



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Courtney Lawes to captain England in first Test against.. 07

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cotton University GS

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 30:

Cotton University Students' Union (CUSU) General Secretary Abhishek Mahanta joined Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the students' wing of BJP on Thursday in Guwahati. He joined the party in the presence of Tejasvi Surya, National President of BJYM. He was elected as the GS of CUSU from Satra Mukti Sangram Samiti, the student wing of Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti. Tejasvi Surya who is in Guwahati also met Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma to discuss the flood situation in Assam and also seek his guidance as to how the BJYM Cares can even help more to the flood affected people of the state.

Eknath Shinde The Auto-Rickshaw driver overtakes Uddhav's Government to become Maharashtra Chief Minister



Mumbai, June 30:

Eknath Shinde created a storm in Marathi politics. And that's the reason Uddhav Thackeray re-

signed from the post of Chief Minister of Maharashtra on Wednesday night. BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis announced his name as the new chief minister after he submitted his proposal to form the government at Raj Bhavan on Thursday. Shinde will be sworn in at 7.30 pm. But who is this Eknath Shinde? What is

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Eknath Shinde takes oath as new Maharashtra Chief Minister

Mumbai, June 30:

Eknath Shinde has taken oath as the new Maharashtra Chief Minister. The oath ceremony held at 7.30 pm today at Raj Bhavan, Fadnavis announced in a joint press conference with Shinde. The surprise announcement comes as it was speculated that Devendra Fadnavis will succeed Uddhav Thackeray. "After the swearing-in ceremony today, we will have a cabinet expansion and Shiv

Sena and BJP leaders will take the oath. I will stay out of the government," Devendra Fadnavis was quoted. Taking a potshot at Shiv Sena for forming an alliance with Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP, Fadnavis said at the conference "insulted" the mandate of the people. Earlier today, Eknath Shinde and Fadnavis met Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and staked a claim to form the government. Talking to mediapersons, Eknath Shinde reiterated



that they have the support of 50 MLAs. "The decision that we have taken is committed to Balasaheb's Hindutva and for the development work in the constituencies of our MLAs. We have 50 MLAs with

us." The Shiv Sena MLA said that the new Maharashtra government will have the backing of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP chief J P Nadda: Eknath Shinde

Expressing gratitude for Fadnavis, Shinde said, "Fadnavis could have become CM going by the numbers but he showed a big heart and I thank him." Shinde, who was in Goa, reached Mumbai today and met the Maharashtra Governor along with Fadnavis. Uddhav Thackeray resigned as the Maharashtra Chief Minister on Wednesday night after the Supreme Court allowed a floor test on Thursday. The development occurred following a rebellion by Shiv Sena MLA Eknath Shinde, who boasted of the support of the majority of the party

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CM attends International Buyer Seller Meet & Spices Conclave

Assam Rising
Guwahati, June 30:

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today said that in the present scenario, wherein the entire globe is on the look for healthy food, that are at par with the international standards of food safety and quality, free from any chemical residues and other contaminants; the North Eastern India can emerge as the major sup-



plier of organic foods to the globe. He made this obser-

vation while speaking at the International Buyer Seller

Meet and Spices Conclave organized by the Spices Board of India for the North Eastern Region at Guwahati today. The conclave was participated by leading foreign buyers, major exporters, farmers, and traders from across the North East. The event was organized in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote India's rich heritage

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PM Modi to unveil legendary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju's statue in Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati, June 30:

Special Chief Secretary Rajat Bhargava (Tourism and Culture) on Thursday inspected the arrangements for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhimavaram town in Andhra Pradesh on July 4, to unveil the statue

of legendary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswa Bhusan Harichandan, Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy, Union Tourism and



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GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

73rd Van Mahotsav 2022

From July 1 to 7

"WHEN WE PLANT A SAPLING, WE PLANT A HOPE FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE"

Dr. Himanta Biswa Sharma
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam

Let's retain the vanishing forest covers of the Country

Someone's sitting in the shade today because someone planted a tree a long time ago

Saplings may be collected from nurseries of FOREST DEPARTMENT

असम सरकार myGov मेरी सरकार

Forest Department, Govt. of Assam



Visitors pose for a group photo at the Shanghai Disneyland in Shanghai, east China

Oxford university urged to reject donation from Russian-British businessman

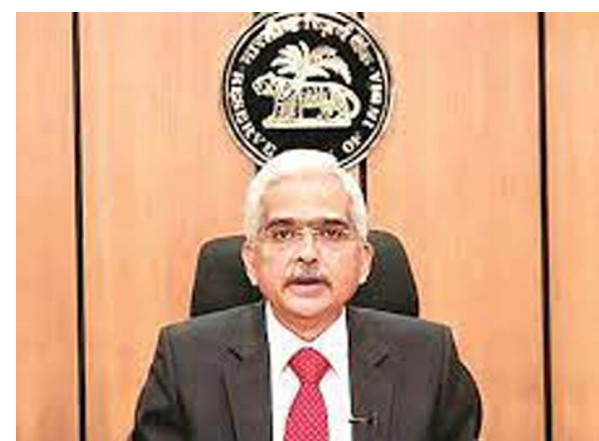
London, June 30 : The University of Oxford has come under renewed pressure to reject a £2.6m donation from a Russian-British businessman after he was designated for sanctions by the UK government. Ministers imposed sanctions on Said Gutseriev on Wednesday for "obtaining a benefit from or supporting the government of Russia" in his role as a director of SFI, a Russian conglomerate that the UK government said was involved in the "Russian financial services sector, a sector of strategic significance". Gutseriev donated £2.6m to the university in 2019 to establish a fellowship in archaeology and anthropology. It was named the Chingiz Gutseriev fellowship after Said's late brother. Oxford said on Wednesday that it would "consider if any further actions are appropriate" in re-

lation to the donation. It has previously rejected calls for it to return the money after the UK in August 2021 imposed sanctions on Said's father, Mikhail, for allegedly supporting the repressive regime of Belarus's dictator, Alexander Lukashenko. Anti-corruption campaigners said the latest sanctions underlined the case for Oxford to remove the fellowship. James Bolton-Jones, advocacy adviser at campaign group Spotlight on Corruption, said: "Holding on to a donation from an individual who features on the UK sanctions list and is therefore understood to have close links to the Kremlin is unacceptable, especially in the current climate." Oxford University should give strong consideration to returning the money or, better still, donating it to a charity supporting the reconstruction of

Ukraine. "Steve Goodrich, head of research and investigations at anti-corruption organisation Transparency International, said: "Court- ing big donors is a major cash stream for higher education, but it is not without risk." Accepting endowments from those subject to sanctions or investigation is not a good look, even if they are alumni. Given the frequency with which this happens, universities in the UK need to think more carefully about whom they take money from." Gutseriev's assets were frozen under the latest sanctions, meaning he will be unable to buy or sell a London property portfolio worth at least £160m that was revealed by the Guardian and reporting partners last month. Through a spokesperson, Gutseriev previously said he had cut all ties with his father. Leaked

documents seen by the Guardian suggested that Gutseriev received a head start from his father's wealth, and Mikhail Gutseriev was previously a "controlling shareholder" of SFI, which was formerly called Saffmar Financial Investments. SFI's website was not accessible from the UK on Wednesday afternoon. The Oxford post funded by Gutseriev sits between the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, the School of Archaeology and St Peter's College, where he studied.

and non-banking institutions have sufficient capital buffers to withstand shocks and would be able to comply with minimum capital requirements even under extreme stress scenarios. RBI said banks gross non-performing assets ratio fell to a six-year low of 5.9% in March 2022. "The financial system is well-capitalised and returning to profitability," Das added in his address. (ALSO READ: Shark Tank fame Peyush Bansal-led Lenskart acquires Japanese firm Owndays) "A noteworthy feature of cur-



rent situation is overall resilience of Indian financial institutions, which should stand economy in good stead as it strengthens its

prospects. This reflects a combination of good governance and risk management practices," he added. Das said that "even so, we

must be mindful of the emerging risks on the horizon. Cryptocurrencies are a clear danger. Anything that derives value based on make believe, without any underlying, is just speculation under a sophisticated name." He added that while technology has supported reach of financial sector and its benefits must be fully harnessed, its potential to disrupt financial stability has to be guarded against. "As financial system gets increasingly digitalised, cyber risks are growing and need special attention," he said.

Ferdinand Marcos Jr praises dictator father during swearing in as Philippines president

Manila, June 30 : Ferdinand Marcos Jr has promised a government that will deliver for all Filipinos during his inauguration speech, even as he paid tribute to the legacy

of his dictator father, whose rule was marked by widespread corruption and rights abuses. Marcos Jr, who began his term as president of the Philippines on Thursday, said he would



emulate his father. "I once knew a man who saw what little had been achieved since independence in a land of people with the greatest potential for achievement. And yet they were poor. But he got it done. Sometimes with the needed support, sometimes without. So will it be with his son. You will get no excuses from me," he said. His mother, Imelda Marcos, 92, who once described it as her son's destiny to become the president, sat metres away as he spoke at the public ceremony at the National Museum in Manila.

Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr, 64, won last month's elections by a landslide, 36 years after his father, who ruled for more than two decades, was chased from the Malacañan Palace by a popular uprising. Marcos Jr's election victory was fuelled by disinformation spread widely on social media, glorifying his father's rule. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr with his mother, Imelda Marcos, after taking his oath as the next president of the Philippines. Marcos Jr told the ceremony he was not there to talk about the past, but did refer to his father on multiple occasions. He would heal divisions, he said, stating: "The changes we seek will benefit all and will shortchange no one." On Thursday morning, as the inauguration was under way, survivors of his father's regime gathered to take their own oath "to

guard against tyranny, falsehoods and the trampling of people's rights and freedoms". They gathered at Bantayog ng mga Bayani, a monument, museum and research centre dedicated to the thousands of people imprisoned, tortured or killed during Marcos Sr's rule. Marcos Jr has downplayed or denied such abuses. Marcos Jr succeeds Rodrigo Duterte, who remains enduringly popular at home but has attracted international condemnation for his "war on drugs". As many as 30,000 people are dead as a result of extra-judicial killings linked to the campaign, according to estimates cited by the international criminal court, which is investigating the matter. In his speech, Marcos Jr praised Duterte for building infrastructure, but also acknowledged "shortcomings in the Covid response", which he promised to fix. Analysts have commented on the delicate dynamics between the two leaders. Marcos Jr ran in tandem with the president's daughter Sara Duterte, who is now the vice-president - an arrangement that displeased Rodrigo Duterte, who wanted his daughter to campaign for the top job.

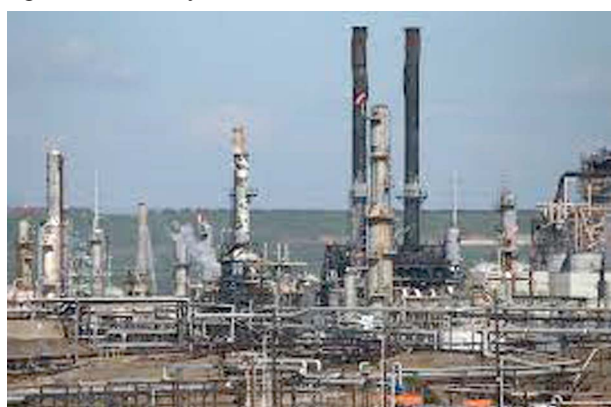
Guest House

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

Fossil fuel industry faces surge in climate lawsuits

Brisbane, June 30 : The world's most polluting companies are increasingly being targeted by lawsuits challenging their inaction on climate change and attempts to spread misinformation, according to a new report. Research by the Lon-

don School of Economics Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment found a surge in legal cases against the fossil fuel industry over the past year - especially outside the US - and growing action in other corporate sectors. People have been filing legal challenges on climate change grounds since the mid-1980s, but it is a strategy that has recently come into its own.



suits are challenging state inaction, many inspired by the landmark 2019 ruling that ordered the Dutch government to cut its emissions. But the fossil fuel industry is increasingly within the sights of campaigners. At least 13 cases have been filed against the largest Europe-based polluters and at least two in Australia against gas company Santos. Exxon, Eni and Sasol are all also involved in challenges to

government decisions about oil and gas exploration and licensing in Guyana and South Africa. The food and agriculture, transport, plastics and finance sectors are increasingly targets as well, the report finds. Many of these cases attempt to tackle greenwashing, while litigants are increasingly drawing connections "between ongoing public debates about the contribution that individuals' consumer and lifestyle choices can make to reducing emissions and widespread concern that industry misinformation and inaction may prevent such choices from making a real difference". Climate litigation has not seen any direct success in the UK yet, with all judicial reviews of government policy so far failing in court. The latest case, which challenges the government's net zero strategy, was heard in June and a decision is expected over the next few months. But around the world it has proved an effective strategy for boosting climate action.

