

The Assam Rising

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Russia 'turning wave of food crises into tsunami' ...

02

Marcus Smith looks to Farrell 'edge' for partnership...

07

NEWS IN BRIEF

HS results Assam Rising Guwahati, June 25 :

Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday announced that results for higher secondary (HS) examinations in Assam will be declared on June 27. Taking to Twitter, the Assam CM informed that HS results will be declared at 9 am on Monday. He wrote, "Results of Higher Secondary examination will be announced on 27th June at 9 am. My best wishes results." It may be noted that the results for the results of high school leaving certificate (HSLC) and Assam high madrasa (AHM) examinations under board of secondary education (SEBA) were declared on June 7.

Drugs seized Assam Rising Guwahati, June 25 :

Karbi Anglong police on Friday seized a massive consignment of illicit substances along the Assam-Nagaland border. According to reports, drug operations remain persistent along the state borders despite regular crackdown by the police. Officials informed that the illicit substances seized during the operation is suspected to be heroin. The sub-divisional police officer (SDPO) Bokajan, John Das said, "We received a specific information regarding movement of drugs through the interstate Assam-Nagaland border."

Road accident Assam Rising Guwahati, June 25 :

One person was killed and several others were left injured in a major road accident that took place at Dharamtul in Jagiroad in the Morigaon district of Assam. The accident took place last night as a speeding vehicle ramed into a roadside shelter killing one person and injuring seven others. The vehicle that caused the accident has been identified as a Tata pick-up vehicle with registration numbers AS 01 NC 1204.

Uddhav Thackeray's warning for rebel Shiv Sena MLAs: Use your father's name, not my dad's, to win election



Mumbai, June 25 :

The twists and turns in Maharashtra's political drama continue. As news started pouring in that rebel MLAs led by Eknath Shinde is naming their group 'Shiv Sena Balasaheb' amid the ongoing tussle with the Uddhav Thackeray faction, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra hit back, warning the rebels of using his father's name. Uddhav launched a scathing attack on purported attempts by

the rebel group to christen itself after the party founder-patriarch, the late Balasaheb Thackeray. "Don't invoke my Dad's name, use your father's name, to win the elections," said a livid Thackeray, presiding over a meeting of the Shiv Sena's national executive in Mumbai today (June 25). His strong reaction came in response to unverified reports that the rebels led by Minister Eknath

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

'Shiv Sena Balasaheb'-Eknath Shinde Camp Names Rebel Group, Says Won't Merge With Any Party



New Delhi, June 25 :

The Eknath Shinde camp, which led a rebellion against Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government headed by Uddhav Thackeray, on Saturday named their faction - 'Shiv Sena Balasaheb' and said their won't merge

with any party. The development comes amid speculations that the rebel group led by Eknath Shinde, a Maharashtra minister and Shiv Sena leader, may join hands with BJP to topple Uddhav Thackeray-led government in the state. "Our group will be called Shiv Sena Balasaheb. We will not merge with any party," rebel Shiv Sena MLA Deepak Kesarkar said. remark comes as Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena pressed for disqualification of 16 rebel MLAs. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena on Friday filed a

petition before the Deputy Speaker of the state assembly seeking the cancellation of membership of 16 rebel MLAs including Eknath Shinde for "not attending" legislative party meeting. Uddhav Thackeray chaired a national executive meeting of the party in Shiv Sena Bhavan in Mumbai. On Friday, Uddhav Thackeray called out rebel MLAs for their "betrayal" and said he had done everything for Eknath Shinde. Uddhav Thackeray had also challenged the rebels to show

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Mukesh Ambani, son Anant donate Rs 25 crore for Assam flood relief

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 25 :

Several prominent personalities, including Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama, have donated to the relief fund. The Dalai Lama donated Rs 10 lakh from his Gaden Phodrang Trust, while Oil India Limited (OIL) has donated Rs 5 crore. T-series owner and music producer Bhushan Kumar has donated Rs 11 lakh while renowned singer Sonu Nigam has contrib-



uted Rs 5 lakh to the CMRF. Guwahati: Industrialist Mukesh Ambani and his son Anant have donated Rs 25 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to provide succour to people reeling under the devastating floods in Assam. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma thanked the Reliance Industries Limited Managing Director for the gesture. "My deepest gratitude to Shri Mukesh Ambani and Shri Anant Ambani for standing with the people of Assam at this crucial juncture by donating Rs 25 crore to CM Relief Fund. We appreciate this kind gesture. This will go a long way in augmenting our flood relief measures," he tweeted. Several prominent personalities,

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

We Have Not Spent On MLAs In Radisson Blu: CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 25 :

Responding to criticism for allegedly hosting rebel Shiv Sena MLAs at a Guwahati hotel instead of focusing on floods in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today said he is glad that the tussle in Sena has helped highlight the flood situation in the Northeastern state. Mr Sarma, who has repeatedly denied that he has any role in the Sena power tussle that threatens to topple the Uddhav Thackeray government, told the media, "We have 200 hotels in Guwahati and all have guests. Would we re-

move guests stating the flood situation? BJP is supporting (rebel MLAs) in Maharashtra, I won't get involved." Despite Mr Sarma's assertions, sightings of Assam ministers and BJP leaders at the Guwahati hotel where Sena's rebel leaders are staying suggest that the state BJP is providing logistic support to them. "Our job is to provide security and comfortable stay to anyone who's come from outside. Tomorrow, even if Congress comes, I will extend the same welcome. I am grateful Shiv Sena came, its the reason Assam's flood was highlighted," Mr Sarma



said. About 33 lakh people across 28 out of Assam's 35 districts have been affected by floods since April this year. 117 people have died in floods and landslides since April this year. About

80 per cent of Silchar, the state's second largest city, is submerged as people struggle for food and water supply. The dismal flood situation has prompted residents to question the

priorities of the BJP-led state government. "Assam is drowning and ministers are being brought here from Maharashtra and being kept in a five-star hotel for horse trading? Is this what the Assam government is?" a resident asked. Another said Chief Minister Sarma must visit the submerged areas where people are stuck inside their homes. "We want the chief minister to come here and assess the situation. There are so many people who are trapped here because of the floods. He needs to help them right now. People are not being able to leave their homes," the resident said. In Guwahati, opposition parties led by the Congress staged a protest against the BJP-led government. They demanded that the Maharashtra MLAs be sent back and the government focus on managing the floods. Chief Minister of Assam, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Saturday said that his government is not funding the stay of rebel Maharashtra MLAs and leader Eknath Shinde in Guwahati's Radisson Blu

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

MD arrested

Guwahati, June 25 : The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) arrested Subhra Jyoti Bharali, the former Managing Director of Assam-based Industrial Co-operative Bank Limited in connection to a money laundering case. The ED arrested Bharali on Wednesday due to his involvement in the offence of money laundering and his non-cooperation in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) investigation. He was produced before a special PMLA court on Thursday which granted seven days' custody of the accused to the ED.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

I'll be visiting Germany at invitation of Chancellor Olaf Scholz for G7 Summit: PM Narendra Modi

New Delhi, June 25 :

Ahead of his visit to Ger-



many and UAE, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "I'll be visiting Schloss Elmau, Germany at invitation of Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz, for G7 Summit under German Presi-

dency. It'll be a pleasure to meet Chancellor after a productive India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations." Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be visiting Schloss Elmau, Ger-

many for the G7 Summit on June 26-27 and will also travel to UAE while coming back to India. PM Modi is travelling to the country at the invitation of the Chancellor of Germany, Olaf Scholz. "In an effort to strengthen international collaboration on important global issues impacting humanity, Germany has also invited other democracies such as Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa to the G7 Summit,

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



Guwahati- Ambubachi Mela

'I am getting death threats, please give...!', Nupur Sharma again urges Mamata Banerjee's police

New Delhi, June 25 :

Expelled BJP leader Nupur Sharma was also summoned by the Amherst Street police station (West Bengal) after the Narakonda police

station in the state. She was scheduled to appear at the police station on June 25, that is, today. But she didn't come today. Nupur has e-mailed and asked for some more time. Nupur Sharma

has been accused of breaching communal harmony over her controversial remarks on Hazrat Mohammad. There have been protests against her all over the country, including in various districts of Bengal. Earlier this month,

roads were blocked in several areas of Bengal, including Howrah. Complaints were also lodged against Nupur Sharma at several police stations in different cities. Of these, a total of 10

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Deaths toll rises to 117 in flood ,Over 33 Lakh People Affected

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 25 :

10 more persons have lost their lives due to the floods in Assam on Friday. This takes the total number of deaths due to floods and

landslides in the state to 117. Over 33 lakh people are still reeling under flood waters. A total of 33,03,316 people of 3,510 villages in 28 districts across 93 revenue

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



Droupadi Murmu for president, says Mayawati, slams Oppn for not consulting her



New Delhi, June 25 :

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati will support

Droupadi Murmu, the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance candidate for next month's

presidential election. "The BSP has decided to extend support to Droupadi Murmu in the coming presidential

elections, keeping in mind the Adivasi samaj is an important part of the party's movement," she said. "This decision was taken not to support the BJP or NDA nor to go against the opposition UPA, but keeping in mind our party and its movement for making a capable and dedicated Adivasi woman the president of the country," the BSP boss and ex-Uttar Pradesh chief minister said. The Bahujan Samaj Party has 10 Lok Sabha and three Rajya Sabha MPs but two of the latter three parliamentarians will retire on July 4 - 14 days before the elec-

tion. The party also has one seat in the UP Legislative Assembly. Mayawati, meanwhile, also hit out at the opposition for not consulting her as they selected a joint candidate - former union minister Yashwant Sinha. A joint front of the Trinamool Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party, the Samajwadi Party, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM, the National Conference and the DMK met this month to pick a consensus candidate, settling on Sinha after Sharad Pawar and Farooq Abdullah said 'no'. "Mamata Banerjee

invited only selected parties to the meeting she called on June 15 to select an opposition candidate for presidential election... when Sharad Pawar called a meeting on June 21 then also BSP was not invited. It shows their casteist motives," she declared. Droupadi Murmu is widely expected to become the first tribal woman to be president of India. The former Jharkhand governor will be backed by the BJP, of course, and also the Biju Janata Dal of Odisha, which is Murmu's native state.

Russia 'turning wave of food crises into tsunami' by blocking grain exports

London, June 25 : Russia has transformed an existing life-threatening wave of food crises into a tsunami by blocking the export of 25m tonnes of grain from Ukraine's ports, the Germany's foreign minister has said. Speaking at the start of an inter-ministerial food conference in Berlin, a precursor to the G7 meeting in Germany starting this weekend where aid groups will demand a big financial commitment to help Africa, Annalena Baerbock said 345 million people worldwide were currently threatened by food shortages. She said the hunger crisis was building "like a life-threatening wave before us" but it was Russia's war that had "made a tsunami out of this wave", and she said Russia was



using hunger as a weapon of war. In an international blame game playing out across Africa, Russia claims it is western sanctions that are slowing the flow of Russian food. As many as 25 African countries, including many of the least developed, import more than one-third of their wheat from Ukraine and Russia, and 15 of them more than half. Her remarks

led Dmitry Medvedev, the former Russian president and prime minister, to make a reference to the German starvation tactics in the second world war. He said: "German officials are accusing Russia of using hunger like a weapon. It is amazing to hear this from officials whose country kept Leningrad in blockade for 900 days, where almost 700 thousand people died of starvation." But Baerbock's criticism of Russia was backed by Arif Husain, the chief economist at the UN World Food Programme, who said it was not sanctions that were causing the food crisis but war. "We tend to address the symptoms and forget the root cause, and the root cause is war," he said. He said more than 40 countries were now facing food inflation of over 15%, and upwards of 30 economies had seen depreciation of their currency of more than 25%. "The numbers do not lie. Pre-Covid we were looking at about 135 million people in crisis or the worst type of food security situation. Today, including Ukraine's impact, that number is 345 million. There are about 50 million people in the world who are what we call in hunger emergencies, meaning one step away from famine. That is not in one, two or five countries, but upwards of 45 countries. That's the magnitude, that's the scale of the problem you're talking about."



hows lotus flowers in the Slender West Lake scenic spot in Yangzhou

Shanghai reports no new Covid cases for first time since March

Beijing, June 25 : China has reported no new Covid-19 infections in Shanghai for the first time since March, as the country's latest outbreak subsides after months of lockdowns and other restrictions. China is the last major economy committed to a zero-Covid strategy, stamping out all infections with a combination of targeted lockdowns, mass testing and long quarantine periods. The economic hub of Shanghai was forced into a months-long lockdown during a Covid surge this spring driven by the fast-spreading Omicron variant. Beijing also shuttered schools and offices for weeks over a separate outbreak. But infections have slowed to a trickle in recent days, and Shanghai reported no locally

transmitted cases on Saturday. "There were no new domestic Covid-19 confirmed cases and no new domestic asymptomatic infections in Shanghai," the city said. The lockdown of Shanghai's 25 million residents was mostly lifted in early June, but the metropolis has struggled to return to normal as individual neighbourhoods have reimposed restrictions over new infections. Millions of people in the city were temporarily locked down again two weeks ago after the government ordered a fresh mass testing campaign. In Beijing, restrictions imposed in May were later eased as cases declined, but tightened again this month after an infection cluster linked to nightlife emerged. After days of mass testing and localised lockdowns, the "Heaven Supermarket infection chain" - named after a popular bar visited by the patients - had been blocked, Beijing authorities said last week. The city's education bureau said on Saturday that all elementary and middle school students could return to their classrooms for in-person schooling on Monday. Beijing reported only two new local infections on Saturday. China's southern manufacturing powerhouse of Shenzhen, however, said

on Saturday that it would close wholesale markets, cinemas and gyms in a central district bordering Hong Kong for three days after Covid cases were identified there. Chinese officials say the zero-Covid policy is necessary to prevent a healthcare calamity, pointing to unevenly distributed medical resources and low vaccination rates among the elderly. But the strategy has hit the world's second-largest economy hard and heavy-handed enforcement has triggered rare protests. China's international isolation has also prompted some foreign businesses and families with the financial means to make exit plans.

