



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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*'You are free to leave...':
Akhilesh Yadav-led SP ...*

02

*Iran's World Cup hopes fading
amid botched sacking and ...*



07

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bus e-ticketing

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 23 :

The Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) has launched its online bus e-ticketing service. The service was initially launched in Kamrup Metro and Sonitpur districts of the state in collaboration with Assam Electronics Development Corporation Limited (AMTRON), the release issued by ASTC Managing Director Rahul Chandra Das on Saturday said. The service has been launched for a pilot project from Guwahati to Tezpur via Nagaon, and other routes will follow subsequently. Passengers can avail the e-ticketing service of ASTC buses for both city and inter-district services once the software gets upgraded to cover all parts of the state.

Zubeen Garg

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 23 :

Assam's heartthrob Zubeen Garg was on Saturday released from the hospital where he was being treated. The singer with legendary status in the state, Garg had been admitted to hospital after fell in the bathroom at night on July 19 and become unconscious. He had been admitted to Sanjeevani Hospital in Dibrugarh. The singer was in Manohari Resort in Dibrugarh.

NCDC Wing

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 23 :

The government of Assam will set up a National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) wing at Rani on the outskirts of Guwahati, health minister Keshab Mahanta said. Mahanta was present to select the land for the project. The minister identified the land adjoining the community health centre at Rani in West Guwahati. During his visit, the health minister also directed officials to expedite the formalities so that the project can begin soon. It may be noted that Assam was selected alongside four other states for setting of NCDC centres under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).

Delhi Excise Policy row

Congress demands Deputy CM Manish Sisodia's resignation



New Delhi, July 23 :

Amid alleged violation of rules and procedural lapses in the Arvind Kejriwal-led government's Excise Policy 2021-22, Congress on Saturday (July 23) staged a protest outside the AAP office in the city, demanding the

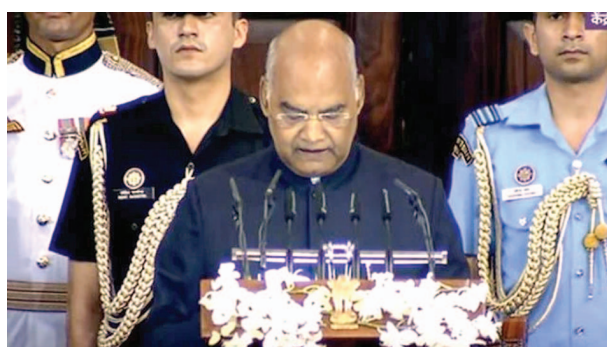
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Rise above partisan politics in national interest

President Ram Nath Kovind to parties in farewell speech

New Delhi, July 23 :

President Ram Nath Kovind Saturday (July 23) asked parties to rise above partisan politics in the national interest and decide what is necessary for people's welfare, PTI reported. In his farewell address to Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs at Parliament's Central Hall, Kovind said he always considered himself a part of the larger family, which included the members of parliament, saying they have a special place in his heart. "They may have differences at times like any family has, but they should work to-



gether for the larger interests of the country," the outgoing President said. Stressing on the value of peace and harmony, Kovind said MPs should follow Gandhian philosophy while exercising the rights of debate and dissent in Parliament. President

Kovind's remarks come in the wake of frequent disruptions in the parliamentary proceedings due to the Opposition's protests over several issues. President Kovind said India's efforts to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic were praised across

the world. "World is struggling because of Covid pandemic. I hope we learn lessons from the pandemic, we forgot that we are all part of nature. In difficult times, India's efforts were praised all across the world," ANI quoted Kovind as saying. Ram Nath Kovind, whose term ends on Sunday, also congratulated his successor Droupadi Murmu who will take oath as the 15th President of India on Monday, becoming the country's second woman and first tribal leader to assume the top constitutional post. He said the country will benefit from her guidance. "I will always be grate-

ful to citizens of country for giving me opportunity to serve as President," Kovind added. Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla were among the leaders who were present at the farewell ceremony of President Kovind. Earlier on Friday night, PM Modi had hosted dinner in Kovind's honour. President-elect Droupadi Murmu, Members of the Union Council of Ministers, chief ministers of various states, other dignitaries including many Padma awardees, as well as tribal leaders attended the dinner.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Discuss Several Issues with Union Health Minister



Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 23 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma met Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya at his official residence in New Delhi on Saturday. Both the ministers discussed on issues related to health sector of Assam. CM Sarma informed the health minister about the various steps being taken by the state government to tackle health issues that have emerged after the recent floods. Both the

ministers also discussed ways to ensure the proper implementation of Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. Informing about the meeting through twitter, CM Sarma wrote, "Met Hon'ble Union Minister, Health & Family Welfare Dr @mansukhmandviya at his official residence in New Delhi. We discussed issues related to Assam, especially measures taken by our government to tackle health conditions during and post-flood scenario in the affected districts."

NDA got support from many Opposition mlas in Presidential elections

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 23 :

While Droupadi Murmu's victory in the Presidential elections was a foregone conclusion, what has also got the BJP-led NDA excited is the support she received from unexpected quarters - in Assam, for instance, 22 leaders from the Opposition ranks voted in her favour, the highest in any state. "Droupadi Murmu polled 104 votes compared to NDA's original strength of 79 in the 126-member Assam Assembly. 2 absent. My heartfelt gratitude to the people of Assam..." Chief Minister Himanta Sarma tweeted on Thursday evening. In the



126-member Assam House, the Opposition has 44 MLAs - Congress (27), AIUDF (15), and one each from CPI(M) and Independent ranks. This means half of them voted for Murmu. This is a throwback to the Rajya Sabha polls in March, when cross-voting led to NDA winning both vacant seats from the state, even though the ruling front did not have the numbers for a second seat. A war of words had ensued between

once-allies Congress and AIUDF, and each accused the other of breaking ranks. This time, though, the Congress was forced to concede that its MLAs also cross-voted, given that the AIUDF had only 13 members on the floor of the Assembly when voting took place. "It is 100 percent certain that six Congress MLAs cross-voted - there is no point hiding it," state Congress chief Bhupen Borah said. On Friday, Sarma told the media that

"15-16 votes" for Murmu came from the Congress but it was "inappropriate to look for political meaning in it". "This is not a division. For a post like that of the President of India, a vote is informed by conscience," he said. The AIUDF claimed that none of its MLAs voted for Murmu. Stating that "action" will be taken against the errant Congress MLAs, Borah told the media, "These people are

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Seven of 19 missing labourers found, two bodies recovered from river

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 23 :

Seven of the 19 labourers who went missing from a road construction site since 5 July in Arunachal Pradesh were found in a forest area, a senior officer said on Saturday. The seven labourers were found in a forest near Huri village in Damin of Kurung Kumey district on Friday night, deputy commissioner Nighee Bengia



said. "Their health conditions are not good and medical assistance is being provided. Their families have been informed. The search is on for the other 12 labourers," he said. BJP MP, Tapir Gao, claimed that two bodies were also found in a river but their identity is yet to be ascertained. The labourers, natives of Assam, fled the remote road

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Barak Valley will soon get a second wildlife sanctuary

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 23 :

Home to a multitude of birds and mammals, Assam's Barak Valley will soon get a second wildlife sanctuary with Governor Jagdish Mukhi approving a proposal for the creation of Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary. The Barak Valley also houses the Borail Wildlife Sanctuary. "In exercise of the power conferred by Section 35 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended up to date, the Governor of Assam is pleased to de-

clare its intention to constitute the area described in the Schedule annexed hereto as the Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary," an official order dated July 19 stated. The Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary will be spread over an area of 320 sq km between the Barak river and the Sonai river. The Governor of Assam further hereby appoints the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, Silchar, to enquire into and determine the existence, the nature and extent of any rights/claims alleged

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



Assam Reports 15 New Cases of Japanese Encephalitis

Total Tally Climbs to 251, death toll to 38



Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 23 :

Assam reported one more death from Japanese Encephalitis, taking the death toll to 38 this month. Fifteen fresh cases also raised the tally to 251 in the state. The new fatality due to the infection was reported from Biswanath district in the last 24 hours, the National Health Mission, Assam said in the press release. The 15 fresh cases of Japanese Encephalitis were recorded in Baksa, Chirang, Dibrugarh, Goalpara,

Golaghat, Nagaon, Jorhat, Charaideo, Sivasagar, Tinsukia and Nalbari. Two persons died of the infection on Thursday and 10 such cases were reported. Altogether 251 cases of the disease have been reported in July alone. Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV) is the most important cause of viral encephalitis in Asia. It is a mosquito-borne flavivirus, and belongs to the same genus as dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses. The

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Media is running kangaroo courts: CJI Ramana



New Delhi, July 23 :

Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on Saturday said the media is running "kangaroo courts" on issues even experienced judges find difficult to decide. Concerted campaigns

against judges, particularly on social media, and media trials affect judicial functioning. Doing justice is not an easy responsibility. It is not easy to swallow when false narratives are created about the "easy life" led by judges, the CJI said. He said ill-informed, biased and agenda-driven debates in the media on issues pending in courts are affecting justice delivery." New media tools

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



Boys have fun with soap bubbles at the Bumi Serpong Damai City Park in South Tangerang, Banten Province, Indonesia

Rishi Sunak says he is underdog in PM race as 'forces that be' want Truss

London, July 23 :Rishi Sunak has positioned himself as the underdog in the Conservative leadership race, claiming the "forces that be" want Liz Truss to be the next prime minister.Addressing a crowd in Grantham on Saturday, the Lincolnshire home town of Margaret Thatcher, Sunak declared "have no doubt, I am the underdog" and suggested that Conservative party powers want the race to be "a coronation" for Truss."The forces that be want this to be a coronation for the other candidate. But I

think members want a choice and they are prepared to listen," he said during a speech, surrounded by supporters carrying signs with his campaign slogan "Ready for Rishi".Truss, whom he did not refer to by name, has pledged to review all EU laws kept after Brexit by the end of next year in a "red tape bonfire" if she becomes prime minister.The former chancellor refused to elaborate on who the opposing figures were, but reiterated that he was not the favourite. "I was talking

generically, but obviously I start this part of the contest in the underdog position," he told reporters afterwards.He said the NHS would be "safe in my hands" and warned it faced its biggest crisis in decades amid a "backlog emergency". He has promised to set up a "vaccines-style" taskforce to tackle the backlog.He said his other priorities would include keeping Brexit and the union "safe", tackling illegal immigration and crime and ensuring that

regardless of their parents or background, a child's "birthright should be a world-class education."If we are to deliver on the promise of Brexit, then we're going to need someone who actually understands Brexit, believes in Brexit, voted for Brexit," he said to cheers.Describing himself as "a product of immigration", he said Britain "mustn't lose compassion but must be tougher".On the cost of living crisis, he said he

would "grip inflation and bring it down", describing rising inflation as "the enemy that makes everyone poorer".He said the country must be told "the truth about tax" - claiming he would cut tax but not until tackling rising inflation."We have to tell the truth about the cost of living," he said. "Rising inflation is the enemy that makes everyone poorer and puts at risk your homes and your savings."He called for the need for radicalism in politics, telling the crowd: "Real change is there, I swear it."

apparently without sufficient reason.School district officials ultimately decided to indefinitely postpone the board meeting, citing due process requirements and a request from Arredondo's attorney. But in a statement announcing the postponement, school district officials noted that the paid administrative leave Arredondo had been would now be unpaid. Arredondo had been on leave from his job since 23 June as lawmakers examined his actions during the shooting.The statement added that halting payments to Arredondo, 50, in that manner was "allowed under [the] law". An attorney for Arredondo didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.Friday's developments appeared to move the school district closer to dismissing Arredondo, something loved ones of those slain at Robb elementary have been demanding since one of the deadliest school shootings in US history. State lawmakers' preliminary report into the incident, released last weekend, listed a myriad of missteps from police who responded to 911 calls about the attack, which killed 19 students and two teachers while wounding 17 others. Among those missteps:



Arredondo did not follow his own agency's active shooter protocols that called for him to set up a command center outside the targeted campus. Instead, Arredondo was inside the school trying to find a key to a door leading to the classroom where the killings occurred, which was possibly unlocked to begin with, the state committee found.Arredondo has also said he did not believe himself to be in charge that day as more than 400 officers from numerous police agencies descended on Robb after the shootings. A lack of communication and organization among those officers led to a delay of nearly one hour and 20 minutes before officers stormed the classroom where the gunman was cornered and killed him.The delay contradicts modern police tactics that call on officers to fight active shooters and neutralize them as quickly as possible, even at the risk of their own lives. It also left parents

feeling like an earlier confrontation with the shooter may have allowed medical responders the chance to save the lives of victims who had initially survived their wounds; although it's unclear exactly how many lives a quicker confrontation would have saved.And Arredondo isn't the only law enforcement leader at the campus facing scrutiny and criticism for the dithering response. For example, since the report's release, the acting chief of Uvalde municipal police department, Mariano Pargas, was put on paid leave as his agency hired an outside expert to investigate his performance that day.But Arredondo has been a main focus of Uvalde community members seeking accountability. He was put on leave as a growing number of residents called for his firing, and he's also been pressured into resigning a seat on the local city council that he had won shortly before the mass shooting.

