

# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VI ■ Issue No. 110 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ SATURDAY ■ JUNE 05, 2021 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 7.00

Biden bans US investment in Chinese military and tech ...

03

Sale's Manu Tuilagi makes fresh start with eyes on Premiership title

07

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Kamakhya Temple to remain shut

**Guwahati, June 4 :** The Kamakhya Temple authority on Friday announced that the temple would remain closed for devotees till June 30, 2021. The Maa Kamakhya Devalaya Parishad Committee in Guwahati on Friday, said in a statement: "This is for general information that due to threats of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Maa Kamakhya Devalaya will remain closed for devotees till June 30, 2021. Moreover, the Kamakhya Temple will only hold the rituals during the Ambubachi Mela scheduled to be held from June 22 to June 26, 2021, the statement added. No devotees will be allowed to enter inside the premises of the Kamakhya Temple during the Ambubachi Mela this year. "Entry of devotees including Sadhus and Sanyasis is totally prohibited. There will be no food and lodging facilities at Kamakhya. Co-operation from everyone is highly solicited in this regard," it said. Like every year, this year too Ambubachi Mahayog will be held at the temple from June 22. The Ambubachi Mela is an annual Hindu Mela (fair) held at Kamakhya temple and it is the celebration of the yearly menstruation course of goddess Maa Kamakhya and the mela starts from June 22 every year at Kamakhya Temple.

### Police detains Congress leader

**Guwahati, June 4 :** Cachar Police detained Congress leader Abir Choudhury and seized his mobile phone on the basis of an FIR filed against him for allegedly defaming the country's Prime Minister and Home Minister on Facebook. According to media reports, the FIR was filed by the Cachar district president of Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, Amitesh Chakraborty at the Silchar Sadar police station. "There is a fine line between criticising a political ideology and defaming the torch-bearer and office bearer of this country. The person named Abir Choudhury (facebook id) has been engaged and indulged in castigating, censuring, denouncing, and defaming the Prime Minister of India, Home minister of this country relentlessly at the various level which not only is malevolence but is disgraceful to all the competent authority of this state," Chakraborty mentioned in the FIR.

### Prafulla Kumar Borkotoky dies

**Guwahati, June 4 :** Assam's eminent sports personality of yesteryears, Prafulla Kumar Borkotoky, breathed his last at the Jorhat Medical College Hospital (JMCH) on Thursday. Prafulla Kumar Borkotoky was a former member of the state football and cricket teams. Borkotoky was 83 at the time of his demise. According to sources, the eminent sportsman died of post-Covid19 complications. He was a reputed footballer and represented the famous Thengal Football Club.

## Assam government fixes Covid-19 treatment cost in private hospitals

**Guwahati, June 4 :** The Assam government has fixed the cost of treatment of Covid-19 patients at private hospitals in the state. As per the government notification, the cost of Covid-19 treatment at a private hospital has been fixed based on the types of hospital. Assam health minister Keshab Mahanta said the decision was taken in view of the complaints from the public that some hospitals were fleecing people in the name of Covid-19 treatment amid the pandemic. The charges in Super Specialty Hospitals and other hospitals shall be fixed for COVID patients considering the bed oc-

cupied in the general ward, paying cabin, and ICU (with and without ventilator support), said the notification. In a



super specialty hospital, the per-day charge for the general ward would be Rs 5,000, for share cabin Rs 6,500, for

ICU without ventilator Rs 10,000, and Rs 15,000 for ICU with the ventilator. In a general hospital, the per-day charge for the general ward would be Rs 4,000, for share cabin Rs 5,000, for ICU without ventilator Rs 9,000 and Rs 12,000 for ICU with the ventilator. The charge includes registration charges, bed charges, boarding charges (food, etc.), nursing charges, consultant charges: RMO, MD, Anesthetists, Surgeon, Blood transfusions, oxygen charges, medicine & drugs as treatment protocol, pathology & radiology test

charges. It also includes medical procedures like radiological imaging and diagnostic test such **Contd...Page 6**

## Widespread Rain and Thunderstorms Expected Over Assam, Meghalaya, Goa, Kerala

**Guwahati, June 4 :** The Northern limit of southwest monsoon has advanced into some parts of the south Ara-

bian Sea covering southern Lakshadweep area, south tip of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, much of Sri Lanka, and into

east-central Bay of Bengal via southwest Bay of Bengal. On June 3, IMD declared the onset of southwest monsoon over Kerala, which is two days later than normal. Moreover, with the strengthening of westerly winds, the parts of south India are likely to experience scattered to widespread rainfall with some heavy falls and isolated thunderstorms over Konkan and Malabar Coast. It is expected that the potential daily rainfall may reach up to 30-50 mm. Similarly, southwesterly winds flowing into northeast India

will witness an increase in strength for **Contd...Page 6**



## Congress sends memo to President, suggests 1 crore vaccination per day

**Guwahati, June 4 :** The Assam Congress has suggested the vaccination programme be accelerated in order to complete vaccination of the Country's adult population by December 31, 2021. The Assam Congress has submitted a memorandum to President Ram Nath Kovind, suggesting 1 crore vaccination per day. "...direct the Modi Government to ensure one crore vaccination per day as also universal free vaccination," the Assam Congress stated in its memo. It added: "...we need to vaccinate our entire adult population of

above 18 years on or before 31st December 2021. This is the only way to save our people. For this, the only solution is to vaccinate at least one crore people a day and not the current average of 16 lakh people a day." The Assam Congress, in its



memo, also criticised the Central Government for differential pricing of COVID-19 vaccines. The Assam Congress said that the "Modi Government sponsored three price slabs for the same vaccine are a recipe for profiteering out of people's misery." "Serum Institute's Covishield single dose costs Rs 150 to Modi Government, Rs 300 to State Governments and Rs 600 to private hospitals. Bharat Biotech's Covaxin single dose costs Rs 150 to Modi Government, Rs 600 to State Governments and Rs 1,200 to private hospitals. The private hospitals are even charging up to Rs 1,500 for a single dose. The full cost of two doses should be accordingly calculated. The Modi Government's sponsored three price **Contd...Page 6**

### Boxer Shiva Thapa calls on CM CM presents cheque worth Rs. 3 lakh to Shiva Thapa

**Guwahati, June 4 :** Internationally acclaimed boxer Shiva Thapa called on Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma at his office at Janata Bhawan today. The Chief Minister while congratulating Thapa for his recent success at the Asian Boxing Championships held in Dubai, presented him a cheque worth Rs. 3 lakh under the State Sports Policy. The Chief Minister **Contd...Page 6**



## CM reviews Covid scenario with Health Dept Don't allow home quarantine to comorbid Covid patients: CM



**Guwahati, June 4 :** Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today chaired a review meeting of Health Department at his conference room at Janata Bhawan and took stock of Covid-19 scenario in the state. In view of decreasing death rate and positivity rate in the state, the Chief Minister expressed confidence that situation will improve substantially in the next few weeks. In order to bring the positivity and death rates further down, the Chief Minister directed the department not to allow home quarantine to Covid patients of any age group with comorbidity and refer

them to institutional quarantine. In the meeting, the Chief Minister also discussed the issue of fixing the rate of private hospitals for Covid treatment and patient friendly reasonable prices were fixed for Covid treatment in both general wards and super-specialty wards in private hospitals. The rates were decided so that no discrepancy remains in charging the patients for healthcare services in private hospitals in both general and super-specialty wards in this time of the pandemic. The Chief Minister also reviewed the status of Paediatric ICUs, **Contd...Page 6**

## Decision on curfew and inter-district movement on June 7: Assam Government

**Guwahati, June 4 :** A decision on curfew and inter-district movement in Assam would be taken by the State Government on June 7. This was informed by Assam Health Minister Keshab Mahanta on Friday in Guwahati. Keshab Mahanta said this after attending a COVID-19 review meeting held at the State Secretariat (Janata Bhawan) on Friday. He said that rate of COVID-19 infections and related deaths have decreased in the State in recent times and as such a decision on curfew and inter-district travel would be taken on June 7. "There has been a decline in the rate of infections and related deaths in recent times. A decision on curfew and inter-district movement would be

taken in a meeting on June 7," informed Assam Health Minister Keshab Mahanta. Notably, curfew remains enforced across Assam daily from 12pm till 5 in the morning next day. Moreover, a ban on inter-district movement was imposed by the Assam Government owing to the rising cases of COVID-19 in the case. Meanwhile, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has instructed the State Health



Department to stop home quarantine facility for COVID-19 patients with comorbidity. He asked the Health Department officials to **Contd...Page 6**

## UK approves Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged 12-15, says it's safe for use

**London, June 4 :** Britain's top medicine regulator on Friday announced that it has extended approval of the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech so it



can be used on children aged between 12 to 15 years. "We have carefully reviewed clinical trial data on children aged 12 to 15 years and have concluded that the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective in this age group and that the benefits of this vaccine outweigh any risk," June Raine, chief executive of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), said. Dr Raine also said the safety of the vaccine in children aged between 12 to 15 years would be carefully monitored. "No extension to an authorisation would be approved unless the expected standards of safety, quality and effectiveness have **Contd...Page 6**

## After shootout, police nab three smugglers in Nalbari

**Guwahati, June 4 :** Three smugglers, involved in various kinds of illegal trade including drugs and cattle smuggle have been apprehended by the police in Assam's Nalbari district in a "game-changing" operation. "The kingpin Abu Bakkar Siddiqui who's a wanted criminal on charge of cattle smuggling, drug trade and other crimes is among the nabbed," informed Assam

Police DG - Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta. The three smugglers were arrested after a "thana-level" operation was launched by the Nalbari Police Station and Ghagrapar Police Station on Friday. Assam DGP Bhaskar Jyoti



Mahanta has termed the operation a "game-changer". "Today's ambush at Nalbari, planned and executed by the Nalbari and Ghagrapar thanas is a significant **Contd...Page 6**

## Govt caps trade margin on oxygen concentrators at 70%, revised price within a week

**New Delhi, June 4 :** In view of the extraordinary circumstances arising due to the COVID pandemic that has resulted in recent volatility in maximum retail prices (MRP) of oxygen concentrators, the Government has decided to step in to regulate the price of oxygen concentrators. As per information collected by the government, margin at the level of distributor currently ranges up to 198%. By invoking extraordinary powers under Para 19 of the DPCO, 2013 in larger public interest NPPA has capped the



Trade Margin up to 70% on Price to Distributor (PTD) level on Oxygen Concentrators. Earlier, in February 2019 NPPA had successfully capped the Trade Margin on Anti-cancer Drugs. Based on the notified Trade Margin, NPPA has instructed the manufacturers / importers to report revised MRP within three days. Revised MRPs will be informed in public domain within a week by NPPA. Every retailer, dealer, hospital and institution shall display price list as furnished by the **Contd...Page 6**



## Illicit liquor destroyed



**Biswanath Chariali, June 4:** Jamuguri police in association with the excise department had conducted an operation against the sale of illicit liquor in Brahma Gaon and No. 2 Bor Pothar near here on Friday. The police team had destroyed vessels for fermenting spirituous country liquor and recovered bottles of illegally imported wine from Arunachal Pradesh.

The team had conducted the operation against the illicit liquor in presence of Akashdeep Kakaty, Circle Officer of Naduar Revenue Circle. According to the information, nearly five hundred liters of country liquor were destroyed whereas three cartons of illegally imported Arunachal Pradesh wine were recovered.

## Two more people die of COVID 19 in Nagaon district

**NAGAON, June 4:** Two more people including a woman who were undergoing treatment in hospital, died of COVID 19 today in the district. Including these two death cases, a total of 68 people died of COVID 19 in the district till filing of this report. Besides, 339 fresh COVID cases were detected in the district today, taking the total cumulative active COVID cases in the district to 4095 while 425 people who were undergoing treatment in hospital as well as other COVID Care Centres in the district after being affected by the virus, have been recovered from the virus today, sources added. Sources claimed that among those who tested positive today, 206 were admitted to Nagaon COVID hospital as well as other COVID Care Centres in the district while the rest were put in home isolation. Rapid Antigen Test was conducted on 5632 people today while RT-PCR test was conducted on 217 swab samples, sources further added.

Meanwhile District Legal Service Authority in association with Maruwari Panchayat Manch under special supervision of district health services today conducted a massive COVID vaccination campaign at Nagaon Maruwari Panchayat Manch Bhavan in Haiborgaon area. During the vaccination campaign, more than 82 members from Nagaon Photography Association were vaccinated today. It is pertinent to mention that a sleuth from the photography association comprising of its president and secretary respectively Ashim Kundu and Kanu Laskar recently appealed to the state health minister Keshab Mahanta at Nagaon for vaccination of its 170 members. The association expressed its gratitude to the minister today for his immediate initiatives for vaccination of its members, a release added.

## Tribute to Dr. Lakshmi Nandan Bora at Maryam Ajmal Woman's College of Science and Technology

**Hojai, June 4:** On the death of well-known literary figure, Dr. Lakshmi Nandan Bora; Department of Assamese, Maryam Ajmal Women's College of Science and Technology has organized a condolence program today at 11.30 am. The Program has been arranged with the intention of condolence, praying tribute virtually through Google Meet, entitled as "Mohiruha". Assistant Professor of the Department Gauri Prasad Sharma hosted the programme in the presence of Dr. Sameem Sofika Begum,

College inspector of Ajmal Groups of Colleges, Ananta Hazarika, teacher-trainee of Nazir Ajmal Memorial College of Education along with department students Hasina Siddika, Naureen Sultana Begum, Afsana Yasmin, Yasmin Sultana as well as student from Department of English, Latifa Begum presented the details of Dr. Lakshminandan Bora's literary work and contributions. Attending the tribute ceremony as the keynote speaker, Mrinal Kumar Borah, Assistant Professor, Department of Performing

Arts, Dibrugarh University, elaborated on Bora's literary work, journalist life and personal relations. Head of the Department, Mr. Rajiv Hussain has also highlighted on Dr. Bora's colourful literary work and shared his personal experiences with him. Assistant Professor from other Departments, Mr. Hemanta Kalita, Ms. Chinmoyee deka, Ms. Aditi Ghosh, Mrs. Amrita Mondal, Mrs. Tahera Rahman, Ms. Prerna Talukdar and Mr. Baseer Ali Ahmed has also attended the programme.

