

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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US supreme court justice mocks Prince... 02

Sebastian Vettel reveals climate crisis fears influenced his F1 retirement 07

NEWS IN BRIEF

Officers arrested

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 29 :

Two government officers were arrested for taking bribes in separate operations in Assam on Friday, a senior police officer said. They were caught red-handed while allegedly accepting the bribes, he claimed. One of the officers was arrested in Morigaon, while the other was arrested in Dibrugarh, said Special DGP GP Singh, the chief of the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau. "Our fight against corruption amongst Government officers continues. @DIR_VAC_ASSAM along with @morigaonpolice trapped & arrested red handed Smt Barsha Bora Bordoloi, District Excise Superintendent of Morigaon while accepting bribe money (sic)," he tweeted. In the second incident, a block elementary education officer (BEEO) was apprehended in Dibrugarh.

Assam girl

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 29 :

An Assam girl was mysteriously found dead in New Delhi. The girl, identified as Shradha Baruah of Dulaijan was residing in Rohini Sector 17 in Delhi. Daughter of Uttam Baruah and Late Ranjana Baruah, Shradha Baruah was working in a private company since five months. According to police and her friends, Shradha died while she went to take a bath at a river in Dharamsala in Musoorie on Wednesday.

Monkeypox case

New Delhi, July 29 :

Tamil Nadu health minister Ma Subramanian on Friday (July 29) debunked "fake news" of the southern state confirming cases of monkeypox virus. He said that "fake news" is being spread in the media about four cases being reported in Tamil Nadu's Nagercoil city. "Not even a single monkeypox case in Tamil Nadu. Fake news is circulating on social media that 4 monkeypox cases confirmed in Nagercoil. Don't believe fake news. If we find any such case, we'll tell media to make people aware of the disease," Subramanian said.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurates Pension Seva Kendra in Chatribari

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 29 :

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday inaugurates Pension Seva Kendra (PSK) of Kamrup (M) in Chatribari, Guwahati. This was set up by Assam Electronics Development Corporation Limited (AMTRON) at District Elementary Education Office (DEEO). During the inaugural ceremony, CM Sarma said, 27 PSK will be set up in Assam including Guwahati. Later, it will be extended to 35 PSK which is going to fulfill the target of setting up PSK in every districts of the state. As per CM Sarma, in Assam, half of the government employees belong to teaching profession. It becomes difficult for them to visit Directorate of Pension situated in Dispur where they have to wait for long to submit their documents for pension. CM Sarma said, "AMTRON has developed a portal called Kritagata through which government employees will be notified and called in the Pension Seva Kendra situated in their respective districts one year ahead of their retirement. In the office, their service book will be



scanned and uploaded which will be sent to the Directorate of Pension. As a result, pensioners will not have to queue in line in the office to submit their documents which might again get delayed in receiving pensions on time. "This provision is not only limited to school teachers, however, it is also for the college professors who receive their pension from Accountant General. The documents can be scanned in PSK and sent to AG Office. The work of pension will go paperless in Assam Secretariat with effect from October 2, 2022 which is going to ease the difficulty of losing documents. Through this, pensioners can also apply for Life certificates from PSK. They need not have to visit their respective banks anymore. The pensioners need to visit PSK, put their fingerprint

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Shiva Thapa notches 5-0 win, moves to pre-quarters



New Delhi, July 29 :

The 28-year-old Thapa hardly broke a sweat as he registered a comprehensive 5-0 win over Baloch to move to the pre-quarterfinals of the light welter weight. Thapa,

five-time Asian Championship medallist, was technically far superior to Baloch and landed a flurry of sharp punches on his opponent. Ace Indian boxer Shiva Thapa began his

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2 helicopters launched by NASA to return rocks from Mars

Washington, July 29 :

NASA is launching two more mini helicopters to Mars in its effort to return Martian rocks and soil samples to Earth. Under the plan announced on Wednesday, NASA's Perseverance rover will do double duty and transport the cache to the rocket that

will launch them off the red planet a decade from now. Perseverance already has gathered 11 samples with more rock drilling planned. The most recent sample, a sedimentary rock, holds the greatest promise of containing possible evidence of ancient Martian life, said

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Assam Govt to Convert Girls-Only Schools to Co-educational Institutes

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 29 :

After Kerala, the Assam government has decided to not convert gender-specific schools into co-educational institutes. The Assam government has announced to convert the girls-only schools run by the state into co-educational ones and allow admission of boys as well in the same institutes. The girls-only schools were built to ensure females have a right to education in a safe and secure environment at a time when education was a luxury for women. To ensure parents of females do not stop education only because of the gender-neutral norm, some schools will continue to stay gender-specific. The cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma held in



Guwahati on Thursday has taken the decision to have co-education in all state-run schools. Sharing imagery of major cabinet decisions on Twitter, Dr Sarma informed "To ensure gender equality, all schools under state government to have co-educational facility except for a few girls' schools with long history and traditions." Meanwhile, the cabinet has taken some other decisions as well which will change the face of school education in

Assam. In a major revamp, the government has decided to introduce a dual medium of instruction - English, and Assamese in all government-run schools from class 6 to class 12. CM informed that the school authority will have the liberty to introduce the English medium without abolishing the existing Assamese or another vernacular medium. Initially,

as a pilot project, 5 to 10 schools will be identified to introduce the dual medium, and the number of such schools will be increased subsequently depending on the outcome. On the other hand, from the coming academic session, mathematics and science will be taught in the English language from class iii onwards. In addition, geography and history will replace social studies as compulsory subjects in the school curriculum. There has been mixed response to the government decision. Amid apprehension about the future of the Assamese language as

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handles are filled with jihadi material. We're investigating it thoroughly," Nath stated. According to police, both the modules have connections with the ABT, which is part of Al-Qaeda. A man running a madrasa having connections with the Morigaon module was arrested on Thursday along with another man having close con-



nections with the same, ADGP Hiren Nath informed. "There is information that they had been collecting funds since 2020 from others, including a man who had been arrested on the charge of being a leader of ABT, earlier this year," Nath said. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma reacted to the arrests and noted that the busts were part of a coordinated effort with national agencies. "There are several jihadi elements in Assam with links to radicalized outfits in Bangladesh. This happens because of the state's close proximity with the neighbouring nation," the

Assam CM said while talking to reporters. The Assam Police noted that an accused named Mustafa alias Mufi Mustafa, who is a resident of Saharia Gaon in the Morigaon district, is an active member of the ABT. Mustafa runs a madrasa in the Saharia Gaon village. After his arrest, the police sealed the madrasa as it was suspected to be a safe house for the detained persons. "The activities of the madrasa were being funded through the proceeds of unlawful activities. It is suspected of being a harbour or safe house of the detained persons," police noted in a statement.

Assam Cabinet approves Co-education of schools, dual medium of instruction

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 29 :

Assam Cabinet took some major decisions with regards to the functioning of schools. Taking into account the changing landscape, the cabinet has approved Co-education of schools in the state. Just a few days after a similar debate emerged in Kerala, now Assam Cabinet has approved the co-ed move in all schools under the government, barring few. Assam Cabinet's decision on Co-education of schools is reportedly a step to ensure gender equality. The official updates mention that all

Assam schools under the state government would come under the ambit of this decision. However, the co-ed facility would not apply to a few girls' schools due to their long history and traditions. Next to the co-education of schools, is the approval of dual medium of instructions. The cabinet has approved a policy through which dual medium of instruction will be introduced from classes 6 to 12. The move would primarily apply to Assamese and vernacular medium Assam schools under the state government. However, a certain provision has been given



where the school authority would be 'at liberty' to introduce English medium without doing away with Assamese or any other vernacular medium. The execution of this move is of prime importance as five to 10

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Govt to Focus on Judicious Use of Forest Resources

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 29 :

The Assam government is exploring means for judicious utilization of forest resources to add to the state's revenue and thus augment its development, said an official release. The release stated that it is also focusing on the use of technology, including drones and satellite imagery, to prevent encroachment of forest land. In a meeting chaired by Chief

Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, measures to be adopted for these purposes were discussed in detail. The meeting was held with divisional forest officers of Environment and Forest Department, treasury officers and additional deputy commissioners (revenue). Besides putting emphasis on the conservation of forest resources, Sarma also asked officials to lay importance on prudent utilisation of

these to aid sustainable development of the state. In a bid to keep constant watch on encroachment of forest land, Sarma stressed on the extensive use of technical gadgets, including drone survey and satellite imagery. The chief minister also reviewed an ongoing plantation programme being carried out across the state. He asked the DFOs to take special care to ensure survival of the saplings after their plantation. Environ-



ment and Forest Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, principal secretary to the chief minister, Samir Kumar

Sinha, and other senior officers of the government were present at the meeting, the release added.



Kridoy Koushik Gogoi, Class - V
St. Mary's High School, North Lakhimpur



A white Royal Bengal Tiger cub is seen in Bangladesh National Zoo in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Nepal's tiger numbers recover but attacks on people cause alarm

Kathmandu, July 29 :Nepal's tiger population has nearly tripled in 12 years, the country's prime minister has announced. But concerns about the human cost of the big cat's recovery are growing after a rise in fatal attacks. From a low of 121 in 2010, the Nepalese population of Bengal tigers has risen to 355, according to the latest survey, revealed by the prime minister, Sher Bahadur Deuba, to mark International Tiger Day on Friday. Conservationists have paid tribute to Nepal's success in helping the big cat to recover through a crackdown on poaching, an expansion of national parks and the creation of wildlife corridors with neighbouring India. Nepal is the first of the 13 tiger range countries to update its figures before a summit due to be held in Vladivostok, eastern Russian, in September to evaluate global conservation efforts to protect the big cat. In 2010, governments committed to doubling the world's wild tiger population by the next Chinese year of the tiger, which is this year. Numbers reached an all-time low of 3,200 in 2010, having been about 100,000 a century before. But in Nepal dozens of recent tiger attacks on

humans have prompted warnings that communities living near protected areas are paying a high price for the animal's recovery. Over the last three years there have been 104 tiger attacks inside protected areas and 62 people have been killed, according to the Kathmandu Post. The victims were often attacked while collecting firewood, grazing livestock or searching for food in the forest. Shiv Raj Bhatta, a conservation programme director at WWF Nepal, said the rise in tiger numbers was good news but cautioned that the country was entering a new stage of the big cat's recovery in which humans had to learn to live alongside tigers. "People are now seeing and encountering tigers everywhere, so cases of tiger-human conflict are increasing. This indicates that the tiger population is almost at a maximum level in Nepal. We are a small country. This

increase is a new challenge for the government. Now we need to show tigers and people can coexist," he said. The figure of 355 tigers announced on Friday is close to Nepal's estimated capacity of up to 400 along the Chitwan-Parsa complex, a landscape in the foothills



of the Himalayas in India and Nepal that is rich in wildlife, including elephants and rhinos. Owing to the climate crisis, the Nepalese tiger population is also

expanding farther north to higher altitudes. Mayukh Chatterjee, a member of the IUCN's human-wildlife conflict and coexistence specialist group, said the problems associated with rising tiger populations were not limited to Nepal, and tiger range governments had to

governments don't roll their sleeves and start working with communities living nearby. In the last three to five years we've seen a very high increase in electrocution of tigers, snaring of tigers, as well as lynching by people. Ten years ago you would not see that," he said. Chatterjee is studying the reasons behind tiger attacks on humans in national parks in India that link with those in Nepal. He has found that cases of predators are rare, with the majority of incidents caused by accidental encounters. "People end up bumping into tigers much more often, so it results in accidental encounters where tigers get startled when they're resting and they respond by attacking. Our data shows that around 80% of attacks are accidental encounters where tigers have been disturbed or younger animals have mistaken humans for prey. Man-eating cases are around 1%," he said.

