



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

Vol. No. VI ■ Issue No. 100 ■ RNI-ASSENG/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ WEDNESDAY ■ MAY 26, 2021 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 7.00

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Myanmar national held

**Guwahati, May 25 :** The troops of Assam Rifles have nabbed a Myanmar national with 120 grams of heroin from the NgurIn area in Mizoram. The troops of Assam Rifles have nabbed a Myanmar national with 120 grams of heroin from the NgurIn area in Mizoram. "The Serchhip battalion of 23 Sector Assam Rifles, under the aegis of Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (East), recovered 120 grams heroin no-4, in general area NgurIn Mizoram on Tuesday," said Assam rifles in a statement. The operation was carried out by a joint team of Assam Rifles along with Customs Preventive Force Champai based on specific information, it said. The approximate value of the seized heroin is around Rs 48, 00,000 in the international market.

### Four activists held

**Sivasagar, May 25 :** Four activists belonging to different organizations were apprehended by police during a midnight raid on Monday in Sivasagar district in upper Assam. Sources said Chatra Mukti Sangram Samiti (CMSS), the student wing of peasants' body KMSS, leader Manas Konwar was picked up from his Simaluguri residence around 10.30 pm on Monday. Police also swooped down on the residences of three other leaders at midnight in Sivasagar town and whisked them away. The police team apprehended Asom Yuba Chatra Sammilan president Jintu Mech, Rajior Dal leader Padmakant Das and Bir Lachit Sena leader Chitu Baruh from their homes. While Mech and Das were picked up by a team of Sivasagar police around 11.30 pm, Baruah was detained around 1.30 am. Sivasagar police have not disclosed the reason behind the arrest of the activists.

### Trafficking victims rescued from J&K

**Guwahati, May 25 :** A total of eight people, including one minor girl, who were trafficked to Srinagar in Jammu and Kashmir with a false promise of providing jobs, were brought back to Kokrajhar on Monday. Kokrajhar Superintendent of Police (SP) Prateek Thube told reporters that eight youths, including two girls from remote villages in Kokrajhar, were lured and taken to Srinagar with the promise of providing job there in April. There they were engaged in various works against their wills, said SP Thube.

## "Cow Our Mother, Slaughter Must Stop," Says Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma



**Guwahati, May 25 :** Himanta Biswa Sarma on the final day of his first assembly session after becoming Chief Minister of Assam this Monday said the government would take every action within the ambit of the

### Rajior Dal condemns Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma for his 'disrespectful remarks' on Akhil Gogoi

**Guwahati, May 25:** The Jorhat district unit of Rajior Dal has condemned chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for allegedly speaking in humiliating terms about Sivasagar MLA Akhil Gogoi in the Assam Assembly. Rajior Dal Jorhat district unit in a statement on Monday said that it did not befit the office of a chief minister to speak disrespectfully of another public representative in the august house. Chief minister Sarma on Monday had said that Akhil Gogoi could not attend assembly as he was under treatment for psychological issues. He had further said that it

constitution to protect cows in the state. Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi during his welcome speech on the first day of the Assembly last Friday had said that the Assam government plans to introduce Cow Protection

seemed that Gogoi was going to spread the infection to all the members in the Assembly, the way he was going from table to table. Rajior Dal said that Gogoi for the past two decades had opposed the anti-people policies of the governments and has raised burning issues of the state. Jorhat district unit president Dibyajoti Sharma, working president Dilip Kumar Bordoloi and general secretary Surjya Kumar Das further demanded that the government release Akhil Gogoi and he be allowed to have an open debate with the chief *Contd...Page 6*

Bill to be passed in the next session of the Assembly. "Cow is our mother. We will not allow cows to be smuggled in from West Bengal. Those places where cows are worshipped, beef must not be consumed. It does not mean that everybody has to give up and change habits all of a sudden," said Mr Sarma. Sighting the statement of Darul Uloom, an Islamic society from Lucknow on maintaining sensitivity while consuming beef in places where non-consumers are in majority, Mr Sarma said, "There is no need for a Madina hotel (indicating food joints that serves beef) in Fancy Bazar or in

Gandhibasti or Santipur (locations in Guwahati) as there is sensitivity. However, we can appeal to people to give up where there is no sensitivity." He said, "Under the Directive principles of state policy under the Constitution, cow slaughter must be stopped. No illegal cartel of cow trade will be allowed." The Assam Cattle Preservation Act, banning cow slaughter was enacted way back in 1950, but Section 5 permits the slaughter of cattle on the issuance of "fit-for-slaughter" certificates. These certificates can be issued by veterinarians if the bovines *Contd...Page 6*

## Will Twitter, Facebook cease to operate in India from May 26? Here's what company says on new IT rules



**New Delhi, May 25 :** With the deadline on the provisions of the IT rules getting over, Facebook on Tuesday said it is working to implement operational processes and aims to comply with that. The provisions of the IT rules is coming into effect from

tomorrow (Wednesday, May 26). The social media giant, added that it continues to discuss a few of the issues which need more engagement with the government. "We aim to comply with the provisions of the IT rules and continue to discuss a few of the

## Minister Pijush Hazarika views to reform Janasanyog department

### Ensures regular payment of bills

**Guwahati, 24 May:** the newly appointed Assam information and public relations minister Pijush Hazarika vows to reform the Janasanyog department to a great extent. Exchanging views in front *Contd...Page 6*



## Assam Extends Curfew In Urban Areas Till June 5; Shops, Offices To Shut Down By 1 PM

**Guwahati, May 25 :** Taking preventive measures against the spread of coronavirus, the Assam government on Tuesday extended the curfew in urban areas till June 5. Issuing fresh guidelines, the Assam government said that the shops, commercial establishments, government and private offices will shut down by 1 PM on all days. The move from the state government comes at a time when the state reported 84 fatalities

due to COVID-19 on Monday, taking the death toll to 2,823, while 6,221 fresh cases of infections pushed the tally to 3,75, 404. Currently, the state has a total of 52,649 active cases. Also Read - Rajesh Khattar And His Wife Vandana Have Used Up Almost All Their Life Savings During Lockdown Of the fresh fatalities, 10 were reported from Kamrup (Metro), followed by nine in Tinsukia, eight in

Dibrugarh, five each in Cachar and Sonitpur, four each in Baksa, Goalpara, and Nagaon, and three in Barpeta. Also Read - Tamil Nadu To Decide On Class 12 Board Examination After Accessing Pandemic Situation Out of the new cases, the highest 729 patients were detected from Kamrup Metro, followed by 517 in Cachar, 512 in Dibrugarh, and 417 in Nagaon. Earlier in the day, Assam Chief Minister Himanta *Contd...Page 6*

## 14 of 300 who skipped COVID-19 screening at Assam railway station test positive

**Guwahati, May 25 :** Fourteen of at least 300 passengers who rushed out of a railway station in central Assam two days ago have tested COVID-19 positive, according to officials. The passengers, many of them returnees from Kerala, got off Vivek Express at Morigaon

district's Jagir road railway station at around 10.30 a.m. on Sunday. The train had arrived from Kanniyakumari in Tamil Nadu and was bound for Dibrugarh in eastern Assam. They triggered a scare by skipping the mandatory COVID-19 tests at the railway station

and went out during a stampede. Northeast Frontier Railway officials said many more passengers got off at Jagir road than the 133 who were supposed to according to the reservation chart. "We traced and caught 158 of these *Contd...Page 6*

## CM visits Srirampur on Assam-Bengal border

CM takes stock of Covid management measures, directs to increase RTPCR tests

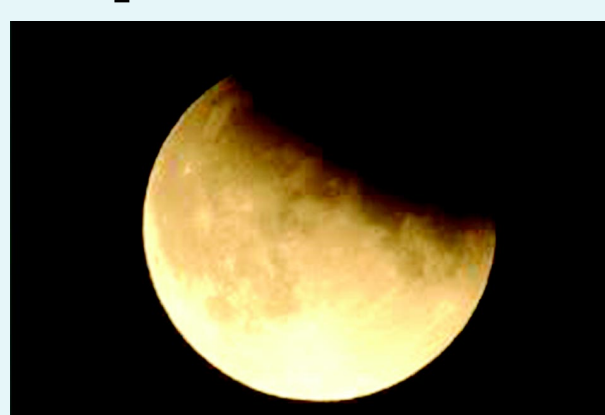


**Guwahati, May 25:** Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today visited Srirampur inter-state check point on Assam-Bengal border in Kokrajhar district along with Health & Family

Welfare Minister Keshab Mahanta and CEM, BTR Pramod Boro and took stock of the arrangements put in place for screening of incoming passengers and their *Contd...Page 6*

## Partial lunar eclipse to be visible today from north-east India

**New Delhi, May 25 :** A total lunar eclipse will occur on May 26 and the ending will be visible for a short span of time from the north-eastern parts of India, West Bengal, and Odisha and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Ministry of Earth Sciences informed. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said that the eclipse will also be visible in the region covering South America, North America,



Asia, Australia, Antarctica, the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean. "A total eclipse of

the Moon will occur on May 26, 2021 (5 Jyaishta, 1943 Saka Era). From India, just after moonrise,

ending of partial phase of the eclipse will be visible for a short span of time from north-eastern parts of India (except Sikkim), some parts of West Bengal, some coastal parts of Odisha and Andaman and Nicobar Islands," read an official statement. The partial phase of the eclipse will begin at 3:15 pm and the total phase will begin at 4:39 pm. The total phase will end at 4:58 pm and the partial phase will end at 6:23 pm. The next lunar

eclipse will be visible from India on November 19, 2021. It will be a partial lunar eclipse. The ending of the partial phase of which will be visible for a very short span of time just after moonrise from extreme north-eastern parts of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. A lunar eclipse occurs on a full moon day when the Earth comes in between the Sun and the Moon and when all the three objects are aligned. A total lunar *Contd...Page 6*



## Covid claims one at Narayanpur

**North Lakhimpur, May 25:** With one more death at last night, Lakhimpur district's Covid-19 toll reached 30 during the last 24 hours, while 2590 positive cases were confirmed. Girish Saikia, a 75-year old man from Pulinaharani of Bholabori area under Narayanpur Revenue Circle, died due to COVID-19 at night on Monday at the Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH), Dibrugarh. He had been suffering from fever and cough for a week and was doing treatment locally. Later, his condition became critical and was admitted to North Lakhimpur Civil Hospital. But the doctors referred him immediately to the AMCH, Dibrugarh for better treatment, and he breathed his last there. Late Girish Saikia's son Golok Saikia and daughter-in-law Joonmoni Saikia also tested Covid positive, and are undergoing treatment at the AMCH, Dibrugarh. The local people urged the Health Department to expedite the sanitization exercise at Pulinaharani village.

## Online Prize Money Quiz Competition 'Gyanmanthan 2.0' to be Held

**Golaghat, May 25:** The second wave of Covid has badly hit the nation. Amidst this pandemic situation when all educational institutions are closed by the order of the government the student community is seemed to be in a distressful mind full of uncertainty. So with a view to give some refreshment and to stimulate brain activity an online prize money quiz competition is scheduled to be held on May 30. The competition named 'Gyanmanthan 2.0' is organized by Equinox, an organization of some quizzers and quiz crazy youths from Golaghat. Last year during the prolonged period of nationwide Lockdown this organization organized for the first time 'Gyanmanthan 1.0' and getting huge response from the quiz lovers, this time it was decided to organize 'Gyanmanthan 2.0' on May 30 from 12 Noon. The participants will have to register all the details through a Google Form by visiting the link given by the organisers. The last date of registration is May 28 before 10 AM. Well known Quiz Masters Sayed Nekib and Biswajeet Pujari will conduct the quiz competition. Interested participants can contact on 70022365006, 9365268720 and 8638908886 numbers for details.

## Within last 24 hours, narcotics squad from police arrested 12 drugs mafia from various pockets in Nagaon dist



**NAGAON, May 25:** Narcotics squad as well as the crime squad teams of Nagaon police under the strong leadership of the newly appointed Superintendent of Police Anand Mishra have intensified its massive serial operations against drugs menace as well as other forms of crimes in the district. During such operations, within the last 24 hours, the narcotics squad arrested more than 12 drugs mafia and seized huge quantities of drugs and other narcotics substance including suspected heroine, brown sugar, capsules, bottles of cough syrup and money in cash from them. Besides, during an operation against drugs mafia on Tuesday noon, (headquarters) Dhruba Bora had to blank fire to enforce two such drugs peddlers to surrender to police at Naromari village near Bhakatgaon area on the outskirts to the town, sources added. According to sources from Nagaon police, the arrested drugs mafia as well as drugs peddlers have been identified

## Twesha Foundation Gives Reliefs to Thousand Families in Kakopather



**Kakopather, May, 25:** In this high time of the pandemic covid19, entire state is flooded with mass infection bringing quarantine to thousands. In this case many villages of Kakopather are also seen in rise of covid patients and hence are sealed or quarantined declaring containment zone by the administration. For the poor and quarantined in these villages Twesha Foundation comes front to help the needy with food packages and other

essential commodities. Under initiation of Mr Goda Chelleng, the founder of Twesha Foundation, Twesha Foundation serves food packages to more than four hundred families in Bor-Dirak region today. In a question the foundation let's to know that they have supplied the same to three hundred families in Maithong, three hundred families in Sumoni and Sumoni Sapori creating a total of thousand families to get essential

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closed by the order of the government the student community is seemed to be in a distressful mind full of uncertainty. So with a view to give some refreshment and to stimulate brain activity an online prize money quiz competition is scheduled to be held on May 30. The competition named 'Gyanmanthan 2.0' is organized by Equinox, an organization of some quizzers and quiz crazy youths from Golaghat. Last year during the prolonged period of nationwide Lockdown this organization organized for the first time 'Gyanmanthan 1.0' and get-

## COVID 19 claims three more people in Nagaon dist

**NAGAON, May 25:** Three more people died of COVID 19 today, taking the total death toll in the district to 56. Besides, 412 more fresh COVID cases were recorded today including these fresh cases, total 4291 COVID cases were cumulatively active in the district till the time of filing of this report, sources added. Significantly, among those who tested positive today, 69 were 50 years and above the age. Sources claimed that among those who tested positive today, 102 were immediately admitted to Nagaon COVID hospital as well as other COVID Care Centres set up at various places in the district while the rest were put in home isolation. Rapid Antigen Test was conducted on 6294 people today while RT-PCR test was conducted on 42 swab samples, sources said.

Tamuli of Borpathari Sutargaon, Saiful Islam, Nobi Hussain, Mofassil Haque, Abdul Uddot of Naromari and Samsul Haque of Simaluguri area. Sources claimed that when a sleuth from narcotics squad led by ASP Dhruba Bora confronted with Mufassil Haque and Abdul Uddot on their way towards Nagaon town on a motorcycle, they left abandoned their motorcycle on the road itself and tried to flee from the scene. Meanwhile ASP Bora fired in the air with his service pistol and asked both of them for surrender. Significantly, both the drugs mafia surrendered to the sleuth and police immediately arrested them on the spot, sources added. Besides, the sleuth from narcotics squad led by ASP Dhruba Bora arrested a woman from Puranigudam Noali area this afternoon. Police subsequently recovered huge quantities of poisonous drugs from her residence. The woman has been identified as Afsia Begum, sources further added.