## BSF Apprehended 04 Bangladeshi Nationals And 02 Indian Along With Contraband Items From Indo- Bangladesh Border

**Guwahati, June 04:** In yet another success in its crusade against smuggling activities, 129 Bn and 41 Bn BSF under the aegis of Guwahati Frontier of Border Security Force apprehended 04 Bangladeshi Nationals and two Indian along with contraband items on 03rd June 2021 from bordering area of village-Sahebganj, PS-Sahebganj, Distt-Coochbehar (West Bengal) and Pakhiurachar, PS South Salmara,

distt-Dhubri (Assam). 02. Acting on tip off, on 03rd June 2021, the troops of Border outpost Dharlaof 129Bn BSF of Anti Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) under Sector headquarter Coochbehar carried out a special operation in the general area of village Sahabganj and apprehended 04 Bangladeshi national while they were trying to exfiltrate from India to Bangladesh., 03. Details of apprehended

Bangladeshi Nationals are as under:- a) Riday Ali, (22 yrs), S/o Alamgir, Vill-Khoribari, PO-Nagdoh, PS-Kurigram, district-Kurigram (Bangladesh), b) Rafikul Islam (25 yrs), S/o Late Abdul Gani, village-Sivram, PO-Borobari, PS-Lalmonirhat, Rangpur (Bangladesh), c) Afruja Khatun (26 yrs) D/o Abed Ali, Vill-Khoribari, PO-Nagdoh, PS-Kurigram, District-Kurigram (Bangladesh), d)

Sonali Khatun, (09 months), D/o Afruja Khatun, 04. Apprehended Bangladeshi nationals have been handed over to PS-Sahebganj, Distt-Coochbehar (West Bengal) for further legal action., 05. In second operation, acting on tip off, on 03rd June 2021, troops of Border outpost Bansichar of 41 Bn BSF carried out a special operation in the general area of village Pakhiurachar closed to on Indo-Bangladesh border. Alert BSF troops apprehended two Indian smugglers along with contraband items and 01 Engine Fitted Country made Boat, while the consignment were trying to be smuggled from Bangladesh to India., 06. Details of apprehended Indian smugglers are as under:- i) Mujammel Haque (21 Yrs), S/o Barack Ali, R/o Vill-Mantrichar, PS-South Salmara, Distt-Dhubri (Assam), ii) i) Nurul Islam (50 Yrs), S/o Keramat Ali, R/o Vill-Motkhwa, PS-South Salmara, Distt-Dhubri (Assam), 07. Apprehended Indian smugglers and seized contraband items are being handed over to PS-South Salmara, Distt-Dhubri (Assam) for further legal action. 08. Keeping in view of the vulnerability of border, heightened activities of the infiltrator/exfiltrators, smugglers and anti-national elements on the border, BSF troops are always alert towards the issues of trans-border crimes & illegal infiltration/exfiltrator and are making all out efforts to prevent commission of such crimes.



# Indian Railways to become "Net Zero Carbon Emitter" by 2030

*N. F. Railway takes steps towards a Greener Environment*

**Guwahati, June 04:** As the country fights the COVID-19 pandemic among other environmental disasters including cyclones, earthquakes, and floods, it is now more important than ever that everyone needs to come together to support environmental initiatives. Indian Railways (IR) is working in mission mode to become the largest Green Railways in the world and is moving towards becoming a "net zero carbon emitter" before 2030. Railways is guided by a holistic vision of being an environment friendly, efficient, cost effective, punctual and a modern carrier of passengers as well as the freight in order to serve the growing needs of New India. The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is also taking various environment protection initiatives. The following measures showcase how Railways have adopted Environment Conservation in its daily work:

\* Solar Energy Generation: Indian Railways is committed to contribute towards the improvement of the environment. IR has installed about 114 MW of solar roof-top plants in over 1,000 stations and 400 service buildings. IR plans to be a Zero Net Carbon Emitter by 2030. So far, a total capacity of 3893.233 KWp Solar Power Plants have been installed & commissioned on the Roof-tops of various buildings over NFR. This results the achievement towards annual savings of Rs. 3 crores (approx.) from the yield of 4 million units (KWh) of Electrical Energy generation by harnessing Solar Energy in NFR., \* Head on Generation (HOG): IR is also introducing Head on Generation (HOG) system, whereby electrical power is fed to the coaches directly from the Over Head Equipment (OHE) through the Locomotive. It eliminates the need for separate power cars in trains and thus reduces the need for pulling extra coaches, increases efficiency and avoids burning of fossil fuel in power cars. Over 1,120 trains have already been converted to HOG. In NFR, 100% LHB rakes (52 rakes) have been converted to HOG compliant., \* Railway Electrification: With a view to transform Indian Railways into "Green Railways" and to capture the economic benefits of electric traction in an accelerated manner, Railways has planned to electrify balanced Broad Gauge (BG) routes by December, 2023 to achieve 100% electrification of BG routes. As on 01 May 2021, 71% of the total Broad Gauge network has been electrified. N. F. Railway also completed 334 Route KM of Railway Electrification in 2020-21. This will facilitate elimination of diesel traction resulting in significant reduction in its carbon footprint and environment pollution., \* LED lighting: 100% LED replacement done in all Railway stations (more than 8,000) and all Railway installations & buildings (more than 20,000) during 2014-20. All residential quarters (about



5 lakhs quarters) have also been converted to LED by May; 2020 to save electricity., \* Plastic Bottle Crushing Machine: In order to give a further push to these environmental friendly initiatives of eco-friendly disposal of plastic waste, a comprehensive policy on installation of plastic bottle crushing machines (PBCM) at stations was introduced on 27 September 2019. A total of 585 PBCM machines have already been installed at more than 400 railway stations and more are in process. In NFR, plastic bottle crushing machines have been installed at 20 Stations across NFR including the major stations at Tinsukia, Kamakhya and Guwahati., \* Quick Watering System: To facilitate full watering of complete rakes within 8-10 minutes, Quick Watering System has already been installed in 71 stations out of 158 identified locations over IR to ensure potable water in coaches, which also eliminates wastage of water due to over-

flowing. In NFR, Quick Watering System has been installed at Guwahati, New Jalpaiguri, Lumding, Alipurduar, New Bonngaigaon and Badarpur stations., \* E-tendering and e-Office to reduce the use of paper: Railways undertook multiple initiatives to digitize all procurement and supply chain activities making it paperless in a phased manner. Digitisation of procurement processes and online interaction with vendors has eliminated any requirement to visit Railway offices by vendors which has reduced fuel consumption at vendors' end. Energy requirement and upkeep of offices has also improved due to elimination of physical files., In a major step towards digitisation, e-Office has been implemented in NFR for elimination of use of paper in official working in railways. This will also promote green way of working by introducing paperless work culture.

## Social Worker Bipradas Chakraborty passed away

**Hojai, June 4:** Ex-Government employee and Social Worker Bipradas Chakraborty (74) breathed his last at a private hospital in Guwahati on Wednesday, after suffering a heart attack. Chakraborty a resident of Kalibari in Hojai was retired from BSNL fourteen years ago. He was a candid, soft-spoken, a person with immense knowledge of every spheres of life. His death was deeply mourned among his relatives and well-wishers. His last rites were performed at Santiban in Hojai. He have left behind his wife, son and a host of relatives.



## 'Intensified testing, vaccination will help to contain COVID-19,' Minister Suklabaidya to Hojai administration

**Guwahati, June 04:** Minister for Environment and Forest, Fisheries and Excise, Parimal Suklabaidya assessed the COVID-19 scenario in Hojai on Friday. Minister Suklabaidya directed the administration to step up testing and vaccination to prevent further spread of the disease. Taking stock of oxygen position, bed availability, and other COVID logistics at a meeting with Deputy Commissioner, SP, MLAs, representative of MP, representatives of political parties, ADCs and officials of Health department at DC's office conference hall at Sankardev Nagar, Suklabaidya, who is guardian minister of Hojai district, asked the administration to leave no stone unturned to provide the best of medical care and treatment to COVID infected persons. He said the state government has accorded top priority to the health sector and that during the pandemic times there has been a remarkable ramp up of health infrastructure and facilities. He said that there will availability of vaccine within a fortnight. Suklabaidya appealed to the people's representatives to create awareness on COVID protocols to help contain the disease. He also asked them to prevail upon the COVID positive patients in home isolation to avail the medical facilities provided by the administration 'as there are enough beds with oxygen support available' and not to wait till the eleventh hour that proves fatal. The Minister took the status of progress of the upcoming 20 bedded ventilator support ICU and the oxygen generation plant. Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Sadnik Singh apprised the Minister that funds have been sanctioned for the ICU and that the oxygen generation plant sponsored by Telco Cement will come up by the end of July. Suklabaidya asked the Deputy Commissioner to expedite the tender process and to start the civil work for the ICU. Suklabaidya asked the health

functionaries to monitor the status of health of COVID positive patients in home isolation and to rush them to home or hospital depending upon their condition the moment one is detected positive during RAT/RT-PCR testing. "The moment someone is detected COVID positive during testing, he or she must be taken either to home or hospital directly through 108 ambulance service to reduce the risk of infecting others," he quipped. On the incident of assault of a doctor that took place at Hojai recently, Suklabaidya said the incident is highly condemnable and told SP, Barun Purkayastha to 'ensure no recurrence of such incidents and to book all those involved in the incident.' Earlier, Deputy Commissioner, Singh through power point presentation gave an overview of the COVID-19 scenario in the district. He disclosed that the positivity rate in the district has come down to 3.32%, below the state average in the past seven days. Singh said that over 1.21 lakh persons have been vaccinated and there is no shortage of vaccine. There are altogether one active containment zone and 317 micro containment zones across the district. Singh said model vaccination centre, COVID control room 24x7 and telemedicine service have been operationalised and that inspection of COVID Care Centres are being conducted even during odd hours. He pointed out that the innovative COVID Suraksha App has turned out to be highly beneficial for surveillance of COVID positive patients in home isolation. He said the district has presently 14 fleet of ambulance and there is shortage of ambulance. Minister Suklabaidya assured that he would take up the matter with Mission Director, NHM, and also asked the Deputy Commissioner to repair the one or two ambulances not in use to increase their strength.





A worker picks coffee beans at a coffee estate in Ruiru, a suburb on the outskirts of Nairobi, Kenya

## Hong Kong vigil leader arrested as 7,000 police enforce ban on Tiananmen anniversary protests

**Hong Kong, June 04 :** Hong Kong police have arrested a prominent barrister for allegedly promoting an unauthorised assembly on the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre, as thousands of officers were deployed to enforce a ban on protests and gatherings across the city. On Friday, Hong Kong barrister and activist Chow Hang Tung, vice-chairwoman of the group which organises annual vigils for the victims of China's 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protesters, was arrested, two group members said. Chow was arrested for promoting an unauthorised assembly, Chiu Yan Loy, Executive Member of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, told in a text message. Discussion of Beijing's brutal military crackdown on the evening of 3 June and morning of 4 June, 1989 is all but forbidden on the mainland. And Hong Kong's traditional status as the only place in China where large-scale commemorations were tolerated appeared to be coming to an end. Thousands of police were deployed on Friday to enforce a ban on the city's traditional candlelight vigil, which has drawn huge crowds to Victoria Park on 4 June for more than three decades. The day has traditionally served as a display of pro-democracy people power that China has made clear it will no longer tolerate. Authorities banned this year's gathering citing the coronavirus pandemic - although Hong Kong has not recorded an untraceable local transmission in more than a month, and held large public events. Police have also cited the national security law in warning people not to gather for unnamed events, and reminded the public of the recent convictions of some activists. Police say that thousands of officers will be on standby to halt any "unlawful assemblies" while officials have also warned that a sweeping new national security law could be wielded against Tiananmen mourners. Public broadcaster RTHK, citing unnamed sources, reported police would have 7,000 officers on the streets on Friday, conducting stop-and-search operations throughout the day. While last year's vigil was also denied permission because of the pandemic, thousands simply defied the ban. But much has changed in Hong Kong over the last year as authorities seek to snuff out the city's pro-democracy movement using the security law to criminalise much dissent. Police arrested 24 activists as organisers of the vigil, and several were convicted and jailed. Most of the city's most prominent democracy figures - many of whom would organise and attend the annual Tiananmen vigils - are in jail, have been arrested or have

fled overseas. Veteran political journalist Ching Cheong, who was jailed in China for three years, said the perseverance of Hong Kong in holding the vigil had made it "the conscience of China". "It's very sad to see that, starting last year, authorities have tried to stamp out memorial activity purely for the selfish sake of the CCP to cling to power," Ching said. "I don't think marking the anniversary of the crackdown itself will lead to the collapse of the communist regime, but it's evident proof the regime is extremely afraid of people knowing the atrocities that it has committed." The threat of mass arrests on Hong Kong has forced those who would normally attend the vigil to think creatively. Activists have called on residents to light candles in their own homes or neighbourhoods on Friday evening, or post commemoration messages on social media. "A regime can ban an assembly but it can never ban the indelible grievances in people's hearts," Lee Cheuk-yan, a now jailed democracy activist, wrote in a message published on his Facebook page on Thursday. "I hope everyone can find your own way to light a candle by the window, on the road, wherever that can be seen by others, to continue our mourning," he added. Much like the initial generation of Tiananmen survivors who fled abroad three decades ago, many Hong Kong democracy figures have chosen self-exile and plan to lead their own commemorations overseas. Vigils are planned in cities like Tokyo, Sydney, London, Berlin and Washington. "I hope everyone can all pass on the history and truth of the June 4 massacre and the democratic movement in 1989 to the next generation by safe means," Nathan Law, a former student leader who fled to Britain last year, wrote on Facebook. In mainland China, the Tiananmen anniversary is usually marked with a dramatic increase in online censorship and the square in Beijing being cordoned off. Beijing imposed the national security law on Hong Kong just a few weeks after last year's rally in response to 2019's huge and often violent pro-democracy protests. It has transformed the city's once freewheeling political landscape. More than 100 pro-democracy figures have been arrested under the new law, mostly for political views and speech. On Wednesday UK-based Hong Kong activist, Nathan Law, said Hong Kong police had requested an Israeli-based company, Wix, take down his website. Law provided a purported letter from the police to Wix citing the national security law, which claims global jurisdiction. Wix later said the website was taken down by mistake. "We have reviewed our initial screening and the website should

## Biden bans US investment in Chinese military and tech surveillance sectors

**Washington, June 04 :** Joe Biden has signed an executive order that bans American entities from investing in dozens of Chinese companies with alleged ties to defense or surveillance technology sectors. In a move that his administration says will expand the scope of a legally flawed Trump-era order, the US treasury will enforce and update on a "rolling basis" the new ban list of about 59 companies. It also bars buying or selling publicly traded securities in target companies, and replaces an earlier list from the defense department, senior administration

officials told reporters. The order prevents US investment from supporting the Chinese military-industrial complex, as well as military, intelligence, and security research and development programs, Biden said in the order. "In addition, I find that the use of Chinese surveillance technology outside [China] and the development or use of Chinese surveillance technology to facilitate repression or serious human rights abuse constitute unusual and extraordinary threats," Biden said. A White House fact sheet on the order said the policy would take effect for those companies listed on 2 August. Major Chinese firms included on the previous defense department list were also placed on the updated list, including Aviation Industry Corp of China (AVIC), China Mobile Communications Group, China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC), Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology, Huawei Technologies and Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp (SMIC). SMIC is key to China's national drive to boost its domestic chip sector. "We fully expect that in the months ahead ... we'll be adding additional companies to the new executive order's restrictions," one of the senior officials said. A second official told reporters that the inclusion of Chinese surveillance technology companies expanded the scope of the Trump administration's initial order last year, which the White House argues was carelessly drafted, leaving it open to court



challenges. The president has been reviewing a number of aspects of US policy toward China, and his administration had extended a deadline for implementation set by Donald Trump's order while it crafted its new policy framework. The move is part of Biden's broader series of steps to counter China, including reinforcing US alliances and pursuing large domestic investments to bolster American economic competitiveness, amid increasingly sour relations between the world's two most powerful countries. Biden's Indo-Pacific policy coordinator, Kurt Campbell, said last month that a period of engagement with China had come to an end and that the dominant paradigm in bilateral ties going forward would be one of competition. Senior officials said the treasury would give guidance later on what the scope of surveillance technology means, including whether companies are facilitating "repression or serious human rights

abuses". "We really want to make sure that any future prohibitions are on legally solid ground. So, our first listings really reflect that," a second senior administration official said. Investors would have time to "unwind" investments, a third official said. The new list provided few surprises for investors looking to see if they need to unload even more Chinese stocks and bonds. But some previously identified companies, such as Commercial Aircraft Corp of China (COMAC), which is spearheading Chinese efforts to compete with Boeing and Airbus, as well as two companies that had challenged the ban in court, Gowin Semiconductor Corp and Luoking Technology Corp, were not included. In May, a judge signed an order removing the designation on Chinese mobile phone maker Xiaomi, which was among the more high-profile Chinese technology companies that the Trump administration targeted for alleged ties to China's military.