Illegal Bar row: Delhi HC directs Cong leaders to delete all posts against Smriti Irani's daughter from social media

New Delhi, July 29 : The Delhi High Court on Friday (July 29) issued summons to Congress leaders Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khera and Netta D'souza in a civil suit filed by Union Cabinet Minister Smriti Irani. The court also directed the Congress leaders to remove the post, videos, tweets, retweets, and morphed pictures of the plaintiff and her daughter along with the allegations and stop their recirculation regarding allegations made against her and her daughter. Union Minister Smriti Irani has filed civil defamation seeking permanent and mandatory injunction along with damages of over Rs 2 crore. Justice Mini Pushkarna stated, "I am of the prima facie view that slanderous allegations were made against the plaintiff without verifying actual

facts", adding "Grave injury has been caused to the reputation of the plaintiff in view of the tweets and retweets carried out due to the press conference of the defendants. Plaintiff has made out a prima facie case and balance of convenience lies in favour of the plaintiff and against

the defendants. I deem it proper to pass an interim injunction directing Jairam Ramesh, Pawan Khera and Netta D'souza to delete and remove the allegations made during the press conference from all social media platforms including Youtube, Facebook and Twitter inc. The court also directed these leaders to

remove the post, videos, tweets, retweets, morphed pictures of the plaintiff and her daughter along with the allegations and stop their recirculation, adding "If defendants 1-3 fail to comply with the directions within 24 hours of this order, defendants 4-6 (social media platforms) are directed to take down the material."

German cities impose cold showers and turn off lights amid Russian gas crisis

Berlin, July 29 : Cities in Germany are switching off spotlights on public monuments, turning off fountains, and imposing cold showers on municipal swimming pools and sports halls, as the country races to reduce its energy consumption in the face of a looming Russian gas crisis. Hanover in north-west Germany on Wednesday became the first large city to announce energy-saving measures, including turning off hot water in the showers and bathrooms of city-run buildings and leisure centres. Municipal buildings in the Lower Saxony state capital will only be heated from 1 October to 31 March, at no more than 20C (68F) room temperature, and ban the use of mobile air conditioning units and fan heaters. Nurseries, schools, care homes and hospitals are to be exempt from the saving measures. "The situation is unpredictable," said the city's mayor, Belit Onay, of the Green party. "Every kilowatt hour counts, and protecting critical infrastructure has to be a priority." Hanover's 15%



savings target is in line with the reductions the European Commission this week urged member states to make to ensure they can cope in the event of a total gas cutoff from Russia. Germany, which is more reliant on Russian gas imports than other European countries, is under pressure to lead the way. In Berlin, the German capital, about 200 historic monuments and municipal buildings were shrouded in darkness on Wednesday night as the city switched off spotlights to save electricity. Monuments previously lit up at night include the Victory Column in Tiergarten park, the Memorial Church on Breitscheidplatz and the Jewish Museum. "In the face of the war against Ukraine and Russia's energy threats it is vital that we handle our energy as carefully as possible," said Berlin's

senator for the environment, Bettina Jarasch. Germany uses most of its gas imports to heat homes and power its large industry. But while an energy emergency plan initiated in June enables utility firms to pass on high gas prices to customers, most private households in Germany pay their gas bills in set advance payments and have yet to directly experience the kind of dramatic increases that would change consumer behaviour. On Thursday, Germany's government confirmed that a planned gas surcharge on customers could be much higher than previously expected, to save energy companies from going bankrupt in the coming months. "We can't say yet how much gas will cost in November, but the bitter news is it's definitely a few hundred euros per household," said the economy minister, Robert

US supreme court justice mocks Prince Harry and Boris Johnson's criticism of Roe v Wade ruling

Washington, July 29 : US supreme court justice Samuel Alito has mocked prominent figures around the world who have criticised last month's ruling that overturned Roe v Wade, the landmark 1973 abortion rights decision. In his first public remarks since the decision, which has led to various conservative US states imposing abortion bans, Alito dismissed criticism

of the ruling, which has come from the likes of British prime minister Boris Johnson, French president Emmanuel Macron and Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau. Alito, a conservative justice, also took aim at Prince Harry who referenced the abortion ruling in a speech at the United Nation's last week. Alito's previously unannounced speech was delivered on 21 July at a conference on religious liberty in Rome hosted by the University of Notre Dame law school. Video of the speech was posted online on Thursday by Notre Dame. "I had the honour this term of writing I think the only supreme court decision in the history of that institution that has been lambasted by a whole string of foreign leaders who felt perfectly fine commenting on American law," Alito said. "One of these was Boris Johnson, but he paid the price,"



Alito joked, referring to Johnson's plans to step down following criticism of his leadership from within Britain's ruling Conservative party. "But what really wounded me - what really wounded me - was when the Duke of Sussex addressed the United Nations and seemed to compare the decision whose name may not be spoken with the Russian attack on Ukraine," Alito added in a sarcastic tone, referring to his ruling overturning the Roe decision that had legalised abortion nationwide in the United States and

recognized a woman's constitutional right to terminate her pregnancy. Alito's references to the abortion ruling, which came during a speech about the importance of religious liberty, were met with laughter from the audience. Prince Harry had spoken of 2022 as "a painful year in a painful decade" in his speech on 18 July, before citing the war in Ukraine and "the rolling back of constitutional rights here in the United States", which appeared to reference the abortion ruling. Johnson has called the ruling "a big step backwards."

Foreign Office admits multiple errors in UK's exit from Afghanistan

Kabul, July 29 : The UK Foreign Office has admitted a catalogue of errors over its handling of Britain's exit from Afghanistan, but has shut the door on many Afghans who helped the UK prior to the Taliban takeover last August, saying it can not provide false hope that they will be given the chance to come to the UK. Foreign Office officials say it is difficult to judge whether Afghans who worked on UK-funded civilian schemes, such as the British Council, are truly in danger from the Taliban, saying the evidence is that the threat primarily applies to those who provided security support to the UK. Officials added the slow progress in processing cases this year has been caused by the high number of rejected applications as well as

legal cases challenging UK refusals to provide a right of abode. So far only 5,000 Afghans have been given permission to come to the UK, in addition to the 15,000 evacuated at the time of the fall of Kabul last year. The Guardian has been given details by individual Afghans that worked for UK-funded NGOs now in fear of their lives living in underground shelters. They say members of their family have already been executed due to their connections with the UK, but have been unable to get a response from the Home Office. But in its formal response published on Friday to a scathing foreign affairs select committee report released in May on the Afghan evacuation, the Foreign Office says: "If the government were obliged to offer in extremis resettlement to the UK to anyone working on programmes it funded in fragile states where there was a risk of an evacuation being needed, that could severely inhibit the provision of funding to NGOs delivering vital development programming." The Foreign Office admitted to the foreign affairs select committee that the "special cases" evacuation scheme, for Afghans who supported the UK effort without being directly employed by the UK government, had "many shortcomings" and was "poorly communicated", and that prioritisation of cases was "far from perfect". The response states that there were "staffing gaps in some teams for some periods" during the evacuation, and

that "the impact of the crisis on staff welfare was significant". Officials denied having intended evidence to mislead the committee about the lobbying for staff from an animal charity, Nowzad, to be included in the British airlift. Afghans struggle to reach the foreign forces to show their credentials to flee the country outside Kabul airport on 26 August 2021. It insists "at no stage have ministers or officials sought to mislead the committee deliberately. The FCDO [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office] wishes to reiterate the sincere apologies officials have given orally and in writing for inadvertently providing misleading evidence on this issue. The government regrets that it took as long as it did to establish what the decision-making process had been in this case, and how the decision was communicated internally to FCDO staff. The government acknowledges again that the way the decision to call forward Nowzad staff for evacuation was made was exceptional." The select committee had called in its report for the permanent secretary, Sir Philip Barton, to consider his position after it emerged he had been on holiday during the fall of Kabul. He has said he regretted not returning to work earlier, and in its formal response the Foreign Office admitted it needs to improve its worst-case scenario planning, since at no point was such a rapid collapse of Kabul to the Taliban considered.



Shows a damaged bridge after heavy monsoon rains in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi

Guest House

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

Name Change

I have changed my name from Hobibul Haque to Hobibul Hoque. My new name is Hobibul Hoque. My old name was Hobibul Haque. Now people know me as Hobibul Hoque.

Vill-Pub Dhaniram Pather
PO-Telibasti
PS-Hojai, Assam,
782439.

No: TMCH/Miscellaneous Works/97/2015/868 RE-TENDER NOTICE

Sealed bids (Single envelope system) affixing court fee of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & twenty five paise) only from the authorized Stockiest / Distributors or authorized dealers are invited for Supply of the **Cash Counting Machine & Computer Set** to Tezpur Medical College & Hospital, Tezpur. The list of the items along with detailed terms & conditions may be collected from the office of the Medical Superintendent, Tezpur Medical College Hospital, Tezpur during office hours on all working days up to 05/08/2022.

Prescribed tender documents containing terms and condition (already upload) can be downloaded from the website www.tmcassam.org.

The tenders are to be submitted to the Office of the Medical Superintendent, Tezpur Medical College & Hospital, Tezpur during office hours. Last date & time of submission will be extended on 05/08/2022, 2 P.M. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 2.00 P.M in presence of the intending tenders' or their authorized representatives. Those who had applied earlier tender no.-**TMCH/Miscellaneous Works/97/2015/ 693, dated. 16.06.2022** need not to reapply.

Sd/-
Principal cum Chief Superintendent
Tezpur Medical College & Hospital, Tezpur
Janasanyog/C/7270/22

Contraband/smuggled goods worth more than Rs. 94.49 lakh recovered by RPF of N. F. Railway Four persons apprehended



Assam Rising, July 29 : Continuing the fight against transportation of contraband/smuggled goods in trains, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Northeast Frontier Railway has recovered contraband goods worth more than Rs. 94.49 lakh during the period from 23rd to 27th of July, 2022. The contraband/smuggled items including morphine, liquor, foreign cigarette, ganja etc. were recovered during regular checks and drives at various stations and

trains over N. F. Railway. RPF also apprehended four persons for alleged involvement in transportation of contraband goods. In an incident on 27th July, 2022, RPF & GRP officials and staff of Guwahati conducted joint drive in train No. 20503 DN (Rajdhani Express) at Guwahati Railway Station. In course of drive, they apprehended two persons with the recovery of 730 grams mor-

phine valued about Rs. 70 lakh from the said train. The apprehended persons were travelling from Dimapur towards Delhi without journey tickets. Later, the apprehended persons were handed over to OC/GRP/Guwahati for further course of action. On the same day, RPF of N. F. Railway recovered foreign cigarettes worth about Rs. 7 lakh in different drives conducted in train No. 12423 DN (Rajdhani Express). In a drive conducted jointly with GRP of Guwahati, they apprehended one

person who was travelling from Dimapur without any journey ticket for Prayagraj (Allahabad). In an another incident on that day, RPF recovered unclaimed liquor valued about Rs. 59 thousand while conducting checking in train No. 13247 DN (Capital Express) at Bagdogra Railway station. During 23rd to 26th of July, 2022 RPF of N. F. Railway recovered contraband goods including ganja, liquor etc. worth about Rs. 16.90 lakh during different checks and drives conducted at Agartala, Dimapur, Dharmanagar, New Coochbehar, Katihar and New Bongaigaon stations. CPDS

team of RPF/Katihar also apprehended one person at Katihar with recovery of liquor in a joint checking conducted with GRP of Katihar. It may be mentioned here that RPF of N. F. Railway has detected 427 cases of transportation of contraband/smuggled goods during the period from January to June, 2022 and recovered contraband/smuggled goods worth more than Rs. 16.98 crore. During this period, RPF also apprehended 91 persons involved in transportation of contraband/smuggled goods.

National Tiranga Selling points inaugurated in Margherita Town

The Assam Rising, Margherita July 29 : In order to encourage and increase participation in the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, Tiranga Selling Points were inaugurated today by Shri. Pranta Pratim Patra, Assistant Commissioner, Margherita and Shri. Runal Nath in the premises of O/o SDO(C), Margherita and O/o Circle Officer, Margherita respectively. Opened for easy availability of the National Tricolour with subsidised price, the selling points are managed by the Self-Help Groups under the DAY-NULM scheme in collaboration with the Margherita Municipal Board. The Tiranga Selling points would be set up in all the wards of the Margherita MB and other prominent



places within the next few days. Under the Har Ghar Tiranga scheme, citizens can hoist the National Flag from 13th-15th August at homes, offices, business institutions as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit

Mahotsav, celebrating the 75 years of India's freedom. This campaign aims to invoke the feelings of patriotism in each citizen and promote awareness about the Indian National Flag.