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New York, June 30 : Senior Secret Service agents are reportedly prepared to testify that Donald Trump did not lunge for the wheel of his vehicle or physically attack the chief of his security detail after his speech near the White House on January 6 - as a former aide said he did in sworn testimony on Tuesday. The row follows the explosive testimony to the House January 6 committee, which painted an unhinged and violent portrait of Trump on the day of the Capitol attack, in a shocking hearing many have seen as potentially loosening the former president's grip on the Republican party. CNN and other outlets reported the pushback on the alleged Secret Service incident from Tony Ornato, who was also a deputy chief of staff in the Trump White House, and Robert Engel, who was Trump's security chief. Separately on Wednesday, Liz Cheney, the Republican committee vice-chair, called for Trump's White House counsel, Pat Cipollone, to testify. Cheney said: "As we heard yesterday ... Pat Cipollone had significant concerns [regarding] Trump's Jan 6 activities. It's time for Mr Cipollone to testify on the record. Any concerns he has about the institutional interests of his prior office are outweighed by the need for his testimony." On Tuesday, Cassidy Hutchinson, a former aide to Trump and his final chief of staff, Mark Meadows, appeared before the House January 6 committee for his sixth public hearing. Her extraordinary testimony spanned nearly



two hours. In particularly striking passages, she described what she said Ornato told her was Trump's reaction to being told that after speaking to supporters at the Ellipse - and telling a crowd he knew in part to be armed to "fight like hell" to overturn his election defeat - he could not go with the crowd to the US Capitol as planned. Hutchinson, 25, testified that Ornato told her Trump had a "very strong, very angry response". Trump allegedly told Engel: "I'm the fucking president. Take me up to the Capitol now." When he was turned down, Hutchinson said, Trump tried to seize the steering wheel. Engel grabbed his arm and said: "Sir, you need to take your hand off the steering wheel. We're going back to the West Wing. We're not going to the Capitol." Hutchinson said

"Trump then used his free hand to lunge towards Bobby Engel and when Mr Ornato recounted the story to me he motioned towards his clavicles". Questioned by Liz Cheney, the committee vice-chair, Hutchinson said Engel did not dispute the account when Ornato relayed it. In the aftermath of the explosive hearing, Hutchinson was depicted as a former Trump loyalist whose testimony could prove hugely damaging, in the vein of John Dean, the White House counsel who turned on Richard Nixon during the Watergate hearings half a century ago. Nixon resigned the presidency under threat of impeachment. Trump was impeached for a second time over the insurrection but acquitted when only seven Republican senators voted for his guilt. He remains free to run for the White House again in 2024.

Amazon bows to UAE pressure to restrict LGBTQ+ search results

London, June 30 : Amazon has bowed to pressure from the United Arab Emirates and restricted search results for LGBTQ+-related products such as books and rainbow-coloured flags on its website in the country. The company decided to restrict the searches after being threatened with penalties by the UAE government, according to the New York Times which first reported the story. The news comes as Pride month, designed to celebrate LGBTQ+ people around the world every year, comes to an end. Homosexuality is illegal in the UAE, one of 69 countries in the world that have laws that criminalise being gay. "As a company, we remain committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, and we believe that the rights of LGBTQ+ people must be protected," an Amazon spokesperson told the BBC. However, they added: "With Amazon stores around the world, we must also comply with the local laws and regulations of the countries in which we operate."



Models present creations from the Spring-Summer 2023 collection of Dior Homme during the men's fashion week in Paris

No. SFD/CSASDFC/CAMPA/APO/2022-23,

CORRIGENDUM-II

In view of the tender works published vide this office Tender Notification No. SFD/CSASDFC/CAMPA/APO/2022-23, dated 08/06/2022, on the partial correction of the "tender conditions" in "1.4" should be read as "Before submitting the tender, the bidder is expected to study and scrutinize all the conditions in the agreement to be executed, the draft of which shall be made available for perusal in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Silchar & Karimganj Social Forestry Division, on any working day during office hours. The detailed tender conditions attached to the tender document shall be studied and agreed by the bidder. No plea of ignorance of the agreement conditions or no complaint regarding the said conditions received after submission of the tender/bid shall be entertained" instead of "Before submitting the tender, the bidder is expected to study and scrutinize all the conditions in the agreement to be executed, the draft of which shall be made available for perusal in the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Nagaon Social Forestry Division, on any working day during office hours. The detailed tender conditions attached to the tender document shall be studied and agreed by the bidder. No plea of ignorance of the agreement conditions or no complaint regarding the said conditions received after submission of the tender/bid shall be entertained" and "tender conditions" in "1.10." should be read as Part-I of the tenders received in due time shall be opened in the Office of the Conservator of Forests, Central Southern Assam Social Forestry Circle, Guwahati by the Tender Opening Committee instead of Part-I of the tenders received in due time shall be opened in the Office of the Conservator of Forests, Upper Assam Social Forestry Circle, Nagaon by the Tender Opening Committee.

SD/-
CCF& Nodal Officer (FC Act)
I/C Central Southern Assam S.F. Circle,
Guwahati-29

Janasanyog/C/5615/22

Awareness Programme on “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” held at USTM



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 30: An outreach cum awareness program on “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao”, a campaign of Government of India,

was organised by the Department of Sociology, USTM recently on June 24. The programme was held in Jorbil L.P. School, Ri Bhoi district. The programme

mainly focused on “health, hygiene and sanitation” and encouragement and participation of girl child in education”. The resource persons, Prof T.R. Gogoi, Dr.

Sandeep Gupta and Dr. Nazia Parveen of Department of Sociology, USTM delivered lectures on importance of hygiene, sanitation and healthy well-being of the students. The lecture mainly focused on girl school students by making them aware of various issues starting from menstrual health and hygiene, safe sanitation space, taboos related to menstruation and how to address them etc. The lecture also included motivational words by the resource persons specially

for the female students to encourage them to continue their education and address the problem of drop-out ratio in schools. The students from the Department of Sociology and other faculty members also participated in the interactive session and distribution of several stationery items to the students. The teacher in charge present at the school appreciated this initiative taken by the USTM.

Suklabaidya reviews flood rehabilitation work in Hailakandi

Assam Rising, Hailakandi, June 30: Minister for Transport, Fisheries and Excise, Parimal Suklabaidya on Thursday reviewed the flood situation with the district administration. In a meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference hall, Minister Suklabaidya reviewed the prevailing flood situation and the measures to be adopted for rehabilitation of the flood affected people. He instructed the Deputy Commissioner and concerned officials to make a proper assessment of the severely damaged, fully damaged and partially damaged houses before July 15 so that those affected can get assistance before July 25. "All the houses damaged in the first and second waves, including PMAY houses have to be incorporated in the list. No genuine person is to be left out of the list," Suklabaidya told the district authorities. As per the instruction of the Chief Minister, those sheltered in the relief camps will get Rs. 3,800 as one-time assistance. "Prepare a proper list before July 5 and include the genuine names of the flood victims. Before the inmates start leaving the camp, the list should be prepared by the administration," he quipped. The students housed in relief camps will get Rs. 1000 as assistance and free textbooks. Suklabaidya, who has been assigned to look after flood relief and rehabilitation work in Hailakandi district, directed the administration to constitute a circle level task force covering every revenue village for preparing a proper list of the flood victims and formulating a comprehensive action plan for restoration of the damaged infrastructure, including roads, anganwadi centres, health centres, embankments, etc by August 15. "Circle level task force will help to collate information from ground zero for making proper list of the victims as well as damaged infrastructure," he added. Earlier, Suklabaidya along with MP, Mallah, DC and other officials took part in a review meeting on flood relief and rehabilitation chaired by the Chief Minister through video conference with the district administrations of 17 severely flood affected districts of the state.



BSS team visits flood affected people in Majbat

Assam Rising, Udalgori, June 30: A delegation team of Udalgori district Bodo Sahitya Sabha has visited the Swrangjuli and Bathouguri-2 relief camps of Majbat and taken stock of the situation there. The villagers have been affected by the flush flood and erosion of river Panchnoi, Pagla and Changbandha. There are 35 households taking shelter at Swrangjuli relief camp while 55 households at Bathouguri-2 relief camp. The people have lost their

cultivable lands and some are rendered homeless. The team was led by Nilakanta Gayari the advisor, Manik Basumatary president and Pitor Gwra Khungur Daimari the general secretary of Udalgori district Bodo Sahitya Sabha. The flood affected people have stated that there is urgent need of supply of drinking water, tripals, and light for the school going children to keep their studies on. Nilakanta Gayari has assured them that by discussing with district ad-

ministration and legislators their problems will be solved. The delegation team has also provided assistance of Rs. 11000 to each relief camp. The team has also visited the Alaisree village near the Arunachal Pradesh foothills where three ladies were killed in a thunderstorm on June 20. They paid tribute to the departed souls and gave solace to the kith & kin of their families. The BSS team has also toured the relief camps at Kathalguri, Nalbari and Maoriapara village at Udalgori and gave them 10000 Rs. as assistance to each camp.

Unchanged flood situation in Jonai

Assam Rising, Dhemaji, June 30: The water level of the Chiang River has increased in Jonai. Rising waters of the Chiang and Brahmaputra rivers, which have grown with foam, have buried the River Island of Jonai. The grim look is the

indescribable surroundings of the river island. On the other hand, the rising waters of the Chiang river have submerged more than a single village like Malbhog Shantipur, Sonowal Kathoni, Auckland Shantipur, Maswa Shampa,

Taribasti, Lohitjan, Kerker, Jaldubi in The Pava forest near three miles of Jonai as well as greater Berachapori region. Moreover, the River Chiang as well as Chili, Jonai, Nahar, dikhari, simen, Moridhal have been flooding many new areas.

Felicitation programme held at Nagsankar



Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariati, June 30: Alok - a socio-cultural and environment friendly organization of the greater Nagsankar area had organised a felicitation programme at Dakhin Nagsankar High School here with Paresh Saikia, president of the organisation in the

chair today. Putul Bora conducted the proceedings wherein a total of sixteen meritorious students who have passed the recently declared HSLC and HS examinations with flying colours. The students were felicitated with a citation and a gamocha. The students were addressed by Hitesh

Barua, ZPC member, Ballav Chapagain, headmaster, Parbati Sarma, GP president of Dakhin Nagsankar GP, Damodar Baral among others. Anjan Baskota, assistant teacher of the school carried out the felicitation session that was attended by Narad Upadhyaya, Pinku Gayan, Atul Bora, Raktim Neog along with other office bearers of the organisation.

Agriculture minister takes part in community nursery at Laokhuwa

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 30: The state agriculture minister Atul Bora today participated in a community seeds sowing programme for a community nursery in around 6 hectares of land under 'Brahmaputra Krishak Utpadok Sangstha' at Laokhuwa. The minister himself sat on steering of a tractor and ploughed over 6 hectares of land. The programme was held with a view to supply paddy saplings from the community nursery to the flood-hit



farmers of the district soon after the flood. The minister on Wednesday last made an announcement that the department concerned planned to set community nursery for paddy saplings in 90 hectares in the district to distribute saplings among the flood hit farmers of the district and as part of it, the department concerned today initiated the step to produce saplings in around 6 hectares of land at Laokhuwa community nursery. District agriculture officer Tarun Hazarika, senior agriculture officers - Praneswar Nath, Ranjan Pratim Deka, Bishnu Sarma, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Dilip Kumar Bora and other members of Brahmaputra Krishak Utpadok Sangstha were present in the programme, a release added. As per an official report, over 35,000 farmers families of 3,338 villages in Nagaon district were affected by the recent wave of flood in which over 19000 hectares of farmland were submerged by flood water. Earlier, the minister also visited the office of Deputy Commissioner, Nagaon where he held a meeting with the officials concerned of district administration and took stocks of the situation from the officials of district administration.

