



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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**US woman suspected in fatal shooting of elite cyclist arrested...** **02**

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Female prisoner

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, July 01 :

A female prisoner allegedly escaped from the clutches of Dispur police on Friday. The woman, identified as Makon Kakati, managed to escape from custody when she was taken to hospital for medical examination. Kakati was arrested from Six Mile area in the city on battery charges. Recently, a prisoner who was serving a life sentence in a murder case escaped from Meghalaya's Jowai District jail. The prisoner has been identified as Shiningstar Pala, a convict in a murder case. The convict had earlier fled from the jail in May 2017 but was nabbed after he was tracked down as he was involved in a theft case.

### Dacoit apprehended

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, July 01 :

Guwahati police on Friday apprehended a most wanted dacoit from Byrnihat in Meghalaya. According to sources, the dacoit, identified as Binoy Das, was involved in several theft cases in Guwahati and other locations. Recently, Das had looted Rs 10 lakh from a woman in Panbazar area. He was also involved in a similar case in Kokrajhar as well. Police were able to recognize him with the help of CCTV cameras which were installed at incident locations, sources said. He was apprehended on June 28 after he robbed a man of Rs 2 lakh in Bynihat and attempted to flee on his bike.

### Fake gold

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, July 01 :

City police seized fake gold weighing 1.5 kilograms at Guwahati Railway station. Two persons were arrested in connection to it. The arrested individuals have been identified as Urkhyar Pokal Eno and Loknath Behera. The duo was arrested from Kamrup express, sources said. Earlier this month, two persons were arrested from Barpeta Road in Assam for allegedly selling fake gold. The Barpeta Road police conducted search operations in the area and seized a gold boat from the possession of two persons.



## Chess revolution in India



**Kula pradip Bhagawati**

All India Chess Federation's (AICF) Secretary Bharat Singh Chauhan believes that India could witness a chess revolution with the 'Khelo Chess' concept. As Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first-ever Chess Olympiad Torch Relay, thousands of players as well as fans were electrified by the mega historic launch at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi and were amazed by the prospect of Indian chess. "India has a lot of chess potential and AICF has been rigorously work-

ing on developing young talents. However, a programme like Khelo India for chess could revolutionise the sport in the country. It will bolster our mission of making India a chess powerhouse. The nation-wide event of that stature will not only inspire and encourage young Indians to take up the sport but will also bring out the best of the talents

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## Assam CM visits flood hit Karimganj district

**Govt. to build a guest house and floating solar power project at Son Beel: CM**

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, July 01 :

In view of the unprecedented flood that hit Karimganj district, affecting 544 villages, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today visited the flood affected areas of the district and asked the district administration to reach out to people and expeditiously carry out survey to assess the number of houses and fisheries damaged by flood to enable the government to undertake rehabilitation and reconstruction works at the earliest. It may be noted that the current wave of flood has affected more than 3.75 lakh people, damaging 5615 hectare crop areas including widespread damage to lives and properties in Karimganj district. Chief Minister Dr Sarma visited the badly affected Kalibari and Gopikanagar areas of Ratabari Constituency which bore the brunt of the flood and interacted with the people. He also visited



a relief camp set up at Subhash High School and talked to the inmates taking shelter there. He asked DC Mridul Yadav to ensure that there is no shortage of any

relief materials including medicines and baby food for the camp inmates. He also asked the DC to take necessary steps of medical intervention for a few eld-

erly camp inmates. During his visit to flood hit areas, the Chief Minister wading through the flood water, visited Srirampur village located at Ratabari Constituency. Since the village is surrounded by flood water, he took a boat to reach out

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## Manipur Landslide

### 2 Bodies Found; Death Toll Now 10

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, July 01 :

With the recovery of two additional Territorial Army personnel bodies this morning, the dead toll from the landslide in Manipur's Noney district has risen to 10. Seven members of the Territorial Army (TA) and a civilian were among the eight people who died in the avalanche that occurred on Wednesday night at the 107 Territorial Army Camp beside the Tupul Yard Railway building site. Additionally,

up to 50 other people, including 23 TAJawans, were listed as missing. A railway line being built from Jiribam district to Imphal, the state capital, is secured by the Territorial Army. Along with the federal and state disaster teams, search activities are being carried out by the Indian Army, Assam Rifles, and Territorial Army. In order to make the accident scene accessible and aid in the rescue operations, bulldozers and other engineering

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## Assam Chief Minister Sues Delhi Minister Manish Sisodia For Defamation

New Delhi, July 01 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has filed a defamation case against Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia over his allegations of malpractice in giving contracts for Covid Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when the former was the Health Minister in the state government. Mr Sisodia had alleged that Mr Sarma awarded a contract for PPE kits to a company linked to his wife and grossly overpaid for the gear. Mr Sarma's

wife, Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, has already filed a ₹ 100 crore civil defamation case against the Delhi minister. "Himanta Biswa Sarma awarded the contract to his wife's company. He paid ₹ 990 for the PPE kits while others were purchased at ₹ 600 a piece from another company on the same day. This is a huge crime," Mr Sisodia had said while leveling the allegations earlier this month. Mr Sisodia had claimed he had the documents to prove so. At the time, Mr Sarma had warned Mr Sisodia "will see you soon in Guwahati as you will face criminal defamation". On June 1 digital media organisations - 'The Wire' and Guwahati-based 'The Crosscurrent' - had in a joint investigative



report claimed that the Assam government had placed four COVID-19 related emergency medical supply orders with firms linked to Ms Sarma without following proper process. The Assam government and Mr Sarma have separately have denied all charges as "false, imaginary, malicious and of vested interests". Mr Sarma was the health minister in 2020

during the first BJP-led state government. The opposition Congress has demanded a CBI probe into the alleged corruption. Bitter war of words has broken out between Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Delhi Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia. Sarma has threatened to file a criminal

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## Nupur Sharma case

### Why no FIR against TV anchor, asks SC, questions Delhi Police

New Delhi, July 01 :

The Supreme Court, which came down heavily on suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma for her controversial comments against the Prophet, asked why no FIR was registered against the anchor of the controversial TV debate show and also questioned the Delhi Police's handling of the matter. The apex court, while stating that Nupur Sharma's "loose tongue" has "set the entire country on fire", asked the suspended BJP leader to immediately apologise to the entire nation for her remarks. Refusing to entertain Sharma's plea for clubbing of FIRs lodged in various states



against her for the remark, the bench held that the comment was made either for cheap publicity, political agenda or some nefarious activities. "She actually has a loose tongue and has made all kinds of irresponsible statements on TV and set the entire country on fire. Yet, she claims to be a lawyer of 10 years standing... She should have immediately apologised for

her comments to the whole country," the court said. Sharma's remark against the Prophet, made during a TV debate, triggered protests across the country and invited sharp reactions from many Gulf countries. The BJP subsequently suspended her from the party. "These remarks are very disturbing and smack of arrogance. What is her business to make such remarks? These remarks have led to unfortunate incidents in the country... These people are not religious. They do not have respect for other religions. These remarks were made for cheap publicity or

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## PM Modi discusses Ukraine with Putin, reiterates India's position on dialogue and diplomacy

New Delhi, July 01 :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin - their fourth telephone conversation since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24. They discussed the situation in Ukraine where Modi

reiterated India's position on dialogue and diplomacy. They previously spoke on the phone on February 24, March 2 and March 7 - when Indian citizens, mostly students, were still stuck in Ukraine. A statement by the Ministry of External Affairs

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## 'Not Nupur Sharma, this person responsible...': Rahul Gandhi attacks Centre

New Delhi, July 01 :

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday sharpened his attack on the Centre for rising hatred and communal violence in the country. Referring to the SC observations on the Nupur Sharma controversy, Rahul Gandhi said, "The atmosphere in the country has been created by the ruling dispensation. It is not the person who has made the comment. It is the Prime Minister. It is the Home Minister. It's the BJP & the RSS. It's an anti-national act." The Gandhi scion ac-



cused the Narendra Modi-led ruling dispensation of creating an "environment of anger and hatred" in the country and said this is against the interest of India and its people. Responding to a query by reporters on the Supreme Court remarks against suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma for her

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## 'Had Amit Shah kept his word, there would...': Uddhav Thackeray on new Maharashtra govt

Mumbai, July 01 :

Shiv Sena president Uddhav Thackeray on Friday lashed out at the BJP for giving the Chief Ministerial slot to Eknath Shinde, a rebel Shiv Sena leader, and said that had the former ally kept its promise made earlier, there would have been no "Maha Vikas Aghadi" in the state. Referring to

Eknath Shinde's swearing-in as CM and Devendra Fadnis as his deputy, Uddhav said that he had told Amit Shah earlier as well that there should be a Shiv Sena CM for 2.5 years (during the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance). Had they done this earlier, there would've been no Maha Vikas Aghadi. "He also lashed out at rebel Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde,

who led the revolt against him for over a week which culminated in the resignation of Thackeray from the office. The Shiv Sena chief said that the new CM is not from his party which the BJP has aimed at making. He said that he had told Union Home Minister Amit Shah in 2019 about the distribution of the Chief Ministerial post for 2.5 years each. It

may be noted that the Shiv Sena and BJP had parted ways after the 2019 Assembly elections in the state after the former demanded 2.5 years of Chief Ministership each for both the parties during the term of five years, which the latter had not agreed to. Shiv Sena had

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# 'Hum to doobe hain sanam, tumko bhi...': MP CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan taunts Kamal Nath over collapse of MVA govt



**Jabalpur, July 01:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has taken a dig at the state Congress president and his predecessor Kamal Nath over the collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA government in Maharashtra. Chouhan said that while the Congress had sent Nath to Maharashtra on the mission of saving the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government comprising Shiv Sena, NCP and Congress following a rebellion within the Sena, the attempt proved futile as the Thackeray-led dispensation finally collapsed just the way Nath had to step down from his chief minister's position

in March 2020. Talking to reporters on Thursday night about the developments in the neighbouring state, Chouhan said in reference to Nath, "Hum to doobe hain sanam, tumko bhi le doobenge. Aur wo hi kiya, bichare Uddhav bhi chale gaye (We are already sunk darling, but we'll take you with us. And it so happened that poor fellow Uddhav also went away)." Taking a further dig at the Congress, he said, "The Congress is also strange! Someone who could not save his own government was sent to rescue the one in Maharashtra... Congress

never stops amazing us. There is only one 'Nath' (master), all others are 'anath' (orphan). The rest of the Congress is orphan." The Congress had deputed Nath as the AICC observer in Maharashtra after Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde rebelled against his party along with a group of party MLAs and independent legislators, pushing the Uddhav Thackeray-led government to the brink of collapse. Days after the rebellion, Thackeray resigned as the chief minister on Wednesday. A day after his resignation, Shinde took oath as the chief minister, while senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis was sworn in as his deputy. Nath had to step down as Madhya Pradesh chief minister in 2020 after 22 MLAs, most of them loyal to Jyotiraditya Scindia, resigned from the state Assembly, reducing the Congress to a minority with 92

legislators in the 230-member House. The development paved the way for the return of the saffron party in the state at the helm after a 15-month rule of Congress. The Congress rebels, including their leader Scindia, were later inducted into the BJP. These turncoats contested the assembly by-polls with most of them winning it. Most of these legislators were rewarded with plum portfolios in the Chouhan cabinet, while Scindia was appointed as the Civil Aviation Minister in the reshuffle of the Union cabinet.