Drama workshop concluded at Jamugurihat

Assam Rising Biswanath Chariali, July 29: A fifteen-day workshop organised by Akhara; a leading drama organization of the greater Jamugurihat area on drama concluded on Thursday. The drama workshop was organised as a part of the year-long celebration of Silver Jubilee of drama organization Akhara. A total of twenty youths of the greater Jamugurihat area participated in the drama workshop and staged two dramas as part of a concluding ceremony on Thursday night at Bapuji Bhawan. The dramatized version of 'Tezimala'; one of the stories of Budi Air Sadhu by Laxminath Bezbarua and 'Jonaki Monor Khabar', a children drama composed by Nani Majumdar and directed by



Ranjan Kumar Das were staged. Eminent dramatist and director Rafiqul Hussain, dramatist Ranjan Kumar Das imparted training for the participants as master trainers during the workshop. Abhijit Bora, Pranballav Bora, Raktim Rajbanshi, Pulak Saikia imparted training on the other aspects of dramatic art. All the participants were given a certificate of

Talk on "Education abroad" by Stars of Northeast India held in Guwahati

The Assam Rising, Guwahati, July 29 : 'Star Talk-12', an initiative of the Stars of North East India (SONEI), a registered public charitable trust and talent hunt platform, was held at V Guwahati on Thursday. The first appointed speaker of the event was Aman Wadud, a young lawyer who recently got his Masters in Law from the University of Texas under a Fulbright Scholarship. Besides sharing his American experience, Aman Wadud gave a very informative presentation of the evolution of Civil Rights in the USA. The second appointed speaker, Sauid M Laskar, Head of Pan-India Sales, Admissify made a presentation to clear the common doubts people have about studying abroad. Laskar, who has been instrumental in facilitating overseas studies of more than 350 students from Assam, over the last five years, in countries like Australia, Germany, UK and USA, informed the audience that 93 per cent of the students who go abroad for studies belong to middle class families. Abhishek Kumar, a graduate from Guwahati Commerce College, who is all set to study his Mas-



ters in Supply Chain Management at Cranfield University, UK also shared his experience on the occasion. Alemoon Nessa of Bongaigaon, who recently received two national MSME awards along with a cash component of Rs eight lakh from the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was felicitated on the occasion. Dr Faizuddin Ahmed, a physicist from Dhubri, who has made it to the Stanford list of world's top 2% scientists, was also honoured on the occasion. Shahnaz Islam, a budding poet whose book "Midnight's melancholy" was launched from Sikkim recently, enthralled the audience by reciting a few poems from her book. Mirza

Arif Hazarika's short film "Sorry" starring Barasha Rani Bishaya and Ravi Sharma is now live on Disney+Hotstar, a rare honour for an Assamese short film. Mirza shared his experiences of making the film. Priyanka Paul Banerjee, Managing Director of Seven Sense Communication (PR Agency), was also felicitated along with other achievers at the event. SONEI will complete eight years of its existence in September 2022 during which new projects will be announced in addition to its existing programmes in the field of education, promotion of skills, and social service. The event was hosted by Samima Sultana Ali and Sharique Hussain.

'Har Ghar Jhanda' campaign held in Udalguri

Assam Rising, Udalguri, July 29 : 61 BN SSB Balema at Bhairabkunda has been observing "Har Ghar Jhanda" campaign under the theme of



"Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". This unit conducted a Awareness programme on "Har Ghar Jhanda" to encourage the citizens to host the National Flag of India in their homes under the theme of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" at Savio English School, Bhairabkunda. The program was conducted under the supervision of H Naba Kumar Singh, Assistant Commandant and other officials of 61 BN. During this programme H Naba Kumar Singh, Assistant Commandant has Briefed about the salient features of Flag Code 2002. And also made the people aware saying "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" is being celebrated to commemorate the 75 glorious years of a progressive Independent India.

Lokra Battalion of Assam Rifles organised Agniaveer Pre-Recruitment Screening

Test and Awareness Capsule to join Armed Forces on 29 July 2022

Assam rising, Biswanath chariali 29 July : Lokra Battalion of Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ 21 Sector and Inspector General Assam Rifles (East) organised Agniaveer Pre-Recruitment Screening Test and Awareness Capsule to join Armed Forces in Lokra, Sonitpur district, Assam on 29 July 2022. The aspirants underwent a detailed physical screen-



ing test as per the selection requirement. During the capsule aspirants were given a detailed introduc-

tion and comprehensive insights about the Agniaveer 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 18 boys and 43 girls from class 9th to 12th were benefitted from the capsule.

Global Tiger Day celebrated in Kachugaon

Assam Rising Gossaigaon, July-29: Like the other parts of the state the Global Tigers Day celebrated here at Kachugaon IB, Central Range under Raimona National Park in Kokrajhar District. The programme was chaired by Raghunath Boro, retired Forest Range Officer. Ranjit Basumatary, Executive Member, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, BTR graced the programme as a chief guest. Addressing the programme as the chief



guest he said that today is a historic day for the people residing within the territory of Raimona National Park. It is our responsibility to protect tigers just as tigers balance the forests, citing that genera-

tions will live in the future only if the forest is saved. He again said that a lot of efforts are being made by the BTC administration to protect the forests falling under Raimona National Park. WTI project manager Sanatan Deka, senior manager of Aranyak NGO, Dipankar Lahakar, Chief Commandant of SSB, Chiranjeev Bhattacharjee, Forest officials of Kachugaon Forest office and local intellectuals were also seen in the programme.

110 employees of AMTRON will lost jobs

North Lakhimpur, July 29: 110 employees of AMTRON who are working in different District Transport Offices (DTOs) will lost their jobs as the Assam Government has given authority to a Kolkata-based private company named PHUKAM to do works in the DTOs instead of AMTRON. According to information, the employees of AMTRON have been doing works related to issuing driving licences and registration certificates, and sending them to the applicants through speed post. But PHUKAM, who has taken to do these works in the DTOs across the state, sends the driving licences and registration certificates through private courier service. As a result, applicants become unable to track the delivery of their documents. Another allegation against the PHUKAM is that the company has no public relations unlike the AMTRON had. PHUKAM is a fully private sector company served people only for its own private gain, it is alleged. The 110 employees of AMTRON who are going to lost their respective jobs have urged the Chief Minister to take necessary step in their matter.

	Indian Bank Zonal Office: Sharma & Sharma Market, 2nd Floor, R.G. Baruah Road, Chandmari, Guwahati, Assam- 781003, Email: zoguawahati@indianbank.co.in (Rule- 8(1))
POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)	
Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank (erstwhile Allahabad Bank), Ballitra Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 8 and 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 13.12.2021 calling upon the Borrower Ms. Rabiya Begum (Borrower cum Mortgagee), W/o Mr. Syed Aftab Hussain, Proprietor: M/s. R. B. Store, Barma Road, Ward No. 8, Opposite D C Office, P.O. Nalbari, Dist.- Nalbari, Assam- 781355 & Mr. Syed Aftab Hussain (Guarantor), S/o Late Dilwar Hussain, Barma Road, Ward No. 8, Opposite D C Office, P.O. Nalbari, Dist.- Nalbari, Assam- 781355 with our Ballitra Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs. 14,34,408.00 (Rupees Fourteen Lacs Thirty Four Thousand Four Hundred Eight Only) as on 26.07.2021 and further interest within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and guarantors and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 and 9 of the said rules on this 28th July 2022. The Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagees in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Indian Bank for an amount of Rs. 14,34,408.00 (Rupees Fourteen Lacs Thirty Four Thousand Four Hundred Eight Only) as on 26.07.2021 and further interest thereon. The borrower's attention is invited to the provision of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY Mortgaged Property: All that part and parcel of the freehold land and building in the name of Ms. Rabiya Begum, W/o Mr. Syed Aftab Hussain vide registered deed No. 301/018 dated 20-02-2018 measuring 10 Lechas covered by Dag No. 1600, K P Patta No. 14 situated at Barma Road, Nalbari Town, Ward No. 8, Mouza: Nalbari, P.O. & Dist.- Nalbari, Assam- 781355. Bounded: On the North: Mr. Nur Mohammad, On the South: Mr. Mujammil Haque, On the East: Mr. Atikur Rahman, On the West: Fatik Ali Hypothecation Assets: Hypothecation of Stock of M/s. R. B. Store at Nalbari Town, Barma Road, Ward No. 11, P.O.- Nalbari, Dist.- Nalbari, Assam. Date: 28th July 2022 Place: Nalbari Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)	

No. DSW(ICDS)/G/ SNP/61/ 2022/48 CORRIGENDUM Reference to e tender No DWCD(ICDS)/G/ SNP/61 /2022/31, Dtd. 13-07-2022 in regard to Expression of Interest (Eoi) for supply of Ready to eat (RTE) food items such as Dal Khichdi, Multigrain Suji Halwa as cereal based Micronutrient Fortified Energy Dense Food for Children of age group (6 months to 3 years). Children of age group (3-6 years), Severely Malnourished Children of age group (6 months to 6 years) and Pregnant Women & Lactating mothers for various Anganwadi Centres and Mini-Anganwadi Centres at General areas of Assam for implementation of Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP) during the year 2022-23, the following modification are hereby notified through this corrigendum. 1. In General Instruction SI No.18, page No.6- The manufacturer shall submit samples of their products along with the necessary laboratory analysis report (in original) on testing the samples in any Govt. Laboratory/National Accreditation Board for Testing (NABL). Approved laboratory to confirm the nutritive value of the item and micronutrient (Vitamin and Minerals) fortification. The copies of the Lab report is required to be submitted to this Directorate before issuing of work order. Instead of: The manufacturer shall submit samples of their products along with the necessary laboratory analysis report (in original) on testing the samples in any Govt. Laboratory/National Accreditation Board for Testing (NABL). Approved laboratory to confirm the nutritive value of the item and micronutrient (Vitamin and Minerals) fortification. The copies of the Lab report must also be uploaded along with the Tender bid documents. Director, Women and Child Development, Assam Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1 Janasanyog/C/7306/22
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No. Tech/URBD/SDRF/IFB/2020-21/5377-86 PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER The Executive Engineer, PWD, Udalguri (R&B) Division, Udalguri on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bids from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Public works Department (Roads), Assam/Contractors registered with Bodoland Territorial Council in the category of Class-I (A.B & C), Class-II and Class-III for 6 (six) Nos. of works for bids amounting to Rs.1,87,61,200.00 (approx) (Rupees one crore eighty seven lakh sixty one thousand two hundred) only. Details may be seen at in the Office of the undersigned during office hours. Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Udalguri (R&B) Division Udalguri IPR(BTC)-227/2022	Dated. 29/07/2022
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THE ASSAM RISING

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Western sanctions against Russia

Western sanctions against Russia are the most ill-conceived and counterproductive policy in recent international history. Military aid to Ukraine is justified, but the economic war is ineffective against the regime in Moscow, and devastating for its unintended targets. World energy prices are rocketing, inflation is soaring, supply chains are chaotic and millions are being starved of gas, grain and fertiliser. Yet Vladimir Putin's barbarity only escalates – as does his hold over his own people. To criticise western sanctions is close to anathema. Defence analysts are dumb on the subject. Strategy thinktanks are silent. Britain's putative leaders, Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak, compete in belligerent rhetoric, promising ever tougher sanctions without a word of purpose. Yet, hint at scepticism on the subject and you will be excoriated as "pro-Putin" and anti-Ukraine. Sanctions are the war cry of the west's crusade. The reality of sanctions on Russia is that they invite retaliation. Putin is free to freeze Europe this winter. He has slashed supply from major pipelines such as Nord Stream 1 by up to 80%. World oil prices have surged and eastern Europe's flow of wheat and other foodstuffs to Africa and Asia has been all but suspended. Britain's domestic gas bills face tripling inside a year. The chief beneficiary is none other than Russia, whose energy exports to Asia have soared, driving its balance of payments into unprecedented surplus. The rouble is one of the world's strongest currencies this year, having strengthened since January by nearly 50%. Moscow's overseas assets have been frozen and its oligarchs have relocated their yachts, but there is no sign that Putin cares. He has no electorate to worry him. The interdependence of the world's economies, so long seen as an instrument of peace, has been made a weapon of war. Politicians around the Nato table have been wisely cautious about escalating military aid to Ukraine. They understand military deterrence. Yet they appear total ingenuos on economics. Here they all parrot Dr Strangelove. They want to bomb Russia's economy "back to the stone age". I would be intrigued to know if any paper was ever submitted to Boris Johnson's cabinet forecasting the likely outcome for Britain of Russian sanctions. The assumption seems to be that if trade embargos hurt they are working. As they do not directly kill people, they are somehow an acceptable form of aggression. They are based on a neo-imperial assumption that western countries are entitled to order the world as they wish.

