



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Probing APSC Scam

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 01 :

The committee looking into the scam related to the Assam Public Service Commission (APSC) will submit their report within a month, said chief secretary to the state government on Monday. Chief Secretary Jishnu Barua today said that the probing committee is likely to submit their report soon. He further informed that a special meeting is scheduled to take place soon. After the meeting, the report will be submitted, Barua added. It may be noted that charges were earlier framed against a total of 67 people in connection with the infamous APSC scam that rocked Assam. Accused In Vineet Bagaria Suicide Case Surrenders In Dibrugarh Of them, 60 were candidates who appeared for the exam, while the remaining seven were APSC members and staff. The court had also declared two other accused, Sudeep Das and Rajib Pal as absconding from justice. Rajib Pal is the brother of Rakesh Pal, while Sudeep Das was the personal assistant of Rakesh Pal. Notably, two of the accused in the case were acquitted due to a lack of evidence.

### Youth missing

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 01 :

A youth hailing from Dulaijan in Assam's Dibrugarh district has reportedly gone missing in Guwahati. The missing youth has been identified as Porag Gogoi. According to reports, Porag was working in a private organization in Guwahati. The family members have lodged a complaint at the police station in regard to the incident. The family members have also appealed people to contact on mobile number 9957284985, in case anyone gets any trace of the boy. Meanwhile, the police are also conducting search operations for the same.

### Drugs seized

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 01 :

Continuing its fight against drugs, Assam police seized massive consignments of illegal ganja during two different operations in and around Guwahati. On Sunday night, a huge quantity of ganja was seized from a hotel located in city's Paltanbazar area. Five persons were arrested in connection to the seizure, including a woman. According to police, a raid was conducted based on secret information at Sumiya Hotel, during which, ganja weighing 36 kg was seized from two different rooms. The arrested persons have been identified as Munir Hussain, Saiful Basa, Sahida Khatun, Anowar Hussain, and Rakesh Devnath, all residents of Sonamura district in Tripura.

## CM Dr. Sarma launches Mission Bhumi Putra



Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 01 :

Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa today launched 'Mission Bhumi Putra', a simplified and digital way to issue digitalised caste certificate to students as he inaugurated a Bhumi Putra Portal at a programme held at Srimanta Sankardev

Kalashetra. Implemented by the Departments of Tribal Affairs (Plain) and Social Justice Empowerment, the mission has been implemented to carry forward government's mission of easy public service to the public. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that under the mission, government will

create two pillars. Henceforth, manual system of issuing caste certificate will be ceased. From 8th August onwards, the Deputy Commissioners will give the format of applications for caste certificates to the Headmasters of educational institutions. The headmasters will fill up the application formats for their onward sub-

mission to the Deputy Commissioners who then forward the applications to the Boards of respective caste or tribe. The DC then will convene a meeting with the Boards to decide on the protocol for issuing caste certificate to the students. If any doubt in the process crops up, the application may be sent for further verification. The certificates will be available in the digital locker under the IT Act with digitally signed by the respective Deputy Commissioners. The Chief Minister also said that earlier people before joining any govern-

ment job, had to bear encumbrances to secure such documents. However, with the launch of Mission Bhumi Putra such problems will be solved without any glitch. From next year, students from Class VIII can apply for caste certificates through this portal which will also be lined with CM's dashboard to enable the Chief Minister's Office to monitor the entire process. He also asked Departments of Tribal Affairs (Plain) and Social Justice Empowerment to generate awareness on

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## Kerala man's death due to monkeypox virus is Asia's first, world's fourth in current outbreak



KOCHI, August 01 :

India confirmed its first monkeypox death on Monday, a young man in the southern state of Kerala, in what is only the fourth known fatality from the disease in the current outbreak. Last

week, Spain reported two monkeypox-related deaths and Brazil its first. The death in India is also the first in Asia. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a global health emergency

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## Mamata Banerjee makes major reshuffle in TMC amid political furore over Partha Chatterjee's arrest

New Delhi, August 01 :

New Delhi: Amid the ongoing political furore over the arrest of Partha Chatterjee in a school recruitment scam, the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Monday (August 1, 2022) carried out a major organisational reshuffle in the party and inducted several new faces, including some ministers with thrust on toning up the party ahead of next year's crucial panchayat polls. The All India Trinamool Congress under the inspiration and guidance of Hon'ble Chairperson Smt Mamata Banerjee is pleased to announce a few new appointments of District Chairman & District President for West Bengal



Trinamool Congress," the party said in a statement. Asima Patra, the minister of state with independent charge of the department of planning, statistics and programme monitoring, and Saumen Mahapatra, the state irrigation and waterways minister, have been

assigned organisational responsibilities in their respective districts. The All India Trinamool Congress under the inspiration and guidance of Hon'ble Chairperson Smt. @MamataOfficial is pleased to announce a few new appointments of Dis-

trict Chairman & District President for West Bengal Trinamool Congress. pic.twitter.com/FhpPUfCY3-All India Trinamool Congress (@AITCOfficial) August 1, 2022 TMC MLAs Tapas Ray and Partha Bhowmick were on the other hand relieved of their responsibilities as presidents of the party's north Kolkata and Dum Dum- Barrackpore zones amid reports that they could find a place in the state ministry, news agency PTI reported citing party sources. The presidents of several organisational districts, including Coochbehar, Dakshin Dinajpur, Nadia South (Ranaghat), Hooghly-

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## Government employees need to work for only 68% of the 365 days in the upcoming year

Assam Rising  
Guwahati, August 01 :

Assam government released the list of holidays for 2021 as per which state government employees need to work for only 68% of the 365 days in the upcoming year. The notification by commissioner and secretary of general administration department, MS

Manivannan, however, underlines that these declared state holidays "will not be automatically applicable to the educational institutions, medical/engineering colleges," which have been advised to have lesser holidays. The order stated: "It is desirable that the number of holidays may be decreased for educational institutions, medical/engi-

neering Colleges etc. and they will adopt academic calendars decreasing the number of holidays." According to the list, government employees can avail 117 days as holidays, which include 52 Sundays and 24 second and fourth Saturdays. There will be also half holidays on two days on

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## 'If you seek to destroy others...': Uddhav Thackeray's BIG Warning to BJP

New Delhi, August 01 :

Sanjay Raut Arrest: Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray today met party MP Sanjay Raut's family after the latter's arrest in Patra Chowk land scam case. Uddhav Thackeray, after meeting the family, targeted the BJP in a press conference. "I am definitely proud of Sanjay Raut," Thackeray said. "Sanjay Raut is my friend, a journalist and a Shiv Sainik. Raut



has given a statement that he will not surrender even if he dies," Thackeray added. "In today's politics, force is being used. BJP and Nadda need to think about what will happen to them (in future)," he added. "BJP President JP Nadda gave a

speech confirming what I said the other day. It's time for all people to open their eyes and ears and let the common citizen decide where they want to take our country," Thackeray said. Politics has become disgusting now: Uddhav Thackeray. Thackeray further said that there was a "Hitler-era situation" in the country today. "If anyone speaks against the government, he would be arrested," the Shiv Sena chief said. I was the Chief Minister but I never got power in my head: Uddhav Thackeray. "If you want to end the party, go before the

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## Quota policy isn't meant to deny merit



New Delhi, August 01 :

The Supreme Court on Friday ruled against the idea of "a communal reservation", saying the policy of quota is not intended at denying meritorious candidates job opportunities even if they belong to reserved categories. The SC bench, headed

by Justice Uday Lalit, ruled that subject to permissible quota benefits, any method of filling up seats must focus on merit and should aid meritorious candidates, irrespective of their categories and caste. It said that the contest in the open category

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## 10 million Covid+, but India on recovery road



New Delhi, August 01 :

India on Friday became the second country in the world

to see the total number of Covid-19 infections surpass 10 million, although this comes at a time when the

country is at the best position in months in its fight against the pandemic, and with the roll-out of a vaccine imminent. The other country to have crossed this mark is the US, which did so on November 7, and which is currently in the grips of a strong third wave of the pandemic that has taken daily cases and deaths, as well as hospitalisations to record highs. The US has seen 17,661,064 cases and 318,522 deaths to date. In

contrast, almost all of India's indicators are exhibiting positive signs - the rate of new cases and deaths are the lowest in at least five months and have dropped over 70% from peak of the first wave, and the positivity rate is the lowest ever recorded. The global battle against the disease has received a major boost in the last two weeks as two countries - the United States and

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## Sanjay Raut remanded to ED custody; Uddhav Thackeray says he is proud of Shiv Sena MP - Top developments

New Delhi, August 01 :

Sanjay Raut remanded to ED custody; Uddhav Thackeray says he is proud of Shiv Sena MP - Top developments New Delhi: Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut was on Monday (August 1, 2022) remanded to the custody of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) till August 4 in a money laundering case. Raut was produced by ED at a special court in Mumbai. Senior Shiv Sena

leader Sanjay Raut was on Monday produced by ED before the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court judge MG Deshpande in Mumbai. The law enforcement agency had sought his remand for eight days. The ED, represented by special public prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar, told the court that Raut and his family were direct beneficiaries of the proceeds of crime. Senior

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Shows a meeting of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) Joint Commission in Vienna, Austria

## Prince Harry files legal claim over right to pay for UK police protection

**London, July 01** : The Duke of Sussex has filed a claim for a judicial review against a Home Office decision not to allow him to personally pay for police protection for himself and his family while in the UK. Harry wants to bring his son Archie and baby daughter Lilibet to visit from the US, but he and his family are "unable to return to his home" because it is too dangerous, a legal representative said. It follows an incident in London in the summer of 2021 when his security was compromised after his car was chased by paparazzi photographers as he left a charity event. The duke wants to fund the security himself, rather than ask taxpayers to foot the bill, a legal representative for Harry said. Harry is arguing his private protection team in the US does not have adequate jurisdiction abroad or access to UK

intelligence information which is needed keep the Sussex family safe. "The UK will always be Prince Harry's home and a country he wants his wife and children to be safe in," the legal representative for the duke said in a statement to the PA news agency. "With the lack of police protection, comes too great a personal risk." The representative added: "The Duke and Duchess of Sussex personally fund a private security team for their family, yet that security cannot replicate the necessary police protection needed while in the UK." In the absence of such protection, Prince Harry and his family are unable to return to his home. "Lilibet, who is now seven months, has yet to meet her great-grandmother the Queen, grandfather the Prince of Wales and other members of the family face to face. The duke briefly returned from LA last year for the 1 July unveiling of the Diana, Princess of Wales memorial statue, and the day before, on 30 June, he met seriously ill children and young people at a WellChild garden party and afternoon tea in Kew Gardens, west London. It is understood

the duke's car was chased by photographers as he left. Harry's mother, Diana, died in a car crash after she was chased by the paparazzi in Paris in 1997. The legal representative added: "Prince Harry inherited a



security risk at birth, for life. He remains sixth in line to the throne, served two tours of combat duty in Afghanistan, and in recent years his family has been subjected to well-documented neo-Nazi and extremist threats. "While his role within the institution has changed, his profile as a member of the royal family has not. Nor has the threat to him and his family." The bid for a judicial review was filed in September. Harry and Meghan lost their taxpayer-funded police

protection in the aftermath of quitting as senior working royals. Their security provision was one of the key issues when the couple announced they wanted to step down in 2020. Their website at the time

suggested the Home Office, through the Metropolitan police, should continue to provide protection for the couple and their son Archie. Harry and Meghan were forced to disclose they had put in place "privately funded security arrangements" for their move to the US, after then president Donald Trump said his country would not pay for their protection. The Sussexes have signed multimillion-pound deals with Netflix and Spotify, with the duke telling Oprah Winfrey he secured these to

pay for his security. The legal representative added: "The duke first offered to pay personally for UK police protection for himself and his family in January of 2020 at Sandringham. That offer was dismissed. "He remains willing to cover the cost of security, as not to impose on the British taxpayer. As is widely known, others who have left public office and have an inherent threat risk receive police protection at no cost to them." The goal for Prince Harry has been simple - to ensure the safety of himself and his family while in the UK so his children can know his home country. "During his last visit to the UK in July 2021 - to unveil a statue in honour of his late mother - his security was compromised due to the absence of police protection, while leaving a charity event." After another attempt at negotiations was also rejected, he sought a judicial review in September 2021 to challenge the decision-making behind the security procedures, in the hopes that this could be re-evaluated for the obvious and necessary protection required. "Harry's uncle the Duke of York is facing calls to pay for his own security as the fallout from Andrew's civil sex assault case continues.

than five times. His decision to cross the DMZ back to the North from the South was the latest chapter in an extraordinary series of journeys. In November 2020, Kim had made the same journey in the opposite direction, fleeing his homeland but shunning the route preferred by almost all defectors across the North's border with China. Having denied that he was a spy, embarrassed officials in Seoul were forced to acknowledge that Kim had grown so disillusioned with life in South Korea that he was willing to face harassment and possible incarceration in the North by returning there. His daring flight prompted uncomfortable questions about the treatment of political and economic refugees from the North, for whom life in the democratic, capitalist South sometimes falls far short of expectations. At about 20%, the unemployment rate among defectors is six times higher than the average for South Koreans, according to the Database Centre for North Korean Human Rights. Although their average monthly income reached a record high in 2019, it still lags far behind that of South Koreans, the unification ministry said. Last year, 1,582 defectors received financial help in addition to a welfare package they receive when they resettle



in the South, while 47% said they were experiencing mental anguish, the ministry said. They may well have included Kim, a night-time office cleaner who did not appear to have any friends and never spoke to his neighbours, one of whom told reporters that he had dutifully left a mattress and other possessions out for collection before he fled. "If you worked in industry or for the government in North Korea, you can't come to South Korea and expect to do an equivalent job," says Sokeel Park, South Korea country director of Liberty in North Korea, which helps defectors. "You have to take a hit to your relative status, and that can have an effect on mental health, particularly for North Korean men." New arrivals spend three months being debriefed to ensure they are not spies, followed by a similar period at Hanawon (house of unity), a settlement support centre where they are given counselling and coached in the practicalities of South

Korean life. They are eligible for government subsidies of 20m won (£12,260) to find a home or a place at university, followed by monthly payments of 320,000 won for five years. What is lacking, says Park, is the sense of community that the North - for all its disadvantages - had given them, particularly among people from rural areas who struggle to cope with the anonymity of life in a megalopolis like Seoul. While defectors struggle financially and experience discrimination in education, housing and employment, it doesn't necessarily follow that their thoughts will turn to redefection, says Park. "It is always a shock when a defector goes back to North Korea, even to other defectors," he says. Double defections inevitably attract headlines, but they are relatively rare. Of the 33,800 North Koreans who have defected to the South, just 30 have returned to the North.