People visit Shanghai Natural History Museum in Shanghai, east China

## Russian missile strikes on Odesa residential area kill at least 18, says Ukraine

**Moscow, July 01:** At least 18 people have been killed after two Russian missiles struck a multi-storey apartment building and a recreation centre in the southern port city of Odesa in the early hours of Friday, Ukrainian officials have said. Ukraine's armed forces is-

sued an alert urging residents to seek shelter after three explosions and air raid alarms were heard shortly before 1am local time. Odesa's military spokesperson, Sergei Bratchuk, added that an "enemy missile" had struck the southern port city in an update posted to his official Telegram channel shortly before 2am. "Unfortunately, there are casualties," he said. Bratchuk later said

the missile attack was carried out by "strategic aircraft" from the direction of the Black Sea. "One rocket hit a nine-storey residential building, the other - in a recreation centre in the Belgorod-Dniester region," he said. Three people - including a child - were killed in a separate attack on the recreation centre, with one injured, said the SES. The Guardian could not immediately confirm details of the incident. Earlier this

week, two Russian X-22 cruise missiles hit a crowded shopping centre in the central Ukrainian city of Kremenchuk on Monday afternoon, killing at least 18 people and injuring dozens more. The Ukrainian defence ministry said the attack was deliberately timed to coincide with the shopping centre's busiest hours and cause the maximum number of casualties. Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said

## North Korea blames Covid-laden balloons sent from South for virus outbreak

**Tokyo, July 01:** North Korea has blamed its Covid-19 outbreak on balloons sent over its border with the South by groups of defectors, in an apparent attempt to shift the blame onto its neighbour. After two years of insisting that it had not recorded a single case of the virus, the North admitted its first infections on 12 May, sparking fears of a public health disaster in the impoverished country. On Friday, the country reported that 4,570 people were newly displaying fever symptoms, bringing the total caseload to 4.74 million. Health authorities refer to fever symptoms rather than Covid-19, apparently due to a shortage of testing kits. The North has reported only 73 deaths. The official KCNA news agency said



on Friday an 18-year-old soldier and a five-year-old child who had touched "unidentified materials" in the eastern county of Kungang in early April showed symptoms and later tested positive for Covid-19. "A sharp increase of fever cases was witnessed among their contacts and that a group of fevered persons emerged in the area ... for the first time," it

said. However, the first time that groups of North Korean defectors are thought to have sent balloons across the border this year was in late April from the western Gimpo region. KCNA warned citizens to "vigorously deal with alien things coming by wind and other climate phenomena and balloons in the areas along the demarcation line and borders". While the re-

port did not name South Korea, defector-activists there use balloons to send anti-regime leaflets and humanitarian aid across the countries' heavily armed border. In response, the South's unification ministry said on Friday there was "no possibility" that the coronavirus had entered the North via balloons. Experts were sceptical about Pyongyang's assertion. "It is hard to believe North Korea's claim, scientifically speaking, given that the possibility of the virus spreading through objects is quite low," said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul. The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention says the risk of people getting infected through contact with contaminated surfaces or objects is generally considered low, though it is not impossible.

## Erdo?an warns Turkey could still block Finland and Sweden's accession to Nato

**Istanbul, July 01:** Just two days after agreeing to lift deal-breaking objections to Sweden and Finland's Nato accession, Turkey's president has warned that Ankara could still block the process if the two countries fail to fully meet his expectations. Recep Tayyip Erdo?an said at the close of the alliance's summit in Madrid that the 10-article agreement with the Nordic pair was a victory for Ankara and addressed all its "sensitivities". He particularly stressed the satisfying of Turkey's demand for Sweden and Fin-

land to extradite terror suspects with links to outlawed Kurdish groups or the network of an exiled cleric accused of a failed 2016 coup in Turkey. But Erdo?an added that if the two Nordic countries renege on their promises, Turkey's parliament could refuse to ratify the deal reached on Tuesday. Nato accession must be formally approved by all 30 member states, which gives each a blocking right. "This business will not work if we don't pass this in our parliament," Erdo?an said. "First, Sweden and Finland must fulfil their duties and those are already in the text ... But if they don't

fulfil these, then of course there is no way we would send it to our parliament." Erdo?an claimed that Sweden had promised to extradite 73 "terrorists" to Turkey and crack down on the financing and recruitment activities of the Kurdistan Workers' party (PKK) -- listed as a terrorist group by the US and the EU -- and linked groups. Turkey considers the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) an extension of the PKK. The text of the memorandum sets no specific number of extraditions. It says Finland and Sweden will address Turkey's "pending deportation or extradition requests of terror suspects expeditiously and thoroughly, taking into account information, evidence and intelligence provided" by Turkey in accordance with the European convention on extradition. On Wednesday, the Turkish justice minister, Bekir Bozda?, said Sweden and Finland's justice ministries have files from Turkey on 33 people with alleged links to PKK and the network of US-based Turkish cleric Fethullah Gülen.



Armstrong. Armstrong, a yoga teacher, was expected to be returned to the United States, where she faces a murder charge, the agency said. "The Marshals Service elevated the Kaitlin Armstrong investigation to major case status early in this investigation, which likely played a key role in



her capture after a 43-day run," said US marshal for the western district of Texas Susan Pamerleau. Authorities said Armstrong sold her vehicle on 13 May, then flew from Austin to Houston shortly after being questioned that day by authorities about Wilson's

death. She then flew to New York before using a fraudulent passport to fly from Newark, New Jersey, to San Jose, Costa Rica, on 18 May, the service said. Wilson, a competitive gravel and mountain bike racer and Vermont native known as "Mo", had been in Austin for a cycling event. According to an affidavit, Wilson had previously dated Armstrong's boyfriend, cyclist Colin Strickland, who has cooperated with investigators and is not a suspect. According to the affidavit, Armstrong's SUV was seen on surveillance video outside the home where Wilson was found shot to death.

## Germany's move to legalise cannabis expected to create 'domino effect'

**Berlin, July 01:** Germany is mulling over the consequences of soon becoming the world's largest potential market for legally sold cannabis, as the country's left-liberal government presses ahead with plans to allow the controlled distribution of the drug among adults. Olaf Scholz's coalition government has in recent weeks reiterated its 2021 coalition-deal vow to legalise for recreational use what its Green and liberal party minister have taken to referring to as Bubatz, a slang word for weed popular among German rappers. A consultation process consisting of five public hearings with health experts, economists and cannabis growers concluded this week, firing the starting gun for a race to clear legal and regulatory hurdles within one to two years. A draft bill is expected within

the second half of 2022. Europe's largest economy joining Canada and California in legalising cannabis for recreational use could create momentum to change the UN convention that restricts the cultivation of the plant and also puts pressure on neighbouring European states to follow Germany's lead. "There will be a domino effect, for sure," said Justus Haucap, director of the Düsseldorf Institute for Competition Economics. "European countries that have a much bigger problem with illegal cannabis use, like France, are watching very closely what Germany is doing at the moment."



People visit Shanghai Natural History Museum in Shanghai, east China

## Palestinian Authority routinely tortures detainees, says rights group

**Gaza, July 01:** Palestinian authorities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip systematically torture critics in detention, a practice that could amount to crimes against humanity, an international rights group has said. In its report, Human Rights Watch (HRW) called for donor countries to cut off funding to Palestinian security forces that commit such crimes and urged the international criminal court to investigate. The report alleged that Palestinian security forces "use solitary confinement and beatings, including whipping their feet, and force detainees into painful stress positions for prolonged periods, including hoisting their arms behind their backs with cables or rope, to punish and

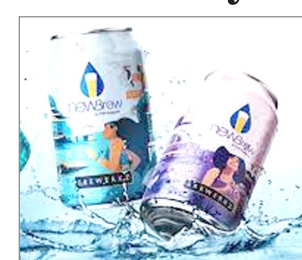
intimidate critics and opponents and elicit confessions". HRW's report comes a year after the death of Nizar Banat, an outspoken critic of the Palestinian Authority (PA), whose family says he died after security forces stormed his residence in the middle of the night and beat him with metal batons. His death sparked weeks of protests against the PA, which governs parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Palestinian security forces violently dispersed some of those protests. Amnesty International said last week that the PA had failed to hold its security forces accountable for the death. Palestinian authorities arrested 14 officers last summer and are trying them in a

military court, but have taken no action against top commanders. "More than a year after beating to death Nizar Banat, the Palestinian Authority continues to arrest and torture critics and opponents," said Omar Shakir, Israel and Palestine director at HRW. "Systematic abuse by the PA and Hamas forms a critical part of the repression of the Palestinian people." The group listed Palestinians who it said had been arbitrarily arrested in the aftermath of Banat's death. HRW said security forces were not held to account for the alleged torture and that given their systematic nature over many years, the practice could amount to crimes against humanity.

## Singapore craft beer uses recycled sewage to highlight water scarcity

**Singapore, July 01:** It is a beer made with only the finest ingredients: premium German barley malts, aromatic Citra and Calypso hops, farmhouse yeast from Norway - and reclaimed sewage. New Brew, a collaboration between Singapore's national water agency and the local craft brewery Brewwerkz, has already proved popular and has sold out on tap at the brewery's restaurants, according to reports. Brewwerkz describes

the beer as "highly quaffable" and suitable for Singapore's tropical climate, with a smooth, toasted honey-like aftertaste. But it is also intended to cast a light on the climate emergency, and the growing threat that droughts and floods pose to the world's fresh water supply. Singapore, a densely populated city state, is especially vulnerable to water scarcity, due to its lack of natural water resources and lack of space for water collection and storage



facilities. The country has invested in new ways to ensure a sustainable supply, and reduce its dependence on water imported from neighbouring Malaysia.

### Guest House

A/C Non A/C Rooms  
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### NOTIFICATION

In view of present flood situation, the interview for the posts of Gaonpradhan notified vide Memo No. HJGB.05/2021/200 Dated 27/6/2022 is hereby postponed until further notice.

Deputy Commissioner  
Hojai

Janasanyog/D/6663/22



# IIE, Guwahati signs MoU with IIM, Shillong



**Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 1:** With an aim to boost the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the North Eastern Region (NER), the Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre of Indian Institute of Management Shillong (IIMS) to boost the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the North Eastern Region (NER). The objective of this partnership is to encourage entrepreneurship, incubation, and startups in the North Eastern Region. To support professional devel-

opment in the areas of management, entrepreneurship, and skill development, and to meet the larger demand for capacity building and entrepreneurship promotion in the NER, the institutes will collaborate and exchange information and resources. Promising entrepreneurs in the Northeast require adequate funding, improved infrastructure, and financial literacy to establish and grow their enterprises. This collaboration intends to build a start-up environment in the North East of India that will further strengthen all of the crucial elements of an entrepreneur-enabling eco-

system, potentially attracting investor investments. Meanwhile, the region is teeming with craftsmen, artisans, and resources that might become a substantial source of employment for its citizens. By collaborating on this initiative, both institutes will benefit from each other's strengths in promoting skill development in the NER and the country at large. The institutes will together conduct certified courses on entrepreneurship development and also train startups and incubates under the Incubation and Enterprise Support Centre, IIM Shillong. They will also promote

educational lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and other knowledge dissemination programmes in the region. Both institutes will share infrastructure facilities like laboratories, libraries, incubation centres, etc. with each other for the research work of the incubates and beneficiaries. Faculties from both institutes will be a part of mentoring, training, workshops, and evaluation juries for the incubation centre. In the presence of Rajesh Aggarwal, Secretary, MSDE and Ms. Anuradha Vemuri, Joint Secretary, MSDE, Sandesh Tilekar, Director, MSDE, Dr. Lalit Sharma, Director, IIE Guwahati, and Dr. D.P. Goyal, Director, IIM Shillong, signed the MoU. Other dignitaries present included Prasanta Goswami, Associate Faculty Member, IIE Guwahati, and Dr. Sanjiv Ningombam, Centre Coordinator, APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research and Analysis. The MoU will be valid for a period

of five years. The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE), Guwahati, is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. The institute's main goal is to provide training, research, and consulting services to small and micro enterprises (SMEs), with a special emphasis on entrepreneurship development. IIE has created 2316 entrepreneurship programmes since its inception, and 80053 candidates have been trained through these programmes. The institute has also started a number of cluster development projects with a total of 30874 beneficiaries. As part of the entrepreneurship summit, NERES 1.0 (North Eastern Regional Entrepreneurship & Startup), IIE has additionally assisted 200 promising start-ups and aspiring entrepreneurs all across NER.