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

What's really behind the failure of green capitalism?

Last week, temperatures crested at 40C (104F) in England, bringing the climate crisis to the fore and spurring a fresh wave of dismay. How is it, despite a steady drumbeat of extreme weather events, a rising tide of public outcry, and growing consensus across the political spectrum, that the world remains so profoundly far from the outer limits of the climate targets considered "safe"? The answer is increasingly located not in climate denial, but in a proliferation of non-solutions advocated by policymakers and business interests with varying degrees of earnestness and good intention, under the umbrella of "green capitalism". These are proposals sold as urgent, pragmatic tools for cutting emissions or reversing ecosystem loss, but which in fact deliver neither. Take sustainable finance. By some estimates, assets invested with some sort of environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria now top

\$35tn, prompting enthusiastic proclamations that private investors, driven by rational self-interest, are delivering a greener future. For many, it seems one really can "do well by doing good". Unfortunately, this sense of triumph is based on little foundation. To begin with, criticisms of "greenwashing", in which corporations and financial firms mislead customers and clients on the ecological or social credentials of their products, abound. But the problem cuts much more deeply than a few bad actors who bend the (typically voluntary) rules. Instead, the underlying motivation of ESG investing is not necessarily to achieve the "real world" positive outcomes. Rather the goal is to minimise exposure to risks - whether climate regulation or labour disputes - that could eat into financial returns. For this reason, many ESG funds hardly differ from "mainstream" funds and indices like the S&P 500 (the basket of the 500 largest US corpo-

rations). Vanguard's flagship US ESG fund, for example, has its top holdings in Apple, Microsoft, and Amazon. Tesla edges in at number six, followed by two different share classes of Alphabet (Google's parent company). It would be hard to argue that many of these would be the companies springing to mind when imagining investment in a decarbonised and ecologically

Adrienne Buller

thriving future. Nor do some of them have particularly sterling records when it comes to the "social" pillar of the ESG acronym, whether accusations of human rights abuses and forced labour in supply chains or allegedly illegal surveillance of workers. Moreover, while many might reasonably expect a major ESG fund to be investing in the urgent transition to renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure, instead, more than 40% of the Vanguard fund is al-

located to tech and financials. Energy and utilities, occupied by many of the firms we might imagine are at the heart of decarbonisation, together make up less than 1%. Importantly, this appears to be the rule, not the exception. While some specialist firms use their shareholding position to earnestly pressure companies to change their business models or allocate capital to upstart clean energy firms, much of the industry is interested not in directly financing a sustainable future but in ensuring their portfolios are aligned with one. In this sense, ESG can be much better understood as a means of betting on the likelihood of a greener, more sustainable future, rather than helping to build it. Indeed, in one particularly striking study, researchers found the strongest trait differentiating social-themed funds from their mainstream counterparts was investment in companies with relative lack of employees. From the perspective of minimising risks to private investors, this is perfectly logical: no labourers, no labour issues. From the perspective of driving

positive social outcomes, it's hardly cause for celebration. The logic underlying sustainable finance is a problem for the argument that markets are advancing a greener, kinder capitalism. Indeed, the trouble for green capitalism is that its proposed solutions strain to force the complexity of the climate and ecological crises into the narrow frame of "the market", irrespective of whether the market is a viable arena for confronting them. As a result, these "solutions" are increasingly proving to be anything but. The imprint of green capitalism can be seen in everything from a fixation on carbon markets to the proliferation of ideas like "ecosystem services" and "natural capital", which seek to divide ecosystems into discrete "stocks" that provide services to the economy. By this logic, a whale is valuable insofar as it captures carbon and impresses tourists.



Shailaja Bajpai

If you watch television news, you will learn about 'Satya and Satyagraha' (India TV) as Congress president Sonia Gandhi is questioned by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the party holds protests across the country. You'll hear lots about the 'Bengal Cash Haul', in which Trinamool Congress minister Partha Chatterjee and his assistant Arpita Mukherjee were 'grilled together' by the West Bengal Police - rather like, er, fish, perhaps? (Republic TV). And you will find yourself riveted (ha ha!) by how the 'CM Kejriwal-LG Saga' explodes (CNN-News18) after Delhi's ruling duo clash on several issues - including the CM not attending an official function because Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photograph was added to the posters - and Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia being investigated for irregularities in Delhi's new liquor excise policy. 'Sharaab Policy Pe Sawaal' as Zee News put it -

why does 'sharaab' always sound more criminal and distasteful than 'liquor'? These three stories almost overshadowed the 'most glorious', 'majestic journey' of newly elected President Droupadi Murmu from a village to the Rashtrapati Bhavan for a 'historic' swearing-in ceremony on Monday. 'Historic' was the favourite adjective for most news channels to describe her elevation to the highest office in India. News 24 offered 'History in the Making' as a variation. It was a 'majestic' show, start to finish, and really worth watching. Also, we heard from the President, so opposition leaders like Rashtriya Janata Dal's Tejashwi Yadav can stop being rude about Murmu's silence. There was a guided tour of the Rashtrapati Bhavan on several channels, including Aaj Tak, where newly appointed anchor Sudhir Chaudhary did the honours. Yes, Zee News's 9 pm DNA show stalwart has left the channel. He looks just a little more restrained in his manner so far, but that could be just

nothing. It's been that odd kind of a week where we haven't seen much of the PM or the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), for a change. Instead, the Indian media has trained its attention and ammunition on the three opposition parties that rule five states (two by the Congress, another two by the Aam Aadmi Party, and one by the TMC). While Sonia Gandhi's questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the suspension of 19 opposition MPs in the Rajya Sabha dominated television channels on Tuesday, it was the TMC that got the most coverage over the last few days with AAP getting a look-in on all days. The main political opponents of the BJP, at least in the north, have been targeted by television news. Bengal's SSC Scam' (CNN-News18) got the widest and most concentrated coverage. Not only did we see the hapless Partha (as every channel called him) in his wheelchair with sensational headlines like 'Foul Stench of Corruption' (Times Now), but we also saw withering observations about how Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was not taking his calls in the 'Super Bengal Investigation' on Republic TV that led it to a 'black diary', which has a 'money collection list' in the

school teacher recruitment scam. Remember, Republic has a Bengali channel too, so it can put much more effort into it. Mamata Banerjee and the TMC in Bengal have been the regular target practice of the BJP and the news channels since they returned to power in the state in 2021. Not a day goes by - okay, occasionally, one does go by - without them being on a news channel. And, for the wrong reasons. Ever since the AAP won the assembly elections in Punjab earlier this year, it has joined the TMC on the news, which, again, is largely negative - especially about its performance thus far in Punjab. Arvind Kejriwal gets more coverage, after Mamata, of course, than any other chief minister probably because he is Delhi's CM. Thus, his public videotaped messages also get telecast by news channels. The murder of musician Sidhu Moose Wala and the subsequent effort to discover his killers has been the focus of Punjab coverage on TV. The other odd highlight is the constant appearance of Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann in a promotional video across all channels, and that too, frequently. Does he really need this kind of publicity? Manish Sisodia's alleged perfidy in the liquor excise policy and Kejriwal's non-appearance at a function in Delhi excited everyone over the weekend. On Monday, the

BJP's protests over 'sharaab' took over. Tuesday/Wednesday saw 'High Hungama' (CNN-News18) at Congress headquarters - what does 'high hungama' mean, anyway? And in the day, we were treated to the coverage of Sonia Gandhi's car leaving her residence, arriving at the ED office in Delhi - a long stretch of a road was all that we could see. We haven't actually seen Sonia Gandhi unless footage of her vehicle's window counts as catching sight of her. Then there was Rahul Gandhi on 'dharna' and the Congress' clashes with the Delhi Police - 'Cong Workers on the Rampage', said CNN-News18. A video showing Congress workers, including Indian Youth Congress president B. V. Srinivas, getting roughed up by the Delhi Police, however, didn't feature much, if at all, in the coverage. The suspension of 19 Opposition MPs was in focus much of Tuesday afternoon and the 'inside scoop' on how Sonia Gandhi was asked '35 questions' by the ED on Day 2 (CNN-News18). Curious, how the 'questioning' of individuals by the ED is always available to the media like a dollop of ice cream at a parlour. Much the same thing happened the last time Sonia Gandhi was questioned, so we knew what to expect. Wednesday began on the same note with most channels following her vehicles as they left the ED office.

The most crushing thing about getting Covid so late? Knowing I'm not a medical marvel

Two lines? Really? There must be some mistake. This was what went through my head last week, on seeing my first positive lateral flow test. Ah, maybe it's a duff test, I thought, sitting at the foot of my bed feeling slightly shocked but otherwise absolutely fine and symptomless. So I did another one. That was positive, too, the line next to the little T so thick and vibrant it seemed to be animated on the test strip. Would a third be wasteful? And seeing as I believed every negative test to be accurate, why should the positive be so much less trustworthy? The further proof I craved arrived over the next four or five hours, as I proceeded to feel increasingly dreadful. My God, the aches! The fever! And during a heatwave, as well.



The humanity! Until last week I was among the 15% of people in England who had never had Covid - despite, thankfully, not being in a clinically vulnerable group of people who have needed to shield and stay

Covid-free. According to UK Health Security Agency figures released last week, people like me are accounting for about 55% of cases in the current

Andy Welch

Covid wave, driven by the BA.4 and BA.5 subvariants of Omicron. I was hardly unsympathetic to those around me who had got Covid. It's difficult to downplay an illness like this one after all we've seen and the lives that have been lost. As a result, I was slightly terrified of catching it, but there's nothing like a bit of first-hand experience to offer fresh insight. Turns out, it's quite bad. Not that anyone really cared at this late stage. "Such a shame for you that you'll get no sympathy because you're two years out of date," replied one friend when I messaged to say I had tested positive. "I'm sure you feel bad, but it simply doesn't matter any more." In fact, it was far more noteworthy to my nearest and dearest that I'd finally caught the virus after so many close shaves. My girlfriend has had it (twice), my housemate, too (twice), not to mention all the colleagues I had spent days alongside before they fell ill and the friends I had seen the day before they reported a positive case. Like so many people, I took numerous precautions during the pandemic to minimise exposure, and have continued with some of these now that restrictions have all but vanished. I cycle to work whenever possible, and until very recently wore a mask on public transport. I do, however, go to the pub, to restaurants, to the cinema

and attend more gigs than I did before the pandemic. After a miserable old time, I reasoned that catching Covid was the cost of doing business - better enjoy life and get ill than stay locked away but virus-free. I have long realised how lucky I am to be able to think that way, but as variants came and went, new wave led to new wave and my life got back to sort of normal, the negative tests kept on coming. I had very mixed feelings about my positive test, not least because I had been due to visit friends in Norway and had to cancel the trip, but it also put paid to my theory about potentially being a global saviour. The longer my apparent immunity went on, the more I daydreamed that my DNA was key to creating a worldwide super-vaccine. But no, turns out I'm just like almost everybody else. Even Joe Biden. So last week, as well as the Covid symptoms and an accompanying chest infection, I had to deal with that rather abrupt comedown soothed only by the occasional medicinal Calippo delivered to my door by a kindly neighbour. The realisation was rather hammered home by watching a week of superhuman exploits at the athletics world championships. Now that I'm back to earth and back in work, mixed in with the disappointment and the bruised ego invented for comedic effect I'm left with a peculiar feeling that I can't quite put my finger on. Perhaps it's relief that I've finally got Covid out of the way? No more wondering what it's like. Climate emergency notwithstanding, the defining story of my age has been raging on since spring 2020, and I've finally taken part - if you can call lying in bed, sweating and coughing, taking part. And perhaps it's just gratitude - that I am now emerging seemingly unscathed, thanks no doubt to the genius of the vaccine and my prior decent health. More than 200,000 people in the UK weren't as lucky, and in my darker moments last week, I thought about them a lot.