## Trail of African bling reveals 50,000-year-old social network



**London, July 01** : Scientists have uncovered the world's oldest social network, a web of connections that flourished 50,000 years ago and stretched for thousands of miles across Africa. But unlike its modern electronic equivalent, this ancient web of social bonds used a far more prosaic medium. It relied on the sharing and trading of beads made of ostrich eggshells - one of humanity's oldest forms of personal adornment. The research by scientists in Germany involved the study of more than 1,500 of these beads, which were dug up at more than 30 sites across southern and east Africa. Careful analysis suggests that people who made the beads - which are

still manufactured and worn by hunter-gatherers in Africa today - were exchanging them over vast distances, helping to share symbolic messages and to strengthen alliances. "It's like following a trail of breadcrumbs," said the study's lead author, Jennifer Miller, of the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in the city of Jena. "The beads are clues, scattered across time and space, just waiting to be noticed." The study, published in Nature last week, compared beads found at 31 sites in southern and eastern Africa, spanning more than 1,800 miles. By comparing the outside diameter of a shell, the diameter of the holes inside them, and the thickness of the walls of the eggshell, the scientists

learned that about 50,000 years ago people in eastern and southern Africa started to make nearly identical beads out of ostrich eggs. Yet these groups and communities were separated by vast distances, which suggests the existence of a long-distance social network that stretched over thousands of miles, connecting people in far-flung regions. "The result is surprising, but the pattern is clear," said the study's other author, Yiming Wang, who is also based at the Max Planck. Ostrich eggshell beads are some of the oldest forms of self-decoration found in the archaeological record, although they were not the first to be adopted by Homo sapiens. Scientists believe men and women started daubing themselves with the reddish pigment ochre about 200,000 years ago, before starting to wear beads 75,000 years ago. However, the ornament industry really took off about 50,000 years ago in Africa, with the manufacture of the first ostrich eggshell beads - the earliest standardised form of jewellery known to archaeology.



Karma Chodrak, an intangible heritage inheritor of the Pusum hand-engraving, works in his workshop at Nyemo County, Lhasa, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region

## Kazakhstan authorities raise death toll from unrest to 225



**London, July 01** : The violent unrest in Kazakhstan that began with peaceful protests in early January has left 225 people dead, authorities have said in a dramatic increase on previous tolls. "During the state of emergency, the bodies of 225 people were delivered to morgues, of which 19 were law enforcement officers and military personnel," Serik Shalabayev, the head of

criminal prosecution at the prosecutor's office, told a briefing on Saturday. Others were "armed bandits who participated in terrorist attacks", Shalabayev added. "Unfortunately, civilians have also become victims of acts of terrorism." The unprecedented clashes between security forces and anti-government protesters in the energy-rich ex-Soviet state

prompted the president, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, to declare a state of emergency and call in help from a Russian-led military bloc. Shalabayev said 50,000 people joined the riots throughout the country at their peak on 5 January, when crowds stormed and torched government buildings, cars, banks and shops in several major cities. Kazakhstan had previously acknowledged fewer than 50 fatalities - 26 "armed criminals" and 18 security officers - from a conflict that exposed infighting at the top of the government. A higher death toll of 164 appeared on an official Telegram channel last week but was quickly retracted. Asel Artakshinova, a spokeswoman for the health ministry, said that more than 2,600 people had sought treatment at hospitals, with 67 remaining in a serious condition. Authorities in

No. TECH/U&BDTD/BLDG/IFB/2022-23/28, Dated. 29.07.2022  
**PRESS NOTICE INVITING FOR BID**

The Executive Engineer, PWD (B&NH) Udalguri & Baksa District Territorial Building Division, Udalguri on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bids from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Public Works Department (Buildings), Assam/Contractors registered with Bodoland Territorial Council in the category of Class-I (A, B&C), Class-II & Class-III for 2 (two) nos. of works for bids amounting to **Rs.15,40,536.00** (approx) (Rupees fifteen lakh forty thousand five hundred thirty six) only.

Details may be seen at in the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer, PWD (B&NH)  
Udalguri & Baksa District Territorial  
Building Division, Udalguri

IPR(BTC)-230/2022



# National Plasma Physics Exhibition cum Seminar begins from today at USTM



**Assam Rising, Guwahati, August 1:** A 5-day long National Exhibition and Seminar on Plasma Physics has been inaugurated today at the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya by Shri Lakhmen Rymbui, Education Minister of Meghalaya in the presence of Prof. G. D. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, USTM; Prof. B. K. Saikia, Centre Director, CPP-IPR, Assam; Dr. A. V. Ravi Kumar, Scientist-H, Head Outreach Division, IPR, Gujrat; Shri Varun Mitra, Deputy Commissioner, K. V. Sangathan, Regional Office, Guwahati, Dr. BK Das, Pro VC, USTM and

other science enthusiasts, faculty members and students. This exciting exhibition cum seminar on Plasma Science and Technology has been organized by the department of Physics, USTM in collaboration with CPP-IPR, Department of Atomic Energy, Govt. of India under the theme "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" from August 1 to 5. The exhibition is being participated by more than 500 school and college students from about 50 educational institutions of

Guwahati, Kokrajhar and Ri Bhoi. Inaugurating the program, Meghalaya Education Minister Shri Lakhmen Rymbui said that innovation and research for societal transformation must be focused by educational institutions. He urged young students to take research and innovation as a powerhouse of knowledge and also said that the initiative by USTM to involve school and college students in scientific endeavors is a very positive and inspiring step. "We must know

how to empower ourselves with the use of Plasma in our lives", he added. Addressing the gathering Prof. G. D. Sharma, VC, USTM said that this exhibition will motivate students to do research on plasma which can open new avenues of learning at school level. "USTM is also planning to have a center for Plasma Research and a separate paper for Plasma Research", he added. Dr. A. V. Ravi Kumar, Scientist-H, Head Outreach Division, IPR, Gujrat thanked USTM for organizing this unique 5-day exhibition. Shri Varun Mitra, Deputy Commissioner, K. V. Sangathan was of the opinion that after solid, liquid and gas, the fourth state of matter present in the universe is plasma while appealing to the students to think out of the box. Dr. BK Saikia, Centre Director, CPP-IPR, Assam suggested including plasma physics in the school curriculum. Earlier, the welcome address was delivered by Dr. Sanchita Roy, HoD, Department of Physics, USTM.

The Exhibition includes displaying working plasma devices, plasma device models, popular talks by eminent scientists on plasma science and technology, training of both school and college students, quiz competition among students and interaction with scientists and experts. The exhibition is open for participation of students of schools, colleges, universities and the general public from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm on the said dates. Posters and Comic Book on Plasma and other resource materials will be also provided during the exhibition. Interested participants can contact through email: nespp2022@gmail.com or WhatsApp to 94350-50854. The venue for the exhibition is: D-206, Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam Block, USTM.

## New voter registration form launched at Margherita

**Assam Rising, Margherita, August 1:** As

per the direction of the Election Commission of India, a function was organized today by the District Election Officer-124-Margherita LAC for the formal launch of new user-friendly Electoral registration forms in the conference hall of the Block Development Officer, Margherita. Palash Rajkumar Ahom, DEO briefed the attendees about the amendments in the RP Act 1950 by the Ministry of Law & Justice on recommendations of the ECI and apprised them about the four qualifying dates as eligibility for new electors i.e. 1st January, 1st April, 1st July and 1st October and voluntary linking of the Aadhar with the Voter Id. The DEO stressed that the BLOs play a very important role at the grass root level and understanding the changes is crucial for the correct input of all the rel-



evant data of the citizens. He asked the BLOs, AEROs and EROs to sensitize themselves to the new changes and additions in the process of validation of the electors. The DEO formally launched the four forms i.e. Form 6, 6B, 7, and 8 and distributed Form 6 & 6B among the AEROs and EROs. The DEO urged each one to do their bit in the successful summary revision of the electors. The new electors can enroll themselves through mobile applications like

NVSP, VHA or can seek help from the BLOs, as stated by the Smt. Aditi Neog, Election Officer, Margherita Election district. The program was followed by a training Session for the AEROs/BLO Supervisor/ BLO on ERONET, GARUDA, VHA voter portals in connection with the special summary revision-2023. The formal launch program was attended by the Master Trainers, members of political parties, media, civil society organizations, NGOs and young electors.

## Erosion havoc on at Majuli Kumar Chapari



**Assam Rising, Majuli, August 1:** The landerosion of Kumar Chapari & Rabi Ghat under Luitparia & Ratanpur Gayon Gaon Panchayat in Upper Majuli has threatened the dams of Sonowal Kachari-Lachan-Chikari villages. Which is the shield of protection of Majuli. There are many hectares of land already eroded by the Brahmaputra since the 1950 earthquake. It is very sad that the Brahmaputra Board, the body responsible for the geographical protection of Majuli, is not paying any attention. The residents of Majuli are worried about the silent role of the All Assam

reports of floods in the Ratanpur Gayan Gaon Panchayat. The residents of Shalmara Mouza in upper Majuli have expressed concern that none of the ruling party governments in the state has been able to prevent the erosion of the Brahmaputra since the 1950 earthquake. It is very sad that the Brahmaputra Board, the body responsible for the geographical protection of Majuli, is not paying any attention. The residents of Majuli are worried about the silent role of the All Assam

Mising Students' Union (TMPK) and the All Assam Students' Union (AASU). Therefore, the local people demanded, the departmental authorities should inspect the areas and take scientific measures to prevent erosion as soon as possible.

## 'Shastra Pradarshan' held in Udalguri

**Assam Rising, Udalguri, August 1:** As per

ongoing "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign under the theme of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, 61bn SSB Balema at Bhairabkunda, Udalguri has conducted a program on "Shastra Pradarshan" at 61 BN Headquarter campus today. The program was attended by 60 students and 5 Teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Udalguri. The program was conducted under the supervision of Suviner Ambawat, officer 61 BN

Bhairabkunda. During this program various types of weapons were displayed by unit personnel and also visited Indo-Bhutan border by Students and also briefed about duty of SSB in Indo-Bhutan border and encouraged all students to hoist the National Flag of India in their homes under the theme of "75 th Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" by office commandant 61 BN. Plantation drive was also conducted by students

and teachers of the mentioned school near Indo-Bhutan border Gate. At last Suviner Ambawat, office commandant (DC) 61 BN in his congratulatory messages to all students told that children are the future of the country and also said that the moral values of the country, the spirit of patriotism, and students were once again encouraged about the campaign to hoist the tricolor at every houses.

## Condolence meeting in memory of Ardhendu Dey



**Assam Rising, Hojai August 1:** To pay

homage to former Minister and social activist Dr. Ardhendu Kumar Dey, a condolence meeting was held at Bhibhuti Bhushan Guest House in Hojai on Sunday evening. The meeting was organized under the presidency of Dr. Bijoy Chakrabarty, General Secretary, Assam Nagarik Manch and colleague of Dr. Dey and anchored by Dr. Pijush Nandi, lecturer, Hojai Girls College where local MLA Ramkrishna Ghosh, Kamal Dutta, social

activist, Dr. Aditya Langthasa, former MLA, Rajat Chakrabarty, president, Ram Krishna Seva Ashram, Chaturthi Rani Biswas, Chairperson, Hojai Municipal Board and many other people from all the walks of life gathered to pay homage to Dr. Ardhendu Kumar Dey. At the very outset, a lamp was lit in front of the portrait of Dr. Dey followed by a floral tribute. Everyone kept their views and remembered the doyen figure. They said the contribution of Dr. Dey for Hojai and in politics will always be remem-

bered. Dr. Dey's journey from physician to a firebrand politician was recalled, how he used to work for the upliftment of the people taking everyone together. They said Dr. Dey was a candid, soft spoken, friendly person to whom anyone could connect easily. In the meeting everyone prayed almighty for the eternal peace of the departed soul. Notably, Dr. Dey passed away on July 27 last at Guwahati while undergoing treatment and his last rites were performed at his native place Hojai.