Chinese man executed for murder of former wife during live stream



Taipei, July 23 : A Chinese man has been executed after a court found him guilty of setting his former wife on fire while she was livestreaming on social media.The Ngawa Tibetan and Qiang autonomous prefecture intermediate people's court said in a short online statement on Saturday morning that it had carried out the execution of Tang Lu.Tang set his ex-wife on fire in September 2020 while she was livestreaming on Douyin, the Chinese version of TikTok run by the same parent

company. The 30-year-old woman, known online as Lhamo, died of her injuries a few weeks later.In short videos and live streams, Lhamo had offered a glimpse into her life, showing off the Sichuan countryside and blogging about her life. She was ethnically Tibetan and often wore traditional Tibetan clothing in the videos. Campaigns over Lhamo's death intensified when the Chinese president, Xi Jinping, gave a speech to a UN conference a day later

saying the protection of women's rights and interests "must become a national commitment". Hashtags including #LhamoAct, calling for laws allowing victims an automatic divorce, spread across the internet but were quickly shut down by censors.Lhamo's sister had told the Paper, an official media outlet based in Shanghai, that her sister suffered domestic abuse at Tang's hands for years and decided to divorce him as a result.The case drew widespread condemnation and outrage across the country over the plight that women can face in abusive marriages. Police took the man into custody a few days after news of the attack spread.Tang had appealed against the decision but lost the appeal in January this year.

Climate activists in Italy glue themselves to Botticelli painting

London, July 23 : Environmental protesters have glued themselves to the glass protecting Sandro Botticelli's Primavera which is on display at an art gallery in Florence.The activists, from the climate activist group Ultima Generazione (Last Generation), said the protest was the first in "a new season of actions" targeting museums. It appeared inspired by Just Stop Oil activists in the UK who recently conducted a similar campaign of protests in art galleries.Two protesters stuck their palms to the exhibit at the Uffizi gallery beforehand,



with the help of a third, unfurling a banner reading "Ultima Generazione No Gas No Carbone (Last Generation, No Gas, No Coal)."A man and two women, who had paid for tickets to get into the gallery, were taken away by police, according to the Italian news agency Ansa.No damage was caused to the painting, Ansa cited the museum as saying. Botticelli's 650-year-old Primavera (meaning Spring) is one of the world's most famous paintings. The Uffizi gallery's website describes the painting as "a

celebration of love, peace, and prosperity."Is it possible to see a spring as beautiful as this today?" Ultima Generazione said in a statement."Fires, food crises and drought make it increasingly difficult. We decided to use art to sound an alarm call: we are heading towards social and ecological collapse".The group said they had consulted with art restoration experts to find a way to glue themselves to the painting without damaging it. "In the same way that we defend our artistic heritage, we should be dedicated to the care and protection of the planet that we share with the rest of the world," a statement on the group's

website said.Ultima Generazione has been taking action in Italy since December, with an initial set of actions blocking roads around Rome, Italy's capital.It is one of a number of activist groups that have sprung up around Europe and in Canada and Australia inspired by the tactics of Insulate Britain, whose roadblock protests around London and south-east England caused massive disruption and spurred a national conversation about climate change and home insulation.Like Insulate Britain and Just Stop Oil, Ultima Generazione has received funding from the US-based Climate Emergency Fund, a philanthropic fund set up to channel money to direct action groups.

New Delhi, July 23 : Akhilesh Yadav-led Samajwadi Party (SP) issued notices to Pragatisheel Samajwadi Party (Lohiya) chief Shivpal Singh Yadav and Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party (SBSP) president Om Prakash Rajbhar stating that they are "free" to leave the alliance, ANI reported. A letter sent to Pragatisheel Samajwadi party read, "Respected Shivpal Yadav ji, if you feel you will get more respect elsewhere then you are



free to go". While addressing the SBSP president, the letter said the Samajwadi Party is

fighting against the BJP. "You have a nexus with the BJP and you are working

Monkeypox: US reports its first cases of virus in children

Washington, July 23 : Cases of monkeypox have been identified in the United States for the first time in children - a toddler in California and an infant who is not a US resident, health authorities say.The two cases of the viral disease were unrelated and were likely the result of

household transmission, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said in a statement on Friday.The agency said the children were in good health and being treated.Monkeypox, which causes flu-like symptoms and skin lesions, has been spreading largely in men who have sex with men in the recent outbreak, outside the central and west African countries where it is endemic. The disease spreads chiefly through close contact. So far this year, there have been more than 14,000 cases of monkeypox in more than 60 countries, and five deaths in Africa.Speaking on a conference call, Dr Jennifer McQuiston, the deputy director of the CDC's division of high consequence pathogens and pathology, said it was not a surprise that pediatric cases of monkeypox had emerged, but "there is no evidence to date that we are seeing this virus spread outside" the communities of gay, bisexual and other men who had sex with men.She said 99% of the 2,891 monkeypox cases confirmed in the US involved men who have sex with men, but there had been a handful of women and transgender men who had become infected.The White House Covid-19 response coordinator, Dr Ashish Jha, speaking on the same call, said the government had delivered 300,000 doses of a monkeypox vaccine and was working to expedite the shipment from

Denmark of 786,000 more doses.He said there was already enough vaccine on hand to provide a first vaccine dose to more than half of the eligible population in New York City and more than 70% of the eligible population in Washington DC.The fatality rate in previous outbreaks in Africa of the current strain has been about 1%, but so far this outbreak seems to be less lethal in the non-endemic countries. However, a number of patients have reported being hospitalised for severe pain.

constantly to strengthen them. If you feel you will be respected elsewhere, then you are free to go". The development comes in the wake of rift between the SP and the two allies. Earlier, the BJP-led Uttar Pradesh government had accorded 'Y' category security to SBSP president Om Prakash Rajbhar, an influential OBC leader. During the recently-held Presidential elections, SBSP had defied the Opposition unity by voting for NDA's candidate Droupadi Murmu, who has defeated opposition pick Yashwant Sinha. Notably, Rajbhar and Shivpal Singh Yadav had also attended a dinner hosted at Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath's residence in honour of Droupadi Murmu. Rajbhar has been

attacking SP over several issues in the recent months pointing towards growing discontent between the allies. On July 8, the SBSP chief had said that he was waiting for "talaq" (divorce) from the Akhilesh Yadav side, adding that he will not initiate breaking the alliance. "I will not initiate any step to end alliance with the SP. I will wait to be divorced by Akhilesh Yadav," Rajbhar had told. He said he was "still with the Samajwadi Party, but will not remain together forcefully if Akhilesh Yadav doesn't want it."On SP supreme not inviting him for a meeting in Lucknow in support of the opposition Presidential candidate earlier, the SPSP chief had said, "Akhilesh Yadav might have forgotten about me, so he didn't call me."

Johnny Depp follows Amber Heard in filing appeal over defamation trial

Washington, July 23 : Johnny Depp has filed a notice of appeal one day after his former partner Amber Heard filed her own against the outcome of a multimillion-dollar defamation case.Documents filed on Friday in Fairfax county, in the US state of Virginia, read: "Plaintiff and counterclaim-defendant John C Depp II, by counsel, hereby appeals to the court of appeals of Virginia from all adverse rulings and from the final judgment order of this circuit court entered on June 24, 2022."On Thursday, Heard's legal team submitted a notice that claimed errors made during the trial had prevented a "just and fair verdict" from being returned.



A Palestinian breeder leads an Arabian horse during a beauty contest for Arabian purebred horses in the West Bank city of Hebron

Guest House

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Gaurav Gogoi makes shocking claims on AIUDF MLA's

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 23: Lok Sabha MP Gaurav Gogoi, reacting to the recent cross-voting issue that has cropped up following the Presidential Elections, in which the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate Droupadi Murmu was elected, MP Gogoi has harshly spoken against the legislators of the All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF). During a visit to Bokakhat last night, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi said, "It's extremely unfortunate that considering people's expectations of the Congress party and the trust they instill in us, such incidents take place." Evidently, a thorough investigation and discussion will be initiated by the party with respect to the cross-voting that took place during the Presidential elections in which our candidate Yashwant Sinha was standing as a contender against the NDA's Droupadi Murmu. "I consider there are some issues that need a thorough discussion within the party." I have seen in the AIUDF how they have earlier made some controversial comments. They act on the orders of CM Himanta Biswa Sarma. Legislators of the AIUDF party should think about their party, members of the Congress party will think about their party and need no



intervention from the AIUDF. Our party is working tirelessly for the upcoming elections," adds Gogoi. Gaurav Gogoi called them the mouthpiece of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Gaurav Gogoi further slammed the AIUDF party, saying that they follow the words of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. "There is an understanding between the AIUDF and CM," suspects Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi while speaking to the media. It may be mentioned here that in the recently concluded presidential election of India, Assam emerged as the state where the highest number of opposition MLAs crossed voted for Droupadi Murmu, the NDA's choice for the top constitutional post in the country. Murmu became the first tribal President

and was elected on July 21, winning the support of 64.03 percent of the total vote. Yashwant Sinha, who was the UPA's choice, lost after three rounds of voting. Over 120 MLAs from across state assemblies cross-voted in support of president-elect Droupadi Murmu, defying their parties' stated support for opposition candidate Sinha. Of these, the highest tally was from Assam—22 opposition MLAs voted for Murmu.

The president-elect also got the votes of 17 MPs from the Opposition camp. On July 18, when the poll was held, India Today NE reported that several MLAs from Congress and the AIUDF cross-voted in favour of Murmu. The report was proved accurate by the results declared on July 21. The entire episode of cross-voting was engineered by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who was a member of the Congress before switching to the BJP in 2015. He has a long history of ensuring such cross-voting by Opposition MLAs even during Rajya Sabha polls. In the recently concluded polls to the upper house in June, all NDA candidates won even though they did not have requisite numbers. In 2010, Sarma, then a Congress minister, drove four BJP legislators into the Assembly on the day of polling for Rajya Sabha elections. "Most Congress MLAs are our

friends. They have full faith in the leadership of Chief Minister Sarma. Whenever needed, they help us," a senior minister in the Sarma cabinet told India Today NE. While talking exclusively to India Today NE, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee President (APCC) Bhupen Borah admitted that some MLAs of his party voted in favour of the NDA candidate. "From the very beginning, we were certain that our opposition-backed candidate Yashwant Sinha would get 26 votes from Congress, but unfortunately, he got only 20. We admit that six MLAs did cross-vote. We will soon try to find those culprits and take necessary disciplinary action as per our party constitution," Bora said.



Awareness lecture on Agnipath Scheme held at Lokra

Assam Rising
Biswanath Chari, July 23: Lokra Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ 21 Sector and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) organised an awareness lecture on Agnipath Scheme to join

Armed Forces for the students of High School Khonamukh of Lokra, Sonitpur district, Assam. During the lecture students were given a detailed introduction and comprehensive insights about the Agnipath scheme. The students were

also made aware about the advantages of the scheme along with the future prospects. The ongoing issues regarding the scheme were also discussed and the doubts were clarified. A total of 61 students from class IX to XII benefited from the lecture.

BDKDC distributes sports items in Hojai & Lanka



Assam Rising, Hojai, July 23: Barman Dimasa Kachari Development Council, Assam distributed sports materials in Hojai and Lanka

on Saturday. Notably, BDKDC distributed eight club football along with other accessories to various clubs in order to accelerate sports activities among

young generation. The team for distribution of sports items was led by Chairman Rupesh Kharcha and Vice-Chairman Pronit Girisa which distributed items at demalu club, Lanka; sambudhan club; etc. Later, they reached at langlai dikho (Debosthan) in Kurnakata and distributed sports items to raikata tribal young club; shibrai club and jankalyan club.

Golaghat Girl Anisha shines in CBSE XII



Assam Rising, Golaghat, July 23: Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) declared its Class X and XII Board Results yesterday. In the results of Class XII Commerce Stream a girl from Golaghat was able to secure 97 percent. Anisha Agarwalla, daughter of Alok Agarwalla and Sonal Agarwalla from Krishna Nagar in Golaghat

had appeared in the Class XII Exams from Delhi Public School, Numaligarh. She got hundred percent marks in Accountancy, 99 in Business Studies, 98 in Applied Mathematics, 92 in Economics and 93 in Home Science. DPS, Numaligarh authorities have congratulated her for such outstanding results.

