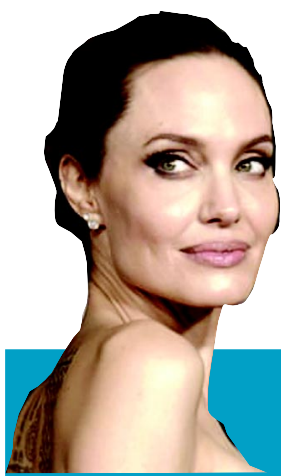


The Assam Rising

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Vol. No. VI ■ Issue No. 102 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ FRIDAY ■ MAY 28, 2021 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 7.00



Angelina Jolie criticizes judge deciding custody arrangements with Brad Pitt

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Kyrie Irving wary of 'subtle racism' before return to Boston

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NEWS IN BRIEF

MLA Rupjyoti Kurmi Narrowly Escapes

Guwahati, May 27 : In a shocking update, Mariani MLA Rupjyoti Kurmi on Thursday was shot at by suspected Naga miscreants along the Assam-Nagaland border. The MLA was present in Disai Valley for land eviction by illegal occupants from Nagaland when he was shot at by unknown miscreants suspected from Nagaland. Kurmi is on his way back from the conflict area. Meanwhile, a task force of Jorhat police is on its way for further investigation.

Ganja recovered

Guwahati, May 27 : In continuation with its crackdown on illegal drug trade, Darrang police on Thursday recovered over four kilograms of ganja (cannabis). The consignment of ganja was recovered from Khataniapara village in the district. One person has also been arrested in connection with the recovery. The arrested person has been identified as Mohammad Ali (48). "Acting on a tip off staff from Dhula Police Station led by its officer in charge, assisted by DSP (Head Quarters) and under the supervision of S.P. Darrang raided the house and residence of one Mohammad Ali (48) at village Khataniapara and managed to seize nearly four and half kilogram of cannabis," police informed. A case has been registered at Dhula Police Station in connection with the seizure and arrest of the individual. Recently Darrang police arrested three persons, who were involved in illegal drugs trade, from different parts of the district and also seized several grams of banned drugs like brown sugar and heroin.

Railways official murdered

Guwahati, May 27 : The deceased Railway official has been identified as Santosh Prasad. Santosh Prasad's throat was cut by his brother-in-law and was also repeatedly stabbed in his stomach, leading to his death. The accused brother-in-law has been identified as Mohan Giri. Mohan Giri, after killing Santosh Prasad had brought his body to the Saraighat Bridge in a trunk on a scooter during curfew hours on Wednesday night to dispose the body in the Brahmaputra River. Witnessing police at the Saraighat Bridge, Mohan Giri threw Santosh Prasad at the Bridge and fled from the spot. After police personnel chased Mohan Giri and apprehended Mohan Giri. Police also seized the scooter Mohan Giri was riding. Also read: Assam: COVID-19 outbreak in Udalguri district jail, 43 inmates test positive. However, three other accomplices of Mohan Giri managed to escape from the spot. Police have begun an investigation into the case. The reason behind the crime is yet to be known.

CM reviews flood preparedness of Kaziranga National Park Special task force to prevent rhino poaching in Kaziranga National Park

CM asks PCCF to make Wildlife Health and Research Institute functional



Guwahati, May 27 : In view of the ensuing flood season and its consequent impact on the wildlife of Kaziranga National Park, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma took a comprehensive review of flood preparedness and animal safety as well as security with DCs, SPs, officials of forest and veterinary department of Golaghat, Nagaon, Sonitpur, Biswanath and Karbi Anglong in presence of Agriculture Minister

Atul Bora, Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidya, Finance Minister Ajanta Neog, Health Minister Keshab Mahanta, Deputy Speaker of Assam Legislative Assembly Dr. Numal Momin, MLA and Political Secretary of CM Jayanta Malla Baruah and MLAs of Diphu, Howrah, Baital and Sarupathar, senior administrative, police and forest officials of the State at

Kaziranga in Golaghat district today. To intensify anti-poaching activities at the park, the Chief Minister directed to take urgent step to expedite justice delivery system against the nabbed poachers against whom

charge sheets have been filed by engaging a special prosecutor. He also asked the PCCF to monitor the process every month. Further to make the forest force more empowered, the Chief Minister instructed to increase sophisticated weapons for Assam Forest Protection Force besides providing satellite phones to anti-poaching camps. He also asked the PCCF to tie up with Mandakata Commando Training Centre for training of the forest personnel. Moreover, to boost up Wildlife Protection at KNP, Chief Minister Sarma asked Home Department to create one post each of Additional SP and DSP under the control of SP Golaghat with clear mandate to serve for the protection of wildlives at the park besides filling up

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In Udalguri district jail, 43 inmates test positive for Covid-19

Guwahati, May 27 : Jails in Assam are witnessing a sudden rise in number of cases among the inmates. As many as 43 inmates in the Udalguri district jail in

have been shifted to a COVID Care Centre. Among the 43 inmates, who tested COVID-19 positive, 35 are under trial prisoners and 8 convicts. President of



Assam have tested positive for COVID-19. These COVID-19 positive 43 cases in Udalguri district jail have emerged after conducting 176 Rapid Antigen Test. The Udalguri district administration has informed that the COVID-19 positive inmates of the jail

Tangla Human Rights Forum, Saiten Kumar Sarma said: "Right to Health is a fundamental right of prisoners, which is guaranteed by Article 21 of the Constitution of India." "Moreover, the Supreme Court has passed guidelines, directing the

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Pfizer Vaccine Should Be Procured ASAP: Arvind Kejriwal

Delhi, May 27 : Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday said that the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine should be procured to inoculate children as soon as possible ahead of the predicted third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. This comes after the US pharma company sought fast-track approval for its jab in India. Pfizer has told Indian authorities that its vaccine is suitable for everyone



aged 12 years or above and can be stored for a month at 2-8 degrees Celsius,

sources had said. "We should procure this vaccine ASAP for our children," Arvind Kejriwal tweeted, citing a news story on fast-track approval sought by the company. The Delhi CM has been requesting the central government to explore suitable vaccine options, citing opinion of experts that a possible third wave of COVID-19 in coming months may affect

children. The Delhi government has also suggested that the Centre should vaccinate students and teachers if it decides to conduct class 12 Board exams delayed due to the second wave of the virus. Pfizer, which has offered 5

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Girl thrashed, sexually assaulted by five men as video goes viral, cops seek information on accused



Guwahati, May 27 : The Assam police have tweeted the screenshots of the accused and sought information on them leading to their arrest. A video of a young girl being brutally assaulted and raped by five men

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Mamata Banerjee to conduct aerial survey of cyclone-hit areas in West Bengal, attend PM Narendra Modi's review meet at Kalaikunda



New Delhi, May 27 : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will make an aerial survey of the affected areas on May 28 and May 29 to have an overview of the damages caused by very severe cyclone Yaas. The Chief Minister made the announcement during a press conference on Thursday (May 27). After conducting the aerial survey, the Bengal Chief Minister will attend a review meeting over cyclone devastation at Kalaikunda

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New Delhi, May 27 : Fugitive diamondaire Mehul Choksi's lawyer has denied the possibility of his client being directly deported to India. "Legally, as per Section 17 and 23 of the Immigration and Passport Act, Mehul Choksi can only be deported to Antigua," Advocate

Vijay Aggarwal, Counsel for Choksi told. "As per the Indian Citizenship Act, Section 9, the moment Mehul

Choksi acquired the citizenship of Antigua, he ceased to be a Citizen of India. Hence, legally, as per Immigration and Passport

Act Section 17 and 23, he can be deported only to Antigua." Aggarwal added. Further, Choksi's counsel

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Assam Chief Minister Praises DRDO Scientist For Developing Anti-Covid Drug

Guwahati, May 27 : Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma congratulated Dr. Jubilee Purkayastha, a scientist with the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, for her outstanding contributions in the development of an anti-Covid drug. In a congratulatory letter to Dr. Purkayastha on Wednesday, Mr



Sarma, said, "Assam is really proud of you for your role in several scientific forums of the country. Your association with DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) and your role as an active member of the team that developed the drug 2-DG is your sacred privilege." The Chief Minister said that her

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Cotton College completed 120 years of its glorious existence

Guwahati, May 27 : Cotton College, now Cotton University completed 120 years of its glorious existence on Thursday. In 1901, Sir Henry Stedman Cotton, the chief commissioner of the erstwhile British province of Assam established Cotton College, the first college of the entire northeastern part of India. Since then, Cotton has remained a torchbearer not only in terms of higher education, but also the cultural, literary, sports, politi-

cal and intellectual arenas of the region. It was upgraded to a university in 2011 as Cotton College State University by an Assam government



act. It was renamed as Cotton University in 2017. Assam chief minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma was also an alumnus of this leading institution of the region. Sarma was the general secretary of Cotton College Union Society (CCUS) for three terms in 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1991-1992. It was during his term as GS of the CCUS in 1992, Cotton College became a Centre of Excellence as declared by then President Shankar Dayal Sharma

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স্পষ্টীকৰণ

বিগত ২৬ মে', ২০২১ তাৰিখে 'দিছপুৰ নাতীদুৰৈতে অবাধ বন ধ্বংস' আৰু ২৭ মে', ২০২১ তাৰিখে 'ডিএফআ' ভাস্কৰ ডেকাৰ পৃষ্ঠপোষকতাত পূব কামৰূপত অবাধে চলিছে বনধ্বংস' শীৰ্ষক বাতৰি দুটা অসমৰ বহুল প্ৰচাৰিত 'অসমীয়া প্ৰতিদিন' কাকতত প্ৰকাশ পোৱা মোৰ দৃষ্টিগোচৰ হৈছে। এই বাতৰিকোটাৰ ওপৰত মই স্পষ্টীকৰণ দিব বিচাৰোঁ যে উল্লেখিত বাতৰি দুটা সম্পূৰ্ণ ভিত্তিহীন, মনেসজা তথা সত্যৰ ওপৰত প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত নহয়। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত মোৰ ক'বলগীয়া এই যে বৰ্তমান মোৰ সংমণ্ডলৰ বহুকেইগৰাকী বিষয়া-কৰ্মচাৰীৰ লগতে ময়ো ক'ভিড মহামাৰী ৰোগত আক্ৰান্ত হৈ আছোঁ। এনে সময়ত অতি সীমিত সংখ্যক কৰ্মচাৰীৰে বিশাল সংমণ্ডলত দিনে-নিশাই চলি আছে নিয়মিত তহলদাৰী অভিযান। এনে প্ৰেক্ষাপটত এইধৰণৰ নেতিবাচক তথা আক্ৰোশমূলক বাতৰিয়ে নিষ্ঠাৱান বনকৰ্মীৰ মনোবল যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে হ্ৰাস কৰা পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে।

আনহাতে ২৬ মে' তাৰিখৰ বাতৰিত প্ৰকাশ পোৱা মতে ৰাণী বনাঞ্চলত গছ কটাৰ বিষয় সন্দৰ্ভত চৰজমিন তদন্তৰ সিদ্ধান্ত লোৱা হয়। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত উচ্চ পদস্থ বিষয়াৰ দ্বাৰা গোটেই এলেকাতো জৰীপ কৰাত উক্ত বনাঞ্চলত মাত্ৰ ৩ জোপা গছ কটাহে পৰিলক্ষিত হৈছে। আনহাতে স্থানীয় বিষয়ক ৰমেন্দ্ৰ নাৰায়ণ কলিতা মহোদয়ে প্ৰায়ে আমাক বনাঞ্চল সুৰক্ষাৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত গঠনমূলক পৰামৰ্শ দি থাকে। এনে ক্ষেত্ৰত তেখেতক বাতৰিটোৰ লগত জড়িত কৰাতো অতি দুৰ্ভাগ্যজনক। সমান্তৰালভাৱে ২৭ মে', ২০২১ তাৰিখে প্ৰকাশ কৰা বাতৰিটো গোকাট মিছা। মোক ব্যক্তিগতভাৱে জনসমাজত হেয়জ্ঞান কৰাৰ এক কু-অভিসন্ধি ৰচনা কৰা হৈছে। কিয়নো বাতৰিটোত মোৰ বিৰুদ্ধে উত্থাপন কৰা প্ৰতিটো অভিযোগেই কাল্পনিক। মই এজন ৰাইজৰ সেৱক হিচাপে বিভিন্ন সময়ত মোক বিভাগীয় বিভিন্ন স্তৰৰ কৰ্মচাৰীৰ লগতে সৰ্বসাধাৰণ ৰাইজে লগ কৰিবলৈ অহাটো তেনেই স্বাভাৱিক বিষয়। সেয়েহে প্ৰকাশিত বাতৰিতো ভিত্তিহীন মনেসজা তথা সত্যৰ ওপৰত প্ৰতিষ্ঠিত নহয়। এনে ধৰণৰ উদ্দেশ্য প্ৰণোদিত বাতৰি প্ৰকাশ নকৰিবলৈ সংশ্লিষ্ট কাকতগোষ্ঠীক মই কৰাৰোৰে অনুৰোধ জনালোঁ। এনে ধৰণৰ বাতৰিয়ে পাঠক সমাজক বিভ্ৰান্ত কৰাৰ লগতে মোকো ব্যক্তিগতভাৱে দুঃখিত কৰিছে।

ইতি
ভৱদীয়

ভাস্কৰ ডেকা

পূৰ-ৰামৰূপ বন সংমণ্ডল
প্ৰাধিকৰণ বিষয়া

দিনাংক ২০/০৫/২০২১

বিজ্ঞাপন

Nagaon Lions Club donates masks, sanitizers and oxymeters to Nagaon civil hospital



NAGAON, May 27: A sleuth from Nagaon Lions Club comprising of its president and secretary respectively Pralay Shaha, Ajoy Mittal, PRO Biswajit Mahanta, Hardarshan Singh and Madan Kr Shaha donated masks, hand sanitizers and oxymeters to the authority concerned of Nagaon Swahid Bhugswari Phookonani Civil Hos-

pital today. Superintendent of the hospital, Dr L. C Nath received all those COVID protection materials at his office in the hospital complex from the sleuth of Nagaon Lions Club. The club members also assured the hospital authority to supply oxygen cylinder to the patients in the time of need, a release added.