AAP is gearing up for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly Election 2022



Kullu, June 25 : Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) convenor and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Saturday heaped praises on Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann and said no other leader ever sent his own minister to jail for illegal activities. Kejriwal was referring to Punjab Health Minister Vijay Singla who was sacked by the state cabinet and was later arrested on charges of corruption. Bhagwant Mann at the time said that his government would have zero tolerance against corruption and himself announced Singla's removal from the council of

ministers. Mann said the decision was made after he came to know that Singla was allegedly demanding one per cent commission in tenders and purchases of his department. While addressing a rally in Himachal Pradesh, Kejriwal, whose party fights elections on the issue of corruption said, "Did you ever hear about a CM sending his minister to jail? Mann Sahab found out that his Health Minister was involved in unscrupulous activities. Opposition and media didn't know. Had he wanted, he could've brushed it under carpet or

asked for his share from the accused. But he sent him to jail." Adding that he and his party has vowed to eliminate corruption from India, Kejriwal further said, "We don't know politics. We're not here to do politics. Our journey started from the Anna Hazare movement and then we formed a party. We vowed to eliminate corruption from the country. First, we ended corruption in Delhi and then initiated it in Punjab." AAP is gearing up for the Himachal Pradesh Assembly Election 2022, which is scheduled to take place this year. Earlier in April, the party suffered a setback after AAP Himachal Pradesh President Anup Kesari, the head of the party's women wing in the state, Mamata Thakur quit the party along with other leaders and joined the BJP. As part of its strategy to expand the electoral footprint in Himachal, the party also contested the local body polls in Shimla.

Stars urge Commonwealth to oppose UK plan to send refugees to Rwanda

Washington, June 25 : British celebrities have urged Commonwealth leaders in Rwanda to oppose the UK's plan to deport refugees to the country, saying it shows a "colonial view" of Africa as a "dumping ground". It comes as a summit of Commonwealth prime ministers and presidents is under way in Kigali, the first time the gathering has been held since 2018. In an open letter organised by Together With Refugees, the authors, including many with an African heritage, said: "The Commonwealth cannot - must not - stay silent on this offensive scheme. Your voices would be a crucial and powerful force to help bring it to an end." The letter - signed by more than 20 high-profile celebrities including Olivia Colman, David Harewood, Robert Rinder, Emma Thompson, Sophie Okonedo, Lemn Sissay and Benjamin Zephaniah - continued: "The prospect of being transported to Rwanda, and African countries like it, is enough to put off even the most desperate people fleeing war and persecution from



coming to the UK. "This tells us much about the British government's colonial and insulting view of Africa, as a place that is no better than a dumping ground for things - in this case people - it considers a problem." The government deportation policy announced in April

Channel, has come under fire from campaigners for human rights who call the policy "inhumane" and "appalling". A 26-year-old Iraqi Kurdish man previously told the Guardian: "We are all feeling so bad that they are sending us by force to Rwanda. It is too much to think about. My message to anyone who will listen is please stop the plane." The landlocked country of 12 million people, is led by the authoritarian president Paul Kagame who has come under increased scrutiny in recent years over accusations of orchestrated kidnappings and murdering political opponents, both of which he denies.

Xi Jinping to visit Hong Kong on 25th anniversary of British handover

Hong Kong, June 25 : The Chinese president, Xi Jinping, will visit Hong Kong for the 25th anniversary of the city's handover to mainland China, the state news agency Xinhua reported on Saturday. The trip will be Xi's first known visit outside mainland China since January 2020 after the Covid-19 outbreak. He will also attend the inaugural ceremony of the sixth-term government of Hong Kong, Xinhua said. John Lee will become the city's new leader on 1 July, replacing Carrie Lam, who oversaw some of the territory's most tumultuous times with anti-government protests and Covid. Xi also oversaw the swearing-in of Lam in 2017, when he was in Hong Kong to celebrate the handover anniversary last time. Uncertainties over whether Xi would visit the former British colony grew in the past weeks as new Covid infections increased in the city, with two incoming senior officials among the latest cases. China adopts stringent Covid policies and travel restrictions that aim to eradicate all outbreaks, at virtually any cost, running counter to a global trend of trying to coexist with the virus. Critics said Hong Kong's 25th handover anniversary was significant to China, which sees the city stabilising from the mass democracy protests in 2019, after the implementation of the national security law, and electoral reforms that ensure only "patriots" can work in the government and lawmaking body. Lee, a former top policeman turned civil servant, has pledged to maintain a firm grip on the city under the security law, in line with China's sovereign interests.

Eighteen killed as hundreds try to cross into Spain's Melilla enclave

Rabat, June 25 : About 2,000 people approached Melilla at dawn on Friday and more than 500 managed to enter a border control area after cutting a fence with shears, the Spanish government's local delegation said in a statement. Moroccan officials said late on Friday that 13 people had died of injuries sustained in the incursion, in addition to five who were confirmed dead earlier in the day. "Some fell from the top of the barrier [separating the two sides]," a Moroccan official said, adding that 140 security personnel

and 76 migrants were injured during the attempt to cross. It was the first such mass incursion since Spain and Morocco mended diplomatic relations last month. The Spanish government's local delegation said only that 49 Spanish police were lightly injured. Morocco had deployed a "large" number of forces to try to repel the assault on the border and they "cooperated actively" with Spain's security forces, it said earlier in a statement. Images on Spanish media showed people lying on the pavement in Melilla, some with bloodied hands and torn clothes. Speaking in Brussels, the Spanish prime minister, Pedro Sánchez, condemned the "violent assault", which he blamed on "mafias who traffic in human beings".

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



Tourists watch a show at the Universal Beijing Resort in Beijing, capital of China

Homicide rate increase for Black women rivals that of Black men

London, June 25 : In 2020, a year of rising homicides amid a devastating pandemic in the US, the increase in the death rate for Black women rivaled that of Black men. As homicides increased nearly 30% nationwide that year, the rate for Black women and girls rose 33%, a sharper increase than for every demographic except Black men, and more than double that of white women, according to a Guardian analysis of homicide data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Killings of Black women and girls increased across age groups, from school-age children to senior citizens. Gun violence drove the increase, with three-quarters of homicide victims who were Black women and girls dying from gunshot

wounds. The increase only worsened an "unspoken epidemic" that has been unfolding over years, advocates say. From the mainstream feminist movement to the news media to law enforcement to community violence prevention organizations, many institutions have stayed silent about the crisis of violence against Black women, who are expected to care for others, but often do not receive the same level of care, they said. The homicide rate among Black men in the US has long captured national headlines, but despite decades of Black feminist scholarship and organizing on the topic, violence against Black women and girls continues to receive little attention, researchers say. "The headlines are: 'Black men and boys face astronomical homicide rates' or 'Black men and boys face an increase in homicide that's deeply troubling.' You might get a



paragraph that says: 'And so are Black women and girls', said Kimberlé Crenshaw, a Black feminist legal scholar whose work has highlighted police violence against Black women. "Often the data doesn't even get reported." "The heightened vulnerability of Black women to violence should be seen and addressed as a crisis alongside the already recognized epidemic of Black male homicide," Crenshaw said. Community violence prevention typically focuses on Black men and boys, who face the highest risk of being killed, and domestic violence advocacy is most often shaped by the experiences of white women, researchers say. This creates a vacuum of solutions tailored to the unique ways that Black women and girls are vulnerable to violence.

'Modi@20 - Dreams Meet Delivery' launched in Assam



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 25: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today launched 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery' at a function held at Sankardev International Auditorium in Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra here today. It may be noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed 20 years in 2021 as the head of government from becoming Chief Minister to Prime Minister of India. First he became Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001 and remained in that post till he became the Prime Minister of the largest democracy of the world in 2014, then again got re-elected in 2019. In the honour of this feat and in acknowledgement of this unrelenting tenacity, a book titled 'Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery' which was already launched at the national level, witnessed the state wide launch in Assam today. Published by Rupa Publications India, the book is written by eminent intellectuals and writers like Nandan Nilekani, Sudha Murty, Sadguru, P.V. Sindhu, Amish Tripathi among others. The book is an anthology of chapters written by eminent writers elaborating and depicting the fundamental transformation that the country has gone through under the leadership of Narendra Modi as the head of the

government in the last 20 years. The book also elaborates Modi's model of governance which has touched the lives of a cross section of the people of the society. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said, "Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery is undoubtedly an incredible book. This book which encapsulates the journey of the last two decades of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the head of a democratically elected government, is in fact an informative historical document of contemporary India. I am very happy and proud to be a part of the launch of this epoch making book". He said that Narendra Modi after taking over the reign of office of the Chief Minister on October 7, 2001, unleashed a new model of development termed as Gujarat model in the country. Bringing a turnaround in all sectors including agriculture, Narendra Modi projected the Gujarat model as a success story before the world. After being in the Chief Minister's office for nearly four terms, he with blessings and support of all sections of the people in the country became the Prime Minister of India. Before 2014, no government at the centre came to power with a majority. However, ending this phenomena, Narendra Modi made the turn around as the BJP led NDA government came to

power with a thumping majority. Dr. Sarma said that there were coalition governments in India for twenty-five years between 1989 and 2014. All the governments had a policy of compromise for political interests. It created disappointment among the common citizens. Government's weak stand against terrorism hampered national interest. Such an environment crippled people's hopes and aspirations. Their morale was low. In such a backdrop, as a symbol of new hope Narendra Modi emerged as the new hope in the national landscape. Many critics said public support for the BJP was a reflection of the temporary sentiments of the people. Their views were that Prime Minister Modi could never fulfil the dreams and hopes that he had shown to the people. But proving such a selective opinion of the critics wrong, Prime Minister Modi was elected Prime Minister of the country for the second consecutive term with more public support in the 2019 general elections, which was unprecedented in the last five decades. The overwhelming mandate towards Narendra Modi in the 2019 elections was undoubtedly a reflection of the fulfilment of his dreams and hopes that he had shown to the people and his promises made to them, Dr. Sarma added. Giv-

ing an all pervasive impact of Prime Minister Modi in the country, Dr. Sarma said that in 2013 BJP had four Chief Ministers of its own and one Chief Minister of NDA alliance. All over the country BJP had 773 MLAs. Today the BJP has 12 Chief Ministers on its own and six Chief Ministers of allied parties. Number of BJP MLAs has today risen to 1443. It offers a yardstick of how Prime Minister Modi's leadership has expanded the party's social and geographical landscape. The Chief Minister said that in October 2021, Prime Minister Modi has completed two decades of his political career as heads of a democratically elected government. In a country as diverse as India, it is rare to keep stirring public imagination for nearly two decades by a single thought. However, in the last twenty years, a name, an idea, has fascinated the countrymen by making such impossible possible. That is Narendra Modi. "Today Modi is the name of a change, Modi is the name of a hope, Modi is the name of a conviction. The countrymen believe that everything is possible if Modi is there. He people believe that Modi he toh mumkin hai" the Chief Minister added. Speaking of the book, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that it was undoubtedly a formidable challenge to cover through a book on the twenty eventful years of the rise of Narendra Modi to the most powerful post in the country and how

this period has affected the lives of Indians. It is quite natural for individuals to differ in their opinions on this. But there is no doubt that the articles that the Bluekraft Digital Foundation has incorporated in the book in the context of the views and personal experiences of familiar, influential and knowledgeable people in various fields have been able to successfully capture the personality of Prime Minister Modi and his contribution to the social life of India in the last two decades. He, therefore, congratulated every functionary of the Bluekraft Digital Foundation involved in editing and compiling the book. He on this occasion also requested Rupa Publications India for taking initiative in getting the book translated into Assamese to enable readers from cross section of the society to read the book. BJP State President Bhabesh Kalita, veteran journalist Dhirendranath Chakraborty, CMD Axis My India Pradeep Gupta, Ace badminton player PV Sindhu, Olympian Lovlina Borgohain, Asian Games Medallist Hima Das, Singer Angarag Mahanta, Padmashree Dr. Illias Ali and several ministers from the government of Assam and host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.