Kashwini Dutta, Class VIII, Brahmaputra Valley Academy High School North Lakhimpur



Kridoy Koushik Gogoi, Class V, St Mary's H. School, Lakhimpur

QUIZ

- Q.1- How many primary colors are there?
Ans-
Q.2- What do you call a house made of ice?
Ans-
Q.3- Which festival is called the festival of light?
Ans-
Q.4- Who is the power minister of Assam?
Ans-
Q.5- How many medical colleges are there in Assam?
Ans-

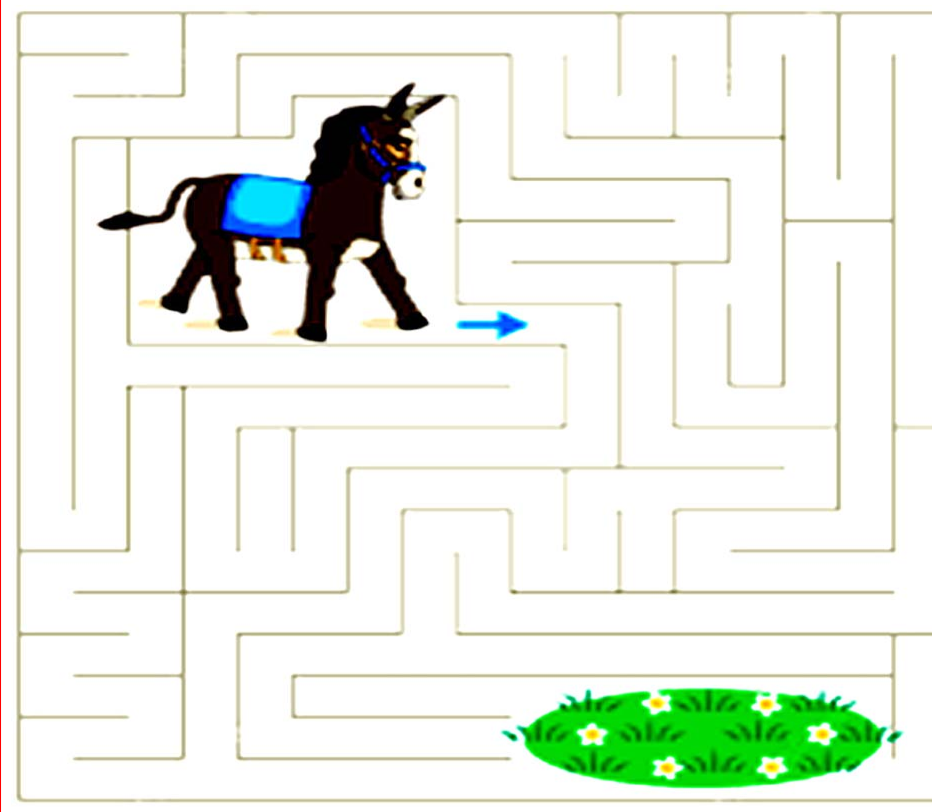
Those who will give all the 5 correct answers, his/her name and photo will be published next week. You can send your answers to: assamrising@gmail.com

Last week quiz Answers IPL stands for Indian Premier League, hockey, 6 Players, Thailand, Zoo (also called zoological garden or zoological park)

Home work : Fill the picture with colour



Help the Donkey to find his way to the Pasture



The History of Greeting Cards



The history of greeting cards from their early Chinese and Egyptian origins to Europe and the U.S. The history of greeting cards dates back to the ancient Chinese who exchanged messages of goodwill to celebrate a New Year, and to early Egyptians who used papyrus scrolls to send greetings. Key dates in greeting card history include:

1400's: Europeans begin selling and exchanging hand-made greeting cards, including Valentine's Day cards (1415)

1775: Members of the Second Continental Congress appoint a Postmaster General for the United Colonies, creating the U.S. Post Office Department (predecessor to the United States Postal Service – USPS) on July 26. The USPS is the second oldest federal department or agency in the U.S.

1800's: Valentine's cards become popular and affordable; the Penny Post debuts.

1840: Postage stamp is introduced.

1843: First known Christmas card is published in London when Sir Henry Cole hires artist John Calcott Horsley to design a holiday card for his friends.

1849: Esther Howland becomes the first regular publisher of valentines in the U.S. and sells her first handmade Valentine. Howland establishes a successful publishing firm specializing in elaborately decorated cards.

1856: German immigrant Louis Prang opens a small lithographic business near Boston, and America's greeting card industry begins. The GCA recognizes the Father of the American Christmas Card with its annual LOUIE Awards, the definitive competition of the greeting card and social expression industry.

1866: By this time, Prang perfected the color lithographic process, as shown in his reproductions of famous paintings, surpassing the quality produced by craftsmen in the U.S. and England.

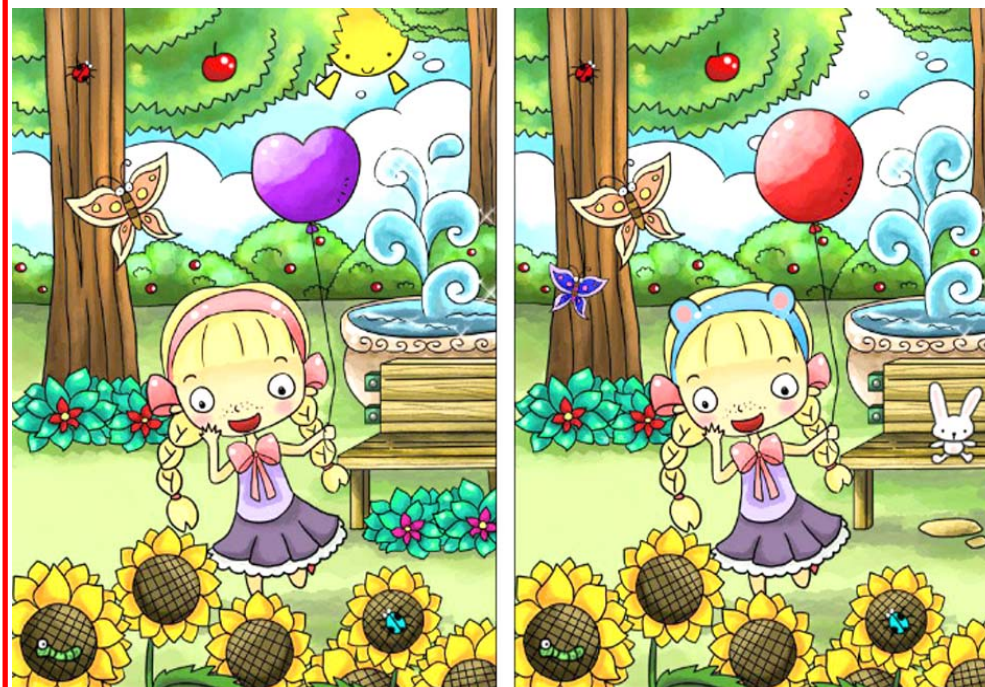
1870s (early): Prang publishes deluxe editions of Christmas cards, sold mainly in England.

1875: Prang introduces the first complete line of Christmas cards in America.

1941: A small group of publishers, under the leadership of George Burkhardt of Burkhardt-Warner, established the Greeting Card Industry, predecessor of today's Greeting Card Association.

1943: The association cooperated with the Post Office, later to become the United States Postal Service, on the first "Mail Early" Christmas campaign.

FIND OUT 6 DIFFERENCES



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations! **Durlav Dhar** for answering all five correct answers of last week's quiz. **Durlav** is a student of Class V of **Don Bosco School, Dibrugarh**. We wish you success in future.



Kridoy Koushik Gogoi, Class V, St Mary's High School, Lakhimpur



Afsana Hassan, Class IV, St. Mary's High School, Lakhimpur

Unlucky face

There was an young man named Mohan whom everyone thought to be very unlucky. They avoided him and misbehaved with him. Everybody thought that they would meet bad luck during the day if they saw Mohan's face in the morning.

Akbar also heard about Mohan and felt sympathy for him. One day, he ordered Mohan to come to the court in order to test of himself. Mohan came next morning. Akbar met him and began talking kindly to him. Just then, a man rushed in and said, "My Lord, the queen has taken ill."

Akbar at once went inside the palace asking Mohan to wait. The queen was really very ill. The royal physician gave her medicine. The emperor sat beside the bed till the afternoon.

A servant came and informed the emperor that his lunch was ready. Akbar felt hungry but he found the food was tasteless and cold. Being very much angry, he left the food without eating a piece of them.

When he saw Mohan waiting for him in the court, he, too thought him to be unlucky. So, at once ordered his guards to put Mohan in prison. Birbal witnessed what happened to Mohan. He felt very sorry for the helpless young man. He took Mohan aside and whispered a few suggestion in his ear.

In the meantime, Akbar had eaten fresh lunch prepared again for him. He was in a good mood. But he got angry when he saw that the jailor brought Mohan in front of him.

"My Lord", said Mohan, "You have sent me in prison because you think my face is unlucky. What do you say to my question that your face has brought imprisonment for me?"

Akbar thought for a while and then began to laugh loudly, "You are right, young man", said Akbar, "I will surely spare you and I can guess from whom you have got such idea."

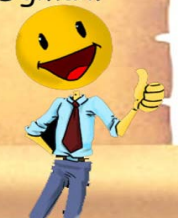
So Mohan was set free with some gifts. Later, Akbar thanked Birbal for checking him in right time when the emperor was about to do wrong. Birbal too felt happy and laughed.

Dear Bhaity, Bhonti,

I came across a powerful quote by Herbert Hoover- the 31st President of the United States. He wrote — "Children are our most valuable resource." You all have equal power, talent, Knowledge and ability, but it depends upon how, where and why you utilize your skill and talent. Knowledge without action is meaningless. Be positive, think positive and do your duty honestly. Always mind it- failure is not the opposite of success. It is part of success. With love, as always, You can contact me on : assamrising@gmail.com



Your
Abhi mama.



Contd. From Page 1



2 helicopters launched by NASA

Arizona State University's Meenakshi Wadhwa, chief scientist for the retrieval effort. "There's a diversity of materials already in the bag, so to speak, and really excited about the potential for bringing these back," she said. If Perseverance breaks down, the two helicopters being built and launched later this decade would load the samples onto the rocket instead. The helicopters will be modelled after NASA's successful Ingenuity, which has made 29 flights since arriving with Perseverance at Mars early last year. The chopper weighs just 4 pounds (1.8 kilograms). The new versions would have wheels and grappling arms. NASA officials said Perseverance's impressive performance at Mars prompted them to ditch their plan to launch a separate fetch rover. Jeff Gramling, director of NASA's Mars sample return program, said the revised path forward is simpler. Each helicopter will be designed to lift one sample tube at a time, making multiple trips back and forth. "We have confidence that we can count on Perseverance to bring the samples back and we've added the helicopters as a backup means," Gramling said. NASA is collaborating with the European Space Agency on the retrieval mission. If all goes as planned, as many as 30 samples would blast off from Mars in 2031 and arrive at Earth in 2033. Lab analysis is needed to see whether any sample holds signs of microbial life that may have existed on Mars billions of years ago when water flowed on the planet. As for the grounded ExoMars rover, it cannot be refashioned to help retrieve these samples, said David Parker, director of human and robotic exploration for ESA. It was returned to storage after Russia and Europe cut ties with the project because of the war in Ukraine. Russia was supposed to provide the rocket ride. "A decision on when the rover still can launch to Mars later this decade won't come until late fall," Parker said.

Shiva Thapa notches 5-0 win

Commonwealth Games campaign on a rousing note by defeating Pakistan's Suleman Baloch in the first round of the 63.5kg category, here on Friday. The 28-year-old Thapa hardly broke a sweat as he registered a comprehensive 5-0 win over Baloch to move to the pre-quarterfinals of the light welter weight. Thapa, five-time Asian Championship medallist, was technically far superior to Baloch and landed a flurry of sharp punches on his opponent. The former world championship bronze medallist also defended well as he danced around the ring with ease. At one point, Baloch lunged forward to punch the Indian but Thapa effortlessly moved out of the way as the Pakistan boxer fell on the canvas.

CM Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurates

which will be sent to their banks and recorded for the next one year. CM Sarma further says, Assam cabinet has taken few decisions regarding the education department of the state. From class 3 onwards, in government schools of Assam, Science and mathematics will be taught through English textbooks. A survey was conducted in Assam where it was found that in All India examinations such as in Engineering and Medical, the number of students occupying the seats is very less. After independence, only 25% from Assam could be seen making it to IAS officers. He added, even though the textbook will be in English, the Assamese or other regional language will be written in brackets for better understanding. The next decision taken in the Assam cabinet is there will be no girls or boys school. From now on all schools will be converted into co-ed excluding few schools that were established years ago if they wish to. The schools which were established in last 2-3 decades will be converted to co-ed schools.