## "Excellent Teacher Makbul Hussain" unveil at Laharighat

**Assam Rising, Bhuragaon, August 1:** The

North East Literature and Cultural Association (NELCA) Laharighat Branch launched a book namely "Excellent Teacher Makbul Hussain" at Laharighat Senior Secondary English School,



Morigaon district today. The book was launched by Rekibul Azad, Secretary of Laharighat Branch Committee of the Sahitya Sammelan and poet, private sector teacher. The book was launched by Rekibul Azad, Secretary of Laharighat Branch Committee of the Sahitya Sammelan. The book was launched by the Chief Guest and Subject Teacher of Politics Department of Laharighat Higher Secondary School Nurul Hussain. The stu-

dents of the English School performed a cultural music before proceeding to the main programme. The book launch was moderated by Laharighat Branch Committee Secretary Rekibul Azad, Laharighat Police Station Officer-in-Charge Amir Hussain, Laharighat Senior Secondary English School, Cooperation of teachers, inspiration by the workers of Laharighat Branch Committee of North East Literature and Cultural Association, valuable speeches by the invited guests and literature.

**NEMCARE Group of Institutions**  
Approved By: HFW Govt. of Assam, AICTE, PCI and INC Govt. of India, and IMA Affiliated to: SSUHS, Govt. of Assam, ASTU Govt. of Assam, ANC Govt. of Assam

**ADMISSION OPEN FOR 2022-23**

**OUR COURSES**

- ❖ B Pharm
- ❖ BSc Nursing
- ❖ D Pharm
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(Rule- 8(1))  
**POSSESSION NOTICE (for Immovable Property)**

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of the Indian Bank, Haibargaon 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 25.01.2022 calling upon the Borrower Mr. Bidyut Bikash Hazarika (Borrower & Mortgagor), S/o Late Prabir Hazarika, Prop. Sangeeta Enterprise, R/o South Haibargaon, P.S. & Dist. Nagaon, Assam- 782002 & Mrs. Popi Bora Hazarika (Guarantor), W/o Bidyut Bikash Hazarika, Haibargaon, R/o A R B Road, P.S. & Dist. Nagaon, Assam- 782002 with our Haibargaon Branch to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.6,10,477/- (Rupees Six Lakhs Ten Thousand Four Hundred and Seventy Seven Only) for SOD A/c No. 6484542336 and Rs.2,20,079/- (Rupees Two Lakhs Twenty Thousand and Seventy Nine only) for IBVL A/c No. 65675417340 as on 19.11.2021 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 Mortgagors 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.6,11,758/- (Rupees Six lakhs Eleven Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Eight Only) for SOD A/c No. 6484542336 as on 27.07.2022 and 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**

All that part and parcel of land measuring 6.62 Lessas and building in Dag No. 1690 of P.P. No. 862 of Town Haibor Kismam, Mouza-Sadar Town, Dist. Nagaon (Assam) in the name of Bidyut Bikash Hazarika vide Original Regd. Partition/Declaration deed No.3317 dated 24-10-2016 which is bounded by: On the North: Achyut Hazarika, On the South: Smt. Joga Prabha Hazarika & Pradyut Hazarika, On the East: 8 Feet width road, On the West: Sultan Ahmed

Date: 28-07-2022  
Place: Nagaon  
Authorised Officer (Indian Bank)

**ACPL**  
ASSAM CARBON PRODUCTS LTD  
**ASSAM CARBON PRODUCTS LTD**  
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) : L23101AS1963PLC001206  
Registered Office: Birkuchi, Guwahati-781026, Assam  
Tel: (0361) 2640262/630; Fax: (0361) 2640368  
Email: acplghy@ascarbon.com; Website: www.assamcarbon.in

**PUBLIC NOTICE: FOR KIND ATTENTION OF THE SHAREHOLDERS OF THE COMPANY**

The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) vide General Circular No. 14/2020 dated 08.04.2020, 17/2020 dated 13.04.2020, 20/2020 dated 05.05.2020 and 2/2022 dated 05.05.2022 and SEBI vide Circular No. SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD1/CIR/P/2020/79 dated 12.05.2020 and SEBI/HO/CFD/CMD2/CIR/P/2022/62 dated 13.05.2022 granted relaxation from dispatching physical copies of Annual Reports to the Shareholders by those listed entities who may conduct their Annual General Meetings (AGM) through electronic mode in view of COVID-19 pandemic.

Hence, kindly note that no physical copy of Annual Report 2021-22 will be sent to the members/ shareholders.

Therefore, the shareholders holding shares in physical form and who have not registered their Email addresses are requested to furnish their email address along with their mobile number and bank mandate in the following format to the Company / Registrar and Share Transfer Agents (RTA), in order to facilitate for sending the Notice of AGM, Annual Report, Dividend, if any, declared by the Company and other important communications in electronic mode:

Sl. No.	Particulars	Details
i.	Full Name	
ii.	Address	
iii.	Email Address	
iv.	Mobile No.	
v.	No. of Shares held	
vi.	Folio No.	
vii.	Certificate No.	
viii.	Distinctive No.	
ix.	Copy of PAN & Aadhar Card / Address Proof	
x.	Copy of cancelled Cheque or Passbook signed by Bank Manager with IFSC & MICR NO (For Bank Mandate)	

Please send the aforesaid details to Company's Registrar and Transfer Agent (RTA), M/s. CB MANAGEMENT SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED, P-22, Bondal Road, Kolkata- 700019, West Bengal, India, at their e-mail id [rta@cbmsl.com](mailto:rta@cbmsl.com) or to the Company at [acpl.compliance@gmail.com](mailto:acpl.compliance@gmail.com)

Shareholders holding shares of the Company in de-materialized form but have not registered their email address and updated their Mobile Numbers, Bank Mandate are requested to approach their respective Depository through Depository Participant.

Shareholders holding shares in physical form are requested to convert their holdings in demat form as transfer of shares in physical form has been prohibited by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

For any clarification, please contact our RTA, M/s. CB MANAGEMENT SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED, P-22, Bondal Road, Kolkata- 700019, West Bengal, India, at their e-mail id [rta@cbmsl.com](mailto:rta@cbmsl.com), Phone: (033) 40116700/1718.

For ASSAM CARBON PRODUCTS LIMITED  
Sd/-  
Place: Kolkata  
Date: 02.08.2022  
PARINITA GOENKA  
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer



## THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 166 TUESDAY, AUGUST 02, 2022

## Poverty in developed country

Every year, more than 90,000 people experience poverty in the UK in the last year of their life. We also know that those reaching the end of their lives are far more likely to be trapped in poverty than those who are not, especially if they are of working age. The health impacts of grinding hardship increase the likelihood that people become ill and die early. But becoming ill or disabled also pulls people into poverty through the loss of work and higher costs such as specialist equipment, dietary supplements or heating. It is a vicious circle. Every year, terminal care nurses go into homes and provide care and comfort for thousands of people with terminal illnesses. They see first-hand how poverty exacerbates the symptoms of illness, weakens the immune system and heightens the risk of more infections and a faster, more painful death. What's more, they see families suffering stress, pain and guilt because they are unable to keep their loved ones warm and comfortable in their final days. Many people on low incomes are trapped in homes that are cold, damp and mouldy – miserable for anyone, but especially dangerous for someone who has advanced cancer or chronic kidney disease. On average, energy bills double after a terminal diagnosis, due to the need for warmer environments. Four in 10 Marie Curie nurses say fuel poverty made their patients' physical and mental health worse. Food Foundation research shows that the number of adults in "food insecurity" jumped from 4.7m in January to 7.3m in April this year. Record numbers are turning to food banks and seeking debt advice from charities such as Citizens Advice. The Bank of England predicts inflation will reach 10% this year. Energy bills could rise by another £900 this autumn. When we focus on those on benefits needing end-of-life care, the picture becomes starker: six in 10 people with a terminal diagnosis rely on benefits. These are manifestly failing to protect them from rising prices. After years of cuts and freezes, the government's steadfast refusal to raise benefits to cover anything close to the actual cost of living effectively amounts to a £500 cut, according to estimates.

## 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.

Editor,  
The Assam Rising  
G.N.B. Road, Chandmari Colony,  
Guwahati, PIN 781003  
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## Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,  
The Assam Rising  
Guwahati, Assam

## Uniform Civil Code can be the real unifying force in India. Critics must think again

The Uniform Civil Code isn't merely a political agenda. It caters to India's unification with a structural change in society to facilitate gender equality. The UCC can be regarded as being against the idea of divisive politics, which has always been the prime agenda of colonial design. It would be correct to assess the UCC as the final chapter in the history of India's freedom struggle, because its implementation could correct the wrong bargains made by the sovereign after the Partition. The UCC is a step towards integrating and strengthening secular ideals of India. The UCC will ensure empowerment of women in true sense by ending the practice of polygamy, which is currently permitted under Islamic law and is highly unfair and discriminatory to women. Dr B.R. Ambedkar had pioneered the cause of gender equality, which led him to create the UCC in the 1950s. He was always a staunch and ardent supporter of the UCC. Followed by stiff opposition from religious conservatives, he had to retreat and re-strategise the bill. A highly politicised issue, when the Delhi High court asked the Centre to take steps towards bringing a uniform civil code, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) mentioned in its manifesto that the party's goal was to champion the cause of gender equality across religions.

But the highly alluring grandeur of gender equality still remains a distant dream for Indian women. The Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav that India is celebrating with fervour could not have been possible without the contribution of women and men from all backgrounds of our highly stratified society. While the makers of our Constitution brainstormed on how the document could be all-inclusive of values like justice, equality and pluralism, the UCC was on the agenda from the onset. Patriarchy once again manoeuvred the nation's politics under the garb of religious sentiments. The UCC was added to Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy. Drawing upon the best traditions and harmonising them with modern times, the UCC is sure to be a turning point in the history of Indian legislation. Owing to India's diversity, it becomes difficult to overlook how the laws of each religion evolve separately and sporadically. A common, uniform, and evolved set of regulations of civil issues plaguing the society will have far-reaching impact. Ambedkar ensured the introduction of the Hindu Code Bill in the 1950s preceding huge reforms in marriage, guardianship, divorce, and inheritance despite protests from different chambers in the legislature. Even the effort of the Supreme Court to bring some parity in

## Vasundhara Shankar

the status of Muslim women (Shah Bano case) was blocked by the myopic view of the Rajiv Gandhi government which believed that personal law fell in the domain of religious commune. The UCC is moulded and worded in such a way that it promotes fundamental rights of women across all religions, castes and classes of society and gives them an equal right to inheritance, decision in marriage, divorce, adoption, etc. While several attempts have been made to codify the Hindu law with the Hindu Code Bill that was introduced in 1948, the current government's agenda is clear — to unify all personal laws for all religions and castes alike. The central government's stance on the UCC shows it believes that real progress of a country means progress not only on the political plane, not only on the economic plane, but also on the social plane. There has been a lot of debate in favour and against the UCC. But one of the most important voices to be considered is that of the Supreme Court's, which has amplified its support for the UCC in various judgments, calling it "an unaddressed constitutional expectation" and had "hoped and expected that the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territories of India". The critics of the UCC must think again.

# Congress has to split to revive-it's the only way to free it from clutch of Gandhi family

He came, he spoke and he quietly went away. This describes Prashant Kishor's latest effort to revive the Congress party, which the self-styled election strategist seems to have given up for now. It is not known who in the Congress entered into the 'party revival consultancy' with him and for what financial consideration. What he gained from this consultancy is for the Income Tax department to determine after scrutinising his tax returns. But the Congress party has certainly lost another round at the attempts to show signs of life. The over-a-century-old party, which was in power at the Centre and in various states for a major part of the 75 years of India's Independence, has gone into a state of deep coma in the last seven years. This induced inertia seems to have seized the organisation so strappingly that intermittent victories such as the recent one in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, fail to make headlines or enthuse party workers. It is evident that Congress candidates have probably won not because of its apex leadership but in spite of them being there. So where does the Congress go from here? The party has a choice either to revive and strengthen itself once again or go into oblivion and be written off forever. Although the party can't be written off yet, its current state of stupor has greatly affected its image and benefitted its friends and foes alike. Many Congress stalwarts who could win a good number of seats have either left the party to join the BJP or withdrawn into a shell and nowhere



seen in public. They might either be waiting for their opportunity to reappear on the scene once the party bounces back or might be looking for an opportune moment to jump the ship. Either way, the loss is for the Congress. Any more procrastination on its part to set its house in order will seriously affect its prospects in 2024. Given the current mood within the party, it appears to be difficult to predict even a double-digit win for the Congress in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. The only choice left for the Congress is revival. There is a churning going on within the party. But those who are coming very close to a solution are still afraid to openly demand the removal of the "Gandhi triumvirate" from the apex leadership. It is common knowledge that the 'mother-son-daughter' leadership has failed to lead the party to victory but the votaries of change are willing to strike but afraid to hurt. Individually and collectively, for example the G-23, many of them seem to know the solution but no one is willing to risk administering the bitter medicine. Even Prashant Kishor appears to have diagnosed rightly but is unwilling to do the surgery himself. At this juncture it will not be surprising if a big chunk of the party functionaries decide to quit and form a new platform. Splits

are not new for the Congress. Jawaharlal Nehru's leadership was challenged by the socialists who wanted greater state control and the liberals demanding more economic freedom and private enterprise by a group which was later called the Swatantra Party led by C. Rajagopalachari. The resultant split strengthened Nehru's hold over the party.