NGO Provides Food for Monkeys

Golaghat, May 27: Keeping in view of the ongoing Covid pandemic situation the government issued SOPs under which it was ordered to close holy spots and religious institutions. As such like the other parts of the country and the state the famous Negheriting Shiv Mandir of Dergaon area in Golaghat is also closed. This particular religious and holy place is famous for monkeys. Several monkey groups are found in the Negheriting Shiv Mandir area and they rely on the devotees for food. Now these monkey groups are not getting food as the Mandir is closed. So to-

day a leading organization of Golaghat Prayash Development Society has come forward to provide food to the monkeys. Prayash Development Society President Partha Pratim Rajput along with some of his associates reached Negheriting Shiv Mandir today in the morning and gave fruits, biscuits and other food items to the monkeys. Rajput told that last year during the prolonged period of nationwide Lockdown his organisation had taken this initiative and this time also doing the same. Such initiative taken by the organization is highly appreciated by all.

Six Months of Delhi Farmers Agitation : Protest by the AISF in Golaghat

Golaghat, May 27: Farmers agitating at three Delhi border points raised black flags, shouted anti-government slogans, burnt effigies and took out protest marches as they observed 'Black Day' on Wednesday to mark the completion of six months of their stir against three Central Agri Laws. On this day offering support to the agitating farmers All India Students Federation Golaghat District Unit also staged protest against the central government. The AISF protesters following all the Covid protocols staged protest by displaying placards and demanded immediate withdrawal of the three Central Agri Laws. It was stated in a press release by AISF Golaghat District Unit Secretary Jodu Bora. : Damaged Portion of River Embankment Must be Repaired Within 15 Days : Don't Wait for the Official Orders : Minister Pijush Hazarika Golaghat, May 27: Newly appointed Water Resource Minister of Assam Pijush Hazarika yesterday visited a river embankment site

under Bokakhat constituency in Golaghat. The minister visited the 23 kilometer long embankment from Agorotoli Moriahulla to Diffolu Pathar and reviewed the 555 metres damaged portion of the embankment. After reviewing the damaged portion the minister ordered the contractors to repair the damaged portion within fifteen days. He stated that the contractors should start the repair work immediately without waiting for the final official orders and they should not be worried regarding funds. The Minister also told that the repair work must be done keeping in mind of the interest of the people living riverside. For the repairing of the damaged portion of the embankment an amount of 5.5 Crores has already been sanctioned under SDRF Scheme. In this visit Minister Pijush Hazarika was accompanied by Bokakhat MLA and state Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, MP Pradan Baruah and top officials from civil and police administration.

Four More Covid Deaths in Golaghat : Toll Rises to 55

Golaghat, May 27: Today four persons lost their lives due to Covid in Golaghat. With these four deaths the death toll rises to 55 in the district. Today Chitra Das (43) from Golaghat Town, Madan Garh (55) from Methoni Tea Estate, Atul Gogoi (55) from

Kamargaon and Nur Ali (62) from Khumtai succumbed to Covid. Meanwhile 241 fresh cases of Covid positive were reported today. The total number of Active cases of Covid in the district at present is 1459. However 216 patients got discharged today.

Fake Facebook Page Defrauding People of Guwahati



Guwahati 27 May : A fake Facebook page under the name of one of city's renowned restaurants, Makhan Bhog created by some unknown people is again trying to defraud people of their hard earned money. Many people from the city have seen this fake Facebook page and the tempting advertisement broadcasted on it since it first appeared on the 8th of August last year. According to the advertisement on this fake page Makhan Bhog is running a limited time offer of providing 3 vegetarian thali for a very low price of rupees 250. Many people have already fallen prey to this scam and lost their money. The director of Makhan Bhog, Mr Sanjay Arya has clarified that Makhan Bhog is not running any such offers and that the page on which this advertisement appears is a fake

one. This page has been formed by someone whose sole motive is two defraud people and steal their hard earned money. *Makhan Bhog has already registered an FIR, bearing case number 533/2020 under section 43 and 66 of IT Act and section 420 of IPC, in this regard at the Paltan Bazar Police station on the 9th August 2020 itself. * Shri Sanjay Arya requested the citizens of Guwahati to not fall for any such scams and contact any of the Makhan Bhog branches directly for any queries or orders. After the intervention of Guwahati Police, the page was deleted last year, but has again re appeared during the recent curfew restrictions. As during this time people are preferring to order food online, it has become easy for the fraudsters to target innocent people and defraud them.

Sivasagar DC stands with Covid patients, takes personal initiative to enquire their welfare

Nazira, May 27: In this trying time of COVID 19, Sivasagar Deputy Commissioner (DC), Mr. Bishnu Kamal Bora, has decided to stand behind the patients suffering from covid19 as well as the residents of containment zones. The objective is to ensure that these people don't feel being left out at the time of needs. From extension of medical facilities to covid patients, to distribution of essential goods to residents of containment zones, the DC of Sivasagar has been taking personal initiative all throughout. Yesterday, Mr. Bora visited Modinagar Tea Estate's Covid care centre (CCC) within Nazira Subdivision and interacted with the doctors and other medical staff. He also interacted with the patients admitted at CCC and took stock of the medical facilities being extended to the patients. The quality of the food being provided to the patients too was enquired



by the Deputy commissioner. The Deputy Commissioner said: "The purpose of my visit to Nazira is to take first hand account of the situation herein. Though I am satisfied with the facilities being provided here to covid patients and residents of containment zones, still I have instructed my officers to leave no stone unturned in delivering the best." Following his visit

to the CCC, Mr. Bora then visited quarters of the tea garden workers. With the objective to create awareness among the tea garden workers the Deputy Commissioner appealed them to take the COVID virus seriously and hence; strictly follow all the COVID protocols like wearing masks and maintaining social distancing. "We all have to stand and fight this virus together.

If we aren't united then efforts of the administration will never succeed in winning this battle, against covid 19" said the Deputy Commissioner to the tea garden workers. Mr. Bora's visit yesterday to Nazira Sub-division was accompanied by the Circle Officer of Nazira Mr. Shantanu Gogoi, Election Officer Ms. Sujata Gogoi and Executive Magistrate Mr. Tonmoy Chetia.

"History will remember Indian Railways for its immense contribution to the fight against Covid. While maintaining National supply chains, it has ensured that wheels of progress keep moving at fast pace"- Shri Piyush Goyal

Maligaon, May 27: "History will remember Indian Railways for its immense contribution to the fight against Covid. While maintaining national supply chains, it has ensured that wheels of progress keep moving at fast pace" said while Shri Piyush Goyal reviewing the operational performance of Zones & Divisions with top Railway officials yesterday. Shri Goyal said that during the last 14 months Railways has demonstrated a high moral strength and ability to rise to the occasion. Shri Goyal directed the officials to go aggressively for full utilisation of record Capex allocation. Completion of infrastructure works would generate employment as well especially in challenging Covid times. The Minister said that Nation is full of gratitude for all of those Railways employees who lost their lives while serving the Nation and offered condolences. Shri Goyal observed that Indian Railways is transforming itself from just being a mode of transportation to an all a great engine for growth and that everyone is committed to the success of IR and making Railways a self sustain-

able organization. Shri Goyal said that Oxygen Expresses have served the Nation in an extraordinary manner and were game changer in the fight against Covid. He said that speed of response and quality of service has been appreciated by all. Front line staff has risen to occasion. Shri Goyal said that Railways need to further enhance manpower efficiency in operations and there was a lot of scope of improvement in workshops as far as that is

concerned. Shri Goyal directed all the officials to go aggressively for full utilisation of record Capex allocation. Completion of infrastructure works would generate employment as well especially in challenging covid times. Shri Goyal said that Covid challenges have demonstrated the resolve of Railways to fight back and emerge stronger. Mindset of Railways has transformed. It's no longer business as usual for Railways. The Minister

complimented Railway officials for showing an extra ordinary resilience and ensuring that Indian Railways achieved a DOUBLE DIGIT growth in Freight Traffic. Railways has recorded more than 10% increase in Freight loading as compared to normal year of 2019-20. In FY 2021-22, Indian Railways total loading is 203.88 Million Tonnes (MT) which is 10% more than FY 2019-20 loading figures (184.88 MT) for the same period.

<div>  <p>অসম চৰকাৰ</p> <p>কৃতজ্ঞতা</p> <p>ক'ভিড-১৯ৰ টীকাকৰণ অভিযানক জনআন্দোলনলৈ ৰূপান্তৰ কৰাৰ বাবে অসম চৰকাৰে জনোৱা আহ্বানৰ প্ৰতি সঁহাৰি জনাই মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীৰ সাহায্য পূৰ্জিলৈ আৰ্থিক বৰঙনি আগবঢ়োৱা নিম্নোক্ত ব্যক্তি / অনুষ্ঠানৰ প্ৰতি আন্তৰিক কৃতজ্ঞতা জ্ঞাপন কৰিলোঁ।</p> <p>ড° হিমন্ত বিশ্ব শৰ্মা মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰী, অসম</p> </div>			
ব্যক্তি/ অনুষ্ঠানৰ নাম	বৰঙনি	ব্যক্তি/ অনুষ্ঠানৰ নাম	বৰঙনি
বৰাক উপত্যকা বন্ধ সাহিত্য ও সংস্কৃতি সন্মেলনা, শিলচৰ	৫০,০০০ টকা	বনোজ পেগু	১,০০,০০০ টকা
বাহিনী টি প্ৰাঃ লিঃ	৫০,০০০ টকা	নিৰুপমা বৰুৱা	১,০০,০০০ টকা
কমল জালান	৫০,০০০ টকা	পল্লৱী গৌহাঁই বৰদলৈ	১০০০ টকা
মুকলীধৰ গাট্টানি	৮০০০ টকা	পানীধৰ বৰুৱা	৫০,০০০ টকা
দিলীপ কুমাৰ আগৰৱাল	৮৮০০ টকা	চাংগানেৰীয়া উলেন মিলচ (প্ৰাঃ) লিঃ	২,৫১,০০০ টকা
সীমা মালপানি	৮০০০ টকা	প্ৰীত কুমাৰ	১০০০ টকা
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জনকী দেৱী আগৰৱাল চেবিত্ৰেল ট্ৰাষ্ট	৮৮০০ টকা	আসাম টিউব লিঃ	২,৫০,০০০ টকা
জৈনক' ট্ৰেডাৰ্চ	৮৮০০ টকা	মীৰা দেৱী চাৰফ	২,৫০,০০০ টকা
আৰ এল চিৰামিক্চ	৮০০০ টকা	ৰাজ কুমাৰ চাৰফ	২,৫০,০০০ টকা
বিনোদ কুমাৰ মালপানি	৮০০০ টকা	ভুজয় সাহা	১,০০,০০০ টকা
কুম্ৰা ট্ৰেডিং কোম্পানী	৮০০০ টকা	অনাৰ্ণব হাজৰিকা	২,০০,০০০ টকা
মহাবীৰ বাইচ ফ'ৰ মিল	৮০০০ টকা	আজুনুৰ আলি	৫১,০০০ টকা
শিব শক্তি বাইচ মিল	৮০০০ টকা	বঞ্জিৎ দত্ত	১,০০,০০০ টকা
ৰক্তিক হাৰ্ডৱেৰ	৮০০০ টকা	সৌৰভ কুমাৰ দাস	১০০১ টকা
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ভীৰেশ জৈন	১১,০০০ টকা	বহীৰা বায় এণ্ড কোম্পানী	২১,০০,০০০ টকা
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উদয়ান্দিয়া গোস্বামী	১১,০০,০০০ টকা	লাজি ষ্টীল ইণ্ডাষ্ট্ৰিজ প্ৰাঃ লিঃ	৫০,০০০ টকা
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অ'বো টি কো প্ৰাঃ লিঃ	৫০,০০০ টকা	অকশি দেৱী	১০,০০০ টকা
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মুখ্যমন্ত্ৰীৰ সাহায্য পূৰ্জিৰ একাউণ্ট নম্বৰ :
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তথ্য আৰু জনসংযোগ সঞ্চালকালয়, অসমৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰচাৰিত

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George Floyd family urges Biden to pass police reform bill as it stalls in Senate



Washington, May 27: "Say his name," said seven-year-old Gianna Floyd. In bright sunshine outside the west wing of the White House, family members and lawyers raised their fists and said her father's name in chorus: "George Floyd!" They were marking exactly one year since the police murder of Floyd, an African American man, in Minneapolis shook America with months of nationwide protests against racial injustice and demands for police reform. On Tuesday the family brought that conversation to Washington. Joe Biden, whose own family has been haunted by grief, apparently demonstrated an empathy many found lacking in his predecessor, Donald Trump, during a private meeting of more than an hour. Floyd's brother, Philonise described Biden as a "genuine guy" and told reporters the family had a "great" discussion with him and Vice-President Kamala Harris. "They always speak from the heart and it's a pleasure just to be able to have the chance to meet with them when we have that opportunity to," he said. According to a pooled report, Biden, who later travelled to Wilmington, Delaware, to attend the funeral of a former staff member, reflected on the anniversary. "It takes a lot of courage to go through it," he said of the Floyd family. "And they've been wonderful." Asked about Gianna, Biden said the first thing she did was run to him and give him a hug, then ask for snacks. Gianna had Cheetos and milk, he added before joking: "My wife's going to kill me." A marine holds the door as Gianna Floyd, the daughter of George Floyd, walks into the White House. America's racial reckoning across business, culture and society has not yet been matched by legislative action. Biden had set a deadline of Tuesday for the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which contains reforms such as a ban on chokeholds, to become law. It passed the House of Representatives in