Temporary cancellation of Mitali Express

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 25: Indian Railways has decided to cancel the services of 13132 (New Jalpaiguri - Dhaka) & 13131 (Dhaka - New Jalpaiguri) Mitali Express from July 6-14 next due to the celebration of Eid festival in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Railways has requested Indian Railways to cancel the trips of Mitali Express in view of Eid festival. The normal services of Mitali Express will resume soon after the Eid festival is over in Bangladesh. The Mitali Express between New Jalpaiguri and Dhaka Cantt.

was flagged off on June 1 last by the Railway Ministers of both India and Bangladesh. It may be mentioned here that, the passenger train services between India and Bangladesh had resumed last month after two years of gap due to pandemic.

Awareness on Menstrual hygiene held

Assam Rising Udalguri, Jun 25: Piramal Foundation Udalguri team in collaboration with District Administration and District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) conducted an awareness on menstrual health and hygiene and distributed sanitary napkins to the adolescent girls under "Mukta Akash" project in Dhansiri Model High School, Mazbat on June 24. In the program, along with Piramal Foundation team, ANM and ASHA supervisor discussed the importance of menstrual health and hygiene, interacted with the adolescent girls regarding their Menstrual health-related hygiene and problems, stigmas, blind beliefs, traditional rules and regulations associated with it,



took their views and discussed the same. Piramal team distributed sanitary pads among the adolescent girls, motivated them to break the stigmas related to it and as a result, the adolescent girls came forward to talk about their menstrual health-related problems which need immediate attention, therefore, Piramal foundation stated that in upcoming days they will come up with new strategies to work on Menstrual Health & Hygiene under "Mukta Akash" Project in

Udalguri. In this awareness program Piramal foundation, Udalguri team, ANM, ASHA supervisor, ASHA, Jivika Sakhi (SHG) Block Development Officer-Champak Sharma, Headmaster and teachers of the school were present. The main objective of the program is to create awareness and break the blind beliefs and stigmas associated with menstruation. Through this project Piramal Foundation team aims to give wings and create a barrier free sky for adolescent girls.

Drug peddler held at Sootea

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, June 25: Acting on a tip off, an investigation team of Sootea police managed to apprehend a drug peddler today along with a container of heroin. According to information, Sootea police got a secret information that one Rahul Das, a resident of Biswanath Chariali came to Sootea to sell heroin. Following the information, a team of Sootea police managed to apprehend the drug peddler along with vehicle registration number AS 12 6801. The investigating team recovered a container of 7 grams that contained heroin. He was brought to Sootea police station for further investigation. The operation was conducted by Shyamal Jyoti Saikia, officer in charge of Sootea police station along with second officer in charge Abhijit Bharali and the team.



'Nisa Mukta Bharat Abhiyan' program held in Udalguri

Assam Rising, Udalguri, June 25: In line with the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a program titled "Nisa Mukta Bharat Abhiyan" was organized in Udalguri city today under the initiative of 136th Battalion of Central Reserve Police Force Community CRPF. CRPF Inspector General of Police Sanal V. Mishra was the chief guest and mentioned the menace of drugs and called for its exclusion. Deputy Commissioner of Udalguri district Raktim Budhagohai, Immunization Officer of Udalguri district Dr Ganesh Brahma and several others also spoke on



the menace of consumption of narcotics. Awareness rallies and sapling planting programs were also implemented in line with the event. On the other hand, today's program was attended by Commandant

Ajit Sangwan of Battalion 136, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Udalguri Sukumar Sinha as well as several top crpf officials, principals of several schools, headmasters, students and officials of Pilamla Foundation.

Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangha & MSSV providing flood relief



Assam Rising Nagaon, June 25: Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangha and Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya have come forward to help the flood victims due to the ongoing floods in the state. Sankaradeva Sangha, Institutional Values and Best Practices Cell of the University, the National Service Scheme and the Alumni As-

sociation of the University jointly organized a flood relief distribution program in Dighaldari, Meteka Durgajan area of Raha today. The District Administration has also cooperated in this Program. They distributed essential items like rice, dal, potatoes, biscuits, salt, soyabins, sugar, muri, surf, soap, phenyl, sanitary pads, vegetables, Chirra, milk and water bottle to a total of 350 families at Raha Dighaldari, Meteka Durgajan along with clothes for the people of different ages. They also distributed some lite foods like sweet pattich, bunnas and

drinking water, etc. amongst 200 people at Dewbali area of Phulaguri. The program was conducted in presence of Babul Bora, Pradhan Sampadok of Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangha & Director (Finance and Planning) of MSSV, Shekharjyoti Neog, Assistant Librarian of the University along with other employees-students of the Sangha and the university. To this relief Distribution Program, many vendors willingly contributed their helping hands. The efforts taken by the Sangha and the University to bring a smile to the faces of the flood victims have been appreciated by everyone.

Workshop on modelling in North Lakhimpur

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, June 25: UTKHA, an NGO of Lakhimpur district is going to organise a summer workshop on modelling, in association with SPARK, an institution of Guwahati related to fashion and modelling, for the first time in North Lakhimpur on July 12, 13, 14 and 15 next. The venue of the workshop is Gyandip School, Borgohain Gaon, K.B. Road, ward no. 5, North Lakhimpur. In the workshop, walk, expression, pose, introduction, personal development, style up and other activities related to modelling will be trained by grooming expert and national and international fashion choreographer Rizu Miller. The registration fee is 1500/- for each trainee. For booking a seat, one can contact the mobile no. 8638770200, informed the organizer.

137 HSLC & HS toppers felicitated by USTM

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 25: In its traditional gesture of inspiring, recognizing and honouring brilliant students, the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya in association with ERD Foundation Guwahati today felicitated all the Rank holders of class 10 and 12 of 2022 under the State Boards of Meghalaya and Assam for their outstanding results. Among the 137 Rank holders who were present on the occasion coming from different parts of Assam and Meghalaya include HSLC and AHM toppers under SEBA from Assam and SSLC and HSSLC toppers (Arts, Science & Commerce) under MBOSE from Meghalaya. The achievers were presented with mementos, certificates and cash awards in the presence of distinguished dignitaries at a glorious function which was supported by Vision 50 Acad-

emy, the competitive examination coaching centre of ERDF. All the 1st Rank holders were handed over with Rs 20,000 cash award each, all the 2nd Rank holders received Rs 10,000 cash award each while the rest of the Rank holders received Rs 5,000 cash awards each along with citation and certificates. A galaxy of Principals and Mentors of the achievers accompanied the students coming from various places of both the States for the event held in the Central Auditorium of USTM. Welcoming the gathering, Mahabubul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM said, "We are grateful to the toppers and principles of the schools for coming to USTM today accepting our invitation. Our campus has received many

IAS toppers. We have a culture to encourage youngsters, not only the students of this university but we always invite students from outside. We believe that merit is one of the priorities to achieve any kind of educational excellence." He said that USTM is providing a platform for all the talented students to encourage and help them prepare for civil service exams so that more and more students from the region can achieve success in this prestigious exam of the country. He delivered an encouraging and motivating speech stating that if one can visualize his or her goal and work dedicatedly to achieve that, there is nothing in this world that can stop. Dr RM Pant, Vice Chancellor of Assam University Silchar



was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Congratulating the students, Dr Pant said, "USTM has a very good ecosystem for facilitating good quality education in the region. Education is the force behind transforming the nation and the society and teachers are important agents and motivators. The National Education Policy tries to empower people with the right kind of mindset, skills and intellect". He asked the students to follow the continuous learning mantra of "Hour by hour, day by day I am getting better and better."

He said that education is the only tool for progress and prosperity of the region and youth of the country must think and act for the benefit of the society while building their career. After felicitation and award presentation to the Rank holder students, the vote of thanks was delivered by Dr Balendra Kumar Das, Pro Vice Chancellor, USTM. Thanking everyone and extending his best wishes to the students, he said that education is an effective way of making people better and more productive in different walks of life.

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THE ASSAM RISING

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Political crisis in Maharashtra

As the probability of a political crisis in Maharashtra intensifies, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday said that there is no possibility of them joining hands with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He also said that this is the third attempt being made to topple the Maharashtra government. "Cross voting happens in such polls, nothing new in that; will find a solution," Pawar reiterated. The latest crisis comes as a flashpoint between Shiv Sena and BJP, who were allies for decades before parting ways. The ongoing political crisis in Maharashtra continues to peak with rebel Eknath Shinde, who remains the leader of the Shiv Sena legislature party. All the 37 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs who are currently camping in Guwahati on Thursday sent a letter to Maharashtra Assembly's deputy speaker Narhari Zirwal stating that Shinde will remain their group leader in legislature. Amid this political turmoil, Congress has sided with Shiv Sena and senior leader Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday slammed the BJP and the central government for "destabilizing a stable" regime in Maharashtra. He also equated the current political crisis in the western state to that of the forthcoming presidential elections. MLA Nitin Deshmukh on Thursday alleged that Shinde's faction abducted him and took him to Surat. Upon finding out that "there was a plot against our government", he requested Shinde to allow him to return to Mumbai. In an attempt to reject Deshmukh's claims, the rebels released two photos, one of which was of him sitting with other MLAs in a chartered plane and in the second he can be seen posing for a selfie. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has vacated his official residence 'Varsha' and moved into his family home 'Matoshree'. Shiv Sena lashed out at rebel MLAs in its editorial 'Saamna'. Asking them to "wake up on time", it said that it is now clear who was behind the "excess victory" for someone (BJP) in the recent Rajya Sabha and Maharashtra MLC polls. Meanwhile, rebel leader Eknath Shinde remained defiant and insisted the party should walk out of "unnatural" ruling alliance MVA and claimed support of "enough number" of MLAs. al appeal and offered to quit, saying he will be happy if a Shiv Sainik succeeds him.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

What Is Urinary Incontinence?

On the occasion of World Continence Week, which is a global event running from June 20-26, doctors and urologists are urging people to seek professional help if they have bladder or bowel difficulties instead of hiding and ignoring the problem. Urinary incontinence is the leaking of urine that we can't control. This medical condition is common in the elderly,

Dr. Amlan Jyoti Sarmah

especially in nursing homes, but it can affect younger adult males and females as well. Urinary incontinence can impact both the patient's health and quality of life. The main types of urinary incontinence are stress, urge urinary incontinence, Mixed, Overflow, and Functional. With the help of today's medical advancements, doctors can take care of all kinds of urinary incontinence.

Risk Factors for Urinary Incontinence?

- Gender-like women are more likely to have stress incontinence due to childbirth or menopause.
- Changes with age reduce how much your bladder can hold and increase the chances of uncontrolled urine release.
- Being overweight increases pressure on your bladder and surrounding muscles, leading to urine leaking out.
- Tobacco use may increase your risk of urinary incontinence.
- Family history of urinary incontinence increases the risk of having incontinence.

How Is Incontinence Diagnosed?