## European finance ministers say deal to stop global tax abuse is 'within reach'



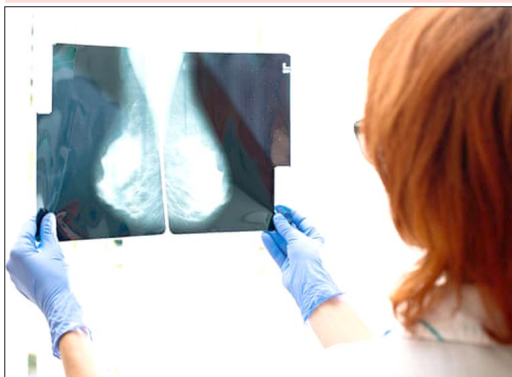
**Paris, June 04 :** The EU's four biggest economies have raised the pressure for a landmark agreement to curb tax abuse by multinational companies to be reached at G7 meetings in London on Friday. Sending a united message in a letter in the Guardian, the finance ministers of France, Germany, Italy and Spain said a critical moment had been reached to strike a blow against tax avoidance as governments around the world attempt to rebuild from the Covid-19 pandemic. The heads of the EU's most powerful finance ministries, who are set to meet G7 counterparts at Lancaster House in London, said that agreement at the summit was within reach after years of false starts. "For more than four years, France, Germany, Italy and Spain

have been working together to create an international tax system fit for the 21st century. It is a saga of many twists and turns. Now it's time to come to an agreement," they said. A breakthrough in London would be key for paving the way for a wider deal between nations including China, India and Brazil at meetings taking place between the G20 in Italy next month, the ministers said, adding there was a need to re-establish an international consensus on major global issues. "We therefore commit to defining a common position on a new international tax system at the G7 Finance Ministers meeting in London this Friday. We are confident it will create the momentum needed to reach a global agreement at the G20 in Venice in

July." Representing three of the seven ministers attending the meetings outside the UK, United States, Canada and Japan, the letter was signed by the French finance minister, Bruno Le Maire, Germany's Olaf Scholz, and Italy's Daniele Franco. Although Spain is not a member of the G7, its finance minister, Nadia Calvino, signed the letter as the EU's fourth biggest economy in a display of unity between the bloc's largest superpowers, reflecting determination at the heart of the EU to push through landmark tax reforms. Talks between G7 leaders are understood to be delicately balanced as they seek to hammer out a transformative deal to bring an end to tax avoidance by multinationals and big technology companies using tax havens to exploit loopholes in the global system. The letter comes in the wake of UK reluctance to support proposals made by the US president, Joe Biden, earlier this spring for a global minimum rate of corporation tax, which would form the backbone of the international agreement. The plan put forward by Washington includes two main pillars: one enabling countries to tax some of the profits made by 100 of the world's biggest companies based on where they generate revenues, rather than where the firm is located for tax purposes; and a second pillar setting a minimum global corporation tax rate. The US has suggested a 15% floor, raising questions about whether EU support could be reached given lower tax rates are applied in some nations including Ireland, Hungary and Cyprus. However, the

chancellor, Rishi Sunak, has moved closer in recent days to backing the Washington plan while insisting it must be coupled with a deal that would raise more tax from US tech giants operating in Britain. Sources close to the Treasury said reaching an international agreement on how large digital companies are taxed has been a priority for the chancellor since he took office, and that Sunak was expected to highlight the importance of a deal that ensures large companies pay a level of tax that reflects their economic activities in the UK. The reforms are being negotiated between 135 countries at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris, with the aim of reaching a deal by October this year. Although a push for a firm statement from the G7 is being made by France, Germany, Italy and Spain, some nations including the US are thought to be holding out for an agreement to be settled at the G20 meeting in Italy next month, so as to avoid the impression of a stitch-up between the largest economic powers. Speaking after preliminary talks held with the US Treasury secretary, Janet Yellen, on Thursday evening before the main summit, Sunak said securing a global agreement on digital taxation was a key priority. "We want companies to pay the right amount of tax in the right place, and I hope we can reach a fair deal with our partners. I'm determined we work together and unite to tackle the world's most pressing economic challenges - and I'm hugely optimistic that we will deliver some concrete outcomes this weekend."

## Drug may help more women survive hereditary breast cancer



**London, June 04 :** Women with hereditary breast cancer, triggered by the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes, stand a better chance of survival following successful trials of a drug that cuts the likelihood of the cancer returning after treatment. A major trial carried out by academic researchers to see whether olaparib can prevent recurrence was stopped early - after two-and-a-half years instead of the planned 10 years - when the benefits of the drug became clear. The results, published in the New England Journal of Medicine and presented online at the American Society of Clinical Oncology

conference, showed it reduced the relative risk of invasive recurrence, second cancers or death by over 40%. In absolute terms, 85.9% of women given olaparib in pill form for a year after the end of their treatment remained alive with no return of their cancer for three years, compared with 77.1% on a placebo. The difference was similar when it came to metastatic disease,

which is cancers occurring in other places in the body - 87.5% on olaparib and 80.4% on a placebo. Out of 921 patients on olaparib, 106 had a recurrence of invasive cancer or died by three years, compared with 178 (of 915) patients on a placebo. "In curative therapy trial terms, this is a really major result," said Prof Andrew Tutt from the Institute of Cancer Research in London, who led the international trial. For every 100 women treated, it meant, he said, "an extra nine women - let's say eight or nine women - who are alive and well, without evidence of a recurrence of breast

cancer, or the development of any other cancer". Until this trial, there was nothing to help women with the inherited breast cancer genes - who are often young and suffer from the most severe forms of cancer - who feared their cancer would return. "Every year, thousands of women in the UK are diagnosed with hereditary breast cancer caused by an altered BRCA gene," said Dr Simon Vincent, director of research at the charity Breast Cancer Now. "Finishing active hospital treatment can be an incredibly difficult time, with many women calling our helpline to share their anxiety and fears of their breast cancer coming back. So finding effective new ways to prevent recurrence is vitally important." It's extremely exciting that this groundbreaking study could pave the way for a targeted treatment for women with high-risk HER2 negative primary breast cancer with altered BRCA genes, preventing recurrence and potentially helping to stop women dying from this devastating disease. Olaparib must now be promptly submitted for licensing and then

assessed for use on the NHS, so that women with this type of breast cancer start to benefit from this new discovery as soon as possible. "Olaparib works by stopping cancer cells from being able to repair their DNA by inhibiting a molecule called PARP, causing

cancer cells to die. It works particularly well for patients with faulty versions of the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes, which are normally involved in another system for repairing DNA. In the trial, significant side-effects were reported to be relatively infrequent. The drug is already licensed for use in treating genetic forms of breast, ovarian, prostate and pancreatic cancers, although it is expensive and not yet available on the NHS. The researchers hope their study will help speed up a licence for olaparib that will enable all women who have recovered from hereditary breast cancer to take it.



A train of the Children's Railway is seen in Budapest, Hungary



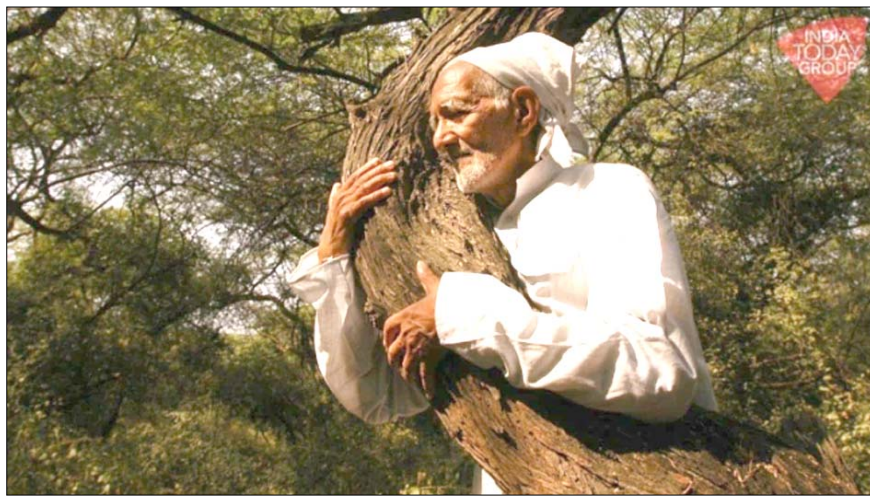
## THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VI, ISSUE NO. 110 SATURDAY, JUNE 05, 2021

## The issue of social change

Britain is a conservative country. This is repeated so often that even many of those who want a different society have come to believe it. Especially during long periods of Tory government, when disheartening electoral results and the exercise of rightwing power can feel almost like the whole of politics. But politics isn't just about elections and holding office, however much politicians, party activists and Westminster journalists might want that to be the case. It's also about slower, less noticed, more continuous shifts in public attitudes and behaviour. What we consume; how families function; what we consider a legitimate sexual relationship; which words we use to talk about race. Changes in such things may begin with a few individuals, yet they can alter the distribution of power across society. Through their legislation and rhetoric, governments play a big role in social change. But change can also happen without them, or despite them. Since the annual British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey was first published in 1983, the Conservatives have ruled Britain almost two thirds of the time. They have often aggressively promoted traditional social norms and attacked perceived threats to them, from John Major's campaign for what he called "the old values" to the Johnson government's current "war on woke". Yet, according to the latest BSA report, public attitudes to many kinds of personal behaviour "have steadily loosened since the 1980s", with "an increasing sense of 'live and let live' when it comes to our views on other people's relationships and lifestyles". Urbanisation, immigration, a more diverse popular culture, the growth of liberal universities, the decline of some religions and the dwindling of what the BSA describes as the "socially conservative" generations born in the first half of the 20th century - all these have gradually undermined the hopes of Tory traditionalists. We might be a conservative country politically, but increasingly that is not how we live. The liberalisation of Britain hasn't seriously hurt the Tories yet. Sometimes it has done the opposite. Not because recent Conservative leaders have been adept at killing off or co-opting liberal ideas - David Cameron's "hug a hoodie" phase was better at creating Tory divisions than attracting new voters - but because their party has exploited a political weakness in many movements for social change. In their early stages, social movements are not very compatible with parliamentary democracy. Movements often start small, and small numbers of voters usually have little influence in national elections. Instead, they can be presented by conservatives as alien minorities - a supposed threat against which rightwing voters can be mobilised. In Britain, with our often alarmist and judgmental press and elderly people a disproportionately powerful section of the electorate, this reactionary tactic can be very effective. In many ways the "war on woke" is a rerun of an earlier Conservative culture war, almost four decades ago. In the mid-80s, the British lesbian and gay rights movement had been at work for three decades, and had won support from leftwing local authorities such as the Greater London Council. Yet only about one in 10 Britons approved of same-sex relationships - the same proportion as recently told the polling firm YouGov that they thought "being woke" was "a good thing". In the runup to the 1987 general election, the Conservatives and rightwing newspapers concocted endless scare stories about gay and lesbian activism and its "loony left" Labour allies. The smears worked. In a leaked internal memo about the state of the campaign in London, the Labour strategist Patricia Hewitt wrote: "It is obvious from our own polling, as well as from the doorstep, that ... [being called] the 'loony Labour left' is now taking its toll; the gays and lesbians issue is costing us dear amongst the pensioners." At the election the Conservatives won another large majority. They did especially well in London, beating Labour by 15 percentage points. Yet this victory for social conservatism was short-lived. From the late 80s, the increasingly common experience of living among people with openly different sexualities began to outweigh the scare stories about homosexuality. Public approval of same-sex relationships began to rise. It is now at almost 70%. The realisation that social liberation can occur despite electoral defeat first began to preoccupy parts of the left during its years of retreat in the 70s and 80s. French political theorists such as Michel Foucault, Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari argued that new ways of living and forms of identity could transform society, individual by individual, at least as radically as a reforming government. At the time, it was possible to see these advocates of what Guattari called "micropolitics" as leftists seeking a political consolation prize. But since then they have in many ways been proved right. Across the west, millions of lives have taken new paths, and sometimes governments have been forced to follow. "State power derives from other forms of power," Foucault said in 1979. "If we want to change state power, we must change the various relationships of power that operate in society." I doubt Cameron is much of a Foucault reader, but in 2013 his government legalised same-sex marriage. Will the Tories ultimately have to accept "wokeness"? It's harder to imagine. Abandoning homophobia involves giving up only one kind of power. But accepting wokeness - as much as such a contested term can be defined - means accepting that all of society can no longer be arranged primarily for the benefit of straight white men.