## MLA, SP feted at Nagaon

**NAGAON, May 24:** Nagaon Lions Club and Nagaon Gurudwara Somitee recently felicitated the local MLA Rupak Sarma and newly appointed Superintendent of Police, Nagaon IPS Anand Mishra respectively at his residence as well as in the office of Superintendent of Police. The delegates from Nagaon Lions Club and Nagaon Gurudwara Somitee felicitated MLA Rupak Sarma with 'Fulam Gamusha' and a bouquet of flowers. Subsequently, the delegates went to the office of Superintendent of Police, Nagaon where they also felicitated SP Anand Mishra with 'Fulam Gamusha' and a bouquet of flowers. The delegates were comprising of president and secretary of Nagaon Lions Club - Pralay Shaha, Ajoy Mittal, PRO Biswajit Mahanta, Binud Khatawat, on behalf of Gurudwara



Somitee - Devendra Singh, Hardarshan Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Gurpreet Singh, Triluk Singh and Ravindra Singh. During the felicitation, the delegates from the both organizations intimated as well as discussed about several issues of the town with the newly appointed Superintendent of Police and asked for strict measure to curb those issues, a release added.

relief commodities in these running days. Moreover founder Mr. Goda Chelleng said that they have also helped Delhi and Dibrugarh by providing oxygen cylinders to Covid Patients and says to keep the spirit and help the nation in pandemics and disasters in future. If any willing public or organization wants to help through Twesha Foundation then they are cordially asked to contact 8800314586 or can help financially through the account number 921020016584037 with IFSC UTIB0003219 of Axis Bank DoomDooma. People of Kakopather praises the initiative taken by Twesha Foundation with pray and bless so that to carry more in future.

## Public Relations Council of India inaugurates its Young Communicators Club for Northeast Region

**Guwahati, May 25:** Public Relations Council of India (PRCI) has inaugurated its students wing Young Communicators Club (YCC) Northeast Chapter over an Online Session on 25th of May. The Inauguration is done by Founder and Chief Mentor of PRCI & YCC, Mr. M. B. Jayaram. On the occasion, a special webinar was organised in which, Mrs. Geetha Shankar, National Director-PRCI YCC, gave her keynote talk on Crafting Careers-The New Normal. Mr. Nurul Islam Laskar Chairman PRCI Guwahati Chapter also spoke on how PRCI-YCC can benefit the students of North East region. The PRCI-YCC platform, gives an opportunity to the students of Mass Communication and Business Management to learn the ropes of the industry and get industry ready by interacting with eminent PR & Communication personalities and Business Leaders, Communication Entrepreneurs and Academicians through a series of Workshops, Seminars, Webinars, Contests, Creative Events and Global Conclave. The online event witnessed the presence of Stalwarts from PRCI and Communications Industry. Dr. T. Vinay Kumar (President-PRCI NE), Mrs. Chinmayee Praveen (Chairperson-YCC NE), Mr. B. K. Sahu (Sr. Vice President-PRCI NE) Mr. Avinash Gawai (National Vice Chairman-YCC & Chairman-PRCI West Zone), Mr. R. N. Mahapatra (Chairman-PRCI East Zone), Mr. Amit Sirvastava (Jt. Secretary-PRCI East Zone) were also present on the occasion along with students from many Universities and across 6-7 States. Mr.



Subhankar Banerjee, Director YCC North East on the occasion said, "We are happy that we have an YCC Chapter in North East, this will help students to interact and learn from the industry experts, this will also be helpful if a student is looking for internships and building networks across the nation." He also added, "We will soon start working on having dedicated YCC chapters in all the Universities and colleges so that there is direct communications between the institute and the National team of PRCI & YCC."

## Covid Testing in Tea Garden

**Golaghat, May 25:** Amidst this alarming situation of Covid pandemic and to prevent further spread of Covid a tea garden executive with the help of other staff and local medical authorities has come forward and made arrangements for Covid testing for garden workers. Mridul Bhuyan, Executive of Rangajan Tea Estate under Morongi Mouza of Golaghat along with Rangajan Bagicha Sangha,

Village Defense Party and an organization named READS have jointly appealed the authorities of Morongi PHC to conduct Covid Testing in the Tea Estate. As such health worker of the PHC Dibyajyoti Saikia had offered his service and a testing drive was conducted. Total 227 persons were tested out of which three persons were tested Covid positive. Soon the garden authorities isolated the positive persons and they were taken to the Covid Care Center which was set up at Rangajan Tea Estate Hospital. And as a precautionary measure the garden authorities have prohibited entry and exit of any outsider in the area.

## First Model "Vaccination Centre" inaugurated in Hojai District



**Hojai, May 25:** Deputy Commissioner of Hojai District Dr. Sadnek Singh, IAS formally inaugurated the States' first model "Government Vaccination Centre" managed by a Lanka based Chairtable Trust namely, "Om Prakash Pramila Devi Memorial Trust at the Parsuram Mazumdar Girls High School in Lanka under Hojai district on Monday. On the first day, 100 people in age group 45 and above years were vaccinated after availing on the spot registration. On the second day on Tuesday, 145 people were vaccinated. After the inauguration on Monday, DC Dr. Singh lauded the continuous efforts of the Trust for the society. DC also felicitated all the Medical staff and Health workers present there on behalf of

the trust. After inspecting the process and management of the Vaccination Centre, the Hon'ble DC declared the Centre as the first "MODEL VACCINATION CENTRE" of the district. He even expressed his pleasure in announcing the fact that most possibly this is the first Model Centre of Assam. ADC Mr. Illias Ali Ahmed, Joint Director Health Putul Chakravorty, Circle Officer Lanka Rakesh Deka, Incharge Vaccination Hojai district Dr Ranju Rajkhowa, Chairman cum Managing Trustee of the trust Rohit Agarwalla, were also present on the occasion alongwith Medical Staff from the Lanka PHC and local people. Notably, the Vaccination was done by the team of Health department, whereas the trust managed the venue and process.

## Padmanath Gohain Boruah Government Model College, Kakopather Organises Essay and Quiz Competition

**Kakopather, May 25:** Covid 19 pandemic has created a havoc and sorrow globally. Moreover it has created a huge impact on the health of the people along with profound effect on the mental, social and economic conditions. Therefore

Sociology Department of Padmanath Gohain Boruah Government Model College, Kakopather, organizes All Assam Inter-College Essay Competition in connection with the present COVID 19 Pandemic situation so as to understand the nuances of the current pandemic situation from the students perspectives on the topic 'THE COVID -19 PAN-DEMIC AND ITS IMPACT ON THE SOCIAL LIFE OF ASSAM'. Therefore they invites the interested students to write an essay in Assamese or English language between 1500-2000 words and submit the same to the given email address- sociologydept.png@gmail.com before 20th June, 2021. Moreover the Department of Economics and Political Science of the same college have also organised an online Quiz Competition on 30th May, 2021 for the students

persuing Higher Secondary and Graduation of the Tinsukia District and ask to register on 'https://form.gle/rAogfsTs4mvg3r39' before 29th May, 2021. Regarding any queries students are asked to contact Dr Dipen Basumatary, Head, Dept. of Sociology with contact number 9678396318, Dr. Nazimuddin Siddique (6002661005) and Dr. Panchi Pathak (9560347191). Regarding the matter of selection, the decision of the organizing committee is full and final and the best three essays will be given prizes. Three winners will be awarded with Certificates, with Prize money and will be felicitated at the Padmanath Gohain Baruah Govt. Model College in their Annual Ceremonial function.

## A heritage committee formed

**Biswanath Chariali, May 25:** A new heritage committee was formed for preservation of the ancestral house of the late freedom fighter, the founder president of the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee and a social reformer Chabilal Upadhayaya. The representative meeting called on as per Covid protocol was held at Bhanu Rangamancha, Majgaon under Behali PS with Mahim Pokhrel in the chair. Anjan Baskota briefed the objectives of the meeting that was also addressed by Uma Pokhrel, Pradip Kumar Sarma, Somnath Pokhrel, Dr. Sanjib Upadhayaya and Bimal Bharali along with others. The Freedom Fighter Chabila Upadhayaya Heritage committee was formed to draw the attention of the state government towards preservation of the native house late freedom fighter which has been lying in a dilapidated condition along with some rare materials of his time for long. The new committee was formed with Dr. Sanjib Upadhayaya as president, Kishor Khatori as vice president, Anjan Baskota as secretary and Bikash Upadhayaya and Bijoy Upadhayaya as assistant secretaries along with nine other executive members. Four local MLA's of Biswanath district respectively Gohpur, Behali, Biswanath and Sootea have been nominated as advisors of the committee. Many resolutions were taken for the further functioning of the new committee.





Rescuers search for missing people at the Yellow River Stone Forest tourist site in Jingtai County of Baiyin City

## UK supermarkets will seek soy alternatives if Amazon protections weakened

**London, May 25 :** British supermarkets will look at alternatives to Brazilian soy if president Jair Bolsonaro and congress passes new legislation this week to weaken protections for the Amazon rainforest. Retailers and industry groups told the Guardian they will seek different suppliers



and accelerate efforts to find soy substitutes if Brazilian politicians pass bills to legitimise land-grabbing and loosen controls on new projects. The proposed new laws - dubbed the "destruction package" by environmental groups - are seen as the greatest threat to the rainforest and other globally essential ecosystems since the ultra-rightwing leader took power. The bills are being rushed through the upper and lower house following Bolsonaro's public promise to halt illegal deforestation at last month's climate summit hosted by US president Joe Biden. Amid signs the Amazon is nearing a emergency, where the rainforest will worsen rather than ease climate instability, a growing number of international companies are threatening Brazil with financial consequences. Last month more than 40 European businesses, including many British retailers signed an open letter urging Brazilian senators and deputies not to push ahead with the legislation. The primary focus of their concern is a bill that would legalise invasion and deforestation of extensive tracts of public land. Bolsonaro's government initially submitted this plan as a provisional measure but it was defeated last year. Since then, the unpopular proposal has been revived and renamed PL2633, and could be tabled for a vote as early as this week. Brazilian civil society groups have warned this measure would encourage land-grabbing and forest clearance in the future. The independent deforestation watchdog Imazon estimates this could cause deforestation of up to 1.6m hectares (3.9m acres) by 2027, equivalent to five times the carbon emissions of France. Two other bills are also being debated. One - named PL3729 - aims to accelerate new road, hydropower and railway construction in the Amazon by dismantling rules on environmental impact assessments for infrastructure projects. It was approved by the lower house last week. The other - PL191 - would loosen restrictions on commercial activities inside indigenous territory, which is currently the best protected land in the Amazon and home to about one-third of the forest's carbon stock. This is to be considered by a special parliamentary commission. Even before the passage of this legislation, environmental concerns are also hitting a new pitch. Last year, the Amazon suffered its worst fire season in a decade as farmers and land-grabbers cleared forest and burned felled trees. Last month, satellite data from Brazil's national space research institute showed deforestation increased 43% in April compared with the same period last year. UK retailers' most effective response is likely to be a cut in purchases of Brazilian soy, which is a major driver of deforestation. "If this bill comes to pass, companies will be looking at supply chains and seeing if there are other ways to responsibly source commodities. This could be alternative sources of soy and alternatives to soy. Both are on the table if retailers can no longer trust soy from Brazil to be responsibly sourced," said Peter Andrews, head of sustainability at the British Retail Consortium. Waitrose said it would do its utmost to help stop deforestation and clearance in the Amazon and in other

vital ecosystems. "We are working tirelessly with our suppliers, the wider industry, government, and NGOs to ensure we source soya sustainably," said a spokesperson. "Alongside this, we've been working on innovative animal nutrition for many years, and will continue with our longstanding research on sustainable soya alternatives." The company said it has already reduced the use of soya in many supply chains and substituted it completely in its dairy farms with domestically produced fodder. The Co-op's head of food policy, Cathryn Higgs, described the new legislation as a fresh threat to the Amazon and the credibility of environmental protections in Brazil. "Its rainforest is essential to planetary health so we're disappointed to see that the Brazilian government has decided to continue pushing this measure through despite the widespread opposition within Brazilian society, agribusiness, and the international community," she said.

## Influential investor joins shareholder rebellion over Shell's climate plan



**London, May 25 :** Britain's biggest fund manager has piled pressure on Shell after joining a shareholder rebellion over the oil company's carbon-cutting plans, saying that they lack credibility and the ambition required to combat global heating. It has emerged that Legal & General Investment Management (LGIM), one of the oldest fund managers in the City of London, was among investors behind a significant shareholder vote against Shell's climate transition targets at the company's annual meeting on Tuesday. The asset manager, which is part of the insurer Legal & General and manages more than £1.2tn of assets, told the Guardian that it joined activists demanding faster progress because it did not believe the Anglo-Dutch company's plan was credible. Although acknowledging progress was being made by the company's management to boost low-carbon investment, LGIM said: "We remain concerned that the strength of interim targets (up to 2035) and disclosed plans for oil and gas production fall short of the level of ambition required for the company to credibly claim alignment with a 1.5C pathway." At the meeting, a shareholder resolution calling for Shell

to do much more to tackle the climate emergency by setting binding carbon emissions reduction targets received 30% of votes. LGIM was among voters in favour. The result represents an escalation of the pressure on Shell and means the company will be forced to consult shareholders and report on their views within six months. The resolution was put forward by Follow This, a campaign group that uses activist investment to put pressure on oil companies into decarbonising in line with the limits set by the 2015 Paris climate agreement. Shell put forward a vote on its own "energy transition strategy" to reduce carbon emissions. The resolution passed, with 88% of votes cast in favour. However, despite expressing some reservations over both votes, LGIM turned against the management strategy in favour of Follow This. Mark van Baal, the founder of Follow This, said: "This is really a very strong signal to the board of Shell that their current targets are not sufficient to reach the [aims of the] Paris climate agreement. That is what investors one by one are realising." LGIM has been increasingly vocal about the climate crisis: last October it announced it was expanding its engagement activities in this area and

## Italy in shock as 14 people die in cable car accident

**Milan, May 25 :** Italy was in shock on Sunday after a cable car crashed to the ground in a northern Italian beauty spot, killing 14 people including a nine-year-old child. The cable car is believed to have been carrying 15 people on the 20-minute ride between the resort town of Stresa and the Mottarone mountain in the Piedmont region when it plummeted into the woods near Lake Maggiore shortly after midday. Two children were seriously injured and taken by air ambulance to Regina Margherita children's hospital in Turin, however a nine-year-old boy died after several attempts to restart his heart failed. "There was nothing more we could do," said hospital spokesman Pier Paolo Beria. The other child, a five-year-old who arrived at the hospital conscious, remained in a serious condition with brain trauma and broken legs, the Alpine rescue service said on Twitter. The red and white cable car, which fell about 20 metres and rolled several times before being stopped by tree trunks, was "completely crumpled", said Walter Milan, a spokesperson for the service. The cable car service, popular with skiers and hikers, had only reopened on 24 April after Covid-19 restrictions were lifted. Italy also opened its doors to foreign tourists on 16 May. Six of the dead were Israeli citizens, including a family of four who lived in Italy, the Israeli foreign ministry said. It was reported that other victims were Italian and an Iranian-born man. "This is a terrible human tragedy, and a tragedy for the territory," Marcella Severino, the mayor of Stresa, told Rai news. The bodies were taken from the site on Sunday evening, she added. "Tomorrow morning we will

hold a meeting with the various institutions ... but right now, we are crying for the victims." The accident is believed to have been caused by a cable breaking shortly before the cabin arrived at the summit of Mottarone, located about 1,500 metres above sea level. The wreckage of the cable car near Lake Maggiore. Severino said that hikers on the mountain reported hearing a loud hiss just before the

Enrico Giovannini, and Fabrizio Curcio, the chief of the Italian civil defence department, will travel to Stresa on Monday. In 2001, 40 tourists had to be rescued from the Stresa-Mottarone cable car system after a cabin became stuck shortly after leaving Stresa. The system, which opened in 1970, was closed in 2014 for major renovation works before reopening in 2016. Cabins can



ordinarily hold up to 40 people but passenger capacity was reduced due to coronavirus. Prosecutors in Verbania have ordered the confiscation of the crushed cable car for their investigations. "There is a severed cable, the others are intact, but the technical questions are the competence of others," Giorgio Santacroce, chief of Verbania's police unit, told Rai. "At the moment, there are no maintenance problems, but we will carry out all the possible investigations." The last cable car tragedy in Italy was in February 1998, when 20 people were killed after a US marine corps aircraft that was flying too low sliced a cable supporting the cabin they were travelling in before it crashed near the Dolomites ski resort of Cavalese. In 1976, 41 people died in an accident affecting the same cable car system.