Your doctor may do some simple tests to look for the cause of your bladder control problem. For example, your doctor may ask you to cough while you are standing to see if you leak urine. He also may prescribe more tests to find the type and cause of your urinary incontinence, including urinalysis, bladder stress test, pad test, and X-rays or ultrasound in order to find the right treatment options.

Modi gov't's assault on democracy is more sinister than the Emergency. Look at the differences

India's dark Emergency era commenced on the midnight of 25 June 1975, as the president proclaimed: "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 352 of the Constitution, I, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, President of India, by this Proclamation declare that a grave emergency exists whereby the security of India is threatened by internal disturbances." Though the imposition of the Emergency was brutal and sudden, the present occurrences under the Narendra Modi government are far more insidious, systematic and systemic and likely to undermine our collective being as a society for a long time to come. This nocturnal proclamation, issued at the behest of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, almost extinguished India's nascent democracy. Fundamental rights guaranteed by Part III of the Constitution stood suspended. Over a lakh were subsequently detained and the escalation of the Internal Security Act (MISA) and Rules made it impossible for the courts to review these cases. But that wasn't all. The noose around the neck of the Indian people tightened further with the autocratic laws that the Parliament enacted. I have vivid memories of the night and the day following the proclamation of Emergency. In Chandigarh, where I was the District Magistrate, the first and ferocious assault was on the media and freedom of expression. Soon after the Presidential proclamation, Giani Zail Singh, then chief minister of Punjab, called up the Chief Commissioner of the Union Territory N. P. Mathur and asked him to come down heavily on the media represented in Chandigarh by The Tribune. He wanted its premises to be sealed, its editor arrested, and the newspaper was stopped from coming out the next morning. Deeply perturbed, Mathur passed on these



M.G. Devasahayam

instructions to then Senior Superintendent of Police SN Bhanot. Being a seasoned policeman, Bhanot was unwilling to carry the instructions out without any formal order and did not disturb me because he knew that I would never agree. Hence, the morning newspaper came out as usual with banner headlines on the Emergency and the arrest of Jayaprakash Narayan and others. This annoyed Haryana CM Chaudhry Bansi Lal who went to the extent of saying he would order the Haryana Police to raid and silence The Tribune. Both chief ministers had scores to settle with the newspaper and its editor Madhavan Nair. As civil servants running the Chandigarh administration, we were cautious and decided to be very objective in exercising the awesome 'Emergency' powers and making arrests under MISA. We managed this by imposing Section 144 CrPC throughout the Union Territory as a precautionary measure. We were also firm in not raiding and sealing The Tribune and we conveyed this to both the chief ministers. The Tribune continued its publication, but with the main news censored. They did not publish news favourable to the Emergency regime. For instance, when Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh elements detained under MISA surrendered en masse by writing apology letters to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, there was hardly any media coverage. Be that as it may, the RSS literature describes Emergency as the

"second freedom struggle" with them in the lead. In fact, barring rare exceptions, the functioning of this behemoth during the Emergency was

appalling. Eminent lawyer AG Noorani was categorical when he wrote this: "Every year on the anniversary of the Emergency, the RSS and its foot soldiers, especially those in its political wing, the BJP, go to town denouncing the sin. It boasts of the 'sacrifices' made by it and its political front, the Jana Sangh, ancestor of the BJP, during the Emergency..."

They have no locus standi to make noises about the Emergency. Its own leaders grovelled before the Congress dispensation to win reprieves from jail terms and have the ban lifted on their organisation. "More evidence of this lies in then RSS Chief Balasaheb Deoras' correspondence with Indira Gandhi. Not once did he talk of democracy being integral to the country's wellbeing. In fact, he convinced his compatriots to sign a standard form prepared by the government that included the promise: "I shall not indulge in any activities which are prejudicial to the present emergency." Now, under the Modi government, even without any formal Emergency, institutions

have surrendered to the government and party diktats. Tragically, this time, even the Armed Forces have not been spared. Parliament passes harsh laws as Money Bills; Prime Minister Narendra Modi 'demonetises' the currency, throwing people on the streets; citizenship is being questioned and porous Aadhaar is being rammed down their throats, and linked to Voter ID with the danger of disenfranchisement. Rapes, lynchings and killings take place with abandon. Political rallies are held to rationalise these gruesome crimes. "Welfarism" is being

pauperised through population through crumbs, while India is morphing from a 'welfare' to a 'market' state-handing over the public sector to private interests on a platter. Those who oppose these are branded as 'urban-Naxals' and 'anti-nationals', and draconian laws, including Sedition and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, are invoked against them. I don't believe that the Narendra Modi government has any right to shout against the Emergency era. There was no call for Muslim genocide, retaliatory "bulldozer justice", killing and assaults on Dalits, communal hate-mongering, Hindutva majoritarianism, targeted killings of liberal intellectuals and journalists, cow vigilantes roaming the streets attacking and killing animal traders and meat-eaters during the Emergency. As I have pointed out before, there were also no religion-based senas, dals or vahinis of goons, louts and street lumps harassing, extorting, assaulting and killing defenceless citizens. No arms training for young innocent girls and boys in parks and institutions. No fear of the majority community among minorities. No hate crimes against fellow citizens. No pub attacks or private kitchen

searches for beef. No restrictions on the food and clothes of citizens. No moral policing in parks or public places. There was no forcible closure of NGOs and declaration of civil society as "the new frontier of fourth-generation warfare." States were not torn apart or reduced to Union Territories. No doubt there was censorship of the media, but not near-total enslavement and ownership. We are living in times when bigotry and communal hate are no longer an exception. It is an institutional norm and a State project, where 'democracy' and 'democratic values' are a farce. The 'federal and plural structure' ingrained in the Constitution is being cast away in favour of unitary authoritarianism with clarion calls for one religion, one language, one culture, one code and one election. Education policy and history lessons are being re-written to fit into the pre-fixed Hindutva agenda. Describing the Republic of the United States, its Supreme Court judge Joseph Story wrote: "Republics are created by the virtue, public spirit and intelligence of the citizens. They fall when the wise are banished from the public councils because they dare to be honest, and the profligate are rewarded because they flatter the people in order to betray them." The Republic of India was structured along similar lines. But it is tottering and sinking because the virtues, public spirit and intelligence of India's citizens are under severe assault. Democracy has shrunk and has been replaced by a creeping kleptocracy marked by slavish flattery, autocratic arrogance, unbridled greed and unabashed corruption. No wonder, within five decades India's Democracy is experiencing a double whammy-can it survive? That is the billion-plus people question.

Roe v Wade has been overturned. Here's what this will mean



The story is not about the supreme court. Today, the sword that has long been hanging over American women's heads finally fell: the supreme court overturned Roe v Wade, ending the nationwide right to an abortion. This has long been expected, and long dreaded, by those in the reproductive rights movement, and it has long been denied by those who wished to downplay the court's extremist lurch. The coming hours will be consumed with finger pointing and recriminations. But the story is not about who was right and who was wrong. Nor is the story about the US judiciary's crumbling legitimacy, or the supreme court's fractious internal politics. In the coming days, our attention will be called to the justices themselves - to their feelings, to their careers, to their safety. We will be distracted by the stench of partisanship and scandal that emanates from the shadowy halls of One First Street; by the justices' grievance-airing and petty backbiting in public; or by their vengeful paranoid investigation into the leak of a draft of Samuel Alito's opinion some weeks ago. We will be

scolded not to protest outside their houses, and we will be prevented, by high fences and heavy gates and the presence of armed cops, from protesting outside the court itself. But the story is not about the supreme court. The story is not about the Democratic politicians, whose leadership on abortion rights has been tepid at best, and negligent at worst, since the 1990s. In the coming days, people who have voted to uphold the Hyde Amendment, a provision that has banned federal funding of abortion since 1976 - effectively limiting the constitutional right to an abortion to only those Americans wealthy enough to afford one - will tell us how terrible this is. They will issue statements talking about their outrage; they will make platitude-filled speeches about the worth and dignity of American women. They will not mention their own inaction, persisting for decades in the face of mounting and well-funded rightwing threats to Roe. They will not mention that they did nothing as all that worth and dignity of American women hung in the balance; they will not mention that most of them still, even now, oppose doing the only thing that

could possibly restore reproductive freedom: expanding the number of justices on the courts. But the cowardice, hypocrisy, and historic moral failure of national Democrats is not the story. And certainly, the story is nothing so vulgar as what this withdrawal of human rights might mean for that party's midterm election prospects. The story is not, even, about the legal chaos that will now follow. It is not about the fact that in 13 states, today's order has

happening, anyway. The story is not about the anti-choice activists, sneering in their triumph, who will say that they only want the best for women, and that women can't be trusted to know what's best for themselves. The story is not about the women who will be imprisoned or committed at the behest of these activists, or the desperate pregnant people, with nowhere to turn, who will be ensnared by them into deceitful crisis pregnancy centers or exploitative "maternity ranches". The real story is not about the media who will churn out the think pieces, and the crass, enabling both-sidesism, and the insulting false equivalences and calls for unity.

It is not about the pundits who will scold feminists that really, it is the overzealous abortion rights movement that is to blame; that really, women must learn to compromise with the forces that would keep them unequal, bound to lives that are smaller, more brutal, and more desperate. The story is not, even, about those other rights - the rights to parent, and to marry, and to access birth control - that a cruel and emboldened right will come for next. The real story is the women whose appointment is scheduled for tomorrow, who will get a call from the clinic sometime in the next hours telling her that no, they are sorry, they cannot give her an abortion after all.

Moira Donegan

made all abortion immediately illegal, the consummation of sexist ambitions that had long been enshrined in so-called trigger laws, provisions that have been on the books for years and decades that ban abortion upon the court's reversal of Roe - misogyny lying in wait. Nor is the story about the other 13 states that will almost certainly ban abortion now, too, meaning that the procedure will be illegal in 26 of the nation's 50 states within weeks. The story is not about how legislatures, lawyers and judges will handle these laws; it is not about whether they will allow merciful exemptions for rape or incest (they won't) or impose draconian measures that aim to extend the cruelty of state bans beyond their borders to target abortion doctors, funders, and supporters in blue states (they will). The story is not about the cop who will charge the first doctor or the first patient with murder - that's already

Letter to the Editor
Cost Cutting Exercise

Dear editor,

Government spends lavishly and indiscriminately, indiscriminately too. Government borrowings are growing high. Interest on borrowing itself is high. So cost cutting exercise is inevitable. But cost cutting should not be for jawans, who sacrifice their lives for the beloved country. Dignitaries and Public Representatives are not Employees at all. (No Qualification nor Age Limit), they are Public Servants doing Public Service. They should not be paid Salary, Pension and Perks and Palaces, they should be paid Honorarium only. Late Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy, Past President took 30 % of salary as Honorarium, he preferred to live in an ordinary official Quarter rather than a Palace like Rashtrapathi Bhawan. He was a Role Model. No one realizes this important aspect. These Mansions may fetch a huge income to the Government as a Museum or Star Hotel or Corporate Hospital. We show False Prestige. We have to reduce Expenditure and increase Income to make a deficit Budget to Balanced Budget. Ours is still a poor country only. Many do not have Home and Square Meal. I pay due Regards to the Honorary Dignitaries and Public Representatives for their Valuable Service.