# Chipko Movement Pioneer Sunderlal Bahuguna



 **Dibakar Renu**

Sunderlal Bahuguna, a life-long environmentalist and was credited for founding the Chipko movement. He was born on 9th January 1926 in the village of Maroda near Tehri in Uttarakhand. He claimed at a function in Calcutta that his ancestor, Banerjee, had migrated from Bengal to Tehri eight hundred years ago. Initially, she fought against untouchability, and later, from 1975 to 1980, she began organizing hill women in her anti-alcohol movement. At the age of thirteen, he started social activities under the leadership of Shri Dev Sumon, a non-violent

who was with the Uttar Pradesh (India) Congress party at the time of independence. Bahuguna rallied the people against the colonial rule before 1947. He adopted the principles of Gandhianism in his life and married his wife Bimala on the condition that they would live among the people of the countryside and establish an ashram in the village. Inspired by Gandhi, he walked more than 4,000 kilometers in the jungles and mountains of the Himalayas and observed the fragile environment of the Himalayas, the loss of mega development projects and the subsequent deterioration of social life in the villages. The Chipko movement began spontaneously in Uttar Pradesh

on March 2, 1984, with the aim of preventing deforestation by forest contractors. In Hindi, "chipko" literally means "hug" and people hugged trees while they were cutting them down. One of the most significant contributions of Sunderlal Bahuguna to the Chipko movement and to environmentalism in general was his Chipko slogan "Ecology is the sustainable economy." From 1981 to 1983, he traveled about 500 kilometers on foot across the Trans-Himalayan region, traveling from village to village and gathering support for the movement, helping it to dominate. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, met Indira Gandhi several times, and as a result of those discussions, Indira Gandhi imposed a 15-year ban on cutting down green trees in 1980. He was closely associated with Gaura Devi, one of the pioneers of the movement.

Protest message against Tehri Dam, which was driven by Sunderlal Bahuguna for years. It says "We don't want dams. Dams destroy mountains."

He was behind the anti-Tehri Dam protests for decades, he resorted to satyagraha and repeatedly went on hunger strike on the banks of Bhagirathi as a sign of his protest. In 1995, the then Prime Minister P. V. After Narsingh Rao promised to appoint a review committee on the environmen-

tal impact of the dam, he ended his 45-day hunger strike. He then went on a long hunger strike which lasted for 64 days at Gandhi Samadhi, Raj Ghat. D. During Deve Gowda, who took the personal initiative to review the project. However, the court case has been pending in the Supreme Court for more than a decade, but work on the Tehri Dam resumed in 2001, after which he was arrested on April 20, 2001.

Finally, the reservoir of the dam began to fill up in 2004 and on 31 July 2004 it was finally relocated to a new residence in Koti. He later moved to Dehradun, the capital of Uttarakhand, where he lived with his wife.

Sunderlal Bahuguna was a devoted protector of the people of the Himalayas, working for the plight of the hill people (especially working women). He also fought for the preservation of rivers in India.

In 1971 Padma Shri award by the Government of India, but he rejects it. In 1987 He was awarded Right Livelihood Award (Chipco Movement) and Jamunlal Bajaj Award for his constructive work. In 1989 Honorary degree of Doctor of Social Sciences conferred by IIT Roorkee. In 2009 Padma Vibhushan Award by the Government of India for environmental protection.

Bahuguna died on 21 May 2021 at the age of 94 after contracting Covid-19.

## UK cannabis campaigners take note: in the US, change came from below

 **Andrew Gumbel**

Take a stroll down Abbot Kinney Boulevard, the high street for hipsters in Venice Beach, California, and alongside the brightly painted boutiques offering vintage T-shirts or oat-spiced lattes, you'll find a sleek, bright red storefront with plate-glass windows that, at first glance, is easy to mistake for a car showroom. Instead of cars, though, it sells high-end cannabis products: Huckleberry Gummies, Keef root beer, concentrates, creams and lotions, rolled joints and vaporisers, all laid out on carefully curated wooden tables. This is MedMen, part of a national chain of quality pot shops that constitute the normal now that cannabis is authorised for recreational and medical use in California and 16 other states. Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, may have pledged to set up an independent commission to study decriminalisation, but to anyone familiar with the largely stalled debate over cannabis in Britain, the proliferation of legal pot shops along well-trafficked thoroughfares is an exotic and improbable sight. California is far from a perfect model to follow, not least because of its ferociously complex patchwork of regulations and requirements that vary from city to city, and other states have struggled with their own problems in setting up the infrastructure of a newly legal industry. Having set off down the road toward full legalisation almost 30 years ago, though, America does have some salient lessons to offer. First, contrary to the fears of drug alarmists, the ready availability of cannabis products has not been shown to have any significant effect on crime, addiction or traffic accident statistics. Rather, if established and regulated properly, the legal market brings a previously clandestine activity into the open and makes it safer and more accountable. Second, there's no



virtue in half-measures. Like Britain, many US states started off attempting to restrict legalisation to medical use. But it was only after Colorado and Washington became the first states to open to legal recreational use in 2012 that any meaningful market emerged to challenge the old criminal networks. A medical marijuana market may have been a theoretical possibility, but in practice government agencies have been reluctant to create one because many of the key decision-makers continued to feel that cannabis was - to use Boris Johnson's term - a "harmful substance". At the same time, doctors with no training in the drug's uses felt no compulsion to prescribe it, which is exactly what Britain has experienced since giving the green light to medical use in late 2018. In many ways, the UK is now where the US was 20 years ago, when the only legally recognised distributor of medical cannabis was, improbably, a lab at the University of Mississippi in the ultra-conservative deep south that proved powerless to challenge the long-established dominance of the black market. The lab didn't manufacture suppositories or gels or edibles. It made no effort to separate out THC, the psychoactive ingredient that gets users high, and cannabidiol, or CBD, whose benefits are said to include everything from pain relief and heart health to treatment for depression, diabetes and acne. Rather, the lab sent

out metal canisters, each containing 300 rolled joints for recipients to use as they saw fit. Many of them would unroll the joints again to pick out seeds and other extraneous material that didn't burn smoothly, and even then they complained that the cannabis itself was of low quality. As of the early 2000s, just four people were receiving this service - out of a population then pushing close to 300 million. Those dismal numbers are broadly in line with the findings of a report by a UK cannabis industry group last month that said NHS doctors had issued just three cannabis prescriptions in the two years since legalisation, and private-sector doctors had written just a few thousand. An estimated 1.4 million people, meanwhile, are estimated to be self-medicating with cannabis bought off the street. Lesson number three from across the Atlantic is that the most effective way to break an impasse of this sort is through pressure from below - much as Sadiq Khan is seeking to pressure the government with his commission. Building a legal cannabis industry from scratch is a daunting prospect - much harder than it was, for example, for the United States to re-regulate the alcohol industry after the end of prohibition in the 1930s - and governments have a natural tendency to prefer the status quo, however unsatisfactory or unpopular, to plunging into the unknown. Since the 1990s, the pressure

for change in the US has come through popular referendums, known as ballot initiatives, that have set pioneering states such as California and Colorado on a collision course with the federal government. One of the peculiarities of the US system, in fact, is that while much of the country has approved legalisation of cannabis, the federal government still regards it as a controlled substance to be used only in tightly defined circumstances. That, in turn, has forced the new wave of entrepreneurs to operate in a weird legal limbo, caught between state and federal systems. Many of them are cash only, since the federal government sets banking rules, and they are unable to deduct most business expenses from their federal taxes. Still, the tide is slowly turning. Business operators are no longer at risk of being raided by federal agents, as they were in the 1990s and early 2000s, and industry lobbyists have been working steadily to relax the banking rules. Which leads to lesson number four: that even under the best of circumstances the legalisation process is likely to be lengthy and complicated. It's no coincidence that in California the most visible businesses are at the luxury end of the market. Red tape and high taxes have scared many other operators away, to the frustration of entrepreneurs in lower-income, African American communities that were hit hard by America's long, punitive war on drugs and are now yearning for some modicum of compensatory justice. Instead, they see a black market continuing to thrive. The point, though, is to start somewhere. In the early days, Washington told many states - just as Downing Street has told Khan - that campaigning for broad legalisation was a waste of time because they didn't set drug policy. If the states had listened, US consumers would never have gained access to the sort of high-quality products and expert guidance available at MedMen and other outlets. They'd still be waiting for their canisters from the University of Mississippi - or, more likely, scoring their hits on the street.

## Two deaths in English prisons make me wonder how civilised we are in 2021

 **Eric Allison**

Without doubt, the conditions in jails in England and Wales are currently - and by some distance - the worst I've ever known them: both in four decades as a career criminal after first entering custody in 1957; and latterly, for 17 years, writing about the prison system that held me for about 16 years, on and off. I base that statement on clear evidence. The past 14 months have been by far my busiest since joining this paper as prisons correspondent; inundated by calls, messages, letters about how Covid has had an impact on an already grossly underfunded, chaotic and dangerous system. Then, earlier this month, I received

shocking accounts of two deaths in custody from the charity Inquest, which were heard in evidence before two juries at two coroners' courts. They have seared themselves indelibly in my mind and made me reassess my belief that I can no longer be shocked by anything coming out of our wretched penal estate. On 21 May a jury at West London coroner's court delivered their narrative verdict on the death of Winston Augustine and heard evidence about the last three days of his life. They heard that, on 28 August 2018, he was moved to the segregation unit at HMP Wormwood Scrubs in west London. On 30 August, at 16.47 he was found to have killed himself in his cell. Pathological evidence indicated he had been dead for four to five hours. Dead for that length of time, in

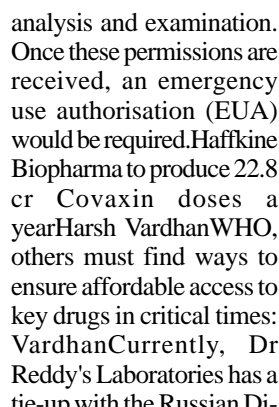
daylight, in a prison cell on a small unit? What was going on? The jury were told Augustine's cell door had not been opened since he arrived on the unit and that he had received no food in the time he had been there. Pathological evidence showed his body was in a state of ketoacidosis, indicative of starvation. He was also starved of his medication: a daily slow-release dose of the strong painkiller tramadol, prescribed to relieve his chronic pain, caused by kidney stones. The day before he died a nurse and a doctor were, separately, refused permission to see him. The nurse pushed a single dose of tramadol under his cell door. It's not known if he took it, but the jury heard he would have been in "severe pain" when he died. The jury found the failure to fulfil his need for food and

medication contributed to his death. What did the officers in that unit say about this man's treatment? That he was "non-compliant" and therefore too dangerous for them to unlock his door. Segregation units are generally well staffed and sometimes hold people who tend not to comply with rules. The other prison death inquest concluded on 21 May. The jury at Milton Keynes coroner's court had deliberated on the death of Mark Culverhouse, who killed himself in another segregation unit, this time at HMP Woodhill on 23 April 2019. Culverhouse, 29, had a minor criminal record but major mental health issues. The jury heard that, six days before his death, he had climbed some scaffolding and threatened to jump off the third-storey frame. Skilled negotiators talked him down before he was arrested for offences

related to the incident. He was taken into custody by police in Northampton and deemed fit to be detained, despite one of his negotiators wanting him to be assessed under the Mental Health Act. The next day, Culverhouse was taken to court, but before appearing had to be taken to hospital after repeatedly head-butting a wall in the cell area. While he was in hospital - and repeatedly saying he would kill himself if he went back to prison - the probation service decided to recall him to prison in relation to a previous short sentence for driving while disqualified. That recall was unlawful because he had served his full time on that sentence, but, astonishingly, the jury heard the probation service did not, then, calculate sentences before recalling prisoners.



## Shortage of pulses likely as production expected to decline, says industry body



rect Investment Fund (RDIF) to make the Sputnik V Covid vaccine in India. Dr Reddy's received the EUA for Sputnik V in India on April 13 and also permission from DCGI to import the Russian vaccine. The first lot of the vaccines has been imported with three million units arriving in the country on Tuesday. The imported doses of Sputnik-V are priced at ₹95.40 per dose and Dr Reddy's has indicated prices would be lower once local supplies begin. The first lot of Sputnik vaccines made in India has received clearance on Tuesday from the Central Drug Laboratory, Kasauli. SII has committed to make 100 million Covishield vaccines a month from June. It has started manufacturing the Novavax vaccine, in small batches, at its Pune plant, even as it awaits regulatory clearance in the US and subsequently in India. India was expected to make 850 million doses of the Sputnik vaccines in a year. Dr Reddy's is expected to make 156 million vaccines in the August to December '21 period. The Sputnik V vaccine, developed by the Gamaleya National Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, has demonstrated an efficacy of 91.6% against the Covid-19 virus.

analyses and examination. Once these permissions are received, an emergency use authorisation (EUA) would be required. Haffkin Biopharma to produce 22.8 crore Covaxin doses a year. Harsh Vardhan, WHO, others must find ways to ensure affordable access to key drugs in critical times. Currently, Reddy's Laboratories has a tie-up with the Russian Direct Fund (RDIF) to make the vaccine in India. Reddy's A for Sputnik V in India to permission from DCGI to national vaccine. The first lot of been imported with three arriving in the country on ported doses of Sputnik-V are 10 per dose and Reddy's could be lower once lo-in. The first lot of Sputnik in India has received clear from the Central Drug Labo-ld has committed to make 100 eld vaccines a month from arted manufacturing the me, in small batches, at its en as it awaits regulatory US and subsequently in-expected to make 850 mil- Sputnik vaccines in a year. -pected to make 156 million August to December '21. ntitik V vaccine, developed a National Research Insti-ology and Microbiology, ed an efficacy of 91.6% id-ris virus.