Second wildlife sanctuary approved in Barak Valley



Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 23: Assam's Barak Valley — home to diverse flora and fauna, will soon get a second wildlife sanctuary with Governor Jagdish Mukhi approving a proposal for the creation of Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary. According to an official order dated on July 19 stated, "In exercise of the power conferred by Section 35 of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 as amended up to date, the Governor of Assam is pleased to declare its intention to constitute the area described in the Schedule annexed hereto as the Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctu-

ary." "The Governor of Assam further hereby appoints the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, Silchar, to enquire into and determine the existence, the nature and extent of any rights/claims alleged to exist in favour of any person or persons, in or over any land within the limit described in the schedule below," — the order further reads. The Barak Bhuban Wildlife Sanctuary will be spread over an area of 320 sq km between the Barak

river and the Sonai river. The area has eight recorded species of primates — Slow Loris, Rhesus Macaque, Pig-Tailed Macaque, Stump-Tailed Macaque, Assamese Macaque, Capped Langur, Phayre's Leaf Monkey and Hoolock Gibbon. It's also an important habitat for king cobra, according to the Cachar Forest Division.

Differently-abled Assam artist meets PM, gifts him painting: 'Dream came true'

Guwahati, July 23: In a heartwarming moment, a differently-abled artist on Friday presented a portrait made by him to Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi. It was Abhijeet Gotani's dream to give his painting to PM Modi. "I see him (PM Modi) on the TV every day. I finally saw him for real today. He complimented me on the painting. My dream has come true," news agency ANI quoted the 28-year-old artist as saying. Gotani hails from Assam's Silchar district. He met the Prime minister with the help of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Gotani spoke to the media in sign language and his mother helped with the translation. The painting is a montage of images depicting the Prime Minister with his mother, the PM speaking at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and pictures depicting the Prime Minister's journey as a boy right up to the time he became the head of the country. According to an ANI report, Gotani was born deaf and mute. He was accompanied by his mother as he gifted the painting to the Prime Minister. "I could see the twinkle in his eye and feel the joy in his heart when the Prime Minister patted his back for the amazing artwork done by him," said Gotani's mother. The Assam chief minister also tweeted about the meeting. "A heart-warming moment as Adamiya PM Narendra Modi ji showered his blessings on Abhijeet Gotani, a divyang artist from Silchar, who met the Hon'ble PM along with his mother Lalita Gotani to present a portrait made by him.



Silchar- Pijush Hazarika inspecting damaged erosion

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Affiliated to: SSUHS, Govt. of Assam, ASTU Govt. of Assam, ANC Govt. of Assam

ADMISSION OPEN FOR 2022-23

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DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Section 13 (2) of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002
A/c No. 50062636532, M/s Agro Agency House with Indian Bank (erstwhile Allahabad Bank) Branch : Bongaon

- M/s Agro Agency House, (Prop- Suresh Chandra Bhagwati) (Borrower), Address: PHG Path, Ward No. 10, Dergaon Town, Dist- Golaghat, PIN-785614.
- Suresh Chandra Bhagwati (Borrower cum Mortgage), Address: PHG Path, Ward No. 10, Dergaon Town, Dist- Golaghat, PIN-785614.
- Sri Sandipan Bhagwati, S/o Sri Suresh Chandra Bhagwati (Guarantor), Address: PHG Path, Ward No. 10, Dergaon Town, Dist- Golaghat, PIN-785614.

At the request of 1st of you, Indian Bank (e-Allahabad Bank), Bongaon Branch granted to you credit facilities for total amount of **Rs. 15.00 Lakhs (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs only)**. The details of the credit facilities granted to you and the outstanding liability in respect of the same are furnished below:

Nature of Facility	Sanctioned Limit	Outstanding Liability as on 20.07.2022
Cash Credit A/c No. 50062636532	Rs. 15.00 Lakhs	Rs. 17,69,918.00 plus further interest at agreed rate from 21.07.2022 till date of repayment

The repayment of the aforesaid loans is personally guaranteed by 3rd of you by executing an Agreement of Guarantee dated 10.01.2017. The repayment of the said loans is secured by mortgage/hypothecation of property(ies) at PHG Path, Ward No. 10, Dergaon Town, Dist. Golaghat, Pin-785614 and fixed assets / stocks / movables at PHG Path, Ward No. 10, Dergaon Town, Dist. Golaghat, Pin-785614 as given in the schedule hereunder belonging to 2nd and 1st of you respectively. You have acknowledged the indebtedness in respect of the aforesaid facilities from time to time. The last such acknowledgement issued in our favour for Rs. 16,27,620.00 as on 31.03.2021 is dated 02.04.2021. Despite repeated requests calling upon you to pay the amounts together with interest: all of you and each of you who are jointly and severally liable have failed and committed default in repaying the amount due. The loan account has been classified as Non Performing Asset since 31.03.2021 in accordance with directions/guidelines relating to asset classifications issued by Reserve Bank of India. The outstanding dues payable by you as on 20.07.2022 amounts to Rs. 17,69,918.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lacs Sixty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighteen only) and the said amount carries further interest at the agreed rate from 21.07.2022 till date of repayment. The term borrower under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 means any person who has been granted financial assistance by Bank of who has given any guarantee or created any mortgage / created charge as security for the said financial assistance granted by the Bank. Therefore, all of you and each of you are hereby called upon to pay the amount due as on date viz- Rs. 17,69,918.00 (Rupees Seventeen Lacs Sixty Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighteen only) together with interest from this date till date of payment within 60 days from the date of this notice issued under Sec.13(2) failing which Bank will be constrained to exercise its rights of enforcement of security interest without any further reference to you under the said Act. If you fail to discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of this notice, Bank shall be exercising its enforcement rights under Sec 13 (4) of the Act as against the secured assets given in the schedule hereunder. On the expiry of 60 days from the date of this notice and on your failure to comply with the demand, Bank shall take necessary steps to take possession for exercising its rights under the Act. Please note that as per the provisions of Sec. 13 (3) of the Act no transfer of the secured assets (given in the schedule hereunder) by way of sale, lease or otherwise, shall be made after the date of this notice without the prior written consent of the Bank. Needless to mention that this Notice is addressed to you without prejudice to any other remedy available to the Bank to proceed against all of you as per law to recover the Bank's due as mentioned above. Please note that the Bank reserves its right to call upon you to repay the liabilities that may arise under the outstanding bills discounted, Bank guarantees and letters of credit issued and established on your behalf as well as other contingent liabilities. "We draw attention to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act and the Rules framed there under which deals with your rights of redemption over the securities". The undersigned is a duly Authorised Officer of the Bank to issue this Notice and exercise powers under Section 13 aforesaid.

SCHEDULE
The specific details of the assets in which security interest is created are enumerated hereunder:
Mortgaged Assets: Land and Building measuring 08- 01K- 1/2L bearing Dag No. 780 and 781 covered by PP No. 125, situated at PHG Path, Ward No. 10, Dergaon Town, Dist- Golaghat, Assam. PIN-785614 along with RCC two storied Building (1st Floor Assam Type), Bounded by- East by- PHG Path, West by- Land of Kutubullah and others, North by- Land of Pattadar / Md. Jahannullah, South by- Land of Ataur Rahman.
Hypothecated Assets: Hypothecation of Stock and Book debt at PHG Path, Ward No. 10, Dergaon Town, Dist. Golaghat, Assam, PIN-785614.
Date: 21.07.2022 Place: Bongaon
Sd/- Authorised Officer, Indian Bank

THE ASSAM RISING

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The current outbreak of monkeypox

The current outbreak of monkeypox—a viral infection usually only found in Central and West Africa—has now seen over 1,200 cases across nearly 30 non-endemic countries, according to the CDC. It appears that one of the longer-lasting effects of monkeypox might be rash lesions. While the disease itself is considered to be relatively mild, and in most cases will naturally clear up in a few weeks, it can more seriously affect immunocompromised people, children, and pregnant women. Symptoms of monkeypox include a fever, headaches, back and muscle aches, chills and tiredness, and, most characteristically, a pox-like rash. This rash usually appears between one and three days after developing a fever, and generally progresses from the face to the rest of the body before scabbing over and eventually falling off after around two weeks. According to NPR, not everyone gets lesions all over their bodies like you would with something like chickenpox, and in some cases, patients have only one or two small lesions that may even be confused with marks associated with sexually transmitted diseases, such as herpes and syphilis. Donald Vinh, an infectious disease doctor at McGill University, told NPR: "[one] patient's skin lesion that [a colleague] sampled to confirm the diagnosis is extremely subtle. It's not what you're seeing on the Google pictures of monkeypox." While these lesions aren't itchy like chicken pox, as Andrea McCollum, the poxvirus epidemiology team lead in the CDC's division of high consequence pathogens and pathology, told STAT, they are generally painful. These monkeypox lesions may also lead to hypo- or hyper-pigmentation and scarring, and lighter areas where lesions were in people with dark skin. The lesions may also turn into keloid scars, which are raised scars that are enlarged and can be shiny, hairless, hard and rubbery and red or purple at first, before becoming brown or pale. "The scarring... is not the monkeypox itself but when these pox lesions start to weep and break down they get secondary bacterial infection that generally causes the scarring, I believe," Professor Paul Hunter, an epidemiologist at the U.K.'s University of East Anglia told Open Access Government.

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

These soaring temperatures have given Britain a taste of the dystopia to come



Back in late February 2020, in the days before the pandemic, I spent a morning in a taxi listening to the news and wondering what it meant to preserve a moment. There was the slow-motion sensation that life as we knew it might be coming to an end. Still, something whispered in me, experimental rather than fatalistic: you'd better remember it, just in case. So here is the window-shaped patch of blue sky, here are the people walking along the pavement, here are the trees. All recorded deliberately, eyes wide. Here is your life as you know it, frozen in a single frame on a cold, bright February day - taken carelessly, recklessly, for granted. Now we are experiencing another crossing over into a before and an after. Tipping points are subjective.

People have different thresholds, different ways in which we bury our heads. It's also easy to get used to things. It's just a matter of a couple of degrees, after all.

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frog would tell you the same. But the sheer physicality of a wall of heat - malevolent heat, city-stopping heat, deadly heat - is hard to disavow. Heat that has been unprecedented in my lifetime, and will become normal within my lifetime. It's as good a point as any to accept that the unthinkable is now thinkable. On the hottest day Britain had ever experienced, reports from my friends came in at all hours. There was no sleeping in the heat, no resting, no working. Previous high temperatures had inspired

 **Sophie Mackintosh**

tracks
buck-

and the tarmac of the roads melted. The sun - so insipid in the usual British summers, so unremarkable - transformed into something to hide from, something to fear. Sometimes it can feel that previous disaster has both numbed us and made the line of before and after more permeable. We know the worst can happen. We also know that it's quite possible to do nothing about it, that it's possible systemic change won't take place. Yet we still try. My parents have solar panels on their roof and

On Tuesday, shortly before wildfires swept through parts of south-east England, the Daily Mail published a comment piece by a writer called Stephen Robinson. "Why can't the Met Office just tell us the weather, instead of spreading alarm and scolding us with doom-laden lectures?" he raged, accusing the UK's leading centre of climate and meteorological research of being "woke" and "alarmist". Who was this author? Every morning, I pore over the world's media looking

for coverage of the climate crisis as part of researching the daily newsletter for Carbon Brief. I'm very familiar with the various journalists and commentators who are on this "beat", especially those in Britain. But I'd never heard of Robinson before. So I did a quick search and found his LinkedIn page. It turns out that he's a "speech writer and consultant" for "companies operating in the energy sector". How did this person secure such an influential slot in the UK's bestselling newspaper? The comment piece is one example of how the rightwing

press is now seeking to undermine climate action by framing it as another ripple in the culture wars. The writer portrayed the Met Office's (utterly sensible) warnings about the extreme heatwave as "cod medical advice" and "nanny-knows-best" statements. Elsewhere, the Daily

 **Leo Hickman**

Express published an article on Monday by James Whale, who claimed that the reason we should all ignore the "climate-fanatic panic" was because "planets move and we have been getting closer to the sun for thousands of years". On the day that Robinson's article was published, the Mail's front page drove the point home in huge type: "Sunny day snowflake Britain had a meltdown". Predictably, this hot take didn't survive the day. The following morning, as much of the UK was reeling from a deadly blast of unprecedented heat, with the mercury rising as high as 40.3C in Coningsby, Lincolnshire, the Mail published an altogether different front page. "Nightmare of the wildfires" was accompanied by a tragic photograph of a burnt-out terrace of houses. Even so, the Mail did not make a single mention of the climate crisis in relation to the wildfires other than printing a picture of climate protesters "prolonging the misery". It's not the first time the Daily Mail has plucked an unknown writer from obscurity to pen a piece of climate denialism. Thirty two years ago, it published a full-page article under the eye-catching headline: "Global warming: Is it all hot air?" It was the first time a national newspaper in the UK had led its comment pages with a polemic seeking to belittle and question climate science. The timing wasn't accidental. Just a few weeks later, in May 1990, the UN's Intergovern-