KLRao

ManashKeot- a promising model of Assam



Zulfiquar Ali
 ManashKeot, a promising model from Assam is selected to participate in the East-India Fashion Glam contest which will be held in West Bengal on July 24 next. He won the final title of Mr. Assam-2021 contest, along with the title of the "Best Talent". This talented youth entered into the world of modelling in 2020. By getting inspirations from MafizaKhatun, owner of Mafiza Make-up Academy, Tezpur and Rizu Miller, Managing Director, SPARK, an institution associated with fashion and modelling in Guwahati, he entered and proceeded to a far extent in the field of modelling. Under the supervision of mentor Rizu Miller, Manash had done photo shoot for modelling for the first time in the year 2020. In the month of November of the same year, he won the first runner-up title in the state-level Mr. Glam contest held in Tezpur which was followed by his winning of

Zulfiquar Ali

the final title of Mr. Assam-2021 contest which was held in Guwahati in February, 2021. Having a dream to establish himself as a successful model, Manash expressed gratitude to his family and friends for their support and inspiration in respect of going forward in the field of modelling. On the other hand, he has participated as a judge in many fashion and modelling contests held in different parts of the state. An innocent and amiable in nature, Manash said honestly, "Man should not be proud. Since human life is not permanent, it is transitory." Born to SuntiKeot and ManjuKeot of Baruah Chuburi, Dekargaon, Tezpur, Manash did his schooling at Dekargaon High School and Tezpur Government H.S. School from where he passed the HSLC Examination in first division with letter marks in three subjects and passed the

HS Final Examination with star mark respectively. He did his graduation from Darrang College, Tezpur with honours in English. After graduation, he got appointment in the Assam Police in 2015. After providing service at Likabali and Duliagaan, he is now working in Guwahati, and so, he lives in Guwahati due to being a service-holder in Assam Police. Meanwhile, he had completed commando training successfully. "I have great respect to my job. I like my job in Assam Police immensely," Manash said. Besides being a meritorious in study, he has been interested in games and sports also. Manash is an skilled volleyball player. He was the captain of Tezpur junior volleyball team in 2013. He was also a member of Sonitpur district volleyball team and took part in several volleyball tournaments that were held in different parts of Assam. In 2014, he became a member of Assam state volleyball team. On the other hand, he got the honour of "DHEEMAAN" at Dekargaon High School when he was studying here as a result of getting prizes in all the cultural competitions in the annual school meet while he got the honour of the "Best Debator" when he was studying in the Darrang College. Moreover, he has been writing and reciting poems since childhood. His self-composed poems have been published in several magazines. As a model, let ManashKeot go ahead, let he establish himself in national-level, we wish that!

Elementary Education in India Progress towards UEE



Er. Prabhat Kishore
 Education plays a vital role in the development of a country. It is used to mitigate most of challenges faced in life. The knowledge that is attained through education helps open doors to a lot of opportunities for better prospects in career growth. Elementary education is the foundation of advanced learning. Keeping this in view, during the decade 1991-2000 centrally sponsored District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) was launched for Universalisation of Primary Education (UPE), whereas during 2001-2010 SarvaShikshaAbhiyan (SSA) was launched for Universalisation of Elementary Education (UEE). It was given legal status on 1st April 2010 when Right of children to free & compulsory education Act 2009 was implemented throughout the country. In 2018-19, SamagraShiksha has been launched to cover the children from Pre-Nursery to Class- XII for Universalisation of Education upto Secondary level. National Education Policy 2020 outlines the vision of India's new education system. With the improved coverage the number of schools imparting elementary education increased many-fold. From 853601 schools in 2002-03 their number has increased to 1449078 in 2015-16. Of the total 85.38 percent schools are located in the rural areas. During the same period, the number of primary schools increased from 601866 to 840546. On an average, number of primary schools per thousand child population (6 to 11 year) is 9, whereas number of upper primary schools per thousand child population (11 to 14 year) is 8. Density of Primary schools per 10 sq. KM is 3.69, whereas in case of upper primary school it is 1.85. Under SarvaShiksha Abhiyan, a large number of schools have been opened and upgraded. The ratio for the year 2015-16 is one upper primary school for every set of 1.99 primary schools. It is noticed that in about 17 states the ratio of primary to upper primary school is better than the national average. Despite significant improvement in the ratio, there are few states, such as Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Meghalaya, Goa, Assam, Manipur and West Bengal, where the ratio still needs to be improved significantly. Nearly 4.59% schools of the country are private aided whereas 18.50% are private unaided. The percentage of government and government aided schools is as high as 74.32, which shows that eight out of every ten schools imparting elementary education in the country are funded by the government. As many as 162237 new primary and 78903 new upper primary schools have

been opened since 2002-03, majority of which are located in rural areas and 99% of these have been provided a school building. Schools imparting elementary education across 680 districts had an average of 5.1 classrooms. However, a significant difference is noticed in average number in government (4.2 classrooms) and private managed (7.8 classrooms) schools. About 82% classrooms in primary schools are in good condition and remaining 18% need either minor or major repairs. In 125 districts of the country student classroom ratio is above 30. On an average about 27 students are sitting in one classroom in elementary schools, but there is alarming situation in Bihar where SCR is 51. In the country, percentage of primary schools with SCR greater than 30 was 25.74 whereas upper primary school with SCR greater than 35 is 28.01. Availability of basic facilities in schools may not only attract more children but also help in improving retention rate. Of the total schools about 96.76% have drinking water facilities, 97.07 percent boy's toilets, 97.58 percent separate toilets for girls and nearly 64.89 percent schools have boundary walls. Computer education facility is available in 25.97 percent schools in the country. Ramps have been provided in 61.83 percent schools to attract physically challenged children. Providing nutritious food to all children under the mid day meal schemes is one of the ambitious programme of the government. For this purpose, kitchen shed have been constructed in nearly 80.02 percent schools. The percentage of primary schools having attached pre-primary section is only 10.72%. But most of such schools are in urban areas. Nearly 61.67 percent of the schools have been electrified, but Bihar have alarming situation in this sector where just 36.74 percent have electric facility. The commencement of various educational schemes by central as well as state governments has improved the scenario to a great extent. The enrolment in primary schools increased from 101.16 million in 2002-03 to 129.122784 million in 2015-16, whereas in upper primary school, the enrolment increased upto 67.593727 million. There has been consistent improvement both in Gender Parity Index (Percentage of enrolled girls compared to enrolled boys) and girls' enrolment. The average of 680 districts indicates a GPI of 0.93 in primary classes and 0.95 in upper primary classes. In year 2015-16, the shares of girls' enrolment in primary and upper primary classes were 48.21% & 48.63% respectively. The percentage of girls' enrolment in government managed schools was found to be higher than in private managed schools. The share of SC & ST enrolment with respect to total enrolment works out to be 19.94 & 10.64 percent at primary level and 19.49 & 9.81 % at upper primary level. At all levels, government schools are the main providers of educational needs of both SC & ST children. The share of OBC enrolment in the primary and upper primary classes was 45.05 and 45.15 percent respectively. The percentage of Muslim enrolment at primary & upper primary level is reported to be 14.43 and 12.60 percent in which girls share is 49.05 and 51.35 percent respectively. The enrolment of Muslim children (13.80 percent) is satisfactory in respect of their population (14.20 percent). A lot of emphasis is given to include and integrate children with special needs (CWSN) into the education system. The percentage enrolment of such children is 1.18 and 1.13 percent at primary and upper primary level. One of the essential requirements to achieve UEE is to retain students in the education system. This is also reflected in the retention rate at primary level which estimated to be 84.21 percent and drop-out rate has come to just 4.13 percent. The transition from primary to upper primary level has improved significantly to 90.14 percent. Availability of teachers in schools is an important variable for quality education. In the country, 8076756 teachers are engaged in schools imparting elementary education, out of which 4674275 are posted in government schools. 8.48 percent teachers are engaged in aided schools whereas 30.79 percent are in un-aided schools. The All India average reveals that on an average there are 5.6 teachers in a school that imparts elementary education compared to an average of 3.1 teachers per primary school. About 47.99 percent of the total teachers are female, which shows somewhat satisfactory gender share. Urban areas have higher percentage of female teachers compared to rural areas. Still there are 9.67% single teacher schools in the country. There has been consistent improvement in pupil-teacher ratio (PTR). The PTR is 23:1 and 17:1 at primary and upper primary level as against national norms of 30:1 and 35:1. In 137 districts of the country PTR is above 30. The concentration is mostly in Bihar, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh. In only 2 states namely Bihar (36) and Uttar Pradesh PTR at primary level is above 30. At primary level percentage of schools having PTR above is 25.93, whereas at upper primary level percentage of schools having PTR above 35 is 13.46. There is alarming situation in 4 states namely Bihar (65.92), Delhi (42.92), Jharkhand (41.23) and Uttar Pradesh (57.70), where percentage of schools having PTR is above 35. In Bihar not only is pupil-teacher ratio (36) high but also the student classroom ratio (51). The number of teachers is better in private schools compared to government schools. Of the total teachers 13.18 percent are contractual teachers. About 82.41% of the regular teachers are professionally trained, whereas only 67.02% of the contract teachers are professionally trained. The percentage of teacher aged above 55 years is just 6.16% in all types of schools. Majority of the teachers of SC & ST community are in government schools. In elementary schools, there are 999335 teachers of SC community and 683268 teachers of ST community, which constitutes about 12.37% and 8.46% of the total working teachers. About 2875608 (35.60%) teachers are from OBC community. After implementation of RTE, changes in various norms of SSA have been done. Emphasis on construction of school building and recruitment of qualified teachers has been given and more funds have been ensured for that. After attaining the goal of enrolment & retention set up under DPEP & SSA, now prime focus is on quality education upto secondary level under "SamagraShiksha". Based on NEP 2020 recommendations, modifications in programmatic and financial norms of SamagraShiksha have been done. It is hoped that in coming years, significant improvement will be noticed in the field of elementary & secondary education.

(Author is a technocrat & educationist.)

From a start-up Nation to a nation of Innovation

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's 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.

The Unicorn India 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.

Pharmacy of the world India continues to play a growing role in global drug security and strengthen its position as the world's 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



Dr. Krishna Ella

Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Biotech

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-CoV2, 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 for efficacy. 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's 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 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 capitalists to participate in high-risk science enterprises. Moreover, SBIRAC Grants and NitiAayog 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.

Contd. From Page 1

Deaths toll rises to 117 in flood

circles have been affected by floods in the last 24 hours while 91658.49 hectares of crop areas have been destroyed. Meanwhile, Kopili and Brahmaputra Rivers are flowing above danger level. Nearly 1.42 lakh people of 155 villages under the Raha revenue circle have been affected by the current wave of floods. Many flood-affected people have been taking shelter on National Highway 37, other roads, embankments, high lands after their homes were inundated by flood waters. The flood situation in Kamrup area in Nagaon district has slightly improved, but many areas under Kamrup revenue circle are still under flood waters. The devastating flood damaged many houses, roads, bridges, and embankments in Kamrup revenue circle areas.

I am getting death threats

police stations in Kolkata alone have registered cases against Nupur. Today, she was ordered to appear before the Amherst Street police station. But Nupur Sharma did not respond to the summons. It is learnt that she has sought four more weeks time from the Kolkata Police through an e-mail. Not only that, the expelled BJP leader also expressed fear about her life in the e-mail. An FIR was earlier lodged against Nupur Sharma at The Narakonda police station in connection with her controversial remarks on the Prophet. On the basis of this, she was summoned to appear before it on June 20. But Nupur Sharma has urged four weeks time citing security issues. In an e-mail, she said she was worried about her safety. So she needs four weeks' time to appear. This time, she gave the same reason in reply to Amherst Street police station's summons. It should be noted that a censure motion has been passed against Nupur Sharma in the West Bengal Assembly because of her controversial remarks. It has been alleged that her remarks are ruining communal harmony, whereas Bengal has always been in favour of peace. The censure motion was presented in the West Bengal state assembly and was passed with the support of all.

'Shiv Sena Balasaheb'-Eknath

courage and go among the people without taking the names of Shiv Sena or the party founder, the late Balasaheb Thackeray. Eknath Shinde, in the morning, tweeted had his and 15 other rebel MLAs security cover was withdrawn by the Uddhav Thackeray-led government and called it "political vendetta". The Maharashtra government, however, refuted Eknath Shinde's security cover withdrawn claim and said it was "completely baseless". "Neither the Chief Minister nor the Home Department has ordered the withdrawal of security of any MLA. The allegations being levelled through Twitter are false and completely baseless," Maharashtra Home Minister Dilip Walse Patil said. Maharashtra's Deputy Speaker Narhari Zirwal may reportedly send disqualification notices to 16 rebel Shiv Sena MLAs on Saturday. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena filed a petition before the Deputy Speaker of the state assembly seeking the cancellation of membership of 16 rebel MLAs including Eknath Shinde for "not attending" legislative party meeting. The Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress MVA government plunged into a crisis when Eknath Shinde walked away with a large chunk of Sena MLAs and stationed himself first in Surat and later, at a luxury hotel in Guwahati, criticising Uddhav Thackeray's style of functioning. The political upheaval in Maharashtra continued as the number and strength of the rebel camp of Shiv Sena led by Eknath Shinde grew stronger. Shinde claimed support of two-thirds of the party's MLAs. The MVA government is headed by Shiv Sena having 55 MLAs. NCP with 53 legislators and the Congress party having 44 MLAs are the alliance partners in the state government. Maharashtra legislative Assembly has a strength of 288 members.

