was "all people", with respondents making specific mention of the 60 or so civil society and labour organisations and media outlets that had



Team China perform during the Artistic Swimming Women's Team Technical Final of the 19th FINA World Championships in Budapest, Hungary

# Kyiv's EU envoy says Ukraine candidate status would send clear signal to Russia

**Kyiv, June 22 :** Granting Ukraine candidate status to join the EU would be a historic decision signalling to Russia it can no longer claim a sphere of influence over its eastern neighbour. Kyiv's ambassador to Brussels has said. Vsevolod Chentsov, the head of Ukraine's mission to the EU, said Russia's war had united Kyiv with the bloc, while ending what he called a "mistake" about whether his country could belong to the union. Speaking to the Guardian ahead of a historically charged EU summit on Thursday, he said for many years Ukraine had been seen as a bridge or a buffer state rather than a potential member. A decision on candidate

status would "kill finally, this ambiguity, what is Ukraine for the EU: whether we are building a common house or not... I think now finally there is clarity." EU leaders will decide on Thursday whether to grant Ukraine candidate status, following a positive recommendation from the European Commission last Friday. Expectations for a yes have grown since four EU leaders, including France and Germany, which had been perceived as among the most lukewarm, visited Kyiv last week in a show of support. Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, filed an application to join the EU five days after Russia's attack began. On a day when blasts were heard in Kyiv, Zelenskiy called for "immediate

accession under a new special procedure". While the initial response from about 10 EU states was deeply sceptical, opposition has fallen away, although questions remain about the long road ahead. Ukraine has been seeking EU membership since the 2004 "orange revolution" and more insistently since the 2013-14 Maidan protests, when the pro-Kremlin president, Viktor Yanukovich, was ousted after he refused to sign an association agreement with the bloc. The decision to apply for EU membership on 29 February 2022 carried the same logic as the Maidan protests, Chentsov said: "Ukraine fights for independence and European future. And at the end of February, it just reached its highest point with the Russian full-fledged and open invasion of Ukraine." "We need this clarity [on EU membership] to support the Ukrainian army, Ukrainian society, morally, psychologically, and to get the clear feeling and understanding of the direction of movement for Ukraine." "Before the war, EU membership was not an option for the country of 41 million that was beset by corruption. The EU's association agreement with Kyiv describes Ukraine as "a European country [that] shares a common history and common values", but avoided mentioning membership. Russia's war had changed perceptions of Ukraine for EU governments and their voters, the ambassador suggested. "This war basically united us with the EU on all possible levels: government to government, but mainly people to people." He said

**Guest House**  
A/C Non A/C Rooms with Car Parking At POGI Brahmputra, Chandmari, Guwahati-21 Ph. WA: 9678009493/9707183470

# Europe told to get ready now for Russia to turn off all gas exports to region

**London, June 22 :** Europe needs to prepare immediately for Russia to turn off all gas exports to the region this winter, according to the head of the International Energy Agency, who has called on governments to work on reducing demand and keeping nuclear power plants open. Fatih Birol said reductions in supplies in recent weeks which the Kremlin has attributed to maintenance work could, in fact, be the beginning of wider cuts designed to prevent the filling of storage facilities in preparation for winter, as Russia seeks to gain leverage over the region. "Europe should be ready in case Russian gas is completely cut off," he said in an interview with the Financial Times. "The nearer we are coming to winter, the more we understand Russia's intentions." "I believe the cuts



are geared towards avoiding Europe filling storage, and increasing Russia's leverage in the winter months. "EU countries are racing to refill storage sites, with Germany hoping to reach 90% of capacity by November. Its stores are only half full. Member states have also been working to reduce their reliance on Russian fossil fuels, by sourcing gas from other countries, including the US, and speeding up the switch to renewable energy, although officials have

conceded that the race to phase out Russian oil and gas would mean burning more coal and keeping nuclear plants going. Birol said emergency measures taken by European governments to reduce energy demand had probably not gone far enough, and urged countries to work on preserving energy supplies. "I believe there will be more and deeper demand measures as winter approaches," Birol said. He added that gas supplies may need to be rationed, if Russia were to further reduce gas exports.

# Bill Cosby found liable for sexual abuse of minor at Playboy Mansion

**London, June 22 :** Bill Cosby sexually abused a 16-year-old girl at the Playboy Mansion in 1975, jurors determined on Tuesday after a nearly month-long civil trial. Jurors in Los Angeles county ruled in favor of Judy Huth, who is now 64, awarding her \$500,000 in a legal defeat for the once-beloved comedian and star of The Cosby Show. Jurors found that Cosby intentionally caused harmful sexual contact with Huth, who he reasonably believed was under 18, and that his conduct was driven by unnatural or abnormal sexual interest in a minor. The decision brings to a close one of the final remaining legal claims against 84-year-old Cosby, whom more than 50 women have accused of sexual assault over nearly five decades. In court filings and in testimony at the trial, Huth said she and a friend met Cosby at a park, and that the actor later took her and her friend to the Playboy Mansion. She testified that Cosby, who was 37 at the time, assaulted her, forcing her to perform a sex act without her consent, a claim the actor has denied. Huth, who first filed a lawsuit against Cosby in 2014, initially said the incident took place in 1974 when she was 15, but later concluded she was mistaken about the year and that it happened in 1975. Cosby, who did not appear in person at the trial, denied the allegation. In video of a deposition shown to jurors, Cosby said he did not remember Huth. But he said the incident could not have happened because he would not have pursued sexual contact at that time with someone who was under age 18. attorney, Gloria Allred, sought,

# Maharashtra political crisis: CM Uddhav Thackeray tests Covid positive

**New Delhi, June 22 :** Amid the current Maharashtra political crisis, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has tested positive for Covid-19, Congress leader Kamal Nath said on Wednesday (June 22, 2022). Kamal Nath, who is Congress' observer for the political turmoil in Maharashtra triggered by Shiv Sena minister Eknath Shinde, said that he is not meeting Uddhav Thackeray as he has tested positive for the virus. The development came hours after Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari testing coronavirus positive. As the crisis for the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in Maharashtra deepened on Tuesday, the Congress deputed its senior leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Kamal Nath as an AICC observer in the state. "The Congress president has deputed Kamal Nath as All India Congress Committee



(AICC) observer in the wake of recent political developments in the state, with immediate effect," said an official communication from the Congress. The Congress, notably, shares power with the NCP and Shiv Sena in the MVA government in Maharashtra. Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut on Wednesday indicated that Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray could recommend to Governor Bhagat Singh

Koshyari to dissolve the state Assembly. "The political developments in Maharashtra are headed towards dissolution of the state Assembly," Raut said in a tweet in Marathi. Earlier in the day, Shiv Sena's dissident leader Eknath Shinde asserted that 40 MLAs from Maharashtra have accompanied him to Guwahati in Assam. The Shiv Sena legislators have rebelled against the party, plunging the tripartite MVA government, comprising the Sena, NCP and Congress, into a crisis.

# Tokyo mayoral win a 'huge surprise' for candidate living in Belgium

**Brussels, June 22 :** A Japanese woman living in Belgium has been elected as mayor of a district in Tokyo after coming to prominence through her online campaigning during the Covid pandemic. Satoko Kishimoto, 47, who has lived in the Belgian city of Leuven with her husband and children for a decade, is now mayor of Sugunami city, a ward of 500,000 people, more than 5,800 miles away from her home. Kishimoto works as a project coordinator for the not-for-profit Transnational Institute in Amsterdam but had travelled to Japan to campaign in person in recent weeks. Kishimoto's husband, Olivier Hoedeman, said the election result had nevertheless come as a "huge surprise" and they were not yet committed to moving to Japan as their youngest son is still in secondary school. He told Flemish radio: "During the Covid-19 crisis, when everything happened online, Satoko participated a lot in online public debates in Japan from Leuven. Satoko is very interested in politics and through her work for the Transnational Institute in Amsterdam, she knows a lot about it too. She became very popular with the progressive movement in Japan and was asked to run for mayor in Sugunami." Satoko lived the first 25 years of her life in Japan. After that, she moved to the Netherlands and then to Leuven, where we have lived together for more than 10 years and now have two children. "The election result came as a huge surprise. Satoko defeated the conservative mayor in office. Apparently, her political message appealed to many citizens. Satoko wants less



privatisation and more citizen participation." Kishimoto, who has edited a book on the alternatives to water privatisation, won by just 200 votes after managing to swerve her opponents' criticisms over her Belgian residency. Under one option being discussed by the family, Kishimoto will return to live in Japan and the rest of the family will join her at a later date. Hoedeman said: "Our youngest son is still in secondary school and still has a few years to go. So moving to Japan is not going to be so easy. We still have to think about it."



A Kuaizhou-1A carrier rocket carrying the Tianxing-1 test satellite blasts off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China

টি.বি.চি. ৬/বিবিধ/২০১৬  
বিবিধ গোচর নং ৪-০২/বিবিধ/২০২২  
আবেদনকারী ৪-(১) শ্রী অজিত বড়া, পিতা-মৃত পোনাবাম  
নিবাস ৪- আমগুৰি-খৰিকটীয়া মৌজাৰ চৰাইপানী ৫৬ নং গ্ৰাণ্ট।  
(২) শ্রী প্রবাল বড়া, পিতা-মৃত পোনাবাম  
নিবাস ৪- আমগুৰি-খৰিকটীয়া মৌজাৰ চৰাইপানী ৫৬ নং গ্ৰাণ্ট।

ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজৰ জ্ঞাতাৰ্থে জনোৱা হয় যে, আমগুৰি-খৰিকটীয়া মৌজাৰ চৰাইপানী ৫৬ নং গ্ৰাণ্টৰ নিবাসী (১) শ্রী অজিত বড়া, পিতা-মৃত পোনাবাম আৰু (২) শ্রী প্রবাল বড়া, পিতা-মৃত পোনাবামে আমগুৰি-খৰিকটীয়া মৌজাৰ লালুং গাঁৱৰ ২০৮ নং ম্যাডী পট্টাৰ ৪০০ নং দাগৰ ০২ বিঘা- ০৩ কঠা জমিৰ নামজাৰি বিচাৰি আবেদন কৰিছে। গতিকে এই সন্দৰ্ভত কাৰোবাৰ ওজৰ আপত্তি থাকিলে অহা ইংৰাজী ১৫-০৭-২০২২ তাৰিখৰ ভিতৰত নিম্নস্বাক্ষৰকাৰীৰ আদালতত অভিযোগ দাখিল কৰিব পাৰিব।  
আজি ইংৰাজী ২১-০৬-২০২২ তাৰিখে স্বাক্ষৰ ও মোহৰ মাৰি দিয়া হ'ল।

চক্ৰ বিষয়া  
তিতাবৰ বাজহ চক্ৰ, তিতাবৰ

টি.বি.চি. ৬/বিবিধ/২০১৬  
বিবিধ গোচর নং ৪-০১/বিবিধ/২০২২  
আবেদনকারী ৪-(১) শ্রী কপেন শইকীয়া, পিতা-মৃত পূৰ্ণকান্ত  
নিবাস ৪- আমগুৰি-খৰিকটীয়া মৌজাৰ কাকতিকুৰি গাঁও।

ইয়াৰ দ্বাৰাই সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজৰ জ্ঞাতাৰ্থে জনোৱা হয় যে, আমগুৰি-খৰিকটীয়া মৌজাৰ কাকতিকুৰি গাঁৱৰ নিবাসী (১) শ্রী কপেন শইকীয়া, পিতা-মৃত পূৰ্ণকান্তই আমগুৰি-খৰিকটীয়া মৌজাৰ কাকতিকুৰি গাঁৱৰ ১৭৪ নং ম্যাডী পট্টাৰ ৭৬৬ নং দাগৰ ০৩ বিঘা- ০১ কঠা ১৩ লোচা জমিৰ নামজাৰি বিচাৰি আবেদন কৰিছে। গতিকে এই সন্দৰ্ভত কাৰোবাৰ ওজৰ আপত্তি থাকিলে অহা ইংৰাজী ১৫-০৭-২০২২ তাৰিখৰ ভিতৰত নিম্নস্বাক্ষৰকাৰীৰ আদালতত অভিযোগ দাখিল কৰিব পাৰিব।  
আজি ইংৰাজী ২১-০৬-২০২২ তাৰিখে স্বাক্ষৰ ও মোহৰ মাৰি দিয়া হ'ল।

চক্ৰ বিষয়া  
তিতাবৰ বাজহ চক্ৰ, তিতাবৰ  
Janasanyog/D/6135/22

## 'Sarothi the time bank' inaugurated at Nowgong College



**Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 22:** The president of college alumni association and local MLA Rupak Sarma today ceremonially inaugurated 'Sarothi - the Time Bank' - a special cell newly constituted for welfare of the isolated as well as abandoned people at the historic Nowgong College (autonomous) which is scheduled to be promoted to a state university by government. The bank was set up for the first time in Switzerland in India. The Internal Quality Assurance Cell in association with the college union body, NSS Unit 1 and NSS Unit 2 took initiatives to set up the time bank in the college. The inaugural programme was chaired by Dr Sarat Borkatoki, principal of the college and also delivered the welcome address while Dr Bhuvan Chandra Chutiya, the coordinator to Internal Quality Assurance Cell anchored the entire programme. Almost all teachers, students and other non teaching staff of the college opened up their respective accounts in the time bank and MLA Rupak Sarma distributed some of the pass-books of the bank among the concerned accounts holders even in the inaugural programme. In his inaugural speech, MLA Sarma applauded the college authority for taking up such initiatives to help those helpless people of the society. Sarma also promised to provide an ambulance and two oxygen concentrators from his MLA fund to the newly set up time bank. Besides, he also promised to provide other support towards the bank from time to time in the days to come. During the programme Bidisha Devi who secured the highest rank in 2022 in Geography, was felicitated by the authority concerned of the college. Hundreds of students, non teaching staff and teachers of the college including vice principal duo Dr Ramprasad Porel and Banti Neog were among those who participated in the inaugural programme, a release added.