March but is faltering in the Senate where Republicans object to a provision ending qualified immunity, which shields officers from legal action by victims and families for alleged civil rights violations. The family urged quicker action. Philonise said pointedly: "If you can make federal laws to protect the bird which is the bald eagle, you can make federal law to protect people of colour." Brandon Williams, Floyd's nephew, added: "He let us know that he supports passing the bill, but he wants to make sure that it's the right bill and not a rushed bill." The family's lawyer, Ben Crump, said the group was about to meet Senators Cory Booker and Tim Scott, who are working on a bipartisan deal. "We all want just policing where George Floyd will get an opportunity to take a breath without having a knee on his neck," he said. "It has been 57 years since we've had meaningful legislation." Some observers have suggested that Biden should use his bully pulpit to push Congress harder. The anniversary came as a warning that patience could wear thin. The president, who made racial justice central to his election campaign and enjoyed strong support among African American voters, issued a statement following the meeting. "The Floyd family has shown extraordinary courage, especially his young daughter Gianna, who I met again today," he said. "The day before her father's funeral a year ago, Jill and I met the family and she told me, 'Daddy changed the world'. He has." Biden added that he appreciates "the good-faith efforts from Democrats and Republicans" to pass a meaningful bill out of the Senate. "We have to act. We face an inflection point. The battle for the soul of America has been a constant push and pull between the American ideal that we're all created equal and the harsh reality that racism has long torn us apart." Floyd died on 25 May 2020 when the then Minneapolis police

officer Derek Chauvin knelt on his neck for more than nine minutes, despite the 46-year-old repeatedly saying he could not breathe. The killing, captured on video by a bystander, triggered months of demonstrations at systemic racism and policing. Chauvin was convicted of murder and is awaiting sentencing next month. Floyd was honoured across America on Tuesday. In Minneapolis, a foundation created in his memory organised an afternoon of music and food in a park near the downtown courtroom where Chauvin stood trial. Nine minutes of silence were observed. Later, mourners were to gather for a candlelight vigil. A woman meditates on the anniversary of the police murder of George Floyd, at George Floyd Memorial Square in Minneapolis. Barack Obama, the first Black US president, issued a statement that acknowledged hundreds more Americans have died in encounters with police but also expressed hope. "Today, more people in more places are seeing the world more clearly than they did a year ago," he said. "It's a tribute to all those who decided that this time would be different - and that they, in their own ways, would help make it different." Chuck Schumer, the Democratic Senate majority leader, noted how the "stomach-churning video" of Floyd's death rippled beyond the US. "The name of George Floyd was chanted in Rome, Paris, London, Amsterdam, Berlin and Mexico City," he said. "As recently as this weekend, professional soccer players in the [English] Premier League knelt before the game in support of the global movement against racism touched off by George Floyd." This was not only a fight for justice for one man and his family, who I've had the privilege to meet with, but a fight against the discrimination that Black men and women suffer at the hands of state power, not just here in America but around the globe. "Earlier, the Floyd family had visited the Capitol to push the police reform legislation in meetings with members of Congress including House speaker Nancy Pelosi. Karen Bass, a Democrat and the lead House negotiator, renewed her commitment to compromise with Republicans. "We will get this bill on President Biden's desk," she said. "What is important is that ... it's a substantive piece of legislation, and that is far more important than a specific date. We will work until we get the job done. It will be passed in a bipartisan manner." Legislation has been pursued in all 50 states and the District of Columbia to increase accountability or oversight of police; 24 states have enacted new laws.



Inspection tour to the city of Ningbo in east China's Zhejiang Province from Monday to Tuesday

China urges New Zealand to work together and 'rise above distractions'

Beijing, May 27: China has urged New Zealand to work in "the same direction, make the pie of cooperation bigger, rise above external distractions", in response to comments made by foreign minister Nanaia Mahuta in a Guardian interview. Beijing's foreign ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, said that progress in relations could be achieved "on the premise that the two sides have long been committed to mutual respect, mutual trust and win-win results". He urged Wellington to work with China to advance a "comprehensive strategic partnership". Mahuta told the Guardian that New Zealand could find itself at the heart of a "storm" of anger from China, and exporters should diversify to ensure they could ride out a less-rosy relationship with Beijing. She pointed to the experience of neighbouring Australia, which is in a deepening trade war with China. "We cannot ignore, obviously, what's happening in Australia with their relationship with China. And if they are close to an eye of the storm or in the eye of the storm, we've got to legitimately ask ourselves - it may only be a matter of time before the storm gets closer to us," she said. "The signal I'm sending to exporters is that they need to think about diversification in this context - Covid-19, broadening relationships across our region, and the buffering aspects of if something significant happened with China. Would they be able to withstand the impact?" New Zealand is highly dependent on China for trade. China accounts for more than \$33bn of New Zealand's total trade, and 28% of exports. It is New Zealand's largest export partner by a significant margin, and a key market for many of New Zealand's key industries, including dairy, meat, forestry, tourism, and international education. As Australia's relationship with China has deteriorated, it has been hit by tariffs on many goods, as well as instructions from Beijing telling Chinese citizens to avoid travel to Australia. Observing that experience has raised concerns in New Zealand that the country would be extremely vulnerable if it provoked Beijing's ire. China's hawkish state media tabloid, the Global Times, said in an editorial the interview demonstrated increasing geopolitical pressure on New Zealand, but that the country could avoid "the storm" if

it continued its "pragmatic" dealings. "At a time when bilateral trade ties are supposed to foster stronger relations between nations, there is no denying that geopolitical struggles are bringing headwinds to China-New Zealand relationship as the New Zealand government has been criticized by its Western allies for being "soft" toward China," the editorial said. "For some time in the future, such pressure may continue to affect New Zealand, blocking it from maintaining normal ties with China." In a separate news report, the Global Times said New Zealand enjoyed a steady relationship with China "due largely to Wellington's relatively independent approach toward China from the US-led Five Eye alliance's relentless aggression and political attacks against China". Zhao responded to Mahuta's remarks at Tuesday's foreign ministry press briefing: "China and New Zealand are each other's important cooperation partners. The considerable progress in China-New Zealand relations is achieved on the premise that the two sides have long been committed to mutual respect, mutual trust and win-win results," he said. "We hope New Zealand can carry forward the spirit of 'striving to be the first' and the principle of mutual respect and equal treatment, work with China toward the same direction, make the pie of cooperation bigger, rise above external distractions, and jointly advance China-New Zealand comprehensive strategic partnership."

Cyclone Yaas: Landfall commences in Odisha, West Bengal coasts; IAF deploys choppers to airlift people

New Delhi, May 27: Landfall of Cyclone Yaas has commenced in Odisha and West Bengal coasts and the "severe cyclonic storm" lay centred about 50 km South-Southeast of Balasore, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Wednesday. The IMD has also warned of strong winds over the northwest Bay of Bengal coast. Nearly 20 lakh people have been evacuated from regions that are likely to be affected by Cyclone Yaas in Eastern India, just a week after Cyclone Tauktae claimed at least 155 lives on the west coast. Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has pressed its choppers into service and deployed its personnel to assist the NDRF in the relief and rescue operations after Cyclone Yaas makes landfall in the afternoon on Wednesday. According to reports, a C-130 and two An-32 aircraft belonging to the IAF airlifted nearly 102 passengers and 4.5 tons of cargo from Arakonnam to Kalaikunda. Another C-130 aircraft airlifted 62 passengers and 6.8 tons of cargo from Lilabari to Kolkata, the IAF said. In addition to that, 2 IAF An-32 aircraft have been deployed for airlifting 41 passengers and 4 tons of cargo from Lilabari to Panagarh. The IMD had earlier said that Cyclone Yaas is likely to make landfall by noon on Wednesday with a wind speed of about 130 to 155 kmph. The weather office added that it currently lay centred over northwest Bay of Bengal. "We are expecting 'very severe cyclonic storm' Cyclone Yaas to make landfall by noon today with wind speed of 130-140 kmph gusting 155 kmph." Umashankar Das, senior scientist at the IMD, Bhubaneswar was quoted. He added, "(As of 6:45 am) The cyclone lay centred over northwest Bay of Bengal near latitude 20.8°N and longitude 87.3°E, about 40 km east of Dhamra (Odisha), 90 km south-southwest of Digha (West Bengal) and 90 km south-southeast of Balasore (Odisha)." People in Odisha, West Bengal and Jharkhand woke up to strong winds and heavy rain on Wednesday morning and braced for the cyclone.

US joins calls for transparent, science-based investigation into Covid origins

Washington, May 27: Several countries tell the WHO annual meeting that a new inquiry with new terms of reference must be launched. World Health Organisation chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in Geneva where the annual meeting discussed the origins of Covid-19. The United States and other countries have called for a more in-depth investigation of the pandemic origins, after an international mission to China earlier this year proved inconclusive. Addressing the World Health Organization's main annual meeting of member states in Geneva, representatives from several countries stressed the continued need to solve the mystery of how Covid-19 first began spreading among humans. "We underscore the importance of a robust comprehensive and expert-led inquiry into the origins of Covid-19," US representative Jeremy Konyndyk told the meeting on Tuesday. Australia, Japan and Portugal were among other countries to call for more progress on the investigation, while the British representative urged for any probe to be "timely, expert-driven and grounded in robust science". Determining how the virus that causes Covid-19 began spreading is seen as vital to preventing future outbreaks. But a long-delayed report by the team of international experts sent to Wuhan and their Chinese counterparts drew no firm conclusions as to the origins of the pandemic.



Children's bodies wash up on Libyan beach after migrant boats sink

Angelina Jolie criticizes judge deciding custody arrangements with Brad Pitt

London, May 27: Angelina Jolie has criticized the California judge deciding on custody arrangements for her and Brad Pitt's children, saying in a court filing that the judge has refused to allow their children to testify. Jolie, who has sought to disqualify judge John Ouderkirk from the divorce case, said in a court filing on Monday that he declined to hear evidence she says is relevant to the children's safety and wellbeing before issuing a tentative ruling. The documents don't elaborate on what that evidence may be. Judge Ouderkirk denied Ms Jolie a fair trial, improperly excluding her evidence relevant to the children's health, safety, and welfare, evidence critical to making her case," according to the filing in California's second district

court of appeal. The actor also said the judge "has failed to adequately consider" a section of the California courts code, which says it is detrimental to the best interest of the child if custody is awarded to a person with a history of domestic violence. Her filing did not give details on what domestic violence it was referring to. Jolie sought a divorce in 2016, days after a disagreement broke out on a private flight ferrying the actors and their children from France to Los Angeles. Pitt was accused of being abusive toward his then-15-year-old son during the flight, but investigations by child welfare officials and the FBI were closed with no charges being filed against the actor. Jolie's attorney said at the time that she sought a divorce "for the health of the family". Her new filing says the judge has "refused to hear the minor teenagers' input as to their experiences, needs, or wishes as to their custody fate," citing a California code that says a child 14 or over should be allowed to testify if they want to. Three of Jolie and Pitt's six children are teenagers, 17-year-old Pax, 16-year-old Zahara, and 14-year-old Shiloh. The oldest, Maddox, is 19 and not subject to the custody decision. They also have 12-year-old twins, Vivienne and Knox. In response to Jolie's filing, Pitt's attorneys said: "Ouderkirk has conducted an extensive proceeding over the past six months in a thorough, fair manner and reached a



tentative ruling and order after hearing from experts and perceptive witnesses. "Pitt's filing said the judge found Jolie's testimony "lacked credibility in many important areas, and the existing custody order between the parties must be modified, per Mr Pitt's request, in the best interests of the children". It says Jolie's objections and further delays in reaching an arrangement would "work grave harm upon the children, who will be further denied permanence and stability". It's not clear what the current custody arrangement is because the court seals most files.

No.SWKG-59/Boundary Wall/2020-21/14

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Dated Kokrajhar, the 7th May 2021

The Sub-Divisional Welfare Officer, Kokrajhar invites sealed tenders in the prescribed form eventually to be drawn in PWD F-2 form/departmental form for the works given below with validity period of 90 days affixing court fee Rs.8.25 (Rupees Eight and twenty five paise) only are invited from the Registered contractor from PWD class-1 & 2/Municipal Registered Contractor/firms for the year 2020-21 as applicable having past experience of executing work of similar nature and will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00 pm on 31-05-2021 and will be opened on same day at 3.00 pm in presence of intending tenderers or their authorized agent. If the office happens to be closed on the last date of receipt of tender, the tender will be received and opened at the same place and time on the next working day of the office.

Earnest money at the rate 2% of the value of the work for general (1% for ST & SC, OBC) in the form of FD/Call deposit will have to be deposited alongwith each tender duly pledged to the Sub-Divisional Welfare Officer, Kokrajhar. Tender submitted without earnest money shall be summarily rejected.

The detailed tender papers may be obtained from the office of the undersigned by intending tenders on payment Rs.2000.00 which is non refundable. No tender papers will be issued after the due date.

Details of work, terms and conditions may be seen in the office of the SDWO during office w.e.f hours 07-05-2021 to 31-05-2021 which are included in detailed NIT documents.

Sl No.	Name of Work	Appox value	Eligible class	E/money (Rs)	Time of completion
1	Boundary Wall & Field Development at Fakiragram Samchhanghat.	19,89,100/-	Class-1 & 2	39782/- 19,891/- (ST,SC,OBC)	90 days.

Sd/-
Sub-Divisional Welfare Officer,
Kokrajhar.