NERAMAC hosted 1st Green Innovation Pitch



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 29 : NERAMAC (North East Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd.) hosted the 1st Green Innovation Pitch, a first of its kind startup competition to encourage Agri-Horti-Food Processing early stage innovations from the student's fraternity of the region to present their ideas and prototype to eminent panelists from Government, Industry and Academia, a jury with rich experience and expertise

evaluated the pitches and assured handholding support & linkages for scale up. The event was held at Krishi Bhavan, Directorate of Agriculture, Guwahati, Assam; wherein overwhelming responses was witnessed amongst the student community with 35 teams from 12 different educational institutions across the region participated. The competition had series of Rewards & Recognition (Cash Prize upto Rs.50000/-) in identifying Green Innovations amongst the students, mentors and institutions. North East India and Assam is blessed with natural resources. The region primarily being driven by an agrarian economy, the youth specially the students should focus on the Agri - Horti - Food Processing sector to brainstorm and bring out value added products & services with technological intervention to take it to the next level - Be Vocal for Local to Global. The true sense of knowledge is not intelligence but imagination and information blended for innovation. NERAMAC thus envisages building the Agricultural & Horticulture startup ecosystem by facilitating institutional participation of the

student community by bridging the gap in a more inclusive way with partnerships & linkages. The day's session began with felicitation round of many prominent dignitaries from Agriculture & Horticulture sector. The opening speech was delivered by Manoj Kumar Das, MD-NERAMAC highlighting the organizations initiative in building the Green startup ecosystem; Tiranga Bhartiya Borah, Director, Horticulture and Food Processing, Government of Assam graced the event as Chief Guest welcoming the student fraternity to take up entrepreneurship in the sector. Bakul Saikia, State Nodal Officer- MOVCNDR emphasized the need to explore the organic value chain of North East India through innovative plans. Achinta Kumar Baruah, former faculty IIE & Bibhuti Dutta, Director, North East India, PHD Chamber of Commerce assured all possible handholding and mentoring support to the aspiring startups of the sector. The 1st prize was bagged by Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong followed by students from Assam Down Town University and University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya. Guides and mentors from Royal Global University (RGU), ADTU and USTM were also recognized for their continued commitment and contribution towards inspiring the students; further University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) received special certificate of appreciation in its efforts towards developing sustainable Green Campus Innovation Ecosystem.

AASU demands flood erosion as national problem

Assam Rising, Dhemaji, June 30: A protest was organized at Dhemaji Town demanding a permanent solution to the flood problem as a national problem in the initiative of All Dhemaji District Students Union on June 30. Similarly, demanded the government administration to restore the victims by providing adequate assistance to the flood victims soon.



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 30: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today held a video conference with the Deputy Commissioners of flood-affected districts of the state and reviewed the present scenario and various measures taken by the district administration to provide relief to the affected people. He asked the DCs to ramp up their relief measures and ensure adequate compensation to all genuinely affected people. Stating the state government is committed to ensuring relief &

compensation to all affected people, Dr. Sarma asked the deputy commissioners to make sure that no genuinely affected person is left out from the lists to be prepared by the DCs and no one could take benefit of government relief and rehabilitation measures through unfair means. The Chief Minister informed that the state government would pay Rs. 3,800 to each family staying in relief camps and other self-arranged shelters on dykes, roads etc. He further asked the DCs to prepare lists of such families and collect Aadhar Card or Voter Card number of head of the families on the basis of which they will get compensation. Dr. Sarma also asked the DCs to conduct a survey to identify houses which are fully damaged, badly damaged and partially damaged from tomorrow and prepare the lists by July 15. The Guardian Ministers and Secretaries will verify the lists through field level inspection following which

compensation will be paid after July 20 in their presence. The Chief Minister also directed to prepare a list of livestock & other damages by a Task force to be constituted at the Circle Officer level and submit the same within August 7. He also said that the government will provide Rs. 1,000 to students whose study materials were damaged by floodwaters and for this he asked the DCs to prepare a list by July 15. Moreover, saying that the Guardian Ministers and Secretaries will coordinate the entire exercise and keep inspecting the districts affected by flood, the Chief Minister directed to complete the entire process of providing relief and compensation within August 15. While Housing & Urban Affairs Minister Ashok Singhal, Water Resources Minister Pijush Hazarika, Power Minister Nandita Gorlosa, Chief Secretary Jishnu Baruah and other senior officers were present at Chief Minister's Conference Room during the VC, other ministers and officials joined the conference virtually along with the deputy commissioners.

BSF conducted free medical camp at border

Assam Rising , Palasbari, June 30 : A free medical camp was organized by 31 Bn BSF in bordering Village- Lakhimari of District Dhubri (Assam) on June 29. In the presence of Rampal Singh, 2IC, doctors and medical team of Govt. PHC Golakganj & medical staff of BSF and other prominent personalities of surrounding villages. During medical Camp 307 villagers from the bordering area were provided free medical checkup, treatment medicines free of cost. In another programme on June 29, a free veterinary medical camp was organized by 31 Bn BSF in bordering village Berbhangi Part I & II by BSF veterinary doctors and staff along with a team of doctors and staff from Golakganj vet. Hospital. During camp free treatment and vaccinations was provided to 281 domestic cattle heads of local farmers. Understanding the needs of border villagers, BSF organize such programmes frequently in border areas to provide medical assistance and to develop a sense of security amongst the border populace. The Border Security Force is dedicated for Security of Borders of India as well as helping the border population as its guided principle and ethos.

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NOTICE FOR CANCELLATION OF TENDER

As decided by the Technical Bids Evaluation Committee vide minutes dtd. 04/05/2022, 1st e-tender process of the Construction of Assam Type Building for Forester Quarter and Construction of Ground Floor with Provision for three Storied RCC Building (Forest Guard Quarter) under CAMPA Scheme at Charduar Range & Dhekiajuli Range under Sonitpur West Division, Tezpur is hereby cancelled due to non-receipt of sufficient qualified bidders. Hence fresh e-tender will be invited for the 2nd consecutive time of the said works under CAMPA Scheme through e-tender in www.assamtenders.gov.in for subsequent participation of prospective/responsive bidders immediately.

DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
SONITPUR WEST DIVISION
TEZPUR

Janasanyog/C/5627/22

THE ASSAM RISING

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GST on food items

GST is the Goods and Service tax that is the new tax regime for indirect taxation. This tax regime was introduced by the government in order to centralize the indirect taxation process and make it common for all the states throughout the country. The previous tax regime had multiple taxes levied on all the products and services in India. These taxes were levied at multiple points of sale or transfer of such goods and services. Food is one of the many segments where GST is applicable and is liable for charge of indirect tax under GST laws. The details of GST that is levied on food and the associated details regarding the applicability of GST and non applicability of GST are mentioned below. The GST tax structure has multiple rates of GST applicable to the food segment. The rates of taxation range from 5% to the highest bracket under GST i.e. 28%. Many commodities under the food segment are also exempted from the levy of GST. Majority of staple foods and basic foods are free from taxation under the GST tax regime. Given below is an inclusive list of some of the items or commodities that are free from the levy of GST under the new indirect tax regime. Pre-packed and labelled food items like meat, fish, curd, paneer and honey will now attract 5 per cent GST, a tax that will also be levied on the fee that banks charge for the issue of cheques. Earlier, unbranded food products were exempted from GST. This after the GST Council accepted most of the recommendations of a group of ministers (GoM) from states on withdrawing exemptions with a view to rationalising the levy, officials said. The panel headed by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising representatives of all states and UTs, on the first day of the two-day meeting accepted the GoM's recommendation for reviewing the exemption from GST that packed and labelled food items currently get. So pre-packed and labelled meat (except frozen), fish, curd, paneer, honey, dried leguminous vegetables, dried makhana, wheat and other cereals, wheat or meslin flour, jaggery, puffed rice (muri), all goods and organic manure and coir pith compost will not be exempted from GST and will now attract 5% tax. Similarly, an 18% GST will be levied on fee charged by banks for the issue of cheques (loose or in book form). Maps and charts including atlases will attract a 12% levy. Goods that are unpacked, unlabelled and unbranded will continue to remain exempt from GST.

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

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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

On Maharashtra, BJP only concerned with three Gs. Gujarat, Guwahati and Goa-connect the dots

What's cooking in Maharashtra? Even the chefs can't tell. Even if they know something, they refuse to comment. And when they reveal, it's hard to connect dots. For example, the bigwigs of BJP will tell you that it is an internal matter of Shiv Sena. Neither the spokespersons comment, nor other leaders. If it is an internal matter, then what is going on from Gujarat to Guwahati and Goa? A General Secretary of the party said that the BJP is concerned with only three 'Gs' i.e. Gujarat, Guwahati and Goa. It means that a prominent Gujarati of BJP snatched a leader of the opposition party in Guwahati and converted him into their own big shot, and the same thing was repeated in Goa too.

Maharashtra's connection to Goa and Gujarat is 'G' to 'Ganesh' only. Nobody knows when the 'Sri Ganesh' is going to happen. Extending support is OK, but the real trouble is in opposition. And this 'trouble' has become a big 'headache' for Lalu Prasad Yadav. Lalu and Yashwant Sinha never gelled well together. There has been a rift

between them from the time when Sinha was a top bureaucrat and Lalu was not yet well settled in politics. Everyone still remembers Yashwant Sinha's personally offensive speech against Lalu Yadav in the Parliament. Now the point of trouble for Lalu is whether he should support Sinha in the name of opposition unity, or oppose him in the name of Draupadi Murmu? At least Yashwant Sinha would know the real answer to this puzzle. Two of the Union ministers who were dropped from the Modi government are

quite hopeful these days. For them this 'Hope' does not mean expectations of getting any key post in the organization or about becoming a governor. They just 'Hope' that they might get the privilege to hold a press conference during the party's national executive to be held in Hyderabad/Bhagyanagar. This way, these two, who have stayed away from the limelight for a long time, will once again hit the headlines. Another big speculation in the pipeline is that some big TRS leaders will

join BJP during the it's National Executive in Hyderabad. Earlier there were whispers about one or two people switching their loyalty, but now it is being heard that this number has swelled up to more than a dozen. It is also being speculated that they will be seated on the dais alongside PM Modi. However, the real news is that, there is a lot of discussion inside the TRS as to which of their leaders are in talks with the BJP leaders in order to join it. The investigation of the

Bharat Agrawal

Gomti River Front construction scam that took place during the Akhilesh government is with the CBI. The Chief Secretary in that government was Alok Ranjan, who is still very close to Akhilesh even after being retired. He is also believed to have played a key role in drafting the manifesto of the Samajwadi Party. Now the CBI has sought permission from the state government to start investigation against two former chief secretaries Alok Ranjan and Deepak Singhal. Following this, the



senior officers of the present government are sweating profusely after seeing the noose tightening around these two former chief secretaries. A major reshuffle in UP's bureaucracy is being awaited since the assembly elections in the state. Now more than 100 days of the government formation have passed, yet there has been no such a reshuffle in which the names of the officers in the Chief Minister's Office are also part of discussion. Names of those bureaucrats who were helping SP in the elections as they foresaw a SP led government

being formed, have also been investigated thoroughly. Meanwhile, many senior officers have also clashed among themselves, but due to the no-nonsense 'mood' of Chief Minister Yogi, they are not daring to lobby. So officers with more 'finesse' are involved in more 'fine workmanship'. They are slowly leaking each other's weaknesses and 'activities related to them' by preparing 'files'. It is known to everyone that the 'Hamam factor' works too well in the bureaucracy of UP.