## MCLA visited flood relief camp in Tamulpur



**Assam Rising, Tamulpur, June 22:** The flood has disrupted the lives of the people of the Tamulpur district in several parts of the district in recent times. The rising waters of the river Pagaladia, Barnadi, Balti, Baralia, Matanga flowing from Bhutan hills have submerged vast areas of the district. Several families' houses and properties have been washed away in the river's chest besides submerging several revenue villages including Hahkata, Balabari, Chapatal, Salikanda, Barbilla, Dakhin Gandhibari, Uttar Gandhibari, Niz Dafeli, Dongargaon etc. under the district. The Tamulpur district administration has set up many flood shelter camps at various places to accommodate the flood affected people. The district administration is providing adequate food items, drinking water to the flood victims as well as health care. Meanwhile, popular leader, MCLA of No 26 Darangajuli constituency of BTC visited flood shelter camps at Hahkata, Balabari Milan M E School, Balabari Lower Primary School etc. to take stock of the condition of the flood victims and interacted with the people in the shelter camp. During his visit he showed his greatness by supplying food items for the flood victims. He urged the people to contact him directly if they face any difficulties during exchanging views with them.

## Over 4.57 lakhs people reeling under flood water in Nagaon

**Assam Rising Nagaon, June 22:** The flood situation in Nagaon district has turned to be more critical as many fresh areas under 7 revenue circles have been submerged by the flood water. As per a report issued this afternoon by district disaster management authority, Nagaon,

over 310 villages under Kampur, Raha, Nagaon, Dhing, Samaguri, Rupahi and Kaliabor revenue circles are still reeling under flood water. Even

in Nagaon town, the flood water from the Kolong river has inundated over a hundred families in Nagaon Milanpur, Baidatup, Nehrubali, Uttar Haiborgaon, Madhupur and Police Reserve area are reeling under flood water. Over 4.57 lakhs people have been affected grievously by the flood in the district during the second wave of flood and over 15000 inmates are taking shelter in over 57 relief camps set up in Kampur, Raha and Nagaon revenue circles by the district administration so far. It is pertinent to mention that the water level of the fury Kapili river has been slightly down today while the water level of the Kolong river remains unchanged till the time of filing this report, sources added.

# International Yoga Day celebration

**Assam Rising Biswanath Chariali, June 22:** The International Yoga Day was celebrated in Biswanath College under the aegis of Yoga and Meditation Cell of the college and in collaboration with IQAC of Biswanath College and Biswanath College Teachers' Unit in which nearly one hundred teachers, students and members of NCC and NSS participated. Loknath Upadhyaya, a noted scholar of Sanskrit and Yoga who retired as a Sanskrit teacher graced the occasion as a guest. Upadhyaya explained to the students the benefits of various asanas in human life besides teaching them how to perform Surya namaskar and various asanas. Another invited guest Khagen Borah taught the gathering various yogasana such as Kapalabhati asana and performed pranayama, dhyana, sankalpa and Shanti Path and called upon the students to practice yoga for their good health and sound mind. Prior to this event, a Fifteen Day Workshop on Yoga and Meditation was organised in Biswanath College that ended on the International Yoga Day and was graced by noted yoga teacher Narayan Khatiwara as Resource Person. The International Day of Yoga started with lighting of lamps by Dr Arun Chaliha, president of Biswanath Col-

**Nagaon, June 22:** Along with the rest of the state, with a day-long programme, Nagaon Zila Yoga Santha in association with several organizations as well as institutions of Nagaon observed the 8th International Day of Yoga here at Nehru Yuva Kendra, Nagaon on June 21. The programme was initiated with the demonstration of various yoga exercises led by prominent sportsman and well sports organizer and coach - Prabhat Chandra Borah in the morning session where over hundred of participants from various educational institutions of Nagaon town took part and also focused the motto as well as the spirit of the celebration of the day - 'Yoga for humanity'. Besides, the organizers also conducted a host of yoga based sports competitions among the students. During the open session held in the afternoon at the open auditorium of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Nagaon, the organization also distributed various prizes among the winners. The organizers also felicitated a slew of institutional heads of the town including Dr Sarat Borkatoki, principal of Nowgong College (autonomous), Tapan Kumar Baidya, principal of Nagaon Dawson Higher Secondary and Multipurpose School and others. Meanwhile, the Institutional Values and Best Practices Cell of Mahapurusha Sankardev Vishwavidyalaya (MSSV) also observed the day with a day-long programme at the viceroy campus here. The vice chancellor of the viceroy professor Mridul Hazarika inaugurated the programme and assistant librarian Shekharjyoti

**Guwahati, June 22:** Neog delivered the welcome address, a release added. **Gossaigaon, June 22:** Keeping in par with the theme Azadi Ka Amrit mahotsav and 75 years of Independence the 31st BN SSB stationed at Matiajuri in Gossaigaon observed 8th International Yoga Day at the playground of SSB camp yesterday. The Yoga session was largely attended by the Commandant, Deputy Commandant and other officers of 31st BN, SSB, soldiers, officials from forest department and students. While observing the yoga session Chiranjeev Bhattacharjee, Commandant 31st BN, SSB urged all the officials including students to imbibe yoga in their daily life in order to keep them fit. He said that yoga provides us physical, mental and spiritual upliftment. He further emphasized on the need and importance of yoga and said that it provides us the harmony of the body and mind and enables us to imbibe peace of mind and good health in leading a healthy lifestyle. On the other hand, under the aegis of Swaraj Uddhayan Samiti the 8th International Yoga Day was also observed at Gossaigaon where Jethmol Malu, District President of BJP Minority Cell took active part and encouraged the yoga practitioner to adopt yoga as a daily routine.

**Guwahati, June 22:**

man life besides teaching them how to perform Surya namaskar and various asanas. Another invited guest Khagen Borah taught the gathering various yogasana such as Kapalabhati asana and performed pranayama, dhyana, sankalpa and Shanti Path and called upon the students to practice yoga for their good health and sound mind. Prior to this event, a Fifteen Day Workshop on Yoga and Meditation was organised in Biswanath College that ended on the International Yoga Day and was graced by noted yoga teacher Narayan Khatiwara as Resource Person. The International Day of Yoga started with lighting of lamps by Dr Arun Chaliha, president of Biswanath Col-



lege Teachers' Unit and chanting of mantras by Loknath Upadhyaya. Taranath Mahanta, Coordinator, Yoga and Meditation Cell of Biswanath College welcomed the Invited Guests and spoke briefly about the history of International yoga Day. Mahanta also thanked Dr Chinta Mani Sharma, principal of the college for his kind cooperation and sincere efforts for successful completion of the programme. Dr Nareesh Thakur, Coordinator, IQAC inaugurated the event. In his inaugural speech, Dr Thakur spoke about the benefits of yoga in our life. Among others Rajeswar Boro,

secretary, Biswanath College Teachers' Unit, Dr Rinkumoni Kalita, Jintimoni Das both Asstt Professors, Department of Botany joined the event. Similarly, the 8th international yoga day was celebrated at Biswanath along with the rest of the world on June 21. Biswanath district administration in association with district health committee had organised the special day at the Biswanath temple premises at Biswanath ghat. **event, Lakhimpur MLA Manab Deka** told that daily practice of yoga makes both body and mind of a man joyful. As a result, it can contribute enough to advance a society in a healthy and strong way of thinking. The pupils of Akansha Yoga and wellness center performed artistic yogasan practices which was followed by the program of community yogasan practices. The winners of the district-level yoga competition which was held on June 11 last under the aegis of National Ayush Abhiyaan, Assam and IYNS were awarded in the event. Lakhimpur DC Sumit Sattawan, ADC Gitali Duwarah, Joint Director (Health) Dr. Monuj Kumar Das, Lakhimpur DIPRO Mandira Chayengia and many other dignitaries, students from different schools and colleges, officers and employees from different offices and local people were present in the Day's ceremony. **Barpeta Road, June 22:** Adopting the slogan "Adopt Yoga, drive away diseases", International Yoga Day was organized on June 21 under the guidance of Second in command of the 27 Bn SSB of Sashastra Seema Bal under the guidance of Rajnish Kumar Moral, and through Yogasan. All the soldiers were taught how

to keep their body and mind healthy. In this yoga camp, the soldiers were told about different types of yoga, their method and its benefits. During this, the offg. Commandant congratulated all the soldiers on International Yoga Day and while guiding them and boosting their morale, said that a healthy body and calm mind paves the way for success in any field of life. Therefore, yoga is the only means by which a person can make his body healthy without bringing any negative effects, stress or any kind of imbalance in the body. Yoga is a very specific method, unlike other techniques, which fills the practitioner with energy without causing any stress. Different types of asanas (postures) if practiced in the right way for a certain period bring better flexibility and strength to different parts of the body. On this occasion, Dr. S. R Singh, Commandant (veterinary) Vivek Kumar Singh, Deputy Commandant, Prabhat Krishna Yadav, Deputy Commandant, Sujit Kumar, Deputy Commandant, and Dr. Naveen, Assistant Commandant (Medical officer) were present. With this, International Yoga Day was organized in all companies of 27 Bn Sashastra Seema Bal on our Indo-Bhutan Border. **Aalo, June 22:** NEFTU NSS Programme Officer Tabang J Tai with his volunteers observed the International Yoga Day at NEFTU Campus by organizing a refreshing Yoga Session on June 21. The event was enthusiastically participated by Dr. P.S. Rakshit (Dean Academics), Dr. Nazim Hussain (Principal, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences), staff and students of NEFTU. In this event NEFTU invited Jumpi Padu, a certified Yoga instructor to encourage and enlighten the participants and to educate/advise them about the importance of YOGA for a healthy living. Padu also demonstrated some very

useful everyday Yoga Asanas for the participants to inculcate Yoga in their day to day lives. Similarly, Mechukha general administration and District Medical Office Shi-Yomi District. The event was attended by various public, government employees and panchayat members of the district. DMO Millo Kunya briefed everyone about the importance of Yoga day and Yoga in Life. CO Mechukha Deewan Mara thanked everyone for participating in the event and hoped for everyone to imbibe Yoga into their daily life. **Guwahati, June 22:** Frontier Headquarters Border Security Force, Guwahati observed 8th International Yoga Day to spread awareness among the masses about the importance of Yoga on June 21. The theme of this year's International Day of Yoga is "Yoga for Humanity". The 8th International Yoga Day was organized under the leadership of Daniel Adhikari, Deputy Inspector General (Principal Staff Officer) Frontier Headquarters Border Security Force, Guwahati at Pandu Ghat on the banks of Brahmaputra river near Saraihat in which officers, subordinate officers and jawans participated enthusiastically in large numbers. Daniel Adhikari while explaining the importance of Yoga said that, it is a matter of pride for us that the whole world has accepted the Indian art of Yoga which keeps the mind and body healthy. Continuous practice of yoga in our daily life establishes control over mind, body and speech. Regular yoga practice helps in keeping our body fit and healthy and also helps in improving physical efficiency and mental peace as well as reducing stress and depression. Besides above, Yoga day was also observed at all under command Units and as well as at the Border Out Post on the Indo-Bangladesh international border.



The yoga session that began at 6 in the morning was attended by Tezpur HOC MP Pallab Lochan Das, Biswanath MLA Pramod Borthakur, Biswanath DC Munindra Nath Nagatey, Biswanath SP Nabin Singh, ADC's Liza Talukdar, Dr.

Shurjya Kamal Bora, Biswajit Saikia. The camp was also attended by the officials of CRPFC 30 coy, students and local people. The yoga session was conducted by Patanjali Yoga Centre and Prajapati Brahmakumari Vidyalaya.