IPR(BTC)-30/2021

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VI, ISSUE NO. 102 FRIDAY, MAY 28, 2021

Next Covid variant

Every time a new virus is built, errors are made when its genome is copied, just like with the whispered message. This has led to Covid-19 variants popping up all over the globe: in the UK, Brazil, the US and now India. Detecting these variants and monitoring their spread is crucial to protect people from being put at risk, and helps inform public health decisions. Which is why we so enthusiastically welcome the news of the Global Pandemic Radar, a pathogen surveillance network that will track developments in the Covid-19 virus. It will also ensure a global infrastructure is in place to better help humanity understand and protect itself from future pathogens. Molecular epidemiology is a cutting-edge area of research in which scientists examine the genomes of viruses to understand their patterns of spread. The overwhelming majority of mutations have no effect on how the virus behaves, but the trail of mutations that accumulate in viruses as they are transmitted are signatures that allow us to retrace the virus's steps. One signature might say "I am part of a local outbreak" while another could indicate an import from a specific region or country. We can't tell who infected whom from virus genomes, but we can get a peek into where a virus has been and how it is moving through the population. We can answer questions such as: "When did this variant emerge?", "How fast is it spreading?" and "Are current restrictions sufficient?" Some mutations endow the new virus with a specific advantage, making it more transmissible, or allow it to hide from the immune system. We name mutations such as this "variants of concern". The results from molecular epidemiology can be used to deploy public health resources effectively, for example by blocking variants of concern before they cause large outbreaks - and tweaking vaccines to better protect us. The scale of genetic sequencing during the Covid-19 pandemic, and the efforts to share those data, are unprecedented. Sars-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19, has rapidly become the most sequenced pathogen in all of history - a position previously held by HIV. More than 1.5 million Covid-19 patients globally have had their virus sequenced and the data shared publicly through GISAID, a database launched in 2008 following the first global outbreak of bird flu to log variants of influenza. In the same way as the second world war spurred on the development of technologies such as radar, the pandemic has led to astounding advances in how scientists generate, share and analyse virus data. In the UK, sequencing efforts are coordinated at the national level through the Covid-19 Genomics UK (Cog-UK) consortium. Cog-UK was conceptualised in March 2020, when fewer than 100 Covid-19 cases had been diagnosed in the UK. Because molecular epidemiology played such an important part in mapping the spread of Ebola in west Africa in 2013-2016, and it was clear to scientists that genomic surveillance viruses should be a keystone of the UK Covid-19 response. At least 10% of Covid-19 positive samples are collected by Cog-UK from testing sites, hospitals and care facilities. Sequencing is then conducted in hubs across the UK. This systematic approach can reveal the genetic makeup of viruses circulating around the country. When UK cases surged in November 2020, despite lockdown restrictions, we rapidly pinned down the highly transmissible Kent variant (B.1.1.7) as the cause. Some countries, such as the US and India, also initiated national Covid-19 genomic surveillance programmes. The Indian variant (B.1.617) was first identified through the Indian genomic surveillance system, Insacog, in October 2020. B.1.617 has mutations that increase transmissibility, and that may help it evade the immune system. Because of this, the WHO classified it as a variant of concern on 10 May. But it remains difficult to calculate its relative transmissibility and contribution to the current onslaught of infections in India, because sequencing has been patchy. In most countries, sequencing efforts are even less systematic, and led mainly by labs that happened to be set up for pathogen sequencing prior to the pandemic. Academic institutions and hospitals are independently sequencing samples from their local areas, usually obtained from hospitals.

BHARAT, The lighthouse of Education and civilization

Can Virus from the Chinese Lab destroy BHARAT or create a fear in the minds of Bharatiya. The answer is simply NO. Rather from day one Bharatiya started its age old tradition of hygiene that was prevalent in ancient time and so it was easy for Bharatiya to adopt such practices as it was like a tradition that was passed on from one generation to another which few still practised and few knew about it but could not practise because of westernization and other reasons. To mention a few like - bath before entering house, wear washed clothes in kitchen, keep shoes outside, practise Yoga, etc. Similar was the concept of home made "kadha", honey-Tulsi and taking other medicinal herbs. As it was in the back of mind and was known to all.

Parallely Bharat not only manufactured protective gears like PPE Kits, N95 Masks in short time but also exported to other nations. This can be best understood just by analysing data of production before COVID 19, the Chinese virus and during the pandemic caused by COVID 19, the Chinese virus. This means Bharatiya have the capacity to counter any sort of war against Mankind. And also in a short time developed its own Vaccine to protect Bharat and the world and exported without any terms and conditions. This means the discussion "We are not a manufacturing hub", "We cannot make quality production", "Our cost of production is too high", "Our human resource is not like China or Germany or USA" are just to demotivate our new generation. For Healthcare and Pharmaceutical product, quality is most important as compared to other products. We excelled in this. Secondly, it proved that our human resource is the best. Thirdly, the cost of production is also within limit. This only proves that the infrastructure and the environment for innovation & production was systematically destroyed earlier. And now a very good environment is being developed in Bharat.

BUT What is in the genes of Bharatiya? What is in the blood of Bharatiya that ignited them to Reserach, study, invent, manufacture in the time of pandemic. What is the inner strength, that made Bharatiya Business houses and Industrialist (from Big brands to MSME) to work unitedly both to protect the society and to help in improving the medical infrastructure without any business motive. And it shocked the entire world including China which can never imagine this fabric and bonding of the people of Bharat. Many of them even could not digest it or understand this.

Even students sitting at home were trying to invent to fight against this deadly Chinese virus. There are thousands of such examples and are implemented in this pandemic. And to prove it I will share one example. He is an engineering student and his mother is a doctor working day and night in hospital wearing PPE kit for hours. When he

came to know the problem faced by his mother and the people working wearing PPE kit. He after a lot of research invented a PPE kit with fan powered by Lithium battery that helps to keep the temperature low and now after being successful, he is now making such kits for number of organization.

This is because since thousands of years Bharatiya believe
Om Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah
Sarve Santu Niraamayaah |
Sarve Bhadraanni Pashyantu
Maa Kashcid-Duhkha-Bhaag-Bhavet |
Om Shaantih Shaantih Shaantih ||
Meaning:
1: Om, May All be Happy,
2: May All be Free from Illness.
3: May All See what is Auspicious,
4: May no one Suffer.
5: Om Peace, Peace, Peace.

Now Lets go back to history. To understand Bharat better. This is a too big subject. But Let's find few things that are very essential and are told from one generation to another in the form of stories and can be found in the authentic history books only but these were missing in regular books in schools. Why most things related to education system, science &

Technology, Medical Science, Astronomy, Architecture, Economics, Governance, were missing in school books earlier. That is another big story. We will not go into that.

Where is the World's first major university? It was in Taxila (Takshila) then in northwestern BHARAT, around 1000 BC (some scholars estimate). It boasted a thousand students from all over the world who studied 60 disciplines taught there. The University of Nalanda, established in the fourth century BC, was also a major center of learning in the ancient world and ancient BHARAT. The BHARATIYA astronomer and mathematician Bhaskaracharya in the 5th century BC (this is an estimated date), calculated the time taken by the earth to orbit the sun to nine decimal places, Algebra, trigonometry, and calculus were first developed in ancient Bharat.

Aryabhata (476-550 AD) gave a summary of Bharatiya mathematics that covers astronomy, spherical trigonometry, arithmetic, algebra and plane trigonometry. Aryabhata also gives a formula for finding the areas of a triangle and a circle.

His main work, the Aryabhata, contains continued fractions, quadratic equations, sums of power series and a table of sines. Aryabhata gave an accurate approximation for "pi" of up to 3.1416 and was one of the first to use algebra. His most important achievement was the invention of the "0," which enabled the development of the place number system. Aryabhata also wrote an text on astronomy, the Siddhanta, which taught that the apparent rotation of the heavens was due to the rotation of the Earth on its axis. Aryabhata gives the radius of the

planetary orbits in terms of the radius of the Earth/Sun orbit as essentially their periods of rotation around the Sun. He believed that the Moon and planets shine by reflected sunlight, and he taught, incredible though it may seem, that the orbits of the planets around the sun are ellipses. This was a thousand hundred years before Copernicus and Kepler came up with the same discovery in Europe.

He also correctly explained the causes of the eclipses of the Sun and the Moon and calculated the value for the length of the year at 365 days 6 hours 12 minutes 30 seconds. His work, written in 121 stanzas, gives a remarkably accurate view of the structure of the solar system.

Brahmagupta (598 CE) head of the astronomical observatory at Ujjain, the foremost mathematical center of ancient Bharat, developed algebraic notation and gave remarkable formulas for finding the area of a cyclic quadrilateral and for the lengths of the diagonals in terms of the sides. Brahmagupta also studied arithmetic progressions, quadratic equations, theorems on right-angled triangles, surfaces and volumes, and calculated the length of the year at 365 days 6 hours 12 minutes 36 seconds. Quadratic equations were first discovered by Sridharacharya in the 11th century.

Then Bhaskara II (1114-1185 AD) reached an understanding of the number systems that solved equations which were not solved in Europe until several centuries later. The art of navigation was invented 6,000 years ago by navigators of the Indus river. The English word "navigation" is derived from the Sanskrit word "Navgatih" and the word navy from the Sanskrit "Nau." The first known reservoirs and dams for irrigation were also built in India. Ayur-Veda, the earliest known system of medicine and surgery, was developed in the Vedic period in India. Sushrut, the father of surgery, developed surgical procedures including cesareans, cataract removals, setting fractures, removing urinary stones and even plastic and brain surgery. Over 125 surgical tools are named in the ancient Sushrut medical texts. Anesthesia was also well known. Detailed texts on anatomy, physiology, etiology, embryology, digestion, metabolism, genetics, and immunity date from Vedic times. Joseph Needham, the eminent physicist and cultural historian, comments that, "Future research on the history of science and technology in Asia will in fact reveal that the achievements of these peoples [of Bharat] contribute far more in all pre-Renaissance periods to the development of world science than has yet been realized." The first pioneer of wireless communication was Jagdeesh Bose - not Marconi as commonly taught in the West.

Vedic mathematicians are known primarily for their computational genius in arithmetic and algebra, the basis and inspiration for the whole of Indian mathematics is geometry. Evi-

dence of geometrical drawing instruments from as early as 2,500 BC. has been found in the Indus Valley. The beginnings of algebra can be traced to the constructional geometry of the Vedic priests, which are preserved in the Shulba Sutras. The calculations employ the geometrical formula known as the Pythagorean theorem. This theorem equating the square of the hypotenuse of a right angle triangle with the sum of the squares of the other two sides, was utilized in the earliest Shulba Sutra (the Baudhayana) prior to the eighth century BC. The Shulba Sutra (the Budhayana) written prior to the eighth century BC in India, used the theorem about two centuries before it was introduced by Pythagoras into Greece in the sixth century BC.

The most well known cities of the Indus valley civilization, Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, were built of kiln-fired brick and laid out on an exact north-south axis. This means that the main streets of the city ran north-south, and the entrance of the homes and public buildings faced east. The cities were also built to the west of the rivers, so that they were on land that sloped east to the river. The ancient architectural system of Sthapatya Veda prescribes detailed principles of construction of homes and cities.

They applied laws of nature that are set out in Sthapatya Vedic architecture. Since these cities were constructed as early as 6,500 to 7,000 BC, this would suggest that Sthapatya Veda may have been known as early as that. Bharat remained a lighthouse for the advance of civilization long after the classical Vedic period. Our modern zero-based number system was first developed in Bharat called "Arabic numerals" in the West, they actually originated in Bharat and were passed into Europe through Arabia, whence they derived their name in the West.

In Arabia, mathematics was called the "Indian Art," and the numerals used in Arabia were called "Bharatiya numerals." Arabic scholars knew that mathematics had come into Arabia from Bharat (India) and not vice versa. It was also in Bharat (India) that the counting numbers were first invented.

This inspired Albert Einstein to say, "We owe a lot to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made."

I believe that a subject should be included in the curriculum from primary to Master degree in all branches Arts, Science, Commerce, Engineering and Medical science to know and understand our ancient Bharatiya sahitya, science, arthaniti, Ayurveda, governance which is still applicable even after thousands of years and how strong and scientific our education system was and proud of the oldest surviving civilization of the world i.e. Bharatiya Civilization.