Assam Cabinet approves

schools would be identified in every district to introduce this, and the number would be increased gradually after assessing the outcomes. Apart from these, the Assam Cabinet has also come up with other decisions. It has decided that from the academic year 2023, Mathematics and Science subjects will be taught in English in all government, provincialised Assamese and other vernacular medium schools. The decision would apply from class 3 itself. In addition to this, Assam schools curriculum would also witness another change. The cabinet has decided that Geography and History would replace Social Studies as compulsory subjects. The actual implementation of all these moves is yet to be seen.

Assam Govt to Convert Girls-Only

Assamese medium schools mostly run by the state government are in dilapidated condition, a section of the academia has welcomed the decision of introducing history and geography as mandatory subjects in the school curriculum. Dr Kamal Kumar Tanti an eminent poet of the state expressing his views on social media said he welcomed the amalgamation of gender-specific schools and the introduction of history and geography in the curriculum. He, however, is a bit apprehensive about the syllabus of history. He also termed the decision to teach mathematics and science in English very timely. Writer Phanindra Devchoudhury also expressed his displeasure in social media. Former Professor in Shillong based North East Hill University Apurba Kumar Baruah has also turned to social media to express his views. He said the meaning of this policy is abolishing teaching in the Assamese medium; also there is a deficit of infrastructure in schools to teach in the dual medium. He further said while preparing the curriculum of history if the past glory is distorted, Assam will have the same fate as Pakistan. He however has welcomed the decision of clubbing of gender-specific schools.

Karnataka government to hand over BJP youth wing leader's murder case to NIA

Bengaluru, July 29 : The Karnataka government led by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Friday decided to hand over the Praveen Nettiuru murder case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, Bommai said that his government had decided to hand over the case related to the killing of the BJP worker Nettiuru to the NIA. He said that the state government was taking several other measures to ensure a robust law and order situation across districts. "A high-level meeting would be held today with top police officials with regard to taking some strong measures in the coastal region including Dakshina Kannada and Udupi. The meeting would look into issues like vigil at 55 roads connecting the Kerala border and other aspects. We will discuss taking some tough decisions," he added. Bommai said that during the visit to Nettiuru's home, he had come to know about the killing of another youth. Overall, the police is looking at three such cases. "The state government has taken all 3 cases of killing very seriously. For us, the life of every person is important. Investigation is on. Such acts should not happen. There is also political instigation from anti-social forces. There are multiple dimensions to these incidents. We are taking stringent measures to control all these," Bommai added. Further talking about the other killings in the state he informed, "Killers of Masood have been arrested.

CM dedicates 65th Centralised Kitchen of Akshaya Patra Guwahati

Guwahati, July 29: Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today dedicated the 65th Akshaya Patra Foundation's centralized kitchen at a solemn function held at Jorhat. On this occasion besides visiting and inspecting the kitchen, the Chief Minister had lunch with the students. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma besides hailing the Akshaya Patra Foundation for providing the nutritious lunch to lakhs of students, said that he himself felt happy to have inaugurated the 65th kitchen of the foundation in Jorhat. Built at the cost of Rs. 14 crore this kitchen can serve mid day meal to 12 thousand students from 157 schools at the initial stage. Subsequently nearly 30 thousand students will be benefitted from this kitchen. Dr. Sarma also said that State government would give Rs. 14 crore to Akshaya Patra Foundation for construction of a kitchen in Majuli. He also announced that the Education Department would enter into a understanding for constructing nine such kitchens in nine places of the state. He also said that around 10 lakh students across the state will be brought under the nutritious mid day meal service of the foundation in the near future. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also said that to lend strength to the education system of the state, government has taken several initiatives. As one of the initiatives, State government to help the students of Assam to fair well in the all India medical and engineering entrance test, has decided to use English as the medium of instruction to teach Mathematics and Science. Similarly replacing Social Studies, government will introduce Geography and History in the curriculum. He also said that studying the feasibility of infrastructure including teachers, steps will be taken to introduce English as the medium of instruction along with the existing Assamese and vernacular languages in government schools. On the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also paid rich floral tributes to Swami Sri Prabhupada the founder of ISKCON popularly known as Hare Krishna Movement. Education Minister Dr. Ranajit Pegu, MLA Hitenra Nath Goswami along with others also spoke on the occasion. MLAs Bhabendranath Bharali, Rupjyoti Kurmi, President of Akshaya Patra Foundation Bharatsabha Dasa, President North East Akshaya Patra Foundation Janardan Dasa, Vice President of Akshaya Patra Foundation Chanchalapati Dasa, Managing Director NRL Bhaskarjyoti Phukan, DC Jorhat Ashok Barman and host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Wushu players felicitated by Biswanath administration



Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, July 29: The Wushu players from Biswanath district who bring laurels to Biswanath district by winning 31 medals in the recently concluded Assam Youth Olympic -2022 were felicitated by Biswanath district administration today. The coach of Biswanath district Wushu Association Padma Zairo, team manager Lohit Patar along with 18 players met the deputy commissioner at his office today. The Biswanath Wushu team managed to win 31 medals including 9 gold, 11 silver and 11 bronze in total. Biswanath DC Munindra Nath Nagatey felicitated the players along with coach and team manager. It was attended by Biswajit Saikia, ADC and DIPRO (in charge) beside guardians and others.

District Level Monitoring Committee meeting held



Aalo, July 29 : The second DLMC meeting was held at Aalo on 29th July 2022 under the Chairmanship of Shri Penga Tato Deputy Commissioner West Siang. Shri Marjum Karga DPO Aalo welcoming all the panchayat Leaders and HODs of work/ Department to present their ongoing and completed schemes in details. The meeting was attended by Sri Babom Romin ZPC West Siang, ZPMs. ADC Kamba Sri Rujum Raksap, Sri Hento Karga ADC Yomcha, Sri Kento Ete Ex Minister. Erstwhile the DLMC was conducted on Quarterly basis but recently the XIV e-pragati meeting Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh decided to conduct DLMC meeting in monthly basis. While appreciating all the HoDs of work department and observations of Panchayat Leaders, Mr. Babom Romin request all publics and administration to support for the cause of the society. He request the State Government to consider the proposal for improvement of road from Yomcha to Liromoba under central road and infrastructure fund (CRIF), by observing the vital importance of the road, Sri Kiran Rijiju Local MP cum Union Minister, Law & Justice Govt. of India request the State Govt. to consider the vital road project for current financial year 2022-2023. This proposed road if completed will reduced the travel distance of 60 km up to Lusi village. He also request the Power and PHED department to depute an officials in every colony for their grievances. Further he request the authority of Trans Arunachal Highway Package 9 for improvement of Pangin to Lokpeng road under Siang District which is required immediate restoration for Vehicles. All the PMGSY road of West Siang must be upto the satisfactory level and request the RWD department not to compromise the quality of PMGSY road of West Siang. Romin also urged all the executing department to present the status report of the concern project to Panchayat Level also. During the Day long meeting ZPMs of West Siang District request the Chairman of the DLMC to handover one copy of particular schemes which comes under their Jurisdiction so as to monitor the project in better ways. Sri Hento Karga ADC Yomcha and Sri Rujum Raksap ADC Kamba in a one voice request all the Head of work implementing Department to obtain an administrative clearance before sending the particular schemes which if not done creates hurdles and legal complicity. Deputy Commissioner Sri Penga Tato urged the implementing work agency to involve the administrative officer during the preparation and survey of any schemes/ project. Tato also appealed the people of West Siang not to expect for land compensation for the cause of development. DC also direct the administrative officers of circle level to conduct circle level monitoring committee (CLMC). He observed that during the DLMC meeting some HoDs are found absent. He reminded the absentee HoDs to present during the next meeting and informed all the Head of Office & Head of Department not to leave the station without informing him he stated.

Bijli Mahotsav concluded at Kamba

Assam Rising, Aalo, July 29: The Ujjwal Bharat, Ujjwal Bhavishya/Bhijli Mahotsav under Azaadi ka Amrut Mahotsav (AKAM) concluded at Kamba, TKBC Ruyi, Kamba West Siang Arunachal Pradesh. During the concluding day Babom Romin Zila Chairperson



West Siang was the Chief Guest and Minba Raksap ZPM was the Guest of Honour. The Ujjwal Bharat and Ujjwal Bhavishya power @ 2047 was jointly organized by the General Administration and Department of Power, APEDA, NHPC and HydroPower department. ADC Kamba Rujum Raksap and Jumyir Ronya EAC arranged the whole programme. ADC Rujum Raksap welcomed all the participants during the day. Minba Raksap ZPM as a Guest of Honour appeals to the public of the 27th Liromoba Assembly. Constituency to save the energy and judiciously use the Energy Sri Ukka potom Assistant Manager NHPC highlighted about the programme. Babom Romin ZPC as a Chief Guest requested the Public of 27 Liromoba to work for the overall development of 27 Liromoba Assembly Constituency. He recalled the contribution made by Lijum Ronya, former Minister and Lt. Jarbom Gamlin Ex. Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh as a Leader of the Constituency. As of now Liromoba Constituency is one of the fastest Growing Assembly Constituencies of Arunachal Pradesh under the leadership of Nyamar Karbak HMLA cum adviser to Home, Tax and Excise Narcotics, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh. Er. Kenli Tassar EE Power, Officers from APEDA, Hokto Ete AE HPD, Er. S. Yomcha APEDA, ZPMs from Liromoba AC, Public, Students, Lecturers from DPG College attended the programme. Damli Niri ZPM Thanked all the participants.

Career counseling held at Sootea

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, July 28: A day-long programme on career counseling convened by Istantik, a socio-cultural and educational organization of the greater Sootea area was held at the conference hall of Gyan Vikash Academy, Sootea today. More than three hundred students from Bhaskar Jyoti Adarsha Vidyapeeth, Sootea Academy and Gyan Vikash Academy participated in the event. Hiranya Bora, nodal officer of Jal Jeevan Mission, North East graced the career counseling programme as a resource person. Notably, Hiranya Bora, a proud son of Sootea had joined the Cotton College as assistant professor in 1985 and later on he had cleared the ISS (Indian Statistical Service) examination and served in various states of India. He was promoted as deputy director of Staff Selection Commission (1995-98) and as the first non-judicial member of National Court Management (2013-16). In addition to this he has authored more than 15 valuable books and 200 E-books. Addressing the students, Bora motivated students to read seriously and advised them to appear in competitive examinations. Pankaj Jyoti Bhuyan, secretary of Istantik Club conducted the proceedings which was attended by conscious people of the area, guardians.

Two youths arrested in Pengeri on suspicion of ULFA (I) link man

People protest against the arrest of two youths at Pengeri police station

The Assam Rising, Margherita July 29 :



Convocation Independence Day. The entire country will celebrate the 75th Independence Day on August 15. Assam police have put up a tight security fence to prevent miscreants from causing any kind of stabbing ahead of Independence Day. Looking at ULFA's latest speed rules, the possibility of alpha independent scolding in Tinsukia district cannot be ruled out. So the police have tightened security in different parts of the district as well as in the interior areas of Margherita. The Pengeri police on Thursday arrested two youths from Tarani village under Pengeri police station and took ULFA (I) to the police station on suspicion of help. Police have accused the two youths of assisting ULFA independent cadres. On the other hand local villagers claimed it as youths were innocent. Hundreds of local women staged a long-time protest at the Premises of Pengeri police station on Wednesday afternoon in the demand that released two youths. However, the people calmed down and raised the protest after the police informed the public that they had been detained for questioning and said they would be released if they were innocent. Arrested youths on suspicion of ULFA (I) linkman, Diful Maran and Jitu Maran, respectively, in Tarani village under Pengeri police station. Two detained ULFA (I) linkmen are Diphul Maran and Jitu Maran. Both houses in Tarani village under Pengeri police station.

Training program on Updated Legal Provision of E-Roll and Demonstration held.

Aalo, July 29 : The District Election office held a one day programme on updated Legal Provision of E-Roll and Demonstration- changes in it processes/ ERONET to the EROs, AEROs, BLOs and Dealing Assistant of West Siang District was held. The training was conducted by Smt. Koj Yabyang EAC Election Aalo. During the training Sri Penga Tato Deputy Commissioner cum District Election Officer advised the AERO's, ERO's, BLO's and dealing Assistant to deal the election matter error free. He told in detail the process of election matter. Miss Jumyir Ronya EAC Kamba cum Dist. Level Master Trainer (DLMT) presented the Garuda app in Power Point presentation (ppt). The changes of Election law and Adhaar card to E-Roll etc. will come into force from 1st August 2022. During the training Legal Provisions, Registration of Election rule 1967, Statutory forms for Election preparation and Amendment 2022 relating to E-Roll etc. was imparted. EROs and AEROs from Lower Siang, Leparada and West Siang District attended the election training.