**Mumbai, June 04 :** The government's objective is to double farmers' incomes and that can happen only if the trade can freely procure their produce without fears of coercive action from the central and state governments, he said. On the other hand, the government also wants to ensure adequate availability of the scheduled commodities at fair prices to the common people, he said. Pulses, arhar, toor, tur, urad, gram, chana, black marketing, hoarding, commodity marketAs the apex body for the trade, IPGA is bringing it to the notice of the government well in advance to augment the supply side, Bimal Kothari, vice-chairman, IPGA said. The India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA) has predicted a strong possibility of shortage in pulses production, especially due to uncertainty over sowing this crop year due to the pandemic. The country is most likely to face scarcity of pulses this year including masoor, chana and other pulses. There could be a shortage of around 10 lakh tonne in the production of tur this year, he said. price-locking at sowing time , farmer producer organizations, options farmerisation programme for FPOs, increasing yield of their crops, market regulator Sebi. Farmers understanding benefits of price-locking at sowing time with options trade: OfficialsGold Rate Today, Gold Price Today in IndiaGold Price Today, 2 June 2021: Gold falls on

strong rupee, weak international trends; check intraday strategy. As the apex body for the trade, IPGA is bringing it to the notice of the government well in advance to augment the supply side, Bimal Kothari, vice-chairman, IPGA said. According to Kothari, there has been no long-term policy in pulses in the last few years, and the association has been recom-

produced pulses as well as import pulses. This is defeating the very purpose of the government's move to remove the restrictions on the imports of tur, urad and moong," said Kothari. As per the 3rd Advance Estimates data sourced from the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, for the crop year 2020-21, tur production is expected to be lower by almost 7 lakh tonne and

that legitimately procured stock also might come under the scanner and, in the ambit of the Essential Commodities Act, land the trader on the wrong side of law for no fault of his. Hence, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution needs to issue a categorical clarification, stating that their intentions are to just monitor stocks held by the trade for policy purposes which will help assuage apprehensions of the trade," he said. According to Kothari, the country's production from 2015-16 median has gone up to 23 million tonne and the demand is 25-26 million tonne. "We are importing around 2.5 million tonne and are adding 1 million tonne every year to our demand. We are talking of self-sufficiency, but this has to be an ongoing process because the production target cannot be just 25-26 million tonne, we need to push production look at ground realities and also import," he said. Speaking about the high prices of pulses on retail shelves he said, that the government needs to monitor the prices at the retail end very closely. IPGA, over the last few years, has been tracking the prices at the retail level vis-à-vis the prices at wholesale or ex-mill level. "We have found that the prices at retail level have traditionally higher than the wholesale/ex-mill rates by an average of Rs 50/- per kg. In current times, while the average wholesale prices of have been around Rs 95/- per kg for tur dal, Rs 110/- per kg for urad dal and Rs 92/- per kg for moong dal, the average retail prices have been Rs 130/- per kg for tur dal, Rs 160/- per kg for urad dal and Rs 115/- per kg for moong dal. However, anytime there is a discussion about high prices, the spotlight is placed on the traders and not the retailers. This needs to change," he said.



mending the need for a consistent long-term policy for the trade since demand is increasing. The Government of India is concerned that cheaper imports should not take place and, hence, they restricted most of the imports, he said. The association has urged the government to free up imports with the rider that duties are slashed to the extent that the minimum landing price of imported goods should be more than the minimum support price (MSP) of the crop, he said. Moreover, the Centre has asked state governments to monitor pulses under the Essential Commodities Act to control any spike in prices. "These instructions have only served to create apprehension amongst stakeholders, who are now hesitant to buy domestically

urad is expected to be lower by 5.20 lakh tonne, and the overall kharif production is expected to be lower by 2.12 million tonne. However, as per trade estimates, the production for tur has been around 2.90 million tonne, urad approximately 2.06 million tonne, moong around 2 million tonne, Chana around 9 million tonne and masoor around 0.95 million tonne, he said. The government's objective is to double farmers' incomes and that can happen only if the trade can freely procure their produce without fears of coercive action from the central and state governments, he said. On the other hand, the government also wants to ensure adequate availability of the scheduled commodities at fair prices to the common people, he said. "The traders are worried

oppo

COVID care kit for all the employees, paid time off for recovery to Free RT-PCR tests and wellness for employees to take every now and then to look after their well-being etc. the brand has left no stone unturned to support its employees. Apart from employees, OPPO also dispatched COVID care kits to the retail chain store owners from National organized trade and Regional organised trade. And have also shared guidelines to agents to distribute same kits to the OPPO Premier Partners clubs. As a step to ensure smooth contactless purchase experience for all its users, OPPO India has also introduced home delivery of OPPO products with a simple text on the WhatsApp application. Customers can order any OPPO product with just one WhatsApp text stating the name of the state along with Pincode on +91-9871502777 and receive a call back from the nearest retail stores. For all the products whose warranty expires during the lockdown period, the brand has extended the repair warranty until 30th June 2021.

The scheme is applicable across product categories including smartphones and accessories such as chargers, data cable, and earphones. The OPPO after-sales customer service support is providing all its users the best remote support in this difficult time through a dedicated AI-powered Chatbot called 'Ollie' that is available 24X7 for consumers to resolve 94.5% of their queries. The brand's human chat support on WhatsApp is also available to support customers 24X7 in resolving their queries. In 2020 OPPO India donated Rs 1 crore to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister's Distress Fund to fight the novel coronavirus pandemic.

About OPPO Mobiles India Private Limited

OPPO is a leading global smart device brand. Since the launch of its first mobile phone - "Smiley Face" - in 2008, OPPO has been in relentless pursuit of the perfect synergy of aesthetic satisfaction and innovative technology. Today, OPPO provides a wide range of smart devices

spearheaded by the Find and Reno series. Beyond devices, OPPO provides its users with the ColorOS operating system and internet services like OPPO Cloud and OPPO+. OPPO operates in more than 40 countries and regions, with 6 Research Institutes and 5 R&D Centers worldwide, as well as an International Design Center in London. More than 40,000 of OPPO's employees are dedicated to creating a better life for customers around the world. OPPO's Hyderabad R&D center is the largest research center outside of China and is playing a pivotal role in innovation across fields including software, imaging, and communication network. Aimed at elevating global 5G experience, the brand also launched its first overseas 5G innovation lab in Hyderabad. In line with its commitment to Make in India, OPPO has a manufacturing plant at Greater Noida, established in 2016. As per Canalis February 2021 report, OPPO India witnessed the highest annual growth rate in 2020 among the top 5 players, with annual growth of +23% y-o-y

**Delhi, June 04 :** EdelGive launches GROW, (The Grassroots Resilience Ownership and Wellness Fund), a one-of-a-kind collective of philanthropists, to support and sustain over 100 NGOs post the distress caused by COVID-19. As the world is currently reeling under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been the grassroots networks on the ground that have been the first to the rescue, quickly adapting their programmes to meet the needs of the communities they serve. However, these organisations have faced challenges in their growth and sustenance through the course of the pandemic. The GROW fund has been institutionalised with the vision to support 100 grassroots organisations by addressing their needs and by creating future readiness. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Manan Trust, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies, A.T.E Chandra Foundation, AshishKacholia and a few more partners along with Edelweiss Group have lent their support towards this initiative. "The global pandemic has brought heightened attention on the importance of funding for capability building and future readiness. For NGOs to be sustainable and resilient, funders must focus beyond programme costs and enable NGOs to continue their work with communities across India. Through the GROW fund, I

am certain that we will be able to create scale and resilience for organisations, increasing their impact exponentially, and further creating a more robust social sector." - Vidya Shah, Executive Chairperson, EdelGive Foundation

"GROW is an audacious and innovative attempt to bring collaborative philanthropy to support and strengthen apex structures for NGOs from all parts of India. We will be looking to find and assist

and Chairperson, Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies "Grassroot organizations play a crucial role in social and developmental progress owing to their deep community engagement and last mile connectivity. Their incredible role has been recognized by all during the ongoing COVID crisis, however the pandemic has also created many challenges for the organizations, jeopardizing their operations and impact potential. A philanthropic collaborative effort that



100 organisations with the help of our partner institutions and philanthropists." - Nagma Mulla, CEO, EdelGive Foundation "The past year has been a difficult time for organizations we all support and the communities we care about. If anything, the continuing pandemic re-emphasises the importance of a resilient and diverse samaj which has been the bedrock of the early response. I am happy to participate in the GROW Fund as a philanthropy collaborative to strengthen civil society institutions to respond even more effectively to future challenges." - Rohini Nilekani, Founder

specifically seeks to support grassroots organizations is the need of the hour, and we are excited to join hands with other donors to support the GROW fund, to ensure these organizations can continue to deliver impact and be future ready."

- Hari Menon, Country Director - India & Lead, South & South-East Asia "The A.T.E. Chandra Foundation is a firm believer and proponent of the importance of funding capacity building needs of NGOs. We are thrilled to be a part of the GROW fund, where grassroots NGOs will get capacity building support to grow and scale their impact.

**Mumbai, June 04 :** In the pandemic-struck financial year 2020-21 Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) carved out a niche for itself. RIL managed to raise Rs 1.52 lakh crore for its subsidiary Jio Platforms, another Rs 47,275 crore for Reliance Retail and raised Rs 53,124 via the biggest rights issue seen in India. But it was not only these fundraising figures that made the oil-to-telecom conglomerate stand out from the rest. Each individual subsidiary of RIL,

ranging from Jio to retail to oil and gas stood out on its own. Here are some interesting figures and highlights from Reliance Industries' annual report. The retail segment of Reliance Industries is the largest, fastest-growing and most profitable retail company in India. Reliance Retail offers customers consumer electronics, fashion & lifestyle, grocery, and pharmaceuticals among other things. Infosys, ITC, RIL, PVR, Route Mobile, Infosys, ITC, RIL, PVR, Route Mobile, Motherson Sumi, Manappuram Finance stocks in focus. RIL, Reliance Industries, Oberoi Realty, Godrej Properties, stocks to buy. Stocks to buy: RIL, Oberoi Realty, Godrej Prop. Stocks may rally up to 21% in next 3 months, charts suggest. Reliance said its retail business

served over 1,00,000 customers every hour in the previous financial year.- In terms of reach, the company said it has a 156 million registered loyal customer base across more than 7,000 cities.-The retail segment of RIL now has 12,711 retail stores, spreading across 33.8 million square feet of space, employing more than 2 lakh people.-To support the retail stores, RIL also runs 263 warehouses and distribution centres and moves around 1.4 million KMs per day.-Reliance Retail during the financial year, sold more than 1,100 laptops every day and over 1,600 high-end televisions.-The grocery unit sold more than 1,800 MT fruits, vegetables and staples every day.The fast-growing digital services arm of Reliance Industries continued mushrooming during the previous year. Jio has been at the heart of RIL's digital services plans and the platform continued to impress.



*Dated Kokrajhar the 02/06/2021*

The Executive Officer Kokrajhar Municipal Board, Kokrajhar invite sealed tenders in the prescribed from eventually to be drawn in PWD F-2 form / departmental form for the work in the given below with validity period of 90 days affixing court fee Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Paise twenty five) only are invited from the Registered contractor from PWD class -1 & 2 Municipal Registered contractor firm for the year 2020-21 as applicable having past experience of executing work of similar nature and will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00 PM on 07/06/2021 and will be opened on same day sat 3.00PM in presence of intending tenders or authorizes agent. If the office happens at the closed on the date of receipt of this tender, the tender will be. The tender will be received and opened at same place and hours on the next working day of the office. Earnest money at the rate 2% for general and 1% for ST & SC OBC, unemployed/call deposit will have to deposited along with each tender duly pledged to the Executive Officer KMB. Tender submit without earnest money shall be summarily rejected.

The detailed tender papers from the office of the undersigned by the intending tenders on payment fees 0.30 % of the tender value which is non refundable. No tender papers will be issue date the date.

Detailed of work, term and condition as may be seen in the office of the KMB during office hours 06/2/21 to 13/2/21 which are included in detailed NIT documents.

Sl No.	Name of Work	Approx Value	Eligible class	E. Money	Time of completion
1.	Clearing of Public Canal/Dong in Kokrajhar Town under Kokrajhar Municipal Road	Rs. 35,24,700.00	Class 1 & 2	35,247.00	90 Days

Sd/-Chairperson  
Kokrajhar Municipal Board  
Kokrajhar



Contd. From Page 1

## Don't allow home quarantine

which are being set up at various government hospitals and functioning 13 oxygen plants in the state apart from status of installation of 6 oxygen plants provided by Central Government to the state. Dr. Sarma also directed to increase daily vaccination to inoculate maximum number of people at the earliest. With the new supply of Covaxin and Covishield to arrive in the state in the next few days, the vaccination must speed up to cover as many people as possible in the shortest time, he said. The Chief Minister also directed the health department to explore the option of funding private hospitals with interest free loans so that they can purchase vaccines directly from manufacturers under 25 per cent quota reserved for private sector by the Central Government. This way, more people would be covered by the vaccination net through the private hospital route, he said. Health Minister Keshab Mahanta, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Samir Kumar Sinha, Principal Secretary of the Health Department Anurag Goel, NHM Assam MD Lakshmanan. S were also present in the meeting.

## Assam government fixes Covid-19

as X-ray, USG, Haematology, Pathology, etc, BMW (incl. Sanitization), PPE Kits, N-95 masks)Major tests and investigations, like C.T. Chest/HRCT Chest/Di dimer, etc as well as high-level drugs such as Remdisivir/Tocilizumubab, etc and treatment and diagnosis procedures related to any co-morbid conditions, are excluded from the charge, the notification said.

## Decision on curfew and inter

instead refer the patients with co-morbidity, of any age, to institutional quarantine facilities. "To bring positivity and mortality rates further down, Covid patients of any age group with any comorbidity will be kept in institutional quarantine," said CM Himanta Biswa Sarma. He further instructed the health department officials to fix rates of COVID-19 treatment at private hospitals in the State. CM Sarma said: "Issued instructions to fix the rates for COVID-19 treatment in private hospitals. Affordable rates have been fixed for both general & super-speciality wards." Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday instructed the State Health Department to stop allowing home quarantine facility to COVID-19 patients with co-morbidity. He asked the Health Department officials to instead refer the patients with co-morbidity, of any age, to institutional quarantine facilities. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma gave this instruction to the Health Department during a meeting with its officials at Secretariat Building (Janata Bhawan) in Guwahati on Friday. Assam Health Minister Keshab Mahanta was also present in this COVID-19 review meeting."To bring positivity and mortality rates further down, Covid patients of any age group with any comorbidity will be kept in institutional quarantine," said CM Himanta Biswa Sarma. He further instructed the health department officials to fix rates of COVID-19 treatment at private hospitals in the State. CM Sarma said: "Issued instructions to fix the rates for COVID-19 treatment in private hospitals. Affordable rates have been fixed for both general & super-speciality wards." Speaking about the vaccination process in the State, the Assam Chief Minister informed that the health department officials have been directed to accelerate the process so as maximum number of people get vaccinated at the earliest. "Also directed officials to ramp up the vaccination process to inoculate maximum people at the earliest," added CM Himanta Biswa Sarma.