Uddhav Thackeray's warning

Sambhaji Shinde - currently camping in Guwahati - had allegedly decided to rename itself as "Shiv Sena-Balasaheb Thackeray Group". As a row built up with angst among Shiv Sainiks in Maharashtra, the rebels quickly backtracked and claimed they were the "real Shiv Sena". Thackeray also said that the party would write to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure that the name of Shiv Sena or Balasaheb Thackeray is not misused by unauthorised persons or groups of such "turncoats" for their political interests, failing which they would face legal action. Addressing party leaders during the national executive committee meeting in the Shiv Sena Bhawan, Thackeray said, "Some people are asking me to say something but I've already said that they (rebel MLAs) can do whatever they want to do, I won't interfere in their matters. They can take their own decision, but no one should use Balasaheb Thackeray's name." The Chief Minister later left the Shiv Sena Bhawan with Minister Aaditya Thackeray after the conclusion of the meeting. Notably, the decision of the Shinde faction comes at a time when Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was holding the executive meeting of Shiv Sena. The Shiv Sena-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government continues to be in a combative mode with 38 of its rebel MLAs camping in Guwahati. Meanwhile, rebel Shiv Sena leader and state cabinet minister Eknath Shinde on Saturday wrote to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray over the alleged 'malicious' withdrawal of security of family members of the 38 MLAs camping with him in a Guwahati hotel. Calling Shinde a "traitor", the Sena Tiger recalled how he did a lot for him (Shinde), yet he was hurling a series of baseless allegations against the Sena and Thackeray. "I did everything possible for Shinde.... I allotted him the Urban Development portfolio which I handled. His son (Dr Shrikant Shinde) is a two-time MP and now they are commenting on my son (Minister Aaditya Thackeray), and levelling many allegations even against me," said Thackeray. Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut also said that strict action will be taken against those who have betrayed them. "Strict action will be taken against those who have betrayed the party. CM Thackeray has the authority to take action against those who left... We'll take legal action against those who have used Balasaheb Thackeray's name for their self-centred politics. Those who have left can't use our patriarch's name."

We Have Not Spent On MLAs

hotel. Reacting to queries on who was paying for their stay in the five-star hotel in Guwahati in Assam, CM Sarma said, "Assam's money is not being spent at Radisson Blu. An RTI will substantiate that." Playing it down, the Assam CM said, "People of Maharashtra are not short of money that we have to pay for them." He said, "Why should we send the legislators from Maharashtra home? Think about those working at Radisson Blu hotel. What will happen to them?" Taking an aim at Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi who called for the rebel MLAs to be sent away, CM Sarma said, "Akhil wants the legislators to be thrown out. He is looking to get out youth unemployed just to get protesting people out of the hotel." "We want development and glory in Assam. What Akhil wants is for the state to remain impoverished. That is why he is protesting against people from outside staying in the hotel." It may be noted that rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde along with his party's MLAs have been staying in Radisson Blu hotel since Wednesday, having arrived from Surat in Gujarat amid the political turmoil in Maharashtra.

Mukesh Ambani, son Anant donate

including Tibetan spiritual leader The Dalai Lama, have donated to the relief fund. The Dalai Lama donated Rs 10 lakh from his Gaden Phodrang Trust, while Oil India Limited (OIL) has donated Rs 5 crore.

I'll be visiting Germany at invitation

"PM Modi said." During the sessions of the Summit, I will be exchanging views with the G7 countries, G7 partner countries and guest International Organisations on topical issues such as environment, energy, climate, food security, health, counter-terrorism, gender equality and democracy," PM Modi added. "During the Summit, Prime Minister Modi is expected to speak in two sessions that include environment, energy, climate, food security, health, gender equality and democracy. In an effort to strengthen international collaboration on these important issues, other democracies such as Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa have also been invited," MEA said in a statement. After attending the G7 Summit, Prime Minister will be travelling to United Arab Emirates (UAE) on June 28, 2022, to pay his personal condolences on the passing away of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the former UAE President and Abu Dhabi Ruler. The Ministry statement added, "PM Modi will also take the opportunity to congratulate Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his election as the new President of UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi."



Guwahati- DC walks on his way to the Kamakhya temple

Mission Aparajay: Elvis Ali Hazarika is ready for a new challenge

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 25: Swimmer Elvis Ali Hazarika is going to challenge his own capability and participate in a few adventurous swims this time. These activities are termed as Mission Aparajay (unbeatable). The swimmer will swim from North Ireland to Scotland on the North Channel on September 17 and from England to France in the English Channel during the middle of the coming year. The mission of covering 42 km of the North Channel in just 13 hours and 38 km of the English Channel within 10-12 hrs will be very challenging. SM Developers, a Guwahati-based business house, has come forward to help the swimmer who is all set for Mission Aparajay. It was revealed by the eminent swimmer at a press meet held at Guwahati Press Club on Saturday. Speaking at the press meet, Pranay Bordoloi, an eminent journalist greeted and praised Elvis Ali Hazarika for his adventure. Representing SM Developers S. K. Jain, CMD, Vikas Agarwal, MD, and Bhaskarjyoti Bhuyan, VP, of the entity assured the internationally renowned swimmer of all assistance and support for Mission Aparajay. Senior Journalists, distinguished persons among others attended the same which was hosted by journalist Hemanta Sharma and conveying their good wishes for the endeavor. The swimmer will also participate in the 800 km relay to Gujarat-Goa-Mumbai later this year or early of the upcoming year apart from the North Channel and English Channel under Mission Aparajay. In addition, SM developers has raised a fund raiser for the flood affected people of Assam, to contribute to the Chief Minister Relief Fund. Elvis Ali Hazarika will spread the awareness and appeal to the international community through Mission Aparajay for the contribution to the flood affected people of the state. Noted that the 42-year-old swimmer has been able to win 6 gold, 7 silver, 5 bronze at the international level while 134 gold, 43 silver, 15 bronze at the national level and 128 gold, 12 silver medals at the state level so far. Recently in March this year, the swimmer was able to set a record by swimming 200 km in just 53 hours from Gateway of Mumbai to Gateway of India of Arabian Sea.

Activist Teesta Setalvad detained day after SC upholds SIT clean chit to PM Modi

Ahmedabad, June 25 : Activist Teesta Setalvad was on Saturday detained by the Gujarat Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) from Mumbai in connection with an FIR registered against her at the Ahmedabad city crime branch, sources said. "Teesta Setalvad has been picked up by the Gujarat ATS from Mumbai in connection with an FIR registered by the Ahmedabad crime branch," a source in the Gujarat ATS said. A day earlier the Supreme Court had dismissed a petition challenging the clean chit given by the SIT to then Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi and others in the 2002 post-Godhra riots cases. Setalvad's NGO had supported Zakia Jafri throughout her legal battle. Jafri's husband Ehsan Jafri was killed during the riots. A Mumbai Police officer said Setalvad was picked up by the Gujarat Police from her Santacruz residence. We provided the assistance sought by them, he added.



Guwahati- Maharashtra MLAs meeting

Assam's Tapan Kumar Deka appointed IB chief

Guwahati, June 25 : Senior IPS officer Tapan Kumar Deka was on Friday appointed Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief, replacing Arvind Kumar whose extended tenure ends on June 30. Deka, who originally hails from lower Assam's Barpeta district, was brought up in Tezpur. He has been handling the operations wing of the IB. He takes over as the new Director of IB for two years, according to an official order issued by the Personnel Ministry. Deka is a 1988 batch IPS officer from the Himachal Pradesh cadre and is the first police officer from the Northeast to be appointed as Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB). 58-year-old Deka is currently serving as Special Director of IB and also is in charge of counter-terror operations in Jammu and Kashmir. Deka mostly worked with the Intelligence Bureau of India and is known as a close aide of NSA Ajit Doval. He joined the Intelligence Bureau in 1998 and since then he was never seen in a police uniform. Deka holds a Master's Degree in Physics and was an AASU leader. He cleared Indian Police Service (IPS) in his first attempt. The tenure of Samant Goel, who has been heading the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW), has been extended by one more year, the ministry said in another order.

"Don't Know If Maharashtra MLAs Here": Assam Chief Minister

Guwahati, June 25 : Amid the deepening crisis in the Maharashtra government, with a rebel group of over 40 Shiv Sena MLAs camping in a five-star hotel on the outskirts of Guwahati, while back home the Maha Vikas Aghadi government gasps for air, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has plainly denied the state has got anything to do with one of the biggest political developments this week. "There are many good hotels in Assam, anyone can come there and stay... there is no issue with it. I don't know if Maharashtra MLAs are staying in Assam. MLAs of other states can also come and stay in Assam," Mr Sarma told news agency ANI this evening. The rebel camp led by Sena MLA, Eknath Shinde, has already reached the critical number 37 required to split the party in the assembly without falling foul of the anti-defection law. With two more Sena MLAs, he will have 39. His total strength is now 42, including independent MLAs. Mr Shinde's camp even posted visuals from the hotel in Guwahati to show he has 42 MLAs on his side. In a last-ditch attempt to save the ruling Maharashtra alliance, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray's team has decided to seek disqualification of 17 MLAs. Out of this, Team Thackeray has appealed to the Maharashtra assembly Deputy Speaker to disqualify 5 MLAs first. The Sena may not move to disqualify more than 17, however, since that would bring the halfway mark down, which would benefit the BJP. Sena's play appears to be to go for disqualifying a few rebels to discourage the rest from facing elections, hence forcing them to return.

Edible oil prices become cheaper, major brands cut MRP by Rs 10-15 per litre

Guwahati, June 25 : Edible oil prices become cheaper, major brands cut MRP by Rs 10-15 per litre -- Check new rates here New Delhi: Edible oil prices in the retail market have started easing with softening of international rates and the government's timely intervention, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said on Wednesday. As per government data, the average retail prices of packaged edible oils have eased slightly, except for groundnut oil, across the country since the beginning of this month and are ruling between Rs 150 and 190 per kg. Last week, edible oil firms Adani Wilmar and Mother Dairy reduced the MRP (maximum retail price) for different varieties of cooking oils by Rs 10-15 per litre. Both the companies said the stock with new MRPs will hit the market shortly. "Trends in edible oils prices are very positive due to the government's timely intervention and global developments," Pandey told reporters. Not only edible oils, retail wheat and wheat flour prices are stable as well, he said, adding that regulations have been useful in keeping domestic prices in check. A senior food ministry official said major edible oil brands have reduced MRP in phases and most recently they cut the price by Rs 10-15 per litre. As per the data compiled by the Department of Consumer Affairs, the average retail prices of groundnut oil (packaged) stood at Rs 188.14 per kg on June 21 as against Rs 186.43 per kg on June 1. Mustard oil rates have come down marginally to Rs 180.85 on June 21 from Rs 183.68 per kg on June 1. Vanaspati price is flat at Rs 165 per kg. The price of soya oil is marginally down to Rs 167.67 from Rs 169.65, while rate of sunflower dipped slightly to 189.99 from Rs 193 per kg. Palm oil rate has come down to Rs 152.52 per kg on June 21 from Rs 156.4 per kg on June 1. The department monitors prices for 22 essential commodities (rice, wheat, atta, gram dal, tur (Arhar) dal, urad dal, moong dal, masur dal, sugar, gur, groundnut oil, mustard oil, vanaspati, sunflower oil, soya oil, palm oil, tea, milk, potato, onion, tomato and salt) based on data collected from 167 market centres spread across the country representing North, West, East, South and North-eastern regions. The retail and wholesale prices of 22 commodities from 167 centres are received daily from the State Civil Supplies Departments of the respective state governments through a mobile app developed by the Centre's Department of Consumer Affairs. Adani Wilmar on Saturday cut the prices of its edible oils by Rs 10 per litre. The MRP of Fortune refined Sunflower oil's 1-litre pack has been reduced to Rs 210 from Rs 220 per litre. The MRP of Fortune Soyabean and Fortune Kachi Ghani (mustard oil) 1-litre packs has been reduced to Rs 195 from Rs 205 per litre. Mother Dairy, one of the leading milk suppliers in Delhi-NCR, last week said it has reduced prices of its cooking oils by up to Rs 15 per litre with softening of rates in global markets. The company sells its edible oils under the Dhara brand. The price of Dhara mustard oil (1 litre poly pack) has been reduced from Rs 208 to Rs 193 per litre. Dhara refined sunflower oil (1 litre poly pack) will be sold at Rs 220 now from Rs 235 per litre earlier. The rate of Dhara refined soyabean oil (1 litre poly pack) will come down from Rs 209 to Rs 194. India imports more than 60 per cent of its edible oil requirement. India's import of edible oil remained almost flat at 131.3 lakh tonnes during the 2020-21 marketing year (November-October), but in value terms, inwards shipments rose 63 per cent to record Rs 1.17 lakh crore, according to data compiled by the Solvent Extractors' Association of India (SEA).