Sebastian Vettel reveals climate crisis fears influenced his F1 retirement



London, July 29 : The four-time Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel has announced he will retire at the end of this season. The 35-year-old admitted that his concerns over the climate emergency and F1's role as a contributor to the problem played a part in his decision-making process and that he was "scared" at what the future might hold for him. Vettel is currently driving for Aston Martin and made

his F1 debut in 2007. He became the sport's youngest world champion when he took his first title at 23 years and 134 days old, and has amassed 53 wins. He took four consecutive titles for Red Bull between 2010 and 2013. In recent years, Vettel has been increasingly outspoken on environmental and social issues. He has of late expressed his ambivalence at competing in F1, a sport that has an enormous carbon footprint because of the air travel involved. He noted a combination of factors had inspired his decision, including wanting to spend more time with his family and to be with his three children as they grow up, but also an interest in other issues outside F1 that had become of increasing importance to him. "I know how intense this job is and how much

dedication goes into this and if you do this I am convinced you have to do it the right way," he said in Budapest before this weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix. "But also physically time away from home, from kids and family. I have [also] grown other interests and views and I can't ignore these voices." He has been vocal on environmental issues in the past and specifically cited the climate emergency as a factor in making his mind up. "Obviously, travelling the world, racing cars and burning resources, literally, are things that I cannot look away from," he said. "Once I think you see these things and you are aware, I don't think you can really unsee it. When it comes to the climate crisis, there is no way that F1 or any sport or business can avoid it, because it impacts all of us.

Rilee Rossouw hits 96 as South Africa win and level T20 series against England

London, July 29 : South Africa levelled the series with a mighty 58-run victory over England in Cardiff on a night of glorious rediscovery for the tourists, for whom both Rilee Rossouw and the ability to catch returned in phenomenal style. The Proteas' defeat in Wednesday's opening fixture in Bristol was marked by some hapless fielding but here they were almost faultless. Their improvement was not confined to catching but nevertheless not a single genuine chance went unscuffed, with Keshav Maharaj providing the highlight with a fabulous diving grab to dismiss Moeen Ali, leaving England's score at 88 for four and their chances at minimal. Several bowlers emerged in significant credit including Tabraiz Shamsi, who leaked 49 runs in three

wicketless overs the previous evening and took three for 27 off four here. But if they sealed the deal in the field it was with the bat that South Africa built the platform. Rossouw, 32, was instrumental in that effort. For the last six years he has wandered, entirely voluntarily, in the international wilderness. This series marks his first appearance in the South Africa side since taking a Kolpak contract at Hampshire and leaving his homeland in acrimony in 2016 and he showed what they have been missing in the intervening period - and what they have now gained as they move towards October's T20 World Cup. He finished unbeaten on 96 having faced 55 deliveries, marooned short of his century thanks to a superb final over from Chris Jordan, which cost just four runs. "To put in a



performance like that for my country is special for me," Rossouw said. "Since Brexit happened I've put in some really good performances and the management has backed me and selected me. Representing your country is the proudest thing anyone can do and today was emotional for me." Though Quinton de Kock fell early, South Africa eased their way into the middle overs without great drama or further loss. Reeza Hendricks instantly rediscovered the form that brought him a half-century in Bristol while at this point Rossouw simply tried to keep pace. Hendricks eventually fell to an excellent catch from Jonny Bairstow after scoring 53 off 32. Though his innings contained two sixes his final shot was the furthest he hit the ball all evening, but it flew towards the most distant point on the longest boundary and did not quite travel far enough. Rossouw reacted to the end of their 73-run partnership as if

personally affronted, hitting 36 off his next 16 deliveries despite spearing one of them into the underside of his own chin. First Heinrich Klaasen and then Tristan Stubbs watched him go from the other end, the latter kept under a measure of control after Wednesday's fireworks. England's innings was not one they will want to linger on, but along the way Jos Buttler demonstrated the first clear difference between his captaincy and that of his predecessor, Eoin Morgan. He promoted Moeen once again, the all-rounder coming in after Dawid Malan fell for just five, and was himself replaced by Sam Curran, left-hander following left-hander as Buttler prioritised contrasting partnerships over notional batting order. But Curran only lasted three balls, at which point England ran out of left-handers and their innings entered a terminal tailspin. It had started promisingly, with Buttler unleashing a

succession of brutal blows. But as on Wednesday his stay at the crease was brief, and having scored 29 off 14 he spooned an Andile Phehlukwayo delivery into the sky and Hendricks collected the ball on its way down. On an unedifying evening for the home side only one Englishman outscored their captain and that was by only one run - inevitably it was Bairstow, who hit 30 off 21 before falling to another outstanding catch, this time from Lungi Ngidi. The result tees up what will be a decider in Southampton on Sunday, with England desperate to round off a frantic white-ball summer in positive style. "You want to win every series you play," Buttler said. "We haven't won one yet this summer and that's something we're not accustomed to as a group, but this is the start of a new cycle as a team. We're still working ourselves out and gelling and we need to do that quickly. Winning a series would be great for that."

Chess: Magnus Carlsen in Olympiad action as world No 1 targets record rating

Paris, July 29 : Magnus Carlsen, newly retired from world title matches, is in Chennai this weekend for Friday's opening round of the 186-nation Olympiad, where, due to Carlsen's elevated rating, Norway are the No 3 seeds behind the US and India. Round one Olympiad pairings (selected): Angola v USA, India v Zimbabwe, Lebanon v Norway, Spain v Wales, England v Cyprus. Women: Tajikistan v India, Ukraine v South Africa, Iraq v Georgia, Libya v England. For full pairings, view chess-results.com. The five-times champion has underperformed in previous Olympiads, and India, with four fast rising teenage grandmasters, seem more likely bronze medallists. Games are live and free to watch online from 10.30am daily. Carlsen will aim for the individual top board gold and a boost to his new ambition of a world record 2900 rating. Earlier, Carlsen won six blitz games in a row at the Zagreb leg of the US-backed Grand Tour, his first event since his announcement that he would not defend his crown in 2023. His surge was checked on the final day when he lost his last two, including one to Alireza Firouzja, the 19-year-old who he has identified as a future rival. After going clear, Carlsen ended up with a 22.5/36 total and edged first prize by half a point. As ever, his comments were objective and self-critical: "I

felt my play was pretty shaky throughout most of the day, but I won a bunch of these very nervy time-trouble duels where nobody really knew what was going on". The Norwegian, 31, holds the Tour record of 27/36 points, achieved at Kolkata 2019, along with several other high totals. Carlsen's chess future is still unclear. His plan after giving up his crown is to aim for a record 2900 rating, a stratospheric level which he has twice missed by fewer than 20 points. If, freed of the drudgery of match prep, he could now unleash his full creative powers and achieve the chess Everest within a year or two, that would surely cement his status as the clear all-time No 1 ahead of Garry Kasparov. In reality, the technical and personal obstacles are significant. The online rapid/blitz Tour is a major diversion of his energy from over-the-board classical chess. For 2900,



he needs what he has been missing recently, consistent 75% totals and sustained winning runs against 2790 opponents. The classical calendar is smaller than it was, and two of what used to be his best events, Shamkir and the Grenke Classic, have ceased. His ratings chart for the past decade is a 2850 plateau, with peaks and dips 25

points or so either side. Long ago, Alexander Alekhine dominated his rivals in 1930-31, Bobby Fischer crushed them in 1970-71, and Garry Kasparov reached his peak of 2851 in 1999. In 1999-2002, Kasparov played 10 classical super tournaments, won nine of them, tied first in the other, and lost once in 115 games. Those exceptional

performances were all achieved before the current era of super-computers and of opening prep deep into the middle game, so 2900 for Carlsen could legitimately be claimed as a modern equivalent at a higher, more sophisticated level. The question is whether, after achieving so much, his ambition still really burns bright. A decade ago, in his early 20s, he was often asked how long he would continue, and his reply was to the effect that he would not be like Kasparov or Anatoly Karpov, who continued to seek success in their 40s. If his new attempt at 2900 stalls, then gradually winding down and playing more poker and pedal tennis may start to seem attractive. Carlsen is well known to prefer a world championship format where rapid, blitz, and even one-minute bullet play a part, with the aim to find the best all-round competitor rather than the best at slow classical chess.

French and Marshall score hat-tricks as Wigan blow away weakened Hull KR

Paris, July 29 : This result was far from a season-defining one for Hull KR, but the ramifications for them and Super League as a whole could be felt in the coming weeks. The competition is sleepwalking towards a player welfare crisis as the end of the regular season approaches, epitomised by an injury situation at Rovers that left them with little chance of success here. The result, which ultimately

strengthened Wigan's grip on second place, was decided long before half-time. The Warriors were professional and clinical where it mattered, but against a Hull KR side that started without 16 first-team regulars before losing another four during the match, they were more than strong enough to get the job done. Blake Ferguson says he was close to retirement from rugby league before he got a call from Championship club Leigh Centurions. However, there is a more pertinent issue than the two competition points. In a frantic bid to finish the Super League season earlier than usual, clubs will be asked to play twice across the August bank holiday weekend, meaning three games in the span of barely more than a week - and at a



time of the year when players have already had to deal with one double-header weekend at Easter, as well as mounting injury lists across the competition. That does not exactly sit in line with the sport's constant proclamations that it is a leader in player welfare. If anything it suggests the opposite, and you can only begin to wonder what sort of lineup a club with injury issues such as Hull KR will be able to field in the weeks ahead. They are not the only team battling such issues but credit must go to Rovers who, despite being well beaten and seeing their playoff hopes take a hit, battled gamely in the face of adversity.

England and Germany set to show 13 years of progress in Euros final

London, July 29 : On Sunday, Helsinki's Olympic Stadium will feel several dimensions away. It was there that, in 2009, England and Germany first met in a Women's European Championship final. On paper it might have appeared a clash of the titans but England were not quite there yet: Germany began as overwhelming

favourites and duly beat Hope Powell's side 6-2, reasserting themselves as continental heavyweights. Birgit Prinz and company put on a masterclass but only 15,000 people were present in the storied venue to witness it. When this year's England crop beat a weakened German side 3-1 at Molineux in February, it was only the second time this fixture had

fallen the Lionesses' way. That tells nothing of how the gap has closed. What reveals rather more is the fact that, however often the 2022 final is played in the head, it feels impossible to pick a clear winner. The outcome may well be on a knife edge and, with an audience up to six times higher than the crowd that rattled around in Finland, the atmosphere

should ensure things feel that way immediately. "A once-in-a-lifetime experience" was how the excellent Germany goalkeeper, Merle Frohms, referred to the prospect of Sunday. "You couldn't have dreamed of a better final, to be facing the host nation in their own stadium." The organisers will be pinching themselves too. There is no other way of putting it: this

is a classic final, an event whose history needs no explaining but is perfectly capable of standing on its own feet when measured on skill, bravery and sheer sporting excellence too. Another four-goal margin of victory for either side seems unthinkable although both have made light of similar predictions in the past three weeks.






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Sarina Wiegman's unerringly good England are yet to revive my familiar pain



London, July 29 : In 2014, Cambridge United played Gateshead in the National League play-off Final. Four minutes to go and we were 2-1 up when Ian Miller, our centre-back, went down with a broken ankle. We'd used all our subs. The referee played 10 minutes of injury time. TEN MINUTES. It felt about a year. Gateshead put a header just wide as the clock flicked to 99 minutes. My voice had gone. I could barely breathe. The relief at the final whistle is almost impossible to articulate. Every fan recognises that agonising knot of nerves that goes beyond the pit of the stomach. It is overwhelming and all-consuming. Nothing else can give you that escapism - you are completely lost in the moment - but it's very difficult to work out if it's in any way enjoyable. For men's international football tournaments, my dull pain normally begins on the morning of the first England game, and doesn't leave until whichever devastating method of exit we've chosen. All those walks to the penalty spot. Pearce, Batty, Southgate, Saka.