## Assam becomes the 36th State/UT to implement One Nation One Ration Card

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 22:** Assam has become the 36th State/UT to implement One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC). With this, the ONORC plan is successfully implemented in all the 36 states/UTs, making food security portable throughout the country. During the last two years of COVID-19 pandemic, ONORC plan has significantly contributed in ensuring subsidized foodgrains to NFSA (National Food Security Act) beneficiaries, especially migrant beneficiaries. This is one-of-its-kind Citizen Centric initiative in the country, which is swiftly implemented in a short-span of time covering about 80 Crore

beneficiaries, after being initiated in August 2019. The objective of this beneficiary centric high-impact program is to empower all NFSA beneficiaries to become AtmaNirbhar for their food security anywhere in the country, through portability of their existing ration cards enabling them to seamlessly lift their entitled subsidized foodgrains (in part or full) from any Fair Price Shop of their choice. This also enables their family members to lift amount of foodgrains on the same ration card at their native/ any place from the FPS of their choice. Since its inception in August 2019, about 71 Crore

portable transactions (43.6 crore NFSA and 27.8 crore PM-GKAY transactions) have taken place under ONORC, delivering food grains equivalent to about Rs. 40,000 Crore in food subsidy through portability. About 64 Crore portable transactions have been recorded during COVID-19 period itself (from April 2020 till date) delivering food grains equivalent to about Rs. 36,000 Crore in food subsidy through portability. Out of these 64 crore portable transactions, 27.8 crore portability transactions were recorded under PMGKAY (Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana), which was announced in March 2020 for distribution of additional free-of-cost foodgrains (Rice/Wheat) to NFSA beneficiaries to mitigate the Covid induced hardships. Additionally, as a key indicator, presently a monthly average of about 3 Crore portable transactions are being recorded, delivering the subsidized NFSA and free PMGKAY food grains with anywhere flexibility to the beneficiaries. Another dimension under the ONORC plan is the 'MERA RATION' mobile application which has been rolled out to take maximum advantage of the ONORC plan. The mobile app is providing a host of useful real time information to the beneficiaries and is available in 13 languages. So far, the App has been downloaded more than 20 Lakh times from Google play store.

Book Your Ads in **The Assam Rising**

- Text Classified Ad
- Classified Display Ad
- Display Ad

**Special Offer!**

www.dainandinbartagroup.in  
assamrising@gmail.com  
94010-33823

## THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 126 THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022

## Maharashtra political crisis

Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, whose party Shiv Sena has blamed the BJP for the rebellion but said the government won't fall, held an emergency meeting over the issue. Alliance partners, the NCP and the Congress, have also spoken similar words of confidence. While Shinde's action may seem surprising, watchers of Maharashtra's politics are not that surprised. The fact is that the ruling coalition, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), has always looked vulnerable to such crises. There are few states in India where scenarios of a government falling have never quite been off the table. So much so that if a statement of Sena leader Sanjay Raut came on the news feed, chances were high that he would have talked about attempts being made to topple the MVA government. A political crisis in the Indian state of Maharashtra occurred after the 2019 legislative assembly election over the formation of a new state government. With no political party able to prove their majority in the legislative assembly, president's rule was imposed in the state following a recommendation by the Governor of Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshyari. The President's rule was later revoked and the Bharatiya Janata Party, led by former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, formed a government with the help of a small faction of the Nationalist Congress Party, led by Ajit Pawar. After three days, Fadnavis and Pawar resigned. A new government was formed by the Maha Vikas Aghadi, a new alliance of Shiv Sena, the Indian National Congress, and the Nationalist Congress Party, under Uddhav Thackeray. A group of rebel Maharashtra MLAs, led by dissident Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde, arrived in Guwahati on Wednesday morning and were taken to a luxury hotel on the outskirts of the city amid tight security. The MLAs were received at the airport by BJP MPs Pallab Lochan Das and Sushanta Borgohain Shinde, who initially refused to talk to mediapersons waiting outside the airport. Shinde claims the support of 40 MLAs -- 33 Shiv Sena and seven independents, while the picture shared by the Shinde camp has only 35 MLAs. The political crisis in the state began a day after the MLC elections when some MVA MLAs cross-voted in the favour of BJP. The MLAs arrived in Guwahati from Surat and were taken to the hotel in three buses of the Assam State Transport Corporation. Tight security has been imposed with a huge posse of police personnel posted in and around the hotel. The MLAs were taken to Surat from Mumbai on Tuesday and the decision to shift them to Guwahati was taken on security grounds, according to a BJP source. The Shiv Sena, which heads the MVA government, has 55 MLAs, followed by allies NCP (53) and the Congress (44) in the 288-member Maharashtra assembly where the current simple majority mark is 144.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

Are you against of violence or corruption? Do you really want revolution in the social, educational, political or economic 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

## Draupadi Murmu : A Nari Shakti in Rashtrapati Bhawan

History is going to be created in India when the first tribal women will be its next highest constitutional head. The contest between Draupadi Murmu of the Ruling Alliance and Yashwanth Sinha of Opposition parties for the highest post of President of India is final. But the arithmetic of the electoral college confirms that the contest will be one-sided and it is just a formality. It would have been better if all the political parties had a consensus on a common candidate for the constitutional post. Presently, the government as well as society are working for the empowerment and equality of women through many ambitious programmes. The women serving at various positions are role models for girls, who are dreaming of a prosperous future. The elevation of Draupadi Murmu to the top post of the country, having the second largest population in the world,

will prove to be a catalyst for social change. Undoubtedly, her election as President will be a milestone in Indian history. Draupadi Murmu has travelled her political career from zero to hero. Her family, belonging to the Santhal tribe, struggled with poverty. Born on 20th June, 1958 in the remotest Uparbeda village of Mayurbhanj district of Odisha, Draupadi completed her graduation from Ramadevi Women's College, Bhubaneswar. She started her social life as an honorary assistant professor at Sri Aurobindo Integral Education & Research Centre, Rairangpur. Then she served as a junior assistant in Irrigation and Power department in Odisha Government since 1979 to 1983. Draupadi started her political journey in 1997 as a councillor and vice-chairman of Rairangpur Nagar Panchayat. In the same year she was appointed as the

Vice-President of Odisha BJP Schedule Tribes Morcha. She was elected MLA in 2004 and served as state minister in the Commerce & Transport department and subsequently Fisheries & Animal Resource in the BJD-BJP coalition government under the Chief Ministership of Naveen Patnaik. For her outstanding contribution, she was honoured with Neelkantha Award for being best MLA by the Odisha Vidhan Sabha in the year 2007. She was again elected from the same constituency in 2009. In 2015, she was sworn in as the first woman governor of Jharkhand and completed her full term. As a governor she proved herself as a compassionate and balanced administrator who was accessible for the cause of the downtrodden and marginalised community. Draupadi Murmu is not a very high profile

personality. She rose through political ranks battling negligence, poverty and personnel tragedies. She faced many ups and downs in her personal life and lost her husband and both sons in a tragedy; but having great zeal to serve the nation and the society, she did not stop her marching step. In fact, Draupadi's name was also doing the rounds for the BJP's likely choice for the topmost post in 2017; but then Ram Nath Kovind, the Governor of Bihar, was finally chosen. There may be several political and other factors regarding her selection by the BJP for the top post, but for the people she represents the Nari Shakti to prop up the message "Yatra Naryastu Pujayante, Ramante Tatra Devta." Now our Country is ready to welcome its 15th President of the world's largest democracy. For the first time, a Moolwasi Tribal of the country will occupy the Rashtrapati Bhawan at Raisina Hills, which epitomises India's strength, its democratic traditions and nationalist character.

For me, the most inspiring story of our nation is the way our government pushed the start-up culture strongly, every policy and governance initiative have a huge in-built innovation factor. I deeply missed this culture when I returned to India way back in 1996, with a dream to build a self-reliant vaccine business with several roadblocks, we were a startup then. The most notable difference I have observed in recent times is the NITI Aayog comprehensive national strategy for new India, which took a unique approach to inclusivity. There was a paradigm shift in the policy climate, with private investors and other stakeholders being encouraged and helped to achieve its goals, and to propel India to a USD 5 trillion GDP by 2030. Besides developing scientific and technological capabilities, our nation had the foresight to redefine the roles of CSIR laboratories, Indian Institute of Technologies (IITs), the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), a host of universities, and scientific institutions, which laid the foundation for the nation to accomplish many first in the advancement of science and technology. India has produced more unicorns in the last 8 years than any other country, and stands second in the world after the United States for the largest number of start-ups being created. When the Prime Minister of the Nation announced that 44 of our 100 unicorns were formed in 2021, and 14 more unicorns were formed in quick succession in the same year this year, it was a source of pride for every Indian, and for me as a first-generation start-up entrepreneur, this demonstrated our nation's strength to remain strong and sustainable even during the global pandemic, as start-ups created wealth and value for the country. This amazing boom in the entrepreneurial ecosystem shows that India can inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs, and the government has done an outstanding effort of encouraging it year after year through strategic implementation of an ecosystem and fundamentals that would support Indian start-ups and businesses to remain globally competitive, while allowing the dreams of an aspiring, confident and young India to take flight. The government's implementation of the Start-Up India programme, which offers tax benefits and creates a fund of funds, the Invest India programme, and NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) to help start-ups develop and prosper, has been a major contributor to the rise of start-ups. Atal Innovation Mission, a flagship initiative to create and



promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in our country, and giving that extra push to women entrepreneurs, a new ecosystem was exemplary. India continues to play a growing role in global drug security and strengthen its position as the world pharmacy, thanks to a low-cost qualified work force and a well-established manufacturing base. Our country has also become a leading source of ground-breaking innovation, particularly when it comes to giving affordable life-saving vaccinations and medication to the most underserved populations around the world who need them the most. What began as a startup journey, Bharat Biotech is today a testament of how a startup grew to provide timely solutions to global problems. Bharat Biotech's own efforts are a demonstration on how innovation aimed at key healthcare challenges not only saved countless lives but also demonstrated India's indigenous vaccine development capabilities. In the global race to find solutions to contain and provide succour against SARS-CoV-2, India became the 3rd country in the world after the United States and United Kingdom to take it from clone to vial, and conducted all the clinical trials including forefficiency. The world's 1st Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine, vaccines against Rotavirus, etc., and major pipeline innovations for vaccines against Zika virus, Chikungunya virus, Non-Typhoidal Salmonella, a key healthcare challenge in Africa, etc., are standing examples of India leading innovation for global problems. Push to Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for the promotion of domestic manufacturing of Key Starting Materials (KSMs)/Drug Intermediates (DIs) and Active pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) in India was one of the ground-breaking initiatives. As an entrepreneur and scientist, the visit of our Prime Minister to the Bharat Biotech production site was a defining moment for me. It reaffirmed the trust and commitment of the Government of India to the country and the world, while also further strengthening our commitment and invigorating the scientists and employees to meet the extraordinary challenge. It is a proud moment to be able to meet 97 percent of the country

vaccination needs for the COVID-19 vaccine from our homegrown companies. This achievement would not have been attainable without the assistance of our government during the Pandemic - A series of policy changes, quick approvals, and, most crucially, Government officials working around the clock was a game-changer, and it was a welcome development for any entrepreneur like me. Digitization & Inclusivity - A pathbreaker Another important aspect of India's quick growth was the country's strong drive for digitalization and the digital economy, which included the introduction of the most disruptive digital payment mechanism, UPI. UPI is, without a doubt, one of the most impressive fintech breakthroughs the world has seen in recent years. It boosted e-commerce and made it easier for solopreneurs, small businesses, and medium-sized businesses to contribute to and participate in economic growth. Internet penetration in rural areas was another significant feature of New India. The CoWIN app, which was established during the Pandemic and connected over 100 crore citizens and their data, is perhaps the most incredible example for a country in the world with a digitised population of over 85 percent. This has aided the nation's pandemic preparedness. The

**Dr. Krishna Ella**

application and database are unlike any other solution deployed at scale anywhere around the world. The unique scientific data and insights should be leveraged for progress of research, and to create templates for managing future healthcare challenges and initiatives. With the data from CoWIN, the government can now easily combat a future pandemic or even track any outbreak of infection in a single location. The application has also made it easier to track, trace, and cure infections using epidemiology data. Public-Private Partnership For the nation to grow, Public-Private Partnership plays a tremendous role. It is a model to follow to succeed in the future in every field, especially in science, defence, medicine, and research. The success of Rotavac, Typhoid, and COVAXIN is a brilliant example of how the PPP model can create an impact. India's achievement with public-private partnerships is also a success story. With its Vaccine Development capabilities, the country has provided the globe with Rotavirus Vaccine, Typhoid Conjugate Vaccine, and the universal, world-class, affordable Covid-19 vaccine, COVAXIN. The government's most notable endeavour has been the development of the Innovation Cell and the appointment of a Chief Innovation Officer to boost innovation and the entrepreneurial ecosystem within our educational institutions. Today, academic institutions and Universities have their own Incubation Centres and are free to partner and collaborate with Government and Industry. COVAXIN, the result of a partnership between Bharat Biotech and ICMR-NIV during the pandemic clearly spells out what can be accomplished. India needs to further strengthen academic-industry collaboration, enable Indian universities to incubate more start-ups, and increase the confidence of venture capital firms to participate in high-risk science enterprises. Moreover, SBIRA - BIRAC Grants and Niti

Ayog aid to further foster scientific advancement and vaccine development will pave the way for greater participation of entrepreneurship in the sector. This initiative helped create incubators across many Universities in India to tap young India to Innovate, backed by new programs and policies for fostering innovation in different sectors effectively. For a nation to succeed, the biggest motivator is a unifying spirit between people and its leaders. The goal of a great nation would be to ensure adequate access to clean energy and safe water, where the best health care is available to all, where the governance is responsive, transparent and entrepreneurship is nurtured, and where poverty and illiteracy have been eradicated - a healthful nation that is one of the best places to live in. Thanks to various initiatives of the Government, start-ups, enterprises, risk capital funds, and enabling environment for freedom and ease of doing business, India has succeeded in witnessing increased disruption in the healthcare sector, where start-ups registered breakthrough innovations in products and services. These are all set to help the country further enhance the quality and reach of healthcare products and services to a larger section of the population not just within India but extend those benefits to nations across the globe to contribute to the wellbeing of the global population. I am sure India will witness an increased number of scalable enterprises from the now thriving start-ups in the years to come, enabling enterprises to further disrupt the medical and healthcare, science and technology fields to make healthcare much more affordable and reachable to masses across the globe.