## Seshadri Chari

His daughter Indira Gandhi faced a similar situation though not exactly on ideological or policy reasons. The stalwarts of the time formed Congress (O) and challenged the leadership of Indira Gandhi whose supporters formed Congress (R) suggesting it was the ruling party. She emerged powerful after the split, won the election, led the country to a decisive war later against Pakistan in 1971 and went on to impose the infamous Emergency. Congress witnessed yet another split engineered by party veterans like Arjun Singh, N.D. Tiwari and Sheila Dikshit even when one of its stalwarts was the Prime Minister. Stronger re-

gional leaders like Sharad Pawar and P.A. Sangma challenged the Congress leadership and split the party in their respective states to form a new platform. It is another story that this party, the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), is now in partnership with the Congress in Maharashtra. West Bengal's current Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee quit the Congress to fight the Left Front in her state. The result is for everyone to see. Those in the Congress who are interested in a better political future for the party and for themselves too will have no choice but to take an extreme step of quitting and floating a new party. If this happens, this time the split might strengthen those who want the revival of the Congress and get it freed from the clutches of the "Nehru clan", euphemistically called the "Gandhi parivar". The total eclipse of the Congress from the political

scene of the country is likely to have yet another interesting consequence on the political landscape. The BJP has successfully occupied the space vacated by the Congress. After 2014 the BJP has won a number of states defeating the Congress. But it has failed to stake a claim to power wherever the Congress party is weak. In states like Punjab, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and a few others, it is the regional parties that have taken the place of the Congress. Therefore, it would be safe to say that the BJP will face not one but many regional parties in states where it is organisationally weak and yet to catch the imagination of the voters. This may take a lot of time and investment in lead-

ership and organisation like in Tamil Nadu or other southern states except for Karnataka. Thus, the eclipse of the Congress should be a cause of worry for the BJP as it has to contest against not one but many political adversaries. Even a slight tilt in the voting percentage in favour of these regional parties in their respective states can result in an unfavourable arithmetic for the BJP in Parliament. For example, in the 2004 general election, the Congress got 145 seats, just seven more than the BJP. It was the regional parties, which were part of the NDA, that lost out to their rivals in the states. On the other hand, a new set of regional parties moved towards the Congress to help it ascend to power after nearly ten years. The UPA consisted of the CPI, CPM, All India Forward Bloc, the Revolutionary Socialist Party, Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party, Kerala Congress and independents. Needless to say, these parties had a say in the overall policy formation of the central government including policies in strategic areas like foreign policy and defence. Besides, they were able to increase their base in their respective states at the expense of the Congress. Both the Congress and the BJP are national parties with sufficient experience in handling complex domestic and international issues. There could be serious differences of opinion on certain issues but no one can overlook the need for a strong and stable government and a responsible opposition with a constructive approach. The current Congress leadership is anything but this.

# Modi is a polarising figure and that's not a bad thing. But we need answers to 3 questions

I have lost count of the number of people who, as the rupee touched a 'historic low' this week, referenced that notorious tweet from Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in which he said that the dollar would be worth Rs 40 if Narendra Modi came to power. In fact, it takes over Rs 77 to buy a single dollar now, which tells us how wrong Double-Sri was. And then there have been comparisons to the chaos in Sri Lanka. We are headed that way, I have heard

it said, 'the economy is in really bad shape but the media is covering this up'. The state of the Indian economy reminds me of the story of the six blind men and the elephant. Each touched a different part of the animal and came to a different conclusion about the shape of the elephant. So it seems to be with the economy: different people seem to see it very differently. For all the doom-laden warnings, there are enough people who point to other indicators that suggest that it is not so badly off. I am not an economist but I find it very hard to believe that we are on our way to becoming the next Sri Lanka. Yes, we have our problems: a weak rupee, inflation, depleting foreign exchange reserves, etc. But you cannot compare an economy of our size to Sri Lanka. The doomsday warnings are symptoms of the polarisation of today's India. At the centre of the polarisation is the figure of Narendra Modi.

Just as the prime minister has his fans, who believe that he can do no wrong, there are also people who believe that his rise to power is the worst thing to happen to India in decades. When you speak to those who are profusely anti-Modi, they offer many reasons for their concerns. The first is the state of the economy which, as we have seen, can be overstated. Since the government abandoned crackpot schemes like demonetisation, there is no evidence to suggest that Modi's handling of the economy is so terrible that it threatens the very future of India. Others complain about the prime minister's autocratic and dictatorial style. This may be a valid complaint but the way it usually works in India is that if you can win an election for your party, almost single-handedly, then you can do pretty much what you want without bothering about your colleagues. That is how it was with Indira Gandhi. And that is how it is with Narendra Modi. There are also complaints about the atmosphere of fear unleashed by the government. Agencies are used for political purposes and the media is terrorised into submission. These are also valid criticisms but they are not entirely without precedent.



Agencies have been used for political purposes by governments before. Remember the hawala case when L.K. Advani was framed? Even H.D. Deve Gowda weaponised the agencies to try and prolong his stay at Race Course Road, targeting political rivals. As for the media, yes there are problems.

## Vir Sanghvi

The mainstream press is so terrified of offending the government that editors and proprietors have been transformed from the Rottweilers they were during UPA 2 to poodles who are eager to seek approval. But this is not the first government to act against the media. In Atal Bihari Vajpayee's time, the owners of hostile publications were raided. Rajiv Gandhi filed scores of cases against The Indian Express. And Indira Gandhi imposed press censorship. Nobody can be pleased with the state of the media today. But there are precedents and the difference is one of degree. If you talk to critics of the prime minister, you discover that almost all of their concerns, while often valid, are not enough to justify the horror and fear with which they regard him. It is not until you get past the stuff about the economy, relations with China, misuse of agencies etc, that you get into the heart of the matter. The real reason why the prime minister is such a polarising figure is none of the things that

views can be summed up in a single phrase: 'Hindu-Muslim'. While the founders of our Constitution opted for an India where Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, etc., all had equal claim to the country, the RSS wanted India to be a Hindu nation. To be fair, contrary to the caricature that is now being spread, the RSS did not want the genocide of Muslims. It merely wanted them to accept that they were living in a Hindu country. Consider this quote from M.S. Golwalkar, the RSS chief who regarded Muslims as descendants of invaders: "Foreign races must lose their separate existence to merge into the Hindu race, or may stay in this country wholly subordinated to the Hindu nation, deserving no privileges, far less preferential treatment—not even citizen's rights." There is more in a similar vein. It is no accident that so much of the Hindu Right's rhetoric is about the Mughals. In that era, Hindus were in the majority and went about their business peacefully. But there was no doubt that the rulers were Muslims and often Hindus were denied rights and even taxed on the basis of their religion.

## Letter to the Editor

### Ravi Sastri centenary celebrations by Rasagna Vedika

Dear Editor,

Dr Raghuram, renowned Dermatologist, Founder President of Rasagna Vedika, organized Raavi Sastri Centenary Celebrations inviting Honourable Chief Justice of India Shri Ramana as the chief Guest. He appreciated Raavi Sastri as a Human, as a Lawyer and as a Writer. Raavi Sastri was honoured with KalaPrapooma Title. Shri Ramana expressed his willingness to work on Raavi Sastri writings, once he completes his tenure of service in judiciary. He wants Raavi Sastri's writings to be translated to other languages, then people across the world will come to know about this great writer and his writings. Kudos to Visakha Rasagna Vedika which made the greatness of Raavi Sastri well known to the general Public. Earlier only Literary enthusiasts knew him.

Kantamsetti Lakshman Rao

Visakhapatnam.





## AIM signs MoU with MASTEC

**Imphal, August 01 :** Under the aegis of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) which promotes a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in India. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Atal Incubation Centre - SELCO Foundation and Manipur Science & Technology Council (MASTEC) represented by the CEO, AIC SELCO Foundation, Guwahati, and Director, MASTEC respectively to identify and support grassroots innovators from Manipur and will be incubated under the AIC SELCO Incubation Programme. It focuses on encouraging and supporting startups, innovators, and the development of innovation-led business ideas to achieve sustainable development goals. Both the parties have set the goal to catalyse technology development in Manipur by identifying commercially viable technologies, providing advisory and consultancy services, and promoting entrepreneurship through effective mentoring and inculcating capacity building of the technology enterprises. Further, on August 23, a stakeholders' meet will be organised jointly by MASTEC and AIC SELCO Foundation to strengthen the scouting and identification mechanism of innovators from the remote pockets of the state. Following the stakeholders' meet, a two-day Rural Innovators Meet cum exhibition will be organised jointly on 21st September and 22nd September 2022 to bring all the grassroots innovators together and provide them with cross-learning opportunities.

## Former home minister RG Lyngdoh passes away

**Shillong, August 01 :** Meghalaya's former home minister RG Lyngdoh passed away on Friday at his residence in Nongrim Hills, Shillong. He was 62. Robert Garnet Lyngdoh, fondly called as Bob or Bah Bobby, was known for his exemplary way in dealing with the militancy in Meghalaya. Lyngdoh is also the brother of MLA Ampreen Lyngdoh and West Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police (SP) IPS Herbert G Lyngdoh. He was the son of former MP and Meghalaya speaker Peter G Marbanian and QE Lyngdoh. Meanwhile, chief minister Conrad K Sangma also tweeted a condolence message. "The fearless Shri R. G. Lyngdoh, former Home Minister of Meghalaya was a personality we all looked up to. Cheerful and witty, Bah Robert was a friend to everyone he encountered. Deeply saddened by the news of his passing. My deepest condolences to @ampreenlyngdoh & his family." Leader of Opposition Dr Mukul Sangma also tweeted, "Deeply saddened by the news of the untimely demise of Bah R G Lyngdoh, ex-Minister; will cherish the services rendered; may the Almighty God grant solace & fortitude to all in the bereaved family & may d departed soul rest in an eternal peace @AITCofficial @ampreenlyngdoh." On July 11, Lyngdoh was critical and was admitted at Bethany Hospital in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). He had slowly recovered and returned home. The chief minister along with deputy chief minister had also visited the former home minister's house to wish him speedy recovery.

## Misogyny during gender awareness programme

**Sikkim, August 01 :** On July 22, The Sikkim Commission For Women in Gangtok organised a one-day legal awareness programme on gender issues at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College (NBBGC), Tadong. The

and gender stigmas. Dr Sangita Dorjee, Clinical Psychologist at STNM Hospital, spoke about mental health and its importance, narrating fables and giving instances of young teenage girls going through mental health issues. Nirmal Man-

Chung Bhutia. The very fact that these awareness programmes emphasised 'precautions against sexual assault' is the biggest problem of the system. Many girls' schools offer self-defence classes in the name of women empowerment and 'gender issues'.



event ended on a note, "Look at the mirror before you head out of your house and ask yourselves, are you looking decent or vulgar." Chung Chung Bhutia (Chairperson, Sikkim Khadi and Village Industries Board), the chief guest of the programme, was greeted with a big round of applause by students and faculty members for a statement which is the epitome of the gender issue. The awareness programme started with lectures on POCOS, sexual assault, abortion, elopement

ger, a Senior Journalist of Sikkim Chronicle, gave an introduction on gender and tried to debunk gender stigmas interacting with college students. POCOS act and other laws related to sexual assault were discussed by Dhan Maya Subba (Superintendent of Police, Anti Human Trafficking Unit). The programme was educational in terms of knowing the laws on sexual assault, but the problem lay with the type of ideologies put forward by Dhan Maya Subba and

But women empowerment is more than just taking precautions, fighting off rapists and landing kicks on the victims' crotch area. While girls are forced to take classes like self-defence, education on consent and toxic masculinity remain rare in boys' schools. The gender issue is not about taking precautions. It is about debunking the stigmas of gender and tackling the problems created by the stereotypes around it. When Dhan Maya Subba said, "Don't play the victim card just because

agriculture products like Ginger, Turmeric, Large Cardamom, Oranges and Kiwi and its capacity to generate more than 50,000 megawatts of hydropower, an official communiqué informed. "The state government is committed to making Arunachal Pradesh an ideal investment destination and is ready to provide single window clearance and necessary approvals in a time-bound manner to investors," Mein said. He added that improved road communication due to fast developing highways and air connectivity in prominent places across the state in recent years have made the major tourist places like Pasighat, Tezu, Ziro, Aalo, Tawang and Mechukha easily accessible to tourists. Highlighting the huge tourism potential and investment opportunities in the state, the deputy chief



minister said that Arunachal Pradesh has lots to offer to tourists in terms of adventure tourism, wildlife tourism, spiritual tourism, ecological tourism, cultural & rural tourism and leisure tourism because of its fast-flowing rivers and high terrains, rich biodiversity, dense forests with unique flora & fauna, diverse cultures and scenic

beauties. He added that the 26 major tribes and over 100 sub-tribes of the state with their own distinct cultures and traditions celebrate a number of festivals throughout the year making it a land of festivals and colourful dances where one can experience different kinds of tribal cultures and taste different local cuisines. Speaking on

the religious and cultural similarities between SE Asian countries and his state, Mein said that Buddhism spread across the state with Mahayana Buddhism in western parts - Tawang, Dirang and Bomdila, in the central part - Taksing, Mechuka and Tuting and Theravada Buddhism in Namsai and Changlang districts. "Apart from 400 years old Tawang Gompa of Gelukpa Sect and 400 years old Gompa at Mechukha of Ningmapa Sect, Kongmukham (Golden Pagoda) in Namsai district has become a popular tourist destination. Thousands of people mostly Theravada Buddhist devotees especially Thai tourists visit this place every year," he said.