Pinak Vaishya
BE (Mech)

Manchester City play beautiful football but it masks the ugliness of their owners

You cannot tell the truth about beauty in England without the ugliest people in the country threatening you. The National Trust is the custodian of the beautiful best of the nation's heritage. Let it compile a historical record on how many of the stately homes of England were connected to the slave trade and Conservative MPs demand a Putinesque "panel of patriots" to purge "elitist bourgeois liberals" from cultural life. Our Orwellian culture secretary, Oliver Dowden, feeds the beasts in his base as he delivers lectures on what versions of history we must remember. Meanwhile, the trustees of museums are told to sign "loyalty pledges" backing government policies. All because researchers challenge the prejudices of the ruling party by accurately describing British history. Manchester City are the most beautiful football team in England - probably the world - and deservedly won another Premier League title last week. City have the best manager anyone can remember and from Ederson in goal to Phil Foden up front, players of sublime skill and enviable courage and self-control. When football correspondents investigate how that success is built on the money directed to the club by the petro-princeling Mansour bin Zayed al-Nahyan, all hell breaks loose. Fans don't want to hear about the connection between the beauty of the play on the field and a deputy prime minister from the United Arab Emirates, which bans political opponents, jails dissidents and enforces state-sponsored misogyny. They do

not want to know that UAE wealth comes not only from oil, tourism and financial services, but from the labour system in the Gulf states that isn't quite slavery but too close to it for comfort. Foreign nationals account for 88% of the UAE's population. Those who leave their employers without permission face punishments for "absconding" and, in the words of Human Rights Watch, are "acutely vulnerable to forced labour". Sport and culture are becoming like gangsters' molls. You can admire the beauty but must stay away from the suffering behind the spectacle. Try starting a conversation about how Manchester City could afford the biggest single-season wage bill in English football history (£351.4m in 2019-20) and an estimated £.036bn (£890m) invested in transfer indemnities to sign the squad's current players and watch as the abuse descends. One football writer pointed me to this season's Champions League semi-final between the UAE's Manchester City and Paris Saint-Germain, owned by the rulers of Qatar. He said that one day historians would go through the television and press coverage and notice how few journalists discussed the fundamental fact that plutocratic and dictatorial states were using sport to burnish their



Nick Cohen

image. I can see why people want to avert their eyes. Are Manchester City fans meant to stop supporting their team when Gulf money turns it from an also-ran into a world-beater? The journalists who report on its finances do not say that. They just do their job: presenting the truth that in England and France, regimes that combine avarice and oppression in equal measure control the best clubs. The National Trust's report on the links between its properties and slavery and colonialism was scholarly and dry. As with honest football reporters, the historians merely presented the evidence. Yet Conservatives reacted like the most fanatical City fans when their own beautiful myths were questioned. You only have to see how rarely the empire appears in popular fiction to know that imperial nostalgia

has not provoked the backlash. Instead of nostalgia, we have imperial amnesia: a desire to hide from the ugliness of the past. Accurate histories of empire puncture the Scottish sense of victimhood and the English belief in the quaintness and decency of our civilisation. According to the national myth, country homes were the backdrops for charming love affairs and eccentric dukes rather than monuments built on the broken backs of enslaved men and women. Conservatives reacted like the most fanatical City fans when their own beautiful myths were questioned. A worldly observer might say slaves built the Parthenon and that tithes the medieval church extracted from a poverty-stricken peasantry paid for the Gothic cathedrals. Just as there is a crime behind every great fortune, so there is an unjust society behind every work of beauty. Better to accept that than become a bitter, puritanical nag who cannot see others enjoying the beauties of a country estate or of football played at the highest level without wanting to ruin their pleasure. But we can afford to be worldly about the monuments of classical Athens and medieval Christendom because they are from lost civilisations. Britain's past and football's present matter because racism and the

power of plutocracy are vital and vicious forces that surround us. The response to journalists and historians who report the facts is not therefore a shrug of the shoulders, but a consuming fury. Conservatives who decry woke censorship now sound like the most intolerant of leftists, as they demand purges and authorised histories. Manchester City fans, meanwhile, have become a raging force on social media. As well as cheering on their team, they cheer on their team's owners and chant Mansour's name. In my home city, there are thousands, maybe tens of thousands, of people willing to engage in power worship at its most demeaning and to whitewash an autocratic state solely because it pays for exquisite football. "I've had the most sustained toxic abuse I've ever seen in my life when I investigated City," one football reporter told me. Fans put the home addresses of journalists on the internet, while in one instance bricks were thrown through a reporter's window. The Football Writers' Association has contacted Manchester City three times about the abuse directed at its members. The club was concerned and courteous in its replies. However, it sounds like the Tory right, and every dictatorship whether in the Gulf or not, as it fuels fans' anger with conspiratorial talk of "organised and clear" attempts to damage the club's reputation and threats to hire "the 50 best lawyers in the world" to sue the football authorities if they dare challenge Manchester City's interests. "Beauty is truth, truth

Govt assessing eco impact of second COVID wave for possible stimulus



Mumbai, May 27 : Most of the states have imposed curfews in their states to contain spiralling COVID infections and deaths. Also, the second COVID wave has dealt a blow to both consumer and investor sentiments, which also need to be lifted. Besides, MSME sector, the second highest employer after agriculture, has been impacted very much and would require financial assistance. With the world's worst outbreak of COVID pandemic stalling a nascent economic recovery, the government has begun assessing the impact of the second wave of infections on different sectors and may look at providing support at an appropriate time to segments requiring fiscal help. Some of the economic indicators, including the Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, still provide confidence and incoming data will throw some more

light on the state of the economy, sources said. The public consultation, which runs to August 31, includes a questionnaire that will gather information from participants about their experiences and priorities when doing business with India. UK launches consultation round in run-up to FTA talks. In the case of ESIC also, the net addition to the subscriber base is much lower than what the number of new subscribers indicates as workers retire or lose their jobs or the units close down. Pandemic Low: Formalisation of jobs takes a big hit. Services sectors like hospitality, tourism and aviation which had just started recovering were hit hard by the second wave of COVID, the sources said, adding these segments might need some support on an urgent basis from the government. Besides, MSME sector, the second highest em-

ployer after agriculture, has been impacted very much and would require financial assistance. The government might tweak the existing Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme to provide immediate help to the sector, the sources added. Currently, around 6.5 crore Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) contribute 30 per cent of the GDP. Recently, the RBI also announced a loan restructuring scheme for small borrowers amid the pandemic. However, the sources said that fiscal stimulus would be effective only once local lockdowns ease and restrictions on business due to curfews are lifted. Most of the states have imposed curfews in their states to contain spiralling COVID infections and deaths. Also, the second COVID wave has dealt a blow to both consumer and investor sentiments, which also need to be lifted. The sources said that Niti Aayog is working on the focus areas of economy and what could be done to stimulate demand in sectors that have been impacted the most by COVID. Once NITI Aayog suggests a plan, the finance ministry would decide on the way forward, they added. Both monetary and fiscal policies are directed towards boosting the Indian economy which is expected to grow in double digits during the current financial year despite the devastating second wave as per the revised outlook by many organisations, including the Re-

serve Bank of India (RBI), the sources pointed out. Last month, the RBI retained its growth forecast at 10.5 per cent for the current financial year while ADB projected a growth rate of 11 per cent for this fiscal. However, rating agencies have lowered growth forecasts for India saying that the second wave of infections will hamper economic recovery. They, however, projected that the negative impact on economic output will be limited to the April-June quarter. Moody's has projected growth of 9.3 per cent for current fiscal, lower than 13.7 per cent estimated earlier. S&P Global Ratings has said growth could drop to 9.8 per cent in a 'moderate' scenario of infections, and could be even as low as 8.2 per cent in a 'severe' scenario. S&P had earlier estimated growth of 11 per cent for the current fiscal. According to Fitch Ratings, India's slow pace of vaccination could mean that the country remains vulnerable to further waves of the pandemic. As per the official estimate, the country's economy is projected to contract by 8 per cent in 2020-21. India became a global hotspot for the pandemic with daily fresh cases of touching a record high of 4.12 lakh. The count of infections has crossed 2.69 crore since the virus surfaced in China more than a year ago and death toll is more than three lakhs. According to some COVID models, certain parts of the country are gradually reaching a peak in terms of COVID cases and

also a significant drop in positivity rate. In 2020, the Union government announced the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' package to perk up the economy and the overall stimulus was estimated to be worth around Rs 27.1 lakh crore, which was more than 13 per cent of the national GDP. To mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the economy, the government and the RBI also came out with a series of packages in a phased manner totalling around Rs 30 lakh crore, which is 15 per cent of the national GDP. Soon after the pandemic hit the country and a nationwide lockdown was imposed, the government, in March 2020, announced a Rs 1.70 lakh crore Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) to protect the poor and vulnerable from the impact of the pandemic. It was followed by the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan package in May 2020 largely focussed on supply-side measures and long-term reforms. To boost consumption during the festival season, the government, in October 2020, announced measures that were worth close to Rs 73,000 crore to stimulate consumer spending in an effort to rein in the slowdown due to the pandemic. Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan 3.0 unveiled in November 2020, ahead of Diwali, was worth Rs 2.65 lakh crore. Of the total amount, the maximum of Rs 1.45 lakh crore was allocated to give a boost to manufacturing activities.

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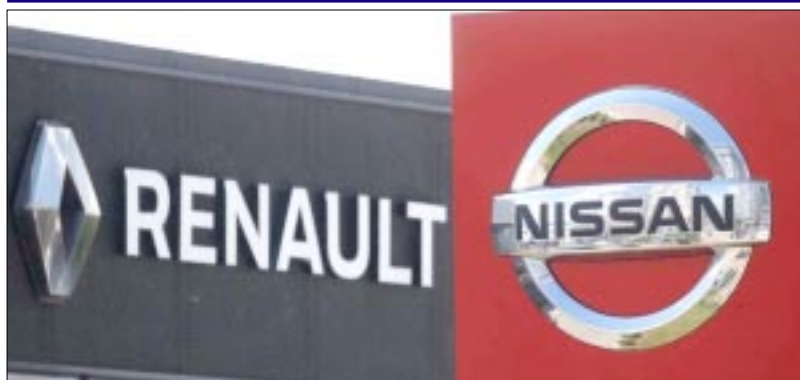
India, 2021: What could be better than enjoying your favourite bucket of KFC chicken within the comfort and security of your home? Enjoying it with the added assurance of KFC's Safety Promise. KFC India has upped its already stringent standards of safety and hygiene with increased focus on Screening, Sanitization, Social Distancing and Contactless service. * Screening - Regular temperature screening takes place for all team members, including delivery riders, before they begin their shift. Anyone with a temperature of 99 degrees is not permitted to report for work. Anyone with symptoms as cold, cough, etc. is encouraged to stay at home until they get better. Even riders - whether aggregator or KFC - are not handed over food for delivery if they don't meet temperature checks. * Sanitization - Intensified sanitization of all surfaces, including doors, door handles, counters, tables, chairs, etc. takes place every 30 minutes. Team members follow stringent hand wash protocols and wear masks at all times. * Social Distancing - KFC ensures that team members as well as customer and delivery riders maintain all norms of social distancing. KFC restaurants have sufficient messaging and floor stickers to encourage customers and delivery riders maintain a safe distance of minimum 6 ft. as they queue up for orders. * Contactless service - KFC has extended the promise of going contactless into various food channels of delivery, takeaway as well as KFC to your Car/Bike - a first for a QSR restaurant in India. This implies no contact between the delivery executive and the customer, with digital ordering and online payments as a recommended practice; thereby ensuring the safety and wellbeing of both the team members as well as of customers. Ensuring customers have easy access to their hot & fresh KFC favourites, KFC India operates Contactless Delivery & Contactless Takeaway. Place a per-paid delivery order on the KFC App, Website or mSite and get your order delivered to your doorstep, with the delivery executive placing your order by the door, stepping back a few steps and calling you up to inform that the order has been delivered. Taking utmost care to ensure the delivery is completely contactless, the delivery executive even avoids ringing the doorbell. Similarly you can opt for Contactless Takeaway - a hassle-free pick-up service in which the customer can place a prepaid order on the KFC App, Website or mSite, and walk into the restaurant to pick up the order from a dedicated counter, at a pre-decided time. Making it even more easy & accessible is KFC to your Car/Bike when the prepaid order placed on the App/Website/mSite gets delivered to your vehicle near the restaurant. That way you do not need to even step out of your car, and the food comes right to you, again delivered in a completely contactless manner by being placed on the car's bonnet. The food packaging itself is further secured with a tamper-proof seal to ensure that nobody has touched or accessed the food from the time it was packed until it is delivered. As quality is key at KFC, the food is prepared with utmost care, cooked at a high temperature of 170 degrees. So continue to enjoy hot & fresh KFC favourites while you stay safe at home, because we ensure - Great taste, Delivered safe! Visit www.online.kfc.co.in or download the KFC App and get your hands on the KFC Bucket now.

UK launches consultation round in run-up to FTA talks

Mumbai, May 27 : The consultation follows the Enhanced Trade Partnership agreed at the virtual meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson on 4 May, where they launched a '2030 Roadmap' which will provide a framework for UK-India relations. The public consultation, which runs to August 31, includes a questionnaire that will gather information from participants about their experiences and priorities when doing business with India. The UK has launched formal preparations for a free-trade agreement with India which will open new opportunities for various industries and boost bilateral trade in science and services and thereby job creation. The consultation follows the Enhanced Trade Partnership agreed at the virtual meeting between the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson on 4 May, where they launched a '2030 Roadmap' which will provide a framework for UK-India relations. Trade Secretary Liz Truss started preparations on Tuesday for a trade deal with India with the launch of a 14-week consultation to seek the views of the public and businesses, in a run-up to the formal negotiations for a UK-India FTA aiming to start in autumn. "The UK wants a deal that slashes barriers to doing business and trading with India's £2 trillion economy and market of 1.4 billion consumers. This includes removing tariffs of up to 150% on whisky and 125% on British-made cars," a statement from the British High Commission said. In the case of ESIC also, the net addition to the subscriber base is much lower than what the number of new subscribers indicates as workers retire or lose their jobs or the units close down. Pandemic Low: Formalisation of jobs takes a big hit. The RBI had in April (before the full fury of the Covid resurgence) pegged the FY22 growth rate at 10.5%. Growth pangs: Govt weighs fresh stimuli, relief package to soften Covid-19 blow. Before negotiations start, the UK and India must complete a pre-negotiation scoping phase - a period of engagement with businesses and the public. The public consultation, which runs to August 31, includes a questionnaire that will gather information from participants about their experiences and priorities when doing business with India. The UK and India are seeking to double trade between their two countries by 2030, up from about 23 billion pounds (\$33 billion) in 2019. The ETP creates opportunities for British businesses in India across industries such as food and drink and life sciences by improving market access. Non-tariff barriers on fruit and medical devices will be reduced, allowing businesses to export more of their products to India. The statement from BHC also said that the UK aims to make it easier for services firms to operate in the Indian market, boosting the UK's status as an international services hub. India's growing middle-income population and highly connected youth will be the target consumers for the type of goods and services the UK excels in. The consultation on the potential accord will focus on wide input from consumers and businesses across all sectors and will help the UK craft a deal that includes closer cooperation in future-focused industries such as science, technology and services, creating high-value jobs across the country.