India has made great moves in its public health programs, which have been lauded by developed nations, and leaders across the globe. We have set the foundation for our nation to be even greater.

(Dr. Krishna Ella is the Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Biotech)

## What the Chinese govt, media told people on two years of Galwan

Xi extends support for Moscow's sovereignty and security' in a phone call with Putin. China launches its third aircraft carrier 'Fujian'. Astronomers refute the claim that Chinese scientists are finding alien signals. India and China talk at the BRICS NSAs meeting. Chinascope brings you the major news stories of the past week from China - and the world. The silent communication lines between Beijing and Moscow were disrupted this week with a birthday greeting and reaffirming of support for each other. President Xi Jinping spoke

to President Vladimir Putin over the phone on the former's birthday on 15 June. Xi's birthdate is a well-kept secret - neither Xi nor the Chinese State media have acknowledged the date - and the Chinese President is always vague about his early years. The press statements of the call between the two leaders didn't mention Xi's birthday. The call was the second contact between Xi and Putin since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. "Xi Jinping pointed out that since the beginning of this year, in the face of global turmoil and changes, China-Russia relations have maintained a good momentum of development. The economic and trade cooperation between the two countries has been advancing steadily, and the Heihe-Blagoveshchensk highway bridge has been opened to traffic, opening a new channel for connectivity between the two countries," said the readout of the call published by Xinhua. The phone call between Xi and Putin wasn't the only point of contact between the two sides. On Friday, Xi attended the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum via video link. "It is important that we strengthen 'soft connectivity' of development policies and international rules and standards, reject attempts at decoupling, supply disruption, unilateral sanctions and maximum pressure, remove trade barriers, keep global industrial and supply chains stable, tackle the worsening food and energy crises, and revive the world economy," said Xi during his address to

the forum. The forum was attended by Russian President Vladimir Putin, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart K. Tokayev. Xi's latest contact with Putin - and the address at the St. Petersburg Forum - is fresh evidence of Beijing's indirect assistance of Russia's invasion of Ukraine by extending support for Moscow's "sovereignty and security". After a series of delays, China has launched its third aircraft carrier named Fujian with the hull number '18'. The carrier was launched at China Shipbuilding Corporation's Jiangnan Shipyard. "Xu Qiliang awarded the naming certificate to the chief officer of the receiving unit, and jointly cut the ribbon for launching our country's third aircraft carrier with military and local leaders," reported Xinhua. The launch of the carrier created a splash on social media trends as well. The hashtag "we have three aircraft carriers" was the number one trend on Baidu. As Chinascope has told you in the past, the aircraft carrier will be tested over the next two years before it will be deployed in a combat-like scenario. The June 15 anniversary of the Galwan clash was remembered in India through social media posts and op-eds. In China, the State media and government departments reminded the public about their version of the clash on a frigid night in Galwan two years ago. Chinese military channel CCTV-7 published a short clip from a documentary titled Motherland Engraved, which was released in February. The clip shows Chen Xiangrong, one of four who died on the night of the clash, while his colleagues express their regret at "not taking more photos of Chen Xiangrong". The video was posted by CCTV's Military Channel on Weibo and was viewed over 4.64 million times. But that wasn't the only way China remembers its Galwan soldiers. A ceremony titled 'Learning the Heroes of Defending the Country and Guarding the Frontiers and Carrying forward the Karakoram Spirit' was held in Yancheng District, Luohe City, Henan Province.

**AADIL BRAR**

## Indian Monsoon



**M**onsoon, the most prominent of the world's monsoon systems, which primarily affects India and its surrounding water bodies. It blows from the northeast during cooler months and reverses direction to blow from the southwest during the warmest months of the year. This process brings large amounts of rainfall to the region during June and July. At the Equator the area near India is unique in that dominant or frequent westerly winds occur at the surface almost constantly throughout the year; the surface easterlies reach only to latitudes near 20° N in February, and even then they have a very strong northerly component. They soon retreat northward, and drastic changes take place in the upper-air circulation (see climate: Jet streams). This is a time of transition between the end of one monsoon and the beginning of the next. Late in March the high-sun season reaches the Equator and moves farther north. With it go atmospheric instability, convectional (that is, rising and turbulent) clouds, and rain. The westerly subtropical jet stream still controls the flow of air across northern India, and the surface winds are northeasterlies. As the high-sun season (that is, the Northern Hemisphere summer) moves northward during April, India becomes particularly prone to rapid heating because the highlands to the north protect it from any incursions of cold air. There are three distinct areas of relative upper tropospheric warmth—namely, (1) above the southern Bay of Bengal, (2) above the Plateau of Tibet, and (3) across the trunks of the various peninsulas that are relatively dry during this time. These three areas combine to form a vast heat-source region. The relatively warm area above the southern Bay of Bengal occurs mostly at the 500-100-millibar level. (This atmospheric pressure region typically occurs at elevations between 5,500 and 16,100 metres [18,000 and 53,000 feet] but may vary according to changes in heating and cooling.) It does not appear at a lower level and is probably caused by the release of condensation heat (associated with the change from water vapour to liquid water) at the top of towering cumulonimbus clouds along the advancing intertropical convergence. In contrast, a heat sink appears over the southern Indian Ocean as the relatively cloud-free air cools by emitting long-wavelength radiation. Monsoon winds at the surface blow from heat sink to heat source. As a result, by May the southwest monsoon is well-established over Sri Lanka, an island off the southeastern tip of the Indian peninsula. Also in May, the dry surface of Tibet (above 4,000 metres [13,100 feet]) absorbs and radiates heat that is readily transmitted to the air immediately above. At about 6,000 metres (19,700 feet) an anticyclonic cell arises, causing a strong easterly flow in the upper troposphere above northern India. The subtropical jet stream suddenly changes its course to the north of the anticyclonic ridge and the highlands, though it may occasionally reappear southward of them for very brief periods. This change of the upper tropospheric circulation above northern India from westerly jet to easterly flow coincides with a reversal of the vertical temperature and pressure gradients between 600 and 300 millibars. On many occasions the easterly wind aloft assumes jet force. It anticipates by a few days the "burst," or onset, of the surface southwesterly monsoon some 1,500 km (900 miles) farther south, with a definite sequential relationship, although the exact cause is not known. Because of India's inverted triangular shape, the land is heated progressively as the sun moves northward. This accelerated spread of heating, combined with the general direction of heat being transported by winds, results in a greater initial monsoonal activity over the Arabian Sea (at late springtime), where a real frontal situation often occurs, than over the Bay of Bengal. The relative humidity of coastal districts in the Indian region rises above 70 percent, and some rain occurs. Above the heated land, the air below 1,500 metres (5,000 feet) becomes unstable, but it is held down by the overriding easterly flow. This does not prevent frequent thunderstorms from occurring in late May. A totally different development arises when the easterly jet moves farther north than usual. The monsoonal wind rising over the southern slopes of the Himalayas brings heavy rains and local floods. The weather over the central and southern districts, however, becomes suddenly drier and remains so for as long as the abnormal shift lasts. The opposite shift is also possible, with midlatitude upper air flowing along the south face of the Himalayas and bringing drought to the northern districts. Such dry spells are known as "breaks" of the monsoon. Those affecting the south of India are similar to those experienced on the Guinea Coast during extreme northward shifts of the wind belts (see West African monsoon), whereas those affecting the north are due to an interaction of the middle and low latitudes. The southwest monsoon over the lower Indus plain is only 500 metres (about 1,600 feet) thick and does not hold enough moisture to bring rain. On the other hand, the upper tropospheric easterlies become stronger and constitute a true easterly jet stream. Western Pakistan, Iran, and Arabia remain dry (probably because of the divergence in this jet) and thus become the new source of surface heat.

## Eagle belong to the family of Accipitridae

**E**agle, any of many large, heavy-beaked, big-footed birds of prey belonging to the family Accipitridae (order Accipitriformes). In general, an eagle is any bird of prey more powerful than a buzzard. An eagle may resemble a vulture in build and flight characteristics but has a fully feathered (often crested) head and strong feet equipped with great curved talons. A further difference is in foraging habits: eagles subsist mainly on live prey. They are too ponderous for effective aerial pursuit but try to surprise and overwhelm their prey on the ground. Like owls, many decapitate their kills. Because of their strength, eagles have been a symbol of war and imperial power since Babylonian times. Their likeness is found on Greek and Roman coins, medals, and medals. Eagles are monogamous. They mate for life and use the same nest each year. They tend to nest in inaccessible places, incubating a small clutch of eggs for six to eight weeks. The young mature slowly, reaching adult plumage in the third or fourth year. The harpy eagles, named after the foul, malign creatures (part woman and part bird) of Greek mythology, are large, powerful, crested eagles of the tropical forests of South America and

the South Pacific. They nest in the tops of the tallest trees and hunt macaws, monkeys, and sloths. The great harpy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*), which ranges from southern Mexico to Brazil, is about 1 metre (3.3 feet) long and bears a crest of dark feathers on its head. Its body is black above and white below except for a black chest band. It is becoming increasingly rare, particularly in Mexico and Central America. The New Guinea harpy eagle (*Harpypsopsis novaeguineae*) is about 75 cm (30 inches) long. It is gray-brown and has a long tail and a short but full crest. Very similar in appearance and habits is the Philippine eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*). It is about 90 cm (35 inches) long, brown above and white below, with a crest of long, narrow feathers. It is an endangered species. The harrier eagles, six species of *Circus* (subfamily *Circinae*, serpent eagles), of Europe, Asia, and Africa, are about 60 cm (24 inches) long and have short unfeathered legs. They nest in the tops of trees and hunt snakes. The hawk eagles (genera *Spizastur*, *Spizaetus*, *Lophaelix*, and *Hieraelix*, subfamily *Accipitrinae*) are lightly built eagles that have fully feathered legs and large beaks and feet.



They hunt all kinds of small animals. Members of the *Spizaetus* species—e.g., the ornate hawk eagle (*S. ornatus*) of tropical America—have short wide wings, long rounded tails, and ornamented heads. Bonelli's eagle (*Hieraelix fasciatus*), of Mediterranean areas and parts of southern Asia, is about 60 cm (24 inches) long, is dark above and light below, has a broad tailband, and usually shows a white patch on the back. The martial eagle (*Polemaetus bellicosus*) of Africa is heavily built, brown above with black throat and black-spotted white underparts. It has a short, barred tail and bright yellow eyes. It is large and strong enough to kill jackals and small antelopes,

but its usual food is chickenlike birds and hyraxes. The sea eagles (sometimes called fish, or fishing, eagles, *Haliaeetus* species) are very large eagles that live along rivers, big lakes, and tidewater throughout the world except South America. Some reach 1 metre (3.3 feet) long, with a wingspan nearly twice that. All have exceptionally large high-arched beaks and bare lower legs. The undersurfaces of the toes are roughened for grasping slippery prey. These birds eat much carrion but sometimes kill. They snatch fish from the water surface and often rob their chief competitor, the osprey. The largest sea eagle is Steller's sea eagle

(*H. pelagicus*), of Korea, Japan, and Russia's Far East (particularly the Kamchatka Peninsula). This bird has a wingspan surpassing 2 metres (6.6 feet) and can weigh up to 9 kg (20 pounds). The only sea eagle of North America is the bald eagle (*H. leucocephalus*), which is found across Canada and the United States and in northern Mexico. The white-bellied sea eagle (*H. leucogaster*), frequently seen on the coasts of Australia, ranges from New Guinea and Indonesia through Southeast Asia to India and China. A well-known African species is the African fish eagle (*H. vocifer*), found along lakes, rivers, and coastlines from south of the Sahara to the Cape of Good Hope.