No masks, no free tests, low sick pay - the UK government is back in Covid denial



Covid". Frances Ryan hidden t h e really did was form a plan to catch and spread Covid. After all coronavirus prevention measures were dropped on 1 April - from the legal obligation to isolate if you had Covid, to the end of most free testing - the public were left wide open to mass infection. Even hospitals were told by ministers to ditch mask mandates, though some worried trusts have defied the rules and kept them. That all precautions were pulled back just when most people's vaccine immunity was beginning to fade, and the virus was evolving to be more transmissible, gives a hint at how little logic ministers applied. One of the biggest problems facing Britain's attempts to quell the virus is that this government doesn't really want to. There is hope - the number of people dying from Covid has reduced since its peak - but excessive focus on this has long

workers, from nurses to teachers. Children missing more school. Not to mention soaring social security bills from long Covid patients who are too sick to work (the government's solution to this appears to be turning them down for disability benefits). There will be few greater casualties though than the 3.7 million clinically extremely vulnerable people, especially the 500,000 who are immunocompromised and can't get much or any benefit from a booster jab. Trying to avoid the virus in a country that has forgone all safety measures means risking your life when you pop to the shops. Ministers who are content for repeated coronavirus infection to just become part of British life are content for isolation to be part of clinically vulnerable people's. There is an alternative. Campaigners are calling on the government to reinstate free lateral flow tests, the isolation requirement for those with a positive test, and financial help such as sick pay - few rational voices could disagree. Fixing our dire sick pay rates is only becoming more pressing in a cost of living crisis that means low-paid and insecure workers are likely to feel obliged to go into work when they have Covid. We must also start a long-term investment in ventilation and air filtration that

can help make schools and workplaces safer, as well as making lifesaving antiviral treatment more accessible to clinically vulnerable patients. It's also time for a renewed public health campaign for boosters; as of this month, around a fifth of people aged 75 and over in England are yet to have a fourth Covid jab. And fiddly though it is, wearing masks in busy and enclosed spaces again is the right thing to do; just under half of Britons (48%) reported wearing a face covering when outside their home last month, down from about 95% during the January Omicron wave. After two long, tough years, no one wants to still be dealing with coronavirus. I don't want to be writing this column. But unless we wish to sign up to getting repeatedly sick for the foreseeable future, and to the risk of long-term disability from long Covid, we are going to have to bring back low-effort protective measures to curb it. A recent public health campaign in Ireland, which encourages people to think of clinically vulnerable people in their daily interactions, shows how easy it is to do things differently. The government may want to stop thinking about coronavirus, but in doing so, it is ensuring that all of us have to think about it for a long time to come. That's something we will surely all get sick of fast.

India readying Bharat NCAP for safer cars but curbing violations can make big difference too

With the safety debate gaining ground in India's passenger vehicle market, the Narendra Modi government has decided to introduce Bharat-NCAP, the Indian equivalent of the global crash test programmes that decide how safe a car is. However, the announcement made by Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, has some key questions unanswered. Despite being the world's third-largest automotive market, India has not had a NCAP test system in place. Siddharth V. Patankar, editor, Car&Bike, a leading automotive portal, and someone who has been involved with the Federation Internationale d'Automobile's (FIA) Global NCAP activity under the auspices of 'Safer Cars For India', said that the

process will be gradual. "NCAP tests are evolving across the world, for example the Global NCAP test from July will also include a side-impact test as mandatory. I believe that Bharat NCAP standards will be more like EuroNCAP standards from a few years ago. It will be similar to emissions, and the industry will have time to adopt these new norms." However, Patankar was unclear about who will conduct the tests - "By NCAP's definition from the FIA, the tests have to be carried out by an independent body or a consortium of independent bodies. For example, the US does not have an NCAP but has their cars tested by a Federal agency, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration but they do follow strict safety norms." The country's largest carmaker Maruti-Suzuki's

Kushan Mitra

Chairman, R.C Bhargava has, however, been disappointed with the announcement of these new norms. At a recent event, he expressed apprehension about the NCAP norms and hoped

that they don't become mandatory as customers should have the choice of buying cheaper cars. Bhargava added that high ratings achieved by certain carmakers would become a marketing tool. Manufacturers such as Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors have been highlighting how several of their new models have achieved five-star safety ratings for all occupants in Global NCAP tests. "To

achieve such high ratings, they did subject their vehicles to optional tests such as the side-impact test," Patankar said, adding that the focus on safety by the two Indian manufacturers is changing perceptions of Indian buyers. But he also pointed out that "There is a criticism of the tests that manufacturers will only concentrate on the areas that are mandated by the tests, like a student only concentrates on the sections that he believes will appear for an exam. But that is why the NCAP changes every few years, with certain things being mandated in order to achieve a top-rating. Keep in mind that a car that aces a test one year could easily do poorly a few years later as the test and safety evolve." He also warned car buyers against the fact that they should not look at the star ratings blindly: "Honestly, even many automotive writers don't know how to read a test result. A car might have gotten three stars but can be structurally sound and could have lost points due to lacking features like ESP. At the same time, the very same car manufactured in different parts of the world could have very different NCAP results because of the steel used, or even the amount of welding points." The New Car Assessment Programme or NCAP is a standard of car safety testing across the world. It involves crashing a brand-new vehicle where human-analogue dummies occupy the seats. And don't let the term 'dummies' fool you. These dummies are extremely high-tech and have multiple sensors fitted across them. NCAP tests where the car crashes into a steel wall at speeds of 56-64 kmph are filmed by the latest high-speed cameras that can record at frame rates exceeding 10,000 frames per second. So, while the crash itself is over in a split second, multiple cameras capture not only how the car's structure reacts but also how the occupants in it, including children dummies strapped into the rear of the vehicle. First and foremost,

very few accidents occur like those simulated in the tests. The test is meant to simulate a slightly offset head-on collision where both vehicles are travelling at a combined speed of 64kmph, which could mean two oncoming vehicles at 32kmph each or any other combination of speeds. Second, and this is specific to child-safety ratings, the results are only applicable if the child is seated in a certified 'Child Restraint System', which is technical lingo for a child seat. It also means that the driver and front passenger need to be belted-in. Third, even if a vehicle scores highly in terms of its mechanical structure, if it lacks certain mandatory safety features, it could see its star rating go down or worse, fail the test. This has become a major issue in European countries where the new EuroNCAP tests demand that vehicles have Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) in order to be eligible for a five-star rating. Every year, more than 150,000 people die on India's roads. Gadkari has been working to mandate safety features on passenger cars in particular. All new cars feature speed alarms when the vehicle crosses 80kmph and an incessant alarm if the vehicle crosses 120kmph, the latter being the limit on many newer expressways such as the Peripheral Expressway in Delhi. New cars launched after mid-2022 will now feature six airbags as standard (this doesn't apply to facelifts) and the minister is also pushing for mandatory installation of Electronic Stability Programs (ESP) as standard. This is a software that in essence tries to prevent the driver from doing anything silly with the car. Bharat NCAP will likely force Indian automakers into a welcome 'arms race' on the safety front. However, we must not ignore the fact that ultimate safety is in following safe driving habits and comes down to the person behind the wheel. With rampant abuse of traffic and safety norms being the real menace in India, are we missing the woods for the trees?

Will The Deep get booted out of The Seven again?



London, June 30 : When Gossip Girl's Nate Archibald became The Boys' The Deep, his fans were in for a shock but two seasons later, actor Chace Crawford has managed to somehow make the unsavoury actions of his character a little palatable. His supe is still unredeemable, but the audience doesn't really mind chuckling at a few of his scenes. In a conversation with the media, Chace shared that it wasn't a conscious choice to make The Deep funny but the audience really responded to some of his scenes with an odd smile, which then became a part of his character. Talking about a specific scene from the previous season where The Deep is talking to a lobster in the grocery store, and then gets him killed, Chace recalled that it was a "weird, grey area". "I don't think it was a choice. Him riding a whale is hilarious, I mean, obvi-

ously, you just can't win. People really responded to the grocery store (scene). It's weird. I mean it's like that grey area where he is this lovable buffoon but he's also a narcissist so yeah," he said. The Deep was introduced as the supe who sexually harasses Starlight in the show's initial episodes. While he was on his own journey for a while, the man is just as self-centered and egotistical as before. In the new season, The Deep has made it back to The Seven and is still bending over backwards to stay in the good books of Homelander. Chace shared that there isn't much scope for redemption for someone like The Deep and that is because "he is so self-serving, desperate to hang on to his identity of being in the Seven. He is willing to do whatever shitty thing it is that Homelander wants him to do. I think it's only a matter of time before he messes things up again." The Deep has had his separate arc on the show.

We saw him getting involved in the Church of the Collective, finding a wife for himself so his image could be restored and even trying to get A-Train to be a part of his group. Now, he is married to Cassandra, played by Katy Breier, who is playing him like a fiddle. Chace shared that the storyline between The Deep and Cassandra is headed towards a definite culmination but added that he found it "really funny". "I think just the whole concept of like an arranged marriage in the Church of the Collective, like Bachelor/Bachelorette style, was funny in itself," he said. Chace added that his character is still living with his "false confidence" and does not really recognise what his wife is doing. He signed off by saying that at some point, this illusion is going to break.

Priyanka Chopra, Nick Jonas speaks on her daughter

Mumbai, June 30 : Actor-singer Nick Jonas praised wife Priyanka Chopra for being 'a rock' during the difficult first few weeks of their daughter Malti's life, and said that the reason they shared the experience on social media was to make others in similar situations feel like they aren't alone. Priyanka and Nick's baby daughter-Malti Marie Chopra Jonas was born via surrogacy earlier this year, and spent over 100 days in the NICU before being brought home. "I think that what we shared on social media was just kinda the feeling that we had, the gratitude obviously to have our baby home. But also for each and every person that was part of her journey while in the hospital," Nick told People. Saying that he is 'grateful to have a teammate like Pri' on his side, Nick added, "It's eye opening in a lot of ways. And I think it was really important for us to just share that. And make sure that people know that



whatever their journey is, whether it's something like we went through or diabetes or whatever challenges might come up, you're not alone." Nick is on the verge

of embarking on a world tour with the Jonas Brothers. He said that thanks to the changes in their personal lives, the band is 'in a better spot now' than it has ever been in. The Jonas Brothers experienced deep internal conflict when they announced that they were breaking up nearly a decade ago. They reunited in 2019. "It made us all better people, I think, finding brilliant partners in life. [They] helped us all to be better versions of ourselves, because I think that's what they require of us," Nick said. "It's a beautiful thing to have been able to go on this journey over these last couple of years and mark them with the happiness that we've all felt at home. We're having the time of our lives. Announcing the birth of Malti, Nick and Priyanka had written in joint social media posts on Mother's Day, "After 100 plus days in the NICU, our little girl is finally home. Every family's journey is unique and requires a certain level of faith, and while ours was a challenging few months, what becomes abundantly clear, in retrospect, is how precious and perfect every moment is."

Jamie Campbell Bower turned into villain Vecna-

London, June 30 : Stranger Things Season 4 has finally revealed how the Upside Down was created, and the main villain of the show. No, it isn't the Mind Flayer or the Demogorgon. It is Vecna, played by Jamie Campbell Bower. The so-



cial media handle of Stranger Things on Wednesday released a video, where we see how a lanky looking Jamie turns into the demon from the other side. The man behind turning Jamie into Vecna is renowned prosthetic artiste Barrie Gower,

known for his work in Game of Thrones, No Time to Die and Chernobyl. In Stranger Things, he also did the prosthetic makeup for David Harbour (Jim Hopper) and Robert Englund (Victor Creel), a glimpse of which he shared on his Instagram handle. The man behind turning Jamie into Vecna is renowned prosthetic artiste Barrie Gower, known for his work in Game of Thrones, No Time to Die and Chernobyl. In Stranger Things, he also did the prosthetic makeup for Jim Hopper and Victor Creel, a glimpse of which he shared on his Instagram handle. Throughout the fourth

season of Stranger Things, the audience was made to believe that Jamie Campbell Bower, who portrayed One, a confidante of Eleven inside Doctor Brenner's laboratory, was also a captive. But eventually it turned out that One was indeed Henry Creel, who became a victim of Vecna. Netflix on Tuesday released the first look stills from the last two episodes of Stranger Things Season 4, which will premiere on July 1. The final chapters will see all three groups in Hawkins, California and Russia joining forces against a common enemy.