## INIFD Global CEO interacted with students in Guwahati

**Assam Rising, Guwahati July 1:** Global CEO of INIFD, Anil Khosla visited INIFD Guwahati and interacted with the INIFD budding designers and faculty members present at the centre on June 30. There was a huge excitement amongst everyone to meet and greet him. The session by Khosla was immensely motivating, inspiring and stimulating for the INIFDians. All the students were encouraged to dream and think big for a prosperous career in the design industry. INIFD is the only

student body that is giving an opportunity to students to showcase their designer collection at India's most coveted Lakme Fashion Week as well as at the Global platform of New York Fashion Week & LONDON FASHION WEEK. INIFD guides the budding designers in such a way that their classroom creativity gets an exclusive chance to showcase in such prominent platforms. The most celebrated Designer Manish Malhotra, the chief mentor of INIFD-LST shares his experiences and

insights into the world of fashion through his online fashion & styling course Learn from Manish Malhotra for INIFD design students. INIFD Interior Design courses are mentored by Bollywood Diva & Celebrity Interior Designer Twinkle Khanna and Fashion Design courses are mentored by Salman Khan's Stylist & Celebrity Interior Designer Ashley Rebello. INIFD Guwahati, a premium INIFD Centre, offers 1/2/3 year Fashion and Interior Design Courses and gives its students an international edge in the world of design.

## Dist. level Bal Vikas Guru training in Golaghat

**Assam Rising Golaghat, July 1:** Two Days District Level Bal Vikas Guru Training at Sri Sathya Sai Vidya Vihar in Golaghat concluded yesterday. Dist President SSSO Bipul Rajkumar, Chairman SSSVV Dr Giridhar Phukan, Principal Subhasis Rajkhowa, District Education Coordinator Tripti Goswami, Kalpana Rajkumari, Rita Saikia and Luku Kakoty were made to sit on the dias. The programme began with a speech by Romen Gogoi who spoke on Ceiling on Desire by giving various examples in the context of human beings. Chandrika Chanda explained the Five D's, Dedication, Discipline and Duty, Devotion, Discrimination and Determination by giving examples of how they lead us towards spirituality. Value Song and Value Games were explained by Rupjyoti Baruah, Geetanjali Rajbonshi,

Bornali Phukan, Nilakshi Gogoi, Rupal Kaur and Vijaya Mishra. Bornali Phukan told how a teacher should explain the children while playing with them. On this occasion many bhajans were presented by the school children. Role of the teacher in students life was explained by Archana Bora. She said that the role of teachers is important as they take students from darkness to light of knowledge. She explained golden rules of Determination, resourcefulness, skill, learner, mentoring. Importance of prayer and how to perform it was explained by Eva Rajkumari Gogoi. Role Play was presented by Bornali Phukan, Minoti Phukan, Pummita Sarkar, Mitali Konwar, Nizara Borah & Archana Bora which was liked by all. Model Bal Vikas Class / School Bal Vikas was presented by Bornali Phukan,

Chandrika Chanda, Geetanjali Rajbonshi & Rupjyoti Baruah along with students. Then there was interaction with new gurus. Vote of thanks was given by Tripti Goswami and the program ended by Mangal Aaroti.

**Assam Rising, Silchar, July 1:** Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday made another official visit to flood-ravaged Silchar town in Cachar district. The third in a series of visits to the district headquarter town in less than 10 days, the Chief Minister made a visit to the relief camp that has been set up at the Gurcharan College premises and interacted with the inmates who have taken refuge there. The Chief Minister also visited the medical camp that has been set up within the

college compound for the benefit of those who have taken shelter at the relief camp. He was also seen visiting the cooked-food relief camp set up there by members of the Bharat Sevashram Sangh. At the relief camp, the Chief Minister was seen assuring the inmates of all support from the government in their rehabilitation. Further, he directed the concerned officials to ensure the inmates have access to proper sanitation, drink-

ing water, nutritious food, etc during their stay in the camp. Later, the Chief Minister, at a ceremony held at the Deputy Commissioner's office, distributed ex-gratia relief in the form of cheques to next-of-kin of 10 deceased who lost their lives in the recent flood. The Chief Minister stated the process of granting relief to family members of the rest of the deceased has begun and soon, they too would be granted the ex-

gratia amount. The Chief Minister also chaired a review meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office and directed the officials of the district administration and other departments to leave no stone unturned to ensure return of normalcy to the district at the earliest. He was seen issuing instructions to the senior officials to take special care of the needs of the pregnant women, lactating mothers and children in the relief

camp and elsewhere. The Chief Minister concluded his official trip by visiting the breached areas of the Bethukandi dykes over river Barak. He directed the engineers and officials to ensure proper and quality materials are used in the reconstruction of the breached areas. Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma was today accompanied by senior ministers of the government of Assam and lawmakers of Parliament and Assam Legislative Assembly.

## Assam CM distributes ex-gratia relief to flood victims at Silchar

## Senior physicians feted on doctors' day



**Assam Rising, Nagaon, July 1:** On occasion of doctors' day, the members of Nagaon Lions Club today felicitated two senior physi-

cians of the small town at their respective residence. A delegate consisting of the newly elected president and secretary of the club - respectively Malchanda

Agarwal and Saranga Ballabh Goswami, Harsada Soulangi (treasurer), Susanta Borthakur, Biswajit Mahanta, Ajoy Mittal and other rushed to the residences of nonagenarian physicians - Dr Abdul Motin and Dr Pramod Kumar Poddar this morning and felicitated both the senior physicians with a appraisal letter, memento, phulam gamusha and a tiny plant each. The club members also took stocks of their health care and wished for a longer span of life, a release added.

## Lokra Bn ferried patients at Cachar Cancer Hospital

**Assam Rising Biswanath Chari, July 1:** Lokra Battalion under the aegis of HQ Sect 21 and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) ferried patients from Cachar Cancer Hospital Silchar in Cachar District, Assam on July 1. The ongoing flood situation in Cachar district has isolated the Hospital and made it inaccessible by roads due to which patients were either stuck in the hospital or couldn't reach. The Lokra Battalion immediately launched a rescue operation to evacuate the patients and also made arrangements to make people reach the hospital by ferry boats. Approximately 150 patients were rescued and ferried to



their destinations. Medical aid and assistance was also provided to the

patients in need and the locals of the area by setting up a medical aid post.

## Silapathar AASU to organize free coaching class

**Assam Rising, Dhemaji, July 1:** Silapathar AASU to organize a free coaching camp during summer vacation for class X students at Silapathar Residential Higher Secondary School. Subjects like General Mathematics, General Science, English and Assamese will be covered in the camp by experienced teachers. Interested students can contact Silapathar Anchalik Students Union office directly to know more details. The coaching classes will commence from July 3 next. Silapathar Anchalik Students Union President Bikramjit Gogoi and General Secretary Paplu Gogoi also informed that the said coaching camp will provide textbook education as well as training on various fields of personality development and social culture.

## Lokra Battalion conducted free medical camp

**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chari, July 1:** Lokra Battalion under the aegis of HQ Sect 21 and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) established a medical aid post to assist people amid floods in Silchar, Cachar District, Assam on July 1. The medical aid post was established in the general area



Kathai near TE Hospital Silchar. A total of 108 people including

children were provided with medical aid and medicines.

## One-time use plastic materials banned in Lakhimpur

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, July 1:** As per the Plastic Waste Management Law-2021, making, stock and selling of one-time use plastic materials have been completely prohibited in the country. Accordingly, all the commercial institutions and people of North Lakhimpur municipal area are requested not to make, stock and use one-time use plastic materials such as cup, plate and glass made of plastic, plastic flex, plastic stick,

ice-cream stick, thermocol, pvc banner etc. made of below 75 microns, stated in a press release issued here by the Lakhimpur DIPRO Mandira Chayengia today. If any one use or sell the said materials by violating the Plastic Waste Management Law-2021, the North Lakhimpur Municipal Board will take legal action against him or her, the press release further stated.

## MSSV introduce B.Sc in digital forensics & AMP cyber security

**Assam Rising, Nagaon, July 1:** Mahapurush Srimanta Shankardev Vishwavidyalaya (MSSV) introduced a unique B.Sc. in Digital Forensics and AMP cyber security course in the university from the current session. While addressing a press conference held today in the university, professor Mridul Hazarika, vice chancellor of the university and Babul Bora, director (finance and planning) cum chief coordinator of the university claimed that the Srimanta Shankardev Vishwavidyalaya took various steps to fulfill the current academic needs and requirements of students and said B.Sc. in

digital forensics and amp: cyber security course is introduced for the first time in north-east India. Taking the rapid expansion of digital applications in every walks of life, security issues have emerged as important requirements for survival. Besides, frequent cyber crimes have created havoc among all and skilled manpower to deal with such issues is just limited, they added. But the new course in digital forensics and amp cyber security will create a new phenomenon with sufficient skilled manpower to deal with those issues not only in North-east, but in the entire country, the vice chancellor professor Mridul Hazarika said claiming that

this new course would open more jobs opportunities in digital giants operating in various countries. They however said that the university also introduced another unique course - BA in public administration and governance in the university from the current session intending to create young manpower who could be eligible for public services examinations. The programme for BA in public administration and governance will be mentored by Rajib Bora, former APSC chairman, a release added. Dr Mrinal Kumar Bora, registrar, Dr Nayanmoni Saikia, deputy registrar, Dr Santanu Kalita, HoD, Computer Science, Gouri Prasad Sarma, PRO of the university were also present in the press conference today.

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## THE ASSAM RISING

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## The repeated Polio fear

By the 1980s, despite the invention of the vaccine 30 years earlier, there were still more than 300,000 yearly polio cases worldwide because of failures in coordination globally and lack of deployment in many countries. But, as a result of huge efforts, a remarkable impact has been seen since then. Two of the three types of wild polio virus (type 2 and type 3) have been driven to extinction by vaccine immunity; only type 1 is left. It may be possible to eradicate this virus completely from the world. And we are very close to seeing the back of it - in the past 12 months there were only 16 documented cases of paralytic polio caused by the remaining type 1 virus globally (down from 176 cases in 2019). This success has largely been driven by use of Sabin's live oral vaccine, which anyone over the age of 18 will have received as drops by mouth or, like me, will fondly remember as a dose on a sugar cube. This vaccine is especially good at preventing the disease and also halting transmission of the virus. It has already stopped polio in most of the world. There are huge efforts towards eradication, focused on improving vaccine coverage in the few remaining countries where the virus is still found, with most attention on improving access in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is 42 years since smallpox was eradicated, could it be time for polio? We are not there yet and there were some notable setbacks with cases in Malawi and Mozambique in the last year, but the end of another menace of history feels possible. While we are tantalisingly close to eradicating wild polio, it isn't straightforward. The live Sabin vaccine, which has been saving the world from polio epidemics for 70 years, can very rarely undergo freak mutations, which paradoxically renders it capable of causing paralysis in undervaccinated populations. Nevertheless, the Sabin vaccine continues to be a critical part of the global programme because of its special characteristics in improving immune responses in the gut and thereby reducing spread of wild polio. Now that polio is on the retreat, greater attention is being turned towards avoiding rare cases of paralysis caused by mutated Sabin viruses.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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## Letter to The Editor

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

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

## Children aren't the future: where have all the young climate activists gone?

Between 2016 and 2020, children were the vital force at the centre of the climate movement. Youth strikers organised record-breaking mass mobilisations and protests between geography and double maths. In the US, young people from the Sunrise Movement occupied Nancy Pelosi's office demanding climate action. Youth activists got extraordinary media attention, invitations to speak at climate summits, and to address the UN. Teenagers such as Vanessa Nakate and Greta Thunberg became household names; both of them appeared on the cover of Time magazine, the latter as person of the year in 2019. This coincided with a moment in climate politics that was awash with ideas around children, the future, and intergenerational justice. Extinction Rebellion activists used the next generation as a proxy for the future: climate action in the present was a moral necessity for our children and grandchildren. Politicians also adopted this framing. At the same time, young people were taking matters into their own hands. For a time, it seemed that a climate movement was emerging in which children acted simultaneously as the spark, inspiration and energy. This wave seemed unstoppable. But that moment has passed. Young people's climate activism is rarely headline news

any more and Thunberg has taken a step back from the movement spotlight. There are fewer older eco-warriors in the limelight talking about their grandchildren, and politicians seem to care less about photos with young activists blocking roads. Of course, youth organising has not simply disappeared - young people still populate much of the activist scene and movements such as Green New Deal Rising remain explicitly for under-35s. But media focus and activists themselves are placing less emphasis on age; it is often incidental, and less central to activists' strategy. The political terrain has changed since the age of the youth activist icon. The events of the past couple of years have thrown down challenges for climate organising more broadly: the pandemic was a major chiller for activism and came hot on the heels of the 2019 general election, the biggest Tory victory since 1987 and a crushing experience for the left and wider green movement. But the climate movement is not just moving across a different political landscape; it has also taken a different form. There has been a critical repositioning in parts of the UK climate movement, recognising climate breakdown is not a future issue, but a

devastating present reality for millions in the global south. And on the whole, young activists have grown out of organising along generational lines, instead moving into issue-oriented movements. From the beginning, youth strikers were holding together a complex coalition of children, allied around their age and the tactic of striking, rather than an explicit political agenda.