India can't afford labour unrest



Mumbai, May 27 : Renault-Nissan episode shows firms must be mindful of workers' safety, but workers also must behave responsibly. It may be true the lockdown rules exempt manufacturers from shutting down their operations, but they probably need to pare operations significantly, purely on humanitarian grounds. The dispute that has arisen between factory workers and the management of Renault-Nissan Automotive in Tamil Nadu is unfortunate and ill-timed. Given how the infections are surging across the state, the management needed to have taken more steps to safeguard the health of workers. Now, the situation has taken an ugly turn with the workers' union filing a suit against the company. One can appreciate the workers' anxiety, and while the companies may have taken all precautions-making arrangements for transport and vaccinations-one can

never be too careful when the virus is spreading at this pace. It may be true the lockdown rules exempt manufacturers from shutting down their operations, but they probably need to pare operations significantly, purely on humanitarian grounds. Companies must get the facts straight. QE last year came in the form of LTROs and TLTROs that were combined with OMO purchases to ensure that liquidity was made available to the banks. What to make of RBI's QE: The govt was the winner in 2020 and is so again, in the latest round. In this instance, Renault Nissan has told the courts it needed to fulfil an export order and was running two shifts rather than three. Given the potential danger to workers' lives it should be running just one shift and while it's unfortunate, the company should be willing to take the hit on the export order. This is hardly the time to worry

about financial losses. Auto manufacturers across the country have halted production to rein in transmission; at Maruti Suzuki and Ashok Leyland, production has been scaled down and Hero Motocorp has halted production for some time across plants. Labour unrest is best avoided. As this paper reported last week, there has been a fairly big decline in strikes and lockouts over the past six to seven years, and that has resulted in better productivity. Given how India's business environment isn't an easy one-we rank 63 on the ease of doing business rankings-it's critical that management-labour relations remain cordial. In the six years until August 2020, under the NDA regime, the number of person-days lost due to labour unrest and industrial lockouts had reduced to 2.89 crore, while the UPA -II government had seen a loss of over 4 crore person-days in just three years (2011-2013). The data makes it evident the NDA dispensation has prevented labour strikes turning into industrial lockouts much more successfully than the UPA dispensation. It's not clear whether the improved climate is the result of trade unions wielding less clout with managements or within their organisations. Some union leaders do concede younger workers today are less inclined to be affiliated to one political party or another.

GST Council to review compensation estimate, cut taxes on Covid vaccines, drugs

Mumbai, May 27 : On May 1, the government had slashed IGST rate to 12% from 28% on import of oxygen concentrators for personal use till June 30. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, which will meet after a gap of two quarters on Friday, will consider demands from state governments to reduce the taxes on Covid-19 vaccines, medical oxygen and other Covid-related items. Among other issues, the Council is also expected to deliberate on a likely higher shortfall in GST compensation cess receipts in FY22 with many states demanding that the Centre borrow and transfer the amount to states to bridge the gap like it did last year. "We have already written to Government of India to exempt Covid vaccines and other Covid-related products from GST," a senior official of an Opposition-ruled state government, who did not wish to be identified, told FE.

Many opposition parties including Congress and Trinamool Congress have demanded that all Covid-related items must be exempted from GST. The public consultation, which runs to August 31, includes a questionnaire that will gather information from participants about their experiences and priorities when doing business with India. UK launches consultation round in run-up to FTA talks. In the case of ESIC also, the net addition to the subscriber base is much lower than what the number of new subscribers indicates as workers retire or lose their jobs or the units close down. Pandemic Low: Formalisation of jobs takes a big hit. Currently, GST is levied at the rate of 5% on vaccines and 12% on Covid drugs and oxygen concentrators for domestic supplies and commercial import of these items. Earlier, the Centre did not favour exempting Covid vaccines, medicines and oxygen concentrators from levy of GST tax as such



an exemption would make the life-saving items costlier for consumers as manufacturers won't be able to offset the taxes paid on inputs. "If full exemption from GST were given, the domestic producers of these items would be unable to offset taxes paid on their inputs and input services and would pass these on to the end consumers by increasing their price," finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said on May 9, in her response to West

Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee's letter on the subject to prime minister. Banerjee in her letter had sought exemption from GST/Customs duty and other duties and taxes on some items and Covid-related drugs. Reacting to Sitharaman's statement, former Kerala finance minister Thomas Isaac had tweeted that "simple solution would be to make them (covid-related items) zero rated as in the case of exports. Prices will

decline." "A deeper analysis is required to decide whether a GST exemption will actually decrease the price of vaccine or not, as counter intuitive as it may appear. Ideally, a low nominal GST rate of 0.1% could potentially lead to a lower price for vaccines," said Sandeep Jhunjhunwala, partner, Nangia Andersen LLP. On May 1, the government had slashed IGST rate to 12% from 28% on import of oxygen concentrators for personal use till June 30. The issue of compensating states for their revenue losses due to Covid-induced disruptions in economic activities will also likely to figure prominently. In a letter to Sitharaman on May 12, West Bengal finance minister Amit Mitra had written that the Centre's 'estimate' of Rs 1.56 lakh crore as GST compensation fund shortfall for FY22 will need to be revised upward again. "Due to Covid Wave-2 and lockdowns, the compensation will be much higher than what was projected earlier," Mitra wrote.

Contd. From Page 1

In Udalguri district jail

States to form high power screening committees for de-congestion of prisons," he added. Sarmah further said that under trial prisoners who are in for petty crimes must be allowed to walk out of prisons on bails and convicts with parole till the COVID-19 situation improves. Earlier, as many as 233 inmates in 16 jails of Assam had tested positive for COVID-19 during the second wave. Out of these 233 cases, 105 were detected from the Sivasagar and Dibrugarh jails. However, the rate of infection among the inmates in Assam jails is less compared to last year when the pandemic broke. Recently, the Gauhati High Court had registered a suo moto PIL in regards to vaccination of inmates lodged in different jails of Assam.

Special task force to prevent rhino

the post of DSP, KNP. The Chief Minister also advocated measures for improving living conditions of the forest protection force in the State, The Chief Minister directed to increase ration allowances of the forest force engaged in wildlife protection from the existing Rs. 840/- to Rs. 2000/-. He also asked to take up modernization of anti-poaching camps located within Kaziranga National Park to boost up morale of the staff. Underlining the need for coordinated efforts for wildlife protection, the Chief Minister directed to immediately notify the Special Task Force for KNP under the chairmanship of Special DGP including officials from Majuli district. He also asked the PCCF to make the Wildlife Health and Research Institute functional soon apart from improving relationships between local people and forest force. He also instructed to expeditiously define the elephant corridor at the national park and implement it early besides settling the issue of rehabilitation grant to be paid to the families evicted from revenue villages under Kaziranga National Park. he Chief Minister also asked the forest department to submit a proposal regarding development of highlands within the park where animals can take shelter during flood. He also asked the Director KNP to ensure supply of concentrated feed along with green fodder to the marooned animals. Further, asking the DCs to ensure complete Covid vaccination of all forest personnel engaged in frontline duty, the Chief Minister also directed the Finance and Forest department to ensure early release of ex-gratia to the families of deceased forest personnel. He also directed the veterinary department to complete vaccination of cattle before the onset of monsoon besides ensuring availability of doctors for immediate service at the Park. Earlier, Director KNPP Shivkumar gave a detailed presentation on the status of wildlife protection at the Park. DCs and SPs of the five districts also apprised the Chief Minister about the measures taken for anti-poaching and wildlife protection. Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Samir Kumar Sinha, Principal Secretary of Forest Department Avinash Joshi, Principal Secretary Home Niraj Verma, Special DGP GP Singh, PCCF and HoFF AM Singh and other senior officers were also present in the meeting.

Girl thrashed, sexually assaulted

has gone viral in Assam. Taking cognisance of the matter, the Assam police have published images of the accused seeking information on them. In the video, five men could be seen brutally beating and sexually the girl. However, the time or place of the horrific incident is not yet clear. Sharing the screenshots from the video, the state police have sought information on the suspects leading to their arrest. The police have also promised a handsome reward for anyone giving information on the accused. The Assam police have also tweeted on the issue, "These images are of 5 culprits who are seen brutally torturing & violating a young girl in a viral video. The time or place of this incident is not clear. Anyone with information regarding this crime or the criminals may please contact us. They will be rewarded handsomely." The police further tweeted saying, "We must stand together to bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice. Though it is not clear where this incident took place and it may not be from Assam, we are reaching out to proactively locate the culprits." Meanwhile, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju also tweeted on the issue saying the woman is not related to Jodhpur suicide case, a claim reportedly made by Robin Hibu, Special Commissioner of Delhi Police. The Delhi Police officer has reportedly clarified that the viral video has nothing to do with late Lovikali Sumi, a Nagaland woman, who committed suicide in Rajasthan's Jodhpur, where she worked.

Mamata Banerjee to conduct

chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday. "I will soon be undertaking an aerial survey of the affected areas in Purba Medinipur, South 24-Parganas and North 24-Parganas districts to see the damage caused by the storm," CM Mamata said. "Will hold review meeting over cyclone devastation with PM Narendra Modi during his visit to the state on May 28," she added. Following Mamata's instruction, the state administration has decided that the Bengal CM will make an aerial survey of South and North 24 parganas on Friday and East Midnapore on Saturday. Chief secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay will assist the chief minister. A communique from the chief minister's office (CMO) also confirmed that Mamata will hold administrative meetings in Hingalgaon and somewhere in East Midnapore to give necessary instructions to district administrative officials regarding the relief operation. "Last year during Amphan there were huge allegations regarding hoarding of relief materials that embarrassed the state administration. This time the chief minister will personally oversee the relief operations and ensure that the relief materials reach the affected," a senior official at the CMO said. Mamata to undertake aerial view of Hingalgaon, Sandeshkhali and Dhamakhali on May 28 Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay said that CM Mamata would first undertake an aerial view of the areas of Hingalgaon, Sandeshkhali and Dhamakhali on May 28 followed by the local administrative meeting at Hingalgaon. Officers of the line departments would also be present in the meeting. Mamata will set out from Kolkata on May 28 afternoon in a chopper. On the same day, she would be holding another administrative meeting at Sagar -- where there is already a permanent helipad -- after undertaking aerial surveys of different areas in North and South 24-Parganas and the Sunderbans. She will also undertake an aerial survey of the areas, including Digha, Contai, Ramnagar, Nandigram and Deshapran in East Midnapore before holding her third local administrative meeting in connection with Yaas at Digha. She is scheduled to return to Kolkata on May 29. 1 crore people were affected, over 3 lakh houses damaged in Bengal due to Cyclone Yaas According to initial estimates, at least one crore people were affected and three lakh houses damaged in West Bengal due to the rough weather conditions arising out of cyclone 'Yaas'. More than 134 river embankments have been damaged causing flooding to large areas along the coast of East Midnapore, South and North 24 Parganas. The flood not only damaged houses but it caused a heavy loss to agriculture. The state government has been successful in evacuating 15,04,506 people from East Midnapore and South 24 Parganas. The Chief Minister had undertaken an aerial survey of different affected areas after Amphan and held a similar meeting at Kakdwip where she prepared a detailed plan of action to extend necessary support to the people in distress after the super cyclone that hit the state on May 20 in 2020. She had also directed to ensure that no one gets deprived of relief materials, ration and benefits of various social schemes in the wake of the devastation caused by Amphan.

Pfizer Vaccine Should

crore doses to India between July and October, recently held a series of interactions with Indian government authorities. However, earlier AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria said that there is no indication that children will be severely or more affected in the third wave of COVID-19. Responding to a question on the possible impact of the third wave on children, Guleria said there is so far no evidence that there will be a severe infection in children or there will be more cases in them in the upcoming wave of COVID-19. The AIIMS Director said, "Data from the first and the second wave shows that children are usually protected from Covid and even if they get it, they have mild infection." Randeep Guleria, however, said children have suffered collateral damage during the pandemic due to the gender gap in education, stress and mental issues, smartphone dependence/addiction, and interrupted educational opportunities.

No question of Mehul Choksi's

reiterated there is no question of the diamantaire's repatriation directly to India, adding that he does not think Choksi reaching Dominica was "voluntary". "Moreover, as there is Antiguan High Court order restraining processing any request from India, my understanding is that he has to be sent back to Antigua only and there is no question of him being sent to India. There should be no speculation till one finds out from Mehul Choksi how he landed up in Dominica. My understanding is that his reaching Dominica is not voluntary," Aggarwal stated. His lawyer said that no one was paying attention to how Chokshi reached Dominica which Aggarwal said he finds "fishy". "It has to be done legally", Choksi's lawyer said. He asserted that Choksi can only be deported to Antigua where he has legal citizenship. "We are dealing with a human being. Not a pawn that can be placed here or there and it cannot be on somebody's desires and whims. Further, as per universal declaration of human rights there are international covenants on voluntary repatriation and a person can be deported to only the country of their citizenship," Aggarwal was quoted as saying by the news agency. In an exclusive interview with WION on Wednesday (May 26), Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Gaston Browne had said that Mehul Choksi could be sent back to India in the next 48 hours from Dominica where he was captured while trying to flee. PM Browne said, "Assuming no legal impediments, I believe within the next 48 hours Choksi could be perhaps in a private jet, you know, repatriated to India." Choksi is wanted in India in connection with the Rs 13,5000-crore Punjab National Bank loan fraud case.

Assam Chief Minister Praises

initiative will be "very critical in empowering our fight against COVID-19". Congratulating Dr Purkayastha on her achievement, the Chief Minister said, "I thank you for your crucial role in research and development and hope that you will continue your services to bring many more laurels to our state." The Chief Minister also said that India is blessed with a young population brimming with new ideas, innovations and opportunities. "With its rich human resources, our country is typically poised to offer much to the world. The qualitative changes that our nation has witnessed in the past few years have been really praiseworthy. Innovation will drive our future and we are working dedicatedly to make our country an innovation hub," he said. Dr Purkayastha is a native of a nondescript village Mahishashan in South Assam's Karimganj district.