Revisiting Park Bo-gum's Encounter with Song Hye-kyo



London, June 30 : There are some shows that start like a light breeze - something to while away the hours - but slowly evolve into a tornado of emotions that sucks you in. Park Bo-gum and Song Hye-kyo's Encounter is one of them, a saccharine yet absorbing tale of a man, falling in love with a woman much older than him - a CEO of a company, no less. It was interesting to see the roles reversed; in K-dramas it's usually the man in stiff coats and slick hairstyles looking down at the seemingly ordinary woman who is just a cog in the corporate machine. It's even more interesting to note that in the male-centric dramas, the male CEO don't face the flak for being in a relationship with a woman in the company, while she faces criticism. For a minute I wondered whether the pattern would be different here, except Song Hye-kyo's character continued to face flak from everyone for 'dating a younger man', while Park Bo-gum was congratulated as if it was an important achievement. So all in all, the woman still suffers. Nevertheless, Encounter is aesthetically pleasing, and soothing in terms of its musical OSTs as well as the gentle chemistry between the charismatic leads. The story between two strangers begins in Cuba, with strong Before Sunset vibes, where the rather restrained

Cha Soo-hyun is on a work vacation. After being robbed and losing her slippers, she runs into the free-spirited, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed Jin-hyuk and they spend a memorable evening together. As it's time to return to South Korea, as fate would have it, Jin-hyuk realises that he's going to be working as her subordinate. Slowly, they evolve from an uncertain more-than-friendship bond to a close relationship in a rather wholesome manner - from indulging in ramen (the K-world's version of flirting), to hangover soups, and making sand-castles. No love story is without difficulties and evil people of course and it would be

rather impossible to visualise a K-drama without the quintessential conniving villains. In this case, it happens to be Cha Soo-hyun's former mother-in-law, another prominent businesswoman. Evil is as evil does, and she is less than pleased about her ex daughter-in-law's new flame. However, after a point her role in the story diminishes as the inner turmoil in Cha Soo-hyun herself begins to implode and she worries about what world is she dragging Jin-hyuk into. Nevertheless, after several tears, it's time for a happy reunion. The story is quite basic, but it's the power of the leads that makes it an engrossing watch, with quiet, heart-ring-

ing drama, juxtaposed with comforting musical South American instrumentals. Encounter is one of Park Bo-gum's best and most endearing performances, even more profound than Record Of Youth, because without seeming like the male manic pixie, he genuinely seemed to be like the person that you want to hang out with. He knows the best restaurants for food, and somehow always knows how to cheer up a person - you would want him around if you have a bad day. His vibrant personality served as a comforting balance to Song Hye-kyo's constraint - one of the few roles where

she emoted with her eyes, rather than letting heavy exposition drive the narrative. One of the most memorable scenes of the show is when he sees Soo-hyun at his doorstep, as she had sacrificed an important event that could put her in further trouble with her mother-in-law. Park Bo-gum's Jin-hyuk stands there looking rather gobsmacked. He manages to say, "I'm in trouble." There's something his countenance that pulls at heartstrings, and one fact is established, he's a wonderful crier (remorseless as that sounds). When their breakup occurs, he really convinces you of exhaustion, mixed with his frustration and anger. He masters the quivering of the lip, when he asks her rather brokenly, "Why are you abandoning me?" There's always been something devastatingly real about stressful scenes with Park Bo-gum; he just knows how to draw you into his world of heartbreak. Encounter is one of the most absorbing K-drama romances - strangely unpredictable at some points, you know what's going to happen next, but you're not quite entirely sure if you're right. A comfort to watch on bleary days.

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 inches towards Rs 175 cr

Mumbai, June 30 : Kartik Aaryan's Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 refuses to slow down at the box office. The film continues to have a strong grip on the box office even in its fourth week. The movie's total collection now stands at Rs 173.76 crore, and it is expected to cross the Rs 175 crore mark at the box office. Trade analyst Taran Adarsh tweeted, "#BhoolBhulaiyaa2 is super-steady... Is performing like the pre-pandemic times, which is creditworthy..." [Week 4] Fri 1.56 cr, Sat 3.01 cr, Sun 3.45 cr, Mon 1.30 cr, Tue 1.29 cr. Total: 173.76 cr. #India biz. "Replying to Adarsh's tweet, Kartik Aaryan wrote, "Ab 175 wali Smile surely aane wali hai (I am preparing for my Rs 175 crore smile)." In a recent interview, Kartik revealed how it feels to lead one of the most successful Bollywood films this year. The actor told Filmfare, "I feel extremely grateful to the audience for this historical opening. As an actor, my biggest motiva-



tion has been to entertain the audience, and the love that's been pouring in from the masses is not only encouraging but also validating on so many levels. This is not just a celebration for the Bhool

Bhulaiyaa 2 team but for the Hindi film industry as a whole, and we are so happy that the film has been embraced the way it has." Kartik Aaryan is looking forward to Shehzada, which also stars Kriti Sanon.

Shankar meets Rajinikanth to celebrate 15 years of Sivaji

Chennai, June 30 : Film-maker Shankar on Wednesday marked the 15th anniversary of Sivaji: The Boss by meeting the film's star Rajinikanth. He took to Twitter to share a glimpse of a moment from his meeting with the superstar. "Elated to have met our Sivaji the Boss @rajinikanth sir himself on this very memorable day marking #15yearsofSivaji Your Energy, Affection and Positive Aura made my day! (sic)," Shankar tweeted. Written and directed by Shankar, Sivaji: The Boss was released on June 10, 2007. The movie opened to a ground-shattering response across the country and it broke a slew of box office records in its wake at the time. Not just in India, the film also saw a huge draw at the international box office. Sivaji is a vigilante drama, which was mounted on a huge scale. The highlight of the movie was Rajinikanth's make-up,

which made him ultra-stylish. There was also a song sequence which envisioned how Rajinikanth would have looked if he had a fair skin tone. The film was cheeky and the producers had spent a fortune staging grand song sequences. The movie had played up all the strengths of Rajinikanth 10X over. Sivaji tells the story of a software engineer who returns to India to distribute the wealth he accumulated

in the US, with his access on providing healthcare and education to poor people. However, the greedy corporates upend all his noble efforts and rob him of his wealth. He then turns into a vigilante who robs the rich of their ill-gotten wealth and spends that money on the welfare of the poor. The film also had Shriya Saran, Vivek, Suman, Manivannan and Raghuvaran among others.



Sonam Kapoor hosts 'chicest'

Mumbai, June 30 : Sonam Kapoor is in a celebration mode. The actor who is expecting her first baby with husband Anand Ahuja hosted a baby shower recently. The couple recently returned from their Italian babymoon, and were also seen celebrating Sonam's birthday in Paris with Rhea Kapoor and her husband Karan Boolani. The soon-to-be mom is enjoying her third trimester and has her sister Rhea by her side in London. Aesthetic décor, personalised touch and beautiful flowers, Sonam's baby shower had it all. The couple hosted a few friends for lunch and the decoration was nothing less than a fairytale. The stunning mom-to-be donned a pink halter neck maxi dress for her baby shower. Sonam's maternity glow was so evident. British Pakistani singer-songwriter, model, and music producer Leo Kalyan was seen performing at the get-together. Sharing the inside video of her performance and a couple of photos with the gorgeous mom-to-be Sonam, the singer wrote, "a spice girl in bollywood."

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Eknath Shinde The Auto-Rickshaw

the story of his rise in Maharashtra politics? Eknath Shinde, 58, started his life as an auto driver. Uddhav Thackeray's father Balasaheb Thackeray was the political guru of Eknath Shinde. He has slowly taken over the steering hand of the Maharashtra government. It was because of him that Uddhav Thackeray's Government fell. His inspiration was Balasaheb Thackeray. Eknath Shinde, hails from Satara in Maharashtra, started his career with student politics. He had left Satara for politics in Thane, the Shiv Sena's main stronghold. In Maharashtra, Shinde says hindutva politics should be learnt from Balasaheb. He also said he can never betray Hindutva politics. Also Read: Maharashtra still in the hands of 'Shiv Sena', Check the probable list of Cabinet ministers in Eknath Shinde's government At first, he said that 10 MLAs of the Shiv Sena were with him, then the number increased to 21 and from Gujarat to Guwahati, Eknath Shinde claimed that he had the support of 40 Shiv Sena MLAs. One-third of the team is on his side. Meanwhile, sources said he had spoken to Uddhav Thackeray over the phone. He has offered Uddhav to leave the Congress and the NCP and join hands with the BJP. But Uddhav did not agree. Shinde used to drive an auto for a long time before joining the Shiv Sena. He also started the party's workers' union. Then there was no looking back for Eknath Shinde. In 1997, he won the municipal corporation elections. His two children, Dipesh and Shubhada, both of them died due to drowning. After recovering from this sad day, he became the leader of the corporation in 2001. He has been given important responsibilities in Thane. He also won the 2004 assembly elections. He faced the challenge for the first time in 2005. And so he succeeded. Since then, the Shiv Sena has become very dependent on Shinde. Shinde's position further increased when Balasaheb Thackeray's nephew Raj Thackeray quit the party in 2006.

Eknath Shinde takes oath as new

legislators, enough to topple the Thackeray-led government. Eknath Shinde, the man who cornered Uddhav Thackeray into resigning last night, will replace him as Chief Minister less than 24 hours later. The unexpected climax of a nine-day drama was announced by Devendra Fadnavis of the BJP, who was widely expected to be the new Maharashtra Chief Minister. Through the day, the media reported that Mr Shinde would be his deputy. Mr Shinde told reporters before flying into Mumbai today - he had not been in the city for over a week - that negotiations were underway with Mr Fadnavis for ministries. There was nothing to suggest that Mr Fadnavis would not in fact take the top job. "I will not be part of the government," said Mr Fadnavis, who has served twice as Chief Minister. Mr Shinde said Mr Fadnavis showed a "big heart". "He showed his big heart, nobody does this... Someone who has 120 MLAs... Nobody lets go even the post of Panchayat or civic body chief. This is the Chief Minister's post," he said. Mr Shinde takes oath alone tonight at 7:30, the BJP leader said. In a sign of the manoeuvring involved in dividing posts, Mr Fadnavis said, "Expansion will follow," referring to other MLAs including independents who will participate in the new government. Mr Fadnavis' sacrifice of his dream job is intended to deflect criticism of his central role in what started out as a stealth attack and ended as anything but. On Monday last, in the middle of the night, Mr Shinde deserted Mr Thackeray along with about 20 other MLAs from the Shiv Sena. The revolt had been brewing for months; "we knew it," said Aaditya Thackeray. Mr Shinde who, in tandem with Mr Fadnavis, had blueprinted the revolt, took his show on the road to Surat (a one-day stop), and then to Guwahati in Assam, where the Sena rebels spent eight days in a five-star hotel, inaccessible to anyone except ministers in the local BJP government. Their camp seemed to enlarge every day, with new arrivals from Mumbai. Mr Thackeray's team numbered 15 MLAs, finally; Mr Shinde had 39 of the party's 55. There was little doubt of which way the scales were tipped. Mr Thackeray resigned last night in a Facebook speech, minutes after the Supreme Court said he must prove his majority in the Maharashtra Assembly today. By asking for the vote to be delayed, Mr Thackeray's squad had sought to buy time. Mr Shinde turned against Mr Thackeray because the right-wing ideology of the Sena has been greatly compromised since 2019, when the latter ended the party's three-decade-long alliance with the BJP. Mr Thackeray braided the party instead with the Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP and became Chief Minister of the new combine. "To have three parties with different perspectives working together for governance, that is democracy," Aaditya Thackeray told today, defending his father's decision. "Those who left us - some of them were brainwashed by those with monster ambition," he said. Uddhav Thackeray had asked the rebels to consider this: "If I step down, can you guarantee another Sainik will be Chief Minister?" He meant to underscore that the Sena rebels would be reduced to a prop for the BJP. Mr Shinde's promotion flattens that argument. The Thackerays are now in danger of losing their pole position in the Sena. Mr Shinde has said that with 39 of 55 MLAs, his faction is the legitimate Sena and its orders and appointments are therefore binding on Mr Thackeray's team. That is the ultimate challenge for Mr Thackeray to be presented with - that the party founded by his father is no longer his. When asked whether the Sena is feasible without the Thackerays, Aaditya Thackeray said, "Let those who have done this to us answer that."