## Widespread Rain

the next five days. Therefore, widespread rainfall with isolated heavy falls and active thunderstorms are likely over the region through the remainder of this week and into the next week. The 5-day totals will add up to 150 mm, while over 250 mm is possible in some localised spots, which could trigger flooding as well.As per IMD, isolated heavy rainfall is very likely over Arunachal Pradesh from June 4 to 6; over Assam & Meghalaya from June 4 to 7 and Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura on June 5 and 6.Meanwhile, in north India, a feeble western disturbance is expected to bring isolated to scattered rainfall and mountain snow over Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhnad until Monday.Some parts of the northern plains adjacent to the Western Himalayan Region may also experience wet weather conditions.In terms of temperatures, the mercury level is expected to be cooler across much of the country, while the Western Himalayan Region and the southwest corner of the country are likely to record near-normal maximum temperatures. Widespread rain with some heavy spells and thunderstorms are likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Goa, coastal Karnataka, Kerala, and Lakshadweep.Widespread rain and thunderstorms are possible over Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, and Tamil Nadu. Fairly widespread rain and thunderstorm are predicted over Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.Scattered rain or snow and thunderstorms are expected over Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, and Himachal Pradesh. Scattered rain and thunderstorms are likely over Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Moreover, isolated snow or rain and thunderstorms are possible over Ladakh and Uttarakhnad.Isolated rain and thunderstorms are expected over Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and Gangetic-West Bengal.Maximum temperatures are likely to be above 40°C in some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat.Widespread rain with some heavy spells and thunderstorms are likely over Arunachal Pradesh, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Goa, coastal Karnataka, and Kerala.Widespread rain and thunderstorms are expected over Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Lakshadweep. Fairly widespread rain and thunderstorms are predicted over Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.Scattered rain or snow and thunderstorms are possible over Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh. Moreover, isolated snow or rain and thunderstorms are possible over Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, and Uttarakhnad.Isolated rains and thunderstorms are predicted over Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Gangetic-West Bengal.Maximum temperatures are likely to be above 40°C in some parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

## After shootout, police nab three

development, a Game Changer. Why I consider it so, because I always encouraged OCs and Thanas to generate their own intel, own network without any intervention from Senior brass," said Assam DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta. "They generated their own intel, planned their own operation and executed it. It was against a gang of cattle thieves, drug dealers and other criminal elements," added DGP Mahanta. The three smugglers were arrested after a fierce encounter that broke out between the police team and the gang of smugglers. Although the police were able to nab three smugglers, hunt is on to nab another three, who managed to flee from the site. "When this gang was ambushed, they shot at the Police team while fleeing. Police retaliated. 3 from the gang received bullet injuries and apprehended. Search for other 3 is still on," said DGP Mahanta. The police also seized an SUV, in which the smugglers were travelling, a pistol along with ammunition.

## UK approves Pfizer COVID-19

been met," she said.She added that it would now be up to the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation to decide whether this age group would come under the vaccine deployment programme. It may be noted that the Pfizer vaccine is already approved for use in people aged 16 and over. US pharmaceutical giant Pfizer has recently told the Indian government that its COVID-19 vaccine is suitable for all aged 12 and above and can be stored at 2-8 degrees for over a month.The firm also said that is ready to supply 50 million COVID-19 vaccines to India in 2021, albeit with a few conditions. The US drugmaker has also asked for relaxations in some clauses, including indemnification for its shots, sources said.Pfizer officials and the government also reportedly discussed the indemnity protection against liabilities and the firm asked for relaxation in some clauses before the company brings its COVID-19 vaccines to India.

## Congress sends memo to President

slabs for the same vaccine are a recipe for profiteering out of people's misery," the Assam Congress said. It added: "The need of the hour is that Union BJP Govt should procure the vaccine and supply for free to the States and private hospitals for vaccination the people of India. Anything less is a huge disservice to India and its people." "...only 4.45 crore Indians have received both the doses of vaccine, which is 3.17% of India's population," the Assam Congress said.

## Govt caps trade margin

manufacturer, on a conspicuous part of the business premises in a manner so as to be easily accessible to any person wishing to consult the same. The manufacturers / importers not complying with the revised MRP after Trade Margin capping, shall be liable to deposit the overcharged amount along with interest at 15% and penalty up to 100% under the provisions of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 read with Essential Commodities Act, 1955. State Drug Controllers (SDCs) shall monitor the compliance of the order to ensure that no manufacturer, distributor, retailer shall sell Oxygen Concentrators to any consumer at a price exceeding the revised MRP, to prevent instances of black-marketing.The Order shall be applicable up to November 30, 2021, subject to review.With the spurt in cases under COVID 2.0 pandemic in the country, demand for Medical Oxygen has gone considerably. The Government is striving to ensure uninterrupted supply of Oxygen and Oxygen Concentrators in adequate quantity in the country during the pandemic. Oxygen Concentrator is a Non-Scheduled Drug and presently under voluntary licensing framework of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). Its price is being monitored under the provisions of DPCO 2013.

## CM presents cheque worth Rs. 3

also offered best wishes to Shiva Thapa for his sporting career and assured to extend all possible support from the State government in future. Minister of Sports & Youth Affairs Bimal Bora, MLAs Mrinal Saikia and Manab Deka, Commissioner & Secretary of Sports Department Moloy Bora, Director Sports Pabitra Ram Khound, Vice Chairman of Boxing Federation of India Santanu Kalita, Secretary BFI Hemanta Kalita were also present during Shiva Thapa's call on to the Chief Minister.

## CM holds meeting with officials of Higher Education and PWD (Bldg) dept.

*Take steps for early completion of educational infrastructure projects: CM*

**Guwahati , June 4:** Chief Minister Dr.HimantaBiswaSarmatoday held a meeting with senior officials of Higher Education and PWD (Building&NH) department and reviewed the progress of ongoing infrastructure projects being implemented in the higher education sector at his office conference room at Janata Bhawan today. While taking stock of construction of nine girls colleges in the minority dominated areas of the State, the Chief Minister asked officials of higher education department to take expeditious steps for launch of construction of the colleges. He directed the PWD (Bldg) department to begin construction of all the nine colleges within August 15 and make them ready for launch of academic session in next two years. The Chief Minister also reviewed the progress of model colleges constructed under State Owned Priority Development (SOPD) scheme and JastriyaUchchatarShikshaAbhiyan (RUSA) in the State. He instructed for a joint meeting of the officials of PWD (Bldg) and contractors engaged in the infrastructure works of higher education department to ensure early completion. The Chief Minister directed for completing all formalities of setting up Assam Engineering Services Recruitment Board while stressing on the importance of an independent recruitment agency for engineers. Decisions regarding the same would be taken in the next cabinet meeting, he said. On the other hand, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma directed for setting up a separate division for PWD (Building) bifurcating the existing PWD (Building & NH) while also taking steps for filling up the vacant posts and creating more posts if necessary. He also issued instruction to set up office of PWD (Building) in every district to make the division proactive. Education Minister Dr. RanujPegu, Principal Secretary to the Chief Minister Samir Kumar Sinha, Principal Secretary of Higher Education B. KalyanChakrabarty, Commissioner of PWD (Building and NH) Raj Chakrabarty were also present in the meeting among others.

## SDO (Civil) Kaliabor promulgates 144 CrPC from Amguri to Bagori area in Kaziranga National park

**NAGAON, June 4:** In view of the inundation in various locations under Kaziranga National park by flood water, the official of Kaliabor Sub Division (civil) imposed section 144(1) CrPC in the area from Amguri to Bagori in the Nagaon district portion of the park with immediate effect so that the wild animals as well as other wild species of the park could move safely to take shelter on the higher ground by crossing the NH 37 throughout the entire area. As per the notification issued in this regard by the SDO (Civil) Kaliabor, speed of vehicle must not exceed 40Km per hour, prohibition on assemble of people more than five, carrying of fire arms, lethal weapons as well as bows and arrows have been prohibited until further notice. Similarly, hunting and killing of wild animals as well as parking of heavy vehicles in front of dhabas and other restaurants in those areas have been banned in the same notification. Significantly, police, para military forces, other armed forces, forest personnel as well as security personnel on VIP duty, ambulance carrying critically ill patients, medical staff and other emergency services have been exempted from the notification, a press release issued by district information and public relations office added.

## Defence Ministry clears deal for 6 submarines

**New Delhi, June 04 :** The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Friday approved the issuance of a Request For Proposal (RFP) for the construction of six conventional submarines under Project-751 at an estimated cost of ₹43,000 crore. At a meeting, the DAC also approved the procurement of air defence guns and ammunition for the Army at an approximate cost of ₹6,000 crore."This is a landmark approval, being the first case processed under the Strategic Partnership (SP) model. This would be one of the largest 'Make in India' projects and it will create a tiered industrial ecosystem for submarine construction in India," Mr. Singh said on Twitter on the submarine deal.With this approval, India would be enabled to achieve its 30-year submarine construction programme envisioned by the government to acquire national competence in their building and for Indian industry to independently design and construct them, he noted.The deal would take at least two-three years to be concluded, and the given the high technology and the long timelines, the cost would be spread over many years, a defence official said.This project is being processed through the SP model of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP). Last January, the DAC short-listed Mazgaon Docks Limited (MDL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) as the Indian partners for the P-751 deal. The Navy will issue the RFP to them, who would respond to it in partnership with a foreign Original Equipment manufacturer (OEM).Five foreign OEMs- Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (DSME)(South Korea), Naval Group (France), Navantia (Spain), Rosoboronexport (Russia) and TKMS (Germany), have been selected for this.The delay in the deal was the extra caution at each step of the process as this was being done for the first time, officials had said.

## Liquor seized in Simultapu: One arrested



**Gossaigaon,4 May:** Based on a specific input a raid was carried out by Paul Hemsengh, i/c, Simultapu out post in the inter-state border of Shimultapu on Friday where huge quantity of illegal liquor seized from a truck.The truck bearing registration number NL-01Q-1691 which was heading towards West Bengal from Dibrugarh.Shimultapu police happened to witness a suspicious vehicle in their regular check post in that area and raided accordingly where the illegal liquor found filled inside the vehicle.Anwar Hussain aged about 25 years ,the driver of the vehicle was arrested and brought to Simultapu out post along with the vehicle for further investigation.

## US Eager To Involve India In Covid Clinical Trials: Dr Fauci

**Washington, June 04 :** America's top infectious disease specialist Dr Anthony Fauci on Thursday said his country is eager to involve Indian investigators in global clinical trials to evaluate the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 therapeutics.The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has a long history of collaboration with its counterpart agencies in India, Dr Fauci said during a conversation organised by the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum."Under the long-standing Indo-US vaccine action programme, we will continue to work with India on research related to SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2) vaccines. We also are eager to involve Indian investigators in sites in global clinical trials to evaluate the safety and efficacy of various COVID-19 therapeutics," he said.The partnerships between the NIH and India's Department of Biotechnology as well as what the Indian Council of Medical Research have helped produce important scientific and public health discoveries in the past."I am confident they will continue to do so in the future. India's contributions to global scientific knowledge are well known to all. With strong governmental support and a vibrant biopharma private sector, this knowledge already is yielding solutions to COVID-19 prevention and care," Dr Fauci said.India's Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu said as India ramps up vaccine production to cater to its needs and those of the world, it relies on the support of the United States in ensuring raw materials and component items are available in good supply."Vaccinating the world is our best bet against another wave of the pandemic, and the ideal way to speed economic recovery," he said.Observing that India-US health collaboration is not new, he said under the longstanding Vaccine Action Programme between both nations, they developed a vaccine against rotavirus, which causes severe diarrhea in children.Indian companies have also manufactured, highly cost-effective HIV drugs for use in African countries, building on cooperation between US organisations and the private sector, he said."Looking ahead, we need to invest in preparing for the future. Future global resilience will depend on how well prepared we are in dealing with future pandemics. We need to work to further expand our bilateral programmes in areas such as epidemiology, digital health and patients' safety to tackle communicable, and non-communicable diseases and improve infectious disease modelling, prediction and forecasting.Similarly, the sharing of clinical expertise, standards, and experiences of hospitals, in the management of infectious diseases, especially COVID-19, would add to the knowledge base," Mr Sandhu said."I think it's important to understand when the US went through a crisis last year, it was India which kept up to support the US from critical medicine. And India is going through his own challenges us stepped up. So, it is a reciprocal partnership," USISPF president Mukesh Agni said.Mr Sandhu said last year, as the pandemic hit, India ensured the integrity of health supply chains, providing essential medicines to the US."This year, when the US supported India during the second wave, President Biden recalled India's help. Companies such as Gilead and Merck present here today have been critical in supplying essential medicines to India which has helped us fight the pandemic and saved innumerable lives," he said.

## "Why Are You Carrying Torch?" Court To Doctors' Body On Ramdev's Remarks

**New Delhi, June 04 :** Yoga guru Ramdev has been sent a notice by the Delhi High Court on Thursday after the Delhi Medical Association (DMA) filed a lawsuit over his statements against allopathic medicines that led to a huge controversy. The court, however, rejected the request by the doctors' body to "restrain Ramdev from directly or indirectly publishing offending material". The doctors' body, which had sought a token damage of Re 1 over the statement and an unconditional apology, was also told by the court to file a petition instead of the lawsuit.Amid a heated exchange of arguments, the court told the DMA: "You people should be spending time on finding cure for the pandemic instead of wasting (the) court's time."But the DMA registered a strong objection against the comments. "Ramdev's remarks are affecting members of the DMA. He is calling doctors names. He is saying this science (allopathy) is fake. Ramdev is falsely representing Coronil as a cure for Covid with zero per cent death rate. Even the government has asked him not to advertise it. In the meantime, he has sold ₹ 250 crore worth of Coronil." Developed by Ramdev-promoted Patanjali Ayurved, Coronil claims to boost immunity. "Tomorrow, I may feel homeopathy is fake. It's an opinion. How can a suit be filed against it? Even if we assume what he is saying is wrong or misleading, a suit under public interest can't be filed like this. This has to be a public interest litigation (PIL)," the court said in a sharp retort."If Patanjali is violating (rules), it's for the government to act. Why are you carrying the torch. This is public interest litigation, masquerading as a suit. You better file a PIL saying that he called it a cure and then changed it to immunity booster, and in the meantime, millions bought it."The court also questioned the DMA over not submitting the video clips of Ramdev's speeches, and instead, relying on web links."Ramdev doesn't have faith in allopathy. He believes everything can be cured by Yoga and Ayurveda. He may be right or wrong but this court can't say Coronil is a cure or not. It has to be done by medical experts. Though his words like 'stupid science' may be temperate but that can't be a cause for a suit," the High Court underlined."Let's say 10,000 people bought Coronil and 9,500 died. You go to media and say that Coronil has killed 95 per cent. In that case, Ramdev will file a suit against you? Allopathy has worked for some and not for some. It's a view," the court stressed.When the DMA sought an interim relief, the High Court said: "It can't be done at interim stage."We will issue a notice but can't give a restraint order. I have a doubt whether you can maintain this case," the High Court bench further said, asking Ramdev's legal counsel to tell him not to make any provocative statement till the next date of hearing on July 13 and respond to the suit.