Lauding the organizer, the Indian Embassy in Thailand and Trend MMS, he asserted that the festival will go a long way in further deepening the historical bond and bilateral relations and open new vistas for people to people connect between India and Thailand, particularly with the North East India and South East Asian countries. The festival was inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Kingdom of Thailand Jurin Laksanawisit, in presence of Union Minister of State for External Affairs R.K. Ranjan, chief minister of Nagaland Neiphiu Riu, Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma, Arunachal Pradesh Tourism Minister Nakap Nalo, Assam Textile Minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma, Mizoram Tourism minister Robert Romawia Royte, Ambassador of India to Kingdom of Thailand Suchitra Durai and hosts of other dignitaries. The three-day festival would showcase the cultural similarities between India and Thailand and the cultural diversities of Northeast India in which large delegates of industrialists, tour operators and cultural troupes from Thailand and Northeast India are participating.

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legislator W Sawin, Tirap deputy commissioner Taro Mize and DMO Dr N Lowang, while a medical team has been kept on standby at the Lazhu community hall to ensure the best possible medical care and assistance to the children. An ambulance has also been arranged to evacuate those serious to the district hospital in Khonsa. Tirap district medical officer-in-charge Dr Obang Tagu said the exact reason for the outbreak is yet to be ascertained. "The PHE department has al-

ready collected the water samples from the affected areas and sent them for a lab test. The stool samples of the infected children have also been collected and sent to Naharlagun for further analysis," Dr Tagu said. Medical officials on the ground said, "though the first case of death was reported on July 17, the villagers refused to receive medical treatment due to their superstitious beliefs." "The villagers initially refused medical treatment and did not even allow our team to enter their community say-

ing that the outbreak was caused by evil spirits. The administration had to engage the panchayat and student leaders and the Assam Rifles personnel to convince them, following which we were able to provide medical care," an official said. At present, workers of the Sanjeevani Foundation, an NGO, health workers from the Lazhu primary health centre and district hospital and a team of 6 Assam Rifles are monitoring the situation under the supervision of the district administration, the official added. Lazhu PHC medical officer-in-charge Dr A K Sengupta said the situation has improved in the last few days as there have been no reports of death. According to the World Health Organization, diarrhoeal disease is the second leading cause of death in children under five years old and is responsible for killing around 525,000 children every year.

## Tripura CM warns opponents over political violence

**Agartala, July 01 :** Tripura Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha on Sunday warned political opponents resorting to muscle power as a part of political culture and said that his party may be a disciplined organisation but it knows the art of retaliation if party workers are at the receiving end of violence. It should be mentioned that this is for the first time Saha adopted an aggressive tone on the issue of political violence. It was quite clear that he, through his statement, was obliquely indicating towards the ruling party-Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TIPRA). "The regional political parties have no future. My sister Patal Kanya Jamatia has worked for years among the indigenous people as a social activist and when she



chose to enter politics she opted for a national party which always thinks from the heart for the Janajati people," he said while addressing a joining programme held at Gamaria Higher Secondary School at Kakraban under Gomati district of Tripura. "The Left parties ruled Tripura for decades. We used to hear from CPI(M) leaders, the 20 scheduled tribe reserved seats are the unbreakable strong bastions of the Left. While other parties used to start counting from one, CPI(M) used to count their seats from 21 in terms of victory. That solid base of organisation has now vanished. Their presence is minimal now and BJP now has a total of ten MLAs, ten members in the tribal District Council and the web of organisation is till the booth level even in the remotest part of the state," he added. Highlighting the efforts of BJP-IPFT government towards empowerment of the tribal population, he said, "Decades old Bru imbroglia was resolved after the BJP came to power in the state. Two-third of the resettlement process is almost complete. Ekalavya schools are being established, concerned departments have been asked to complete the leftover work of roadways before Durga Puja." Expressing sharp disappointment over violent political overtures, Saha said, "We are a disciplined party from top to bottom. But the leader of this party is PM Modi who is known for surgical strikes and air strikes. So, if our workers are attacked, the attackers will be paid back in the same coin." The CM hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi for selecting Droupadi Murmu as the NDA's presidential candidate and termed it as a "historic" decision. Senior BJP leader and minister Ram Pada Jamatia, Patal Kanya Jamatia, MLA Biplab Kumar Ghosh were present at the event. 395 voters from 150 families shifted loyalties and joined the BJP. Saha termed their move as "a right decision at the right time."

## Agnipath recruitment rally in Nagaland from Sep 7 to 23

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pation in the rally, he said, that only five days are left for online registration for the candidates. Candidates will be intimated about the date of attendance through admit cards 10 days before the rally, he said. For the present recruiting year, the government has given a relaxation in the age limit by two years, he said. The scheme also allows bonus marks for candidates, who have qualification from government recognised institutions, the PRO informed.





## AIM signs MoU with MASTEC

**Imphal, August 01 :** Under the aegis of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) which promotes a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in India. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between Atal Incubation Centre - SELCO Foundation and Manipur Science & Technology Council (MASTEC) represented by the CEO, AIC SELCO Foundation, Guwahati, and Director, MASTEC respectively to identify and support grassroots innovators from Manipur and will be incubated under the AIC SELCO Incubation Programme. It focuses on encouraging and supporting startups, innovators, and the development of innovation-led business ideas to achieve sustainable development goals. Both the parties have set the goal to catalyse technology development in Manipur by identifying commercially viable technologies, providing advisory and consultancy services, and promoting entrepreneurship through effective mentoring and inculcating capacity building of the technology enterprises. Further, on August 23, a stakeholders' meet will be organised jointly by MASTEC and AIC SELCO Foundation to strengthen the scouting and identification mechanism of innovators from the remote pockets of the state. Following the stakeholders' meet, a two-day Rural Innovators Meet cum exhibition will be organised jointly on 21st September and 22nd September 2022 to bring all the grassroots innovators together and provide them with cross-learning opportunities.

## Former home minister RG Lyngdoh passes away

**Shillong, August 01 :** Meghalaya's former home minister RG Lyngdoh passed away on Friday at his residence in Nongrim Hills, Shillong. He was 62. Robert Garnet Lyngdoh, fondly called as Bob or Bah Bobby, was known for his exemplary way in dealing with the militancy in Meghalaya. Lyngdoh is also the brother of MLA Ampareen Lyngdoh and West Khasi Hills Superintendent of Police (SP) IPS Herbert G Lyngdoh. He was the son of former MP and Meghalaya speaker Peter G Marbaniang and QE Lyngdoh. Meanwhile, chief minister Conrad K Sangma also tweeted a condolence message. "The fearless Shri R. G. Lyngdoh, former Home Minister of Meghalaya was a personality we all looked up to. Cheerful and witty, Bah Robert was a friend to everyone he encountered. Deeply saddened by the news of his passing. My deepest condolences to @ampareenlyngdoh & his family." Leader of Opposition Dr Mukul Sangma also tweeted, "Deeply saddened by the news of the untimely demise of Bah R G Lyngdoh, ex-Minister; will cherish the services rendered; may the Almighty God grant solace & fortitude to all in the bereaved family & may d departed soul rest in an eternal peace @AITCofficial @ampareenlyngdoh." On July 11, Lyngdoh was critical and was admitted at Bethany Hospital in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). He had slowly recovered and returned home. The chief minister along with deputy chief minister had also visited the former home minister's house to wish him speedy recovery.

## Misogyny during gender awareness programme

**Sikkim, August 01 :** On July 22, The Sikkim Commission For Women in Gangtok organised a one-day legal awareness programme on gender issues at Nar Bahadur Bhandari Government College (NBBGC), Tadong. The

and gender stigmas. Dr Sangita Dorjee, Clinical Psychologist at STNM Hospital, spoke about mental health and its importance, narrating fables and giving instances of young teenage girls going through mental health issues. Nirmal Man-

Chung Bhutia. The very fact that these awareness programmes emphasised 'precautions against sexual assault' is the biggest problem of the system. Many girls' schools offer self-defence classes in the name of women empowerment and 'gender issues'.



event ended on a note, "Look at the mirror before you head out of your house and ask yourselves, are you looking decent or vulgar." Chung Chung Bhutia (Chairperson, Sikkim Khadi and Village Industries Board), the chief guest of the programme, was greeted with a big round of applause by students and faculty members for a statement which is the epitome of the gender issue. The awareness programme started with lectures on POCOS, sexual assault, abortion, elopement

ger, a Senior Journalist of Sikkim Chronicle, gave an introduction on gender and tried to debunk gender stigmas interacting with college students. POCOS act and other laws related to sexual assault were discussed by Dhan Maya Subba (Superintendent of Police, Anti Human Trafficking Unit). The programme was educational in terms of knowing the laws on sexual assault, but the problem lay with the type of ideologies put forward by Dhan Maya Subba and

But women empowerment is more than just taking precautions, fighting off rapists and landing kicks on the victims' crotch area. While girls are forced to take classes like self-defence, education on consent and toxic masculinity remain rare in boys' schools. The gender issue is not about taking precautions. It is about debunking the stigmas of gender and tackling the problems created by the stereotypes around it. When Dhan Maya Subba said, "Don't play the victim card just because

agriculture products like Ginger, Turmeric, Large Cardamom, Oranges and Kiwi and its capacity to generate more than 50,000 megawatts of hydropower, an official communiqué informed. "The state government is committed to making Arunachal Pradesh an ideal investment destination and is ready to provide single window clearance and necessary approvals in a time-bound manner to investors," Mein said. He added that improved road communication due to fast developing highways and air connectivity in prominent places across the state in recent years have made the major tourist places like Pasighat, Tezu, Ziro, Aalo, Tawang and Mechukha easily accessible to tourists. Highlighting the huge tourism potential and investment opportunities in the state, the deputy chief



minister said that Arunachal Pradesh has lots to offer to tourists in terms of adventure tourism, wildlife tourism, spiritual tourism, ecological tourism, cultural & rural tourism and leisure tourism because of its fast-free-flowing rivers and high terrains, rich biodiversity, dense forests with unique flora & fauna, diverse cultures and scenic

beauties. He added said that the 26 major tribes and over 100 sub-tribes of the state with their own distinct cultures and traditions celebrate a number of festivals throughout the year making it a land of festivals and colourful dances where one can experience different kinds of tribal cultures and taste different local cuisines. Speaking on

the religious and cultural similarities between SE Asian countries and his state, Mein said that Buddhism spread across the state with Mahayana Buddhism in western parts - Tawang, Dirang and Bomdila, in the central part - Taksing, Mechuka and Tuting and Theravada Buddhism in Namsai and Changlang districts. "Apart from 400 years old Tawang Gompa of Gelukpa Sect and 400 years old Gompa at Mechukha of Ningmapa Sect, Kongmukham (Golden Pagoda) in Namsai district has become a popular tourist destination. Thousands of people mostly Theravada Buddhist devotees especially Thai tourists visit this place every year," he said.

Lauding the organizer, the Indian Embassy in Thailand and Trend MMS, he asserted that the festival will go a long way in further deepening the historical bond and bilateral relations and open new vistas for people to people connect between India and Thailand, particularly with the North East India and South East Asian countries. The festival was inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Kingdom of Thailand Jurin Laksanawisit, in presence of Union Minister of State for External Affairs R.K. Ranjan, chief minister of Nagaland Neiphiu Riui, Meghalaya chief minister Conrad Sangma, Arunachal Pradesh Tourism Minister Nakap Nalo, Assam Textile Minister Urkhao Gwra Brahma, Mizoram Tourism minister Robert Romawia Royte, Ambassador of India to Kingdom of Thailand Suchitra Durai and hosts of other dignitaries. The three-day festival would showcase the cultural similarities between India and Thailand and the cultural diversities of Northeast India in which large delegates of industrialists, tour operators and cultural troupes from Thailand and Northeast India are participating.

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## Contd. From Page 1

## Kerala man's death due

on July 23. The 22-year-old Indian man died on Saturday, Kerala's revenue minister told reporters, adding that the government had isolated 21 people who had come in contact with him. "The person reached Kerala on July 21 but visited a hospital only on July 26 when he displayed fatigue and fever," Minister K. Rajan said, adding that there was no reason to panic as none of the primary contacts were showing symptoms. Kerala's health minister, Veena George, told reporters on Sunday that the man's family told authorities the previous day that he had tested positive in the United Arab Emirates before returning to India. India's health ministry had no comment on the death, except for saying that the government had formed a task force of senior officials to monitor monkeypox cases in the country, where local media have reported at least five infections. Over 18,000 cases of monkeypox in 78 countries WHO said late last month that 78 countries had reported more than 18,000 cases of monkeypox, the majority in Europe. It says the monkeypox virus causes a disease with less severe symptoms than smallpox and occurs mainly in central and west Africa. The disease is transmitted from animals to humans. Human-to-human transmission happens through contact with bodily fluids, lesions on the skin or on internal mucosal surfaces, such as in the mouth or throat, respiratory droplets and contaminated objects.