Mohd Zubair got bail, but the guiding principle of India's justice system is still in jail



Krishna Iyer in a September 1977 judgment. Since then, the Supreme Court has emphasised this principle several times over, and has warned against misuse of the power to

arrest. In one such landmark judgment in 2014 - known as the Armesh Kumar case - the court recognised that an "arrest brings humiliation, curtails freedom and casts scars forever (sic)". It then issued guidelines with the intention that "police officers do not arrest unnecessarily and magistrates do not authorise detention casually and mechanically". The judgment required the police to record reasons for arrest and to issue a notice of appearance in cases involving offences with a jail term of less than seven years. Both Zubair and Sharma have been charged with provisions including Sections 295A (deliberate and malicious act intended to outrage religious feelings) and 153A (promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc.). For such cases, the Supreme Court's Armesh Kumar judgment stands as a protection from unnecessary arrest. Earlier this year, the Armesh Kumar judgment had come to the rescue of stand-up comic Munawar

Faruqui as well. Arrested in Indore for allegedly insulting religious sentiments, Faruqui

 **Apoorva Mandhani**

was granted bail in February after the Supreme Court accepted that its guidelines for arrest and bail were not followed. Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram called the Supreme Court's orders on Zubair "triumph of liberty over tyranny", and said that the court "should release all other Zubairs too". The bail led to a call for the Supreme Court to "end arbitrary arrests over flimsy FIRs", while others pointed out how the real challenge was the "overreach of the State". In fact, there are plenty of recent examples that show how the Supreme Court's guidelines related to arrest weren't followed. Zubair's lawyer said the Delhi Police issued a notice to him around 5:30 pm on 27 June and arrested him around 6:45 pm the same day. And then came the three failed attempts to secure bail for Zubair. His first bail appli-

cation was rejected by a Delhi court on 2 July. On 15 July, a sessions judge granted him bail in the Delhi case but he remained in jail because of the other FIRs filed against him in UP, where a court in Sitapur rejected his bail application on 7 July and then a Lakhimpur Kheri court rejected it on 16 July. Caught in a tangle, he approached the Supreme Court, which acknowledged the "vicious cycle" of remanding him in a new case as soon as he got bail in an old one. In fact, Munawar Faruqui too was denied bail on three occasions -

twice by the sessions court and once by the Madhya Pradesh High Court - before he got relief from the Supreme Court. So, the real change needs to come at the magisterial level - the first line of defence against arbitrary arrest. Not everybody can be a Mohammed Zubair or Munawar Faruqui. Most don't have the means or resources to stand before the highest court of the country and demand freedom. The Supreme Court realises this. Earlier this month, it called for reforming the bail-related law, saying the government should consider framing a special law on bail. Noting that two-thirds of the prisoners in India are undertrials, the Supreme Court asserted that arrest is a draconian measure that needs to be used sparingly. However, these observations would remain on paper unless magistrates implement the Supreme Court's guidelines, which would negate the

need to go to the Supreme Court in the first place. Then there are also laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, which ensure that jail is actually the rule and bail is an exception. The bail provision under UAPA says that a person accused of terrorism shall not be released if the court "is of the opinion that there are reasonable grounds for believing that the accusation against such person is prima facie true." This is the law that has kept Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan behind bars for more than 21 months. He was arrested on 5 October 2020 en route to cover the alleged gang rape and murder of a Dalit woman in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras district. This provision has also made bail difficult for those arrested for Delhi riots and Bhima Koregaon violence case. One of the accused in the latter, 84-year-old Jesuit priest Stan Swamy, died of cardiac arrest in July 2021 before the Bombay High Court could decide his bail plea. Hearing the plea posthumously, the high court remarked that the tribal rights activist was a "wonderful person" and the court has "great respect" for his work. The bail provision under NDPS Act takes it a step further. It requires the court to have "reasonable grounds" to believe that the accused is not guilty and won't commit another offence if out on bail. The provision kept Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan in custody for 25 days before he was granted bail by the Bombay High Court.

Melting 'snowflakes'? How climate change became a new front in the right's culture war



mental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its first landmark report on the scientific evidence that showed human-caused emissions were warming the planet. An organised, determined effort to undermine climate science had already been under way in the US for several years, but this was the point when it spilled over into the British mainstream media. Reading this article again today, it's clear it established the playbook for this type of comment piece. The article promotes the same familiar tropes and false claims that chip away at the political will to act on the climate crisis. The 1990 article does contain one curio, though; it was penned by "Tony Berry". A few years ago I searched the archives to see who this person was. But I couldn't find a single other article by him. Again, this seemed like a case of the Mail giving a piece of prime media real estate to an unknown writer. There has been a significant evolution in the genre of climate denialism screeds since then. Until the 2010s, many right-leaning newspapers routinely published articles quoting (or authored by) climate science deniers. One of the most infamous examples was the front cover of the Daily Express published on 15 December 2009, which falsely and ridiculously screamed "100 reasons why global warming is natural". Check the date: it was just days before the UN climate summit in Copenhagen broke down in acrimony. But in recent years, most of these newspa-

pers have - albeit glacially and begrudgingly - accepted the science and largely ceased promoting these fringe voices. Instead, they have tended to direct their editorial cannons away from questioning the veracity of climate science and towards criticising the policy response. (Some argue this is still a form of denial, but a policy debate - even if it is at times disingenuous and ill-informed - is progress.) Now the rightwing media are seeking to frame those who are calling on the government to do more on the climate crisis as "culture warriors" and "woke" activists. One is left wondering when the penny will drop. How much scientific evidence do they need? How many extreme heatwaves, fires and floods do we all need to suffer before they change their minds? Are we really destined to watch satire become reality, as it did recently on GB News, which ran a TV interview that was eerily similar to the film Don't Look Up? Some of these newspapers (but notably not the Mail) trumpeted last year ahead of Cop26 that they would be increasing their coverage of the climate crisis, acknowledging it is a serious threat. One Telegraph columnist was even allowed to write this week: "I think you must be insane to still deny we have a crisis ... It's such a profound failure of politics and journalism - and of self - I struggle to understand it." Another columnist sat under the headline: "Climate change denial is melting before our eyes."

Newly launched novel

'Crimson Spring'

BaidyanathDham: A

Confluence of Shiva & Shakti



Former diplomat-turned-author Navtej Sarna's new novel 'Crimson Spring' was launched by author VikasSwarup and publisher David Davidar in a housefull session at the India International Centre, New Delhi on July 11, 2022. Published by Aleph Book Company, 'Crimson Spring' is a historical fiction novel that retells the horrors of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on April 13, 1919 through nine characters, including two British officers. After launching the book, author Navtej Sarna and VikasSwarup, also a former diplomat and author, engaged in an interesting conversation wherein they discussed the 'Crimson Spring' in detail. Sarna mentioned that the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 2019 had inspired him to pen this novel. "I saw that the best way to enact this subject is to somehow make it a work of fiction, which takes Jallianwala Bagh as the center but then explores various streams that were coming into it and moving out of it. And that's how it ultimately took

the shape of the novel," Sarna said. Meanwhile, it is noted that on the centenary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 2019, Sarna released his book 'Khooni Vaisakhi', which is a translation of a Punjabi poem penned by his grandfather Nanak Singh about the horrific incident. Nanak Singh was one of the survivors of the massacre. Talking about the duration of research and writing for 'Crimson Spring', Sarna said, "I wrote some passages way back in 2012 in my diary, i.e. some 10 years ago. Back then I was reading up not only about Jallianwala Bagh but everything that was happening in Punjab-- the Ghadar movement, the revolutionaries, the freedom movements. I read up on these for some seven to eight years. And the writing process took me roughly six to seven years." Swarup then asked Sarna about the challenges of writing about historical characters as a fictional account, especially when the latter knew the facts. To this, Sarna replied, "It (historical fiction) is a very exciting area. There are people who take a historical figure and do anything they want with it... But I'm a bit old-fashioned. I think when you are dealing with actual historical characters then you can push the facts but only that much so that you don't distort (them). Because some people may only read that book about Jallianwala Bagh and think it is history. So you can't be unfair to history in that sense. (Instead) You can take more freedom in the

characters. You will find that some characters in this book aren't that well-known historical characters-- because they are creatures of fiction! But there are also historical characters like General Dyer, Udham Singh, and others. You can give them a psychological and emotional dimension but stay within the broad reins of who they were. You can't take a person and totally change them if he/she is a historically well-known person..." He further added, "Having said that, history is a kind of cut and dried subject largely because it deals with facts. And when you deal with facts and human beings, you find gaps because every human being has so much more than what was written down as facts some 100 or 150 years ago-- what his thoughts were, what his fears were, what his dark thoughts were... A novel or work of fiction allows you all those places to move around and explore." Giving a glimpse of the novel, Sarna then read portions from his new book. He also discussed in detail some of the main characters of the book, including Maya Dei, Udham Singh and General Dyer, how they were impacted by the incident and how, in turn, it impacted the world. The discussion was followed by a question and answer round with the audience and book signing by the author. 'Crimson Spring' is Sarna's ninth book. Some of his previous books are 'Winter Evenings', 'The Exile', 'Indians at Herod's Gate', among others.

Purvottare Prajawalika Nidhane, Sada Vasantam GiriJaSametam. Surasuraradhita Padyapadnam Sri Baidyanatham Tamaham Namami. The world famous one-month long ShravaniMela of BaidyanathDham starts with the drizzle of Pavas (Rainy) season. The influx of saffron-dressed Kanwariyas, pouring water into an embellished Kanwar from Sultanganj's north-vahini Ganga, walk barefoot on a 111 km long invincible path with the deafening sound of "Bol Bam" towards the Baba BaidyanathMandir in Deoghar. The chant of "Bol-Bam Ka Nara Hai, Baba Ek Sahara Hai" all the way fills this rugged path with devotion to Shiva. BaidyanathDham is one of the great pilgrimage sites of Bharatvarsha. One of the twelveJyotirlingas of Bhagwan Shiva, "KamanaLinga" is located here. This Thirthsthan is famous not only in India, but all over the world. That is why every year lakhs of devotees from other countries like Burma, Bhutan, Nepal, Mauritius, Tibet, Bangladesh, Fiji, Pakistan etc come here to bow before Shiva. Shiva devotees fill water from the holy Ganges at Sultanganj and travel to BaidyanathDham on foot with a Kanwar on their shoulders and offer water to Baba Bholenath. As per mythological legends this Holy spiritual land has its own special impor-

tance since the Vedic times. According to Shiva Puraan, Sati sacrificed her life by jumping into the Yagyakund after her father Daksha Prajapati had humiliated her husband Shiva. Enraged by the death of Sati, Bhagwan Shiva carried her body on his shoulder and started performing the TandavNritya. The yagya was destroyed and there was a catastrophe all around. Then on the advice of the Devtas, Bhagwan Vishnu sent his Sudarshan Chakra to cut off the body into parts so that Shiva's anger could be controlled. The limbs of Sati started falling off, which fell at total 52 places. The place, where the Hritpind i.e. heart part of Sati's body fell in Baidyanath Dham, was named "Hardyapeeth". It is also known as "Chittabhoomi" because of the cremation of the heart of Sati at the said place by Bhagwan Shiva. Another legend about Baidyanath Dham is related to Mahapandit and Shastra-Shiromani LankeshRavan. Lankapati was such an ardent devotee of Bhagwan Shiva that many times he cut his head instead of a flower and offered it at the feet of his deity. Shiva cured him as Vaidya (Doctor); hence came to be known as Baidyanath (Vaidyanath). According to another mythology, once a thought came to Ravan's mind that he has to travel from the remote region of Lanka to Kailash, situated at the ex-



tre me -Er. Prabhat Kishore The end of Shep-Uttaranchal of Bharat, to see his adoration again and again. So why not convince Bhagwan Shiva and ask him to stay in Lanka so that he can always get the benefit of his darshan. For this purpose, once Ravana did relentless penance in Kailash. While Shiva could not agree, Ravansaid that his "Kamna Ling" would be a good substitute. Shiva accepted the offer on the condition that Ravan must not put down the Ling in the way, otherwise it would not proceed from there and that would be the site of the Ling. Ravan accepted Shiva's condition. This decision of Shiva caused a stir among the other Devtas, as it was expected to strengthen the demonic power of the mighty Ravan even more. So they made a move. When Ravan was going to Lanka with the "KamnaLinga" through the sky route, he felt uncontrollable urination at this place called Deoghar. Coming down from the sky, he started having a piss by handing over the Shiva-Linga to Lord Vishnu dressed as Baidyanath shepherd. But this was the illusion of the Lord. Hours passed, but the Ravan's piss did not last.