## Eleanor Salter

After sustaining impressive turnout at protests but achieving little political shift, UK organisers were burning out, as was the shock of the strikes. This was compounded by the feeling that world leaders and corporations were "youth-washing" by co-opting child climate activists - inviting them on to platforms and into private meetings to burnish their own images but ignoring their demands. Despite the increase in representation on the world stage, importantly including indigenous young people and children from the global south, it's hard to say how much world leaders took their voices into account. Children were seen, but their demands - from urging for financing for loss and damage, an end to the racist Home Office or an end to capitalism itself - were not heard. The UK Youth Climate Coalition was so frustrated with this co-optation

it set up a campaign in 2019 to call out youth-washing. Some adults were youth-washing to cover their problematic policies or business models, others to divest action on to a younger generation. Thunberg spoke out about it in her now-famous speech to the UN: "You all come to us young people for hope. How dare you? You have stolen my dreams and my childhood with your empty words." Ultimately, what is lacking is real decision-making power for young people. So now, instead of using youth as a rallying flag, young people across the country are building movements around radical policies or clear political campaigns. These are both harder to co-opt, and more coherent than the loose association of a movement based on age alone. Given the fragmented politics and the fleeting nature of childhood itself, building youth-led movements around strong campaign foundations - from Stop Jackdaw to Just Stop Oil - is proving more sustainable. The climate movement still needs powerful ideas and metaphors that can unite big coalitions, but children are no longer its future. That focus was temporary, and besides kept attention off the millions for whom climate breakdown isn't the future but the present. It's a good thing that young activists are now viewed less as angelic saviours, and more as political actors in their own right.

## Udaipur killing fits the pattern of Western Islamic radicalisation. But don't politicise it

As tragic as the gruesome murder of Kanhaiya Lal was, we are making matters worse by using the unfortunate tailor's sad demise to make political points that advance our own pet causes. If you have been following television commentary and social media debates not that there is any difference between the two these days - you will know that the horrific nature of the Udaipur killing has been seized by the usual suspects to reinforce their positions. Position one comes from supporters of Nupur Sharma. Bizarrely, they treat the murder as a way of retrospectively justifying what she said. "See," they argue, "we told you that she was up against murderous and dangerous jihadis and yet, liberals did nothing to defend her. Instead, they hounded her." This is disingenuous nonsense. I believe that Nupur Sharma had every right to say what she did. It wasn't really liberals who objected (most of them don't watch the channel where she made her comments anyway), it was foreign governments. And the people who dowsined her, called her 'a fringe element' and then tossed her overboard were not liberals either. It was the government of India that cast her out into the wilderness; a move enthusiastically endorsed even by the Bharatiya Janata Party

(BJP) leadership. Besides, even those liberals who criticised her for her comments did not support violence or advocate violent reprisals against her. When a few motor-mouths did go down this road, they were also criticised by liberals. In a sense, the response of the Hindu Right with its air of aspirational victimhood is not surprising. Nor, I guess, are some of the liberal responses we have heard in the aftermath of the Udaipur tragedy. A liberal response goes as follows: "Of course, this is a terrible crime. But you know, when the government pushes Muslims to the wall and makes them feel that they will never get justice, then of course some people will take the law into their hands." This is errant nonsense. And it is doubly dangerous because it mischaracterises the Muslim community's response to discrimination. I doubt many Muslims are happy with the way things are but to suggest that they have given up on the Indian system and are turning to violence is completely wrong. In fact, the majority of Indian Muslims have always rejected violence - a reason why India has remained immune, over the last two decades, to the waves of pan-Islamic radicalisation that have rocked the world. Judging by what we know about Kanhaiya Lal's murder so far (leaving open the possibility that the picture may change), this

is what they call a copycat lone wolf operation. In the West, young Muslims who have been radicalised, either by the internet (the usual culprit) or by following the teachings of some Islamist outfit (in this case, it has been suggested that they may have followed a Pakistani fundamentalist organisation) take it upon themselves to commit acts of violence following the ISIS pattern. They are almost by definition a little unhinged and come off, in the videos they

## Vir Sanghvi

usually post, as deranged maniacs. The Udaipur murder seems to fit that pattern. The murderers were locals. They had previously threatened the victim. Their ambition exceeded their ability (they tried to behead the victim but did not know how to do it) and they seemed even more delighted about posting the video than they were about the horrific act of terror they had committed. So far, at least, there is no evidence that they were part of any organised terror cell or were seeking revenge for the condition of Muslims in India. They were two dangerous Islamist fanatics, which is terrible. But it is not

particularly unprecedented: attacks in the United Kingdom and the United States have frequently been carried out by men who fit this profile. However, some liberals will argue that the men in Udaipur took to violence only because of the discrimination Muslims face. This view is at odds with the global reality. Most terrorist organisations (and the terrorists themselves) turn to murder and mayhem not in situations where Muslims are a persecuted minority but where Muslims are the majority.

The terrorists who have wreaked havoc inside Pakistan are not protesting Hindu oppression. And al-Qaeda and ISIS have, historically, always been at their strongest in Muslim countries. Terrorism is a complex business. There are many reasons people are drawn first to fundamentalism and then to fundamentalist violence. It is too simplistic to say that it occurs only because Muslims are an oppressed minority. Just take one celebrated instance from history: the first country to ban Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses* was India. But the first fatwa emerged from Iran, a Muslim majority country. And the people who sent bombs to publishers, murdered translators and tried to kill

Rushdie were not Indians, but Muslims from other parts of the world. So, let's not try and immediately draw too many general conclusions from the Udaipur incident. It does, in no way, negate the criticisms of either what Nupur Sharma said or the response that came from her own party when it threw her under the bus. And it does not prove that Indian Muslims are so frustrated that they have reached a point of no return and turned to violence because of state persecution. Let us focus instead on the human tragedy of Kanhaiya Lal, a citizen of India who was murdered for saying what he believed, and who, it seems, was subjected first to threats from his murderers and then had his calls for protection ignored by the local police. And let's not allow activists of any political persuasion to hijack this tragedy. It does not prove that all Muslims are fanatics, ready to pull out their daggers at any slight to Islam. And it does not prove that the Narendra Modi government has driven Muslims to violence. The men who did this deserve exemplary punishment. We must check if they have any links with others and investigate whether they were acting alone. And we must resist the temptation to turn the poor tailor's death into a political opportunity and more fodder for partisan night-time debates.

## CDS not the only one. India's national security management has two more missing links

Even as the much anticipated announcement of India's second Chief of Defence Staff enters its seventh month, there are other equally important links missing from the country's higher national security management. While the focus remains on the next CDS, the absence of a National Security Strategy and revised Raksha Mantri's Operational Directives means that the Indian Armed Forces continue to undertake plans and operate in an ad hoc manner in order to fulfil commitments. The NSS is, of course, the oldest of the missing links in the national security circuit. But given the current environment, Raksha Mantri's Operational Directives are easily

the most important. The enlarged selection pool for the next CDS is a severe negation on the abilities of the current chiefs of the three Services. And it has of course come in for a scathing comment by Lt Gen HS Panag (ret'd). The fanfare that went with the announcement of late Gen Bipin Rawat as CDS on 31 December 2019 raised expectations about the furtherance of defence

## Manvendra Singh

initiatives announced to come up with a comprehensive NSS, but they've always run aground for some reason or the other. The least of which is the inability of a department to agree fundamentals with another. As a result of which India continues to plan and execute national security formulae without a comprehensive long term plan or vision. "The Indian state does not possess an overarching National Security Strategy that comprehensively assesses the challenges to the country's security and spells out policies to deal effectively with them... the state relies on ad hoc responses of questionable utility," former foreign secretary Shyam Saran expressed searingly. Despite repeated attempts and announcements, the roadblocks of unwillingness, or ignorance, have hampered progress towards formulating the elusive

NSS. An elaborate NSS requires the joint effort of multiple departments and fields of study, not the least of which is finance and human resources, science and space. It is not a military endeavour alone. The effort, however, seems to have been entirely military thus far. So it was in 2007 that the Headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff produced the first draft of the proposed NSS. The draft lay unattended until it was dusted in 2018 by the National Security Advisory Board, revised and presented to the then recently constituted Defence Planning Committee. Since October 2019, the draft NSS has remained just as it was - unanalysed by other departments pending approval. The NSS is only as good as the wider departmental circle that contributes to its formulation. Progress has been tardy. The three armed forces are entirely dependent on the Raksha Mantri's Operational Directives for political direction in planning for an all-out war, or any other circumstances. It is the most important political directive for operational planning. And in more than a decade, it has not been updated to cater for newer challenges and changed circumstances. As the former Chief of Army Staff Gen N.C. Vij wrote: "The only political direction to the Armed Forces in existence is Raksha Mantri's

operational Directive of 2009. It is now dated and hence needs to be revised. It lays down that, 'We should be prepared to fight on both fronts simultaneously a war at 30 days (intense) and 60 days (normal) rates.' The revisions are mired in a dispute between the military and civilian side of the Ministry of Defence, with both unwilling to put pen to paper on the exact duration of India's planning for conflict, on both fronts. For a written commitment from either binds them to the exact level of planning, hence funds, and therefore budgetary allocations. Not that allocations have been particularly generous in terms of long-term planning. While the Republic Day Parade may generate great eyeballs with sparkling brass and gleaming flypasts, the mundane question of ammunition stocks remains a matter of grave concern. Skills displayed along a remodelled Rajpath, New Delhi, on 26 January have no bearing on operational capabilities, even as they may make some chests swell inches. Small arms ammunition stocks should become the first focus of attention, and only then will the MoD come to any conclusion on the number of days India could sustain a two-front war. And then issue at least one of those elusive documents, Raksha Mantri's Operational Directive.

## Zubair or Udaipur - Under Modi, India has entered era of total politics

The political heat wave during this summer has led to a constitutional meltdown. From Udupi to Udaipur - via Khargone, Prayagraj, Delhi and Gulbarg Society - we have covered a long distance. During this summer, we have come a long way - from banning Hijab in classrooms to preventing azaan on loudspeakers, from bullying to bulldozing, from blasphemy to beheading. The façade of constitutional niceties has wilted. We stand face to face with a new political order. It is pointless to describe this order merely as a distortion of India's liberal democracy. It

demands to be understood in its own terms. Why did the BJP government wish to whitewash the Emergency imposed by Indira Gandhi's Congress from school textbooks? Why did the Yogi Adityanath government perform the public ritual of bulldozing Javed Mohammad's house even after a handsome

## Yogendra Yadav

electoral victory? Why did the government go after Teesta Setalvad and Mohammed Zubair, fully aware of adverse international publicity following recent diplomatic embarrassment over blasphemy? These questions cannot be answered through a simple calculus of political gains and losses. Nor are these blind

acts of an authoritarian government gone berserk. There is a method to this madness. We are looking at the rise of total politics. It involves total dominance of political power over all other sectors of power - social, cultural, religious or economic. Within the political domain, it seeks total control over all forms of power - electoral, governmental, ideological as well as street power. It is a relentless pursuit, total in its ambition - it leaves no gaps or breathing space. There are no brakes with the driver. This is not 'totalitarian' politics of the Cold War era or replay of fascism or fundamentalism. Unlike authoritarian regimes, total politics needs continuous and visible popular endorsement.