## CM Dr. Sarma launches Mission

this new initiative. Dr. Sarma on this occasion also said that as a part of government's commitment to the welfare of the people belonging to different tribes, along with launching Basundhara-II, the government will release a Tribal Land Policy. The Chief Minister also said that government has laid emphasis on issuing EWS certificates to the people as steps will be taken to issue such certificate to the students from class VIII onwards. An awareness rally will be organised from 1 to 15 September. With regards to OBC certificates, State government will take necessary steps. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma said that following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on 'Minimum government, Maximum governance', State government has been facilitating different public services seamlessly to the people. Moreover, with the introduction of digitalization, different services have been rendered to the people transparently and expeditiously. This system has put an end to the menace of 'middleman', the Chief Minister added. Speaker, Assam Legislative Assembly Biswajit Daimary also spoke on the occasion. Deputy Speaker Assam Legislative Assembly Dr. Nomal Momin, Minister Tribal Welfare Department Dr. Ranaj Pegu, Minister Housing and Urban Affairs Ashok Singhal, Minister Social Justice and Empowerment Pijush Hazarika, Minister Handloom and Textile UG Brahma, Minister Indigenous and Tribal Faith Nandita Gorlosa, Minister PHE Jayanta Malla Baruah, CEM North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council Debolal Gorlosa, Chief Secretary Jishnu Baruah and host of other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

## Mamata Banerjee makes major

Sreerampore, Jhargram and Bongaon were changed, while several others such as Kolkata North, Bankura, Uttar Dinajpur, Tamluk and Bongaon are likely to have new heads. Mamata Banerjee says cabinet reshuffle on cards, 4-5 new faces likely to get inducted. Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday rubbished media reports about the possible dissolution of the state cabinet and said that a reshuffle was on the cards, with four to five new faces expected to get inducted into the council of ministers. Banerjee also said that several departments were currently functioning without any dedicated minister, and it wasn't possible for her to shoulder responsibilities of these alone. "We have to reshuffle our Cabinet. But (I) do not have any plan to dissolve the Cabinet and come up with a new one. There are several departments that have no one at the helm. I alone cannot shoulder (the) responsibilities of all these departments," Banerjee told reporters. "We will introduce four to five new faces in the Cabinet. The reshuffle will be carried out on Wednesday," the TMC supremo added. Departments of Home & Hill Affairs, Health and Family Welfare, and Land & Land Reforms are currently looked after by Banerjee. After Partha Chatterjee was relieved of his ministerial duties, following his recent arrest by the Enforcement Directorate in connection with the school job scam, portfolios held by him - industries and parliamentary affairs - were also taken over by the TMC boss. West Bengal to carve out seven new district. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday also said that West Bengal is set to get seven new districts with the cabinet giving its nod to the proposal. The new districts -- Berhampore, Kandi, Sunderbans, Bashirhat, Ichamati, Ranaghat and Bishnupur -- will take the total number to 30. Hon'ble Chief Minister @MamataOfficial announces the creation of 7 new districts in Bengal for greater administrative efficiency. "The decision was taken to ensure smooth administrative operations," a senior official of the state government said.

## Government employees need to work

August 19 on account of Muharram and on October 20 on account of Lakshmi Puja. The bulk of the holidays are gazette holidays, 36 days in all, and are for different religious festivals, state and national festivals, commemoration of birth and death anniversaries of religious gurus and national leaders, besides the two national holidays -- Independence Day and Republic Day. As many as 18 of these state holidays have also been declared as public holidays under the Negotiable Instrument Act, 1881. In addition to the 36 state holidays, employees can also avail two days off from among 30 listed 'restricted holidays', one of which includes January 1 on account of New Year's Day. "If any of the holidays or restricted holidays for festivals notified above does not fall on the day notified, necessary modification changing the date will be issued in due course," the notification stated. In addition to these, like in previous years, deputy commissioners are allowed to declare any one day, which may be of local significance, as local holiday in the district concerned. However, in Kamrup (M), the deputy commissioner is authorized to declare two local holidays with the approval of the chief minister. Besides, the general administration department is allowed to declare two more additional holidays with the approval of the chief minister.

## Sanjay Raut remanded to ED

advocate Ashok Mundargi, appearing for Sanjay Raut, however, submitted that the allegations are "vague" and raised due to "political vendetta". Uddhav Thackeray says he is proud of Sanjay Raut. Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray on Monday said that he is proud of Sanjay Raut as he did not succumb to any pressure. Thackeray termed Raut as a hardcore Shiv Sainik of Sena founder late Bal Thackeray. "I am proud of Sanjay Raut. What crime has he committed? He is a journalist, a Shiv Sainik, is fearless and speaks what he does not approve of," Thackeray said. Former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray also attacked the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for what he called vendetta politics. Uddhav Thackeray meets Sanjay Raut's family members. Earlier in the day, Uddhav Thackeray met with family members of Sanjay Raut in suburban Mumbai. At Raut's residence, the Shiv Sena chief met with his elderly mother, wife, daughters, and other family members. He visited Raut's residence in Bhandup along with party MP Arvind Sawant, MLA Ravindra Waikar, and Sena leader Milind Narvekar. ED action against Sanjay Raut based on 'evidence': Devendra Fadnis. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Monday said that the ED's action against Sanjay Raut seems to be based on certain proofs. "The ED is a national probe agency. It must have taken action against Raut based on documents and proofs. I would not comment on this issue further. His arrest and other related issues will be discussed in the court," the BJP leader said. Shiv Sena leaders and workers on Monday staged an agitation in Maharashtra's Aurangabad city to protest ED's action against party MP Sanjay Raut. Sena workers and leaders gathered in the Kranti Chowk area of Aurangabad to register their protest. A similar protest was held by Sena workers and local leaders in Nashik city, during which slogans were raised and activists from the party's women's wing attempted to stage a rasta roko in the Shalimar Chowk area. Sanjay Raut was arrested on Sunday midnight after his questioning in a money laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the redevelopment of a Mumbai 'chawl'. The ED had conducted a search at Raut's residence, during which Rs 11.5 lakh in cash was seized. Raut, however, has denied the allegations against him, calling them false and politically motivated.

## 10 million Covid+, but India

United Kingdom - have started the rollout of the first Covid-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer-BioNTech. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), said on Thursday it is working "rapidly" to give emergency use authorisation to a second vaccine candidate developed by Moderna Inc. An approval was expected later on Friday, US time. In India, Pfizer is among three companies that have sought an early approval for a coronavirus vaccine. The country's drugs regulator is assessing these applications, and has asked the other two - Serum Institute of India (which filed for the Oxford-AstraZeneca candidate) and Bharat Biotech to present more data. Pfizer is slated to make a presentation to the agency soon, following which its assessment will proceed. The viral disease that began in Wuhan, China, a year-and-a-bit ago has infected at least 75 million people around the world and killed 1.7 million people, although experts say that both numbers are likely underestimations. One in every eight people infected with the Sars-CoV-2 virus, which causes Covid-19, is from India, but the country fares better in terms of deaths. Its case fatality rate (CFR) - the proportion of infected people who have died from the disease - is 1.45%, which is not only better than the global average of 2.22%, but also better than other countries such as the US (1.8%) and Brazil (2.60%) that have been severely hit by the disease. India's first wave of infections peaked in the middle of September with the seven-day average of daily cases touching 93,617. This number has been receding at a rapid pace since, and in the last week has touched 26,851 - a decrease of over 71%. This improvement in the case rate has come along with improvement in another crucial metric - the positivity rate, which is at its lowest ever. In the past week, 2.6% of all samples tested in India have come back positive for Covid-19 - the lowest this number has ever touched since the government started releasing testing figures in April. According to the World Health Organization, if the positivity rate remains 5% or below for two weeks, a region can be said to be keeping its outbreak under control and is testing adequately. India's positivity rate has been below this threshold for 25 days now. This improvement is reflected in every major hot spot state. As recently as October and November, states such as Delhi, Kerala, West Bengal and Rajasthan were still defying the larger trend and reporting rising cases. But for the first time, numbers are receding in the past three weeks in every major state in the country. States such as Maharashtra, which is responsible for the highest number of infections so far (1,888,767 as on Friday), has seen new infections drop by 83% from mid-September levels. Similarly, new infections are down 88% from peak levels in Karnataka, 95% in Andhra Pradesh, 82% in Tamil Nadu and 73% in Delhi. Experts said they don't expect another massive wave of infections like the country did in September. "The downward trend in cases has come right after the festive season and the Bihar elections - both factors that many of us were predicting would lead to another spike, but that never happened," said Dr Shahid Jameel, virologist and director of the Trivedi School of Biosciences at Ashoka University. "Part of the reason for that is that while officially 10 million people have been infected, this number is at least 15-to-20 times more if we look at the findings of sero-surveys. This, and the fact that millions will get the vaccine in the near future, should see us avoiding another wave." Trends in Europe and the United States, however, have shown that subsequent waves are significantly more severe than the first onslaught of the disease. Countries such as the US, France and the United Kingdom have all seen devastatingly strong second (in the case of the US, third) waves. In the US, seven-day average of new cases in the first wave peaked at 32,809 new cases a day. In the second wave, it was 70,511 - a 115% increase from the first wave. And the number is currently at 220,690 - another 213% increase. The trend is just as clear in other nations as well. In Britain, the second wave was 407% more severe than the first wave: the first wave peaked with a seven-day average of cases at 4,999 while the second wave touched 25,331. In France, the second wave surpassed the severity of the first wave by 1,172% - the first wave touched 4,433, while the second wave peaked at 56,377 new infections a day. "This virus is going to stay with us for at least a couple of years. Over the next year or two we will see localised spurts in cases, but it will be nothing of the magnitude of the first wave... The vaccine is really needed because it will help in keeping in check these pockets of infections," said Dr. Jameel. Other experts warned that measures like masks will remain the key defence against the spread of the disease. "A vaccination campaign, anywhere in the world (and much more so in India), is going to take several months to reach the large numbers that would make a strong difference to rates of transmission. So the short-term future of infection spread patterns is still going to be dependent on the use of standard physical distancing steps such as masks," said Dr Satyajit Rath, immunologist and visiting faculty at Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune.

## 'If you seek to destroy others...': Uddhav

people and present your views and then the people can take a decision," the former Maharashtra Chief Minister said attacking the Eknath Shinde camp. "I was Chief Minister for two and a half years but I never lost my head, because, Balasaheb used to say that power comes and goes, but you should be humble. I have been trying to be humble," he said. "Those who have lost their minds, should not act recklessly. Days and times are not always good for everyone," Uddhav Thackeray said.

## Quota policy isn't meant to deny merit

must be purely on merit. "Reservations, both vertical and horizontal, are method of ensuring representation in public services. These are not to be seen as rigid 'slots', where a candidate's merit, which otherwise entitles her to be shown in the open general category, is foreclosed," held the bench in a separate but concurring judgment penned down by Justice S Ravindra Bhat. Justice Bhad added: "Doing so, would result in a communal reservation, where each social category is confined within the extent of their reservation, thus negating merit. The open category is open to all, and the only condition for a candidate to be shown in it is merit, regardless of whether reservation benefit of either type is available to her or him." The bone of contention in this matter was the manner in which vacancies under the special classes, such as freedom fighters or ex-servicemen, were to be filled up for posts of female constable in Uttar Pradesh. While the state had a policy that all male candidates securing marks more than the cut-off marks for the general category will be selected, the same rule was not applicable for female candidates. Further, several rulings by high courts held that a meritorious candidate belonging to a socially reserved class such as a Scheduled Class (SC) or a Scheduled Tribe (ST) or Other Backward Classes (OBC) can migrate to the general/open category, leaving that seat for another candidate from the reserved category. But for seats meant for special classes such as freedom fighters' families or ex-servicemen, SC/ST/OBC candidates can migrate even when some seats are left vacant. This principle and interpretation of rule was struck down by the top court on Friday. Writing for himself and Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice Lalit emphasised that a less meritorious candidate cannot be allowed to fill up a vacancy under the special classes instead of allowing a more meritorious candidate only for the reason that the latter belongs to SC, ST or OBC. "Subject to any permissible reservations i.e. either social (vertical) or special (horizontal), opportunities to public employment and selection of candidates must purely be based on merit. Any selection which results in candidates getting selected against open/general category with less merit than the other available candidates will certainly be opposed to principles of equality," said the court. Relying on the constitutional provisions of reservation and the principle of affirmative action, the bench said that it is possible that a more meritorious candidate coming from a general category may not get selected for a reserved category. "But the converse can never be true and will be opposed to the very basic principles which have all the while been accepted by this Court. Any view or process of interpretation which will lead to incongruity as highlighted earlier, must be rejected," it held. In the present case, the court ruled in favour of 21 female candidates who had secured more marks than the marks secured by the last candidate appointed in 'General Category-Female' and directed the Uttar Pradesh government to appoint them as police constables.

## Retired army loses Rs 5 lakh from SBI

**Assam Rising, Golaghat, August 1:** The army soldier's hard-earned money surprisingly disappeared from his bank account after retirement. Ratul Sonowal, a retired army soldier from Tarani Village No. 2 under Merapani PS in Golaghat District has lost Rs 6,50,000 with interest due to the negligence of the State Bank of India. Ratul Sonowal deposited a fixed deposit of Rs. 5 lakh with the State Bank of India Bengenakhowa Branch in Golaghat town in the year 2018. The deposits were scheduled to mature in September 2021 in accordance with bank regulations. But retired army soldier Ratul Sonowal was shocked when the fixed deposit amount was transferred to his account in November 2020, before the time of maturity. Soon after the money transfer, suddenly all his money got transferred to another three accounts which were completely unknown to Sonowal. All the three accounts were from SBI Kamrup Town Branch. The soldier complained about the incident to the Manager of the Bank. However, the Bank Manager refused to give any solution to the complaint of the retired army soldier. The Bank Manager did not respond to the complaint filed by the retired army jawan and withdrew from the matter. While Sonowal was searching for his savings, the Branch Manager of the Bank was transferred to another area. A new manager was placed on the seat of the previous manager, who too wishes to stay away from this issue as far as possible. After receiving no response from the bank officials, the victim, Ratul Sonowal, also informed the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police of Golaghat District regarding the same. As Ratul Sonowal has not yet been able to recover his savings, he therefore is seeking the Chief Minister's intervention into the matter. However, the entire process has raised questions about the credibility of the State Bank of India.