herd Baidyanath, unable to bear the heavy burden of Shiving, installed it on the Chittabhoomi of Mahasati. After the piss, Ravan tried hard to lift the Shiving; but as per condition, he was not able to do so. Enraged, he pressed the Shiving with his thumb. Later on, Mahadev was named after shepherdBaidyanath and was worshiped by the local devotees. Ravan constructed a well near the Shiving and poured water of all the pilgrimages in it. He constructed a Kund (pool), which is today situated in the form of Shivaganga. After the return of Ravan to Lanka, Vishwakarma built 21 other grand temples in this huge courtyard apart from BaidyanathMandir with big stones. These temples are Annapurna Mandir, JagjannaniMandir, ParvatiMandir, KaalBhairavMandir, Ganesh Mandir, Brahma Mandir, SandhyaMandir, Mansa Mandir, Ganga Mandir, Hanuman Mandir, Surya Mandir, SaraswatiMandir, Ram Mandir, BagalaMandir, AnandBhairavMandir, NarmadeshwarMandir, GaurishankarMandir, Kali Mandir, Tara Mandir, NeelkanthMandir and LaxminarayanMandir. The importance of

BaidyanathDham has also mentioned in our scriptures. Glorifying its importance in the Padma Puraan, it is said - "BaidyanathMahalingam, Bhavarog HareShivam". According to AnandRamayan, once BhagwanRamchandraji himself came to BaidyanathDham after filling water from the Ganges and worshiped Shiva. Since then lakhs of devotees come here every day and get the desired results by worshipping the KamanaLinga. The importance of this month-long ShravaniMela, which takes place in the entire Shrivani month, is not only on the national map, but it is also called the longest fair in the world. In any sense, the ShravaniMela of thirty continuous days is no less than the KumbhMela at Prayag, Haridwar, Nashik and Ujjain. Ganga SagarMela, Vaishno Devi Yatra, and other fairs of South India. With the deafening slogans of "Bol Bam - Bol Bam" by groups of Shiv BhaktKanwariyas constantly moving like the waves of ocean, the spiritual atmosphere is bound everywhere. The devotees walking hundreds of miles get blisters on the feet and suffer pain. But as soon as the Ganges water is offered to Baba, all the pain vanishes and the devotees become self-confessed.

American literature :An overview

American literature, the body of written works produced in the English language in the United States. Like other national literatures, American literature was shaped by the history of the country that produced it. For almost a century and a half, America was merely a group of colonies scattered along the eastern seaboard of the North American continent--colonies from which a few hardy souls tentatively ventured westward. After a successful rebellion against the motherland, America became the United States, a nation. By the end of the 19th century this nation extended southward to the Gulf of Mexico, northward to the 49th parallel, and westward to the Pacific. By the end of the 19th century, too, it had taken its place among the powers of the world--its fortunes so interrelated with those of other nations that inevitably it became involved in two world wars and, following these conflicts, with the problems of Europe and East Asia. Meanwhile, the rise of science and industry, as well as changes in ways of thinking and feeling, wrought many modifications in people's lives. All these factors in the development of the United States molded the literature of the country. This article traces the history of American poetry, drama, fiction, and social and literary criticism from the early 17th century through the turn of the 21st century. For a description of the oral and written literatures of the indigenous peoples of the Americas, see Native American literature. Though the contributions of African Americans to American literature are discussed in this article, see African American literature for in-depth treatment. For information about literary traditions related to, and at times overlapping with, American literature in English, see En-

glish literature and Canadian literature: Canadian literature in English. This history of American literature begins with the arrival of English-speaking Europeans in what would become the United States. At first American literature was naturally a colonial literature, by authors who were Englishmen and who thought and wrote as such.



John Smith, a soldier of fortune, is credited with initiating American literature. His chief books included A True Relation of... Virginia... (1608) and The Generall Historie of Virginia, New England, and the Summer Isles (1624). Although these volumes often glorified their author, they were avowedly written to explain colonizing opportunities to Englishmen. In time, each colony was similarly described: Daniel Denton's Brief Description of New York (1670), William Penn's Brief Account of the Province of Pennsylvania (1682), and Thomas Ashe's Carolina (1682) were only a few of many works praising America as a land of economic promise. Such writers acknowledged British allegiance, but others stressed the differences of opinion that spurred the colonists to leave their homeland. More important, they argued questions of government involving the relationship between church and state. The attitude that most authors at-

tacked was jauntily set forth by Nathaniel Ward of Massachusetts Bay in The Simple Cobler of Aggawam in America (1647). Ward amusingly deflated the status quo and railed at colonists who sponsored newfangled notions. A variety of counterarguments to such a conservative view were published. John Winthrop's Journal (written 1630-49)

summary in doggerel verse of Calvinistic belief, The Day of Doom (1662). There was some poetry, at least, of a higher order. Anne Bradstreet of Massachusetts wrote some lyrics published in The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America (1650), which movingly conveyed her feelings concerning religion and her family. Ranked still higher by mod-

ern critics is a poet whose works were not discovered and published until 1939: Edward Taylor, an English-born minister and physician who lived in Boston and Westfield, Massachusetts. Less touched by gloom than the typical Puritan, Taylor wrote lyrics that showed his delight in Christian belief and experience. All 17th-century American writings were in the manner of British writings of the same period. John Smith wrote in the tradition of geographic literature, Bradford echoed the cadences of the King James Bible, while the Mathers and Roger Williams wrote bejeweled prose typical of the day. Anne Bradstreet's poetic style derived from a long line of British poets, including Spenser and Sidney, while Taylor was in the tradition of such Metaphysical poets as George Herbert and John Donne. Both the content and form of the literature of this first century in America were thus markedly English. In the postwar period some of these eloquent

men were no longer able to win a hearing. Thomas Paine and Samuel Adams lacked the constructive ideas that appealed to those interested in forming a new government. Others fared better--for example, Franklin, whose tolerance and sense showed in addresses to the constitutional convention. A different group of authors, however, became leaders in the new period--Thomas Jefferson and the talented writers of the Federalist papers, a series of 85 essays published in 1787 and 1788 urging the virtues of the proposed new constitution. They were written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay. More distinguished for insight into problems of government and cool logic than for eloquence, these works became a classic statement of American governmental, and more generally of republican, theory. At the time they were highly effective in influencing legislators who voted on the new constitution. Hamilton, who wrote perhaps 51 of the Federalist papers, became a leader of the Federalist Party and, as first secretary of the treasury (1789-95), wrote messages that were influential in increasing the power of national government at the expense of the state governments. Thomas Jefferson was an influential political writer during and after the war. The merits of his great summary, the Declaration of Independence, consisted, as Madison pointed out, "in a lucid communication of human rights... in a style and tone appropriate to the great occasion, and to the spirit of the American people." After the war he formulated the exact tenets of his faith in various papers but most richly in his letters and inaugural addresses, in which he urged individual freedom and local autonomy--a theory of decentralization differing from Hamilton's belief in strong federal government.

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Skin fasting for refreshed skin

Skin fasting is a new-age beauty trend of taking a break from all of your current skincare products or routine and letting your skin naturally do its magic. Basically, it's like the fasting you practice with your diet, except this is for the skin and is in the spotlight owing to social media. Skin fasting is basically done by the non-application of any product or ingredients or reducing the use of skin care products you use and finally stopping them altogether to allow your skin to breathe, rest, and reset but basic skincare shouldn't be avoided especially cleansing and sunscreen. Anyone, especially whose skin requires a reboot, can try skin fasting to let it relax and allow it to naturally replenish and heal. This trend is also beneficial to treat the harmful effects caused by any skincare product. Absolutely nothing is applied to the skin except basic skin care. No serums, hydrators, or moisturizers. Letting your skin's own natural sebum [oil] do all the balancing and protecting is the main action. It's important to listen to your skin throughout the process, which can last anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. Just like any other trend, you have to be quite cautious of trying it out as well. The method is not one-size-fits-all, and listening to your skin in real-time is the safest way to proceed when testing skin fasting. Skin fasting is ultimately successful on a case-by-case basis. Especially, people with sensitive skin should slowly inculcate fasting into their regimen. Those with skin sensitivities may benefit from skin fasting. It gives the skin time to not have any active ingredients that can trigger inflammation. Skin fasting is more beneficial to those with dry skin and those experiencing trouble with their skincare routines like oily, uncontrolled acne, rosacea, melasma, or other skin disorders will not benefit from a full skin fast of any length. These skin types need regular nourishment. It is recommended to switch out one product for a certain period of time only so that you can reconstruct your routine instead of resetting it all together. It helps the skin to recover in situations where it acts adversely toward certain products or ingredients. It can guide you to stop using products that irritate your skin. Removing these products can result in sharp changes simply by fasting from them. The skin secretes sebum, which is the natural oil of the skin. It is believed that skin fasting helps to regulate the secretion of oils and thus achieves a balanced skin. It protects the good health of the skin and also helps cell renewal. The youth and beauty of the skin depend on healthy cell renewal. Skin fasting is a way of restoring good health of the skin and rejuvenating it. Skin fasting will certainly help those who use a lot of products and make-up cosmetics. Whether skin fasting helps you or not depends on your individual skin type. If you have dry and dehydrated skin, you should avoid skin fasting. For normal to dry skin, one may follow skin fasting when the weather is humid. Skin is normal and the balance is restored.

Contd. From Page 1

Assam Reports 15 New Cases

first case of Japanese encephalitis viral disease (JE) was documented in 1871 in Japan. The annual incidence of the clinical disease varies both across and within endemic countries, ranging from 1 to 10 per 1 lakh of population or higher during outbreaks, as per World Health Organization (WHO) website. Most JEV infections are mild (fever and headache) or without apparent symptoms, but approximately 1 in 250 infections results in severe clinical illness. The incubation period is between 4 and 14 days. In children, gastrointestinal pain and vomiting may be the dominant initial symptoms. Severe disease is characterized by rapid onset of high fever, headache, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma, seizures, spastic paralysis and ultimately death. The case-fatality rate can be as high as 30 per cent among those with disease symptoms. Of those who survive, 20 per cent to 30 per cent suffer permanent intellectual, behavioural or neurological sequelae such as paralysis, recurrent seizures or the inability to speak. Safe and effective JE vaccines are available to prevent disease. WHO recommends having strong JE prevention and control activities, including JE immunization in all regions where the disease is a recognized public health priority, along with strengthening surveillance and reporting mechanisms.

Media is running kangaroo courts

have enormous amplifying ability but appear to be incapable of distinguishing between the right and the wrong, the good and the bad and the real and the fake. Media trials cannot be a guiding factor in deciding cases," Chief Justice Ramana noted. Media has breached its responsibility, taking democracy two steps backwards, affecting people and harming the system, the Chief Justice said. "Print media still has certain degree of accountability. Whereas, electronic media has zero accountability as to what it shows vanishes in thin air. Still worse is social media. Owing to the frequent transgressions and consequent social unrests, there is a growing demand for stricter media regulations and accountability," the CJI said in his address at a function at Ranchi in Jharkhand. The top judge said it was best for media to self-regulate and "measure their words". Judges may not react immediately. Please do not mistake it to be a weakness or helplessness. When liberties are exercised responsibly, within their domains, there will be no necessity of placing reasonable or proportionate external restrictions," the CJI said. Chief Justice Ramana expressed his worry about the increasing burden of cases piling up on a judiciary with a fragile infrastructure. "Except for a few knee-jerk reactions I have not heard of any concrete plan to equip the judiciary to meet the challenges of the foreseeable future, leave alone, a long term vision for the century and ahead," the CJI pointed out.

NDA got support from many

double-faced; they let go of all their principles, and surrendered their ideology. We will be able to identify them, and we will take action accordingly." When Opposition candidate for the President's polls, Yashwant Sinha, came to Assam earlier in the month, Borah said, all 27 legislators "stood by his side" in a show of support. "If it [voting for Murmu] was a decision based on their conscience, no one minds. But they should have been frank with us from the beginning..." he said. Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Congress's Debabrata Saikia, blamed BJP's "dirty politics" for the cross-voting. "The ruling party is responsible for such dirty politics - there is neither any ethics nor transparency. Our Chief Minister frequently says in public that Opposition MLAs have no real power. He is responsible for the decay of democracy," Saikia said. State minister and BJP leader Pijush Hazarika, however, rubbished these allegations and said: "This is a conscience vote. The Congress suffers from a trust deficit. Their own legislators do not trust their leaders; (they) instead blame us." Chief Minister Sarma said Opposition MLAs representing constituencies that have people from Adivasi and tea garden tribe background "had it in their heart" to vote for Murmu. Alleging that the Congress had been "cosying up to BJP" on voting day, AIUDF's Karim Uddin Barbhuiya said, "Since two of our legislators were absent, 13 voted. Not a single one has Adivasi representation in their constituencies. So there was no political obligation or compulsion to break ranks."