## Importance of social forestry

**D**uring the advent of the social forestry strategy, various terms were used to represent it: not only 'social forestry' but also 'community forestry.' Originally, these terms were often considered as synonyms. Both terms were used to refer to any forestry policies and activities that closely involved local people in forest management and tree-growing, for which rural people assumed (part of) the management responsibility, and from which they derived a direct benefit. Gradually, however, the terms were differentiated on the basis of either normative commitments or management systems. In respect to normative commitments it has been suggested that the term social forestry should primarily be understood as a reaction to the conventional approaches to forestry, which were dominated by the ideology of forest conservation and production forestry under

state stewardship, which legitimized forest service control over forest lands and tree species. It was suggested that social forestry involves the development

community interests are to maintain forest resources as part of the local livelihood strategies. Community forestry can best be used in relation to such lo-

ties of rural communities. The two terms can logically be differentiated on the basis of whether the terms relate to policy development activities or forest manage-

sources and keeping the planet cool and habitable. This can be achieved successfully by sustainable food production with five key approaches viz. stop farmland expansion, close yield gap, strategic use of inputs, shift diets, and reduce food waste. Regulation of deforestation, promoting social forestry and ecotourism, can provide environmental benefits without affecting agricultural production or economic wellbeing. By adopting better management and improved genetics and by minimizing the yield gaps through improved use of existing crop varieties, current food production could be increased by nearly 60%. Water and nutrients management should be done in more intelligent ways. This will ensure that we can grow more food, but with less harm to the environment. Allied agricultural resources like animal husbandry, fishery, forestry, and apiculture should be explored to achieve global food security. Avoid growing animal feed or nonfood crops, biofuels on top croplands. Focusing human food production on croplands may enhance food supply nearly 50%. Cultivation of animal feed or biofuels production away from prime cropland boost food availability for human consumption. One-third of the food produced in farms go waste due to spoilage, discard, or taken by pests. By preventing the waste in the process from farm to mouth could make food available for consumption to another 50% population. Nanotechnology has the potential to play an important role for sustainable agriculture, livestock, poultry, and fish production. Global production of sufficient food does not ensure balanced food for all. There are many complex social issues like access to technology and distribution of food, purchasing power of the poor which are to be addressed.



of new forestry professionals who can work within a rural development context rather than a bureaucratic context. The motives of local people for being involved in forest management are not related to such considerations regarding the nature of professional activities. Rather, the com-

cal interests. Alternatively, it was also suggested that the term social forestry is often used in an implicitly narrower sense than community forestry. Social forestry would refer to activities that aim at the fulfillment of subsistence needs of the poor people, and thus refer predominantly to a basic welfare function of forests, whereas community forestry would refer to a more diversified set of activities, including more commercially oriented ones. In respect to management arrangements, it was suggested that the term social forestry could be defined as an umbrella term for various schemes aiming at forest and tree management on private and village lands aimed to produce local needs. Community forestry could be used as a broad term which includes indigenous forest management systems and government-initiated programs in which specific community forest users protect and manage state forests in some form of partnership with the government. Thus, the term social forestry has a strong policy connotation, and is mainly related to activities of professional foresters. In contrast, the term community forestry has a more descriptive connotation, and is mainly related to activi-

## Ozone Layer Depletion

**T**he ozone layer is mainly found in the lower portion of the earth's atmosphere. It has the potential to absorb around 97-99% of the harmful ultraviolet radiations coming from the sun that can damage life on earth. If the ozone layer was absent, millions of people would develop skin diseases and may have weakened immune systems. However, scientists have discovered a hole in the ozone layer over Antarctica. This has focused their concern on various environmental issues and steps to control them. The main reasons for the ozone hole are chlorofluorocarbons, carbon tetrachloride, methyl bromide and hydrochlorofluorocarbons. Let us have a detailed look at the various causes and effects of ozone layer depletion. Ozone layer depletion is the thinning of the ozone layer present in the upper atmosphere. This happens when the chlorine



and bromine atoms in the atmosphere come in contact with ozone and destroy the ozone molecules. One chlorine can destroy 100,000 molecules of ozone. It is destroyed more quickly than it is created. Some compounds release chlorine and bromine on exposure to high ultraviolet light, which then contributes to ozone layer depletion. Such compounds are known as Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS). The

ozone-depleting substances that contain chlorine include chlorofluorocarbon, carbon tetrachloride, hydrochlorofluorocarbons, and methyl chloroform. Whereas, the ozone-depleting substances that contain bromine are halons, methyl bromide, and hydro bromofluorocarbons. Chlorofluorocarbons are the most abundant ozone-depleting substance. It is only when the chlorine atom reacts with some other molecule, it does not react with ozone. Montreal Protocol was proposed in 1987 to stop the use, production and import of ozone-depleting substances and minimise their concentration in the atmosphere to protect the ozone layer of the earth. Ozone layer depletion is a major concern and is associated with a number of factors. The main causes responsible for the depletion of the ozone layer are listed as Chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs are the main cause of ozone layer depletion. These are released by solvents, spray aerosols, refrigerators, air-conditioners, etc. The molecules of chlorofluorocarbons in the stratosphere are broken down by ultraviolet radiations and release chlorine atoms. These atoms react with ozone and destroy it. Researches say that the unregulated launching of rockets results in much more depletion of the ozone layer than the CFCs do. If

not controlled, this might result in a huge loss of the ozone layer by the year 2050. The nitrogenous compounds such as NO<sub>2</sub>, NO, N<sub>2</sub>O are highly responsible for the depletion of the ozone layer. The ozone layer has been found to be depleted by certain natural processes such as Sun-spots and stratospheric winds. But it does not cause more than 1-2% of the ozone layer depletion. The volcanic eruptions are also responsible for the depletion of the ozone layer. The depletion of the ozone layer has harmful effects on the environment. Let us see the major effects of ozone layer depletion on man and environment. Humans will be directly exposed to the harmful ultraviolet radiation of the sun due to the depletion of the ozone layer.

## Contd. From Page 1

### Ready To Resign, Says Maharashtra

turmoil. The resolution by the breakaway faction alleged "enormous discontent" among the party cadres over alliance with ideologically opposed Congress and Sharad Pawar led NCP. Out the total of 55 MLAs that Shiv Sena has, 40 including six independent MLAs have lean towards Shinde. Sena's number in the assembly will come down to 15 if they resign. It may be noted that Shinde needs the support of at least 37 MLAs to protect them from anti-defection law. Meanwhile, Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray, who tested positive for Covid-19 earlier today, chaired a meeting with cabinet ministers through video conferencing.

### Maharashtra political crisis

MLAs led by Shiv Sena leader and Minister Eknath Shinde were escorted to a luxury hotel in Guwahati on Wednesday morning, the Congress and other Opposition parties slammed Mr. Sarma for "shameful indulgence" in the political crisis in another State when millions were caught in a rain-induced crisis in Assam. Mr. Shinde and the 39 others - most are Shiv Sena MLAs, a few are independents - flew in from Surat where they had been taken after alleged cross-voting saw the BJP win five of the 10 Maharashtra Legislative Council seats. The Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) had won two seats each and the Congress bagged one. The three are allies in the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA). "The Chief Minister of Assam should concentrate on his own job and provide adequate relief and rehabilitation to the flood-affected people in the State. He can do his politicking in happier times," Assam Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah said. The Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) criticised Mr. Sarma for hosting the Maharashtra MLAs possibly to topple the government there. "It is sad that Assam has been turned into the epicentre of dissension in Maharashtra in a show of insensitivity to 55 lakh flood-affected people in the State," the regional party said in a statement. "When Assam is reeling under destructive floods, the BJP State government is busy splitting the Shiv Sena. Maharashtra should take note of the BJP's commitment to Assam and give a befitting reply for attempting to destroy Marathi regionalism," AJP president Lurinjyoti Gogoi said. The AJP also criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for failing to find time to assess the flood-induced devastation in Assam. That Mr. Sarma had his pulse on the political development in Maharashtra became evident when he oversaw the arrangements for hosting Mr. Shinde and his team ahead of their flight from Surat late on Tuesday. The flight had 89 people on board, including the cabin crew. The BJP is believed to have given Mr. Sarma responsibilities beyond the northeast in view of his "experience" with crisis situations. He had managed to cobble up the numbers for the BJP to form a coalition government in Manipur, where the party had won 21 seats against the 28 of the Congress in the 60-member Assembly in 2017. In 2016, he played a key role in the defection of most MLAs of the ruling People's Party of Arunachal to the BJP, which has since been running the government with Pema Khandu at the helm. Two years later, he helped BJP be a partner in the National People's Party-led Meghalaya government. The Maharashtra MLAs were received by Assam BJP parliamentarian Pallab Lochan Das and party MLA Sushanta Borgohain. They were escorted to the hotel - made out of bounds for journalists - in three buses under the protection of the police led by an IPS officer. Mr. Das and Mr. Borgohain declined to speak on the reported meeting Mr. Shinde had with the MLAs inside the hotel. "I am not privy to any information," the latter said. Mr. Shinde spoke briefly to journalists after landing at the Lokpriya Gopinath Bardoloi Airport. "I don't want to criticise anybody. 40 MLAs are here and we want to carry forward Balasaheb's Hindutva," he said. Balasaheb Thackeray had formed the Shiv Sena in June 1966 to fight for the rights of the Maratha people.

### Maharashtra maha crisis: Shinde

in the Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC) polls. The MLA's remarks come amid speculations that he along with other MLAs might join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to topple the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. After arriving in Guwahati, Shinde said, "A total of 40 Shiv Sena MLAs are present here. We will carry Balasaheb Thackeray's Hindutva." Meanwhile, they were received at the Guwahati airport by BJP MLA Sushanta Borgohain and MP Pallab Lochan Das. Borgohain said, "I came to receive them. I have not counted how many MLAs have arrived. I came here for personal relations. They have not disclosed any program." It may be noted that the Shinde, addressing the media at Surat airport said that they have not left Balasaheb Thackeray's Shiv Sena. He said, "We have not left Balasaheb Thackeray's Shiv Sena and will not leave it. We have been following Balasaheb's Hindutva and will carry it further." Following the incident of cross-voting in the MLC elections, some MLAs and Eknath Shinde were "not reachable", confirmed party's MP Sanjay Raut. In an apparent dig at Shiv Sena for joining hands with the Congress and NCP, Shinde had tweeted, "We are Balasaheb's staunch Shiv Sainiks ... Balasaheb has taught us Hindutva. We have never and will never cheat for power regarding Balasaheb's thoughts and Dharmaveer Anand Dighe Saheb's teachings." In the meantime, the Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrakant Patil claimed that the state government is "technically in minority" with Shinde and other MLAs gone. He said, "BJP got support from independents and small political parties for Rajya Sabha and MLC elections. As per our information, Eknath Shinde and 35 MLAs have gone. This means technically state government is in minority but practically it will take some time for the government to be in minority." "It's too early to say anything, we are currently waiting and keeping an eye on the situation. So far, there has not been any proposal regarding government formation neither from the BJP nor from Eknath Shinde but anything can happen in politics at any time," the BJP leader added.

### Assam floods : Toll from rises to 89

said the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) in a bulletin. Three people drowned in Kamrup and one each in Darrang, Karimganj, Tamulpur, and Udalguri. One person was reported missing from Kamrup. The floods have affected over 5.5 million including 1.25 million in Barpeta alone, followed by Dhubri (594,708), Darrang (547,421), Nagaon (457,381), and Kamrup (420,214), making them the five worst-affected districts. The government is operating 1,687 relief camps in 27 districts. Barpeta alone has over 88,000 people living in relief camps. The bulletin said nearly 60,000 domestic animals have been washed away by floods. Around 2600 houses have been fully or partially damaged. On Tuesday, 3,652 marooned people were rescued across 11 affected districts. Landslides were also reported from Hailakandi, Guwahati, and Patherkandi. Seven more persons have died due to the floods in Assam on Tuesday. With this, the current death toll in the state due to floods and landslides has spiked to 88. According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), over 55.42 lakh people from 5,577 villages in 32 districts and 121 revenue circles have been affected by the current wave of floods. Over 1.08 lakh hectares of cropland has been destroyed. The Brahmaputra and Kopili Rivers are flowing above the danger level. Over 2.62 lakh victims are taking shelter in 1,687 relief camps across the state. More than 11,000 people were evacuated by agencies in the past 24 hours. Those who have not been shifted to flood shelters were provided relief materials through 615 temporary distribution centres and points that the state government has opened. The authorities rushed the personnel of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to Silchar to conduct rescue operations due to the worsening situation. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) would visit the flood-affected areas of Assam and Meghalaya to assess the damages. After the first wave of the floods, an IMCT had visited the affected areas of Assam from May 26-29. The Assam Government on Tuesday issued new guidelines for the management of the existing as well as post-flood situation in the state.