CM attends International Buyer

of traditional spices, herbs and medicinal plants across the globe as well as to facilitate growth and development of Spices, Condiments and similar products from the Region. Stating that India has been known globally for its home grown spices, Dr. Sarma said that spices and herbs in the country play roles that go way beyond just cooking, and they are regularly used for their curative and therapeutic properties. He mentioned that India produces about 75 of the 109 varieties of spices listed by the International Organization for Standardization. The country has today emerged as the world's largest producer, consumer and exporter of spices and overall production of different types of spices has been growing rapidly over the last few years, he remarked. Dr. Sarma said that the North Eastern Region has acquired special attention in the global map owing to the quality of spices that are considered organic and amongst the many unique products and features for which the region is famous for, spices are of special recognition having global demand. The Chief Minister further informed that Assam produces nearly 3.1 lakh metric tonnes of spices annually. The state holds a major share in the production of spices such as Ginger, Turmeric, Coriander, Mustard, Chilli, Garlic, etc. He also said that being the gateway of North East India, with better connectivity and fast developing infrastructural facilities; the state has the potential to be a major hub for post-harvest processing and value addition of spices from the region and can become one of the major exporting hubs. Moreover, Dr. Sarma said that steps have been taken to make best use of Prime Minister's Developmental Initiative for North East (PM-DeviNE), One District One Product (ODOP) scheme and to convert the 'by-default organic' tag of the spices produced in the region to 'certified organic' or 'organic by design' to realize maximum potential of spices sector. He informed that under ODOP scheme, several districts in Assam have identified spices as their focus crop, such as; Turmeric from Bongaigaon; Mustard seeds and Mustard products from the districts of Darrang, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, and Majuli; Ginger from the districts of Karbi Anglong, West Karbi-Anglong, and Dima Hasao; Chilli from Dhubri and Jorhat. Lauding the Spices Board for its initiative to start a Quality Evaluation Laboratory for Spices at Guwahati, the Chief Minister said that the laboratory will be of immense help and benefit to the North Eastern Region as this will make available state-of-the-art testing facilities for spices that are at par with the international standards, in the region itself. Saying that due to lack of adequate infrastructure & industry presence for processing and value addition of spices, presently most of the produce goes out on raw or semi-processed stage resulting in low income to the farmer and producer, Dr. Sarma stressed on proper coordination between Spices Board, Farmer Producer Organizations and Agriculture as well as Industry Department. On the occasion, the Chief Minister also presented Large Cardamom Productivity Award Winners for the years 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 and felicitated Padma Shri Awardees Trinity Saioo and Nanadro B Marak of Meghalaya, who were conferred with the fourth highest civilian award of the country for their excellent work in the spices sector. While Secretary of the Spices Board of India D Sathiyam delivered the welcome speech, the event was also addressed by Agriculture Minister of Arunachal Pradesh Tage Taki and Commissioner & Secretary of Agriculture of Assam Government Dr. Om Prakash. The vote of thanks was offered by A B Reema Shree, who is the Director of Spices Board of India.

PM Modi to unveil legendary

Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy and others will attend the event. Rajat Bhargava said arrangements were in full swing for the Prime Minister's visit. Four helipads have been readied while the Special Protection Group personnel were taking care of security measures, he added. The Prime Minister will reach Vijayawada airport at Gannavaram by a special flight from Hyderabad and fly by helicopter to Bhimavaram in West Godavari district. From 11 am to 12.15 pm, Modi will take part in the commemoration ceremony of the 125th birth anniversary of Alluri Sitarama Raju. The Prime Minister will unveil a 30-ft bronze statue in Bhimavaram Park and address a public meeting. He will fly back to New Delhi from Vijayawada airport at 1.10 pm, according to the tentative schedule released by the Prime Minister's Office. Union Minister for Tourism and Culture G Kishan Reddy sent an invitation to Telugu Desam chief N Chandrababu Naidu to attend the event. Kishan Reddy also spoke to Chandrababu over phone and the latter informed that TDP state president K Atchannaidu would represent him at the event. The Union Minister also invited film star and former Union Minister K Chiranjeevi to Alluri's 125th birth anniversary celebrations.

Udaipur Tailor Killing: Brief Chaos At Protest March, Stones Thrown

Udaipur, June 30 : As outrage spirals over tailor Kanhaiya Lal's murder on camera by two men with terror links, stone-throwing erupted briefly today during a protest march by hundreds in Udaipur. The riot police moved in to control the crowds. About 1,000 protesters from various Hindu organisations held up saffron flags and chanted slogans demanding justice as the procession marched under heavy security. Tensions peaked as the protesters walked near the area where the horrific murder took place on Tuesday. The police dispersed the agitated crowd. "It is under control now," a senior police officer told NDTV as the crowds thinned. "It shouldn't be blown out of proportion. The procession was peaceful, by and large, and the district administration had given permission to hold a peaceful march," senior police officials told. Questions were raised about the procession being allowed when the city is under curfew and large gatherings have been banned. All shops are shut in the city and internet has been shut since violent protests erupted on Tuesday over the killing. Security has been increased for the visit of Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, who will meet with the family of Kanhaiya Lal. Kanhaiya Lal, 48, was murdered on Tuesday by two men who filmed the killing and boasted about it, also threatening Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Riaz Akhtari and Ghouse Mohammad, who are seen on camera attacking Kanhaiya Lal with a cleaver, were arrested and five more have been detained. The Union Home Ministry has handed over the investigation to the country's top anti-terror body, the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The killers had links with Pakistan-based group Dawat-e-Islami and one of them also went to Karachi in 2014, say investigators. The tailor's murder was a planned act of terror and more people were involved, Rajasthan police chief ML Lather said. "The main accused were in touch with organisation Dawat-e-Islami. One of them also went to Karachi in Pakistan in 2014 to meet the organisation. We are considering it an act of terror," he said. Mr Lather said an Assistant Sub-Inspector has been suspended for not taking proper action to prevent the incident. Kanhaiya Lal had complained to the police on June 15 about death threats and harassment by his neighbours over his post on social media supporting BJP leader Nupur Sharma, whose provocative comments on Prophet Muhammad had triggered anger in Gulf nations and massive protests in India. After his complaint, the police mediated talks between Kanhaiya Lal and the neighbours he had named in his complaint, along with leaders from both communities. The "matter was resolved", the police said, and Kanhaiya Lal had given a written statement that he needed no more police assistance. But Kanhaiya Lal's wife Jashoda told NDTV he had avoided going to his shop for a week. On Tuesday, he had gone for the first time in days.

Flood Situation in Silchar Still Remain unchanged

Guwahati, June 30 : The flood situation in Silchar still remained grim. Although the flood recedes in some areas, the Greater Trapur area still submerged under water. The residents of Barman lane, Girish Road, Yogesh Road, Ramkrishna lane, Gunamoyi Road under Ward No 27 are under house-arrest for more than 10 days due to flood. The residences are still submerged under water in the areas. Notably, Cachar is the worst-affected district in the state with 14,30,944 persons in distress due to the floods. Silchar town in the district remained submerged in floodwaters. "The town is submerged for the last 10 days due to a breach of dyke at Bethkundi, and work is underway to repair it," Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli said. Priority is to provide clean drinking water and food to the residents of Silchar. Short-term public health measures must be adopted by the people to prevent the spread of diseases in the post-flood period. "The state disaster management authority said that 280 relief distribution centres are active in the state. A total of 560 relief camps have been set up and 3,12,085 persons have taken shelter in them. A total of 548 houses have been completely damaged, and 1,034 have been partially damaged due to the floods. Five embankments have been breached, while 177 roads and five bridges have been destroyed in the calamity. Meanwhile, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the flood situation has improved but July too sees a flood situation. Water level has receded a little. But when it will rain in Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan, there will be chances of flood in the state once again. So, the period between April 15 to August 15 considered as a dangerous period, the CM said.

Assam flood situation worsens due to incessant rain, Death Toll Reaches 151



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 30 : The flood situation in Assam continued to remain grim on Wednesday as 12 more people lost their lives, taking the total death

toll due to floods and landslides in the state to 151. As per the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 11 persons died due to floods and one in a land-



Eminent sports person Kailash sarma released Souvenir 'Xatorenu' in memory of Renu Das on June 30.

CM attends meeting under Paki Path Nirman Achoni

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 30: To expedite the process for building all weather roads across Assam, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma took part in a meeting held for selection of projects under Mukhyamantrir Paki Path Nirman Achoni, Mukhyamantrir Unnata Paki Path Nirman Achoni and Mukhyamantrir Paki Path Nabikoran Achoni with officials of Public Works



(Roads) Department at Assam Administrative Staff College in Guwahati today. Under these schemes, roads will be taken up for construction on a priority basis in each LAC. Reviewing the selection process of roads under these schemes, the Chief Minister asked the PWD officials to ensure adherence to guidelines set by the government for implementation of the schemes and to keep best interests of people in mind while selecting roads. Dr. Sarma instructed the department to intimate the Executive Engineers and Assistant Executive Engineers about the selected roads within 3 days after which they will have to prepare plans & estimates and submit the same to the government before August 15 following due procedure. The Chief Minister also asked the EEs and AEEs to prepare a plan & estimate incorporating best practices and ensure maintenance of quality work during construction. He further directed the department to develop separate logos for each scheme and set up a strong Quality Monitoring Team for successful implementation of the schemes. Special Commissioner & Special Secretary of PWD (Roads) Rajesh Kemprai, Chief Engineers, Additional Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers and AEEs of PWD (R) were present in the meeting.

AASU stages protest demanding to declare flood as national issue

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 30: District Unit of All Assam Students' Union (AASU) today staged a sit in protest in front of the office of Deputy Commissioner, Nagaon and demanded the union government to declare the flood situation as well as erosion across the embankment of mighty Brahmaputra and its tributaries of the state as national issue. Besides, the students' organization also urged the state BJP led alliance government to ensure sufficient supplies of food materials, drinking water, sanitary facilities, medicine, mosquito nets in almost all flood relief camps set up in the district. Over hundred of agitators led by the president and incharge secretary of the district unit of the students' organization respectively Gauri Shankar Saikia, Kankanjyoti Boruah and central executive Rantu Sarma, participated in the stir and shouted various slogans. During the stir, the protesters also demanded immediate assistance from the government as well as rehabilitation of the flood-hit families under Kampur, Raha, Nagaon and other flood ravaged revenue circles of the district. Meanwhile, the state agriculture minister Atul Bora today participated in a community seeds sowing programme for a community nursery in around 6 hectares of land under 'Brahmaputra Krishak Utpadok Sangstha' at Laokhuwa. The minister himself sat on steering of a tractor and ploughed over 6 hectares of land. The programme was held with a view to supply paddy saplings from the community nursery to the flood-hit farmers of the district soon after the flood. The minister on Wednesday last made an announcement that the department concerned planned to set community nursery for paddy saplings in 90 hectares in the district to distribute saplings among the flood hit farmers of the district and as part of it, the department concerned today initiated the step to produce saplings in around 6 hectares of land at Laokhuwa community nursery. District agriculture officer Tarun Hazarika, senior agriculture officers - Pranewar Nath, Ranjan Pratim Deka, Bishnu Sarma, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and other members of Brahmaputra Krishak Utpadok Sangstha were present in the programme, a release added. As per an official report, over 35,000 farmers families of 3,338 villages in Nagaon district were affected by the recent wave of flood in which over 19000 hectares of farmland were submerged by flood water. On the other hand, the local MP Pradyut Bordoloi today visited the flood ravaged areas in the greater Kampur and reviewed the flood situation there. During his trip, Bordoloi also visited several flood relief camps and interacted with the inmates. Besides, he distributed food materials, drinking water and other among those inmates of the relief camps. While speaking to some local media persons here, Bordoloi said that it happened due to sudden release of additional water from Kapili hydro-electric power project. Bordoloi was accompanied by district Congress president Suresh Bora and other members of district Congress.