Congress demands Deputy CM

resignation of Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who is the head of the excise department. Accusing Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) of being "knee-deep in corruption", Delhi Congress leaders and workers gathered near the AAP office in DDU Marg and raised slogans against Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his deputy Sisodia. The protest comes in the wake of Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena recommending a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the Delhi Excise Policy 2021-22. "The CBI inquiry was recommended on Delhi Chief Secretary's report filed earlier this month, showing prima facie violations of GNCTD Act 1991, Transaction of Business Rules (ToBR)-1993, Delhi Excise Act-2009 and Delhi Excise Rules-2010", officials were cited by PTI. The report also shows prima facie violations, including "deliberate and gross procedural lapses", to provide post-tender "undue benefits to liquor licensees", officials added. As per Delhi Congress chief Anil Chaudhary, seeking a probe into the "corruption" they had given a written complaint to Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana in June, but no action was taken. "Truth cannot be hidden and the truth is that the Aam Aadmi Party government in Delhi is knee-deep in corruption," the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee (DPCC) resident was quoted. "Implementation of the revised liquor policy has violated all norms and regulations," he alleged. Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur also hit out at the Delhi government on Saturday saying "corrupt ministers" should resign. "AAP government has set new records of corruption. You've sheltered the corrupt and the way in which you lied on TV yesterday and couldn't respond to any of the BJP's allegations shows that LG's recommendation to MHA holds ground. Corrupt ministers should resign. A corrupt man like you has no right to be in power," Anurag Thakur told. A day earlier, Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal had come out in the defence of his deputy saying he is a "hardcore honest" man. The AAP convenor also claimed that Manish Sisodia will be framed in a "made-up case" and arrested in a few days. "I came to know that a case has been sent to the CBI against Manish Sisodia and they are going to arrest him in a few days. It is a completely fake case. There is not even an iota of truth in this case," Kejriwal had said in an online briefing. "This case will not hold in court. Manish is a hardcore honest man and he will walk free," he added.

Barak Valley will soon get

to exist in favour of any person or persons, in or over any land within the limit described in the schedule below," the order said. The area has eight recorded species of primates - slow loris, rhesus macaque, pig-tailed macaque, stump-tailed macaque, Assamese macaque, capped langur, phayre's leaf monkey and hoolock gibbon. It's also an important habitat for king cobra, according to the Cachar Forest Division. The proposal for the creation of the sanctuary was submitted by BJP MP from Silchar Rajdeep Roy last year. With the idea now set to become a reality, Roy said he is very happy. "The NDA government headed by the BJP takes decisions very fast and also implements them very fast. So, I am 100 per cent confident that this will not take months after months for changes to take place at the ground level. I assume that within the next three to six months, a lot of changes will be seen on this project," Roy told. Asked how the sanctuary will benefit the Barak Valley, he said a Shiva temple is located near the site where the Bhuvan Wildlife Sanctuary is proposed to be created and these two together can help draw tourists and create employment opportunities. "So, (with) the sanctuary and the temple in the same vicinity, we can get a lot of small business houses to start small businesses. Maybe slowly and slowly, the hotel industry and other things will come... a viable ecosystem can develop and I think the people around this place will ultimately benefit if the sanctuary is established," he added. Named after the second-largest river in the northeast, the Barak Valley is home to 550 species of birds and 100 species of mammals. It comprises three districts - Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj.

Seven of 19 missing labourers found

construction site at the India-China border on 5 July after they were denied leave to go home for Eid. In two-three groups they took off for their homes on foot through jungles, the officer said. The labourers have been missing since then, he added. Bengia had earlier said that the body of one of the missing labourers was found in a river, but after the circle officer of Koloriang who visited Damin to take stock of the situation found no such body, he went back on his statement. The SP of Kurung Kumey district said that the search and rescue operations were still on to trace the remaining missing labourers. Gao on 19 July had said that the government was taking up the labourer missing case seriously and will be solving the matter soon. The project site is in Damin circle, about 200 km from Koloriang, the district headquarters. State Civil Aviation Secretary Swapnil Naik said that the Indian Air force (IAF) has joined the search operation for the missing labourers.

Russia-Ukraine War: US pledges more military aid to Ukraine, peace seems far off

Kyiv, July 23 : The United States promised more military support for Ukraine, including drones, and is doing preliminary work on whether to send fighter aircraft, as fighting raged on in the east of the country five months into Russia's invasion. Moscow and Kyiv signed a landmark deal on Friday to unblock grain exports from Black Sea ports. However, representatives declined to sit at the same table and avoided shaking hands at the agreement ceremony in Istanbul, reflecting wider enmity. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy hailed Friday's agreement as unlocking around \$10 billion worth of grain exports, needed to ease a food crisis. But on the war, he said there could be no ceasefire unless lost territory was retaken. "Freezing the conflict with the Russian Federation means a pause that gives the Russian Federation a break for rest," he told the Wall Street Journal. "Society believes that all the territories must be liberated first, and then we can negotiate about what to do and how we could live in the centuries ahead." There have been no major breakthroughs on front lines since Russian forces seized the last two Ukrainian-held cities in eastern Luhansk province in late June and early July. The Ukrainian armed forces' general staff said Russia had shelled several dozen positions on front lines on Friday but had no success capturing territory. Russian forces failed in a bid to establish control over Ukraine's second biggest power plant at Vuhlehirsk, north-east of Donetsk, and troops also tried to advance west from the city of Lysychansk but were pushed back, it said. Russia's defense ministry did not immediately reply to a request for comment out-of-hours. Kyiv hopes that its gradually increasing supply of Western arms, such as U.S. High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS), will allow it to recapture lost territory. Russia's defence ministry said on Friday its forces had destroyed four HIMARS systems between July 5-20, refuted by the United States and Ukraine. Reuters could not verify the battlefield reports. The White House on Friday announced a package of additional support totalling around \$270 million and said it was doing preliminary work on whether to send fighter aircraft to Kyiv, although such a move would not happen in the near term. The Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine has caused Europe's biggest conflict since 1945, forcing millions to flee and turning entire cities to rubble. The Kremlin says it is engaged in a "special military operation" to demilitarise and "denazify" Ukraine. Both Kyiv and Western nations say the war is an unprovoked act of aggression. As the conflict drags on, credit rating firms Fitch and Scope downgraded Ukraine, two days after the country requested a debt payment freeze. Friday's export deal hopes to avert famine among tens of millions of people in poorer nations by injecting more wheat, sunflower oil, fertilizer and other products into world markets, including for humanitarian needs, partly at lower prices. A blockade of Ukrainian ports by Russia's Black Sea fleet, trapping tens of millions of tonnes of grain and stranding many ships, has worsened global supply chain bottlenecks and, along with Western sanctions, stoked food and energy price inflation. Moscow has denied responsibility for the crisis, blaming instead sanctions for slowing its own food and fertilizer exports and Ukraine for mining the approaches to its Black Sea ports. A U.N. official said a separate pact signed on Friday would smooth such Russian exports and that the United Nations welcomed U.S. and European Union clarifications that their sanctions would not apply to their shipment. Addressing Western concerns that reopening shipping lanes could leave Ukraine open to attack, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said Moscow would not seek to take advantage of the de-mining of Ukraine's ports. Kyiv does not see a risk of Russian ships attacking through the ports as they would be vulnerable to missile strikes, Ukraine's infrastructure minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said. Senior U.N. officials said the deal was expected to be fully operational in a few weeks and would restore grain shipments from the three reopened ports to pre-war levels of 5 million tonnes a month. Safe passage into and out of the ports would be guaranteed in what one official called a "de facto ceasefire" for the ships and facilities covered, they said, although the word "ceasefire" was not in the agreement text. "Today, there is a beacon on the Black Sea. A beacon of hope... possibility... and relief in a world that needs it more than ever," U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres said.

Whose Shiv Sena? ECI asks Uddhav Thackeray, Eknath Shinde to 'submit documentary evidence' to prove majority in party

New Delhi, July 23 : The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Saturday (July 23, 2022) asked the rival factions of the Shiv Sena, led by Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde, to submit documents in support of their claims on the election symbol of the political outfit by proving that they have the majority members in the Shiv Sena. The ECI also sent to the Thackeray camp the letter written to them (EC) by the Shinde faction and Thackeray camp's letter to the Shinde faction and sought replies from both the camps by August 8. Sources in ECI informed that the two sides have been asked to submit documents, including letters of support from the legislative and organisational wings of the party and the written statements of the rival factions. They said the requirement were made in line with the Paragraph 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. Earlier this week, the Shinde faction of the Shiv Sena had written to the Commission seeking allocation of the party's 'bow and arrow' election symbol to it, citing the recognition granted to them in the Lok Sabha and the Maharashtra Assembly. The Shiv Sena split last month when more than two-thirds of the party's MLAs withdrew their support from the Maharashtra government led by Uddhav Thackeray, throwing their lot with Shinde. Shinde was sworn in as Maharashtra Chief Minister on June 30 with support of the BJP. On Tuesday last, at least 12 of the 18 Shiv Sena members in the Lok Sabha expressed 'no confidence' in floor leader Vinayak Raut and declared Rahul Shewale as their floor leader. Lok Sabha Speaker recognised Shewale as the leader the same day. To ensure that neither faction is deprived of information, the poll panel has also directed exchange of documents submitted by the two groups over the past two days. The claim over the symbol assumes significance as the Supreme Court had on Wednesday directed the Maharashtra State Election Commission to notify elections to local bodies within two weeks. Elections are due in several civic bodies in Maharashtra, including the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), which would indicate which Sena faction gets the popular support. Earlier, the Uddhav Thackeray faction of the Shiv Sena had written to the EC, requesting it to hear its views before making any decision on representations for claims over the party name and its poll symbol.

SSC recruitment 'scam': Minister Partha Chatterjee arrested; close aide Arpita Mukherjee detained

Kolkata, July 23 : The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday arrested West Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee in connection with its probe into the School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment scam case, where transactions worth crores of rupees were allegedly made for the appointment of teachers recruited through the SSC, his advocate confirmed. This is the first arrest by the ED in the case. Chatterjee, the state Parliamentary Affairs, Commerce and Industry, and Electronics & IT Minister, earlier held the education portfolio. "Yes, he has been arrested. We have not been given the seizure list or the arrest memo yet. He will be produced in court today. We have been asked to come to CGO Complex," Anindya Raut, Chatterjee's advocate, said. Massive security has been deployed at the CGO Complex in Kolkata. "Tried but couldn't connect," Chatterjee said in response to media questions on whether he could speak to party supremo Mamata Banerjee since Friday after the ED raids. However, no official statement has been issued by the ED yet on Chatterjee's arrest. The arrest came after a day after the central agency carried out raids across the state on Friday and said that they had seized Rs 20 crore from the house of Arpita Mukherjee, a close associate of Chatterjee. Mukherjee has been detained, ED sources said, and is likely to be arrested. Meanwhile, Chatterjee has been taken to ESI Joka for a medical test and will be taken to Mukherjee's house in Tollygunge, Diamond City, for a face-to-face interrogation. "I cannot comment personally. TMC (Trinamool Congress) as a party is keeping a close watch on the developments. At the right time, the party will speak. I just want to say that the money recovered has no connection with TMC," TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said. ED officials have been at Chatterjee's residence in Naktala, South Kolkata for more than 26 hours since Friday morning. Sources said that Chatterjee did not answer queries related to his relation with Mukherjee. Sources also said that the ED found several land and property-related documents, jewellery worth Rs 50 lakh and more than 20 mobile phones from Mukherjee's house and they are now looking into whether these can be accounted for. ED officials are also trying to find other documents in the case. "It is a sad situation for Bengal that its minister is being arrested for corruption. I am waiting for Mamata Banerjee to sit in support of her minister at CGO Complex like she had stood for former police commissioner Rajeev Kumar. Let's see when the investigating team will catch the masterminds," said CPIM leader Sujan Chakraborty. Apart from Chatterjee and Mukherjee, the persons whose houses were raided by the ED since Friday are education minister Paresh C Adhikary, MLA and former president of the West Bengal Board of Primary Education Manik Bhattacharya. The houses of P K Bandyopadhyay, OSD to the then minister in charge of education; Sukanta Acharjee, private secretary to the then minister in charge of education; Chandan Mondal alias Ranjan, an agent; Kalyanmay Bhattacharya, son-in-law of Partha Bhattacharya; Krishna C Adhikary, relative of Kalyanmay Bhattacharya; Dr S P Sinha, advisor of the West Bengal Central School Service Commission and convenor of the 5-member committee; Kalyanmoy Ganguly, former president of the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education; Saumitra Sarkar, former president of the West Bengal Central School Service Commission; and Alok Kumar Sarkar, deputy director of the school education department, were also raided. The Calcutta High court had recently directed the CBI to carry out investigations into the recruitment scam of Group 'C' & 'D' staff, assistant teachers of Classes IX-XII and primary teachers. The ED is investigating the money laundering aspect of the recruitment scam case.