Carl Hayman: 'I was a commodity in rugby. Now I'm paying the price'

London, June 25: "Carl has joked about going out to sea on his boat. Put in so much fuel and just go in one direction. And, you know, the fuel's going to run out eventually... "Kiko Matthews is not one to duck a subject. She lives with Carl Hayman, the former All Black prop, and their infant daughter in New Plymouth, where they run a boat-charter business. She is also living with Hayman's recent diagnosis of dementia. Time is something other people have; talking around a subject likewise a luxury alien to her. "Carl will say," she recounts matter-of-factly "and I totally get where he's coming from: 'What's the point in living? It's only going to get worse. I've got headaches every day. I can't function. And this is as good as it's going to get.' There is no cure." Matthews, at 41, is 18 months Hayman's junior and a survivor of a life-threatening illness herself. In 2009, she was diagnosed with a tumour on her pituitary gland, which causes Cushing's Disease, and again in 2017. Each time, she underwent neurosurgery to remove it. A few months after her second brush with mortality, she broke the



world record for rowing solo across the Atlantic. A year later again, she was cycling around the coast of the UK and part of Ireland, organising impromptu beach clean-ups and raising awareness of single-use plastics. While training for the latter, she met Hayman in March 2019 when they joined a peloton cycling the length of Britain for Dottie Weir's foundation. Hayman was going through a divorce and was about to leave his job as forwards' coach at Pau, having been convicted for domestic violence. He returned to France, but they continued

their relationship remotely as she completed her bike ride. She noticed he seemed to drink a lot on his own and went through dark moods, what he called his "man periods", but when they were together all seemed well - bar Hayman's terrible headaches. "You've probably got a sore head because you've had it bashed in so many times. You're up and down because you're going through a divorce. That was our thinking then. Actually, as it turns out, that divorce was probably related to the CTE [chronic

traumatic encephalopathy, rather than the other way round." The man himself is in agreement. The diagnosis has at least identified the problem and allowed them to plan for it. "A few years ago, I was just not well at all," Hayman says. "I didn't understand what was going on with me." Fast forward another two years, and they had moved to New Zealand together and had a daughter, Hayman's fourth child. But the headaches and depression only seemed to deepen. On the advice of the Wales international Alix Popham, who has been diagnosed with dementia, they returned to England for testing at King's College London, which is when, in July 2021, Hayman was diagnosed with dementia with probable CTE. He is joining the lawsuit that other players of his generation are bringing against rugby's governing bodies.

Marcus Smith looks to Farrell's 'edge' for partnership against Australia

London, June 25: If England are to return from Australia victorious this summer then it is almost an understatement to say the fledgling partnership between Marcus Smith and Owen Farrell needs to develop into a formidable double act. It is a truism that England will rely on their forward muscle, their kicking prowess and their set-piece grunt against the wily Wallabies but despite the importance of those parts of the game, so much rides on whether Smith and Farrell hit it off on the pitch. They have managed only 68 minutes at 10-12 for England so far together, as it turns out, against Australia in the autumn - a comprehensive victory for Eddie Jones's side and a qualified success for the Smith-Farrell axis. The idea is that Farrell can step in at first receiver during structured play while Smith lurks, scanning for space and waiting for the opportunity with that little bit more time. Sounds simple enough on paper but lest we forget they did

not have Samu Kerevi lining them up back in November and it is a surefire bet they will see plenty of the Australia centre in the coming weeks. Without Manu Tuilagi at outside centre, the importance of the two men inside whoever wears the No 13 jersey is heightened and though Jones will keep his cards close to his chest over selection - to the extent he has not publicly named his tour captain - he has been candid over his plans for Smith and Farrell, who have been wasting little opportunity to get themselves on the same page. "He's a brilliant player," said Smith of Farrell. "He's a massive competitor and wears his heart on his sleeve. More than that he's got brilliant vision and skills at the line. Hopefully we can put our competitive edge together to try and get a Test series win. We've spoken long and hard about it. I think we complement each other nicely. I think we both see the game pretty similarly. I hope we can both come



together and get the best out of each other. Hopefully I can be there to get the best out of him and allow him to show his skills on the park. Hopefully he can also allow me to show the best of me." Outwardly, they are markedly different personalities but Smith and Farrell share an obsession with all things rugby which ensures they have plenty to talk about and when the England squad descends en masse to the second game of rugby league's State of Origin series on Sunday in the same stadium that stages next Saturday's first Test, there will be few spectators watching the

match more intently. "I love watching Super Rugby and the NRL," adds Smith. "I actually can't get enough. It's brilliant to bounce ideas off him and George [Ford] when he's in camp as well. It's nice to learn from these guys because they've got so much experience. Hopefully we can continue to do that with the Origin games which are going on at the same time. We chat here and there and if we see something in any game, we talk and chew the fat a little bit. We'll try and bring it together if we get to play together. Through the season we definitely share ideas. We try to talk when we can."

Zharnel Hughes forgives CJ Ujah for failed test that cost Olympics medal

London, June 25: Zharnel Hughes says he has forgiven CJ Ujah for failing a drugs test that cost Team GB an Olympic 4x100m silver medal, because "sometimes these things happen". Hughes is looking for redemption himself this year after false starting in the Olympic 100m semi-finals. But after running a smooth 10.18 sec in the first round of the opening day of the British trials in Manchester, Hughes was in a magnanimous mood when asked about Ujah. "CJ is a great guy, regardless," said Hughes. "What happened to him is unfortunate, sadly. I haven't spoken to

him in a long time but, the last time I did he apologised and said sorry." Ujah tested positive for two banned drugs, which he says were in contaminated supplements. But his subsequent apology has been greeted very differently among his teammates. Reece Prescod, who did not run the relay in Tokyo, has pledged to forgive Ujah. However Richard Kilty, who ran the third leg of the 4x100m at the Olympics, has called Prescod's view "bullshit" and condemned Ujah for being so careless.

Lightning halt Avalanche in Game 5 to keep Stanley Cup hopes alive

London, June 25: The Tampa Bay Lightning spoiled Colorado's party to stay in the hunt for a third straight Stanley Cup title, beating the Avalanche 3-2 on Friday night in Game 5. Ondrej Palat scored with 6:22 remaining and Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 35 shots in front of a raucous crowd hoping to celebrate the Avalanche's first championship in 21 years. The series now heads back to Tampa for Game 6 on Sunday night. The Lightning trail the best-of-seven series 3-2. Nikita Kucherov and defenseman Jan Rutta also scored for the Lightning. Valeri Nichushkin and Cale Makar had goals for Colorado.

Makar's third-period tally bounced off the skate of Erik Cernak and through the pads of Vasilevskiy to tie it at 2-2. It set the stage for Palat, whose shot slipped through the pads of Darcy Kuemper. Tampa Bay regrouped after an emotional Game 4 loss at home on an overtime goal from Colorado forward Nazem Kadri. The Lightning felt the Avalanche might have had too many players on the ice on the winner. A too many players on the ice penalty was called on Friday on Colorado with 2:43 remaining. The Lightning went on the power play and made it so that Colorado couldn't pull Kuemper until around 30 seconds remaining. They

weathered the Avalanche's late barrage. That was the Lightning showing their championship mettle. They've already rallied back from a 3-2 deficit to Toronto in the first round, and climbed out of a 2-0 hole against the New York Rangers in the Eastern Conference finals. Completing this comeback series win would put them in an entirely different category. Only one team has rallied to capture a Game 7 in the final after trailing 3-1 in a series: the 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs. This is a gritty Lightning squad that's showing no signs of slowing down even against a speedy Avalanche team and even after all the contests they've



logged. Tampa Bay have played in 67 postseason games since the start of the first round in 2020. That's basically an entire extra season. Their resolve has impressed Lightning coach Jon Cooper. His team improved to 3-0 this season when facing potential

elimination games. The Avalanche are trying to capture their first title since 2001. The Avalanche fans were out in full force both inside the building (an upper-level ticket on game day was going for around \$1,500) and outside at a nearby watch party.

Centurion Bairstow insists 'this is the way I've always been capable of playing'

Paris, June 25: Two weeks after the astonishing innings of 136 that swung the Trent Bridge Test in England's favour, Jonny Bairstow produced another from the same thrilling mould, heaving the hosts from the brink of disaster to end the day 264 for six and in arrears by a relatively trivial 65, declaring: "This is the way that I've always been capable of playing." Bairstow ended the second day unbeaten on 130, having compiled a wild partnership of 209 off 223 balls with the debutant Jamie Overton, every run met with a roar by raucous fans at his home ground. There has been much talk of England's full-bore positivity under their new coach, Brendon McCullum, and the captaincy of Ben Stokes. Its long-term impact remains to be seen but Bairstow certainly seems a player transformed. "I guess it's your personality coming out," he said. "It's just a more relaxed me at the crease, I'm not necessarily as tense. I've gone back to young Jonny, where I'm watching the ball and seeing the ball. There is sometimes a lot of rubbish spoken about a lot of different things, sometimes it gets into your mind and clutters it. I have to listen to the people that matter to me and right now I am doing that. The most important thing is me being me." When Bairstow returned to the team towards the end of England's miserable Ashes series it was approaching the fourth anniversary of his last Test century. He has since hit four in eight games. "Sometimes it's a simple game that we complicate," he said. "We're trying to strip that complicated nature of it back, and allow people to go out and express themselves."

Manchester City close on £42m Phillips and agree fee with Arsenal for Jesus



Paris, June 25: Manchester City are close to signing Kalvin Phillips having reached a verbal agreement with Leeds that would see the Premier League champions spend £42m plus add-ons for the midfielder. City have been tracking Phillips for most of the summer and now appear to have got their man. Talks are in the final stages with progress having also been made on the player's contract and, all going well, Phillips could complete his move from Elland Road to the Etihad Stadium within the next week. His departure would represent a significant blow for Leeds. Born and raised in the city, Phillips

progressed through the club's academy to become a key figure for the side, especially during Marcelo Bielsa's time as manager. The Argentinian converted the 26-year-old into a playmaking defensive midfielder and the transition went so well that Phillips was called-up to the England squad in August 2020, making his debut against Denmark a month later. He continued to do well for club and country and became a key for England during their run to the final of Euro 2020. Phillips was restricted to 23 appearances in all competition last season due to a hamstring injury but

featured in Leeds' final eight Premier League games as Jesse Marsch's men avoided relegation via a last-day victory over Brentford. Phillips will be City's second signing of the summer, following the £51.5m arrival of Erling Haaland. They are also expected to bid for Brighton's highly-rated full-back Marc Cucurella. One player seemingly on his way out of City is Gabriel Jesus after a verbal agreement was reached with Arsenal that will see the Brazil forward move there for £45m. Jesus has been linked with Arsenal for some time but their hopes of acquiring the 25-year-old appeared to be in jeopardy after Tottenham and Chelsea also indicated they wanted him. Both clubs cooled their interest, however, leaving Arsenal clear to sign the player. A deal is expected to be completed soon. Meanwhile, Newcastle are close to signing Sven Botman from Lille for €40m (£34.4m) with add-ons. The Dutch defender was wanted by Newcastle's manager, Eddie Howe, in January but a deal could not be completed.