Cotton College completed 120

paving the way for it to become a post-graduate college. Expressing his gratefulness to his alma mater on its 121st foundation day, Sarma wrote on Twitter, "My alma mater Cotton College -- Now Cotton University, grows 120 years young! I learnt the ABC of life & politics at this pious temple of knowledge. I shall forever remain indebted to all that I gained here. Many old memories I savor, and cherish forever. My greetings to all." On the other hand, the university has organised a virtual foundation lecture which will be delivered by professor emeritus and former director of IIT, Guwahati D. N. Buragohain on 'Self-reliant India'. The lecture will be broadcast live on official Facebook page of Cotton University from 3 p.m. Chief minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma will also address the Cotton fraternity through a recorded video message. Education minister Ranaj Pegu will attend the event as chief guest.

National webinar at NL Girls' HS School

North Lakhimpur, May 27: Under the aegis of North Lakhimpur Girls' HS School, North Lakhimpur, a national webinar titled "Pandemic Vs Examination: Education and some positive thinking on the future of students" was held today through Google Meet and Facebook Live Apps where 400 persons participated. The Principal of the school Anil Saikia delivered the inaugural speech while Swapnani Saikia explained the objective of the webinar. Associate Professor of the Department of Education, Dibrugarh University Dr. Pranjal Burhagohain took part in the webinar as the key speaker. Teacher Munni Saikia anchored the event. The Vice-Principal of the school Aniruddha Phukan has offered thanks to the organizers of the event Munni Saikia, Meghana Burhagohain, Anita Lama, Ankur Hazarika, Bedanta Hazarika, Swapnani Saikia and the teachers of the school.

New Lakhimpur MLA reviews pandemic situation in TE

North Lakhimpur, May 27: Manab Deka, the newly elected MLA of 111 no. Lakhimpur Legislative Constituency, reviewed the ongoing health scenario in Koilamari Tea Estate, the only tea estate under Lakhimpur constituency and took stock of the situation from all the stakeholders. Today, the MLA visited the Koilamari Tea Garden Hospital and the Johing Tea Garden Hospital situated in Koilamari Tea Estate and reviewed the health facilities available in both the hospitals. He also met the people coming to administer Covid vaccines in the hospitals and a patient cured of Covid in Johing Tea Garden Hospital. He assured that more vaccination exercise will be held in Koilamari Tea Estate.

Cyclone 'Yaas' likely to hit Assam, Meghalaya

Guwahati, May 26 : Cyclone 'Yaas' is likely to hit northeastern states, said IMD officials said on Monday. The cyclone may affect Assam, Meghalaya and Sikkim causing moderate to heavy rains on May 26 and 27. India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials said that the intensity of rain depends on the cyclone movements. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, tweeted: "Cyclone 'YAAS' is likely to affect the (northeastern) region on 26-27 May. Hon'ble UHM Amit Shah called and enquired about preparedness of Assam, Sikkim and Meghalaya." "Informed that emergency services have been pressed into action. Grateful, to Hon'ble UHM for his continued concern for the region," he said. IMD Director in Tripura Dilip Saha said that light to moderate rain is likely to occur in many states of the northeastern region. "In few places in the region might witness heavy rain. However, the rain and wind speed of the Cyclone 'Yaas' would depend on the strength and direction of the storm," Saha said. Eight teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) in Guwahati were airlifted to Odisha for search and rescue operations there. NDRF 1st Battalion Commandant H.P.S. Kandari said that the Odisha government had requisitioned more than 50 teams of the NDRF while West Bengal government requested 35 teams. Teams from NDRF battalions in Assam and Bihar are being airlifted to Odisha and West Bengal in addition to those from the battalions stationed in these states. The teams consisting of 200 personnel including engineers, paramedics, technical experts were airlifted from Guwahati to Bhubaneswar by Indian Air Force aircraft. These teams are equipped with flood rescue boats, collapse search and specialist rescue operation equipment.

COVID-19 Patients can recover within three days with the new Antibody Cocktail : Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy

Delhi, May 27 : Monoclonal antibodies-based treatment is seen as the latest armament in the fight against COVID-19. The drug cocktail has gained enough traction from global media ever since it got administered on ex-US President Donald Trump but is it really a wonder drug? As AIG Hospitals started giving this treatment to its patients, Dr. D Nageshwar Reddy, Chairman, through a select media briefing demystified some of the most asked questions regarding this therapy. Sharing a detailed press release on the same for your reference. Kindly try to use this in your publication.

India reports 2,08,921 new COVID-19 cases, 4,157 deaths in past 24 hours



New Delhi, May 27 : A day after recording less than two lakh COVID-19 cases, India on Wednesday once again breached the mark with 2,08,921 new cases of coronavirus infections in the past 24 hours. The country also reported 4,157 fatalities during this period, the Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry said. India reports 2,08,921 new COVID-19 cases, 2,95,955 discharges & 4,157 deaths in last 24 hrs, as per Health Ministry. Total cases: 2,71,57,795 Total discharges: 2,43,50,816 Death toll: 3,11,388 Active cases: 24,95,591 On Monday, India crossed a grim milestone of three-lakh deaths due to coronavirus infections, thus becoming the world's third country after the US and Brazil to cross three-lakh deaths. In the last 15 days, India has recorded over 60,000 deaths. India's overall tally of COVID-19 cases now stands at 27,11,57,795 with 24,95,591 active cases and 3,11,388 deaths so far. On Tuesday, India recorded 1,96,427 cases -- the lowest since April 14. According to the Union Health Ministry, a total of 2,95,955 people

have been discharged in the last 24 hours, with 2,43,50,816 being cured of COVID-19 till date. The Health Ministry said that a total of 20,06,62,456 people have been vaccinated so far in the country, including 20,39,087 who were administered vaccines in the last 24 hours. According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 33,48,11,496 samples have been tested up to May 25 for Covid-19. Of these 22,17,320 samples were tested on Tuesday. India registered record deaths due to COVID exactly a week back with 4,529 deaths -- the highest number of fatalities from COVID infection in any country since the coronavirus outbreak was reported in China's Wuhan in December 2019. It surpassed 4,468 deaths in the US on January 12, and earlier 4,211 in Brazil on April 6. These three countries are the worst hit by the COVID pandemic. After battling a brutal second wave for weeks, fresh COVID-19 cases came down below the three lakh mark for the first time on May 17 after touching a record high of 4,14,188 on May 7.

AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria Lists Three Key Factors To Prevent 'Black Fungus'

New Delhi, May 27 : All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS) director Randeep Guleria on Friday listed three factors important in the prevention of 'black fungus' or mucormycosis outbreak. "Earlier, mucormycosis was commonly spotted in people suffering from diabetes mellitus, a condition where one's blood sugar (glucose) levels are abnormally high. Cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, those who have had a transplant, and people taking immunosuppressants (medications that weaken the immune system) also used to get it. But now due to Covid-19 and its treatment, an increase in the number of cases is being witnessed," AIIMS director Randeep Guleria said. Also Read - White Fungus Is Just a 'Myth', Black Fungus More Dangerous, Say Doctors. "Uncontrolled diabetes with Covid can also predispose to the development of mucormycosis," further reported him as saying. Randeep Guleria also said that the mucormycosis was also seen to some extent during the SARS outbreak in 2002. Also Read - Black Fungus Declared Epidemic in UP. Mucormycosis Signs You Should Watch Out For Guleria also acknowledged that steroid use has become much more prevalent during the ongoing second wave of Covid-19. "Those given high doses of steroids when not indicated can lead to high blood sugar levels and a high chance of mucormycosis," he said. Guleria called for judicious use of steroids. Judicious Steroid Use, Good Control Over Diabetes Key To Prevent Black Fungus: Dr Naresh Trehan With the rising number of mucormycosis or "black fungus" cases seen among Covid-19 patients, Chairperson, Medanta Hospital, Dr Naresh Trehan on Friday emphasised that the key to control the "opportunistic fungus" is judicious use of steroids and good control of diabetes. "The first symptoms of Covid-19-associated Mucormycosis are pain/stiffness in the nose, inflammation on cheek, fungus patch inside the mouth, swelling in the eyelid etc. It requires aggressive medical treatment," Dr Trehan told. "The key to controlling the black fungus is the judicious use of steroids and good control of diabetes," Trehan said. The Modi government on Thursday requested all the states and Union territories to declare Mucormycosis, also known as black fungus, as an epidemic. In its letter to all states and Union Territories, the Union Health Ministry has asked them to make it mandatory for all government and private health facilities to report all suspected and confirmed cases to the health department and subsequently to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) surveillance system. "The treatment of this fungal infection requires multidisciplinary approach consisting of Eye Surgeons, ENT specialists, General Surgeon, Neurosurgeon, Dental Maxillofacial surgeon etc. and institution of Amphotericin B as an antifungal medicine. You are requested to make mucormycosis a notifiable disease under Epidemic Diseases Act 1897," the letter read. Mucormycosis or black fungus is caused by a group of moulds known as mucormycetes, which is present in the environment. It spreads through the nose and affects other parts of the body such as the eyes. Diabetics are said to be more vulnerable to infection.

COVID-19: Centre asks social media firms to take down content referring to 'Indian variant'

New Delhi, May 27 : The central government has directed all social media companies to delete any content from their platform that names or refers to the term 'Indian variant' of coronavirus, as per a report. The IT Ministry has written to all social media platforms stating that the World Health Organization (WHO) has not associated the term 'Indian Variant' with the B.1.617 variant of the coronavirus in any of its reports. Further, the ministry asked these platforms to take down any such content containing the term 'Indian variant' in order to curb misinformation around COVID-19. "This is completely FALSE. There is no such variant of Covid-19 scientifically cited as such by the World Health Organisation (WHO). WHO has not associated the term 'Indian Variant' with the B.1.617 variant of the coronavirus in any of its reports," Reuters quoted the IT Ministry's letter as saying. The Narendra Modi-led Centre has been criticized by the opposition for its handling of the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic which has ravaged the country. Meanwhile, India recorded over 2.59 lakh new COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, pushing the caseload to 2,60,31,991. While 4,209 people lost their lives which took the death toll to 2,91,331, as per Union Health ministry data on Friday.

Foakes' dressing-room slip lets Billings and Hameed into England Test squad

London, May 27: Haseeb Hameed and the uncapped Sam Billings have been called up to England's Test squad for the upcoming series against New Zealand after Ben Foakes tore his hamstring when slipping on the dressing room floor at the Oval in socks.Foakes was due to keep wicket in the absence of the rested Jos Buttler but the freak injury suffered following Surrey's draw at home to Middlesex means Gloucestershire's James Bracey will make his Test debut behind the stumps at Lord's next week.Usually a No 3 batsman who also keeps wicket for his county, Bracey, 24, was already in the squad as cover for Foakes and the top order. Head coach Chris Silverwood, now in charge of selection after the organisational reshuffle that removed Ed Smith, has responded by bolstering both areas, including a return for Hameed after nearly five years in the international wilderness.Back in late 2016, Hameed delivered an eye-catching debut series against India. Aged just 19, the opener appeared destined for a long England career when compiling two half-centuries and batting with unflustered poise, only for a broken hand sustained in Mohali to end his tour after three Tests.A slump in form then followed back at Lancashire the following

season, dashing hopes of an immediate recall. However, having moved to Nottinghamshire after the 2019 season, the right-hander has started the current campaign in encouraging fashion with 474 runs

being drafted in as an understudy for Bracey and a middle order that is already missing Ben Stokes is intriguing. Kent's captain is a regular member of the white-ball set-up but has not kept wicket in



at an average of 52.66 and twin centuries against Worcestershire. Hameed will initially serve as injury cover for an expected top three of Dom Sibley, Rory Burns and Zak Crawley. And while the England squad meets up in London on Friday ahead of their first training session, Hameed has been cleared to join late following the four-day Championship match away to Warwickshire that starts on Thursday.Haseeb Hameed in action for Nottinghamshire against Worcestershire last week.Billings

first-class cricket since a Lions game in early 2019, while his previous county match doing so came the summer before.The 29-year-old has also been preferred to Jonny Bairstow, despite both being among the England contingent who recently underwent 10 days of quarantine following the suspension of the Indian Premier League. Unlike Bairstow and Buttler, and all-rounders Sam Curran and Chris Woakes, Billings made an immediate return for Kent last

week.Bracey's expected debut appears to set out the pecking order behind the stumps, even if the left-hander recently told BBC Sport his preferred spot would be as an opener. He came within moments of making his debut during the winter, when Burns suffered a back spasm before the second Test in India only to make a late recovery.The accident that led to this reshuffle is a cruel blow for Foakes, who was set to make his home Test debut after eight caps won on the road. The 28-year-old faces three months out and a battle to make the Ashes tour next winter should Bracey impress.Foakes's misfortune in the Surrey dressing room is the third time this year that an England player has suffered a bizarre accident. Jofra Archer was left with glass in his finger when dropping a fish tank in his bath in January, while Crawley missed two Tests in India after slipping on a marble floor in his spikes and spraining his wrist.Archer is currently starting an "intensive rehabilitation period" following surgery on his longstanding elbow problem last Friday. The fast bowler is targeting a return against India later this summer but a more accurate prognosis is due when his consultant reviews the injury in a month's time.