## Explosive weapons used in cities kill civilians 91% of time, finds study

**London, May 25 :** Civilians accounted for 91% of those killed or injured by explosive weapons in populated areas worldwide over the last 10 years - a total of 238,892 people - according to a study of thousands of incidents. The stark statistic - encompassing both state and terrorist violence - has prompted the report's authors to call on governments to agree to an international ban on the use of explosive weapons in built-up areas, which is now in draft form. Iain Overton, the executive director of Action on Armed Violence, which compiled the study, said the evidence obtained was unequivocal in showing the harm to civilians from missiles and bombs designed to be used against military targets. "When explosive weapons are used in towns and cities, civilians will be harmed," the researcher said, a conclusion that he said was "as true as it is today in Gaza as it was a decade ago in Iraq and beyond." The study was based on the monitoring of 29,000 incidents from 123 countries as recorded by English-language media. The worst single atrocity recorded was the detonation of a truck bomb in the Somali capital of Mogadishu, carried out by the al-Shabaab terror group, which killed or injured 828 people in October 2017. More than 500 of the victims died. Ireland is leading international efforts to create an international political declaration aimed at "restricting the use of explosive weapons" with "wide area effects" in populated areas, and drafted a document in January that has won the support of Belgium and will be considered at a UN meeting in Geneva later this year. Other countries have expressed reservations, such as the US, UK, Israel and France, while Russia, accused of repeated breaches of humanitarian law during indiscriminate bombing in Syria, has not participated. Human rights groups want the draft agreement to be strengthened. The International Committee of the Red Cross wants the commitment to be upgraded from restricting to avoiding their use to prevent civilians from being killed or injured with military grade missiles and bombs designed for non-urban areas. Many civilians, including dozens of children, were killed in explosive violence during 11 days of fighting between Israel and Hamas earlier this month, much of which took place in heavily built-up areas in Gaza and Israel. At least 243 Palestinians were killed, according to the territory's health ministry. Israeli attacks in Gaza have destroyed a health clinic, blown up high-rise residential towers and flattened the offices of international news organisations. Israel says its strikes target militants, but Gaza is a densely populated area. Twelve people were killed in Israel, the country said, following an estimated 4,300 rocket attacks launched by Palestinian militants at Israeli towns and cities. Laura Boillot, the coordinator of the International Network on Explosive Weapons, a charity that campaigns against their indiscriminate use, said the latest

conflict highlighted the need for an international agreement.

## EU condemns 'grave and serious' kidnapping of Mali's leaders



**London, May 25 :** European Union leaders have condemned the "kidnapping" of Mali's civilian leadership and warned of potential sanctions against those responsible. It follows the United Nations' mission in

Mali calling for the "immediate and unconditional" release of the country's president and prime minister, who were detained by military officers after a cabinet reshuffle. The European Council's president, Charles Michel, told reporters after a summit of the 27 EU leaders: "What happened was grave and serious and we are ready to consider necessary measures." A statement added that the bloc was "ready to consider targeted measures against political and military leaders who obstruct the Malian

transition." President Bah Ndaou, the prime minister, Moctar Ouane, and the defence minister, Souleymane Doucoure, were seized on Monday and taken to a military base in Kati outside the capital Bamako, according to diplomatic and government sources. On Twitter, the UN mission in Mali, known as Minusma, said: "We are following events closely and remain committed to supporting the Transition. We call for calm and demand the immediate and unconditional release of the President and prime minister."



A landmark is lit up in remembrance of Yuan Longping in north China's Tianjin

**CANOPY FINANCE LIMITED**  
 Reg Office: M/s Prezents, Maniram Dewan Road, Bamunimaidan, Opp. Anuradha Cinema, Guwahati-781021  
 Corp Office: 301 Corporate Arena Off, Aarey Piramal X Road, Behind Mahindra Gardens, Goregaon West Mumbai-400082  
 Email: info@canopyfinance.org  
 Website: canopyfinance.org  
 CIN No. L65910AS1981PLC017921

**NOTICE**  
 Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Board of Directors of CANOPY FINANCE LIMITED will be held at the Corporate Office of the Company on Thursday, 3rd June, 2021 at 11.00 a.m. to approve the audited Financial Results for the 4th quarter and year ended as on 31st March, 2021. The said information is also available on Company's website at www.canopyfinance.org and on the website of stock exchange www.bseindia.com and www.cse-india.com.

By Order of the Board  
 Sd/- Lalit Kumar Tapadia  
 (Managing Director)  
 Place: Guwahati  
 Dated: 25.05.2021 Dim: 08117881



## Age of mass distraction

It was all supposed to blow over in a few days. Thomas Jefferson once said of Black Americans that "their griefs are transient". These were people who lived life with a more muted emotional palette than everybody else. As their pain was fickle and their depths of feeling shallow, their lives were more expendable than others'. An unemployed Black American in his mid-40s with a criminal record, George Floyd's life wasn't supposed to add up to much, especially in our age of mass distraction. Perhaps his name would trend on Twitter for a while. Perhaps there would be a handful of marches. But inevitably, we would soon all move on to more important matters. We always do. After all, it is difficult to imagine a more mundane police encounter than the one facing the officers who confronted Floyd for apparently buying cigarettes with a counterfeit \$20 bill a year ago. This is not a scenario that should produce a world-changing event. And it wouldn't have done, had things unfolded a little differently. With last month's conviction of Derek Chauvin leading commentators to argue that, in the end, the system does work, it is worth remembering the direction that this case was taking before it sparked a global movement. On 26 May 2020, a Minneapolis police spokesman, John Elder, issued a press release headlined: "Man Dies After Medical Incident During Police Interaction". It stated that this man had "physically resisted officers" who were eventually able "to get the suspect into handcuffs" before they "noted he appeared to be suffering medical distress". They called for an ambulance. The suspect went to the hospital. He died. The end. No mention of "I can't breathe". No mention of Floyd calling for his "mama" as he pleaded for his life. No mention of an officer kneeling on Floyd's neck for over nine excruciating minutes. Had the 17-year-old bystander Darnella Frazier not recorded a video of the incident on her phone, had that video not spread across the internet like wildfire and had masses of angry protesters not spilled on to the streets across the world, it is very possible that Chauvin would still be patrolling the streets of Minneapolis right now. Does this mean that, but for a twist of fate, we might have never seen the mass demonstrations for racial justice that have marked the past year? In truth, the death of George Floyd caused last summer's worldwide Black Lives Matter protests in the same way that the death of Franz Ferdinand caused the outbreak of the first world war. This was the spark, but the kindling had been piling up for years. If it hadn't been Floyd, it might have been Breonna Taylor. Or Ahmaud Arbery. Or Daunte Wright. Here was the fire next time that James Baldwin had prophesied. In its wake came a remarkable change in atmosphere, even on the distant island of Great Britain. There was a rush to at least be seen to be doing the right thing. Suddenly, "taking the knee" in protest against racial injustice, an action that cost the American footballer Colin Kaepernick his career just a few years ago, became the standard way to begin all Premier League and English Football League matches. Establishment bodies such as the BBC and the National Trust faced the wrath of government ministers, high-profile journalists and even some of their own supporters by publicly taking steps to reckon with their racial legacy. Eventually even the most enduring of institutions, the monarchy, faced charges of racism from members of its own family. The government had to respond. It launched yet another commission to look at racial disparity in the UK. A curious step, considering multiple reviews had already been conducted into the issue over the past few years, and the recommendations from these investigations were still being ignored. However, once the figures who would lead the commission were announced, questions were raised. The prime minister's policy adviser Munira Mirza, famous for arguing that institutional racism was "a perception more than a reality", was tasked with running the commission and Tony Sewell, who spent years questioning the idea of institutional racism, was appointed as its chair. So, when what has become known as the Sewell report was delivered and the commission stated that it "was especially concerned with the way the term 'institutional racism' is being applied in current discourse", few readers were surprised. The Black Lives Matter protests had begun, for many, to expand the common understanding of what constituted racism. That was dangerous, and needed shutting down. Institutional racism was a phrase coined in the 1960s by civil rights organiser Stokely Carmichael (also known as Kwame Ture) to illustrate how racism was more about institutional power than individual prejudice. Carmichael stated that "if a white man wants to lynch me, that's his problem. If he's got the power to lynch me, that's my problem." Racism was not about what you wanted to do, but about what you could do and who you could do it to. What will the institutions of society - the police, the courts, the prison system - allow particular classes of people to endure? Racism was a question of which lives mattered to the state. Half a century later, this question was still being asked by those looking at the aftermath of the Windrush scandal and the Grenfell Tower fire. Would Windrush have occurred if the people involved had been from Canada rather than the Caribbean? If Grenfell Tower had been home to some of the richer residents of Kensington and Chelsea rather than poor immigrant families, might their pleas for fire-resistant cladding have been heeded? As much as the Sewell report claimed that perceptions of racism today rested on the memory of "historical incidents", a social system 500 years in the making did not crumble into dust with the passing of a few pieces of equality legislation in the late 20th century. Yet despite government opposition and a wider cultural backlash against the movement, Black Lives Matter retains a broad appeal in the UK. By October last year, over half of the British public continued to support Black Lives Matter, with that number rising to seven in 10 for young people. At the heart of criticism of the movement is the presumption that the increased focus on questions of race makes innocent white people feel bad about themselves. It leads to a spiral of guilt and self-recrimination that is no good to anybody. In reality, much of the response to Floyd's murder and the movement that followed was not about laying blame and making people feel guilty. It was about making people, from all backgrounds, feel angry at things as they are. It was an outburst of anger at institutions that continue to carry the violence of the past into the present day. It was a justified, constructive anger, which resonated not only in London and Birmingham and Manchester but also in Buckinghamshire, St Ives and the Shetland Islands. And it is this wave of feeling - set into motion by one man in Minneapolis - that is perhaps most concerning for those invested in preserving the status quo. Dr Kojo Koram teaches at the School of Law at Birkbeck College, University of London, and writes on issues of law, race and empire.

## Remaking Myanmar's devastated economy is the key for a future democracy



Myanmar is facing an economic and humanitarian disaster of epic proportions. There is an urgent need to protect the poorest and most vulnerable and provide assistance in a way that doesn't entrench dictatorship. Equally important is to use this crisis to transform Myanmar's incredibly unequal and singularly exploitative political economy. It's the key to democratic change. It's also the key to creating a fairer, as well as a freer and more prosperous, society. The army's coup d'état in February has been followed by strikes and protests, and intense repression. The army has not been able to consolidate its coup and has instead unwittingly unleashed revolutionary movements determined to end the military's role in politics once and for all. Years of turbulence lie ahead. Meanwhile, the economy has collapsed, with tens of millions of people descending fast into extreme poverty and the World Food Programme estimating that 3.4 million people will be unable to feed themselves properly within the next six months. The healthcare system has also collapsed, jeopardising the lives of many more, including the several hundred thousand people dependent on TB and HIV drugs and the 950,000 infants normally inoculated each year against measles, polio

and other diseases. There is now next to no Covid-19 testing and no possibility of large-scale vaccination. The proximate cause of the unfolding catastrophe is the coup and its aftermath but understanding the history of Myanmar's political economy is critical for thinking about what may come next. Myanmar's economy under British rule was based on the immigration of Indian labourers and the export of primary commodities. After independence in 1948, politics was dominated by the left and efforts to overturn the colonial legacies. But in the late 1980s a new army junta ended the "Burmese way to socialism", creating new markets, in particular around extractive industries tied to China's industrial revolution next door. Taxation and social services were practically non-existent. Inequality skyrocketed and a mix of climate change and massive land confiscations drove millions to Thailand in search of work. In the uplands, alongside a patchwork of army battalions, militia and ethnic minority forces, were money-making networks far richer than even the men with guns, including a methamphetamine racket said by the UN to be worth billions. The political reforms of the past 10 years were not accompanied by any structural change to the

economy. The army took a big step back from business, and liberalisation led to more foreign competition as well as growth in a few sectors such as tourism, property and telecoms. A small middle class emerged but most Myanmar people continued to live on the edge of violence and extreme poverty, including the most vulnerable: upland farmers, landless villagers, new urban slum-dwellers, people of South Asian descent and other minorities. The ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya in 2017 was unmatched in scale and brutality. But the Myanmar state has long failed many of its peoples. With the pandemic came an economic shock that sent an already fragile economy into a tailspin, the result of lockdowns and disruptions to foreign trade. The garment sector, the country's one promising manufacturing industry, was brought to its knees. An international study last October found that income poverty (people making less than \$1.90 (£1.36) a day) had risen from 16% to 63% of the population. There was almost no state support. Now in the aftermath of the coup, the economy is at a virtual standstill. A general strike coupled with the army's internet blockages have shut down much of the financial system, disrupting business and

payroll payments worth the equivalent of billions of US dollars a month. With confidence plummeting and the central bank unwilling or unable to provide needed liquidity, families are hoarding as much cash as possible. It's difficult to imagine how ordinary people will survive these coming months, especially the rural poor, most of whom are landless and entirely dependent on casual work. However, the army regime is likely to survive any economic downturn because Myanmar's system has never veered far from the one that grew up under past juntas and under the toughest possible western sanctions. The new businesses of the past decade, such as manufacturing, will wither, old ones, such as timber and mining, will gain renewed ground, and illicit ones in the uplands, from narcotics to money-laundering and wildlife trafficking will flourish in the protracted instability to come. Whatever happens, the international priority should be to ensure that Myanmar's poor and vulnerable communities are able to receive the assistance needed to stay alive, with special attention paid to children's inoculations. But this must be done with political skill, so as not to undermine chances for the radical political changes to government that the vast majority of people desperately want. Today's revolutionary movements aim to cut revenues to the junta and are willing to pay a high economic cost. But a successful transition will come over years, not months, and it's important to identify the economic landscape best suited for democratic change. Measures to weaken the junta that inadvertently strengthen the hand of transnational criminal networks may lead not to state collapse but a mutated political order, one that will take generations to unwind. Dictatorship must be resisted but democracy is not enough. Over recent months, a new generation of leaders have come to the fore and many have rejected the ethnonationalism at the heart of Myanmar politics, seeking fresh alliances across racial, ethnic and religious divides. This is not only welcome but essential for any future success. But there should also be a focus on issues of inequality and underdevelopment, protecting the vulnerable now, while reimaging and mobilising around a fairer political economy of tomorrow.