World Health Organization declares Marburg outbreak in Ghana, two cases confirmed - All you need to know

Brazzaville, July 23 : The World Health Organization has declared Ghana's first outbreak of the Ebola-like Marburg virus disease after labs confirmed the infections in two cases announced earlier this month. The disease, a very infectious hemorrhagic fever in the same family as Ebola, is spread to people by fruit bats and transmitted among people through direct contact with bodily fluids of infected people and surfaces, WHO said. A preliminary analysis of samples from two patients from Ghana's southern Ashanti region, both of whom died and were unrelated, turned up positive, but were forwarded for full confirmation to the Institute Pasteur in Dakar, Senegal. That UN health agency lab corroborated the results from the Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research in Ghana, WHO said in a statement Sunday. The first case was a 26-year-old male who checked into a hospital on June 26 and died on June 27. The second was a 51-year-old male who went to the hospital on June 28 and died the same day, WHO said, adding that both men sought treatment at the same hospital. "Health authorities have responded swiftly, getting a head start preparing for a possible outbreak," said WHO Regional Director for Africa Dr. Matshidiso Moeti. "This is good because without immediate and decisive action, Marburg can easily get out of hand. WHO is on the ground supporting health authorities and now that the outbreak is declared, we are marshalling more resources for the response." More than 90 contacts, including health workers and community members, have been identified and are being monitored, WHO said. Marburg is potentially very harmful and deadly: Case fatality rates in past outbreaks have ranged from 24 per cent to 88 per cent. This outbreak marks only the second time that the disease has been detected in West Africa, after Guinea confirmed a single case detected in August, according to WHO. The outbreak in Guinea was declared over five weeks later. Previous Marburg outbreaks and individual cases have appeared in Angola, Congo, Kenya, South Africa and Uganda, WHO said.

No publicity PILs, please: Supreme Court junks plea to raise smoking age

New Delhi, July 23 : The Supreme Court on Friday junked a plea seeking a direction to increase the smoking age from 18 to 21, and ban the sale of loose cigarettes. A bench comprising Justices S K Kaul and Sudhanshu Dhulia rejected the plea filed by two advocates. "If you want publicity, argue a good case... Don't file publicity interest litigation, the bench said while dismissing the plea. The apex court was hearing public interest litigation filed by advocates Shubham Awasthi and Sapta Rishi Mishra seeking guidelines to control smoking. The plea also sought directions to remove smoking zones from commercial places besides banning the sale of loose cigarettes near educational and healthcare institutions and also places of worship.

'I need to be an influencer': Noah Lyles aims for the stars after 200m gold



Eugene, July 23 : After Noah Lyles retained his world 200m title in a time so stunning it broke Michael Johnson's US record from the 1996 Olympics, he ripped open his vest like the

Incredible Hulk. Then he set his sight on a new goal: becoming a global influencer to help propel track and field into the mainstream. If anyone can do it, it is Lyles. Not only did he run 19.31sec to become the third-fastest athlete over the 200m in history, he then showed again that he has the personality to also transcend his sport. Gold medal winner Shericka Jackson flanked by Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Dina Asher-Smith after the women's 200m final in Eugene. As the 25-year-old crossed the line, the clock initially flashed up as 19.32, the same time as Johnson's from the 1996 Olympics. "I didn't want it to say 19.32," said Lyles. "I wanted my own time. Nobody wants to share a record. I was just begging it to change, like: 'Come on, don't do this to me.'" And then I heard the crowd just go into uproar. I looked up at the big screen and it said 19.31 and I just went ballistic. "One of the first people to congratulate Lyles was Johnson, who is commenting for the BBC in Eugene. "When Michael congratulated me, I was shocked," said Lyles. "We have chatted on Twitter but I have never interacted. I felt like it was one generation meeting another generation." Lyles, who had been devastated to win only Olympic bronze in Tokyo, led home a US 1-2-3 with Kenny Bednarek (19.77) and 18-year-old Erriyon Knighton (19.80) battling it out for silver and bronze.

Linda Sembrant late show puts Sweden through to semi-final against England

London, July 23 : Distraught Belgium players sought out family and friends standing on the other side of the advertising hoardings and slumped into their arms. The tears that flowed after the final whistle were understandable, the consoling embraces thoroughly deserved. They put everything into their country's first appearance in a Euros quarter-final but it was not enough. Sweden left it late to secure a semi-final date with England at Bramall Lane on Tuesday. The highest ranked team in the tournament needed a 92nd-minute winner scrambled home from a corner to overcome the lowest ranked side left in the competition. Linda Sembrant pounced after the Belgium goalkeeper and star of the show Nicky Evrard denied Sweden once again, saving Nathalie Björn's shot at close range



following a Kosovare Asllani corner, only for the defender to find the roof of her net with the rebound. It was a cruel way to extinguish the Red Flames' dreams but a deserved victory for Sweden after 34 attempts on goal. Only eight were on target, however, and England will be hugely encouraged by the problems Peter Gerhardsson's team faced in front of goal all

night. This was far from the statement of intent that Sweden had intended. "We missed some quality in our final pass and we didn't create 100% clear-cut goal scoring opportunities," the Sweden coach admitted. "We have to look into that but the England game will be completely different. We have played England twice and so we probably know more about them and how

to play against them than we would have done against Spain, but it will be challenging." Sweden were without both full-backs who started the 5-0 win over Portugal, Hanna Glas and Jonna Andersson having tested positive for Covid, prompting a Euros debut for Amanda Nildén and a first start of the tournament for match-winner Sembrant. The

disruption contributed to a little uncertainty in the Swedish defence yet they dominated on a rainy night and fashioned enough chances to have established a commanding lead by half-time. Their failure to take any drove Gerhardsson to distraction. Stina Blackstenius looked certain to open the scoring after Evrard saved superbly from Amanda Ilestedt's back-post header. The ball dropped slightly behind the Arsenal striker, who stumbled yards in front of an open goal and allowed the Belgium keeper to gather at her feet. Gerhardsson, arms outstretched, was open-mouthed at the miss. He would be again when a corner from captain Asllani fell to Blackstenius two yards out. The striker was unable to force the ball beyond Evrard and Belgium escaped again.

Women's Tour de France returns to boost cycling's latest breakaway



London, July 23 : In the long march of women's bike racers towards parity within their sport, there have been obvious turning points, moments when the process has noticeably accelerated and gained fresh, and crucially lasting, momentum. It was 1958 when the UCI incorporated women's world championships, against their will and in miserly fashion, remaining at the mercy of organisers who might not want to be part of the process. The accession of women racers to the Olympics in 1984 was immense, although again there was no initial recognition that women could or should be allowed to race for the same medals as men. Others might point to the first women's Tour of Flanders in 2004, or to the founding of the Women's Tour in the UK in

2014. Sunday afternoon, when the first stage of the Tour de France Femmes rolls away from the Eiffel Tower for an 80km circuit race on the Champs Élysées, should turn out to be one of those points, no matter who wears the yellow jersey when the race finishes up La Planchette des Belles Filles in eastern France on 31 July. The relaunch of the women's Tour de France, run by the men's Tour organisers after a 33-year break, has already had tangible effects. New teams have appeared, and established squads have acquired new sponsors. Established organisers have had to raise their game. New stage races have emerged on the calendar, most notably the Tour of Switzerland, Tour of Scandinavia and the Ceratizit Challenge. The

men's Tour has always had a centrifugal effect, forcing change simply by its presence and economic importance; even before it had begun, the Tour de France Femmes looked to be having the same effect. "Historically, this is a male sport," said the multiple world champion Marianne Vos in an interview on Friday with the newspaper L'Equipe. "In countries with a cycling tradition, men's cycling was immense. Women's cycling didn't

exist, and it wasn't good or bad, it was just a fact. It's taken time for women's racing to develop and become professional." From what I've seen in the last 15 or 20 years, there has been an enormous evolution. The Tour is the outcome of that process of change. "The Tour de France Femmes has its context. Rather than being an entirely new event in its own right, it is the latest in a series of attempts going back to 1955 - when a six day race was held

through Normandy, won by the Manxwoman Millie Robinson - to found a women's stage race that builds on the foundations of the men's Tour. The most sustained attempt came between 1984 and 1989, dominated by the Italian Maria Canins and France's Jeannie Longo, until the Tour organisers felt their event was getting too big to manage, and dropped the side of it that they felt would arouse the least public protest.

Iran's World Cup hopes fading amid botched sacking and squad acrimony

Tehran, July 23 : "Azmoon and Taremi get Iranians dreaming," was the headline for an article on FIFA's website after "Team Mell" were drawn to face England in their first match of the 2022 World Cup. Just a few months on and with the team's star strikers at loggerheads over the future of coach, Dragan Skocic, however, it's not exactly been the preparation Iran supporters had hoped for as the squad attempt to make history by progressing past the group stage in Qatar. Six days after being dismissed

amid reports that the Iranian Football Federation (IFF) wanted to appoint a homegrown coach, the Croat was controversially reinstated last weekend on a technicality because the federation realised it didn't have the authority to dismiss him until it holds elections for a new president at the end of next month. The volte-face was welcomed by Sardar Azmoun, the Bayer Leverkusen forward who



retired from international football at the age of 23 in 2018 after facing heavy criticism from supporters, only to return a few months later. "We are members of the national team of Islamic Republic of Iran," he wrote on Instagram.

"We thank Iran for the efforts and support of the government officials in the direction of all-round support for the national team. We announce that in the current situation, we will work together with the technical staff to make the hearts of the Iranian people happy in the Qatar World Cup, and trust us and the national team in this critical and short period. The World Cup should be fully supported. @teammellfootball We, the players, ask you not to change anything, let's leave everything for after the World Cup." A few

hours later, Mehdi Taremi - the Porto striker who scored a brilliant overhead kick against Chelsea that was voted Champions League goal of the season in 2021 - responded with an angry message that said Azmoun had spoken out "without consent" and "against our wishes". "It is disrespectful to the national team to issue statements in the name of the national team based on the personal interests of some players and causing the team to be divided," he wrote.

Meanwhile, the Astana-Qazaqstan team's wholly forgettable Tour was made even worse when news broke that the team's star rider, Miguel Ángel López, a former Tour stage winner, had been stopped by police after being linked to a drug trafficking case in Spain. "The news that was spread in the media yesterday evening caught us by surprise, and at the moment we do not have any details," the team said. Lopez has also won stages on the Vuelta a España, and is a past winner of the Tour de Suisse and the Volta a Catalunya.