### Sale's Manu Tuilagi makes fresh start with eyes on Premiership title



**London, June 04 :** Manu Tuilagi developed a head for heights during his latest injury layoff but as he makes his first start in nearly nine months on Friday night the Sale and England centre is hoping the pinnacle of his season is still to come. Tuilagi made his comeback from an achilles injury last weekend from the bench and made a considerable impact against Bristol with Alex Sanderson subsequently handing him the No 12 jersey against Harlequins. Sale have already booked their top-four spot but victory would boost their hopes of a home semi-final and aid their pursuit of a first Premiership title since 2006. Eddie Jones will be watching closely with the England head coach yet to decide if Tuilagi is ready to return to the international fold this summer but Warren Gatland will no doubt be keeping a keen interest too. Tuilagi's comeback ultimately came too late for a place in the British & Irish Lions squad this summer but another promising performance could move him to the top of the standby list. For now, however, Tuilagi is focused on his club commitments. He had impressed in his seven appearances for Sale at the end of last season before he was struck down and forced to endure another long-term injury absence. In the past snooker has provided escape for Tuilagi - this time he discovered walking in the Peak District and, if the injuries are getting easier to cope with, clearly there is a desire to make up for lost time. "We knew that was just a process we had to go through so we came up with some ideas to make sure it wasn't just in the gym," he said. "We did a bit of hiking, so I wasn't really thinking about the rehab, I was just enjoying it. We were in the Peak District and by the end of it I really got into it. There's some beautiful scenery round there, so I'm into hiking now as well!" "It definitely made things easier watching the boys perform the way they've been performing. It motivates you to keep doing your bit. Winning is what I aim to do. That's a given. That's why you're here in the first place. You're not here to just take part - you're here to win every day. [Another Premiership title] would be massive, for the whole group. To win it would be the icing on the cake." Victory against Harlequins would be an eighth in the row in the league for Sale and they are well fancied to do so with the London club choosing to rest a host of front-line stars including Marcus Smith, Danny Care and Alex Dombrandt. Sale, meanwhile, welcome back Will Griff John, Jono Ross and Rohan Janse van Rensburg to their squad but it is Tuilagi's presence on the teamsheet that catches the eye. "Having him back in a team is a bit of glue," said Sanderson. "He raises performance levels in others, not through his own direction but through small comms, engaging with boys, the relationships he has lifts them as a team." "Add to that what he can do ball-in-hand, to the opposition. It's going to add isn't it? It's purely form now. We have seen him physically at his best in training. [International involvement in the summer] is down to me to get him as much game time as possible without affecting the consistency of the team."

## Rory Burns leads England revival after Devon Conway's 200 for New Zealand

**London, June 04 :** The Long Room at Lord's sits deserted for this first Test of the English summer, the members having been locked out to ensure a sterile environment exists for the players as they move between the dressing rooms and the field of play. As such, where Joe Root and Rory Burns might have expected to receive hearty applause, they returned to relative silence at the end of the second day against New Zealand, albeit with no less a sense of satisfaction after ensuring England's fightback with the ball was not squandered with the bat. There remains much work left to do but, having kept New Zealand relatively in check at 378 all out through Mark Wood's three-wicket burst, England's reply could easily have gone south when Dom Sibley and Zak Crawley disappeared in the first seven overs of the reply and the score read 18 for two. Such scenarios are not unfamiliar to Root and he and the opener Burns saw out the evening

session to reach a more promising 111 for two at stumps. Burns was unbeaten on 59, an encouraging return after being dropped midway through the tour of India, while Root sat eight short of a half-century. Their 36 overs of defiance was no mean feat either. New Zealand's attack may be without Trent Boult but, after Devon Conway completed an imperious 200, Tim Southee and Kyle Jamieson took the new ball with runs on the board and managed to extract more movement than witnessed from England initially. Crawley's stay was then all too brief, edging behind on two when suckered into a loose shot, as Southee went wide of the crease, and edging behind. It was a classical piece of swing bowling but also a naive, footwork-free shot for Crawley to be attempting so early in his innings. By this stage Burns had already enjoyed a touch of fortune, surviving a strong lbw shout from Southee and then the



subsequent review on umpire's call. But for all the left-hander's quirks he appeared in good order all the same, slotting eight fours with a confidence not seen from him on the subcontinent. For Root it was a case of overcoming his nemesis from the World Cup final two years ago. Colin de Grandhomme may be sporting a frankly outrageous mullet hairdo these days but his gentle right-arm medium pace remains the thing that confuses the England captain most of all. It made for a slightly fraught tussle at times, Root still unsure whether to stick or twist as De Grandhomme chugged away. But he will resume on day three buoyed by the 42 runs to his name and the earlier work from his bowlers. Ensuring New Zealand's overnight 246 for three did not grow past 400 has kept England in the game, even if Neil Wagner briefly morphed into Brian Lara with an eye-catching unbeaten 25 from No 11 and it required a tight run-out to end Conway's masterpiece and finally shut down proceedings. Debutants are meant to be riddled with nerves but for the second day running Conway looked utterly serene at the crease. Resuming on 136, the left-hander cruised past WG Grace (152) and KS Ranjitsinhji (154 not out) for the highest score by a Test debutant on English soil, while the pulled six to reach his double-century was a truly magical moment. Though the question of where Conway's weakness lies remains unresolved, Wood and Ollie Robinson had managed to induce a collapse at the

other end of four wickets for six runs in the morning. In the case of the former, it rather underlined his game-changing attributes on what has been a chiefly benign surface. Wood's best work to date has come primarily overseas but here he broke a fourth-wicket stand of 174 between Henry Nicholls and Conway - the former pulling a sharp short-ball to long-leg on 61 - before a fuller length saw BJ Watling edge to slip and Michael Santner chip to cover. A pair who had utterly crushed English spirits with a stand of 261 at Mount Maunganui's Bay Oval in late 2019 were dispatched for one and not out. In between came Robinson's removal of De Grandhomme lbw on review for a duck. This represented a sound use of technology by the 27-year-old during a Test debut that has been otherwise dominated by his previous shortcomings here. The Lord's crowd had earlier met his introduction with gentle applause, rather than scorn for those dreadful teenage tweets. Robinson's removal of Jamieson after lunch, caught in the deep, put him one away from five on debut but it was not to be, Stuart Broad grassing Southee at mid-off soon after. Given the previous 24 hours, and the fact Broad went on to finish wicketless for the fifth successive Test innings, the newcomer is unlikely to have raised this at the innings break. Instead it was Jimmy Anderson who removed the No 10, caught behind to hand James Bracey his first Test dismissal and move to 994 first-class wickets himself, only for Wagner to emerge with mischief on his mind.

said of Alexander-Arnold: "A scan on Thursday confirmed the 22-year-old will be unable to play in the forthcoming tournament so has withdrawn from the England squad to return to his club for rehabilitation." The other significant headline from Wednesday involved booing by some fans when the teams took a knee in the fight against racism, and Southgate has cast doubt on whether England's players will continue with the action. He will canvas opinion within his squad and a decision will be taken after his seven Manchester City and Chelsea players join up on Saturday. There were jeers at various grounds after the return of fans when players took the knee and the same happened in the England friendly.

## Kalajdzic is Austria's big striking hope for Euro 2020



Kalajdzic, one of the equation's three variables is set. Just put the ball on his head. But despite the time-honoured stereotype of tall strikers - that they struggle with the ball at their feet - Kalajdzic does not only rely on his aerial advantage. In fact, his technical skills are astonishing. His left foot has prodigious power and, when his side are building an attack, Kalajdzic plays his part with confidence, knowledge and finesse. Partly this is thanks to Ernst Baumeister, his former coach at Admira Mödling, who moved him up front from midfield and ensured that his main task was to score goals. Kalajdzic's time in midfield helped him to understand the game better and avoid getting lost as an isolated tower in the penalty box. Kalajdzic's backstory is somewhat typical for a footballer from Vienna. His parents are from Bosnia and fled to Vienna during the Yugoslav wars. Born in 1997, Sasa started playing football at SV Donau, then Donauefied, before finding his way to Admira, where he made his professional debut, in the suburbs of the capital.

# England's Euro fate is preordained but I'll still support them all the way

**London, June 04 :** There was a fascinating long read in the Guardian a month ago entitled "The clockwork universe: is free will an illusion?" in which Oliver Burkeman explored the age-old question about whether any of us have any control over anything we do. We are encouraged to consider a fruit bowl containing an apple and a banana. You feel hungry, you choose the banana. You could have chosen the apple. But you didn't. Now you are eating a banana. Free will. A decision made. By you and you alone. You have successfully consumed one banana. "So in the fruit bowl example," Burkeman explains, "there are physiological reasons for your feeling hungry in the first place and there are causes - in your genes, your upbringing or your current environment - for your choosing to address your hunger with fruit, rather than a box of doughnuts. And your preference for the banana over the apple, at the moment of supposed choice, must have been caused by what went before, presumably including the pattern of neurons firing in your brain, which was itself caused - and so on back in an unbroken chain to your birth, the meeting of your parents, their births and, eventually, the birth of the cosmos." Now let's replace the apple and the banana with 33 England players and make Gareth Southgate the subject of the

exercise. Given he is just living out his pre-ordained life that was set in motion by the Big Bang, it makes it harder to be furious that Gareth has left James Ward-Prowse in a fruit bowl so he can't come on and take a corner in injury time when England are 2-1 down to Germany in the last 16. The radio phone-in becomes slightly trickier to navigate, of course. "Well, I can't blame Southgate for playing Lingard on Wednesday night because it was pre-ordained and, while we're at it, calling you in the first place wasn't something I chose to do - all my life just led me to this moment." "Thanks, Dave, Mike's a Norwich fan who thinks Max Aarons should have made it. Hi, Mike." There are, of course, philosophers who believe in free will and others who suggest it is important at least to find a way to believe to avoid society collapsing into nihilistic chaos. In a world where we do have the power to make choices, it is hard to explain to those who are wilfully enraged by Southgate's gentle cull from 33 to 26. Ward-Prowse is good at set pieces. But you can't just bring

him on for free-kicks - he's not a Subbuteo corner kicker. Ward-Prowse is a fine footballer but so are those who squeezed in ahead of him. The players missing out are good. The players in the squad are good. "We, of course, are a bit myopic," said Southgate

a forward line of Mbappé, Griezmann and Benzema, N'Golo Kante in their midfield and a squad with countless World Cup winners. Only now are people starting to listen to German football experts who say that Jadon Sancho's form has been exceptional at the end of this season. He is the only player who naturally plays on the right of a three. It is not a crime to not watch the Bundesliga - but how reassuring that Jude Bellingham's talents have

been noticed. There remains a desperation among some England fans to support the team through the lenses of their own clubs. Fury from Liverpool supporters when it was rumoured that Trent Alexander-Arnold had not been selected. Leeds fans discussing Patrick Bamford's "numbers" at every opportunity. West Ham fans arguing for Michael Antonio. The latter two would not have been insane selections but their absence is neither a surprise nor a tournament-defining problem. I remember suffering the same affliction in 2006, arguing with conviction that Aaron Lennon should replace David Beckham. Beckham scored or set up almost every goal England scored in that tournament. Had Lennon not played for Spurs, I doubt if I'd have made the case. The blind love of a football team renders any attempt at perspective impossible. Some of the replies to Carlo Ancelotti's "thanks for everything" tweet to Everton are a case in point. Colin's almost heartbreaking "Did you ever feel anything for us?" Was Everton nothing to you, Carlo? Surely you felt it too? Those butterflies in the first few matches? Hugging Big Dunc? No? Nothing? It's your club. It's Ancelotti's job. Why wouldn't he go to Real Madrid? But that blind love will do the same to me this summer. That desperation to see England win a tournament once in my lifetime. I will watch with that sickness in the pit of my stomach. I will get giddy. I will forget that other countries play football. I will lose objectivity. I will get too emotional at montages. I will wince every time Harry Kane's ankles get near an opponent. I'll pray for outrageous VAR decisions to go our way. My heart rate will double at the mere mention of a penalty shootout. I will hope. History tells us that England won't win the tournament. History also tells us that we just might. If we accept it's pre-ordained, then it might make the whole thing a lot more enjoyable. Que sera sera.



## England's Trent Alexander-Arnold ruled out of Euro 2020 with thigh injury



**London, June 04 :** Trent Alexander-Arnold has been ruled out of Euro 2020 after sustaining a thigh injury in the closing stages of England's 1-0 win over Austria on Wednesday. The Liverpool right-back is devastated by a setback which will keep him out for four to six weeks. After lengthy debate over whether Alexander-Arnold would be in the squad and surprise at the selection of four right-backs, Gareth Southgate must choose a replacement. James Ward-Prowse, Jesse Lingard and Ollie Watkins are most prominent on the standby list and Ward-Prowse would appear to be the favourite, not least because England's manager has only four pure central midfielders and one, Jordan Henderson, is a doubt for the

opening match against Croatia on Sunday week. Southgate will not name his choice until after this Sunday's game against Romania. The delay will ensure greater intensity in training from the standby players, all of whom are due to remain with the squad for the final warm-up match. Ben White and Ben Godfrey are the other outfield options. The Football Association

said of Alexander-Arnold: "A scan on Thursday confirmed the 22-year-old will be unable to play in the forthcoming tournament so has withdrawn from the England squad to return to his club for rehabilitation." The other significant headline from Wednesday involved booing by some fans when the teams took a knee in the fight against racism, and Southgate has cast doubt on whether England's players will continue with the action. He will canvas opinion within his squad and a decision will be taken after his seven Manchester City and Chelsea players join up on Saturday. There were jeers at various grounds after the return of fans when players took the knee and the same happened in the England friendly.