## If only Labour would start striking deals on seats, think what it could do

Amid the post-election noise of Tory gloating and Labour skirmishing, the writ for another byelection dropped into news silence on Wednesday. Why should anyone care about Chesham and Amersham, a "safe" seat in the "blue wall", vacant following the death of the well-liked Tory MP, Dame Cheryl Gillan. Move on, nothing to see here, she won 55.4% at the last general election. Yet this could prove a far more important test of all the parties than it looks. For the Lib Dems, on just 26.3% here in 2019, it road-tests whether they retain their old ability to snatch astonishing byelection victories from Tory heartlands. For Labour, trailing here on 12.9% last time, it tests its common sense: is it willing to work with other parties against the common foe, and stand right back or not stand at all? For the Greens, on just 5.5% last time, this HS2 route feels fertile ground, but if they fight here they risk taking the blame. Can the other parties reach out to them? "They'd better come to us with a cast iron quid pro quo," says the Green party spokesperson Molly Scott Cato. Why would the Tories mind losing one from their 80-seat majority? It would deliver quite a body blow to a lot of MPs in similar seats, a warning that while Boris Johnson is off bribing Labour northern seats, his neglected back door is flapping open. Lib Dem polling and door-knocking in the seat suggests why the Tories deserve to lose: 55% here are remainers, many of them Tories who only stayed loyal for fear of Jeremy Corbyn. Brexit is still the great definer, and remainder Tories were alarmed by the hard Brexit deal. Voters here know this byelection could force a U-turn on one key policy they hate, the new planning laws in the Queen's speech. The district council failed to make a local plan, leaving the area extra

vulnerable to a developers' free-for-all in the green belt. Many Tory MPs in similar seats, including Theresa May, made powerful speeches against it in the Commons this week, with widespread condemnation from the likes of the CPRE, the countryside charity, and others warning of a "rural sprawl" and a "dark age of development", with no affordable housing. HS2 still arouses fierce passions, the Lib Dem local candidate strongly opposed. Out of 70 sample doors knocked by the Lib Dem head of campaigns, all but one voter claimed they'd never met a Tory canvasser: there are many such taken-for-granted Tory "safe" seats, as neglected as Labour's proved to be. Many fear "levelling up" means pork-barrelling the north while ignoring southern discomforts. The Lib Dems won control of Amersham town council last week, with no Labour or Green councillors. To win here, they need a 14.6% swing. Remember they snatched Richmond Park from Zac Goldsmith in 2016, a tougher task with a 22% swing: Labour had a candidate but its activists turned out to canvass for the Lib Dems, a similar story in Brecon and Radnor in 2019. This could mean far more than just another cheeky one-off Lib Dem ambush. How each progressive party approaches this will reveal what hope there is for a remedy to Britain's broken politics, and that rests mainly on Labour. The party needs to ditch its damaging rule obliging it to stand in every Westminster seat: standing aside would sometimes be the better part of valour. It would show Labour in a good light, displaying cooperation and a lack of hubris, recognising it alone is not the sole vessel for progressive values. Labour's nastiest aspects are its closed, cultish, faction-ridden tribalisms,



unappealing to outsiders - and many insiders too. Just on one occasion Labour did break that stand-everywhere rule, when it put up no candidate in Tatton in 1997 against the cash-for-questions scoundrel, the Tory MP Neil Hamilton, to give white-suited Martin Bell, an independent, a free run. Labour should do that again here. The Batley and Spenningsdale byelection coinciding makes it easy for a Lib Dem quid pro quo, standing down in exchange. Last week, a Tory was the sole rightwing candidate in 85% of council seats, where the progressive vote split two or three ways, finds the Electoral Reform Society. But this is not just about weaselly how-to-win electoral mathematics, but understanding the stale old silos have to be broken open to blow in fresh ideas. Labour has been the elephant lying across the tracks, preventing change, keeping politics fossilised into the two monoliths, a cabal to keep out newcomers. The Lib Dems, Greens, SNP and Plaid Cymru wrote to the Speaker of the House "to challenge the prime minister's persistent failure to give accurate information to the House of Commons", listing untruths Johnson

refused to correct. Labour would not join them, saying haughtily it didn't follow other parties' initiatives. That's what has to stop. Instead, Labour must show an open mind in the face of the avalanche of motions being sent to its conference this year from local parties calling for adoption of proportional representation (PR). Labour For a New Democracy has organised a massive 214 so far, backed both by Momentum and by Blairites: Blair was for it, until barred by party dinosaurs. This new surge suggests a profound shift in thinking: all too often Labour people hate other left-of-centre parties almost as much as they hate the opposite factions within their own party - and more than the real enemy on the opposite benches. From the top, messages have been mixed, with Keir Starmer indicating a tentative pro-PR openness. Some fear that backing it now looks like a losers' charter, but not if Labour embraces it with genuine democratic intent - try some open primaries for all voters to help select candidates, for example. It's time to strike deals on seats and to seal a bond to create a non-Tory coalition at the next election, pledged to voting reform. How parties behave in Chesham and Amersham matters.



## Over 100% returns in small cap MF schemes in 12 months - Should you invest now?

**Mumbai, May 25** : Ultimately, the small-cap becomes the mid-cap, the mid-cap becomes the large caps, purely on the basis of a few factors like corporate governance, growth of the company etc. Top small-cap funds, small-cap mutual fund schemes, doubled investment, meaning, returns, best funds, comparison. There are hardly any investors who would have invested in small-cap mutual fund schemes at the bottom of March 2020. Small cap mutual funds have on average generated more than 100 per cent over the last 12 months. Yes, you heard it right, some small-cap schemes have doubled investment in just 12 months. But, is it the right way to look at the returns that appears spectacular over the 1-year period? While the 1-year return has been between 100 and 200 percent for most of the funds in the small-cap category, the 3-year average return of Small-Cap funds is around 12 percent annualized. Therefore, looking at only the 1-year return may not be the right approach. Here's a better perspective from Rachit Chawla, Founder and CEO of Finway FSC, "It is wrong to say that in one year they gave 100 to 200 per cent returns. Actually, they got eroded by 50 per cent and they went back to their original position so they are still giving generic 12 percent annualized on an average." Mutual funds: Know the risks associated with AT1

bondsTips equity investors, economy, fund, asset allocation, review, investments, mutual fundsTips for equity mutual fund investors when economy is impacted owing to Covid-19 pandemicAlso, it won't be wrong



to say that not many investors would have invested almost a year back especially at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted the economy. "One-year returns should not be considered because there are hardly any people who would have bought at the bottom because there is so much fear at that point of time," adds Chawla. But, should investors jump onto the small-cap bandwagon? "Performance of small cap funds still, I feel there is a long way to go. If you see the history's 5 to 6 years

pattern, I still feel that they are yet to show their good performance in the long run," says Chawla. As an investor, there should be realistic expectations in line with one's own risk profile and the MF scheme's risk. Even if the last year's return



has been a sort of aberration, the reason to invest and how much to invest in small-cap schemes should be planned well. To jump from one asset class, one scheme to other without a proper plan is the last thing that you should do. As per SEBI's definition, large-cap funds

are those which invest in top 100 companies in terms of full market capitalization, while the midcap schemes can invest in 101st to 250th company in terms of full market capitalization. The small-cap universe is, therefore, huge and represents 251st company onwards in terms of full market capitalization. Remember, these are companies yet to be identified by the market on a larger scale. "Ultimately, the small-cap becomes the mid-cap, the mid-cap becomes the large caps, purely on the basis of a few factors like corporate governance, growth of the company, profitability of the company, valuation of the shareholding etc." Therefore, going overboard in small-cap MFs should not be the way forward even if the return expectation is high in the years ahead. "In case of small caps, one should have 30% because I feel these are very high risk, high reward kind of companies. There are multi-baggers that will become mid or large caps in times to come. However, a lot of small caps also shut down and faced a lot of turmoil so I guess 30% could be invested in small caps and 35% in mid-cap, and 35% again in large-cap funds," says Chawla.

### Truecaller Partners With MapmyIndia And Factchecker To Provide Easy And Accurate Covid-19 Healthcare Information

**India, May 25:** Truecaller, the world's most trusted and accurate Caller ID and telephone search engine, has partnered with MapmyIndia and FactChecker to further improve the Covid Healthcare Directory feature. This feature was launched for all Android users in April 2021 and with the new associations it will continue to provide easy access to a large set of updated information. MapmyIndia, the leading location-based IOT platform in India, brings over 60,000 Covid-related points of interest including all vaccination centers across the country, covid designated hospitals, test centers and so on. Users can easily access details and a location map by tapping on the MapmyIndia banner inside Truecaller. FactChecker, on the other hand, is India's first dedicated fact check initiative that has a team to constantly verify contact numbers included in Covid Relief. The platform helps people reach out to the right contacts in their hour of need, providing quick relief to patients. Commenting on the integration, Rohan Verma, CEO & Executive Director, MapmyIndia said "In MapmyIndia's mission to combat Covid 19, we are fortunate to partner with Truecaller. The embedded MapmyIndia widget will enable Truecaller's 200 million Indian users to identify or navigate to covid designated hospitals, test centers, care centers, vaccination centers and more. With information at a glance, this partnership can help save precious lives." "We are happy to join hands with Truecaller to expand the reach of www.sosindia4u.com an extension of our fact-checking work -

first-hand verification of resources. We are glad our mission to take users to verified and trustworthy information on medical resources as well as organizations to whom they wish to donate to millions around the country" said Govindraj Ethiraj, television & print journalist. Sharing his thoughts on the partnership Rishid Jhunjunwala, MD India, Truecaller said "During these unprecedented times, Truecaller is committed to doing everything possible to extend help to communities and those on the frontlines to battle these challenging times. With this partnership with MapmyIndia and FactChecker, we are hopeful to provide people some relief with finding the right locations and verified contacts for hospitals, beds, and basic medical facilities. We are optimistic that the new feature will be able to provide some assistance for medical requirements and help our mission of fighting the virus together." About Truecaller: People use Truecaller to stay ahead. It helps them know who's getting in touch by providing a search engine for telephone numbers, filtering out unwanted calls & SMS and focusing on what really matters. The company provides services such as a dialer that offers caller ID, spam detection, messaging & more. Truecaller's mission is to build trust everywhere by making communication safe & efficient. Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, the company was founded in 2009 by Alan Mamed & Nami Zarringhalam. Investors include Sequoia Capital, Atomico & Kleiner Perkins.

## Nifty, Sensex rally but institutions' absence, retail investors short term trades may spell bad news

**Mumbai, May 25** : While Sensex and Nifty near all-time highs, the pillars of Dalal Street are getting shaky as big money opts to stay out. Institutional participation, both foreign and domestic, is close to 14-year lows, while retail investors continue to favour short-term trades. This change in market dynamics could result in bad news in the event of a correction, creating liquidity scarcity, global brokerage and research firm JP Morgan highlighted in a recent note. Sensex and Nifty are near all-time highs once again. Earlier in April, the headline indices slipped just 5% from highs while India fought the second wave and lockdowns were re-imposed. The brokerage firm said that institutional investor participation is low and aggregate daily volumes are up three times since 2014, implying that retail participation has increased dramatically. Daily transaction volumes on exchanges have doubled from late 2019, now almost three times over 2014 levels. "This indicates a very large increase in market participation by retail, high net-worth individuals, proprietary desks, corporates and other participants," the report said. Stock market, SGX NiftySGX Nifty zooms 100 points on Tuesday morning; 5 things to know before today's opening bell Rakesh Jhunjunwala, Titan company Rakesh Jhunjunwala decodes why Sensex, Nifty didn't succumb while India fought second covid-19 wave On the other hand, FIIs have been net sellers for the first two months of this fiscal year. The outflows come after FIIs flooded domestic markets with money in the previous financial year. Foreign investors have taken the time to book profits after having pumped in a record amount of money into domestic markets last year. Meanwhile, DIIs have pumped in some money recently but it comes after massive outflows in the previous fiscal year. Further, delivery volumes have continued to remain below pre-pandemic levels, while volumes of intra-day trading have doubled in three years. "A smaller portion of daily business is 'deliv-



ered', indicating an increase in short-term trading," JP Morgan analysts said. There has also been an increase in interest in smaller stocks recently. The percentage of daily volumes traded in stocks with market caps of less than \$2 billion has doubled in a year. Historically, the percentage of daily volumes traded in smaller-cap stocks decreases as the market and companies grow. The report said that the financial year 2023 forecasts imply close to a 47% increase in nifty earnings over financial year 2020 actuals. While earnings expectations for nifty mid-caps are far higher, implying an 85% increase in earnings between the financial year 2023 and 2020. Additionally, the proportion of BSE 500 stocks delivering weekly moves of +/- 10% or more has also doubled through the previous year. Volatility has increased with India VIX now settling above 2019 levels. These indicators hint the underlying market dynamics for domestic equity markets have been deteriorating. "We think the increased retail participation adds beta/liquidity risks to the Indian markets. A change in sentiment/decline in the headline index can lead to a quick withdrawal of non-institutional volumes," the report said. The report added that rising inflation, slowing Chinese monetary conditions or increasing rates could act as catalysts for a stock market correction. In such a scenario where liquidity risk could emerge as stock markets correct, JP Morgan said it is underweight consumer discretionary names. The brokerage firm believes interest rates will remain low and hence favours rate-sensitives such as banks, real estate and autos for the longer term.