## QUIZ

- Q.1- Which is the tallest mountain in the world?  
 Ans-  
 Q.2- Which gas is most abundant in the earth's atmosphere?  
 Ans-  
 Q.3- Which is the continent with the most number of countries?  
 Ans-  
 Q.4- Which is the most widely spoken language in the world?  
 Ans-  
 Q.5- Who discovered electricity?  
 Ans-

Those who will give all the 5 correct answers, his/her name and photo will be published next week. You can send your answers to : [assamrising@gmail.com](mailto:assamrising@gmail.com)

**Last week quiz Answers** Carbon dioxide, The Amazon, the Antarctic desert, subscriber identity module, Indian constitution (395 articles, divided into 22 parts and 8 schedules)



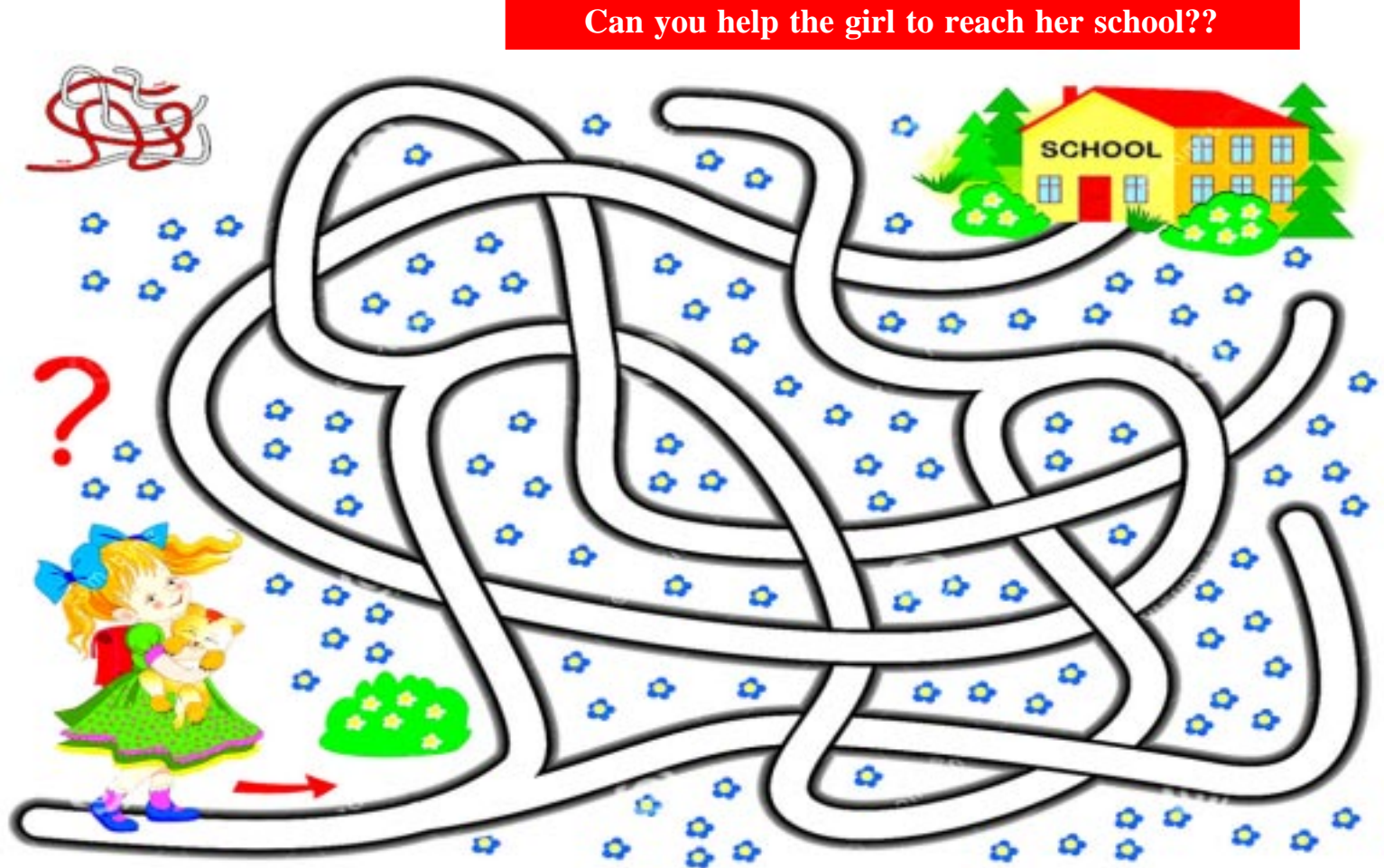
Bhargab Buragohain, Class V, 910 Longkak Primary School

### Dream to fly

Sometimes I dream that I can fly.  
 I lift and flap my arms just so,  
 And soon I'm soaring to the sky.  
 Graceful like a bird I go.

I find a fluffy cotton cloud  
 And catch myself a comfy ride.  
 I cannot hear a single sound,  
 As slowly through the air I glide.

My silky cloud floats with the breeze,  
 Through the bluest sky.  
 Just like a sailboat on the sea,



Can you help the girl to reach her school??



Nisha Das, Class VI, Hahchaha High School,



Bhargav Buragohain, Class VI, Mon ati akha team, Sivasagar



Darshit Sharma, Class I, Pakshalika High School, Sivasagar

### Birbal's Khichadi

Abinash Saikia  
 Class VI, Little Star School

Once on a cold winter day, Akbar and Birbal were walking by a lake. Akbar stopped and put his finger into the freezing water and immediately took it out saying, "I don't think anyone can sustain a cold water bath for a night in this weather". Birbal as a challenge and would find who can do it. Birbal promised a sum of 1000 gold coins to whoever could spend a night standing in the cold water of the lake. Soon, Birbal found a poor man who agreed to undertake the challenge for the 1000 gold coins. Guarded by two royal guards, the poor man spent the entire night standing in the freezing water. In the morning, the poor man was taken to court for the reward. On being asked by the king how he could stand in freezing water, the man replied, "My lord, I kept looking at a lamp that was burning at a distance, and spent my entire night looking at it". On learning this, the emperor said, "This man is not worthy of the reward as he could manage to stand in the lake because he was getting warmth from the lamp". The poor man felt doomed and heart-broken. He reached out to Birbal for help. Birbal didn't go to the court the next day. Akbar visited Birbal to find the reason. To his amusement, the King found Birbal sitting beside the fire with a pot hanging almost 6 feet above it. On being enquired, Birbal said, "I am cooking khichadi, my lord". Akbar started laughing and said that was impossible. Birbal said, "It is possible my King. If a poor man can stay warm by simply looking at the lamp burning at a distance, I can cook this khichadi the same way." Akbar understood Birbal's point and rewarded the poor man for completing the challenge.

**Moral : Hope can inspire people to work hard.**

Dear Bhagin,

I came across a powerful quote by Pablo Ruiz Picasso was a Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, ceramicist and theatre designer who spent most of his adult life in France. He wrote — "Every child is an artist and Children are great imitators. So give them something great to imitate." While children build their identity, question the world around them and identify their strengths, how they talk to themselves plays a major factor when it comes to determining the life they will lead. You can contact me on : [assamrising@gmail.com](mailto:assamrising@gmail.com)

Your  
 Abhi mama.



Debanjan Saikia, Class II, Lakhimpur



## Contd. From Page 1

### Assam Chief Minister Sues Delhi

defamation suit after Sisodia alleged corruption in the procurement of Covid Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits. Sisodia in Delhi has said that PPE kit contracts were awarded to a company linked to Sarma's wife." "Himanta Biswa Sarma awarded the contract to his wife's company. He paid Rs 990 for the PPE kits while others were purchased at Rs 600 apiece from another company on the same day. This is a huge crime." He dared BJP leadership to take action against Sarma. The chief minister tweeted, "Stop sermonising and I will see you soon in Guwahati as you will face criminal defamation".

### Assam CM visits flood hit

to that village and talked to the marooned people. He, however, appreciated the resilience shown by the flood affected people in that village who coped with their hardships bravely. He asked the DC to ensure that the villagers get adequate relief. He also asked him to take steps to repair their damaged houses and help their rehabilitation process once the flood waters recede. Dr. Sarma also visited 114 No. Ramkrishna Lower Primary school at Srirampur village and talked to the managing committee of the school. The Chief Minister said that the government will rebuild the school to help it resume its academic activities. He also asked the managing committee to ensure a sizable number of students in the school. Chief Minister Dr Sarma also held a quick review of the current flood situation in the district with the district administration. He asked the DC to prepare a comprehensive action plan to manage the post flood situation and take up the rehabilitation and restoration works on a war footing. He asked him to undertake a survey to prepare a list enlisting the number of damaged houses, fisheries and roads to help the government to take up reconstruction works at the earliest. Considering the huge tourism potentials of Son Beel, one of the largest freshwater lakes in Asia, Dr. Sarma said that the government will build a good quality guest house with all modern amenities and a floating solar power project at Son Beel. He also asked the DC to render all the benefits to the flood victims during and after floods that the government has initiated from time to time. Minister PHE Tourism etc Jayanta Malla Baruah, MP Kripanath Malla, MLAs Bhabesh Kalita, Bijay Malakar, Krishnandu Paul, Siddique Ahmed were also present during Chief Minister's visit to flood hit areas.

### Manipur Landslide

tools are being employed. "To find troops buried in the wreckage, a thorough wall radar is also being injected by air. Additionally, a search and rescue dog will be introduced "according to officials. Five civilians and 13 members of the Territorial Army have so far been saved. The hunt for the missing individuals will go on all day, according to the authorities. The landslide blocked a river's flow, forming a dam-like water body that, if the debris are cleared away, might cause floods in low-lying areas, resulting in a complex calamity.

### Nupur Sharma case

political agenda or some other nefarious activities", the bench said. While refusing to entertain Sharma's plea for clubbing of FIRs, a vacation bench of Justices Surya Kant and JB Pardiwala allowed her to withdraw the plea. The bench also said that Nupur Sharma's apology came too late and that too conditionally saying if religious sentiments are hurt and so on. "She should have been on TV immediately and apologised to the nation," the SC bench said. The court said her petition "smacks of arrogance" and that she thinks that the magistrate of the country is too small for her. Her lawyer said Sharma was a spokesperson of a political party and her unintentional comments were in relation to a debate. "If you are a spokesperson of a party, it is not a license to say things like this", the bench said, adding, "if there was a misuse of the debate, the first thing she should have done was to file an FIR against the anchor". To which, Sharma's lawyer said she had reacted to the debate initiated by other debaters and pointed to the transcript of the debate. The bench said, "what was the TV debate for? Was it to fan an agenda and why did they choose a sub-judice topic?" When her lawyer said she has joined the investigation being conducted by the Delhi Police and not running away, the bench said, "What has happened in the investigation so far? What has Delhi Police done so far? Don't make us open our mouths? They must have put a red carpet for you." After the hearing for nearly 30 minutes, the bench said it is not convinced with her bonafide and refused to entertain the petition.