## Zeyaadah can upset O'Brien pair and land first Oaks win for Roger Varian

**London, June 04 :** There is a familiar look to the betting for the Cazoo Oaks at Epsom on Friday with two fillies from Aidan O'Brien's stable heading the market as the trainer looks for a ninth win in the Classic. They arrive with very different profiles, however, as Snowfall raced seven times as a juvenile while Santa Barbara, the likely favourite, has just two runs in the book. O'Brien's suggestion that Santa Barbara "dominated" her galloping companions in the spring helped to send her off as joint-favourite for the 1,000 Guineas last month, and while her running-on fourth at Newmarket was a solid trial her odds still owe much to her trainer's opinion, record and reputation. When Saffron Beach, who was in front of Santa Barbara at Newmarket, is three or four times her price, 5-2 is easy to resist. Snowfall's Musidora success was just her second win and the time was nothing special, but the Cheshire Oaks - Enable's springboard to Oaks success four years ago - was strongly run and looked like a decent trial. Dubai Fountain beat Zeyaadah (4.30) by a length there but Roger Varian's filly was giving the winner 3lb and Jim Crowley had to wait for a gap to deliver his challenge. With that experience behind her, Zeyaadah looks a fair price at around 5-1 to reverse the form and give Varian his first Epsom Classic. Epsom 2,00 There is no standout juvenile in the field for the Woodcote while the market leaders, Dairerin and Flaming Rib, have done their racing to date on flatter tracks and easier ground.



## Ryan Lochte : 'I was headed to a dark, dark place'

**London, June 4 :** It's been a roller-coaster five years for Ryan Lochte, even accounting for the ample fluctuations of a celebrity athlete whose nearly two decades in the public eye have been defined by in-water excellence measured against self-sabotage out of it. The second-most decorated men's swimmer in Olympic history has married and become a father of two. He's also

without a therapeutic use exemption. That Lochte went into rehab early into the second punishment didn't exactly raise expectations. Whatever your thoughts on Lochte's extracurriculars, there's practically nothing left for him to prove in the water. But as he approaches what almost certainly will be his final Olympic trials, Lochte describes a pressure unlike any he's experi-

petition finished, Lochte and three teammates followed a night of carousing by urinating outside the bathroom at a gas station. A confrontation with security guards ensued, but Lochte's next-day tale of being held up by armed robbers who may or may not have been police became an international scandal as quickly as it unraveled. By invoking the ugliest stereotypes of Rio criminality in a clumsy effort to conceal his fratboy antics, Lochte was cast as the embodiment of American entitlement while also overshadowing the achievements of countless athletes during the final week of the Olympics. Shortly after, Lochte was slapped the ban by USA Swimming and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee, dropped by four major sponsors and made to forfeit \$100,000 in bonus money that came with his gold medal. Then, in 2018, Lochte was suspended for 14 months by the United States Anti-Doping Agency after a social media post showed him receiving an IV infusion of legal vitamins, which is prohibited under doping rules without a therapeutic use exemption. Only three months into the second suspension, Lochte landed himself in the headlines again for an early-morning incident at a southern California hotel when he found himself locked out of his hotel room and tried to kick down the door. That's when, Lochte says, he made the decision to spend six weeks in an outpatient alcohol use treatment program. "I was just headed to a dark, dark place," Lochte says. "It just seemed like every time that I was drinking heavily, I was doing something stupid and it was a pattern. It made me realize the path I was heading down if I kept going that route. And if I would have kept that pattern, who knows what could have happened? I could have ended up in a car wreck. Or killing someone else. So it was definitely a wake-up call. I needed to grow up, smell the coffee and be like, this is not you. You need to change who you are." Lochte's insistence on looking forward rather than behind him when Rio does come up could be read by his critics as a lack of contrition - for the lying, for leading his younger teammates astray, for embarrassing his family and for trying to blame it on the locals - or by his fans as a triumph of positive visualization. When Lochte finally resurfaced after more than a year away from swimming for the 2019 US national championships, he won the 200 IM fast enough to qualify for a spot at the US Olymp-

pic trials. Then came the March night in the family's living room when Lochte caught a breaking story on the evening news. "We'd heard the Olympics might be postponed, but I never thought it would happen," he recalls. "Once I heard it, I was in shock. I was pissed off. But then I had to take a step back and start thinking, like, everything happens for a reason." So I started looking at the positive sides. I was like, man, I get a whole other year of training: tuning up my strokes, making sure my starts, my turns, my underwaters, everything is flawless. I think I'm going to be a 10 times better swimmer than I was last summer, which I feel like I am. "Even if the Tokyo Games had gone ahead as scheduled in 2020, Lochte, then 35, still would have been the oldest American man to ever swim at an Olympics. Still, he insists he was never deterred by the prospect of another year of punishment. "There's still times where it gets hard mentally," he says. "It's beating up your body and I've been doing it for 28 years without really taking a long, long break. It takes a toll, but that's where your goals and what you want to accomplish in the sport really come back into play." All eyes will be on Lochte at this month's trials, which have been split into a pair of meets in an effort to provide more room for social distancing on the typically crowded pool deck. Regardless of whether he make a fifth US Olympic team, he promises it won't be the end of his competitive career: "No matter what the outcome is this summer, I'm still going to be swimming. I've never been to the [International Swimming League] meets or the World Cup meets. There's still things I want to do that will be fun." But as his moment of truth draw nearer, Lochte finds it's his darkest moments that forced him into the self-reckoning which has made his greatest happiness possible. "Being knocked down so many times - and when I say knocked down, like knocked down to the very bottom - and being able to get myself back up and keep moving forward, I can honestly say I'm the happiest I've ever been," he says. "I have a beautiful wife, two gorgeous kids, and it's everything that I've ever wanted in life. This trumps every gold medal I've ever won. This hands-down is my calling: being a dad, being a husband. The swimming is just the cherry on top. Before I couldn't say that. Swimming was my world. Swimming was everything. But life has changed and I'm happy it did because, me inside, I'm proud of who I've become."



been branded as a global symbol of privilege after an eponymous Rio Olympics scandal where he lied about being robbed at gunpoint, served two lengthy suspensions and admitted himself to rehab for alcohol addiction after one TMZ headline too many. Peaks and troughs, as they say. Yet through all the tumult, Lochte has never meaningfully wavered in his goal of swimming in a fifth Olympics. And when the US swimming trials begin on Friday in Omaha, the 36-year-old will attempt to make it a reality. His best chance is expected to come on Sunday night in the 200m individual medley, the event where he set a world record nearly a decade ago that stands today. Should he earn a spot on the US team for Tokyo, he will become the oldest American male swimmer to ever compete at an Olympics. "Right now I am racing against people half my age," Lochte told the Guardian on a recent Zoom call from Gainesville, where he's returned to train and live with his wife, Kayla Rae Reid, and two children: three-year-old Caiden and one-year-old Liv. "I don't have the luxury they have where, after swim practice, they can go home and they can take naps. I have a family now, and keeping up with my kids, that right there is hard itself." If a fifth Olympics seemed a bit of a lark after Lochte was banned for 10 months over his principal role in vandalizing a gas station with three other American swimmers during a drunken night out at the Rio Games, it felt downright quixotic two years later when he was hit with a separate 14-month suspension for receiving an intravenous infusion

enced in an international career that reaches back to his Olympic debut aged 20 at Athens 2004. "I didn't have pressure back then," Lochte says. "I had no responsibilities. It was just me, the goofball Ryan Lochte, getting on the blocks and just racing. In some ways I have to think like that, that mindset of there is no pressure. But to be honest, this is the most pressure I've ever had in my entire life because I have so much to prove, not just for myself, but for all the doubters out there, all the naysayers, that are like rooting against me. It's my chance to prove that in the past I was a goofball, but I've changed." Now I'm a family man. And I'm doing this to prove to my kids that in life, you're going to get knocked down. You're going to get knocked down a lot, but it's how you get yourself up and how you keep moving forward that is going to define you as a person." He adds: "I'm fighting a lot of things, but I'm the happiest I've ever been." There is a genuine sense of contentment and even self-reflection that comes through in our conversation, but it's been a serenity hard won after an extended comedown since Rio that sent Lochte spiraling to what he describes as "the very bottom". It started only days after Lochte teamed with Phelps, Conor Dwyer and Townley Haas to win gold in the 4x200m freestyle relay at the Rio Olympics, moving him level with Jenny Thompson, Dara Torres and Natalie Coughlin as the second-most decorated swimmers in history, male or female. Chances are, that's not what you remember about his time in Brazil. Their com-

## French Open : world No 1 Ash Barty retires from tournament with hip injury

**Paris, June 4 :** Ashleigh Barty will play no further part in Roland Garros after being forced to retire from her second-round match with a left hip injury. The top seed, who was competing in Paris for the first time since she won her first grand slam title there in 2019, retired while trailing 6-1, 2-2 against Magda Linette after taking to the court with the pre-existing injury. "It's heartbreaking," said Barty. "We have had such a brilliant clay court season, and to kind of get a little bit unlucky with timing more

over the world to try and give us some insight into what the best ways to manage it are, to handle it, and I'm confident we do have a plan. It's just that we ran out of time here." It was clear from early in her opening round that Barty's movement and serve were compromised, but her volatile opponent Bernarda Pera took large cuts at the ball and provided enough unforced errors - 49 - to help Barty survive her first round. Linette, ranked 45th, is a tidier and more resourceful player and she



than anything, to have something kind of acute happen over the weekend and just kind of run out of time against the clock is disappointing. It won't take away the brilliant three months that we have had, as much as it hurts right now." Barty had returned to Paris in some of the best form of her career, but there remained question marks over whether her large recent workload had taken its toll on her body. Between her return to competition abroad at the Miami Open in March and Rome in mid-May, she played five tournaments with just one week of rest. Her consistency has been remarkable and she has compiled a 20-3 record during that period, marking her as a tournament favourite, but it had already come at a cost. Two weeks ago, Barty retired from her quarter-final at the Italian Open with a right arm injury and she has had her thigh strapped in recent matches. But her body had healed by the time she arrived in Paris and her hopes were high as she entered the tournament. Instead, during the weekend on the eve of the tournament, Barty hurt her hip in "an acute incident" as she landed while serving. "Something that I've never experienced before, even chatting with my physio, not something she has seen regularly either," she said. "So we've been consulting with people all

handled the situation extremely well, manoeuvring the world No 1 around the court while offering just six unforced errors. She closed off the first set with a drop shot that Barty did not bother to chase. While Linette thrived, the limitations in Barty's game as a consequence of her injury became even more clear. Her biggest struggle was on serve where was unable to fully drive upwards with her legs, instead relying on her arm to generate power in her serve. She attempted to compensate for her injury by attacking as early as possible, committing 18 unforced errors in her short time on court. After taking an off-court medical timeout following the first set, she pulled the plug early in the second set after feeling that the pain was too severe and the injury had become "unsafe". After such a difficult week at a tournament so dear to her, Barty will now strive to recover swiftly in order to be ready for the grass season, her favourite time of the year, two years since she last competed on her best surface. A longer period on the sidelines would only augment her heartbreak. "It's disappointing to end like this," said Barty. "I've had my fair share of tears this week. It's all good. Everything happens for a reason. There will be a silver lining in this eventually. Once I find out what that is it'll make me feel a little bit better, but it will be there I'm sure." Meanwhile, an intense and fit Sloane Stephens took a clear step in the direction of a potential resurgence as the 2018 finalist produced a quality performance to upset ninth seed Karolina Pliskova 7-5, 6-1. The defending champion Iga Swiatek continued to dismantle all opposition as she beat Rebecca Peterson 6-1, 6-1. Also through were fourth seed Sofia Kenin, who saw off Hailey Baptiste 7-5, 6-3. In the absence of Barty, Elina Svitolina is now the highest seed in the top quarter and she safely reached the third round with a 6-0, 6-4 win over Ann Li.

## Geraint Thomas wins Critérium stage but Postlberger retains race lead

**London, June 4 :** Geraint Thomas hung on to win stage five of the Critérium du Dauphiné following a well-timed late attack. The Ineos Grenadiers rider seized his chance as the reduced peloton slowed and bunched to take a tight right-hand turn around a kilometre from the Saint-Vallier finish line. Thomas, who faded in the second half of Wednesday's time trial, opened up a lead of a few seconds and was al-



most caught again as the chasing pack closed in, with the stage-three winner Sonny Colbrelli leading the charge. The Italian nearly passed Thomas but the 35-year-old held on narrowly for the victory. Lukas Postlberger crossed the line safely in the bunch to retain his race lead. "As we've seen all week, sprinting teams have been quite low on the ground when it comes to the finale and there were limited guys to

chase really so I just thought sod it and I just sensed it and went for it," said Thomas, who with his stage win earned a 10-second time bonus to move up two places to sixth in the general classification, 14 seconds off the race lead. "I managed to hang on, although I didn't think I had. It was really nice to get that win. It certainly hurt but it was only a minute or so, so hopefully I will be able to recover quickly from it."





The bond of  
love and devotion.









**CHIMNEYS WITH APPS | R.O. WATER PURIFIER | HOBS | GAS STOVE | OTHER KITCHEN APPLIANCES**

Abhayapuri-94350-22784 | Agartala-98560-93668 | Baihata chariali-94351-42568/98641-40488 | Bangaigaon-7002184811, 9435547654,9435121367 | Barpeta road-94350-17865 99541-41975 | Barpeta town -94350-25127 | Bhawanipur-7002206773 | Banderdewa-98649-84753 | Bijoynagar -99570-98392/94010-01157/94353-40662 | Boko-94010-02588 | Chaygaon-9435014549 | Dadara -98546-98027 | Dhupdhara-96785-16189 | Dhamaji-99546-51322 | Dhubri-94350-29279 | Diphu-94350-66701/94350-66643 | Dudhnoi-94357-21505/94351-28048 | Goalpara-70023-10904/88762-23858 | Golaghat-96132-30384 | Guwahati -94355-59057/97065-94950 | Hajo-94353-47024/88763-09327 | Hojai-94357-29521/84028-59256 | Jorhat -94350-53934/98541-06776 | Kharupitia -98541-44223 | Kokrajhar-97070-29429/99548-88721/94354-81234 | Karimgunj-97061-39061 | Krishnai-88224-15337 | Lumding -94351-63327/97066-14137 | Mangaldoi -94350-87284/94351-86435/97065-39174/73994-79163 | Mirza-98540-71983/99572-81858 | Morigaon -94350-64986/80111-17171 | North lakhimpur-88224-21077 | Nagaon-97061-79408/94355-18665 | Nalbari -98644-14515/98540-30209 | Pathsala-80110-06658 | Dhekiajuli-98548-29934 | Dibrugarh-98548-11265 | Rangia -94351-05888/96782-26563 | Silchar -97061-39061/70054-86129 | Silapathar-70028-94393 | Shillong-90869-66640 | Suwalkuchi -98643-54859 | Tinsukia-94350-35156/94350-35511/94350-36463 | Tezpur-97060-73481 | Tihu-97068-53124 | Udalguri-97063-46492

Trade enq. 9435146909/9435559057/9435559056
www.capsindia.in
Toll Free: 1800 103 4646