## Man-in-the-Middle cyber attacks leading to surge in security breach incidents amid pandemic

**Mumbai, May 25** : A man-in-the-middle attack is when an attacker secretly relays and possibly alters the communications between two parties who believe that they are directly communicating with each other. As per a recent government data presented in the Parliament, nearly 1.16 million cases of cyber attacks were reported in 2020, almost a 300% spike from the prior year. In the wake of COVID, no amount of precautions and surveillance has helped companies curb the risk of cyber attacks in India and abroad. To ensure cyber security and avert vulnerabilities, the government has been issuing various security guidelines, mandating cyber security audits, and doing proactive tracking. Despite all these counter-measures, India has re-

corded a three-fold increase in the cyber security breaches since last year. As per a recent government data presented in the Parliament, nearly 1.16 million cases of cyber attacks were reported in 2020, almost a 300% spike from the prior year. In our rapidly-evolving connected world, it's nearly impossible for users to understand the types of threats that could compromise the online security of personal information and take necessary precautions. According to a survey by Sophos, 52% of the Indian companies faced cyber security attacks last year, which means that every second company in the country has been affected adversely. Top small-cap funds, small-cap mutual



fund schemes, doubled investment, meaning, returns, best funds, comparison. Over 100% returns in small cap MF schemes in 12 months - Should you invest now? The changes would be automatic when repo rate changes. Your Queries - Loans: Bank can take away assets of guarantor if loan not repaid on time When companies place the burden of security mostly (or entirely) on the user, they can fall victim to a number of sophisticated man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks carefully crafted to trick even the most diligent user. That's why companies need software solutions that can help prevent these attacks and protect their assets and data. There are cyber security companies that are specifically working on solutions to avert the risk of MITM attacks and effectively deal with them. One such company is Uniken, which has been awarded by Cybersecurity and Infosec magazine Threat Technology. A man-in-the-middle attack is when an attacker secretly relays and possibly alters the communications between two parties who believe that they are directly communicating with each other. There are a number of different attack types: IP, DNS, and HTTPS Spoofing - Through spoofing, bad actors can send or divert victims to fraudulent websites. The user believes that they're interacting with a valid website or contact, all while the attacker can monitor their interactions and steal information. Email and Session Hijacking - After gaining access to target email accounts or online session via stolen session key or browser cookies, cybercriminals can monitor transactions between a company and its customers. Then, they spoof one or all members of the conversation in order to steal funds. Wi-Fi Eavesdropping - Bad actors set up Wi-Fi connections with very legitimate sounding names, similar to a nearby business. As soon as a victim connects, they can monitor the user's online activity and intercept valuable information. There are a few things that need to happen in order to prevent man-in-the-middle attacks.

## Barbeque-Nation share price soars 20% on net profit in Jan-Mar quarter of FY21, zooms 56% since listing



**Mumbai, May 25** : Barbeque-Nation Hospitality share price hit 20 per cent limit of upper circuit at Rs 767.50 apiece in intraday deals on BSE after the company posted revenues of Rs 226 crore in Jan-Mar quarter of FY21. Barbeque-Nation Hospitality share price hit 20 per cent limit of upper circuit at Rs 767.50 apiece in intraday deals on BSE after the company posted revenues of Rs 226 crore in Jan-Mar quarter of FY21, a growth of 18.5 per cent on-year. It stood at Rs 190 crore in the same quarter last year. The company's operating profit or EBITDA stood at Rs 56 crore, up 128 per cent on-year with margins of 24.8 per cent. Barbeque-Nation Hospitality clocked a consolidated net profit of Rs 6.1 crore in the March quarter of FY21 as against a loss of Rs 27 crore in the year-ago period. So far in the day, 1.41 lakh shares have traded on BSE, while 11 lakh units exchanged hands on NSE. In March 2021, Barbeque-Nation Hospitality raised Rs 452-crore from the issue and was subscribed nearly 6 times. Last month, the casual dining

product was launched to cater to the rapid progression of the delivery segment during the pandemic. Share Market Today, Share Market LiveMarket LIVE: Nifty above 15,250, Sensex tops 50,800 on positive global cues; HDFC, Infosys top contributors Nifty, bank nifty, stock market Nifty's June target at 15,700, Bank Nifty may hit 36,200 soon; BfSI, auto stocks may outrun "The primary driver of the price, according to our study, is the new product addition "Barbeque-in-a-Box" and the declaration by management that the firm plans to extend its network by adding 20 different shops during FY 22. The "Barbeque-in-a-Box" will assist the organization in ensuring safe delivery during the pandemic, which will directly affect the bottom line," Ashis Biswas, Capital Via Global Research, told Financial Express Online. The share of revenue from digital platforms increased to 24.7 per cent from 20.1 per cent in Jan-Mar quarter of FY20, while the delivery business grew 6x in the quarter ended March 31, 2021, as compared to the same period last year.

## Indian Railways temporarily suspends more passenger trains due to Cyclone Yaas; see list of cancelled services

**Mumbai, May 25** : Over the past few days, Piyush Goyal-led Indian Railways had cancelled several passenger train services due to Cyclone Yaas. Cancellation of Passenger Train Services: Indian Railways passengers, if you are planning a train journey, here's some news for you. Over the past few days, Piyush Goyal-led Indian Railways had cancelled several passenger train services due to Cyclone Yaas. In view of the cyclonic storm, the national transporter has announced the cancellation of more train services yesterday. According to a statement issued by the South Eastern Railway Zone, several special trains and passenger DEMU trains have been temporarily suspended as a precautionary measure against Cyclone Yaas. Following is the complete list of passenger train

services cancelled by the South Eastern Railway Zone on 24 April 2021: Train no. 02809 from Mumbai CSMT to Howrah cancelled on 25.05.2021, Train no. 02810 from Howrah to Mumbai CSMT cancelled on 27.05.2021 Train no. 02101 from LTT to Howrah cancelled on 25.05.2021, Train no. 02102 from Howrah to LTT cancelled on 27.05.2021, Train no. 78010 from Bhanpur to Rupsa cancelled on 25.05.2021, Train no. 78011 from Rupsa to Bhanpur cancelled on 25.05.2021, Train no. 78012 from Bhanpur to Rupsa cancelled on 25.05.2021, Train no. 78013 from Rupsa to Baripada cancelled on 25.05.2021, Train no. 78015 from Baripada to Bangriposi cancelled on 25.05.2021, Train no. 78014 from Bangriposi to Baripada cancelled on 25.05.2021, Train no. 78016 from Baripada to Rupsa cancelled on 25.05.2021,

Train no. 78017 from Rupsa to Baripada cancelled on 25.05.2021, Train no. 78019 from Baripada to Bangriposi cancelled on 25.05.2021, Train no. 78018 from Bangriposi to Baripada cancelled on 25.05.2021, Train no. 78020 from Baripada to Rupsa cancelled on 25.05.2021,



Train no. 78009 from Rupsa to Bhanpur cancelled on 25.05.2021, Train no. 78010 from Bhanpur to Rupsa cancelled on 26.05.2021, Train no. 78011 from Rupsa to Bhanpur cancelled on 26.05.2021, Train no. 78012 from Bhanpur to Rupsa cancelled on 26.05.2021 Train no. 78013 from

Rupsa to Baripada cancelled on 26.05.2021, Train no. 78015 from Baripada to Bangriposi cancelled on 26.05.2021, Train no. 78014 from Bangriposi to Baripada cancelled on 26.05.2021, Train no. 78016 from Baripada to Rupsa cancelled on 26.05.2021, Train no. 78017 from Rupsa to Baripada cancelled on 26.05.2021, Train no. 78019 from Baripada to Bangriposi cancelled on 26.05.2021, Train no. 78018 from Bangriposi to Baripada cancelled on 26.05.2021 Train no. 78020 from Baripada to Rupsa cancelled on 26.05.2021, Train no. 78009 from Rupsa to Bhanpur cancelled on 26.05.2021, Train no. 68006 from Tatanagar to Kharagpur cancelled on 25.05.2021 and 26.05.2021, Train no. 68005 from Kharagpur to Tatanagar cancelled on 25.05.2021 and 26.05.2021



Contd. From Page 1

## "Cow Our Mother, Slaughter

are over 14 years of age or have become permanently incapacitated for work or breeding due to injury, deformity or any incurable disease. Section 6 says bovines can be slaughtered only in places specified by authorities, however, Section 13 waives this rule during Eid.Mr Sarma further said, "Karim Uddin Barbhuiya All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) MLA took oath in the name of "Allah" in the state assembly in the Sanskrit language, this language is a symbol of culture and civilization."The Chief Minister got major support from BJP MLA Jayanta Mallah Baruah and other party leaders during the session.However, from the opposition, AIUDF MLA Aminul Islam said the government must ensure that the passing of such an act should not give rise to wow vigilante groups "as it had been the case in several parts of the country" in which, people have faced mob attacks.

## Minister Pijush Hazarika views

of representative of Assamese daily 'Dainandin Barta', minister Hazarika said that he will systematically reform the odds of Janasanyog department. Regarding the bill payment matter of advertisement bills published in newspapers, Hazarika assures that bills will be paid regularly on time.He told our representative not to worry regarding bill payment issues. 'the work culture must be changed in Janasanyog department.There will be no space for corruption in this department', he assures.He also said that advertisements will be distributed after scrutinising the circulation figure of a news paper.Depending on circulation figure advertisement tariff will also be different. If anybody acquired advertisements earlier by submitting false circulation documents, then it will be fairly investigated, he said. It is noteworthy that earlier few news paper got advertisements by showing false documents of higher rate of circulation.Minister Hazarika assured that such type of irregularities will not be permitted now.Minister Hazarika also seeks co-operation of all media houses to function his department in a smooth and effective manner.

## Will Twitter, Facebook cease

lack of transparency, accountability and rights of users related to digital media and after elaborate consultation with the public and stakeholders, the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 had been framed in February.Among the several guidelines for social and OTT media, the IT rules called for provisions of Additional Due Diligence to Be Followed by Significant Social Media Intermediary:Appoint a Chief Compliance Officer who shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and Rules. Such a person should be a resident in India.Appoint a Nodal Contact Person for 24x7 coordination with law enforcement agencies. Such a person shall be a resident in India.Appoint a Resident Grievance Officer who shall perform the functions mentioned under Grievance Redressal Mechanism. Such a person shall be a resident in India.Publish a monthly compliance report mentioning the details of complaints received and action taken on the complaints as well as details of contents removed proactively by the significant social media intermediary.Significant social media intermediaries providing services primarily in the nature of messaging shall enable identification of the first originator of the information that is required only for the purposes of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution or punishment of an offence related to sovereignty and integrity of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States, or public order or of incitement to an offence relating to the above or in relation with rape, sexually explicit material or child sexual abuse material punishable with imprisonment for a term of not less than five years. Intermediary shall not be required to disclose the contents of any message or any other information to the first originator.Significant social media intermediary shall have a physical contact address in India published on its website or mobile app or both.Announcing the guidelines in February, it had said the new rules take effect immediately, while significant social media providers (based on number of users) will get three months before they need to start complying.The three-month time period meant compliance by May 25.

## Raijor Dal condemns Assam CM

minister on the floor of the House on important issues.Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma has come under fire for his insensitive comments on peasants' leader-turned politician Akhil Gogoi's mental health.Chief Minister Sarma in his speech in the Assembly on Monday said that Akhil Gogoi is mentally unfit to attend the Assembly session."Akhil Gogoi has been undergoing treatment at GMCH for the last four months due to his mental illness. How can a person like him be allowed to attend the Assembly session," CM Sarma said.Gogoi, who had won Assembly polls from the Sivasagar constituency, on Friday, took oath as an MLA in the Assam Assembly after a National Investigation Agency (NIA) court allowed him to do so.The newly elected jailed MLA had sought permission from the Speaker to attend the remaining two days of the Assembly session but his plea was rejected by the Speaker."We were asked by the Speaker to respond. We have told the Speaker that no sick person can be allowed to attend the House," chief minister Sarma said.Sarma's remark drew the ire of many social media users, who dubbed the comment as "irresponsible and insensitive"."If the chief minister can make such irresponsible comment on the floor of the House on an elected legislator, it is absolutely clear that there is no sanctity of the House," said a Facebook user."What chief minister Sarma said on Akhil Gogoi is absolutely wrong," he said."We do not know what treatment is being given to Akhil Gogoi. That is a purely confidential matter between the patient and the physician. If for whatever reason, Akhil Gogoi is undergoing treatment for "mental illness" as the chief minister pointed out, it is unethical to make it public," said senior advocate Santanu Borthakur in a Facebook post."Patients' privacy is protected due to the social stigma associated with mental illness. Article 23 of the Mental Health Care Act says there can be no public discussion about any mental illness. By making such loose comments, the chief minister proved that he is not at all sensitive. Such comments do not suit his status. We hope that the chief minister will sensitize himself by reading on this subject," he said.Guwahati-based senior journalist Sushanta Talukdar said that he has never seen a chief minister making such "indecent and insensitive" remarks on a member of the Assam Legislative Assembly in his absence."It is also a matter of concern how the legislators who have been roaring at such insensitive remarks will preserve the dignity of the Legislative Assembly," Talukdar said in a Facebook post.

## Assam Extends Curfew In Urban

Biswa Sarma visited the Assam-West Bengal interstate border at Chagolia in Dhubri and Srirampur in Kokrajhar district to review COVID-19 testing and screening of passengers entering the state."These two borders are important corridors and the success of the fight against COVID depends on better management of these borders, Sarma said.The chief minister took stock of the COVID-19 testing centre set up at Chagolia and the steps taken to conduct testing on incoming vehicle drivers and passengers. He also reviewed the vehicle entry data through the border gate with the district administration and directed the authorities to increase RT-PCR testing to bring down the high positivity rate in the district.The chief minister said that except Guwahati, the COVID scenario is not improving substantially in other parts of the state and though positivity rate is coming down, the number of people getting infected is not decreasing considerably.

## 14 of 300 who skipped COVID-19

passengers, 31 of them from the adjoining Nagaon district," Morigaon's Superintendent of Police Aparna N. told The Hindu on Tuesday."From rapid antigen tests, 14 were found to be COVID-19 positive. RT-PCR samples have been taken from the others," she said.The district police said efforts were on to trace people who might have come into contact with those who tested positive, as well as some elusive passengers of the train.Health officials said the "irresponsible" behaviour of a few was complicating the fight against the novel coronavirus in Assam.There have been reports of people in home isolation flouting protocols and venturing out to meet friends and acquaintances.

## CMvisits Srirampur on Assam-Ben

testing as well other Covid control measures. The Chief Minister reviewed the data of incoming vehicles at the inter-state check point and directed the district administration and health department to ensure mandatory Covid testing and strict isolation of positive cases while discouraging home isolation. The officials of the district administration apprised the Chief Minister about various steps taken for containment of the pandemic including arrangements made at the inter-state border, Covid vaccination campaign and testing etc. in the district. The Chief Minister during the review directed the Kokrajhar district administration to increasetesting and conduct 20% RTPCR of all Covid tests. He also directed SP to enforce complete blockade of inter district movement of people while asking the Health Department to intensify vaccination at vulnerable areas including tea gardens. Chief Minister Sarma also took part in a plantation programme at the compound of Srirampur check gate. Later talking to media persons, the Chief Minister said that while Covid positivity rate has gone down in the district, still around 60 to 90 positive cases are detected every day. He informed that the district administration has been directed to gradually decrease home quarantine of positive patients as the chances of Covid outbreak in villages is potentially higher in case of home isolation. He also said that the administration has been instructed to intensify RAT and RTPCR testing. The Chief Minister further mentioned that while 1.20 lakh Covid tests were conducted in the State on Monday, daily Covid cases hovers around six thousand. He informed that the State government continued its efforts to ramp up health infrastructure including adding more ICU beds, increasing oxygen availability etc. He also said that the State government plans to set up oxygen plant in every district hospital to meet future oxygen demand. Replying to a query that people from outside the State in the age group from 18-44 were taking Covid vaccine in Assam, the Chief Minister said that he would immediately take stepon the issue. He also informed that with a view to ensure that there is no shortage of essential commodities and medicines in the State, Covid test of drivers of goods carriers are being conducted at their final destinationonly.