Assam worsened on Wednesday following incessant rain, with five more people losing their lives in the deluge and the number of affected people rising to 24.92 lakh, while Silchar town in Cachar district continued to remain inundated for the last 10 days, officials said. The MeT Department has issued a 'red alert' in the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang and Baksa, and an 'orange alert' in Dhubri, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Udalguri, Biswanath, Lakhimpur,

Anthony Joshua 'let down by his corner' in Oleksandr Usyk defeat

London, June 30 :Anthony Joshua has said he was let down by his corner when he lost his world heavyweight titles to Oleksandr Usyk last September. "There was a lot going on in the corner and that didn't help," Joshua said ahead of the rematch in Saudi Arabia on 20 August. "A corner is like a pitstop. So too many voices at once is definitely not good for anybody, not just me." Joshua believed he was winning the fight even though he was out-thought, outfought and, ultimately, outclassed by the smaller Usyk. Rather than being urged to increase the intensity of his work in the last rounds Joshua said the instructions from his corner were "more like: 'Double jab, right, left hook.' It wasn't like: 'Take the fight to this fucker. Listen, you're losing the fight.' No. A trainer needs to tap into that psychological aspect. Sometimes you need to tell your fighter that: 'Yeah, we're losing a world championship fight.'" Robert McCracken trained Joshua when he won Olympic gold in 2012 and through his entire professional career until they parted amicably after the defeat to Usyk. Joshua stressed his respect for McCracken - "He knows what he's doing, he's a very good coach" - and all that



they achieved together. But he agreed that too many voices were trying to advise him against Usyk. One of his trainers, Joby Clayton, kept telling him wrongly that he was boxing beautifully and dominating the bout. When asked if he really believed he was winning the fight against Usyk, Joshua said: "I swear I thought I was. I thought I was looking like Muhammad Ali in there." But he was quick to add that: "I'm not blaming anyone by saying that but I didn't get any impression I was losing the fight. I thought we were well in it. That's why when they announced [Usyk's] name I was kind of like: 'huh?'" Joshua also adopted the wrong

strategy by trying to box Usyk rather than utilise his considerable height and weight advantage as well as his punching power. "One of my strengths was my power but I always wanted to go down that path of being a clean boxer," he said. "Hit and not get hit", especially if I want to have a long and successful career. You need to have good defence but I moved away from the ferocious side of boxing where I knew I could hit and stun people." After his chastening defeat Joshua visited numerous leading trainers in the US to work out how best he should approach the rematch. He eventually appointed the astute Robert Garcia as his

head trainer while retaining Angel Fernandez and Clayton in his corner. "A different environment was needed," Joshua said. "I wasn't forced, it was my own decision." Garcia, who is based in California but now working with Joshua in Loughborough, has trained 14 fighters to world titles and his most recent champion, the prodigious 22-year-old Jesse "Bam" Rodriguez, has emerged this year as the most exciting young fighter on the planet. Joshua has the power to hurt Usyk and Garcia will encourage him to try and steam-roller the new champion rather than make the mistake of trying to match his far cannier boxing skills. Joshua seems ready to listen to the clear, lead voice of his new head trainer. "I do miss the days of slicing people's faces open and hurting them, for sure," he said. "So I am looking forward to getting back to that." Usyk, meanwhile, responded with cool nonchalance. "I don't care how Anthony trains or what he does," the champion said. "I just worry about my training camp, what I eat, my work, my family and my country. If people are telling Joshua that the only way he wins is to pressure me and look for the knockout, then let them keep speaking."

Thomas to spearhead 'super-strong' Ineos Grenadiers at Tour de France

London, June 30 : Geraint Thomas will spearhead Ineos Grenadiers' assault on Tadej Pogacar's grip on the coveted yellow jersey in the 2022 Tour de France, which starts in Copenhagen on Friday with a 13km time trial through the streets of the Danish capital. The 36-year-old Welshman, who will be backed by teammates Daniel Martinez and Adam Yates, is in resurgent form after ending a barren spell with victory in the Tour de Suisse and the 2018 champion accepted that he was a contender, rather than a clear favourite, to overthrow the 23-year-old leader of the UAE Emirates team. "We don't have the favourite in the race," Thomas said. "In the past we always had [Chris] Froome, or Brad [Wiggins], myself or Egan [Bernal]. We've always had one of the big favourites going into the start. Now we all know it's Pogacar and Primoz Roglic (Jumbo-Visma) in the last couple of years." The Slovenian pair have between them won four of the last seven Grand Tours of France, Italy and Spain, with Ineos riders winning the 2020 and 2021 Giros, but only in their absence. Yet Ineos remain bullish about their chances,



with the team manager, Rod Ellingworth, insisting that Pogacar, in line for a hat-trick of Tour wins, can be beaten. "If you think he can't be beaten, then you may as well not start," Ellingworth said. Thomas, runner-up in 2019, was wary of making big predictions. "Switzerland showed I was in decent shape, so we'll see how it goes here," he said. "We've got a super-strong team. The main thing is we ride together, we're aggressive together and we ride off each other, which is what we've done all year." "I've won the race and I've come second," he said of his own Tour record. "I'm a lot closer to the end of my career now than the start. I've got a lot of experience and I just want to enjoy these races now. Since November, Dani and Adam have been the leaders of the

team and it's still that way. "I'm going well and I want to be there in the mix to help them, and to take opportunities if they come. I'm pretty chilled. "However, the team's triple-leadership tactic backfired in 2021, when crashes, disappointing form and Pogacar's supremacy in the mountain stages relegated Richard Carapaz to third place in Paris and Thomas to a lowly 41st overall. Thomas acknowledged that defeating Pogacar and Roglic would require guile, as well as strength. "We can't ride it the same way [as in the past]," he said. "We can't pull all day, set a tempo and then go man versus man to beat them. But we've got a strong team, we've got numbers, and hopefully we can use them at right moments. That's a big change."

Courtney Lawes to captain England in first Test against Australia



Perth, June 30 : Courtney Lawes has been named as England's captain for Saturday's first Test against Australia in Perth, with Eddie Jones favouring the blindside flanker for the role rather than the returning Owen Farrell. Danny Care and Billy Vunipola have also been named to start while Henry Arundell is a surprise inclusion on the bench despite his apprentice status in the squad. Farrell comes back into the side at inside-centre for a first England appearance since November, also against the Wallabies, but Jones's decision to stick with Lawes represents a sea change. Farrell has held the role since 2018 but in his absence this season, Tom Curry and Lawes have both filled in and Jones has opted to stick with the latter. The last time Farrell played for England without holding the captaincy was during

the 2018 Six Nations but Lawes has proved a popular leader among the squad. Care gets the nod to start his first Test since appearing against Japan in November 2018, having featured off the bench against the Barbarians this month, while Billy Vunipola comes straight in at No 8, having made his last England appearance in the 2021 Six Nations. The 19-year-old Arundell, meanwhile, is joined on the bench by the uncapped Leicester duo Jack van Poortvliet and Guy Porter in an eye-catching set of replacements, with all three set for a first appearance. Jonny

Norrie and Dart lead way in best British start to Wimbledon since 1984

Wimbledon, June 30 : Twelve months ago, Cameron Norrie left Wimbledon a frustrated man, having lost to Roger Federer in a four set battle that was a lot tighter than the 20-time grand slam champion expected. Norrie built on that effort and in April, he broke into the ATP top 10 for the first time. Now ranked 12, he booked his place in the third round again with a typically hard-fought 6-4, 3-6, 5-7, 6-0, 6-2 win against Jaume Munar of Spain. On a day when Harriet Dart made it 10 Britons through to round two - the best effort since 1984 - Norrie knows this could be his best chance yet to reach the second week of a grand slam tournament. "I was so pleased to get through that," said a jubilant Norrie, who regrouped superbly after being outplayed in the second and third sets. "It was a tricky match. Jaume put the ball in so many awkward spots in the court, I wasn't playing my best but I managed to lock it in in the fourth and keep the momentum." Norrie has garnered a reputation for grinding out wins on Tour but his victory against Munar, the world No 71, was only his third deciding set win in a grand slam tournament in seven matches. Finding a way to win when he was not at his best should stand him in good stead as he prepares to face the American Steve Johnson for a place in the last-16. "That was what I needed," he said. "I was a bit fortunate to win that first set as he was the better player and he was too good in the second and third. I was getting a bit frustrated and it was really tough but really pleased with my level at the end." Johnson likes grass, has a big serve and always plays well at Wimbledon. He is really comfortable on this surface so it's not going to be easy but I'm just going to enjoy this one and look forward to playing on Friday." Johnson ended Ryan Peniston's breakthrough summer as he won their second-round battle 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. Peniston, who won his first ATP match at Queen's Club this month and reached the quarter-finals there and at Eastbourne, will take home £78,000 and though no ranking points are being awarded at this year's Wimbledon, he has shown he can compete at this level. His ranking is set to rise to 122 after the tournament.



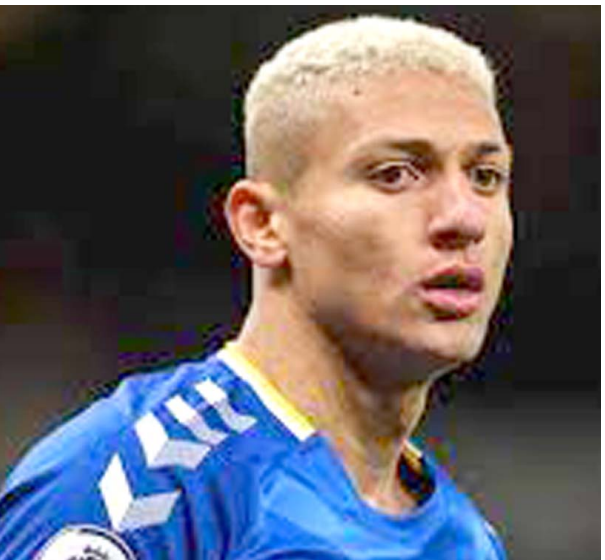
Nelson Piquet denies using racial slur but apologises to Lewis Hamilton

London, June 30 : Nelson Piquet has denied making a racist slur against Lewis Hamilton. The Brazilian, a three-time Formula One world champion, says the phrase he used has been mistranslated but admitted his comments were ill thought out and issued an apology to Hamilton. Piquet's remarks, made last year but which became public on Monday, described Hamilton with an epithet that can be translated as the N-word. However, after widespread condemnation of his comments, the 69 year old insisted his comments were not intended to offend. "I would like to clear up the stories circulating in the media about a comment I made in an interview last year," the Brazilian said in a

statement issued on Wednesday. "What I said was ill thought out, and I make no defence for it, but I will clarify that the term used is one that has widely and historically been used colloquially in Brazilian Portuguese as a synonym for 'guy' or 'person' and was never intended to offend. "I would never use the word I have been accused of in some translations. I strongly condemn any suggestion that the word was used by me with the aim of belittling a driver because of his skin colour. "I apologise wholeheartedly to anyone that was affected, including Lewis, who is an incredible driver, but the translation in some media that is now circulating on social media is not correct. Discrimination has

no place in F1 or society and I am happy to clarify my thoughts in that respect. "F1 banned Piquet from attending races until he issued an apology but his insistence that his remarks were misconstrued have gained little traction. The phrase he used is considered among black people in Brazil to be a derogatory reference to race. Hamilton, a long-term campaigner for anti-racism and diversity, said Piquet's remarks were part of a larger malaise. "It's more than language. These archaic mindsets need to change and have no place in our sport," he said. "I've been surrounded by these attitudes and targeted my whole life. There has been plenty of time to learn. Time has come for action."

Tottenham seal deal to sign Richarlison from Everton for initial £50m



London, June 30 : Tottenham have concluded a deal to sign Richarlison from Everton for £50m plus add-ons and will announce the signing provided the forward passes a medical in Brazil. Agreement was reached regarding personal terms on Wednesday and the clubs have settled

outstanding issues relating to the deal's structure, clearing Richarlison to make the move he wanted to a Champions League club. Tottenham had offered players including Harry Winks and Steven Bergwijn in part-exchange but Everton wanted a cash-only transfer. The first part of the

paperworks have been signed and Richarlison is poised to leave Everton four years after he was bought from Watford. The Brazil international has scored 53 goals in 152 games for Everton and should soon be joined at Spurs by the Barcelona defender Clément Lenglet. The clubs are in advanced talks over a season's loan for the France centre-half, with a meeting scheduled for Thursday to discuss issues including his salary. Lenglet, who started seven La Liga games last season, is keen on the transfer. Tottenham have made three signings this summer, bringing in Yves Bissouma, Ivan Perisic and the back-up goalkeeper Fraser Forster. A deal struck for Richarlison before 1 July would help Everton as they seek to comply with the Premier League's profit and sustainability rules.