### PM Modi discusses Ukraine

said, "The two leaders reviewed the implementation of the decisions taken during President Putin's visit to India in December 2021. In particular, they exchanged ideas on how bilateral trade in agricultural goods, fertilizers and pharma products could be encouraged further." "The leaders also discussed global issues, including the state of the international energy and food markets," it said. "In the context of the ongoing situation in Ukraine, the Prime Minister reiterated India's long-standing position in favour of dialogue and diplomacy," the statement said, adding that the leaders agreed to maintain regular consultations on global and bilateral issues. While Russia has emerged as a major oil supplier to India, Modi attended the summit with G-7 countries. While India has not criticised Russia, it has condemned the killings in Bucha and called for an international probe - which is perceived as moving closer to the US-led west. However, India has always tried to maintain a diplomatic balance between the US-led west and Russia, as the conflict has now been going on for the past four months. It has always stuck to its position that New Delhi has called for cessation of hostilities and advocated the path of diplomacy and dialogue to resolve the conflict. India has not joined the sanctions imposed by the US and Europe on Russia, and Moscow sees this as a window of opportunity to engage with New Delhi. The conversation on trade in agricultural products, fertilisers and pharma products is important in that context. New Delhi, which does not want Moscow to side with Beijing, has also maintained robust communication with Russia so that it has uninterrupted supply of defence equipment - both new and spares. About 60 to 70 per cent of India's defence supplies come from Russia, and this dependence is crucial at a time when India and China are currently locked in a border standoff in eastern Ladakh. Modi, who attended the G-7 summit with US President Joe Biden and other western leaders in Germany, also participated virtually in the BRICS summit, which was attended by Putin and chaired by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

### 'Not Nupur Sharma, this person

controversial comments against the Prophet, the Congress MP said what the Apex court said was true, but the atmosphere in the country has not been created by the person who made the comments. Rahul alleged that it was created by the NDA government at the Centre. He made these remarks in Kalpetta after visiting his office vandalised by SFI activists a week ago. The former Congress president said his party builds bridges between communities and brings people together while the BJP and the RSS were 'creating division' among the people. His remarks came shortly after the Supreme Court today came down heavily on Sharma for her controversial comments against the Prophet, saying her "loose tongue" has "set the entire country on fire" and asked her to immediately apologise to the nation for her remarks. Refusing to entertain Sharma's plea for clubbing of FIRs lodged in various states against her for the remark, the bench held that the comment was made either for cheap publicity, political agenda or some nefarious activities. "She actually has a loose tongue and has made all kinds of irresponsible statements on TV and set the entire country on fire. Yet, she claims to be a lawyer of 10 years standing... set the entire country on fire. Yet, she claims to be a lawyer of 10 years standing..." the court said. Sharma's remark against the Prophet, made during a TV debate, triggered protests across the country and invited sharp reactions from many Gulf countries. The BJP subsequently suspended her from the party.

### 'Had Amit Shah kept his word

then stitched an alliance with rival NCP and Congress to form the government. Uddhav went on to say that "the manner in which Govt has been formed & a so-called Shiv Sena worker has been made CM, I had said the same to Amit Shah. This could've been done respectfully. The Shiv Sena was officially with you (at that time). This CM (Eknath Shinde) is not a Shiv Sena CM." Slamming the new government for its decision to build the metro car shed in Mumbai's Aarey colony, Thackeray asked not to "project anger" for him on Mumbaiers. "Don't project anger for me on Mumbaiers. Don't change the proposal for the metro shed. Don't toy with the environment of Mumbai," he said. In September 2019, then Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis had said that the government is bound to cut trees in Mumbai's Aarey forest area as "development is important". Uddhav Thackeray resigned on Wednesday after most of his Shiv Sena MLAs joined rebel Eknath Shinde, bringing down the coalition government. Eknath Shinde was sworn in as CM on Thursday, with former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis as his deputy. One of the first decisions he took was to reverse the Thackeray government's decision to shift a controversial metro car shed project from a green zone in Mumbai.

### Chess revolution in India

from across the country," said Chauhan. With the veteran players like Viswanathan Anand and Koneru Humpy alongside young promising talents such as Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa and Gukesh D, consistently performing on the global stage, India has emerged as one of the top chess nations in the world in the recent years. The country has also won three medals at the world's biggest chess event, the Olympiad since 2014. Two of the medals, gold and bronze, came in virtual editions, held in the last two years. "Indian players have proved their abilities with some brilliant performances at the global stage. There has also been the emergence of some talented youngsters who are the future of Indian chess. Developing and nurturing young talent is very important and I believe, the Khelo Chess programme could provide an ideal platform," the AICF Secretary further added. The Khelo India programme was launched in 2018 with an aim to develop the sports culture in India at the grass-root level and transform the country as a great sporting nation. With young players winning international medals for the country, the programme has been a great success. And for a game like chess, which is not part of Khelo India yet, such a program could be the game-changer. India is all set to add a golden chapter in its chess history by hosting the Chess Olympiad for the first-time ever in the country. The International Chess Federation also named India as the starting flame point for its newly introduced Olympic-style concept, Chess Olympiad Torch Relay, as it will always begin from India for every edition of the event. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the historic torch relay for the 44th Chess Olympiad last week at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi in a glittering ceremony. The event was attended by FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of State for Sports Nishith Pramanik, Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand, the Indian Chess contingent and members of Chess Federations from various countries. For the first time in the history of the prestigious competition, India not only hosts the 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad but is also the first country that starts off a torch relay that has been instituted by FIDE for the first time in the history of the competition which started in 1927. Acknowledging India's stature as the country where Chess was born, from now on, the Olympiad Torch will travel from India to the host nation during every Chess Olympiad. FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich handed over the torch to the Prime Minister, who in turn handed it over to Indian chess legend, Grandmaster Vishwanathan Anand. This marked the start of a 40-day torch relay that will cover 75 cities in India across the 36 States and Union Territories. This is in commemoration with the theme of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav - celebrating 75 years of India's independence. On this occasion the Prime Minister said "The first torch relay for Chess Olympiad games is starting from India. For the first time, this year, India is also going to host Chess Olympiad games. We are proud that a sport, starting from its birthplace and leaving its mark all over the world, has become a passion for many countries." He continued "Centuries ago, the torch of this sport went to the whole world in the form of Chaturanga from India. Today the first Olympiad torch of chess is also coming out of India. When India is celebrating its 75th year of independence, Amrit Mahotsav, this Chess Olympiad torch will also go to 75 cities of the country." He said "FIDE has decided that the torch relay for each Chess Olympiad game will start from India itself. This honour is not only the honour of India, but also the honour of this glorious heritage of chess. I congratulate FIDE and all its members for this". The Prime Minister dwelled on the India heritage in Chess. He said "our ancestors invented games like Chaturanga or Chess for analytical and problem solving brains. Chess, via India, reached many countries of the world and became very popular. Now, chess is being used in schools as an education tool for young people, for children." He noted that in recent years, India is consistently improving its performance in Chess. This year, India's contingent in the Chess Olympiad is the biggest so far. The Prime Minister expressed the hope that India will create a new record of medals this year. The Prime Minister talked about many lessons that Chess gives us in our lives. Underlining the need for right support for everyone irrespective of their place in life, the Prime Minister said "Just like every piece of chess has its own unique strength and a unique ability. If you make the right move with a piece and use its power properly, then it becomes the most powerful. This speciality of Chessboard gives us the big message of life. If given the right support and the right environment, no goal is impossible even for the weakest." Highlighting another lesson from Chess, the Prime Minister said "Another great feature of the game of chess is farsightedness. Chess tells us that real success comes from far-sighted rather than short-term success." The Prime Minister pointed out that this lesson informs India's sports policy and schemes like Target Olympics Podium Scheme (TOPS) which have started yielding results. Referring to India's recent successes in Tokyo Olympics, Paralympics, Thomas Cup and boxing the Prime Minister said "There is no dearth of talent in our country. There is no dearth of courage, dedication and strength among the youth of the country. Earlier these youths of ours had to wait for the right platform. Now, under the 'Khelo India' campaign, the country is searching and shaping these talents." Sports talent is emerging from far flung areas of the country under Khelo India and modern sporting infrastructure is being created in different towns and districts of the country. He also pointed out that sports has been treated as other academic subjects under New Education Policy. He said that many new dimensions of sports like physio, sports science are coming to the fore and many sports universities are being opened in the country. The Prime Minister acknowledged the pressure of expectations on the player and advised them to give their hundred percent with zero percent tension or pressure. He said that the country sees your hardwork and dedication. As much victory is part of the game, preparing to win again is also part of the game. Referring to the cost of one wrong move in Chess the Prime Minister said if the game can go by one mistake, one can retrieve the situation by the use of brain power, therefore staying calm is of utmost importance. He suggested that Yoga and Meditation can help in this a great deal. He appealed for making Yoga part of daily life. On this occasion Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur invoked the rich history of chess in India. "It is a matter of pride that the Chess Olympiad will come to India for the first time and that the inaugural Chess Olympiad Torch Relay will herald the mega event with 188 nations and more than 2000 players," he said. "Indian sports have made rapid strides under Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's leadership. Not only has he ensured a massive increase in the budget for sports and envisioned the Khelo India and Fit India movement but also ensured the elite sports persons are well-supported and focus only on giving off good performances," he said. FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich thanked the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his role in creating a new tradition for the Chess Olympiad. "FIDE is delighted to start a new tradition from the land of Chess' birth in keeping with Olympic spirit. The Chess Olympiad Torch will carry the message of excellence, respect and friendship," he said. "This time the Flame, carrying the message of peace and friendship, will travel 23,000km and touch 75 cities in India but from the next edition of the Chess Olympiad, the Flame will always be lit in India and travel around the world before reaching the host city," he said. "India is the fastest growing Chess nation. The 40-day torch relay will see some of the best stars from the Indian chess community carrying the torch. The torch rally will culminate in Mahabalipuram, before heading over to the FIDE Headquarters, Switzerland. Besides the torch rally, cultural events are planned including an interactive bus tour travelling from a city to another, a cultural parade varying from region to region featuring young chess players' community. India, who made its debut at the event in 1956 Moscow (27th position), has a gold medal (joint winners with Russia in 2020) and two bronze medals (2021, 2014) from the Chess Olympiad. While the 2020 and 2021 editions were held virtually owing to the Covid 19 pandemic, the 2022 edition will be the first over-the-board Chess Olympiad being held since 2018 in Georgia. India is hosting the prestigious Chess Olympiad for the first time and in the process, Asia gets to host the event after a gap of 30 years. The Philippines last hosted it from Asia in 1992. Being the host, India is set to field 20 players - their biggest ever contingent - at the 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad. India is entitled to field 2 teams each in the Open and Women's category. Over 2000 participants will be representing the event from 188 countries. With top chess stars participating from across the globe, the 44th edition of the event will take place in Mahabalipuram near Chennai from July 28 to August 10.



### SITA VC Deka interacts with GB Members

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 1:** State Innovation and Transformation Aayog Vice- Chairman Ramen Deka interacted with the newly nominated Governing Body members of SITA at his office chamber at Janata Bhawan, Dispur on July 1. At the very outset, Hon'ble Vice- Chairman Ramen Deka welcomed and felicitated the new Members and apprised them all about the on-going schemes and projects taken up by SITA. During discussion various members expressed their views on different sectors under the State Government and shared their innovative ideas which can be incorporated with the Govt of Assam. Co-Vice Chairman Dhruba Prasad Baishya also attended the meeting. The nominated members were Tapan Choudhury, Dr. Sanjay Talukdar, Dr. Rani Mudiar Deka, S.K Barua, Sailendra Sarma and Prof. Madhujya Bezbaruah.

### Flood Relief by USTM

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 1:** A team from the Department of Computer Science & Electronics, University of Science and technology Meghalaya visited Amlighat and Bamungaon of Morigaon district and distributed relief materials among the flood affected people of the two places. The effort was taken by the organizers on June 29 last in association with NSS Cell, USTM and it was supported by Raju Dresses.



### AJYCP stages protest against hydroelectric power projects

**Assam Rising, Nagaon, July 1:** Along with rest of the state, Nagaon district body of Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chatra Parishad (AJYCP) today staged a sit in protest for quite sometime against all ongoing construction of small as well as large scales hydro electric power projects across the state, in front of the office of Deputy Commissioner, Nagaon. During the stir, the agitators from the youths' organization demanded appropriate and adequate compensations and immediate rehabilitation of all the flood ravaged people across the state. The organization also demanded to declare the flood and erosion problems of the state as a national problem. Besides, the protesters demanded to close down all those hydro electric power projects as soon as possible too. During the protest, the protesters shouted various slogans and also slammed the saffron led central NDA government for not paying heed to the hardships facing by the people of the state during these crucial hours caused by the dams of small as well as large scale hydroelectric power projects across Assam. Over 200 agitators from the youths' organization led by the district president and secretary respectively Deepmoni Bora, Pragiyotish Bonia, central executive as well as publicity secretary Prabin Chandra Das participated in the agitation programme and also criticised the BJP led NDA government as the union government was insisting on production of hydro electric power for greater interest of those corporate houses instead of the securities of lives and properties of the people of Assam. Such attitude of a government towards Assam and its people proved that Delhi always enhanced the attitude of a step mother to Assam and its people so far, the agitators alleged.