## Cyclone Yaas: Odisha CM Naveen

work in the wake of the severe cyclone landfall. Listing the IAS officers, a statement issued by the Additional Secretary, Indramani Tripathy, read, "The following IAS officers are assigned the districts noted against each for supervision of relief, rehabilitation and restoration works arising out of very severe Cyclonic storm 'Yaas' . The officers concerned were requested to proceed to the respective districts immediately. More than 800 Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) personnel are in a high state of readiness for the cyclone Yaas. According to the India Meteorological Department, Cyclone Yaas is expected to hit the coasts of Odisha and West Bengal on May 26. Meanwhile, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday predicted that the cyclonic storm Yaas is going to intensity into a 'very severe cyclonic storm' in the next 12 hours.In its bulletin, IMD said, "The severe cyclonic storm Yaas over east-central Bay of Bengal moved north-northwestwards with a speed of about 9 kmph during past six hours and lay centered at 9 UTC of May 24 over the east-central Bay of Bengal," adding "It is very likely to move north-northwestwards, intensify further into a very severe cyclonic storm during next 12 hours.""It would continue to move north-northwestwards, intensify further and reach the northwest Bay of Bengal near North Odisha and West Bengal coasts by May 26 early morning," the weather agency added.Earlier on Monday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah reviewed the preparations with the chief ministers of Odisha, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh along with the Lt. Governor of the Andaman and Nicobar Island.Prime Minister Narendra Modi also chaired a high-level meeting on Sunday to review the preparedness of States and Central Ministries and Agencies that will deal with the situation arising out of the cyclonic storm.

## Partial lunar eclipse to be visible

eclipse occurs when the whole Moon comes under the umbral shadow of the Earth and the partial lunar eclipse occurs when only a part of the Moon comes under the umbral shadow of the Earth.

## SP Visits Darak Circle to Asses Infrastructure needs for Functioning of Police Station

**Aalo, May 25 :** The Superintendent of Police Shri Raja Banthia, ZPM Darak Minba Rakasp, DYSP Thutan Jamba, Circle Officer Dr. N. Dangen and OC Kamba visited Darak circle to assess the infrastructure and accommodation needs of police personnel for functioning of Police Station at Darak. The said æCâ€œ Class Police Station was sanctioned and notified by the Govt. long back when late Jarbom Gamlin was the Home Minister and lying defunct for many years. The ZPM Darak disclosed that inspection was necessitated a Review Meeting by MLA Liromoba and Advisor Home Shri Nyamar Karbak with District Police Authority for its immediate functioning. He also disclosed that temporary office and four bachelor barracks for accommodating the police personnel have been worked out in close coordination with Circle Officer Darak. The functioning of Police station is quite essential to tackle growing problem in the circle, he said. The SP after detail inspection of the infrastructure with the team assured to post required police personnel within some days. He also inspected Kamba Police Station. The concerned MOs of the area shall monitor the health status and report to the concerned administrative officers on regular basis, fix the rate and forward such feed-backs to the District Control Room. This arrangement is exclusively for the patients who do not have Home Quarantine Facility

## Three front-runners for next CBI director as panel zeroes in on these names

**New Delhi, May 25 :** Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, Kumar Rajesh Chandra and VSK Kaumudi were short-listed for the post of CBI director during a meeting of a high-powered committee, comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi and two others, on Monday (May 24, 2021), sources said.Jaiswal, a 1985-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, is a former Maharashtra director general of police. He is at present the director-general of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)Chandra, a 1985-batch IPS officer of the Bihar cadre, is at present posted as the director-general of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), while Kaumudi, a 1986-batch IPS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre, is posted as the special secretary for internal security in the Home Ministry.The name of Uttar Pradesh DGP HC Awasthy, a 1985-batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, was also under consideration. The meeting of the high-powered committee, comprising Prime Minister Modi, Chief Justice of India NV Ramana and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, started around 6:30 pm at the 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, official residence of the Prime Minister, the sources said.During the 90-minute meeting, Chowdhury objected to the process of selection of officers for the coveted post of CBI director."The way procedure was followed it was in conflict of the mandate of the committee. On 11th (May), I was given 109 names and today by 1 pm, 10 names were shortlisted and by 4 pm, six names were shortlisted. This casual approach of DoPT (department of personnel and training) is highly objectionable," Chowdhury told The post of CBI director is vacant since the then incumbent Rishi Kumar Shukla retired on February 4 after a two-year stint. The charge for the post was handed to Additional Director Praveen Sinha, a 1988-batch Gujarat cadre IPS officer, till a formal appointment is made.

## One electrocuted at Itakhola

**Biswanath Chariali, May 25:** One Ajay Munda, a resident of line no. 4 of Tejalpatti T.E under Itakhola outpost of Biswanath district was electrocuted on Monday. According to the information, Ajay; an employee of the TE who came in contact with a coconut tree that was touched by an active electric wire unknowingly and electrocuted instantly. Ajay was father of three children.

## Assam commits Suicide After Sexual Assault, College Teacher Arrested: Cops

**Guwahati, May 25 :** After sending a message to a friend that she had been subjected to sexual assault, a 14-year-old girl llegendly killed herself in the house of a college teacher in Assam's Chirang district, police said on Tuesday.The assistant professor of a college in Bengtol, at whose house she had been staying for around a year for the purpose of studying, was arrested on the charge of rape and abetment to suicide.The police in a statement said that the minor girl was found hanging on Monday but the matter was not informed to the authorities.The teacher and her family members were trying to perform her last rites when the police, after getting a tip- off from someone, reached the spot and stopped them. The body was sent for post-mortem examination.During the investigation, it was found that the girl had sent a message through a social networking platform to a friend saying she did not want to live anymore as she had been subjected to sexual assault, the statement said.The accused who was also booked for causing disappearance of evidence and under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, was remanded to three days' police custody by a local court.

## Minister Ranoj Pegu in Lakhimpur district

**North Lakhimpur,May25:** Minister for Education and Welfare of Plain Tribes Dr. Ranoj Pegu visited Deuri Autonomous Council Office at Narayanpur in Lakhimpur district today. During the visit, Deuri Autonomous Council Chief Executive Member Madhab Deuri, Chairman Bishnu Deuri, Vice-chairman Amritprabha Deuri and the employees of the office were present. Later, the Minister took part in a meeting in the North Lakhimpur College (autonomous) where the Principal of the college Biman Chetia welcomed him warmly. Lakhimpur MLA Manab Deka, Lakhimpur Girls'College Ex-principal Dr.Mukunda Rajbonshi, BJP Lakhimpur district committee President Phanidhar Baruah and many other dignitaries were attended in the meeting, besides the Professors and Employees of the college. In the meeting, the Minister discussed several important matters with the college authorities.He also visited the college. Then, Dr.Pegu discussed with the Lakhimpur DC and SP at the Circuit House, North Lakhimpur. During the interaction with the media persons here, Pegu said that HSLC and HS Final Examinations will be held after improvement of the Covid situation in the state. Moreover, the people should wear masks, maintain social distancing and follow other Covid-appropriate behaviour to make a Covid-free Assam, he added.

## As Nepal PM Oli mangles constitution & woos Modi, India changes track again, watches silently

**New Delhi, May 25 :** This week as the Narendra Modi government celebrates seven years in power, the biggest change in its foreign policy has not been with the US or Pakistan or Bangladesh or China - but Nepal.What was once a close neighbour to which Prime Minister Modi paid his third foreign policy visit in August 2014 - and brought the house down when he spoke to its parliament in Nepali - has been subject to so many twists and turns that it's no longer clear whether New Delhi is trying to influence Kathmandu or whether Nepal's PM K.P. Oli is manipulating the Indian leadership.As Jaishankar reaches the US, there's complete silence in Delhi over the manner in which Nepal's prime minister K.P. Oli has been mauling the constitution and twisting its clauses and conventions so as to hang on to power. In recent weeks, with a little help from president Bidya Bhandari (Kathmandu Post described her as "a sidekick to the PM"), Oli is back as PM after losing a vote of confidence in parliament in early May and for the second time in six months, recommending the dissolution of parliament. (The last time he did this, in December 2020, Nepal's supreme court threw out the move.)The irony is that less than a year ago, Delhi and Oli were ranged on different sides of the horizon. Oli had insulted the Ashoka Chakra, India's national emblem, asking whether its motto was a "hegemonic Singhamave Jayate or a peaceable Satyamev jayate." His remarks in parliament came in the context of a unilateral cartographic incorporation of Indian territories such as Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh. Nepal's map was changed as a result and Delhi saw red.Cut to the present, and to India's stubborn silence around Oli's shenanigans. The Nepali press is in uproar, with the popular Nepali-language Kantipur daily Monday publishing a cartoon of Oli as king, complete with feather and pigeon-egg-sized emeralds in the crown (Oli has reacted furiously, telling the press it has no respect for democracy.) The Kathmandu Post is likening Oli to Louis XIV, insisting that the French emperor's declaration "l'Etat c'est moi (I am the State)" applies to the Nepali PM.The Kathmandu Post's Monday editorial read: "The President and the prime minister have won in their unconstitutional stratagem while the country has lost. In their pursuit of excellence in Machiavellian treachery, Bhandari and Oli have ...wrecked political culture...President Bhandari has set a benchmark for how not to become a pawn at the hands of an authoritarian comrade...."Question is, why is Delhi not helping protect the constitution it laboured over with the Nepalis for so many years, since the 2006 'jan andolan' - when Indian pressure ensured that the Nepalese monarch caved in and stood down so that Nepal could become a sovereign, democratic republic - and which finally saw the light of day in 2015?Why is Delhi not asking Oli to temper himself, like it did last year, when Army chief M.M. Naravane let fly that Oli's tempestuous action to unilaterally "take" Indian territory was motivated by the Chinese next door?Conversations with several political observers and Nepal-watchers in Delhi and Kathmandu, both Indian and Nepali, indicate that there's a complex game afoot.First, it seems as if India has decided to adopt a super-pragmatic approach with Nepal - meaning, it will not take sides in Nepal's internal politics. So Oli can continue to do what he is doing, including wrecking the constitution, but India will not interfere. The argument is that this is Nepal's constitution, not India's, so if the Nepalis want to destroy something for short-term political gain, then that is their problem.Second, the Indian observers recognise that the small matter of the changed Nepali maps, passed by no less than its parliament, could be a stumbling block in the improvement of the bilateral relationship. But these observers insist that while "this issue sticks in the throat," it is after all "just one issue" in a whole spectrum, and that it's time to move on.Third, is the question of when this shift in policy began to take place. Three months after the map row in May 2020, Oli reached out to greet PM Modi on the occasion of India's Independence Day, to "clear the air." That seems to have been the first straw. In October, India's external intelligence chief, head of R&AW, Samant Goel, travelled to Kathmandu to meet Oli - although at the time it had seemed as if Goel and his colleague Arun Jain had been sent to admonish Oli on the map issue, which had so riled Delhi.On the eve of Goel's visit, Oli ordered the withdrawal of school textbooks that portrayed the new map; within days of meeting Goel, Oli greeted India on Dussehra online with the old map of the country.Goel's visit was followed by several high-profile visits. Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla and Army Chief Gen M.M. Naravane travelled to Kathmandu in quick succession in November, while the head of the BJP foreign affairs cell Vijai Chauthaiwale went in December.



# Premier League 2020-21 season review: our writers' best and worst

**London, May 25 :** Nick Ames Harry Kane - which might just be why he wants to set his sights higher than Spurs for the rest of his career. Thirteen assists to go with his 23 goals points to his development into the world's best all-round centre-forward. Kevin De Bruyne has not been far behind while it has been fascinating to see Riyad Mahrez blossom into one of Manchester City's most important players. John Brewin Phil Foden. Young, gifted and from Stockport. With Foden flourishing, City have not missed David Silva at all this season. Simon Burnton After Chelsea's summer splurge, particularly the arrivals of Kai Havertz and Hakim Ziyech, this had all the hallmarks of a difficult second season at Stamford Bridge for Mason Mount. He ends it their player of the season and a key man for England. Tumaini Carayol Kane. After many years as a top goalscorer, this season he also rose to become the league's most prolific creator in an incredible individual season. Along with Son Heung-min, he has also been the saviour of an otherwise meek, miserable Tottenham team. Paul Doyle Mohamed Salah. Sometimes he is selfish on the pitch but for much of this season he practically carried Liverpool alone. Without him they might have finished in the bottom half. Ben Fisher De Bruyne has been typically superb for the champions, at home in midfield, out wide, and even when asked to operate as a false nine. Across Manchester, Bruno Fernandes has been equally magical. Like De Bruyne, he is the kind of player you would happily pay to watch. Andy Hunter Rúben Dias. The undisputed winner, and in a title-winning team blessed with De Bruyne, Foden and İlkay Gündogan that illustrates the impact and leadership of th new arrival, who also improved the confidence and form of those around him. David Hytner Dias has been a rock for Manchester City, spreading assurance, laying the foundation stone for everything that the club has achieved. Jamie Jackson Foden. This writer has never witnessed a single duff display from the magical youngster. The 20-year-old offers creativity, devilry to burn and a lethal goal-threat. How good will he be next season, or the one after that? Watch this space: it will be fun. Jonathan Liew Dias. As transformative for City as Virgil van Dijk was for Liverpool last season. Commanding without being individualistic; calm without being passive. One of those players who raises the baseline standards of those around him. Niall McVeigh You could make a case for a few

different players from Manchester City, who were the best team by a distance. Head says the near-flawless Dias, heart says the thrilling Foden. Scott Murray Mason Mount has been man of the match in every single Chelsea game this season ... and if that's not statistically correct, it still speaks to a higher truth. Also, given it wasn't the greatest season for Frank Lampard, all told, here's a pat on the back for some top-drawer mentoring. Sachin Nakrani Kane. The numbers were stunning and



what made Kane's output especially remarkable was that it took place in a team that became increasingly zombified under José Mourinho. As others lost their way amid the dark spell of The Awful One, Kane continued to thrive. It's little wonder he now wants to leave Spurs. He's not only done his bit for the club, he's outgrown it. Barney Ronay Kane. Has any player ever been so pointlessly, fruitlessly good? Departure from Spurs is now essential on humanitarian grounds. Perhaps the new football regulator could step in. Jacob Steinberg Dias is the obvious choice. The defender is City's answer to Van Dijk and has sorted out their problems at the back after forming a fine partnership with John Stones. Louise Taylor Patrick Bamford. Oh ye of little faith. How did we doubt the Leeds striker? Seventeen Premier League goals serve as a reproach to those who claimed Bamford was not top-flight calibre. An amalgam of highly intelligent movement and consistent incision, he has revelled in confounding the doubters and deserves an England chance. Will Unwin İlkay Gündogan. Dias has changed City's defence beyond all recognition since his arrival, which has overshadowed how good Gündogan has been. The clinical midfielder has won two Premier League player of the month awards in what has been a fantastic, injury-free season. NA The salvage operation Thomas Tuchel performed on Chelsea's season, perhaps culminating in the biggest prize of all next weekend, has been