### Afghanistan Quake Kills more

within its capabilities," tweeted Anas Haqqani, a senior Taliban official. "We hope that the International Community & aid agencies will also help our people in this dire situation." The United Nations and European Union were quick to offer assistance. "Inter-agency assessment teams have already been deployed to a number of affected areas," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) in Afghanistan tweeted. Tomas Niklasson, EU special envoy for Afghanistan, tweeted: "The EU is monitoring the situation and stands ready to coordinate and provide EU emergency assistance to people and communities affected." Afghanistan is frequently hit by earthquakes -- especially in the Hindu Kush mountain range, which lies near the junction of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates. Scores of people were killed and injured in January when two quakes struck rural areas in the western province of Badghis, damaging hundreds of buildings. In 2015, more than 380 people were killed in Pakistan and Afghanistan when a 7.5-magnitude earthquake ripped across the two countries, with the bulk of the deaths in Pakistan. From the Vatican City, Pope Francis offered prayers for the victims of the latest quake. "I express my closeness with the injured and those who were affected," the 85-year-old pontiff said at the end of his weekly audience. Aid agencies and the United Nations say Afghanistan needs billions of dollars this year to tackle its ongoing humanitarian crisis. Aid agencies have particularly stressed the need for greater disaster preparedness in Afghanistan, which remains extremely susceptible to recurring earthquakes, floods and landslides. The quake was felt as far away as Lahore in Pakistan, 480 kilometres (300 miles) from the epicentre, according to responses posted on the USGS and European Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) websites.

### Ambubachi started, Goddess

Temple. The Ambubachi festival is celebrated during monsoon in the belief of Goddess Kamakhya going through her annual cycle of menstruation at this time. The temple is closed for three days beginning from the seventh day of the "Ashadh" month of the Hindu calendar until the tenth day as part of traditional seclusion during menstruation. On the twelfth day, the doors are opened ceremonially and a big fair is held at the temple. It is believed that the fertility brought in by the Goddess will bless the devotees and nurture them. Kamrup (Metro) deputy commissioner Pallav Gopal Jha said the district administration has set up three camps - at Kamakhya railway station, old jail campus at Fancy Bazar and near Pandu port for the devotees. He said around 5,000 devotees have already entered the camps at Kamakhya railway station and old jail campus. Vehicular movement from the Kamakhya gate to the temple has been banned during the mela. The deputy commissioner said there will be no car pass for even VIPs or VVIPs. The district administration will provide at least 25 vehicles to ferry the officials, VIPs or VVIPs from the foothills to the temple. Meanwhile, at least 800 CCTV cameras, 300 by the temple authorities and 500 by city police, have been installed for surveillance. The DC said an adequate number of police forces will be deployed in the temple and on the road from the foothills to the temple to ensure safety and security.

### Puducherry Congress says

Odisha to serve as Jharkhand Gov. 2 time MLA, someone who worked her way up being insulted!" tweeted BJP's national spokesperson, Shehzad Poonawalla. "BJP want a dummy as President and at the same time they want to cheat SC/ST," the quote-tweet, posted at 11:37am on Wednesday, a day after Murmu's candidature was announced, read. Murmu, 64, is from Odisha, and, if victorious in the July 18 elections, will be the first tribal woman, and the second female, after Pratibha Patil, to reach the country's highest constitutional office. A former governor of Jharkhand, the former BJP leader was the first woman to hold that post, and the first to complete a full five-year-term as the state's constitutional head.

### Shiv Sena MLA Nitin Deshmukh

had filed a missing persons complaint at a police station in Akola in Maharashtra saying she suspected a threat to his life. Deshmukh was reportedly admitted to a hospital in Surat on Tuesday after allegedly being taken ill. Deshmukh represents the Balapur Assembly constituency in Maharashtra.

### CM Dr Sarma arrives

with the inmates and took stock in detail about sufficient supplies of food, sanitary facilities, medicine, mosquito nets, clothes and other from the inmates of the camps. He however assured them that the district administration would take measures to mitigate their hardship in the relief camps and also would ensure more food and other facilities in the relief camps. Meanwhile he said the government will proceed with all measures to solve the flood problem in the greater areas of Kamrup and Raha. Thereafter, CM Dr Sarma along with his convoys went to Kamrup Pasonijar Madhupur areas by boat and reviewed the flood scene in the entire area.

### CM Dr. Sarma lays Foundation

positive impact on Assam's economy. In days to come, I would like to see it (OIL) playing a larger role in the growth story of Assam that is being witnessed of late." "OIL has made immense contributions towards socio-economic development in the state. Be it providing direct or indirect livelihood, or awarding royalty, or coming forward with corporate social responsibility-related activities, the role of Oil India is immense," Dr. Sarma added. Lauding Oil India Limited for coming up with the Skill Development Institute at the upcoming structure, Dr. Sarma stated: "The Skill Development Institute, when it starts operating, would play a great role in human resource development involving the state's youths. It would also go a long way in realising Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's dream of a skilled India and an Atmanirbhar Bharat." The Chief Minister, during his speech, praised the role of Oil India Limited Chairman & Managing Director Sushil Chandra Mishra for his handling of the Baghjan oil-field fire incident. "CMD Sushil Chandra Mishra deserves special mention for the leadership skills he displayed during the Baghjan incident. Credit goes to him for controlling the situation with minimal losses to the people as well as the organization," the Chief Minister stated. Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli, OIL Director (Finance) Harish Madhav, Director (Operations) Pankaj Kumar Goswami, Director (Exploration) Manash Kumar Sarma were also present on the occasion.

## Dist. admin speaks on flood relief

Assam Rising, Amingaon, June 22: Kamrup district is also badly affected by recent floods like other parts of the state. Many villages under Hajo, North Guwahati, Rangia, Kamalpur, Kayan, Palashbari, Chaygaon, Goroimari revenue circle were affected by the recent flood. The District Administration has been trying its best to serve the flood affected people and relief and rescue operations have been accelerated. Meanwhile many people, organisations, NGOs are also offering support to flood affected people of the District by distributing relief materials. District Administration has appealed to such people, organisations etc. to route their relief mission through District Administration or concerned area's Circle officer so that no genuine flood affected area and people are deprived from getting such relief. District Administration and concerned COs will ensure a possible help in this aspect - a release added.

### Police raid against Arunachali liquor

Assam Rising, Biswanth Chariali, June 22: Based on intelligence inputs, a team of Behali O/c and Behali police raided Ragchali village on Wednesday last and seized a large quantity of illegal Arunachali liquor. Among the seized liquor Whisky 9 Star - 682 bottles, Red Star Beer - 216 bottles, Imperial Blue 48 bottles.



### Animal Husbandry Safety & Care Centre opening ceremony deferred

Assam Rising, Gossaigaon, June 22:

In a press meet held at Gossaigaon Circuit House M.M Hanif Laskar, Chairman DG India officially deferred the inaugural ceremony of Project on Animal Husbandry Safety and Care Centre due to deterioration of atmosphere caused by incessant rain and prohibitory order imposed by District Magistrate Kokrajhar with a set of guidelines. The Chairman of DG India M.M Hanif Laskar informed that the Animal Husbandry Safety and Care Centre will be inaugurated officially once the situation becomes normal. It is to be noted that under the bold initiative of DG India a noble task was initiated for the protection and rearing of animal husbandry at Simultapu in Kokrajhar District where cattle, buffaloes entering Assam can be taken care of.



### Assam Nagarik Mancha forwards memorandum to Governor

Assam Rising, Hojai, June 22: Assam Nagarik Mancha forwarded a memorandum to the Governor of Assam as well as the Chancellor of Rabindranath Tagore University in Hojai. Through the memorandum, ANM has requested that Rabindra Sangeet be the theme song of Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai in Assamese language with "Rabindrik" tune. In the memorandum, they have mentioned headline of the song is "Biswa Bidya Tirtha Prangana koro". Informing this Correspondent about the memorandum Bijoy Chakraborty, General Secretary, Assam Nagarik Mancha said, "Rabindra Sangeet is the best choice for the Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai." "We feel proud of it with the hope that surrounding atmosphere will be charming in the campus when such a song will be chorous in Assamese with "Rabindrik" tune," he added. He said We have been astonished with motivated news published in a newspaper recently. That regarded news crashed our heart, the motive of the news was not at all good. In the memorandum they further mentioned, some teachers and staff of the university are opposing Rabindra Sangeet as theme song for the Rabindranath Tagore University, Hojai with a pimping attitude which is condemnable. No cosmo-minded conscious people will stand on the such track where narrow minded fellows are on spot light. We condemn it. Simultaneously, we appreciate the attitude of Assam Sahitya Sabha, Hojai Unit as they want the said song as theme song / anthem in Assamese for R.N.T.U. They further mentioned that probably, such narrow minded fellows are not at all aware about the contribution of Gurudev Biswa Kabi Rabindra Nath Thakur in this human planet. Biswa Kabi Rabindra Nath Thakur is the first Non European fellow who was honored with world's most prestigious NOBLE PRIZE. His composed song is not only in Indian National Anthem but also in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka it is in Srilankan language with Rabindrik Tune. Through this memorandum they have appealed such persons who are on the mood to spray poisonous gas to bury the hatchet peace and tranquility process should cork screw themselves from hair breadth mentality for the sake of civilized society and come to the peace and brotherhood track which was architected by Biswa Kabi Rabindra Nath Thakur in Assam as well as world. Assam Nagarik Mancha also urged the Excellency to interfere in this regard and hope the honour of Biswa Kabi Rabindra Nath Thakur will be kept properly in such a university where his name is used.

### Suklabaidya reviews flood situation of Cachar & Karimganj

Assam Rising, Silchar June 22: Minister for Transport, Fisheries and Excise, Parimal Suklabaidya on Tuesday last reviewed the flood situation with the Cachar and Karimganj district administrations. During a flood review meeting with the deputy commissioner, local MLA and senior officials of the administration and concerned departments at the deputy commissioner's conference hall in Silchar, Suklabaidya directed that top priority must be accorded to relief and rescue operations and there should not be any dilly-dally in reaching out to those affected by the deluge. Suklabaidya directed the authorities to keep a sufficient number of country boats ready for moving marooned people to safer places. "Our top priorities at this hour are rescuing marooned people and providing relief materials to the affected," he said. The Minister directed Cachar deputy commissioner, Keerthi Jalli to chalk out a roadmap for strategic deployment of NDRF personnel in flood hit areas following the Central Government's assurance for immediate deployment of units from Bhubaneswar and Guwahati to flood affected Cachar district. Suklabaidya said that Chief Minister, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma has been closely monitoring the flood situation and in constant touch with the Central Government to deal with the situation. Later Suklabaidya, who is also the guardian minister of Karimganj district, visited flood affected areas under Badarpur and Katigorah revenue circles and reviewed the flood situation with Karimganj deputy commissioner, Mridul Kumar Yadav and circle officers of the respective revenue circles. He also inspected the relief work undertaken by the administration at the Abu Muhammad Abdun Nur Memorial Hall relief camp and inquired about the wellbeing of the inmates and asked about their needs. It may be mentioned that the Chief Minister, in the course of a virtual meeting with his ministers, senior state government officials and deputy commissioners on Monday, directed the guardian ministers and secretaries to camp at the district headquarters to oversee flood relief work.

### Awareness drive on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held at G.U.

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 22: An Awareness Campaign on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was organised in Gauhati University Campus on June 22 in connection with forthcoming International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking to be observed on June 26 next. Welcoming the guests and participants Dr. Ranjan Kr. Kakati, Director, Students' Welfare, G.U. & Programme Coordinator, GU NSS Cell said that Substance abuse and the illicit trafficking of drugs is an evil in our society and disorientation among a majority of the youth who are falling prey to it. Dr. Kakati said that, in view of the serious damage illegal drugs are causing to the society and destroying the future generation we need to create awareness against its use and trafficking, especially parents should talk with their children from an early age against use of drugs and its harmful effects. Inaugurating the programme Prof. Bibhash Choudhury, Dean, Faculty of Arts, G.U. said that Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is a growing problem and awareness must be created to eradicate drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Prof. Choudhury urged everyone and especially the young generation to stay away from drugs. Rakesh Chandra Shukla, Zonal Director, Narcotics Control Bureau, Guwahati Zonal Unit delivered the keynote address and said that Drug abuse once viewed largely as a social and criminal problem, has transformed in recent years into a major threat to the health and security of people especially the young generation. Around 100 participants comprising NSS volunteers, Programme Officers, University Law College students attended the programme.