Gazza's outstretched boot. Waddle hitting the post. That Argentinian getting in the way of a certain Lineker equaliser. The Euro 2020 final felt like a seminal moment - I was almost paralysed with nerves beforehand. I had always wondered how I'd feel if England reached a major final, and how I'd react, win or lose. It was remarkably undramatic. I woke up the next day and was already over it. Perhaps the scenes at Wembley beforehand had tarnished it. Perhaps I'm just not as fanatical as I thought. Perhaps working in football has taken away the magic a little. Perhaps it's just that I'm getting older. This Sunday is another chance for a lot of England fans to get their first experience of winning a major trophy. In the days leading up to it, we can watch Alessia Russo's backheel and Georgia Stanway's thunderbolt on loop, but an hour before the game against Germany, I wonder whether those same nerves will kick in. They aren't something you control and so far in this tournament haven't emerged. England have

swept me along. I love watching them - but with 10 minutes left against Spain, when we had been thoroughly outplayed, I didn't feel the pain I felt when Croatia were supposed to be tired against the men in 2018. Before the Sweden semi-final I was completely relaxed. I have agonised over why it feels different to me. Is it because there is some deep-seated sexism rooted in my subconscious? A legacy of growing up in the '80s and '90s where the notion of women playing football was a joke? The boys kicked a shoot size five around the green triangle on Tenison Road and the girls sat on

the outside talking about stuff and listening to the Levellers or the Cure. If one of them kicked the ball back to us it was an event. Hopefully it's more nuanced than that. I don't spend a lot of time covering the women's game. Most of the players are relatively new to me. There isn't a history of this team causing me pain - I don't have a playlist of soul-shattering BBC montages I can recite word for word from the past four decades (Euro '96, to Cast's Walkaway, is still so tough). And Sarina Wiegman's team are unerringly good, so it doesn't feel like they'll let me down. The positive is my four-month-old son lying on the floor in front of me won't grow up with a negative stereotype of women's football. It will be the norm for him. He probably won't constantly compare the women's game to the men's. And maybe those comparisons are pointless. I sympathise with those who cover the women's game week-in, week-out having to read articles - like this one - possibly oversimplifying women's football, or trying to make some grand statement

about what every result means. But watching football is a constant comparison. Every match we watch we relate to what went before, so for those of us embedded in the men's game it's only natural to do the same. If someone hammers it in off the bar, I say "Tony Yeboah" before it's bounced back up and hit the top of the net. And there are parts of these Euros that feel refreshing - referees getting less abuse, fewer really dangerous challenges, the lack of that "tiny minority" of fans booing the knee, abusing the opposition or singing grim chants about human tragedy. It would be odd to watch this tournament and not notice the differences. As a casual viewer, I may be doing the women's game a grave disservice. Perhaps Wembley Way on Sunday will be another modern day coked-up Caravaggio: flares, arses, stormed barricades - the lot. And this isn't to denigrate every part of the men's game - this isn't an either/or game. Neither is perfect, they can learn from each other, and they're both entertaining, which ultimately is the point. Like Messi and Ronaldo, why can't we just enjoy both?

Ricky Ponting Weighs In On Australia Star Batter's 'Indifferent'

New Delhi, July 29 : Two-time World Cup-winning captain Ricky Ponting has backed Steve Smith to come out of his "indifferent" form as Australia gears up for the much-anticipated tour of India early next year, saying there is nothing wrong with the star batter's technique. Ponting reckons the opposition teams may have found

ways to put brakes on Smith's free-flowing batting. "The best way to describe it is, it (Smith's form) has been indifferent. For four or five years, he has been so incredibly consistent, making consistently high scores, making four, five or six hundreds in a Test match calendar year and he hasn't been able to do that in the last couple of years," Ponting said on 'The ICC Review'. "I have watched him quite closely, and I don't think there is anything techni-

cally there that has changed too much." Opposition teams maybe have finally started to work out the way they can slow him down from scoring quickly or have found some ways to attack him and get him out," he added. Australia will tour India in February-March next year for a five Test series, which is part of the World Test Championship (WTC) 2021-23 cycle. Prior to the Test matches, Australia's white-ball team will travel to India for a three-match T20I series.

The Hundred could save England's international teams, says Eoin Morgan

London, July 29 : Eoin Morgan has said that the often controversial novelty tournament the Hundred has the potential to save the England team from the exodus of talent away from national squads and domestic tournaments and towards lucrative international franchise events that is already starting to impact on other sides. Having retired from international cricket after England's white-ball tour of the Netherlands in June and moved into the commentary box, Morgan has played only two innings in England this summer, both in the Twenty20 Blast. But in the Hundred, whose second season gets under way next Wednesday, the 35-year-old will combine continued duties with Sky with captaining London Spirit, and he believes the competition could come to be vitally important in retaining the cream of domestic talent. "There are already some tournaments in the world that are bigger than a lot of countries' fixtures, bilateral series and anything else they play in between [ICC events]," Morgan said. "Ultimately it's already happening and we're probably behind the eight ball. We're very, very lucky the Hundred has been the success it has, so we can develop the product and have the players involved." Though the Blast has been running since 2003, Morgan said it has taken the Hundred to insulate English cricket against the prospect of its biggest talents being tempted elsewhere. "For the majority of my career I've been a huge advocate for players going abroad and playing in big tournaments and taking on different roles, either as one of the senior players within the group, or one of a number of overseas players within a team," he said. "There's a different level of expectation around that. But when we have such a good tournament at home now, there's no reason for that to happen in the same way." Though the Indian Premier League, the biggest and most lucrative of the global franchise tournaments, recently agreed broadcast deals worth more than £5bn, Morgan said that "we are still very early in the commercialisation of franchise cricket and T20 cricket", and that their growth is likely to come at the cost of the international game. "For me, international cricket has always been the thing I strived to play in, and I've loved the opportunity of playing for Ireland and England. It allowed me to play against the best in the world. If that changes and the scale tips, I think it tips in only one direction." The one thing the franchise model takes away from international cricket is a little bit of control, and ideally a franchise would want control of the biggest asset any country has - which is the players. Once you have that, what does international cricket offer? How much viability does it bring? The one thing it brings at the moment is [the chance to] have the best playing against the best the majority of the time.

Ultimate Kho Kho league will roll out on August 14

Assam Rising
Guwahati, July 29: The much-awaited opening season of the Ultimate Kho Kho will roll out on Sunday, August 14 in Pune, where six teams will engage in gripping action that will culminate with the title clash on September 4. India's first-ever franchise-based professional Kho-Kho league will host its matches at the sprawling Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex, Pune. The inaugural season will witness six teams in the shape and form of Chennai Quick Guns (KLO Sports), Gujarat Giants (Adani Sportsline), Mumbai Khiladis (Badshah & Punit Balan), Odisha Juggernauts (Government of Odisha), Rajasthan Warriors (Capri Global) and Telugu Yoddhas (GMR Sports) competing for the inaugural season over 21 days. Promoted by Amit Burman, Chairman Dabur India, in collaboration with the Kho Kho Federation of India (KKFI), the league aims to revolutionize this indigenous sport with a modern twist both on-air & on-ground. Ultimate Kho Kho CEO, Tenzing Niyogi said, "We would like to thank all our Six Team Owners and Sony Sports Network, who have shown their support and faith in our vision as Ultimate Kho Kho. Our objective has always been to transform Kho Kho and bring forth the new avatar in front of the masses of India to make our country a multisport nation." A total of 34 matches will be played with two matches per day in Season 1, during the league stage. The knock-out matches will be played in an exciting playoff format which will consist of a qualifier and eliminator matches. The Live broadcast will begin at 7:00 pm (IST) and continue until



10:00 pm (IST) on each match day. The revamped format of Ultimate Kho Kho promises to be an exciting and engaging game for not only the Kho Kho players but also sports enthusiasts and viewers. India's leading sports broadcasting network, Sony Sports Network will take the LIVE nail-biting action of Ultimate Kho Kho to the living rooms of the viewers and fans as the official broadcasters for the league. Ultimate Kho Kho will be LIVE on Hindi (SonyTEN 3), English (SonyTEN 1), Tamil, and Telugu (SonyTEN 4) and be available on SonyLIV. The game of Kho Kho is set to enter a new era as a total of India's 143 best players were hand-picked by six franchises. India's first-ever franchise-based Kho-Kho league, promoted by Chairman of Dabur India, Amit Burman in collaboration with the Kho Kho Federation of India. A total of 240 registered players, from 28 states and union territories were part of the draft process. They were divided into four categories, A, B, C and D, according to their performances in international matches, the recent National Championships and evaluation conducted by the league. The 77-top players from Category A, offered Rs 5 lakh and the South Asian Games gold medalist Pratik Waikar, Andhra

Pradesh's Pothireddy Sivareddy, Tamil Nadu's M Vignesh and Karantaka's Gowtham MK were among the 20 players who were handpicked by the franchises. While Waikar and defender Gowtham were picked by Telugu Yoddhas and Odisha Juggernauts respectively as their first pick, Chennai Quick Guns added local boy Vignesh to their squad. The 26-year-old all-rounder and one of the best pole divers in the country, Sivareddy will represent the Gujarat side. A viewer-friendly revamped format is expected to bring about a transformation in how this indigenous sport is perceived in the country. Chennai Quick Guns, Gujarat Giants, Mumbai Khiladis, Odisha Juggernauts, Rajasthan Warriors, Telugu Yoddhas did their best to pick strong squads as they will fight for the title in the Season 1. "Being the first season we have relied on the coaches input and who have gone ahead and suggested names. So we have taken a lot of players from the senior category which is A and B, then have blended them with a lot of youngsters in C and D. So we hope that with the experience and the youth which gives the bigger speed we will be able to do well in the first season," said Colonel Vinod Bisht, CEO GMR League Games, who owns Telugu Yoddhas.

From Japan troubles to loving Lancashire life inside turbulent year

Tokyo, July 29 : Blake Ferguson cannot help but burst into laughter when asked if he thought his career would play out this way. The former Kangaroos winger's rugby league journey has taken a unique and sometimes controversial trajectory but even by those standards, as he adjusts to life as a player in England's second division - where the majority of the clubs are part-time and some crowds barely reach 1,000 - it is perhaps unsurprising when Ferguson affords himself a moment to reflect on how he has reached this point. "I wouldn't have thought I'd be here, that's for sure," Ferguson admits. After all, it was only this time last year Ferguson was a regular in a Parramatta Eels side that reached the NRL finals, but a lot has happened since then. That includes an ill-fated stint in Japanese rugby union club NEC Green Rockets, which ended with the 32-year-old spending a month in jail in Japan after being arrested for alleged possession of cocaine, before being released. Ferguson is loth to discuss the finer points of that saga too much, but after eventually returning to Australia earlier this year and failing to secure an NRL contract, he had, by his own admission, decided he was "semi-retired". "I wasn't really bothered about getting a full-time playing contract and I was actually getting ready to start looking for an actual job," he says. "But then the call came



in... and here we are." That call Ferguson refers to was from Championship club Leigh Centurions, who made him an offer to return to playing on a short-term contract, nestled away from the Sydney spotlight in a Lancashire town where the population barely exceeds 40,000 people. "I was transitioning into a different part of life and looking forward to it, but the opportunity to keep playing was something I decided to ultimately explore," he says. "It's been really refreshing coming here. We've a great owner, the coaching staff are fantastic and it's been so amazing to come here and experience something new and something different with my family, who have come over too. It was important for me to get the right club, and it's great to get the love back for rugby league." Ferguson's impact was immediate, scoring four tries on his debut against Workington Town. He even played at Wembley in May as Leigh won the 1895 Cup, a competition reserved exclusively for teams outside of Super League. Yet that is all a

far cry from both the life Ferguson experienced at the top of the game in the NRL, and the life he was about to embark on had that call never arrived from Leigh to revive his rugby league career. "I was going to go into the coal mining industry," the winger laughs. "I had an interview back home about the job before I came over here, around three weeks before in fact so it was getting pretty close." "I'd basically got the job but the chance to come here and keep playing, explore Europe, and get the buzz back for playing the game. It was what I needed. It's been an absolute breath of fresh air too and I'm really glad I've done it. We didn't get as far as locking down the specific job I was going to be doing in the mines just outside Sydney, but it was definitely going to be different to what I'd been used to." Ferguson will be the biggest star on show this weekend at the Summer Bash, the equivalent of the NRL's Magic Weekend, where all teams play in the same stadium on the same weekend.

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