deeply impressive despite their Cup final flop. But Pep Guardiola's achievement in leading Manchester City back to the top should not be taken for granted. He has coaxed a team that was in need of a refresh into a repeat of its old dominance. An honourable mention for Marcelo Bielsa, whose fearless Leeds team barely missed a beat after coming up. JB Bielsa. Enjoy him while you still can. He's already stayed far longer than expected - signing a new one-year deal - and made Leeds United a fun club to

follow. SB For all the absolutely massive advantages he enjoys this season has been something of a tour de force for Guardiola. However, anyone who doesn't say Bielsa is wrong. TC Guardiola. After such an average start and many questions over Manchester City's direction, the manner in which he has transformed his team, both defensively and up front without a true No 9, has been wonderful. PD Bielsa. Leeds were the most consistently exciting team in the league. BF David Moyes deserves immense credit for transforming West Ham and Sean Dyche continues to work miracles on modest resources, with £1m buy Dale Stephens their most notable signing last summer. Avoiding relegation was never really in doubt, despite a rocky start. BG For all the expensive talent Manchester City have at their disposal, any hopes they had of winning the title looked extremely bleak before Christmas. The turnaround masterminded by Guardiola was extraordinary. AH Guardiola. Brendan Rodgers and Moyes delivered fine campaigns but a third Premier League title in four seasons, with a poor start, the Lyon hangover and the pandemic all thrown in the mix, distinguishes the City manager from his peers. DH Bielsa has overseen a rebrand of Leeds that will be the subject of marketing PhDs in 20 years' time. JJ Rodgers. How pleasing was it to see the Northern Irishman guide his wonderful Leicester side to an inaugural FA Cup triumph? Do not rule out Rodgers masterminding a serious title challenge, either, in the

not so distant future. This is a smart cookie of a manager. JL Guardiola. You could make a case for Moyes, Rodgers, even Bielsa. But - and this is a lesson Guardiola himself seems to have learned during the last year - sometimes it's best not to overthink these things. NMc Guardiola reclaimed the title, Bielsa made Leeds competitive and entertaining, but nobody surpassed expectations like David Moyes. Any West Ham fans returning on Sunday to see European football confirmed must have wondered just how long they had been away. SM The correct answer is Pep - of course it is - but Ralph Hasenhüttl deserves some recognition for being the only manager in history to top the league and lose 9-0 in the same season. SN Moyes. Taking any team from 16th to sixth is a remarkable achievement and especially so for a manager who, most agreed, was done at the highest level. Moyes has been reborn, busting the narrative by putting together a side that was not only resilient but, at times, thrilling to watch. BR Bielsa. A ninth-placed finish with the 19th-biggest wage bill in Leeds' first season up. Mainly, though, the fun, the intricacy and basic joy of his teams in an otherwise gruelling season. Also: incredible quads. JS Moyes has performed wonders at West Ham, making fools of those who lazily dismissed him as a tactical dinosaur. LT Guardiola. Not content with winning the title and the League Cup with a new "post striker", Manchester City's manager has also led his intriguingly evolving team into the Champions League final. Injuries to Sergio Agüero and Gabriel Jesus forced a new system on Guardiola, who also changed the team's pressing style. How many other managers could have made it work so well? WU Dyche. Burnley's style has not changed since getting promoted to the Premier League in 2017, which should mean they are pretty easy to work out but still they battle their way to survival every season without much fuss. Burnley had just two points from their opening seven matches, but still recovered to stay up with ease despite Dyche possessing a squad with no depth.

# Darren Stevens has cult following but 45-year-old is still underappreciated



**London, May 25 :** As with so much else in his life, fame came late in the day to Darren Stevens. The Kent all-rounder's extraordinary innings of 190 against Glamorgan last Friday created a very modern sort of buzz, one that has really been possible only in recent years. For decades, an innings like Stevens's would have existed largely in the imagination: a blur of numbers on a screen and two columns in the newspaper, rather than an actual lived memory. Now, via social media and the miracle of the YouTube livestream - hey, psst, stop what you're doing and watch this - it can live in plain sight. And what an innings it was: remarkable not so much for its technical excellence (he was dropped three times) but for its sheer, sleeves-up, bollocks-to-you audacity. Michael Neser, a 90mph Australian international seamer, is smashed over his head. Andrew Salter, a lovely classical off-spinner, has resigned himself to being hit for six before he even delivers the ball. At the other end, Miguel Cummins shares a ninth-wicket partnership of 166 in which his own contribution is one. Often it is said of great cricketers that they could clear bars. Stevens, by contrast, leaves tabs unopened, emails unread, household chores unfinished. Almost 90,000 people logged on to watch his innings: comfortably more than have ever been present to watch him in the flesh. Indeed, he may well be the first star of the county livestream era: a status generated not just by his titanic feats with bat and ball, but by the curious folk following he appears to have attracted in his later years. At which point - and with apologies to the man himself - it is customary to mention Stevens's age, often in simpering and reverential terms, as if it were some debilitating condition for which he is terribly brave for playing through. He is 45, has taken almost 250 first-class wickets since

turning 40, and has been a veteran for so long that even some of the early celebrations of his longevity now have a quaintly dated feel to them. This alone has seen him painted in some quarters as a sort of atavistic hero, a triumph of old-pro experience and honest graft, perhaps even a rejoinder of sorts to English cricket's obsession with youth and novelty. Clearly there is a certain generation of middle-aged men - which, statistically speaking, probably incorporates a considerable overlap with the Guardian's county cricket audience - for whom Stevens is essentially Doing It For All Of Us, a precious vessel bearing the dreams of club trundlers, Sunday sloggers and armchair Arlotts up and down the country. In a way, he's out there so you don't have to be. Which is just as well, because it's unseasonably cold and to be quite honest you were looking forward to a sit-down. And so ever since he embarked on his extended Indian summer, Stevens has found himself an emblem of something larger. To some, Stevens-love is an indisputable badge of authenticity, a way of showing you get county cricket on some important, fundamental level. For all his pyrotechnics with the bat in short-form cricket, Stevens doesn't have a Hundred contract, never played for England, and - for all the entreaties of a vocal minority who long to see him training his 74mph nibblers on David Warner at the Gabba on 8 December - never will. To others, players like Stevens - and particularly Stevens the bowler - are the problem, the reason England consistently lose away from home. Collecting their contracts year after year, harvesting cheap April and May wickets by the bucketload, blocking the path for younger seamers, all while honing skills that in the game's broader context are virtually useless.

# 'Like losing a brother': Bernie Ecclestone leads tributes to Max Mosley



**London, May 25 :** Tributes from across the motor racing world have been paid to Max Mosley, the former president of Formula One's governing body, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), who has died of cancer aged 81. Alongside F1's former chief executive Bernie Ecclestone, Mosley played a fundamental role in shaping modern F1 and motor racing as president of the FIA between 1993 and 2009. He leaves a lasting legacy in his strident and successful push toward safety in F1, motor racing and road cars. Ecclestone expressed his sadness at the death of his friend. "It's like losing family, like losing a brother, Max and I," he said. "He did a lot of good things not just for motor sport, but also the [car] industry. He was very good in making sure people built cars that were safe." The current president of the FIA Jean Todt, who succeeded Mosley, led the other tributes. "Deeply saddened by the passing of Max Mosley," he wrote on Twitter. "He was a major figure in @F1 & motor sport. As @FIA President for 16 years, he strongly contributed to reinforcing safety on track & on the roads. The entire FIA community pays tribute to him. Our thoughts & prayers are with his family." A spokesperson for F1 said: "We are saddened to hear that Max Mosley former FIA President has passed away. A huge figure in the

transition of Formula One. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time." F1 teams all added their tributes including current world champions Mercedes. "From driver to team founder to FIA President, Max Mosley was a powerful modernising force for world motor sport and a unique personality in our industry. On behalf of Mercedes, we extend our sympathies to his family and friends", they tweeted. Mosley had a successful career as a barrister before taking to racing, including competing in F2, driving in the race at which Jim Clark was killed at Hockenheim in 1968. He retired from driving in 1969 to co-found March Engineering which manufactured cars and competed as a constructor in F1. During his time with March he became involved with the Formula One Constructors' Association, which represented the commercial interests of teams. He met and was immediately impressed by Ecclestone in 1971 when Ecclestone bought the Brabham team, beginning a relationship that would span decades. As legal adviser to FOCA he helped draft the original Concorde agreement, the commercial contract with teams, the latest version of which was renewed by F1's owners, the FIA and the teams in 2020. In 1991 he became president of the FIA's racing governing body at the time, the Fédération

Internationale du Sport Automobile and was elected as FIA president in 1993. Mosley retained very close ties with Ecclestone, with the pair acting in tandem to maintain control over manufacturers and teams in steering F1. At the FIA Mosley leased the commercial rights to F1 to Ecclestone and during this period the sport gained a huge global audience, generating billions of pounds. On taking over at the FIA he immediately pushed for the organisation to make a difference in road safety. A year later the deaths of Roland Ratzenberger and Ayrton Senna at the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix, led him to enforce swingeing changes that fundamentally improved the safety of F1 and motor racing. He formed an advisory group, chaired by Professor Sid Watkins, to research and improve safety in motor racing. The changes they instigated were very successful. They included reducing the power of engines, circuit redesign to reduce the impact of crashes, the HANS (head and neck safety) device - now used across motor sport and stringent improvements in the requirements for crash testing. He was also the first chairman of the F1 Safety Commission, which focused on the development of circuit safety. Since 1994 only one driver has died as a result of an accident in an F1 race, Jules Bianchi who crashed at the Japanese GP in 2014. Just as his private life was not without scandal, he was the subject of a tabloid expose of his sex life, so his time at the FIA was not without controversy. He was central to the decision for the 2005 US Grand Prix at Indianapolis to go ahead, despite the teams running with Michelin tyres saying without track changes they would pull out before the race because they were concerned over safety. They duly did so and the race went on with just six cars competing. He was equally criticised for his handling of the spygate affair involving McLaren and Ferrari in 2007. Mosley was proudest of pushing through the adoption of the European New Car Assessment Programme.

# Villarreal's Alberto Moreno: 'I'll go to my grave not understanding why I got all the blame'

**London, May 25 :** "I've already told some of my teammates: 'I hope we win just so you can feel how heavy it is; you're going to go nuts, you won't believe it,'" Alberto Moreno says, and then the footballer who says he competes with Santi Cazorla to see who laughs more, whose last text to goalscoring goalkeeper Alisson Becker ran "bro, miles better than Salah, Mané and Firmino", and who vows to hide if Villarreal lose the final and David de Gea messages him, falls about again. "I reckon it weighs more than the European Cup. The European Cup is heavy, but the Uefa Cup?"



Woah. A seriously big chunk of steel. "On Wednesday Villarreal face Manchester United in Gdansk. It is their first European final; it is Moreno's fifth in seven years. It is his third in this competition alone, and with three different clubs. "I was at Sevilla and we reached a Europa League final, went to Liverpool and we reached a Europa League final, came to Villarreal and we reached a Europa League final. The next team I join, I'm putting that in the contract," he says, grinning as he mimes signing a deal. It may need a coach clause. Moreno's Europa League story is a tale of three finals and one manager. Unai Emery, his coach now, was in charge when he won it with Sevilla in 2014. He was also the coach who defeated him when Liverpool lost in Basle. "Yeah, and he tells me that," Moreno says. "He'll say: 'We [Sevilla] really stuck it to you.' He enjoys explaining how they played [two full-backs] to block me

and Coutinho. Then he'll say: 'Sorry Albi,' but he does likes to remind me. "Not that Moreno really needs it. Emery can laugh, and Moreno certainly can too. Laughter can often feel like his natural state, a smile the size of the screen. But that final hurt. "I still don't understand the amount of criticism," he admits. "On the first goal they nutmegged me, sure. But I'm a defender. Players get past Sergio Ramos, the best centre-back in the world. Why can't it happen to me?" "To this day I don't understand why I got so, so much criticism, when the whole team didn't play well. The finger was pointed at one player and ..." Moreno shrugs. "I don't think that's OK. People blame you. Only you. It was like I lost the final. It's hard. You can't get it out of your head. You look at the paper, at social media - I don't usually pay much attention to social media because it's all so false - and read things. 'Alberto, Alberto, Alberto, Alberto.' I'll go to my grave not understanding why I got all the blame. "And that's the start of a year without playing." Did you feel that Jürgen Klopp protected you? "My relationship with Klopp was perfect and, with Unai, he's the best coach I've ever had.



# Coco Gauff chasing tennis greatness thanks to critics and her passion



**London, May 25 :** Not too long after Coco Gauff pulled off one of the best wins of her career, against the world No 4 Aryna Sabalenka in Rome this month, she was asked to reflect on the progress she has made since her breakthrough in the summer of 2019. Gauff responded without hesitation. She was absolutely happy with it, she said, but that she would not be satisfied until she reached her ultimate goal. Then she shrugged. "Especially during that time people were saying: 'It's a fluke, it will never happen again,'" she said. "I think I've proved all those people wrong. I'm going to continue to prove them wrong." While athletes citing haters as their motivation is a quite tired trope, Gauff's description of some of the reactions to her breakthrough at 15 years old was not inaccurate. During those first steps of her career, when she beat Venus Williams and Naomi Osaka en route to fourth-round finishes at Wimbledon and the 2020 Australian Open, her precociousness resonated with an intensity among casual fans that is rare for tennis. Seemingly any mention of her success would spread virally across social media with help from prominent figures such as Michelle Obama and Kamala Harris. The criticisms quickly became clear: her breakthrough may have been notable but Venus Williams was 38

years old and far from her best days. Osaka performed abysmally and Gauff was the beneficiary of helpful draws. At a time when other young players were also thriving, it was also frequently argued that other players were deserving of her spotlight. There has also been ample discussion about her inability to immediately develop into a teenage grand slam contender. Since then, however, there can be no doubt that Gauff is making clear and continuous progress on the tour and her progress is to be commended. On Saturday, Gauff took another step forward by beating Wang Qiang 6-1 6-3 to win her second WTA singles title, at the 250 event in Parma. Gauff has compiled a 20 wins and six losses record since February and she is 9-3 during this clay season. Her timing also cannot be faulted. By rising to a career high of 25th in the rankings, Gauff will not only be seeded in a slam for the first time at Roland Garros but is probably the favourite to secure the fourth and final US Olympic spot. She is also 11th in the WTA race, the 2021-only rankings. The key to any sustained success in the sport is learning how to perform consistently away from the biggest events. Since February, she has won one title, reached two semi-finals, including in Rome, and two quarter-finals in seven events. Even this early

in her career, at a time when the second-best female player born in 2004 - Robin Montgomery - is ranked 349th, this has not been a seamless rise without friction or frustration. After the tour hiatus during the pandemic's first wave last year, Gauff spent the remainder of the season wrestling with her second serve. Double faults were frequent and often on important points, with Gauff landing 149 double faults in 2020 at a rate of 8.3 per match, the worst on the tour. It is extremely difficult to survive against the best players in the world while handing over eight free points per match. While those issues are not resolved, Gauff has cut down her double fault rate to 5.4 per match. Despite her improvements, it is not yet clear where Gauff is heading and how high her ceiling could be. Her athleticism is prodigious and it has marked her as one of the best defensive players in the game - her movement narrows the court for opponents, she is excellent at producing quality shots at full stretch and she relishes eking out errors from rivals. Since those abilities are complemented by rare mental fortitude, few emerging young players are as capable at winning ugly as she is. Alongside her defensive abilities, Gauff is also resourceful and intelligent on the court. Technically, she is not the most natural player at the net or with touch shots yet she is unafraid of and effective at making mid-match adjustments, varying her game to keep her opponents off-balance. Whereas aspects of her game are advanced for her age, she is still green elsewhere. Her future successes will rest on some developments. Her forehand, which has improved, remains a glaring weakness at times due to her elaborate and inefficient technique. Many opponents have found joy either rushing it with pace or breaking it down with variety. She is at an age where it is easy to make significant improvements to her game. It just remains to be seen exactly how she will improve. After clinching the singles title in Parma, Gauff followed

it up with a doubles victory alongside the 19-year-old Caty McNally. It marked their third title together as Gauff became the youngest player since Maria Sharapova in 2004 to win singles and doubles at a tournament. It underlined one of the underrated fac-

ets of her presence in the sport - these days it is rare to see young players treat doubles as anything more than just an occasional hit-and-giggle. She and McNally, another talented American, have been regular doubles partners since 2019, including at

slams, and Gauff has achieved about as much in doubles as she has in singles. She is here to win and to achieve those lofty goals she has set herself, and her passion for the sport and competition is clear. That alone will take her a long way.