RFU to vote on banning transgender women from women's rugby union



community rugby in England. All have had to be cleared and approved by an independent panel, which

examined their testosterone levels and whether they posed an increased risk to opponents based on their size and weight. Such rules have also applied to the Premier 15s, though it is understood that no transgender women play in the elite game in England. However, RFU has now conceded that "the case by case assessment is not without difficulties and can result in players not being permitted to

participate". It added: "In light of the research findings and work of World Rugby and the UK Sports Councils, and given the difficulties in identifying a credible test to assess physiological variables, it is recommended that this is no longer a viable option at this time and does not necessarily ensure inclusion." In 2020 World Rugby became the first international sports body to ban transgender women

from the women's game after an eight-month review. It concluded that it was not possible to balance inclusivity with safety and fairness given that those who had gone through male puberty are "stronger by 25% to 50%, are 30% more powerful, 40% heavier, and about 15% faster than biological females". In 2020 World Rugby became the first international sports body to ban transgender women

Christophe Laporte wins stage 19 to end home drought in Tour de France



London, July 23 : When Tadej Pogacar dramatically toppled a shell-shocked Primož Roglič in the final time trial of the 2020 Tour de France to snatch the yellow jersey from the Jumbo-Visma team, Jonas Vingegaard was in hospital, celebrating the arrival of his first child. "I had just had my daughter, so I was watching from the hospital," this year's race leader said, on the eve of the 2022 Tour's final "race of truth", after being asked if memories of Roglič's humiliation at the hands of Pogacar still haunted the team. "I wouldn't say we talk a lot about it. For me, tomorrow [Saturday] is about doing everything I can to keep this beautiful [yellow] jersey. I'll give everything I have." With a lead of three minutes and 26 secs over Pogacar (UAE Emirates) going into this Tour's penultimate stage, Vingegaard can be confident but not complacent. Right now, the omens are good and his team is flying. In Cahors, his French teammate Christophe Laporte won stage 19 after holding off the pursuing peloton in the shade of the plane trees lining the Boulevard Leon Gambetta. "It's been an

incredible Tour for us so far," Vingegaard said. "Five stage wins, we have the green jersey, the yellow, the polka dot, we just have to do our best tomorrow and hopefully I can bring the yellow jersey to Paris. We're not there yet." Laporte bridged across to the stage's last breakaway group, including Britain's Fred Wright, in the final kilometre. A strong time trialist and sprinter, the Frenchman accelerated clear of the leading trio with only 400 metres left to race, and hard though Wright tried, he was unable to prevent the 29-year-old from taking the first Tour stage win of his career. For Wright, it was his third near miss, after coming close to a stage win both in Lausanne and Saint-Étienne. This has been a torrid and tortuous Tour for sprinters, with only three

field sprints in 19 days of racing. Mark Cavendish, not picked by his Quick-Step Alpha Vinyl team, might now be thinking he has had a lucky escape. Caleb Ewan, last man standing on the race's general classification, and Fabio Jakobsen, winner of stage two to Nyborg, have both suffered hugely in this Tour's mountain stages. Ewan, riding for Lotto Soudal and once tipped to be Cavendish's successor, is now five and a half hours behind race leader Vingegaard and clinging onto the hope that maybe he can reprise his 2019 win in Paris on the Champs-Élysées on Sunday. Earlier, the stage was again briefly held up by the climate change activists, Dernière Rénovation, who brought the peloton to a halt 160km from the finish. It was the group's third protest of the race. "We are sorry for the inconvenience caused to this sporting event. We are trying to force the government to stick to its own engagements," a statement said. Meanwhile, the Astana-Qazaqstan team's wholly forgettable Tour was made even worse when news broke that the team's star rider, Miguel Ángel López, a former Tour stage winner, had been stopped by police after being linked to a drug trafficking case in Spain. "The news that was spread in the media yesterday evening caught us by surprise, and at the moment we do not have any details," the team said. Lopez has also won stages on the Vuelta a España, and is a past winner of the Tour de Suisse and the Volta a Catalunya.

Sydney McLaughlin pushes boundaries with huge 400m hurdles world record



Washington, July 23 : Shortly after Sydney McLaughlin had shattered her own world 400m hurdles record in the performance of these championships - in fact most championships - she was presented with her gold medal and a \$100,000 bonus by the World Athletics president Seb Coe. "It's the best 100 grand I've spent today," he joked. Like everyone else in Eugene, Coe was enthralled after a spectacular performance by the 22-year-old American, who has set world records at every age category since

she was 14 and shows no signs of stopping. And the Olympic champion's latest victory, in an extraordinary 50.68sec, was her best yet. Not only did it slash 0.73sec off her previous mark set on Hayward Field last month, it also made her the first woman to run under 51 seconds in the event. World Athletics Championships Oregon22 - Day eight - Eugene
 Great Britain's Matthew Hudson-Smith celebrates with his Bronze Medal following the Men's 400m Final on day eight of the World Athletics Cham-

pionships at Hayward Field, University of Oregon in the United States of America. Picture date: Saturday July 23, 2022. PA Photo. See PA Story ATHLETICS World. Photo credit should read: Martin Rickett/PA Wire. RESTRICTIONS: Use subject to restrictions. Editorial use only, no commercial use without prior consent from rights holder. It was the sixth time in three years that the world record has been broken, after Russian Yulia Pechonkina's mark of 52.34sec had stood for 16 years. For good measure,

McLaughlin was also miles clear of the next two best 400m hurdlers in history, with the Netherlands' Femke Bol taking silver in 52.27c and her US compatriot Dalilah Muhammad claiming bronze in 53.13sec. Later in the night, her fellow medallists were asked if they thought 50.68sec was a time they ever thought possible. "I definitely thought 50 was possible, and after that race I think 49 is possible - by Sydney," laughed Muhammad. And the scary news for her rivals is that McLaughlin believes she could have gone even quicker. "We thought we'd be able to go a little bit faster," she said. "But we're super grateful with that time. Anything under 51 was a win for us. I think there's always more to improve upon. There's always more that can be shaved off, for sure. There's no such thing as a perfect race, but I don't think that was a super-clean race." It was the first world record broken at this year's World Championships, the first on US soil, and a much-needed boost for the American women, who have excelled in the

field events but had been shut out on the track. McLaughlin's accomplishment sent shockwaves through the athletics world. "She's just special," Allyson Felix, the most decorated woman in track, wrote on Twitter. "In a class of her own." McLaughlin said she felt like she was in a "flow state" during those 50 seconds where she was "putting everything you've done in practice into the race, just letting your body do what it does ... releasing the gifts and talents that God's given you." Now, though, new frontiers await - with McLaughlin planning to discuss a potential crack at the 400m or even the 110m hurdles with her coach Bobby Kersee in the coming months. "Me and Bobby are going to go back after the season, decide if this is still an event I even want to do, or if we're going to find something else because I think we've accomplished so much in it," McLaughlin said. "It could be the 400m. Anything is possible. Bobby will let me know. I follow what he says.

Bronze warrior Matthew Hudson-Smith outruns demons in 400m final

Eugene, July 23 : We thought the struggle was real for Matthew Hudson-Smith during an extraordinary 44 seconds at Hayward Field, as he fought the lactic acid in his legs and the fire in his lungs. Really, though, we had no idea. No idea at all. Moments after the 27-year-old from Birmingham ended the race of his life with a world 400m bronze medal around his neck, and a smile that suggested glorious catharsis, he revealed the shocking truth of how everything had nearly gone permanently dark. "Not a lot of people know this, but I literally attempted suicide," he said. And then, suddenly, it all came tumbling out. How he had suffered huge mental health issues. Gone into substantial financial debt in the US due to injuries. Lost his sponsors. And, having been isolated in America during Covid, began slipping dangerously towards the edge. "In 2018 I won the Europeans even though everything didn't go to plan," he explained. "In 2019 I tore my Achilles, tore my hamstring, messed up my hip. I had huge debts because I didn't have American health insurance. During Covid in 2020 I was stuck in America by myself. And in 2021 I had huge mental health issues." The loss of two of his mentors, the former UK Athletics head coach Neil Black, and his close friend Lloyd Cowan, also stung him deeply. But then, thankfully, a close team of friends, family

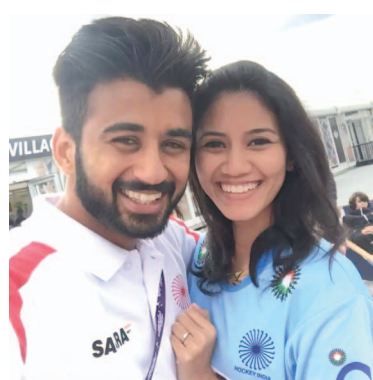


and confidantes managed to pull him back from the brink. "I couldn't do the Olympics for several reasons," he said. "I was also racing knowing I was hurt all the time. But it's also been mental. A lot of people would have cracked." Even when the worst was over, he thought about quitting. "My mum and girlfriend were, like, 'give it a year,'" he said. "I was going to be an electrician." Thankfully he then found a new sponsor in Puma, and was able to pay off his debts. And after a year free of injury and doubts, Hudson-Smith was able to light up Eugene in a far more spectacular way: by finally showing the world the depths of his talent and resolve. He was helped along the way by a chance meeting with the legendary Mexico 1968 gold medalist Tommie Smith, one of the smoothest sprinters on the track as well as a powerful advocate for social change off it. He had watched the Briton lose his focus during his semi-final, when he began to look around before the line, and offered him some urgent advice for the final. "He told me: 'Don't look to your left, don't look to your right, just look straight for-

ward," explained Hudson-Smith, who listened and learned and then delivered. Coming off the final bend, Hudson-Smith was surrounded by three others who scented a medal. America's Michael Norman, the fourth-fastest man in history. Kirani James, of Grenada, a world and Olympic champion. And the world record holder Wayde van Niekerk. In such exalted company, many would have panicked. Especially when Norman glided away to win gold in 44.29sec, ahead of James who took silver in 44.48sec. But while Van Niekerk claimed a brilliant bronze in 44.66sec, "My coach said he already knew Champion was going to come at the end," he said. "And then I felt someone outside of me. In my head I thought: 'Just take out Champion.' I was just looking forward," he added. "Then I had an anxious wait. But when I saw my name and I just dropped to the floor because these three years have been absolute hell." As Hudson-Smith crossed the line he was given his medal by Iwan Thomas - the British record holder for 25 years until Hudson-Smith surpassed it in May. His face told you there could be no sweeter moment. Afterwards Hudson-Smith also praised another mentor, the former 400m Olympic champion Christine Ohuruogu, as well as his "best friend" Dina Asher-Smith, who was bouncing and roaring in the main stand as he claimed his first global medal.

Focussed On Getting Accustomed To Weather In UK: Manpreet Singh

New Delhi, July 23 : Once acclimatised to the weather in the UK, the Indian men's hockey team will do "whatever it takes to win a medal" at the Commonwealth Games, skipper Manpreet Singh said on Saturday. The team left for Birmingham on Saturday to take part in the multi-sport event, which is scheduled from July 28 to August 8. "We are quite ex-



cited about this event as we have been training for this competition for quite some time now, and we are looking forward to putting on our best show against some of the best teams in the world." Having worked on our strengths and weak-

nesses in the last few months, we will do whatever it takes to win a medal here," Manpreet said before departure. India is placed in Pool B along with England, Canada, Wales, and Ghana. The team will kick off its campaign against Ghana on July 31. Manpreet also believes that India's third-place finish in the FIH Men's Hockey Pro League season 2021-2022,

where they faced tough competition, will help them in Birmingham. Speaking about the mood in the dressing room, Manpreet said, "Everyone is excited and looking forward to giving their 100 per cent." "Right now, we are focused on reaching Birmingham and getting accustomed to the weather and playing conditions there

Abbi Pulling: 'It's possible a woman can be in F1 in the next five years'

London, July 23 : From insisting on riding only the fastest horse as a child to galloping around the world's grand prix circuits, Abbi Pulling has long had the need for speed. Formula One is the goal for this determined, talented youngster who, having grown up admiring Lewis Hamilton, is convinced she may yet break the glass ceiling of what the seven-time champion has decried

as F1's "billionaire boys' club". Change is coming, Pulling is in the vanguard. Chadwick, a Williams development driver and the dominant force in the W Series, recently questioned whether women would be able to physically cope with the demands of F1, which has not had a female driver in a grand prix since Lella Lombardi raced in Austria in 1976. Pulling has no such doubts. "That's Jamie's opin-

ion, but mine is that with the Alpine programme, we definitely believe a female can be fit enough to race at those levels," she says. "I think it's possible a female can be in F1 in the next five years. I would like it to be myself but regardless, it shows the direction motorsport is going in and how positive it is on the female side at the moment." Pulling has talent in spades but is fortunate the W Series has been instrumental, as it

has with many of its drivers, in giving her the opportunity to continue her career and chasing her dream of making it to F1. It is a dream she has been pursuing since she insisted on following her dad, Andy, a bike racer, to tracks across the country. There is an endearing enthusiasm to her story. "Whenever I would go horse riding with my mum and sister, I would always go on the quickest horse," she says. "It was a

little horse called Coco and I would go around the arena as quickly as I could. I had a need for speed quite early on." This season Chadwick has taken four straight wins in the opening four races but Pulling is pushing hard to catch her. With two podiums in the last two races she is 47 points back but her verve, aggression and refusal to be intimidated by more experienced drivers has been striking. It has ensured she

has made a considerable mark in a short period of time. Last season lack of funding forced her out of British F4, a moment she thought would end her career which she describes as "heartbreaking", but one all-too-familiar for drivers in junior categories. However as a W Series reserve driver she had a lifeline and took part in four races including taking an eye-catching second place at the Circuit of

the Americas in Austin, Texas. It made Alpine take notice and they took her on in March this year. The team has made a commitment to gender diversity with their Rac(H)er programme, of which Pulling is a part. Their intent is to help guide a woman into F1 and bring more women into motorsport, with a target of having 30% of their workforce as female within five years.

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