## Karate Championship held at Dharapur

**Assam Rising, Palasbari, August 1:** Palasbari Shotokan Karate Academy won the best karate club trophy in the Karate Championship, which was held at Dharapur on July 30. It may be mentioned here that, A total number of 300 students from 14 Karate clubs joined the Championship. Palasbari Shotokan Karate Academy won 13 gold, 14 silver and 20 bronze medals to gain the top slot. On the other hand, Brahmaputra Karate Academy won 4 gold, 5 silver and 9 bronze medals. The championship was organized by the Kamrup District Karate Association. In the Championship, West Guwahati MLA Ramendra Narayan Kalita was present as the chief guest.

## Bijli Mahotsav held at Mechukha



**Assam Rising, Mechuka, August 1:** Bijli Mahotsav was organized at Mechukha on July 27. The celebration was graced by the Speaker, APLA as Chief Guest and 2nd venue of celebration of Bijli Mahotsav was celebrated on July 29 at Jereline, Monigong Circle. Bogam Jenpen, ZPM Monigong was graced as Chief Guest. The Bijli Mahotsav was celebrated as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence. The District Administration, Power Department, APEDA and NHPC jointly organized the Ujjwal Bharat, Ujjwal Bhavishya. In the celebration ADC Monigong, Panchayat Leaders, general public, students, Teachers and beneficiaries participated. Various programmes like Nukkad Natak, Cultural and screening of the short films on the power development of the power sector.

## AJYCP biennial session held at Nagaon



**Assam Rising, Nagaon, August 1:** The 21th biennial session of district body of Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chatra Parishad was held with a day-long programme at Puranigudam Bapuji Library auditorium field on Sunday last. The programme was initiated with the unfurling of the flag of the state youths' organization by Deepmoni Bora, the outgoing district president of the organization following which a tree plantation drive was conducted by the organization at the premise of the auditorium. The plantation drive was inaugurated by Pulin Hazarika, president of Bapuji Library and auditorium management committee. The 'representative meet' was inaugurated by Rana Pratap Boruah, the state president of the organization while central executive Pulak Bora graced the occasion as special guest. During the meeting, an executive body with 45 members led by Pragjyotish Bonia and Debasish Das respectively as the president and general secretary of the district unit was formed for the next session. The session concluded with a colourful cultural programme in the evening. The cultural programme was inaugurated by Rana Pratap Boruah, the state president of the organization. Pragjyotish Bonia and Debasish Das respectively the new president and secretary of the district unit, however ascertained that the stand of the organization against the proposed big dam power projects across the state, would be the same and remained unchanged. The new body of the organization would go ahead with the same enthusiasm in the days to come and would level the same voice that the organization raised earlier against those hydro electric power projects being initiated by the government across the state, a release added.

## World breastfeeding week at Sootea

**Assam Rising, Biswanath Chariali, August 1:** The world breastfeeding week convened by the Integrated Child Development Project, Sootea under the department of Social Welfare was observed here today. In this regard, a procession was taken out through LB road to NH 15 to make people aware about breastfeeding and its importance. The participants including officials of the Social Welfare department, anganwadi works, helpers participated in the procession. Notably, the world breastfeeding week is celebrated from August 1 to 7 every year.



# NFL round-up: Browns beat Steelers to clinch first playoff spot in 18 years

**London, August 01** : The Cleveland Browns are back in the playoffs, qualifying for the first time since 2002 on Sunday by surviving a late Pittsburgh rally for a 24-22 win over the Steelers, who rested quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and several other starters. The Browns (11-5) nearly blew a 15-point lead in the fourth quarter, but stopped Pittsburgh's two-point conversion attempt and then recovered an onside kick with 1:22 left to hold on. A week of Covid-19 disruptions concluded in celebration as the Browns ended what had been the NFL's longest postseason drought. Their reward: Another game against the AFC North champion Steelers, in Pittsburgh next weekend. Nick Chubb had a touchdown run, Baker Mayfield threw a TD pass and the Browns hung on as Mason Rudolph brought back the Steelers (12-4), who had the luxury of sitting their best players against their division last week. The win completes a grueling turnaround for the Browns and their passionate fan base, which endured nearly two decades of dysfunction since the team's last playoff visit 197 losses, 14 double-digit-loss seasons and seven coaches ago. Lamar Jackson became the first quarterback in NFL history to rush for at least 1,000 yards in multiple seasons while leading the Ravens to their third straight AFC playoff berth. The Ravens (11-5) enter the postseason as a wildcard on a five-game winning streak, while Cincinnati end the season 4-11. Jackson rushed for 97 yards on 11 carries to give him 1,005 yards for the season. He also went 10-for-18 passing for 113 yards and three touchdowns and an interception before being pulled late in the third quarter. The Ravens finished with 404 rushing yards, which was the fourth most by a team since 1950. The New York Giants won. Now they wait. Rookie Xavier McKinney intercepted Dallas' Andy Dalton in the end zone with 1:15 remaining, giving the Giants a 23-19 victory over the Cowboys and a chance at an unprecedented, six-win playoff berth. New York's postseason chances hang on the Philadelphia Eagles, who play Washington on Sunday night. Washington would claim the NFC East with a win or tie. Otherwise, the Giants will take it for the first time since 2011. Aaron Rodgers threw for four touchdowns to help the Green Bay Packers pull away for a 35-16 win over

the host Chicago Bears to clinch the No 1 seed and a first-round bye in the NFC playoffs. Bears quarterback Mitchell Trubisky completed 33 of 42 passes for 252 yards to go along with an interception. David Montgomery scored the lone touchdown for Chicago (8-8), who still sneaked



into the playoffs as the No 7 seed by virtue of the Arizona Cardinals' loss against the Los Angeles Rams. Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills placed an emphatic stamp on their breakout season with a 56-26 rout of Miami in a game in which the Dolphins could have clinched a playoff berth with a win. The Dolphins (10-6) didn't get results they needed to clinch their third playoff berth in 18 years, after Cleveland beat Pittsburgh and Baltimore routed Cincinnati. They were then eliminated when the Indianapolis Colts beat the Jacksonville Jaguars later in the day. Jonathan Taylor rushed for 253 yards and two touchdowns, Philip Rivers threw for another score and Rodrigo Blankenship kicked two field goals to help the Indianapolis Colts defeat the reeling Jacksonville Jaguars 28-14 to clinch their second playoff berth in three seasons. Needing a victory of their own as well as a loss from one of four fellow postseason contenders in order to make the playoffs, Indianapolis took the field with the latter part of that equation solved as the Miami Dolphins fell at Buffalo earlier in the day. The Colts (11-5) scored the first 20 points of the game before withstanding rally by the Jaguars (1-15). John Wolford passed for 231 yards and rushed for 56 more in his NFL debut, and the Los Angeles Rams are headed to the playoffs with victory over the Arizona Cardinals. Troy Hill returned an interception 84 yards for a touchdown to lead yet another dominant defensive performance by the Rams (10-6), who earned their third postseason berth in four years under coach

Sean McVay. Wolford bounced back from an interception on his first career throw with a steady effort in place of Jared Goff for the Rams, who would have gotten into the playoffs even with a loss because Green Bay beat Chicago while a few minutes were left at SoFi Stadium. Tyler Murray



passed for 87 yards after sitting out for most of the first three quarters with an ankle injury for the Cardinals, who missed the playoffs for the fifth consecutive season. Arizona would have clinched a postseason spot with a victory. Russell Wilson connected on two fourth-quarter touchdown passes to Tyler Lockett and the Seattle Seahawks rallied for a 26-23 win over the San Francisco 49ers to end the season on a four-game winning streak. Seattle (12-4) had a chance to earn the No 1 seed in the NFC playoffs but stayed at No 3 after the Saints and Packers both won. The Seahawks will host their division rival, the Los Angeles Rams, in the wildcard round next weekend. Tennessee Titans running back Derrick Henry ran into the NFL record book on Sunday, becoming just the eighth player in league history to rush for at least 2,000 yards in a season. Henry, who needed 223 yards on Sunday to accomplish the feat, made history with a six-yard run midway through the fourth quarter against the host Houston Texans. Henry broke his own single-game franchise record with 250 rushing yards on 34 carries in the 41-38 win over the Texans. He rushed for 2,027 yards while earning his second straight rushing title as well as setting a new franchise mark. Drew Brees threw for 201 yards and three touchdowns, the Saints had five interceptions and New Orleans defeated the Carolina Panthers 33-7 to wrap up the No 2 seed in the NFC playoffs. The Saints will host the seventh-seeded Chicago Bears in the wild-card round next weekend. Ty Montgomery

ran for 105 yards on 18 carries for the Saints (12-4), who became the first team to sweep the NFC South by going 6-0 since the division was formed in 2002. Tom Brady threw for 399 yards and four touchdowns, helping the playoff-bound Tampa Bay Buccaneers clinch the fifth seed in the



marked Newton's first game with multiple passing touchdowns this season. He finished 21 of 30 for 242 yards. He also ran 11 times for 79 yards. New England trailed 14-7 early in the third quarter, but outscored the Jets 21-0 the rest of the way in what was likely Adam Gase's final game as New York's coach. Sam Darnold, whose future with the Jets is also uncertain, was 23 of 34 for 266 yards, a touchdown and two second-half interceptions. Darren Waller caught Derek Carr's two-point conversion pass with 24 seconds left, and the Las Vegas Raiders rallied to beat the Denver Broncos despite committing four turnovers. The Broncos (5-11) reached the Las Vegas 45-yard line with nine seconds left and Brandon McManus' 63-yard field-goal try was blocked by Maxx Crosby, who also blocked McManus' record 70-yard attempt on the last play of the first half. Josh Jacobs' one-yard TD run capped a seven play, 77-yard drive for the Raiders (8-8), who snapped a nine-game losing streak in season finales, and for the second straight year, Jon Gruden went for two and the win instead of a tie. Kirk Cousins passed for 405 yards and three touchdowns and ran for another score to lead the Minnesota Vikings to a 37-35 season-ending victory over the host Detroit Lions. Alexander Mattison rushed for 95 yards on 21 carries and also caught three passes for 50 yards and another score. Justin Jefferson caught nine passes for 133 yards and set the NFL rookie record with 1,400 receiving yards on the season. The Vikings (7-9), who were eliminated from playoff contention last weekend, snapped a three-game losing streak. The Lions (5-11) finished their season with a four-game skid.

**London, August 01** : Frank Lampard insisted he does not feel his job is under threat after an insipid performance in a 3-1 home defeat by Manchester City left him under mounting pressure with Chelsea in eighth place. Pep Guardiola's side scored thrice before half-time without reply and will move to within a point of the leaders, Liverpool, if they win their game in hand. But Chelsea are way adrift in the title race after a fourth defeat in six matches, despite spending more than £200m in the summer. "I expected periods of difficulties this year because it doesn't come that easily," Lampard said. "Whether that puts pressure on me is regardless because a month ago everyone was asking whether I will be signing a new contract. In quick succession over a tight and busy period we have lost four games of football so the pressure remains constant in this job. My job is to try and lift the players so they can match the levels that Manchester City showed today." Roman Abramovich,

# Frank Lampard plays down pressure after Chelsea slip to meek defeat

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the Chelsea owner, has been swift to sack managers in the past, not least when he feels Champions League qualification may be in danger. The club are three points off fourth place but have played at least a game more than all but one of the sides above them. Chelsea went unbeaten for 14 matches earlier in the season but Lampard said his team were a work in progress compared with Guardiola's. "When City turned up the heat in the first half, our players didn't react for the goal," he said. "I think that is a confidence issue but this is the level we want to get to." "We're in a tough period at the moment - I played here for a long time so I understand that the minute you lose a few games in a short period of time, then everyone asks questions. The expectations are different this year because we spent a lot of money but this club has to take some pain to get where we want to get to... I'll always feel heat. I felt heat when we were on our good run, because I know that round the corner can be a negative." City face Manchester United in a Carabao Cup semi-final on Wednesday and Guardiola is delighted with their recent resurgence. "The way we won leagues and titles and other things is the way we played today," he said. "The tempo we have missed in the past, today we recovered it."