### Tai language teaching workshop begins in Margherita



**Assam Rising, Margherita, July 1:** The Tai language teaching workshop and cultural ceremony to be held in the memory of Damsaw Girin Mahung Baruah was inaugurated today. The teaching, workshop and cultural festival will be held from July 1st to July 30. Margherita S.D.O Palash Rajkumar Ahom inaugurated the Tai language teaching, workshop and cultural ceremony organized at Town High School in Margherita with a month-long programme. The Organizing committee said that rajya sabha MP Mansao Pavitra Margherita, Assam government cabinet minister Mansao Yogen Mohan, local MLA Bhaskar Sharma and several Tai ahom dignitaries will be present at the closing ceremony to felicitate prominent scholars and well wishers of Tai Ahom. A cultural ceremony of Tai Ahom has also been organized in touch with the closing ceremony. Organizing Committee has called for all attendance as well as support in each programme of Tai language teaching, workshops and cultural ceremonies

### Farewell felicitation ceremony held in DIET

**Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, July 1:** The farewell felicitation ceremony for the trainees of the final(4th) semester of B.Ed. The course of Lakhimpur DIET, Azad, North Lakhimpur was held at the auditorium of the institution today. On this occasion, an intimate interaction program was organized where all the by-gone trainees, the Principal, the teaching and non-teaching staff of the educational institution participated. The trainees became emotional by remembering the sweet and bitter experiences of their two-year education life in the institution. The interaction program was anchored by Premkrishna Sarma. After the intimate interaction, the trainees took blessings from their honourable lecturers.





# Police raid Bahrain Victorious team again on eve of Tour de France

**London, July 01 :** The Tour de France starts in Copenhagen on Friday with a cloud hanging over it after the Bahrain Victorious team, winners of three stages in last year's race, was subjected to a second police raid in a week. The team's hotel in Brøndby was searched at dawn on Thursday morning by Danish police officers as part of an investigation by French prosecutors. It was the second search of the team's riders and staff in a week and follows an initial search and investigation that began during the latter stages of last year's race. The team's official pre-race press conference on Thursday lunchtime lasted only eight minutes after riders and staff refused to answer questions about the police investigation. However, in a statement issued on Thursday the team said: "Following the police search into some staff and riders' homes on Monday, the Team Bahrain Victorious hotel was searched by Danish police at the request of the French prosecutors this morning (Thursday) at 5:30 am." The officers searched all team vehicles, staff and riders' rooms. The team fully cooperated with all the officers' requests, and the search was completed within two hours. No items were seized from the team. "Since the first police



raids in Pau during the 2021 Tour, the team have maintained their innocence. Raids on team hotels in the modern Tour are not unprecedented and there has been intermittent police involvement over the past two decades or so, the most renowned being the tsunami of searches and detentions during the 1998 Tour's infamous Festina affair. The latest dawn raid was at the same hotel as the Groupama-FDJ team and their rider Stefan Küng responded angrily to the police presence. "It gives an image that we are all cheaters, and that's not very nice," Küng told Cyclingnews.com. "I just hope that if there is something, that they are prosecuted. But I also hope that if there is nothing there is a public apology," he added. "It's good that there are prosecutions because I'm the first one to support

any measure that helps to give our sport credibility and make sure that we, as clean riders, are not penalised. But in the same way I always ask for fair play, from everyone, from the authorities." If they make their prosecutions, good. If they don't find anything, there should also be a statement about that. "The police searches last Monday, prior to teams gathering in Copenhagen, were led by Europol, who searched properties of riders and team staff in three different countries. The team described this as part of a campaign to "damage the reputation of individuals" and added that "the timing of this investigation is aimed at intentionally damaging the team's reputation". After the raids earlier this week, Vladimir Miholjevic, the Bahrain Victorious performance manager, said

that his team was "sleeping like babies and working like horses". "We'd like to know why they are doing this," Miholjevic told VeloNews of the spate of police searches. "Someone who is interested to see how we are working can join our team for a period of time and maybe these people will understand the effort that staff and riders are putting in their jobs to achieve their results." Tadej Pogacar celebrates his victory in the 2021 Tour de France on the Champs-Élysées at the end of the final stage. Meanwhile, the Grand Départ Danish

organisers have focused on accentuating the positives of cycling's younger generation, and both Bjarne Riis, disgraced winner of the 1996 Tour, and Michael Rasmussen, expelled from the 2007 Tour while leading the race, are persona non grata during the opening weekend's celebrations. But as the race gets under way on Friday, another cloud is looming after a spate of withdrawals of riders due to positive tests for Covid-19. The French rider Bryan Coquard (Cofidis) and the South African Daryl Impey (Israel - Premier Tech) were pulled on the eve of the race start. Yet there was a twist when Bob Jungels, the Luxembourg rider for the AG2R team, tested positive, but was declared "not contagious" by the International Cycling Union's (UCI) medical team and was allowed to start the race. According to the UCI rules, at the discretion of the UCI medical director, riders who are positive may be allowed to start if the Covid doctor at the event is satisfied that the rider is "not contagious and not likely to infect third persons".

# Verstappen claims Piquet is not racist as Hamilton tells F1 to do more on diversity

**London, July 01 :** Max Verstappen has defended Nelson Piquet over the former world champion's use of a racial slur against Lewis Hamilton. Verstappen, the world champion, admitted Piquet's words were not correct but insisted the 69-year-old Brazilian is not a racist. Hamilton, meanwhile, has demanded Formula One and its teams take action against racism and to promote diversity, saying "older voices" are holding the sport back. Piquet is the father of Verstappen's partner, Kelly, and has been roundly condemned for his use of a racist epithet earlier this week. He has since apologised and insisted the phrase he used was mistranslated, but speaking before this weekend's British Grand Prix, Verstappen conceded Piquet was at fault. "The wording that was used was not correct," he said. "Let it be a lesson for the future not to use that word." The Dutchman added: "I've spent a lot of time with Nelson. More than the average person in general and he's definitely not a racist." However Hamilton



has called out his sport for merely paying lip service toward change. "It's all well to stand on the grid and talk about inclusivity but they are just empty words without putting action in," he said. The seven-times champion has backed his words with deeds. On Thursday Hamilton and Mercedes' Ignite Partnership announced its first grants as part of their joint commitment to improving diversity in the sport. Between them they have committed \$6.2m to the fund and Hamilton has donated £20m to his Mission44 project to promote diversity. Yet he was frustrated at the lack of action by other F1 teams. In the

report his Hamilton Commission made into improving inclusivity in racing it recommended an F1 charter to provide funding to implement diversity as well as providing access with apprenticeships and to support activity by black community groups. The charter had been agreed but remained unsigned. Hamilton has also recently been criticised by the former F1 chief executive Bernie Ecclestone and the three-times world champion Jackie Stewart as well as Piquet's slur, and is clearly frustrated at what he felt were unwarranted attacks from largely irrelevant figures.

# Watford LGBTQ+ groups score victory but football still has a long way to go

**London, July 01 :** Last week two Watford supporters' groups successfully campaigned to have their side's friendly with Qatar called off. Women of Watford and the LGBTQ+ supporters' group Proud Hornets tweeted their disdain after the fixture was announced. They discussed their concerns and Watford pulled out. "The game was never finalised and it became abundantly clear this was a game not to play; as such, the schedule was revised," a club spokesperson said. Qatar's Football Association said it had received a number of offers to play friendly matches. "We selected some friendly matches with various European teams and Watford was not among these matches that the team will play." The cancellation of a meaningless game at a training camp in Austria between a Championship team trying to build some fitness and the World Cup hosts may not appear to be the biggest story. But the

fact that a gay supporters' group played a key role in affecting the decisions of a professional football club feels like quite a seminal moment. Would this have happened a decade ago? It is to Watford's credit that they listened to their fans. And it is heartwarming that Women of Watford and Proud Hornets empowered enough to speak openly about how they felt able to speak out. On Thursday the Shrewsbury Town group Proud Salopians achieved the same outcome, with their club's game against Qatar cancelled. This week on the Guardian Football Weekly as part of Pride month we recorded a special on the experiences of the LGBTQ+ community in the game. There are reasons to be positive: the mobilisation of fan groups, the increased visibility through things such as the Rainbow Laces campaign, current players such as Josh Cavallo and Jake Daniels coming out to almost universal support and love. But from accounts

we received it's obvious that endemic homophobia in the game has had a huge impact on gay football fans. Tony was just one example: "As a closeted gay man fighting with my sexuality in the early 2000s, the patterns of behaviour in football matches and from family and friends around me definitely contributed to me taking longer to come to terms with my sexuality - and the issues that followed (PTSD of burying true feelings in for so long etc). Being closeted and young at football matches is a strange experience, as you are denying your true self and getting it validated by the language and actions you see around you.

**London, July 01 :** New AI-powered technology will be used at the Qatar World Cup, Fifa has confirmed, claiming it will halve the time taken to make VAR offside decisions. Semi-automated offside technology (SAOT) will see a complete overhaul of the system used to judge 'positional' offside decisions in the lead-up to a goal. While a referee and their assistant will still make on-field calls and the referee will have a final say on SAOT decisions, the controversial practice of rewinding TV footage will be a thing of the past. "Semi-automated offside technology is faster and more accurate and offers better communication to fans," said Pierluigi Collina, the chair of Fifa's referees committee. "It can create a new form of visualisation for supporters at home and in the ground. All tests have worked well and so [SAOT] is going into Qatar World Cup 2022." During the World Cup offside reviews will be conducted by



creating a 3D map of the goalscoring action, using a combination of 12 cameras and a hi-tech ball. The Adidas Al Rihla ball will be fitted with a sensor that sends out location data 500 times per second, which will be matched against player positions on camera, with synchronised devices tracking 29 points on

players' bodies and relaying information 50 times per second. That data will be processed using AI technology devised in collaboration with a number of universities, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. After being sent to an SAOT operator it will be double-checked by a VAR.

The VAR will then relay the verdict to the referee, who will make the final call but will, in theory, merely approve the decision. Collina said that in trials the time taken to make a decision, compared with the previous VAR system, had fallen to 25sec from an average of 70sec. Collina said the primary aim of the new system was to achieve more accurate decision making. Speeding up decision times, he said, was more of "psychological" importance to fans. Criticism of VAR offside decisions has concentrated on accuracy and speed - with cameras currently

adjudging the position of players and ball deemed too imprecise. "The objective is to have very accurate technology, similar to goalline technology," Collina said. "Goalline technology used to measure to distances of 3cm; now it is millimetres and the technology is praised. Everyone praises the technology and it should be the same for [SAOT]." He added: "We [also] wanted to offer something that gave a quicker answer. In terms of accuracy it's important, in terms of time it's more psychological. If I look at other sporting experiences the time [taken by technology to come to decisions] is lived in a normal way by coaches and spectators. In NBA you see players drinking, spectators enjoying themselves, no one is caring about the time. We know football is different [however] and that time is important." Once a decision is made a 3D rendering of the offside incident will be shown on television and on screens in the World Cup stadiums. Collina said that the image would be easier to interpret for the viewer than previous TV pictures with lines drawn across them, but that the images would take an extra 25 seconds to generate.

# 'I was praying: don't let anybody kill me' - Oleksandr Usyk on life in Ukrainian army

**London, July 01 :** Oleksandr Usyk, the IBF, WBA and WBO world heavyweight champion, is one of the greatest fighters on the planet but he is not embarrassed to express the fear he felt this year as a soldier in the Ukrainian army. Soon after Vladimir Putin unleashed Russia's onslaught on Ukraine on 24 February, Usyk and his friend Vasily Lomachenko, another of the best boxers in the world, joined the military. But as he patrolled the streets, carrying a machine gun rather than boxing gloves, dread gripped Usyk. "Every day I was there," he says, "I was praying and asking: 'Please, God, don't let anybody try to kill me. Please don't let anybody shoot me. And please don't make me shoot any other person.' Usyk has been in London this week to promote his belated rematch



on 20 August against Anthony Joshua, whom he beat so convincingly to become world champion last September, and he looks up after making that candid admission. "But if I had felt in danger, if I feel my life or my family is in jeopardy, I would have [killed a Russian soldier]." Despite that very human reaction in a war zone, Usyk stresses: "I really didn't want to leave our country. I didn't want to leave our city.

had been ransacked by invading Russian soldiers. "It was not my former house," Usyk says calmly. "It's my regular house in Vorzel. That house belongs to me and yes, it's true. Russian soldiers broke in. They broke things and they made some kind of living space and stayed there for a while." My family is not in Ukraine but a lot of my close friends are still in the country. I'm in touch with them every day. I ask them, because it's very important for me, how are they feeling? Are they in a safe place? I want to live there and right after the fight I'm going back to Ukraine." Will he return as a soldier? Usyk shakes his head because he knows that his place as one of the most famous men in Ukraine means that "nobody will let me go to the front line.