## Premier League 2020-21 review: pundits of the season

**London, May 25 :** On Sunday's season finale of Match of the Day, Ian Wright managed (much to the bewilderment of Gary Lineker and Alan Shearer) to mention UK rappers Russ Millions and Tion Wayne, described Leeds United as an "imperial star-fleet coming out of hyperspace" and even voted for a Tottenham player, Érik Lamela, to win goal of the season for his outrageous rabona in March's north London derby. With some pundits, club bias can often come across as dreary or tired, but Wright is so obviously a diehard Gooner that he is nothing but endearing on screen: crushed by Arsenal's defeats and bouncing off the studio walls when they win. That said, Wright represents a lot more than energy and allegiance; he is often insightful and has shown in Home Truths, a recent documentary that tackles his own (and others') violent upbringing, another side to his broadcasting skill. Wright has always been box office, a magnetic figure on and off the pitch, but it is his ability to marry that charisma with humility - evident in his recent appearance on Desert Island Discs - that makes him so likable. Oh, and on top of all that, the guy knows how to dress. Would the backlash to the European Super League have been so severe without Gary Neville? Perhaps, but the pundit's unscripted monologue from the Old Trafford gantry against the breakaway league on that Sunday afternoon - minutes after the news had broken but a few hours before the official announcement by the clubs - was one of the defining moments of the season. There were concerns that certain fans of those six Premier League clubs would be taken in by the greed and opportunity of the ESL, but Neville's emotive speech - in which he labelled the breakaway "a criminal act" - was succinct, informative and insightful, and he has followed up his call for an independent regulator with a petition to the UK government that gathered 127,000 signatures in one day. Whether on Sky's Monday Night Football or his Soccerbox series, as an interviewer to the game's biggest names or as a co-commentator to Martin Tyler, Neville is arguably the UK's best



pundit. Alex Scott will be the new presenter of Football Focus next season, and few would dispute that she is an excellent choice to replace Dan Walker. Scott may be asking more of the questions in future, then, but her answers have long been bursting with stats and she is thought to be one of the best prepared in the business, which is hardly surprising given her experience and journalism degree. She remains a slick broadcaster, equally comfortable and knowledgeable across men's and women's football and arguably outshone Clare Balding, Lineker and Gabby Logan in co-hosting Sports Personality of the Year last December. "When I was a kid, I would never have watched TV and thought someone like me could be presenting a programme like Football Focus," she said on her appointment to the show, and in a year in which female pundits continue to receive an unfairly disproportionate amount of online abuse, her deserved prominence feels like a small step forward. Troy Deeney has had quite the year. On the pitch, he remains club captain and a legendary figure at Watford, who were promoted to the Premier League. Off it, he is increasingly visible and audible and has earned a newspaper column and a regular spot on TalkSport, speaking honestly and articulately about a host of subjects from the Black Lives Matter movement to the scrutiny that footballers faced from politicians over lockdown. He spoke

candidly about his time in prison and the death of his father on Louis Theroux's podcast and has even started his own - Deeney Talks - on which he recently interviewed Elton John. The 32-year-old speaks with both a confidence and vulnerability, whether he's the interviewee or the host, and doesn't seem to care whether his opinion is popular. A breath of fresh air. It is hardly surprising that Cesc Fàbregas makes for a good pundit. When your footballing education is split between La Masia and Arsenal's Invincibles, you've played every position from defensive midfielder to false nine, and have won almost every honour at club and international level, it makes you slightly more qualified to talk about the tactical side of the game than the average opinion-for-hire. Fàbregas is also not afraid to publicly criticise other pundits - be it putting Adrian Durham in his place over Dennis Bergkamp or reminding Michael Owen about the more artful side of the game - and even though his punditry appearances on BT Sport are only occasional, he's impressed enough BBC executives to be asked to join the team for the Euros this summer. Cerebral, honest and with a few languages under his belt, one gets the feeling that the 34-year-old is destined to be a manager once his playing days with Monaco are over but chatting about the game in the off-season isn't a bad way to make a few Euros in the meantime.

কৃতজ্ঞতা			
ক'ভিড-১৯ৰ টীকাৰণ অভিযানক জনআন্দোলনলৈ কপান্তৰ কৰাৰ বাবে অসম চৰকাৰে জনোৱা আহ্বানৰ প্ৰতি সঁহাৰি জনাই মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীৰ সাহায্য পুজিলৈ আৰ্থিক বৰঙণি আগবঢ়োৱা নিম্নোক্ত ব্যক্তি / অনুষ্ঠানৰ প্ৰতি আন্তৰিক কৃতজ্ঞতা জ্ঞাপন কৰিলো।			
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আদিত্য নাথ দাস	৫০১ টকা	ভৰালী চাৰ্ভিচ	২৫,০০০ টকা
আলোক বৰুণ মেধি	১ টকা	দুলাল কান্তি বসু	১৫০০ টকা
হীৰকজ্যোতি চহৰীয়া	৫০১ টকা	চৌধুৰী আমলকা	১২,০০০ টকা
নৰেন্দ্ৰ প্ৰমাদিক	১২০০ টকা	মলয় কৰ্মকাৰ	৩২০০ টকা
কন্দৰ্প ৰাজখানি	৬০১ টকা	গজেন্দ্ৰ ভৰালী	১,০০,০০০ টকা
শুভজ্যোতি দাস	২০১ টকা	জিতু দত্ত	১৩০০ টকা
হিতেন্দ্ৰ নাথ শৰ্মা	১০০ টকা	জুলী দত্ত	১৩০০ টকা
শশাংক শৰ্মা	১০০১ টকা	বিশ্বজিৎ মিশ্ৰ	১০০ টকা
ৰাজদীপ বয়	১০০১ টকা	মুকুট শহীকীয়া	১২০০ টকা
মোজাম্মিল আলী	৫০০ টকা	প্ৰয়াস মণি	১০১ টকা
দীপেন কুমাৰ লহকৰ	৭০০০ টকা	মধুশ্ৰী শৰ্মা	১০০১ টকা
তুৱাৰাম দত্ত	১০০১ টকা	কনক চন্দ্ৰ শৰ্মা	২০০০ টকা
ব্ৰজেন্দ্ৰ নাথ	১০০০ টকা	মনোজ কুমাৰ দাস	১০০১ টকা
চুনি ডেকা	২০০ টকা	জয়ন্ত কুমাৰ শৰ্মা	৫০০০ টকা
অনন্ত নাথ	২০ টকা	জিতেন চন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা	৩০০০ টকা
মিতালী ওজা গগৈ	৩০০১ টকা	অভিনৱ প্ৰকাশ	১৫,০০০ টকা
বিতুল পানয়ং	৬০০ টকা	অপৰ্ণা হৰিপ্ৰসাদ	২৫,০০০ টকা
অমৰ ঠাকুৰ	২০ টকা	ৰুণ্মী ডেকা	১৫,০০০ টকা
মণি শংকৰ নাহা	২০০০ টকা	জ্যোতিৰো কেমিকেলছ এলএলপি	১,০০,০০০ টকা
কুমুদ গগৈ	১১১১ টকা	বিভূতি ভূষণ	৫০০১ টকা
দেৱেশ কলিতা	১০০০ টকা	ৰঞ্জিত গোস্বামী	৫০০০ টকা
অমিতাভা দত্ত	১০০০ টকা	কমল কান্তি চন্দ্ৰবৰ্তী	১০,০০০ টকা
দেৱেন চন্দ্ৰ মুদৈ	১০,০০১ টকা	বেদান্ত কুমাৰ পাঠক	২০০০ টকা
অগৰাজ চেত্ৰী	১০০০ টকা	পৰমেশ দেৱ চৌধুৰী	৫০০০ টকা
অংকুমণি কলিতা	৫১ টকা	নৰ্থ ইষ্টাৰ্ণ টিউৱছ এল টি	১১,০০,০০০ টকা
ব্ৰজেন শৰ্মা	১০০০ টকা	নেত্ৰ কমল শৰ্মা	২৪০০ টকা
মহম্মদ ছুছেইন	১০,০০০ টকা	প্ৰকাশ শৰ্মা	৫০০০ টকা
অনিল কুমাৰ গগৈ	৫১০০ টকা	অৰুণ গোস্বামী	২০০০ টকা
জ্যোতি প্ৰসাদ বৰুৱা	১০০১ টকা	সিদ্ধাৰ্থ শংকৰ	১০০ টকা
সঞ্জীৱ চেত্ৰী	১০১ টকা	অঞ্জন কুমাৰ দাস	২০০০ টকা
চাহজাহান চৌধুৰী	১০,০০০ টকা	বাচাবাম বৰুৱা	৫০০০ টকা
ইচফাকুৰ চৈয়দ ৰহমান	১০,০০০ টকা	মানসজ্যোতি শৰ্মা	১০০ টকা
ত্ৰিদিপ নাথ	৫১ টকা	কাকলি দাস	৫০,০০০ টকা
মৃগাংক গৌতম	১০১ টকা	নৱদীপ দাস	৫০,০০০ টকা
ধীৰেণ দত্ত	৬০০ টকা	প্ৰানুৰ ৰহমান	১০১ টকা
ইলিমণি চলিহা	৩০০০ টকা	হাবাণ দে'	১০০ টকা
নন্দলাল কুৰ্মী	১০০০ টকা	ড° মনোজ কুমাৰ	২৫,০০০ টকা
বৰ্ণালী মজুমদাৰ	১১১১ টকা	সুনীতা চাংকাকতি	৫০,০০০ টকা
লক্ষ্যজিৎ বৰদলৈ	১০ টকা	ৰঞ্জিত দত্ত	১,০০,০০০ টকা
নুপেন কলিতা	৩০১ টকা	কমলা মঙ্গ বজৰবৰুৱা	২০০০ টকা
ৰোমা মেধি	৫০০০ টকা	দেৱব্ৰত শৰ্মা	৫০০০ টকা
সুৰবী ৰয়	১৬০০ টকা	শংকৰলাল আগৰৱাল	৪০০০ টকা
নাৰায়ণ ভট্ট	৮৮ টকা	দীপাঙ্কৰ ডেকা	৬০১ টকা
মনীষা বৰুৱা	১০০০ টকা	অপূৰ্ব কুমাৰ নাথ	৫০০০ টকা
ৰূপজ্যোতি ডেকা	১০০ টকা	বিজয় কুমাৰ বেনাৰ্জী	৫০০ টকা
মনোজ কুমাৰ দাস	১০০১ টকা	মঞ্জিকা ফুকন	২০০০ টকা
বি.এন. কলেজ	১,০০,০০০ টকা	সুৰজিৎ দলে	১৬০১ টকা
শ্ৰীকুমাৰী দেৱী	৫০০০ টকা	বল বহাদুৰ চেত্ৰী	৪০০০ টকা
ৰঞ্জিত শৰ্মা	৮০০০ টকা	প্ৰদীপ ৰাজবংশী	৫৫২৫ টকা
পদ্মা হাতীমুৰীয়া	৫০০০ টকা	মঞ্জু চৌধুৰী	৬০০০ টকা
শশীন্দ্ৰ দেৱনাথ	১০০০ টকা	নিৰ্মল বৰুৱা	৫০০০ টকা
হৰি চন্দ্ৰ দত্ত	৮০০ টকা	দুলু ভূমিজ	২০০ টকা
ৰোহিণী হাতীমুৰীয়া	১০০০ টকা	বৰ্ষে জিকিউৰিটি	১,০০,০০০ টকা
ৰিংকু হাতীমুৰীয়া	১০০০ টকা	সুৱত কুমাৰ ৰায়	৩০০০ টকা
উদয় বৰ্মন	৫০০০ টকা	অঞ্জন বুঢ়াগোঁহাই	৩০০০ টকা
বাৰ্ণিন হাতীমুৰীয়া	১০০০ টকা	লক্ষেশ্বৰ নাথ	১০০ টকা
মুনলু হাতীমুৰীয়া	১০০০ টকা	শ্বেথ ৰোহন নৱাজ	৩০০০ টকা
কল্যাণ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য	৫০০০ টকা	অমিতাভা দত্ত	৩০০০ টকা
চামচং হাতীমুৰীয়া	১০০০ টকা	সুমিত ৰায়চৌধুৰী	৬০০ টকা
কৃপা কন্যা হাতীমুৰীয়া	৫০০ টকা	বৈভৱ চন্দ্ৰকান	২৫,০০০ টকা
অতুল চন্দ্ৰ বৰুৱা	২০,০০০ টকা	প্ৰাঞ্জল শৰ্মা	৫০০১ টকা
মহন্ত ব্ৰিক ইন	১১১১ টকা	জোনালী চাহ	১০০ টকা
আকাংক্ষা হিম্পিতাল	২৫,০০০ টকা	নৱজ্যোতি পাঠক	১০০০ টকা
সোমনাথ শৰ্মা	৫০০০ টকা	পলাশ কুমাৰ শৰ্মা	২৪০০ টকা

মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীৰ সহায় পুঁজিৰ একাউণ্ট নম্বৰ :  
35969660230 (SBI) IFSC Code: SBIN0010755, PAN: AAAPC4667K

তথ্য আৰু জনসংযোগ সঞ্চালকালয়, অসমৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰচাৰিত

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