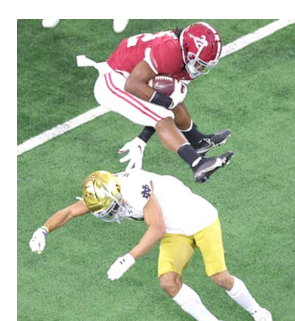
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# Harris leapt over defender in first quarter

**London, August 01** : The US women's soccer star Megan Rapinoe was among those celebrating Alabama's College Football Playoff victory over Notre Dame on Friday night, after running back Najee Harris appeared to answer her request to "hurdle someone for me". Harris leapt spectacularly over a defender during a 53-yard gain in the first quarter of a 31-14 victory for the Crimson Tide, prompting 2019 Ballon d'Or winner Rapinoe to say on Instagram: "You really did it!! It was for me right?!" Earlier this week, Rapinoe responded to a public declaration of admiration from the 22-year-old by asking him to perform the athletic manoeuvre. Harris has also mimicked Rapinoe's famous goal celebration, standing with arms outstretched, after scoring touchdowns. Speaking to reporters before the Notre Dame game, he said he admired Rapinoe, 35 and an outspoken advocate on social justice issues, for "really all the stuff she stands up for". "She's a feminist," Harris said, "and how the females, how women in the world get treated unfairly and how they get paid different and different stuff than men." Rapinoe has been a leading voice in the world champion US women's team's attempt to



achieve pay equality with a men's team they have vastly outperformed. Among other causes she has also expressed support for protests against racism and police brutality and defended teams choosing to kneel for the US anthem, a stance which ranged her directly against Donald Trump.



# Sebastian Coe shrugs off concerns that Nike track spikes give unfair advantage

**London, August 01** : Sebastian Coe, the president of World Athletics, has dismissed concerns that Nike's controversial new track spikes, which have produced a spate of recent world records, could provide an unfair advantage at the Olympics. Lord Coe said he was "pretty calm" about the game-changing spikes and did not want to "stifle innovation" despite Joshua Cheptegei and Letesenbet Gidey breaking the men's 10,000m and the women's



5,000m records within an hour of each other in October. Both were wearing Nike ZoomX Dragonfly spikes, billed as the "fastest shoes ever". With Mo Farah and Sifan Hassan also breaking the men's and women's one-hour records wearing new Nike shoes in

Brussels in September, there have been suggestions that the company could enjoy a similar dominance on the track as it did in the marathon between 2016 and 2019, with other brands potentially taking years to catch up. However, Coe said he was confident that history would not repeat itself. "I'm not sitting in fear of that," he added, stressing that it was a good thing for shoe manufacturers to try

to outdo each other. "I remember a period in the mid-2000s where Adidas were the kings of the podium, particularly in distance," he said. "So these things come in cycles. And there is a built-in dynamic where shoe companies mercifully are still investing a lot of money into the research and development of shoes. And I'm pleased they're doing that." Last year World Athletics introduced new rules for track spikes, limiting the use of plates and restricting the sole to be no thicker 30mm.





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# Maria Sakkari: 'I had zero support from federations or sponsors'

**London, August 01 :** Maria Sakkari is one of the best women's tennis players in the world. That has been clear for a couple of years during her slow-burning 20s as, bit by bit, she steadily rose up the rankings and established herself at the top of the game. This week in Guadalajara, as she contests the WTA Finals as one of the elite eight, it is a simple fact. And yet, for the majority of her tennis career, that has not been the case. Although she and Stefanos Tsitsipas have become the first two top-10-ranked Greek tennis players, their success belies the fact that they have done so without the guidance, expertise or financial heft of a federation. "I was lucky to have parents like my parents because they invested a lot and I had zero support from federations or sponsors," says Sakkari, whose mother, Angeliki Kanellopoulou, was once ranked No 43 in the world. "My father paid so much for me to play tennis and I'm very grateful for what he has done and they have both done in order for me to achieve my goals." A result of trading her own path without outside help is that it has been uncommonly long. Sakkari, now 26, was unremarkable as a junior player, reaching a career high of only 203. When she decided to pursue her career as a professional, she initially gave herself two years just to see how things would go. If she didn't succeed, she already had an alternative route in mind: "I was thinking of maybe going to college or studying something in Greece." In time she eventually transitioned to the ITF pro circuit, the lowest rungs of professional tennis, and she would see many of the far more successful junior players, with all of their



sponsors and hype, also trying to reach the top of the game. "They were so far away," she says. "They were so much better. I could clearly see that they were another level." Looking back to those days and seeing how she has overtaken some of them is an understandable source of satisfaction for Sakkari. She cites Aryna Sabalenka, career high junior ranking of 225, as another player who defied convention: "Seeing these players now, I don't want to sound arrogant, but at the moment being the better player than some of them, it proves... you can tell many juniors that you don't have to be a top junior to make it to the top." The progress from there was slow but constant. At 18 in 2013, she moved from Greece to Barcelona by herself which "made me realise that I have to live my own life, just take my decisions for myself". She made her grand slam debut aged 20

at the 2015 US Open, qualifying at her first attempt. After building her game with Thomas Johansson, the 2002 Australian Open champion, she settled on a 23-year-old British former hitting partner called Tom Hill as her coach in 2018. She reached the top 20 only last year. Tennis players often dip into the same pool of inexperienced coaches who move from one camp to the next, but her unusual choice has turned out to be an inspired one. Sakkari and Hill are the same age and they have grown and improved together, with both determined to test each other's limits on the court and then enjoy themselves away from it: "It's nice to have someone your age who really understands you and really supports your decisions," she says. Although her improvements have been constant, this year has been her true breakthrough. Sakkari has always been chiselled and

strong, such a supreme athlete that during lockdown she considered competing in the Greek national athletics championships with her 100m personal best of 12.7 (without spikes) just to amuse herself, and she plays an extremely physical style. But now she uses her athleticism in order to play more attacking tennis. Most notably, her serve has dramatically transformed from a decent but inconsistent delivery to her defining weapon. Still, Sakkari says her mental transformation, and her management of the "negative thoughts", has been her biggest change. "Being deadly honest, I'm working with a specialist," she says. "I'm not hiding it from anyone. It's probably one of the best gifts I've ever given to myself because that improved me as a person and it improved me as a player as well. It's the best thing in that part of my career, it was my turning point and it definitely was one thing that I will never regret." All of that mental work was particularly tested at the French Open when she reached her first slam semi-final and held match point before a heart-breaking loss to Barbora Krejickova. Shortly after the most crushing defeat of her life, she delivered one of the most memorable press conferences of the year: "I have to be deadly honest," she said. "I got stressed, starting thinking that I'm a point away from being in the final. I guess it's a rookie mistake." She concluded if she was in that position again then she would know what to do. "It was clearly a tough loss in Paris," she says. "It really disappointed me because I

**'I will continue to back the team': Ravi Shastri after stepping down as India coach**

**New Delhi, August 01 :** Ravi Shastri shared a heartwarming post on Saturday after stepping down as the head coach of India men's cricket team, saying he will cherish the memories made along the way and will continue to back the Men in Blue in the future. Shastri's tenure with Team India ended with an early exit from the T20 World Cup. "Now that the penny has dropped... thank you so much for making me part of this incredible journey. Memories that I will cherish and a team that I will continue to back till the time I'm able to watch the sport #TeamIndia @imRohit @ImRohit @ajinkyarahane88," wrote Shastri as the caption of his post on Twitter. Earlier on Monday, the 59-year-old Shastri termed the current Indian side as one of the greatest sides in the world in a riveting post-match speech after India's nine-wicket win over Namibia in their final Super 12 Group 2 outing. "You guys, as a team, have over-exceeded my expectations with the way you've played. Over the last few years, you went across the globe, across formats and beat everyone.

could see I was one point away from making the final. That took me a little bit of time to get back on track." For some players, it would have taken a lot of time to get back on track. Instead, she worked with her psychologist, she found her way by the end of summer and she reached a second slam semi-final, at the US Open, beating three top 10 seeds in a row, but losing to Emma Raducanu. She showed she could achieve a run of big results that would eventually secure her a spot in the WTA Finals. "I knew that I could do it but I told myself that I'm capable of doing it [this year]," she says. "It came this year, which is great." On Thursday, Sakkari, the fourth seed, contested her first match in Mexico, outplaying Iga Swiatek 6-2, 6-4. Proof of her improved first serve came with her winning 26 out of 27 points on it in the whole match. With every year of her career since her professional journey began in 2011, Sakkari has improved her ranking and she has gradually risen to the top of the sport. Now that she is there, she only wants more.

# 'It's a one-off match for us': Kane Williamson on T20 World Cup final

**Dubai, August 01 :** New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson on Saturday played down the hype around their big final against Australia in the T20 World Cup, terming it "a one-off match for us" where the focus will be on extending their fine run in the tournament. From reaching back-to-back ODI World Cup finals in 2015 and 2019, to winning the inaugural World Test Championship in June this year, the Black Caps have been one of the most consistent sides in world cricket. "It's a reflection of a lot of hard work, but tomorrow's is a one-off match and for us, it is about trying to make those small adjustments again and keep the focus really close and what it needs to be," Williamson said during a virtual media interaction on the eve of the title clash. The side has been operating well as a collective and certainly playing for each other. For us, it's important that we've tried to grow and learn throughout and I think we've seen that a little bit. And tomorrow's another opportunity." Despite their consistency, the Kiwis always enter a tournament final with the "underdogs"



tag, but the skipper does not mind that. "It's sort of doesn't have a lot to do with us really. We focus on our cricket and try our best keep improving as a side. The different tags and whatnot that's not really something that we control," Williamson said. The last time the two rivals met in the final - 2015 ODI World Cup - New Zealand were bowled out for just 183 with Australia cantering home in the 34th over for the loss of three wickets. But the Kiwis have peaked at the right time here, firing on all cylinders to oust 2019 ODI World Cup champions England with a superlative batting show from Daryl Mitchell and Jimmy Neesham in the first semifinal. "It would be quite an achievement. But where it stands at the moment is there's a game of cricket to play and for us it's about focusing on that and looking to go out there and implement

those things that are important to us." So that is very much where we are at the moment," said Williamson. In the semifinals, wicketkeeper Devon Conway also played a crucial hand of 46 runs during his 82-run partnership with Mitchell for the fourth wicket, but he will miss the final as he broke his hand when he punched his bat after getting out against England. "The loss of Devon is a big one, he's been a big part of all formats for us and it's disappointing. It's really a freak thing to happen. But we're keeping our focus on the task," Williamson said. On paper, New Zealand have played Australia 212 times across the three formats and won only 51 times - their worst win-loss record against any team in international cricket. "When you play each other I suppose both teams get a reasonable look at one another.




# Australia were written off but reaching final wasn't unexpected: Aaron Finch



**Dubai, August 01 :** Australia's march into the final of the T20 World Cup is not surprising, skipper Aaron Finch said on Saturday, stressing that his team has the depth to go the distance and clinch a maiden title. Australia had come into the ICC event after losing all the series played this year. They lost to New Zealand, West Indies and Bangladesh in the lead-up to the tournament. On Thursday however, Australia beat Pakistan by five wickets in the second semifinal of the T20 showpiece to set up a summit clash against New Zealand. "It wasn't unexpected. We came here with a clear plan to try and win this tournament. We always felt that we have the depth and quality to do that," Finch said on the eve of Sunday's final. "A lot of people had written us off from the start, so it has been really impressive the way we have gone about our business. Every-

one has prepared really well and had a match-defining performance at some point, the guys are up and about for tomorrow." We had a lot of confidence within, we were confident about how we were preparing, our strategy was coming together. So it has not defied expectations, we came with a clear plan to win the tournament and we still feel we have the squad to do that. "Finch was out for a first-ball duck after Pakistan's left-arm pacer Shaheen Afridi trapped him in front of the wicket and the skipper admitted he is "vulnerable" when the balls nips back in. "That was a good ball. Any time it nips back a little bit is where I am probably most vulnerable," he said. "So that would be another challenge with Trent Boult's left-arm swing and Tim Southee who can swing the ball away and also knocks it off the seam and slides it a little bit. I had a really good hit in the training, so feeling good going into tomorrow." Five-time ODI World Cup champions

Australia have never won the T20 title and Finch is hopeful that his team can change that on Sunday. "Absolutely, it is one that has eluded us in the past and the fact that we are in the finals, it gives us a great opportunity to rectify that," he said. "It will be a great game, New Zealand is a great team, they have been to all finals over the last six years, so looking forward to it." Talking about New Zealand, the 34-year-old said: "They can't be underestimated... they have the firepower, experience and class, so I am not surprised one bit." New Zealand side has got a huge amount of quality, they have shown that over long period of time, they have been best powerplay performing team with the ball, that's going to be a challenge," he said. "They have got Daryl Mitchell, who played a great knock against England, Martin Gupthill, who has got class and power and then you got Kane Williamson, who is also world class as the top 3. So they have match winners with both bat and ball." Finch also said he is not too worried about the toss as "at some point, you have to win a game batting first.

## DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES, GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM


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- Intending fishers can submit their KCC applications in presence of officials from Fishery Department, LDM, NABARD and Banks in the camps.
- Govt. of India provides 2% Interest Subvention on KCC loan.
- RBI provides 3% Prompt Repayment Incentive on KCC loan.
- Fishers can avail KCC loan with @ 4% interest per annum.
- Banker's documentation charges etc. are waived for KCC.
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**Minimum documents to be enclosed with KCC Application**

- Two copies of recent Passport size photo of applicant
- Photo Identity and address proof (Photostat copy of Aadhar Card/ Voter ID/ Driving licence)
- Land document (Copy of Jamabandi/ Chitha/ Land holding certificate or any other document bank agrees)
- Photostat copy of first page of the Bank Passbook .
- Photostat copy of PAN Card.
- Any other relevant document as the case may be.



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**\* Application of already defaulted in any bank may be rejected.**

**Fishers may submit their KCC applications through Fishery officials at the earliest.**

**- Director of Fisheries, Assam, Guwahati -16**

Janasanyog /D/9501/22