# Todd Boehly the new Chelsea chairman as Marina Granovskaia exits in shakeup

London, June 22: Chelsea have revealed the make-up of their new board, with Todd Boehly taking over from Bruce Buck as chairman, and have confirmed Marina Granovskaia's departure. Granovskaia's exit underlines the change at Stamford Bridge since Roman Abramovich sold the club to a consortium fronted by Boehly and Clearlake Capital less than a month ago. The Russian-Canadian executive had in effect run Chelsea on Abramovich's behalf in recent years and was responsible for looking after transfers and player contracts. She is close with the head coach, Thomas Tuchel, and has a reputation as a tough negotiator with agents and clubs. Chelsea have said Granovskaia will continue



to offer assistance until the end of this transfer window. But her departure will heap more responsibility on Boehly, with the co-owner set to operate as the interim sporting director until a replacement is found. "We thank Marina for her many years of excellent service to the club and wish her all the best in her future ventures," Boehly said. There has been a noticeable shift in Chelsea's approach to transfers. They have not dug their heels in after

learning of Romelu Lukaku's desire to return to Internazionale. Boehly took charge of negotiations with Inter, who have agreed in principle to pay £7m plus

add-ons to sign Lukaku on loan, after deciding it would be counterproductive to deny the striker a move. Lukaku, who is taking a large pay cut to join Inter, struggled badly after joining Chelsea for £97.5m last summer. He struggled to fit into Thomas Tuchel's system and has openly pined for a return to Inter. Tuchel backed the departure and Boehly, a co-owner of the LA Dodgers, is keen to back the German. There was a desire to sort out the

Lukaku situation as swiftly as possible. It has not turned into a saga and the challenge now will be for Chelsea to strengthen their attack, with Manchester City's Raheem Sterling a prominent target, and move quickly in the transfer market. It will be interesting to see how much influence Petr Cech, the technical and performance adviser, has this summer. The former Chelsea goalkeeper worked closely with Granovskaia, and insiders have praised his intelligence and diligence.

# Women's football fans pleased with product in first in-depth survey

London, June 22: The first in-depth survey of fans of women's football in England has found widespread satisfaction with the product but criticism over the cost. The Football Supporters Association spoke with 2,156 fans of the game, three-quarters of whom had attended a women's football match over the previous season. It found that the enthusiasms and complaints of fans were



consistent with those in the men's game but with a few key differences. While supporters were not asked directly whether they enjoyed what they were watching, other indicators suggested they were happy: 72% of respondents said there was a vibrant fan culture at their club, while more than three-quarters (77%) said tickets were either good or very good value for money. Meanwhile, 89.5% of people agreed with the statement: "I feel safe attending women's football." In the list of complaints, however, there was a consistent message: 37% of respondents listed the cost of travel (and the distance required to travel to a match) as a problem, making it the most commonly-held issue among fans. There were also complaints over the price of merchandise, with only a third believing it to be good value for money,

while almost half (45.3%) said that the cost of watching women's football on TV had stopped them from tuning in. The cost of being a fan was not the only issue to overlap with concerns among supporters of the men's game - only 5.8% of those questioned strongly agreed that refereeing was of the required standard; 77.3% also said that TV had too much say in deciding kick-off times. It should also be noted that 52.2% of those surveyed were male. In terms of developing the game, however, two strong points of divergence emerged among fans. The first (held by 73%) was that pre-qualifying matches should be introduced at international level, perhaps inspired by recent drubbings handed out by the Lionesses. Secondly, 89.4% of supporters believe football should see greater financial redistribution from the men's to the women's game.

# Concussion rates in elite rugby hit highest levels since records began



London, June 22: Concussion rates in elite English rugby have hit their highest levels since records began, according to the latest injury

audit with the Rugby Football Union rolling out its "smart" mouth guard programme in an effort to combat the rise. The audit of the 2020-21 season, published on Tuesday by the RFU in conjunction with Premiership Rugby and the Rugby Players' Association, showed that for the 10th season running concussion was the most reported injury, accounting for 28% of injuries. The 2020-21 season had the highest incidence of concussion since records started in 2002 with 22.2 concussions per 1,000 hours of playing time. In total there were 131 concussions sustained in matches - resulting in an average of 17 days on the sidelines - and 17 sustained in training. "It should be noted that the 2020-21 season saw an increase in the incidence of match concussion despite observing a decrease in the incidence of all injuries," the report states. An audit into the women's game showed that concussion was the most commonly reported injury, making up 26% of all match injuries. Again, measured against 1,000 hours, the rate was 12.6, more than double the previous season - a rise put down in part to more consistent reporting and identification of concussion. The alarming findings came on the same day that World Rugby confirmed its decision to extend the minimum stand-down period for most concussed elite-level players to 12 days from 1 July. The men's audit also showed that 48% of all match injuries were linked to the tackle - 27% for being tackled, 21% for tackling. Upon announcing its findings, the RFU revealed that the "smart" mouth guards will be offered to all players in the Premiership, Premier 15s as well as England representatives next season. The gumshields have previously been used by a handful of Premiership clubs, Bristol's women's side as well as the England women's side but all will be offered the chance to use them as part of the RFU's roll-out.

Paris, June 22: Paris police were aggressive, provocative and prejudiced against Liverpool supporters from the moment they arrived for the Champions League final in Paris last month, a French parliamentary commission was told on Tuesday. Addressing the hearing into events in the French capital on 28 May, Liverpool fans' representatives described the terror of being attacked by police with teargas and pepper spray on one hand and gangs of local muggers and pickpockets on the other at the Stade de France before and after their match against Real Madrid. Children as young as six were "distressed and traumatised" and feared for their lives, the cross-party committee of senators was told. The country's interior minister, Gerald Darmanin, was accused of lying when he blamed English fans for the chaos and violence outside the match, with Ted Morris, secretary of the Liverpool Disabled Supporters Association, who was at the match in a wheelchair, calling for

Darmanin to apologise and resign. Giving evidence, Morris said Liverpool fans were subject to "shocking treatment" and that it was the fans and not police who had prevented a "major catastrophe". "The authorities should be ashamed," Morris said. "They [fans] were treated like animals. They were treated with so much contempt." Morris, who relayed a series of stories from terrified fans present in Paris, said the unjust accusations against Liverpool supporters were especially injurious as they had opened wounds from



the 1989 Hillsborough tragedy. "Mr Darmanin lied and has made our pain and trauma worse. I ask him to have the decency to withdraw his comments and to resign. We have known lies for 33 years. To establish the truth today is extremely important for us. Much more important than you can imagine." Joe Blott, chairman of the Liverpool supporters' union Spirit of Shankly, said Liverpool fans had shown exemplary behaviour throughout their team's run to the final but when they came to Paris they were faced with "aggressive" riot police who

were provocative and unjustly prejudiced against them from the start. He said police had treated the Liverpool fans as if they "were all hooligans". Blott said: "Ninety-seven people were killed at Hillsborough because of a failure of the authorities, namely the police. That is the truth and to hear the French authorities repeat the same kind of lies 33 years later in 2022, that fans were late and had fake tickets and were drunk, causes extreme pain and misery among English fans. It is heartbreaking for Liverpool fans around the world."

# Four-time Super Bowl champion Rob Gronkowski retires from NFL for second time

London, June 22: Five-time Pro Bowl tight end Rob Gronkowski has retired for a second time, ending - for now - a career that has seen him win four Super

Bowls. The 33-year-old posted his decision on Tuesday in a lengthy Twitter post. "I will now be going back to my retirement home, walking away from football

again with my head held high knowing I gave it everything I had, good or bad, every time I stepped on the field," Gronkowski posted. "From retirement, back to football and winning another championship and now back to chilling out, thank you to all." "It would not surprise me if Tom Brady calls him during the season to come back and Rob answers the call," Rosenhaus told ESPN after the news broke. "This is just

my opinion but I wouldn't be surprised if Rob comes back during the season or next season." Gronkowski first retired in 2019 after nine seasons and three Super Bowl championships with the New England Patriots. He was lured back into the game by the appeal of playing again with Brady when the legendary Patriots quarterback joined the Buccaneers before the 2020 season.

# Baroness Campbell admits England could be playing at bigger venues at Euro 2022



London, June 22: Baroness Sue Campbell has conceded the Football Association could have chosen bigger venues for England's Euro 2022 campaign, after the hosts' three group matches were sold out by 20 April. "That might be a learning we'd have to look at," the FA's head of women's football said, when asked if England should be

playing at Wembley or stadiums closer to that capacity. "I don't want to sit here and say 'we think we've done it all right', because we can always learn from these things, but equally we also want a geographic spread," she said. "Yes, we could have done it differently I guess but I think the most important thing for us is three full stadiums for

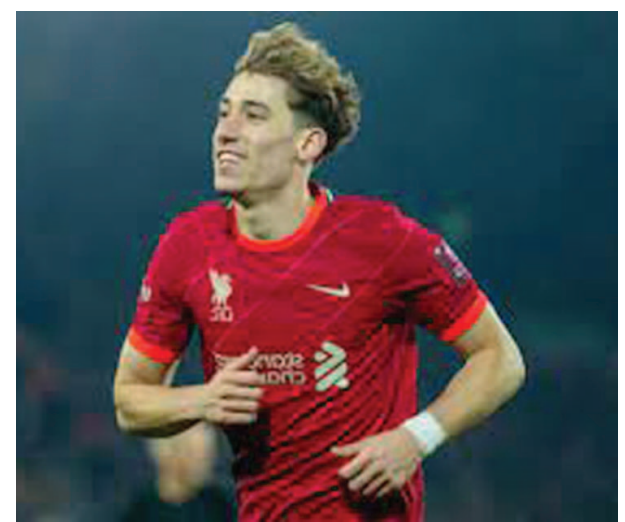
England." England open the European Championship finals tournament at Old Trafford on 6 July, which has a capacity of 73,200, before playing their second and third group games at St Mary's in Southampton and the Amex Stadium in Brighton, capacity 32,505 and 31,800 respectively. "We've sold 450,000 tickets which is

pretty much double what they sold in the Netherlands [Women's Euro 2017]," she said. "The capacity put together in all of the stadiums is 725,000, probably in the end we will sell over a half a million, maybe a little more. So there is still capacity there." So it's how you balance the England games which everybody wants to go to, with the reality that the other matches, however good they are, are not going to attract a full audience. So, did we get the balance right? We will look at it again, but you've got a big stadium opening it, you've got a big stadium closing it off... we think we've got the balance about right." The FA's head of tournament delivery, Chris Bryant, also defended the decision to host games at Leigh Sports Village and Manchester City's Academy Stadium, where the standing terraces behind the goals cannot be used because of Uefa regulations meaning the capacity in both grounds will be significantly reduced.

# Transfer latest: Minamino poised to join Monaco, Pope heading to Newcastle

Newcastle, June 22: Takumi Minamino is poised to leave Liverpool for Monaco after the clubs agreed a fee of €5m (£12.9m) plus up to €6m (£14.9m) in add-ons for the Japan forward. Minamino has accepted personal terms on a five-year deal and provided he passes a medical his Liverpool stay will end after two and a half years. The 27-year-old, signed from Red Bull Salzburg for £7.25m, has been unable to hold down a place and spent four months of the 2020-21 season on loan at Southampton. Minamino has played 55 times for Liverpool and scored 14 goals. His departure would continue a summer of change in Jürgen Klopp's attacking options. Sadio Mané has left for Bayern Munich, Divock Origi has gone and is in line to join Milan and Darwin Núñez has been bought from Benfica for a fee

rising to £85m. Another attacking player, Fábio Carvalho, has signed from Fulham. Newcastle have secured a deal to buy the goalkeeper Nick Pope from Burnley, with an announcement due once the paperwork has been completed. A move for the 30-year-old was anticipated after Burnley's relegation. The England international was a key target for Eddie Howe and should become the manager's second summer signing after Matt Targett's loan from Aston Villa was turned into a permanent deal for £15m. Newcastle are also working to bring in the striker Hugo Ekitike from Reims. A fee of €6m plus up to €6m in add-ons has been agreed by the clubs but delays relating to the player's agent need to be resolved. Arsenal are trying to push through a deal for



Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus after confirming the arrival of Fábio Vieira from Porto. Negotiations are advanced but there is competition for the Brazil forward and details have not been settled, including with the player and his agents. Tottenham and Paris Saint-

Germain are among the clubs monitoring developments. City's purchase of Erling Haaland from Borussia Dortmund has led the German club to negotiate a €5m deal to buy Sébastien Haller from Ajax. The former West Ham striker is due to have a medical.