Nottingham Forest break transfer record to sign Taiwo Awoniyi



London, June 25: Nottingham Forest have broken the club's transfer record to make striker Taiwo Awoniyi their first signing since being promoted to the Premier League. The top-flight newcomers have paid Union Berlin £17m for the Nigeria international who has signed a five-year deal at the City Ground after passing a medical on Thursday. Forest beat off stiff competition from a number of clubs in England and Germany for the striker who scored 15 goals in the Bundesliga last season. The Forest manager, Steve Cooper, met the former Liverpool forward in Athens recently to discuss how he saw Awoniyi fitting into his team for their first Premier League campaign in 23 years. "I'm very excited to be here at Nottingham Forest," Awoniyi said. "It's always

been my dream to play in the Premier League and having spoken to Steve Cooper about our ambitions and looking at Forest, with its great history, it's a club that I want to be part of." Cooper added: "There's been a lot of interest in Taiwo from other Premier League clubs, and other clubs across Europe, so we're delighted that he's chosen Nottingham Forest. Our recruitment and coaching teams have been monitoring his progress closely over the last few months. He's a player who we really believe in and we look forward to him going on to fulfil his potential and become a top Premier League striker with Nottingham Forest." Awoniyi had a six-year spell with Liverpool, which was spent out on loan at various clubs, prior to making the permanent move to German last summer. The Premier League runners-up will receive 10% of the fee paid by Forest due to a sell-on clause. It is expected that Awoniyi will be the first of many signings this summer

as the Forest owners back the club's recruitment team to assemble a squad capable of staying in the Premier League. Manchester United goalkeeper Dean Henderson will arrive on loan for the season. The club made Henderson their No 1 goalkeeping target for the summer after Brice Samba rejected a new contract and is now close to sealing his Forest exit, with Lens in talks to sign him. Forest are in talks with German club Mainz over their club captain Moussa Niakhaté after seeing an opening bid rejected for the centre-back. There is optimism at Forest that a deal will still be done for the former France Under-21 international. They maintain an interest in Wolves winger Morgan Gibbs-White, who impressed on loan at Sheffield United last season, but anticipate being rivalled by numerous Premier League clubs for his signature. Forest are also looking to recruit right-back, with Liverpool's Neco Williams and Manchester City's Issa Kaboré the current leading candidates.

Chelsea in talks with Milan over Ziyech sale as Tuchel aims to reshape squad

London, June 25: Chelsea have held talks with Milan over selling Hakim Ziyech as Thomas Tuchel works to reshape the squad under the club's new owners. Ziyech is available for transfer and would be open to joining the Serie A champions but an arrangement must be found regarding his salary, which is larger than Milan would ordinarily want to pay. Milan are discussing the matter internally and with the 29-year-old's agents. Ziyech was in and out of Tuchel's team last season, starting 19 of Chelsea's 48 games in the Premier League and Champions League. He joined from Ajax for an initial €40m in the summer of 2020 on a five-year contract. Chelsea retain an interest in Matthijs de Ligt as they look to strengthen their defence. Juventus are trying to extend the centre-back's contract but no agreement has yet been reached and De Ligt is on Tuchel's list of targets for the position with players such as Sevilla's Jules Koundé and Manchester City's Nathan Aké. City made significant transfer moves on Friday by agreeing a deal to buy Kalvin Phillips from Leeds for an initial £42m and to sell Gabriel Jesus to Arsenal for a guaranteed £45m. Arsenal are discussing personal terms with the Brazil forward's agents with a view to the player signing a five-year contract. Arsenal remain interested in Raphinha but face competition from Tottenham and Barcelona for the Leeds winger. City's next priority will be to step up their pursuit of Brighton's left-back Marc Cucurella. Brighton are poised to sign the 20-year-old Ivorian forward Simon Adingra for €8m (£6.9m) from Nordsjælland.

Simona Halep: 'I told my family I was done with tennis - but I still love it'



London, June 25 : In a sport filled with so much uncertainty, where anyone can beat anyone else on any given day, for so long Simona Halep was one of the few pillars of consistency at the top of women's tennis. She landed inside the top 10 aged 22 in 2014 and for seven-and-a-half years she stayed. During those seasons, Halep built a hall-of-fame career: two grand slam titles; 23 WTA titles overall; 64 weeks at world No. 1. Despite her early timidity and doubt, Halep was always present. She was always brave enough to front up to the next challenge and give her all, even in the knowledge that it could mean falling. That is what made last season so difficult. For the first time in her career, she could not even show up. "It was the toughest year of my life," the 30-year-old says in an interview early in the grass-court season in Birmingham. "I had that injury that I didn't know

how to handle. It was the biggest injury in my life, so it was really tough. I missed two grand slams. I was four months away. So it was not easy to handle and to manage." In May last year Halep was playing against Angelique Kerber in Rome when she tore her calf muscle, eventually retiring from the match. The first significant injury of her career ended her 373-week tenure in the top 10 since 2014, the eighth longest consecutive run in WTA history, and her time away from the sport took her mind to difficult places. She began to question what remained of her career: "I didn't know if my body would hold anymore," she says. During the off-season, her doubts festered and the positive front she put on at the beginning of 2022 crumbled. She concluded that retirement was likely imminent. "I played well in Australia. But then after I lost in Doha, I was down again. I actually told my

family and my close ones that I probably am done with tennis because I felt like I have no more power to fight and to stay there to be resilient," says Halep. Resilience is a characteristic that has come to define Halep's career. It was already present when she was a child in the port city of Constanta, Romania, without any kind of system, pathway or recent role model. "Everything I had was from my parents," she says. "So it was not easy. It's not easy when you play with this pressure, because it's your family's money. But now I'm more satisfied that we did it together." It was also essential when she had established herself in the top 10 and began to chase her ultimate dreams. From 2014, Halep reached three grand slam finals and brutally lost them all. There was an instant classic three-setter against Maria Sharapova at the French Open in 2014. Next came an excruciating loss to newcomer Jelena

Ostapenko in the 2017 final at Roland Garros after Halep led 3-0 with a break point in the third set. Then, after a string of marathons at the 2018 Australian Open, Halep's efforts in her tight three-set loss to Caroline Wozniacki left her in hospital on an intravenous drip. The pursuit of a grand slam title broke her body down, but somehow it actually fortified her mind. "I was so close most of the time," she says, smiling. "I really wanted it. I was depressed after I lost them. But after 2018 Australia, I didn't feel bad. I said that it's gonna come. So there I got the confidence that I'm very close to it. And if I don't give up, it will happen." Such brutal defeats would have killed the spirit of many great players. In order to explain why that was not the case for her, Halep recalls a recent conversation she had with Patrick Mouratoglou, her new coach: "He asked me if I really believed when I was

a kid that I would be a champion, winning a grand slam and being No. 1. I said: 'I never said it. And I never trusted it [enough to be] vocal, loud.' But inside, by not giving up, I think I knew that I had the chance to do it. So, probably, I trusted myself." Only with time has she come to understand that beneath that timidity and perfectionism, her inner self-belief is formidable. She won her first grand slam final at the first opportunity after her defeat to Wozniacki, beating Sloane Stephens at the French Open. A year later, Halep exceeded her own wildest expectations, dismantling Serena Williams 6-2, 6-2 in the 2019 Wimbledon final to win her second grand slam title, and on grass, the surface that for so long did not suit her. Halep considers it the closest she has ever come to executing the perfect match and by the end of the tournament, she "felt like I kind of own the court".

England vs New Zealand: Ben Stokes Becomes First All-Rounder To Achieve

New Delhi, June 25 : England all-rounder and Test captain Ben Stokes is now the first Test cricketer to have hit 100 sixes and have taken 100 wickets. The star English all-rounder achieved this landmark during the third and final Test against England at Headingley in Leeds. In the first innings, Stokes played a short knock of 18 in 13 balls, consisting of two fours and a six. The six helped him reach a century of sixes in the longest format of the game. In 81 Tests, Stokes has already taken 177 wickets at an average of 32.67 and economy rate of 3.29. Com-



ing to the match, England currently trails by 65 runs in the Test match. After bundling out New Zealand for 329, England batsman had absolutely no idea what was about to hit them. They were left defenceless as pacer Trent Boult destroyed its top order, dismissing Alex Lees (4), Zak Crawley (6) and Ollie Pope (5) within the first seven overs. It reduced England to 17/3. Star batter Joe Root (15) could not do much either. Bairstow and captain Ben Stokes tried to rebuild the innings for England,

but Stokes fell for 18 to pacer Neil Wagner, followed by wicketkeeper Ben Foakes for a duck three balls later. England had sunk to 55/6. After that, Bairstow and Wagner took control of England's innings. Bairstow continued his good show from the second Test, getting his tenth Test ton in such scary circumstances. He also completed his 5,000 Test runs.

Raducanu's participation uncertain as Murray faces Duckworth opener

Washington, June 25 : Questions were lingering over Emma Raducanu's Wimbledon participation on Friday night after she failed to show up for her scheduled practice session. Raducanu had trained earlier on Friday, but after opting not to practice at all a day earlier, she had been scheduled for a second practice session with Garbiñe Muguruza on Court One. While Muguruza arrived on Court One, Raducanu did not show up. A new practice partner was eventually arranged for the 2017 champion. Since she sustained her side injury in the very first game of her opening match of the grass court season in Nottingham, Raducanu has been in a race against time to be fit for her home grand slam. The positive signs from her camp in the immediate aftermath have been less certain as the Championships have approached. A year after receiving a late wildcard into the Wimbledon main draw, Raducanu is seeded 10th in the draw. Should she be fit to compete at Wimbledon, awaiting her in the first round will be one of the most challenging first-round opponents she could have faced at Wimbledon this year, No. 46 Alison van Uytvanck. In 2018, the Belgian defeated the defending champion Muguruza en route to the fourth round. Since the beginning of this grass season, Van Uytvanck has won the Surbiton \$100k tournament and the WTA 125 event in



Gaiba, Italy, in addition to a quarter-final at 's-Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands. Her only defeats on grass have come in third set tie-breaks to the world No. 6 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 25 Amanda Anisimova this week in Bad Homburg. Murray has been recovering from his own injury after suffering an abdominal strain in the final of Stuttgart. Having practiced his serve in recent days, under the watchful eye of Ivan Lendl, Murray's outlook is positive. He will open his campaign against 77th-ranked Australian James Duckworth in a match that he will be heavily favoured to win. Duckworth has lost his last nine ATP main draw matches and he missed four months of this season due to injury. Murray could face 20th seed John Isner in round 2. Novak Djokovic, the defending champion, will start his seventh title charge against South Korea's Kwon Soon-woo. Rafael Nadal, the second seed, is set to make his first appearance at Wimbledon since 2019 and faces Argentina's Francisco Cerundolo as the Spaniard aims to win his third consecutive grand slam title. Great Britain's Paul Jubb, meanwhile, will have the opportunity of facing Nick Kyrgios in the opening round. As an unseeded player in her first singles draw since Wimbledon last year, Williams should not have any issues with her draw. She has a decent opening round against No. 113 Harmony Tan who

Will Compete In Both Asian Games And World Championships If Enough Gap Between Two: Bajrang Punia

New Delhi, June 25 : Elite Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia on Saturday said he would compete in both, the postponed Asian Games and the World Championships next year, if there is a gap of at least one month between the two competitions. The 2022 Asian Games were postponed due to rising COVID-19 cases in China and the organisers are yet to announce new dates for the prestigious Continental event. The World Championship, set to be held in Russia in September 2023,

will be an Olympic qualifying event. "The 2023 is an important year. The focus is on qualifying for the Paris Games through the World Championships. We don't know as yet what is going to be the gap between Asian Games and the Worlds." But if we have one or one-and-a-half-month cushion between the two, I would compete in both," Bajrang said during a virtual interaction, facilitated by SAI. The 28-year-old Bajrang, who won a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics Games, finds no merit in harping and fretting over past

mistakes. Instead he would learn from them and move forward with better goals – an Olympic gold at the 2024 Paris Games. "I was injured and was in rehab for about 8 months after Olympics. Olympics is the most important event for any athlete. That was a setback but still I won a bronze. 65 is toughest category in world." I have not changed a bit after winning an Olympic medal. The endeavour would be to do better in 2024. I have been training again. In the last four Olympics, India has got medals through wrestling.



Bronze and silver are there but not gold. That's the target for Paris Games. "We have to forget mistakes, learn from them and move forward. Vic-

tory and defeats are part of an athlete's life, we have to accept both," he said. Bajrang is set to leave for USA on Sunday for a training stint ahead of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games. The multiple-time world medallist said he gets better sparring partner when he trains outside. "I will be training at the Michigan University. Many top wres-

tlers train there. Like, I will be training with the world number one in 70kg (Emazar Akmatiev, Kyrgyzstan). The 86kg Olympic medallist will also be there. That's why I prefer to train there." "Also, we are saved from usual distractions when we train in India. No one disturbs us abroad." He asserted that no wrestler, from any nation, tries to injure others deliberately during these training stints. "We may be fierce competitors on the mat but off-mat we are all friends."

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