Issy Wong strikes after rain break to give England the edge against South Africa

Taunton, June 30 : A late flurry of wickets left England in a commanding position on day three at Taunton, with South Africa closing on 55 for three, still 78 runs in arrears. England had been left frustrated after a three-hour rain delay, but when play finally resumed at 6.30pm an aggressive spell from the debutant Issy Wong, running in from the Pavilion End, removed Lara Goodall and Laura Wolvaardt with successive wicket maidens. Goodall feather edged behind the stumps, while Wolvaardt wafted at one outside off stump and was caught by a diving Sciver at gully. "That's the dream, isn't it?" Wong said of her spell. "We'd been waiting around all day. I was trying to run in, find a bit of rhythm, and looking to get a couple of



breakthroughs. "We're pretty confident that if we can keep working hard and earning those wickets like we've done over the last couple of days then that's definitely the target - win the game. Hopefully the rain stays away. "The day

had begun with a positive morning session for England, with Nat Sciver progressing to a 249-ball 150 just before drinks, raising her bat to the crowd after stroking a single down the ground. Along with Sophie Ecclestone, she

added 65 runs in the first hour of play, as England steadily increased their lead. It helped that Marizanne Kapp continued to be used in short spells, sending down only five overs across the morning. Ecclestone was finally dismissed in the fourth over after drinks, trapped lbw by Nonkululeko Mlaba for 35. Four balls later, a too-eager Kate Cross fell victim to a direct hit from Nadine de Klerk at the non-striker's end; by that point the lead was 133 and Knight was so keen to call in her players that they had left the field before the third umpire could announce his decision. It left South Africa facing a tricky 25-minute period before lunch, and England made it count: in only her second over, Cross

lured Andrie Steyn into the drive and she edged it straight to Sciver at gully. Three balls later England were convinced they had a second, sending Anna Harris's not-out lbw decision upstairs, but replays clearly showed Goodall had got an inside edge; and the heavens then opened. Ironically, after play finally resumed at 3.05pm, Goodall nicked an away swinger from Lauren Bell to Amy Jones behind the stumps, but England failed to appeal, allowing Goodall and Wolvaardt to dig in ahead of the next downpour 30 minutes later. Knight's reluctance to leave the field was plain, but a superb effort from the Taunton groundstaff enabled England to send both packing before the close of play.

Emma Raducanu begins beautiful friendship in defeat at Wimbledon

Wimbledon, June 30: Farewell to all that then. In the end Emma Raducanu's first superstar Wimbledon, her first as a champion - or increasingly, in front of a fond, rapt Centre Court as Em! - could only stretch to three days and two matches. On a chilly June afternoon the British No 1 was beaten in straight sets by Caroline Garcia of France. And there will be sadness at such a meek exit. For Raducanu because she was simply blown away by a more powerful opponent, a moment of cold, hard sporting reality for a teenager who is still just a year into her own elevation from schoolgirl to sporting A-lister and all-round pop celebrity. And also for the All England club, the BBC and the entire Wimbledon industrial complex, which has a hunger for Raducanu now, which feasts on its stars, building its sporting-hospitality monoliths around them every summer. Expectations for Raducanu will always be warped by her precocious success at the US Open last year, an unrepeatable miracle of will, of taking the moment. Defeat here will no doubt be



seized on by critics, middle-aged men on the internet, and all those who wish to scoff, to wag a finger at the commercial deals that have followed (Raducanu is the face of Porsche, Evian, Tiffany and Dior; she could, frankly, be the face of a whole lot more things). ut Wimbledon embraced Raducanu warmly in her first appearances on Centre Court. It is the key relationship in this place, the one between crowd and favoured player. It took several summers for Centre Court to embrace the angu-

lar, youthful Andy Murray - and Murray is basically the boss of this place now, Wimbledon's dad, so ingrained you can imagine him going around late at night turning the lights off, frowning up at the gutters as he puts the cat out. An hour and 22 minutes into her afternoon session Raducanu was already serving to save the match. She netted a couple of forehands, slumped a little, and at that point there was a sudden rolling, warm cheer around the seats, with a sense of a wider celebration

of this astonishingly impressive 19-year-old, the Beckenham ingenue. She has another year now to invent herself, to discover what kind of tennis player she's going to be. But even in defeat, it felt as though this could be the start of a beautiful friendship. Make no mistake, Wimbledon does need Em. This place has felt just a little weary this year. What is this event anyway? A post-lockdown summer bloom? The gingham Glastonbury? The return of the good times? It has felt a little strange in SW19, stripped of ranking points because of a war in Europe, teeming at the edges with Covid. Wimbledon is about excess, about consumption, about sinking your teeth into the summer and gorging on its sweetness. The crowds are still impressive. But does anyone really feel flush these days? At 9.43am on Emma-and-Andy Day, the hottest ticket in town, the Wimbledon feed Tweeted that there were still ground passes available. Wait. What? But then it is easy to forget that until the late-1990s Wimbledon was some way off the cur-

rent commercial juggernaut. Profits tripled during the great explosion of Timwitters, the Age of Henman, where suddenly the face-painted, jester-hatted hordes were part of the spectacle, fandom an annual gorge fest. Henman fever bled into the Murray years, and a gut of beloved star players. But those old favourites will be gone in a few years. Wimbledon needs new heroes, new product. Enter: Emma. There were shrieks and yelps and cries as she walked out just after 1pm and glanced around, scanning the eaves. Every tennis player has an on court manner, a persona they attempt to impose. Raducanu's version is brusque, neat, pristine, all business. But she was up against a proper player here. Garcia was ranked No 4 in the world not so long ago. She wallops it from the baseline. She can volley and hustle. She has obvious physical advantages too: long levers, easy power. the kind of basic scale issues Raducanu, at 5ft 7in will always have to navigate.



Women's Euro 2022 team guide No 7: Germany

London, June 30: This article is part of the Guardian's Women's Euro 2022 Experts' Network, a cooperation between some of the best media organisations from the 16 countries who have qualified. theguardian.com is running previews from two countries each day in the run-up to the tournament kicking off on 6 July. No one really knows what to make of this Germany team any more. They probably don't even know themselves. They won Olympic gold in 2016 but were eliminated in the quarter-finals at the 2017 Euros and the 2019 World Cup. They cruised the qualifying campaign for this tournament, winning all seven games, but they were against weaker opposition. They know they are no longer automatically among the favourites. "But that can also lead to a few teams underestimating us," says the national team coach, Martina Voss-Tecklenburg. The defence, so often one of Germany's strengths, is this time a cause for concern especially as Marina Hegering has not been fit. Recently Germany lost a World Cup qualifier in Serbia, which shocked

even Voss-Tecklenburg. There were mitigating circumstances: many players were injured, some had Covid and the manager had spared some of the players who had gone far with Wolfsburg and Bayern Munich in the Champions League. Still, the defeat hurt, and the coaching staff know they are not where they want to be. Germany are in a tough group with the Euro 2017 runners-up Denmark and favourites Spain, as well as Finland. The question is whether this thoroughly talented team has what it takes to compete at the highest level. Two experienced midfielders, Dzsenifer Marozsán (injured) and Melanie Leupolz (pregnant) are missing. Will enough players step up? "We are focusing completely on the first game against Denmark," insists Voss-Tecklenburg. Win that and they should be able to afford to lose to Spain before, hopefully, beating Finland to reach the knockout stages. The first game is key. Martina Voss-Tecklenburghad a great career as a player, winning no fewer than four European Championships and being voted German player of the year twice - but is also remembered for an own goal in a Cup final in 2003. Afterwards, she

said: "It's better that it happened to me than to one of our young players." That earned her a lot of respect and she has kept that reputation intact as a coach. She took Switzerland to the World Cup and European Championships for the first time, and has been Germany coach since 2018. The 54-year-old's position is still strong but things did not work out at the 2019 World Cup and they missed the Olympics because of it. Another setback here would damage even her reputation. Sara Däbritz. At the DFB, they say Däbritz was such a great talent that she simply could not be overlooked. She has always been one of the most skilful players in Germany but has also matured as a leader since moving to France and PSG in 2019. This summer, having agreed a move to Lyon, she has to also be a leader for Germany with Marozsán and Leupolz missing. She is only 27 years old, but one of the few players in the Germany squad who won the Euros in 2013. Despite her domestic success in France, Däbritz is still extremely down-to-earth. "Whenever I'm back at home, I still want dumplings with some kind of roast," she says.

Eoin Morgan signs off as simply the best of England's one-day captains



London, June 30: Welcome to The Spin, the Guardian's weekly (and free) cricket newsletter. Here's an extract from this week's edition. To receive the full version every Wednesday, just pop your email in below: Eoin Morgan is a unique figure in cricket history, an Irish revolutionary who became one of England's all-time greats. That status was sealed when he lifted the World Cup in 2019. It was a thrilling achievement but it did only happen by the barest of margins - or, as he called it, "the rub of the green". There is a better reason to put Morgan in the pantheon. He was simply the best of England's one-

day captains, the Brearley of the blitzkrieg. There was nothing rum about captain Morgan. He was a man with a plan. If this sounds basic, it was beyond some of his predecessors - including even Mike Brearley, who blew a World Cup final by batting too slowly. Morgan's plan was dead simple: to score faster than the opposition. The batters were there to hand out batterings, the bowlers to take wickets. In the seven and a half years of his regime, England became the most successful ODI team in the world, winning 82 matches and losing 37 (including those he was absent for). In the previous

seven and a half years, they had been eighth in the world (among nations playing regularly) with 79 wins and 78 losses. So Morgan made them twice as good. In T20 his impact was less dramatic, but England still went from seventh among the big fish to third behind India and Pakistan. And they only missed out on a World Cup because of some almighty hitting from Carlos Brathwaite. A

man with a plan has to hold his nerve. Morgan's was tested in 2015, his first home summer as captain, against New Zealand at Southampton just after breaking the 400 barrier. Bowled out for 302 from 45.2 of their 50 overs, they lost, even though NZ proceeded more sedately. The received wisdom said it was a crime not to use your quota; Morgan begged to

differ. "I'm proud of the way the guys played with a positive mindset," he said. "We did a lot of things right with the bat today." He stuck to his guns, and the guns kept on blazing. England lifted the world record to 444 in 2016, 481 in 2018 (against Australia) and 498 the other day. Under the previous captain, Alastair Cook, they never passed 325. Morgan ended up as an unofficial player-manager.

He Is "On The Right Side Of 30": Rahul Dravid On Virat Kohli

New Delhi, June 30: Team India head coach Rahul Dravid brushed aside concerns about Virat Kohli's age and fitness and said the star batter is "doing what he needs to do" to come out of his lean patch of form. Kohli has not hit a century in international cricket since November 2019, but Dravid insisted that he only wants "match-winning contributions" from the 33-year-old and that does not necessarily have to be in the

form of hundreds. He also said that Kohli's form is not due to a lack of motivation. "I kind of disagree with you when you say he is in the wrong side of 30. He is probably in my opinion on the right side of 30," Dravid said in response to a question in a press conference ahead of the rescheduled fifth Test against England. "I think he is an incredibly fit guy. He is one of the most hard-working guys I have ever come across. His desire and



hunger. His whole attitude in looking after himself, his preparation and even just the way he

just played the game at Leicester, batting in those conditions, scoring the kind of 50, 60 that he did." Dravid said. Kohli hit scores of 33 and 67 during India's tour game against Leicestershire, and looked in good nick. "He was keen on batting against Bumrah and all of these guys. So, I think he is ticking all the right boxes. He is doing what

he needs to do to sort of come out of it," Dravid said. "As players you go through these kind of phases. I don't think you need motivation to be very honest. Don't think in Virat's case it is lack of motivation. You go through phases like this at times. Sometimes you bat well...it's not so much about focussing on those three figures but you know even a 70 in a difficult wicket in Cape Town...when we played at Cape Town, I

thought that was very good innings," he said. Kohli had scored a gritty 79 in Cape Town during India's tour of South Africa earlier in the year. "It didn't convert into a three figures score but it was a good score," Dravid said. Obviously, a guy like him, the kind of standard that he set, the number of hundreds that he scored, people only see hundred as a success," he said on how Kohli has set the benchmark high for himself.

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