# Winds of change blow as Jones selects England squad fans have been craving

**Perth, July 01 :** The winds of change are finally rustling the palm trees beside the nearby Swan River. Not only will Courtney Lawes lead England into Saturday's first Test against Australia in preference to Owen Farrell but Eddie Jones has also parachuted three experimental new caps into his matchday 23. It is as significant a cabinet reshuffle as English rugby has undergone for a while. Most strikingly of all it is a development that has, according to his head coach, left Farrell "very unhappy". Normally in these situations the deposed captain swallows his disappointment and there is diplomatic talk of smooth, orderly transitions. Not this time. If anything, to use the Australian vernacular, it seems that Farrell has spat the dummy and is totally spewing. The party line is that England are trying to take some pressure off the 30-year-old Saracens in an effort to help him recapture his best Test form. Maybe it will bear fruit but the knock-on effects could prove considerable. Barring a major U-turn someone else will now lead England at next year's World Cup with Farrell no longer seen by the management as first among equals. If, to some extent, the decision has been partially prompted by Farrell missing the entire Six Nations following ankle surgery it would have been easy enough to reunite him with the armband for this tour given that, in his absence, England did not collectively pull up many trees with Lawes in charge.

**Tottenham confirm Richarlison signing in £60m deal with Everton**  
**London, July 01 :** Tottenham have confirmed the signing of Richarlison from Everton on a contract to 2027. The forward has joined in a £60m deal, with £50m guaranteed and the rest in potential add-ons. Richarlison had a medical in Brazil under the watch of a member of Tottenham's staff and although the club said the move was subject to a work permit, that is a formality for the Brazil international, who has been playing in the Premier League since 2017. Chelsea made a late attempt to buy the 25-year-old but did not meet the conditions set by Everton, clearing the way for Antonio Conte to make Richarlison his fourth summer signing, after Yves Bissouma, Ivan Perisic and the back-up goalkeeper Fraser Forster, as the manager prepares for Champions League football. Richarlison has scored 48 goals in 173 Premier League appearances for Watford and Everton. Tottenham next hope to conclude a loan move for the Barcelona defender Clément Lenglet. Manchester City have signed the goalkeeper Stefan Ortega on a three-year deal as back-up to Ederson.







## 'My biggest win': Broady edges five-set thriller but Draper knocked out

**Wimbledon, July 01** : Liam Broady has certainly been around. In his youth he was one of the finest young players in the world and a junior Wimbledon finalist in 2011, and he has spent the years since trying to complete the notoriously difficult transition and establish himself at the top of his sport. His trials have, at times, challenged his self-belief. But even as the courts of the ATP Challenger tour became too familiar, he never stopped toiling. These days he is reaping the benefits. In his fifth Wimbledon main draw appearance, the 28-year-old reached a grand slam third round for the first time, recovering from a 0-3 fourth set deficit after losing 11 games in a row to defeat the 12th seed, Diego Schwartzman, 6-2, 4-6, 0-6, 7-6(6), 6-1. "I hung in there and it's the biggest win of my career," Broady said. "It is an amazing feeling. I thought I was coming off court having gone out in the second round for the third time." The result marks yet another milestone for Broady after he rose to a career-high ranking of 116 in February. He has cited the restrictions when the tour returned from its Covid hiatus as helping him to focus only on tennis, as opposed to other periods of his career when he would otherwise get up to "mischief". His increased success has spurred a new belief. In this strange period for tennis, Broady has been unfortunate. He finished the 2021 season inside the Top 100 of the ATP race but because of the frozen ranking points due to Covid it was not reflected in the ATP rankings. Although he

believes he is playing the best tennis of his career, he has spent this season in the limbo between ATP Challenger events and the main tour, beating good players but in qualifying where points are sparse. This week is a reminder that the progress continues. He will face Alex de Minaur in the third round. Having spent the vast majority of his career on the ATP Challenger circuit, the £120,000 prize money is one of the biggest cheques of his life. Asked how he might spend it all, Broady laughed. "I might just withdraw it all and lie on it." In truth he has no idea. It could be helpful when he looks to move out of his parents' house in Stockport, but the priorities are clear. "At the end of the day, as nice as the prize money is, I'm serving and thinking: 'I'm about to beat Diego Schwartzman,'" he said. The rise of the 20-year-old Jack Draper has seemed more certain with every day this year. After making a name for himself last year, this season has been more impressive. He won four challenger titles in four months, which pro-

pelled him into the Top 100, and he is now No 94. He has thrived on the grass, beating two Top 15 opponents and reaching his first ATP semi-final in Eastbourne. He arrived in Court One fancied by many to beat De Minaur, the No 19 seed, but he left with a lesson after losing 5-7, 7-6 (0), 6-2, 6-3. De Minaur, only 22 himself, dragged Draper into long rallies, tested his shot tolerance to the limit and successfully wore down his legs. After two tight sets Draper cut an increasingly tired figure as he tried to keep up. For Draper, the best young men's player that the UK has to offer, the lessons include hitting his spots better on his serve, his forehand and particularly his physicality. "It's not rocket science, he said. "It takes time to be physically better and physically able to come to the grand slams and compete for long matches back to back. It's just the process that I'm on." Earlier in the day, Great Britain's Alastair Gray, a wildcard ranked No 288, was defeated by the 11th seed, Taylor Fritz, 6-3, 7-6(3), 6-3.

## England's only problem? They have forgotten what adversity feels like

**Zurich, July 01** : It has reached the point where possibly the biggest concern about England is that they are still to lose under Sarina Wiegman's charge. After 12 wins, two draws and 84 goals scored since her installation it is clear the Lionesses are a force to be reckoned with but, as Euro 2022 hurtles towards us, no one is quite sure how they will react in adversity. While Germany, Spain, Sweden and France all hope to re-introduce England to defeat in the knockout stages, Switzerland became the latest team to be swatted aside by the tournament favourites, losing this dress rehearsal 4-0 in Zurich. Old acquaintance was renewed in adjacent technical areas, where the sight of Wiegman and Nils Nielsen revived memories of the Euro 2017 final. Wiegman's Netherlands won that one, beating Nielsen's Denmark 4-2 in a thrilling tournament denouement. Five years on the former is hoping to repeat that feat with a second country, while the Greenlander intends to

somehow steer Switzerland out of a strong Euro 2022 group including the Netherlands, Sweden and Portugal. The general sense of déjà vu was only heightened by Alex Greenwood's reversion to left-back and Leah Williamson's return to centre-half as Wiegman seized a last chance to experiment. While Greenwood was originally a full-back but now regularly partners Millie Bright in central defence, Williamson has largely been deployed as a holding midfielder under England's Dutch manager. Yet Williamson is a natural centre-half who often operates there for Arsenal. Like Greenwood - who, incidentally no longer sees herself as a left-back, now plays in the heart of defence for Manchester City and sometimes looked ill at ease on Thursday night - she is comfortable on the ball and complements Bright well. Both are fine passers, with Greenwood's distribution so good she sometimes effectively serves as a central defensive playmaker.



Williamson, meanwhile, is, perhaps crucially, the slightly better defender. She certainly looked at home restored to the rearguard but the only problem was that Georgia Stanway, her replacement in midfield, gave away too many fouls, alongside fellow anchor, the influential Keira Walsh. After starting out as a striker Stanway, newly recruited by Bayern Munich, has impressed in assorted positions but harbours an unfortunate penchant for conceding free kicks. Given that Wiegman is very big on the

importance of transitions and considering that, in the first half, her side were not quite as good at winning the ball back in midfield as usual, there is a certain case for seeing Williamson back alongside Walsh against Austria in the Euro 2022 opener at Old Trafford on Wednesday. Wiegman should surely resist this temptation and, instead, stick with Stanway or, even better, offer Jill Scott, so effective as a late substitute, a shock recall to the starting side alongside Walsh. With the Lionesses well equipped at left-back,

Greenwood may have a few sleepless nights in store. If Williamson's excellence at the back must have left a Lionesses' coach with a serious defensive dilemma it will be no surprise if Alessia Russo starts in an attacking role on Wednesday. Not content with understudying superbly at centre-forward as England's recently Covid-hit record scorer Ellen White rested on the bench, Russo combined scoring the opener with bringing Fran Kirby and Beth Mead into things with some smart link play.

## Deshaun Watson to appear at NFL hearing with long suspension possible

**London, July 01** : Tue 28 Jun 2022 13:06 BST Deshaun Watson's legal team take on the NFL on Tuesday in front of a retired judge to determine his immediate future with the Cleveland Browns. Former US district judge Sue Robinson, who was jointly appointed by the league and the NFL Players' Association, will hold a hearing to determine whether Watson violated the NFL's personal conduct policy and whether to impose dis-



cipline. The three-time Pro Bowl quarterback has agreed to settle 20 of 24 civil lawsuits for sexual misconduct, but he's still facing a significant penalty. A person familiar with the NFL's

position told the Associated Press last week the league is seeking a lengthy suspension for Watson based on the number of sexual assault allegations and conversations with the 11 women who were made available for interviews. Watson's team, led by renowned attorney Jeffrey Kessler, will try to argue there's no basis for a long suspension. Two separate Texas grand juries declined to indict Watson on criminal complaints stemming from

the allegations. Watson has denied any wrongdoing and vowed to clear his name. The NFL has punished several players who were not given criminal charges for violating the league's personal conduct policy. In 2010, Ben Roethlisberger received a six-game suspension after being accused of sexual assault by two women. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell later reduced the suspension to four games. Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott got six games in 2017 for domestic

violence incidents. On Monday, a woman who previously sued Watson filed a lawsuit against the Houston Texans, alleging his former team provided him with resources to enable his actions and "turned a blind eye" to his behavior. This will be the first hearing for Robinson, who was the first woman chief judge for the District of Delaware. Previously, Goodell had the authority to impose discipline for violations of the personal conduct policy.

## Neeraj Chopra Misses 90m-mark By A Whisker, But Better His Own National Record

**New Delhi, July 01** : Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra produced yet another stellar display to finish second in the Diamond League meeting in Stockholm. This was Neeraj Chopra's first-ever top-three finish in a Diamond League meet. The Tokyo Olympics champion once again began on a bright note, throwing 89.94m in his very first attempt. The throw was

agonisingly close to the 90m-mark, something no Indian javelin thrower has ever achieved. However, the Indian star still bettered his earlier national record of 89.30m, which he had achieved while finishing second in the Paavo Nurmi Games in Turku, Finland, on June 14. Watch: Neeraj Chopra's stunning throw of 89.94-metre at the Diamond League meeting in Stockholm. Having started

with a bang, Chopra failed to improve on his first attempt distance. His other throws measured 84.37m, 87.46m, 84.77m, 86.67 and 86.84m. World champion Anderson Peters of Grenada took top position with a best throw of 90.31m, which he achieved in this third attempt. "Today, I feel good and after first throw, I thought I could throw even over 90m today. But it is OK as I have more

competitions coming this year," Chopra said after the event. "I am close to 90m now and I can throw it this year. Despite the fact that I did not win tonight, I feel very good because I did my best. Julian Weber of Germany was third with a fifth round throw of 89.08m while Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Jakub Vadlejch (88.59m) of Czech Republic was fourth. Another Czech athlete and Tokyo Olym-

pics bronze medallist Vitezslav Vesely was seventh in the eight-man field with 82.57m. Neeraj Chopra is only the second Indian to finish in the top-three of a Diamond League meet after discus thrower Vikas Gowda. The 2014 Commonwealth Games gold medallist Gowda, who retired in 2017, had finished in top-three in a Diamond League event four times in his career. He had finished



second in 2012 (New York) and 2014 (Doha) and third in Shanghai and Eugene in 2015.

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