# Serena Williams makes winning return but remains coy about long-term plans

New York, June 22 : The long-awaited return of Serena Williams began in the humble, quiet surrounds of a private tennis club in Eastbourne. After arriving in the UK within days of announcing her return to tennis, Williams opted to keep a low profile. She remained off-site even as the tournament began. She refused to conduct a single press conference. As she trained with Frances Tiafoe on Sunday at Meads Tennis Club, her first spectators were the passers-by who just so happened to glance down at the club from the hilly road and, to their audible shock, saw one of the most famous athletes in the world staring up at them. On Tuesday afternoon Williams finally entered the grounds of the Eastbourne International and alongside Ons Jabeur she made a winning return in her first match after a one year layoff. After a rusty start, the pair recovered from a set and a break down to defeat Marie Bouzkova and Sara Sorribes Tormo 2-6, 6-3, 13-11. It was not until Tuesday afternoon that Williams and Jabeur met as partners and trained together for the first time and it showed. Aspects of Williams' game were naturally coated with rust after such a long layoff and Jabeur, in the singles form of her life, is less sure on



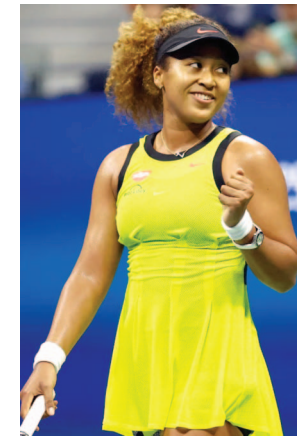
the doubles court. They were flattened early on by their solid, assertive opponents. But as the match endured Williams steadily improved. Her serve rose to its formidable best and those essential little steps around the ball returned. After trailing a break, Williams served out the second set with a vintage play. First she uncorked an angled backhand passing shot winner while on the run, punctuating her shot with an elongated grunt, then she shut the door with a cold-blooded ace. As the tie-break began, Williams had awoken and she was rock solid from the baseline, but it was Jabeur who landed the decisive point, feathering a spectacular drop shot winner to bring up match point, and the crowd to its feet, before they took it. As they celebrated, Jabeur and Williams pointed at each other, imploring the

crowd to soak it up. "It was so much fun," said Jabeur. "I was nervous before playing with such a legend, she made me good on the court, even when I made mistakes she kept encouraging me." This is a step forward for Williams, but the future remains unclear. She has not competed for 51 weeks after slipping in the first round of last year's Wimbledon and injuring a hamstring, forcing her to retire from the tournament. Over the past year, she has remained in the public eye, but her absence from the tour at 40 years old led many to wonder if she had competed for the last time. Such thoughts have evidently been in her mind, too. "I'm literally taking it one day at a time," she said. "I really took my time with my hamstring injury so I'm just not making a ton of decisions after this." Pushed on whether she would fully return to the tour in 2023 if her body is healthy, her indecision about her future was clear. "I don't know. I can't answer that. I love tennis and I love playing, or else I wouldn't be out here, right? But I also love what I do off the court, what I've built with Serena Ventures. It's interesting, so it's a lot." As she nursed her hamstring and then detached herself from the sport, Williams admitted that there were times over the past year

when she questioned whether she was still capable of playing: "I would be dishonest if I said I wasn't. Now my body feels great. It's doubles, I'm only playing half the court. I've been doing a lot of training and it definitely feels good." She is back for another attempt at her 24th grand slam title. This was just the start, her first small steps back into the sport after such a long layoff, but it remains to be seen where she is heading. Tuesday was a tremendous day for British players in Eastbourne. Katie Boulter, a former top 100 player still trying to make her way back after a variety of injuries, pulled off the biggest win of her career as she defeated the No 7 Karolina Pliskova 1-6, 6-4, 6-4 to reach the round of 16. The No 169 Jodie Burrage ended the day by upsetting Paula Badosa, the world No 4, 6-4, 6-3. Meanwhile, Ryan Peniston continued his breakout grass season by upsetting Holger Rune, the 8th seed, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-1.

# Naomi Osaka and LeBron James join forces with launch of new media company

Washington, June 22 : Japanese tennis player Naomi Osaka is launching a new media company in partnership with four-times NBA champion LeBron James aimed at telling stories that cross cultural barriers, the former world No 1 announced. Hana Kuma, which translates to "flower bear," will produce stories that are "culturally specific but universal to all audiences" and already has multiple projects lined up, according to the Hollywood Reporter. "There has been an explosion of creators of colour finally being equipped with resources and a huge platform," Osaka, who has a Haitian father and Japanese mother, said in a press release about her newest venture. "In the streaming age, content has a more global perspective. You can see this in the popularity of television from Asia, Europe, and Latin America that the unique can also be universal." My story is a



testament to that as well. I'm so excited for what we are building at Hana Kuma. We will bring stories to life with this goal in mind: to make unique perspectives feel universal and inspire people along the way. James and Maverick Carter's The Spring Hill Company will serve as financing, operations and producing partner for Hana Kuma. The production company is the latest project from the 24-year-old Osaka and her long-time agent Stuart Duguid. The duo also have a sports agency named Evolve, which

signed Australian tennis player Nick Kyrgios as the first member of their roster on Monday. Osaka recently said she would be skipping Wimbledon for the second year in a row. She has not competed on tour since a first-round loss at the French Open last month. According to Forbes, Osaka became the world's highest-paid female athlete in 2020 by earning about \$37m thanks to a long list of sponsorship deals. More recently, she has been taking steps to broaden her brand beyond the tennis court. Asked about Evolve at Roland Garros, Osaka said: "I think role models are really important, just to see somebody do something - and it makes you feel like you can do the same thing, too." I found it really interesting that there wasn't a female athlete that's done this before, but there has been so many men. So I think it's a journey, and I feel like I'm going to learn a lot on the journey."

# Emma Raducanu needs to find right formula for her future, says John McEnroe



Wimbledon, June 22 : John McEnroe hopes that Emma Raducanu will be able to find the right formula to thrive again despite having to grow under the glare of the spotlight. "She's trying to grow up in front of the world and in front of people," McEnroe said. "And that can be difficult. It [the 2021 US Open triumph] happened so quickly. I don't know if anyone could have possibly anticipated this would happen." Raducanu is continuing her recovery from the side injury she picked up at Nottingham in her first event of the short grass-court swing. She withdrew from her scheduled tournament the following week and has not played since. However, on Monday she trained at Wimbledon. "This is the future of our game. And people are checking to see what part Emma's going to have in

that," McEnroe said. "And so there's a high interest level, obviously. So I think it'd be good, obviously, for her and her family and the sport that she finds something as soon as possible that she feels more relaxed and able to do her thing." At Wimbledon last year, McEnroe received intense criticism for his punditry following Raducanu's retirement in the fourth round against Ajla Tomljanovic. In the aftermath of her retirement he suggested that her departure, which was officially described as breathing issues, was pressure-related. The 63-year-old says he would not say anything differently. "I was just giving an educated guess as to what

I thought was happening, based on 45 years of being around the professional game," he said. "And what it seemed like was happening, which is totally, you know, happens all the time. It's not like she's the first person it's happened to. Maybe it's the first person it happened to where she was told, for whatever reason, not to continue playing. That may be the difference." In the wake of Andy Murray's run to the Stuttgart final, McEnroe expressed his amazement at the level that the Scot has been able to exhibit despite his metal hip. "I know it had to be tough for him in a lot of ways to watch these guys continue to amass records where he basically

couldn't play at all. I'm not a doctor. I'm amazed that he's moving as well as he is. If you've got a metal hip, that would tell me that you wouldn't move as well, that you would be stiffer, that you couldn't react as quickly. I just don't see how it's even possible." Wimbledon will be played without ranking points after the ATP and WTA chose to rescind them in response to the All England Club's ban of Russian and Belarusian players. McEnroe echoed a popular opinion on the tour, stating he opposed both the original decision by Wimbledon and the tour's response. He also noted the effect it could have on Novak Djokovic.

## ICC T20I Rankings

### Dinesh Karthik Makes Massive Jump, Ishan Kishan Breaks Into Top 10



New Delhi, June 22 : On the back of his recent exploits, veteran Dinesh Karthik jumped a massive 108 spots to 87th on the latest ICC T20 rankings for batters, even as young opener Ishan Kishan broke into the top 10. Kishan finished the series with two

knocks in the T20 series against South Africa. Pakistan skipper Babar Azam still holds the top spot on the T20 batting rankings and Kishan is the only Indian player rated inside the top 10. Yuzvendra Chahal was the biggest mover on the T20 rankings for bowlers with the India spinner jumping three places to 23rd following his six wickets during the South Africa series. Josh Hazlewood maintains his position as the top ranked T20 bowler, with Afghanistan spinner Rashid Khan (joint third) and Sri Lanka tweaker Wanindu Hasaranga (sixth) both moving up a place inside the top 10. Ravindra Jadeja maintains his top position in the Test all-rounders' list

with 385 rating points. He is currently in the UK for India's upcoming Test against England, a spill over of last year's five-match series, which could not be completed owing to a COVID-19 outbreak. Bangladesh captain Shakib al Hasan moved up to second position with 346 rating points, though he has a long way to go if he wants to overtake Jadeja at the top of list. Former India captain Virat Kohli (742) maintained his 10th position in the Test batting chart, while seasoned off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin (850) and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah (830) occupied the second and third positions in bowling respectively.

## Washington Sundar Joins Lancashire For Ongoing Season

New Delhi, June 22 : Lancashire Cricket on Wednesday announced the signing of India all-rounder Washington Sundar for the upcoming 50-over Cup, and a number of County Championship games, depending on his fitness. Sundar, who has already represented India in all three international formats, will join the Lancashire squad next month following the approval of his work visa. The all-rounder is currently following a period of rehabilitation with the BCCI, having suffered an injury during the recently-concluded Indian Premier League

season. "Lancashire Cricket is delighted to confirm the signing of Indian international, Washington Sundar. Following the approval of his UK visa, Washington, will arrive in the country and link up with his new teammates at Emirates Old Trafford next month," Lancashire Cricket said in a statement. Sundar also expressed his excitement after joining Lancashire, saying that playing County cricket for the first time would be great learning curve for him. "I am extremely excited to play county cricket for the first time with Lancashire Cricket.

The bond of love and devotion.

**100% DEPENDABLE... That's our guarantee !**

**CHIMNEYS WITH APPS | R.O. WATER PURIFIER | HOBS | GAS STOVE | OTHER KITCHEN APPLIANCES**

Abhayapuri-94350-22784 | Agartala-98560-93668 | Baihata chariali-94351-42568/98641-40488 | Bangaigaon-7002184811, 9435547654, 9435121367 | Barpeta road-94350-17865 99541-41975 | Barpeta town -94350-25127 | Bhawanipur-7002206773 | Bandaradewa-98649-84753 | Bijoynagar -99570-98392/94010-01157/94353-40662 | Boko-94010-02588 | Chaygaon-9435014549 | Dadara -98546-98027 | Dhupdhara-96785-16189 | Dhamaji-99546-51322 | Dhubri-94350-29279 | Diphu-94350-66701/94350-66643 | Dudhnoi-94357-21505/94351-28048 | Goalpara-70023-10904/88762-23858 | Golaghat-96132-30384 | Guwahati -94355-59057/97065-94950 | Hajo-94353-47024/88763-09327 | Hojai-94357-29521/84028-59256 | Jorhat -94350-53934/98541-06776 | Kharupitia -98541-44223 | Kokrajhar-97070-29429/99548-88721/94354-81234 | Karimgunj-97061-39061 | Krishnai-88224-15337 | Lumding -94351-63327/97066-14137 | Mangaldoi -94350-87284/94351-86435/97065-39174/73994-79163 | Mirza-98540-71983/99572-81858 | Morigaon -94350-64986/80111-17171 | North lakhimpur-88224-21077 | Nagaon-97061-79408/94355-18665 | Nalbari -98644-14515/98540-30209 | Pathsala-80110-06658 | Dhekiajuli-98548-29934 | Dibrugarh-98548-11265 | Rangia -94351-05888/96782-26563 | Silchar -97061-39061/70054-86129 | Silapathar-70028-94393 | Shillong-90869-66640 | Suwalkuchi -98643-54859 | Tinsukia-94350-35156/94350-35511/94350-36463 | Tezpur-97060-73481 | Tihu-97068-53124 | Udalguri-97063-46492

Trade enq. 9435146909/9435559057/9435559056 www.capsindia.in Toll Free: 1800 103 4646