Japan forward Mana Iwabuchi after she left Aston Villa

London, May 27: Arsenal and Lyon are in talks over a deal that could see the England forward Nikita Parris return to the Women's Super League and take Vivianne Miedema in the other direction.Arsenal, who on Wednesday signed the Japan forward Mana Iwabuchi after she left Aston Villa, would be loth to lose Miedema as a free agent next summer and there is interest in her from Lyon. Arsenal would like to buy Parris and will pursue a deal even if a swap cannot be agreed.Parris left Manchester City for Lyon in June 2019 as the WSL's record scorer with 49 goals, a tally surpassed this season by Miedema and City's Ellen White. During five years in Manchester she won the Women's Super League, two FA Cups and two Continental League Cups.At Lyon Parris has benefited from the long-term absence of the Norway forward Ada Hegerberg, who suffered an ACL injury in January 2020. Parris scored eight goals in 15 appearances in her first season, winning the league (which was curtailed by the pandemic), French cup and Champions League. She has 11 goals in 19 games this term but Lyon sit second with two games to play. They are one point behind Paris Saint-Germain, who knocked them out of the Champions League in the quarter-finals and whom they host on Sunday.Miedema, the record goalscorer in the WSL and for the Netherlands, has 60 goals in 67 WSL games since she joined Arsenal from Bayern Munich in 2017. She missed out on the golden boot this year to Chelsea's Sam Kerr but won it in the two preceding seasons.Arsenal finished the 2020-21 season empty-handed but beat Manchester United to the final Champions League spot by one point. They are searching for a manager to replace Joe Montemurro and have confirmed the departures of the forward Jill Roord to Wolfsburg and the right-back Leonie Maier at the end of her contract. Iwabuchi, a long-term target for the club, joined Aston Villa in January and played at Bayern Munich with Miedema and Lisa Evans, who is also at Arsenal.

New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft has denied allegations

London, May 27: New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft has denied allegations he and Donald Trump attempted to pay a senator money in order to drop an investigation into a cheating scandal involving the team.According to a report published on Wednesday by



ESPN, Trump met with late senator Arlen Specter in 2008 and offered him "money in Palm Beach" if he dropped his investigation into the Spygate scandal, in which the Patriots were disciplined by the NFL for filming a rival team's coaching signals. Trump had not started his political career at the time and was well-known as the star of reality show The Apprentice. ESPN says Trump was acting on behalf of Kraft, a claim those close to the former president and the team deny."This [report] is completely false," Jason Miller, a senior adviser to Trump, told ESPN when asked about the story. "We have no idea what you're talking about."A spokesman for the Patriots also denied the allegations to ESPN. "Mr Kraft is not aware of any involvement of Trump on this topic and he did not have any other engagement with Specter or his staff," the spokesman said via email.Specter was senator for Pennsylvania at the time and ran as a Democrat and Republican during his political career. He was also a personal friend of Trump.

Verge of giving up his dream six years ago

London, May 27: Édouard Mendy was on the verge of giving up his dream six years ago. After 12 months without a club, he was close to falling through the cracks. His career was at a dead end, he had moved back into his parents' flat in the Le Havre suburb of Caucriauville and he had no idea how he was going to support his partner, who was pregnant with their first child.Nothing had gone right for Mendy after Cherbourg, a third-tier team in France,



released him in the summer of 2014. The agent who was supposed to find him a new opportunity stopped taking his messages until it was too late to arrange a transfer and it was not long before the goalkeeper found himself training alone and fretting about how a 23-year-old free agent could possibly provide for a young family.It was a horrible period for Mendy, who was forced to take unemployment benefit, and in 2015 he was close to accepting a job in a menswear shop offered by a friend. Nothing matters more than family to Mendy, who has five siblings. He could not have imagined that one day he would be about to start for Chelsea in a Champions League final against Manchester City.Fate intervened. Ted Lavie, a former Cherbourg teammate, was desperate to help and he got in touch with an old friend, Dominique Bernatowicz, who was Marseille's goalkeeping coach. "It was good timing," Bernatowicz says. "We were looking for someone to serve as third- or fourth-choice keeper. Ted Lavie vouched for Édouard. He said: 'You've got to give him a trial.' I asked the club and I called Édouard. He was over the moon." Bernatowicz soon saw that Mendy, who began at Le Havre's academy, was blessed with talent, resilience and an insatiable desire to improve. "From the first training session I could see he was a cut above," he says. "The next step was to throw him in with the professionals. They couldn't understand why he didn't have a club."He was very eager to listen. The biggest decision I had was whether to sign him up for a year because Marseille is a very complicated club. If I had been wrong about Édouard, I would have been fired. But he was a sure thing."Marseille listened. A modest contract offered Mendy a semblance of security and he knuckled down. "If training was at 8am, he'd be there," Bernatowicz says.Mendy developed a strong relationship with Bernatowicz, who introduced him to an

agent who could find him a Ligue 2 club. He joined Reims in 2016 and his chance arrived when the No 1 goalkeeper, Johann Carrasso, was sent off against Amiens on the opening day. Mendy impressed and became a regular the following campaign, helping Reims win promotion in 2018 by keeping 19 clean sheets.People started to pay attention to Mendy, who was born to a Senegalese mother and a Bissau-Guinean father. In 2018 Senegal jumped at

the chance to select him after realising he had not played in an official Fifa game when he made his debut for Guinea-Bissau in 2016. Mendy established himself as Senegal's No 1 and he attracted interest from Porto and Christophe Lollichon, Chelsea's goalkeeping coach.Yet it was too soon to move abroad. Mendy joined Rennes in the summer of 2019 and played an important role in their qualifying for the Champions League last season. "His dedication made him unbelievable," Olivier Sorin, Rennes' goalkeeping coach, says. "Édou has a strong personality, but in a good way. He is very strict with himself and other players. He stayed only one year in Rennes but we felt like he had been here for 10 years."By the summer of 2020, Chelsea were ready to firm up their interest. They needed someone to challenge the struggling Kepa Arrizabalaga and decided to move for Mendy on the recommendation of Petr Cech, their technical and performance adviser.It was worth listening to Cech, who became one of the world's best goalkeepers after joining Chelsea from Rennes in 2004. Mendy quickly dislodged Arrizabalaga after joining for £22m and has impressed."He's very big but is very comfortable with his feet," Bernatowicz says. "He has very long arms and is very good in the air. One thing about him was that he tended to catch crosses when on the way down. All goalkeepers do that. They want to wait for the ball to come to them. They think that gives them an advantage."I made a special effort to work on his right foot so that he would be as good jumping off that as he was off the left and then encourage him to go claim crosses while on the up rather than on the way down. Another thing was to help him get down to shots even faster. He made progress very quickly."Bernatowicz was delighted when Mendy saved Sergio Agüero's penalty during Chelsea's victory over City this month.

Kyrie Irving wary of 'subtle racism' before return to Boston

London, May 27: Kyrie Irving has said he is cautious of "subtle racism" as he prepares to return to Boston to face his former team, the Celtics, with the Brooklyn Nets.The upcoming playoff game will be Irving's first time playing in front of fans in Boston since leaving as a free agent in 2019 following two seasons with the Celtics. Asked what he expected, he noted that it's not his first time playing in Boston as an opponent."So I'm just looking forward to competing



with my teammates and hopefully we can just keep it strictly basketball, there's no belligerence or any racism going on, subtle racism and people yelling shit from the crowd," Irving said. "But even if it is, it's part of the nature of the game and we're just going to focus on what we can control."Asked if he had experienced that before, Irving said: "I'm not the only one that could attest to this, but it is what it is."That was presumably a reference to the feeling among many black athletes that racist abuse from fans is particularly virulent in Boston. In 2017, Red Sox president Sam Kennedy apologized after Boston fans taunted Orioles center fielder Adam Jones with racist slurs. New York Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia later said that black major leaguers expected racial taunts in road games in Boston. "We know," Sabathia said. "There's 62 of us. We all know. When you go to Boston, expect it."During Tuesday's press conference, Irving said "it is what it is" in reference to abuse in Boston. When someone in the background said "the whole

world knows it", Irving repeated "the whole world knows it".The Nets lead the best-of-seven playoff series against the Celtics 2-0 after Joe Harris tied a franchise playoff record with seven three-pointers as Brooklyn routed Boston 130-108 on Tuesday night.Elsewhere in Tuesday's playoff games, Luka Donic blew past Los Angeles defenders for 39 points, seven assists and seven rebounds, leading the visiting Mavericks to a 127-121 victory over the Clippers and a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference first-round playoff series.Meanwhile, Anthony Davis amassed 34 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists as Los Angeles held off host Phoenix to even the first-round Western Conference playoff series at one game each.LeBron James contributed 23 points and nine assists for the Lakers, who turned back a late Suns rally to rebound from a 99-90 defeat in Game 1. Devin Booker scored 31 points for the Suns, and Deandre Ayton had 22 points and 10 rebounds. Both players made their playoff debut in Game 1.

David Foot obituary

London, May 27: For generations, the path to journalistic success in Britain has run almost inevitably through London. David Foot, who has died aged 92, broke the rule and achieved a high reputation as an outstanding writer, for the Guardian above all, without ever deserting his Bristol base and not often leaving his beloved West Country. Among his cricket-writing colleagues in particular, he had a unique reputation that combined respect for his elegant writing and remarkable affection for his gentle good nature. No one was a more welcome sight at the door of a county press box. A Footy day meant shared wisdom, zero malice and his delicious chuckle.His work on the Guardian spanned four decades, from 1971 to 2011, on cricket predominantly, with a leavening of football and theatre reviews. Mostly he did the small occasions, but he feasted on the rumbustious days of Somerset cricket with Ian Botham and Viv Richards in the 1970s and 80s.He was also at Edgbaston in 1994 to watch the great West Indian Brian Lara become the first batsman to pass 500 in a first-class innings, which he reported with his customary skill and empathy. "By his shimmering standards, he scratched at the start, shivering in Friday's cold, looking weary, as if suddenly confronted by the reality of county cricket's unrelenting pragmatism." Foot was a freelance - "a jobbing writer," as he put it - throughout those decades, so he understood pragmatism.There was no silver spoon. David was born, to Frank and Margaret Foot, in a thatched cottage in the poetic Somerset village of East Coker. His father was an estate worker at Coker Court, and young David once fell out of a tree in the grounds into the path of a startled Queen Mary. He played village cricket (taking seven for six against Evershot) and went to Yeovil grammar school but left after school certificate to join the Western Gazette, the Yeovil weekly. He lasted seven years, two of them spent in the RAF, then headed for the comparatively bright lights of the Bristol Evening World.The World was regarded as the sparkier of the city's two evening papers (its youngsters included Tom Stoppard and Frank Keating) yet when the two contracted into one in 1962, it was the World that folded. Foot could have gone to Fleet Street all right, but, with a wife and two small children, chose to stay at home and ploughed his own journalistic furrow.Quick, versatile and amenable, he found plenty of work, not necessarily well paid. With his pleasant voice, he worked regularly on regional and local radio, reading the morning news, which he did perfectly except (a lifelong problem)

up in the lift, and Noël Coward and Frankie Howerd, both of whom let their hands wander hopefully towards his inside leg. Foot always inspired confidence in his interviewees; it was not normally quite so misplaced.Above all, he was a natural Guardian man, and regarded the paper with the exasperated love that traditionally afflicts its longest-serving writers. In his case it was largely requited, particularly by two sports editors, John Samuel and Mike Averis. He never moaned and he never let them down.Foot also wrote around 30 books, some of them pragmatic, but as he grew older and worried less about making ends meet, he was able to devote time to subjects that beckoned him. This well-balanced man was particularly fascinated by tortured souls and focused on two of them: the Somerset batsman Harold Gimblett, before he took his own life, had left Foot tapes recording his innermost thoughts, enabling him to write a biography, published in 1982, subtitled Tormented Genius of Cricket, a groundbreaking study of sporting anxiety.Later came Wally Hammond: The Reasons Why (1996), an honest appraisal of another complex West Country man, making good the failings of earlier biographies that glossed over the messy bits. He published two other books of long-form profiles of his sporting heroes, many of them troubled. "He was the master of the long essay that really captured a cricketer," said his good friend the cricket writer Scyld Berry.In 2004 Foot was awarded the Peter Smith award by the Cricket Writers' Club "for services to the presentation of cricket to the public", recognition more often reserved for the likes of Lara and Steve Waugh, and never otherwise to a county cricket writer. In 2009 a large crowd of the club's members descended on Bristol to give him a surprise 80th party, one story he failed to sniff. A year later came his last book, Footsteps from East Coker.Thereafter he began to suffer from vascular dementia, which left him intermittently lucid though inclined to wander off mentally. He retained his trademark self-deprecation: "I still love words," he told Berry, "but I can't remember them any more."Foot was sustained by a strong family life. He married Anne Stacey in 1955. She was an adult education teacher who later became chair of the Bristol magistrates. Their home was almost alarmingly hospitable: pop in for morning coffee and it was impossible to leave without a marvellous lunch.Anne survives him, along with their children, Mark and Julia, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.



Liz Cambage and the perverse need to cut powerful women down to size

London, May 27 : Think, first, of a person you dislike - or even despise, if you're the despising type. Now think of the cruelest thing you could say to that person, the sen-

value lies in more than our appearance, we still default to a dress size or a number on a scale. We can be brilliant, successful, in the happiest relationship. But we will be



tence or two you know would cut to their marrow, take them out at the knees, squeeze the air from their lungs. If you're thinking of a woman, there's a good chance you're crafting an insult about her weight, imagining the look on her face when you ask her if she's put on a few pounds during quarantine or mention the flab on the back of her arms. That's a guaranteed gut-punch, because for many women, no matter how often we're told our

felled by a mention of fat. And that is why Curt Miller deserved every cent of his \$10,000 fine, every second of his one-game suspension, for telling an official on Sunday that opposing center Liz Cambage weighed 300lbs. Now, I'm not saying the Connecticut Sun coach went through any protracted calculus as he argued a call with refs and mocked Cambage's size to prove his point. But he had to have known what he said was a low blow, lower

still because he is a man, and Cambage, of course, is a woman. She's a 6ft 8in, 235lbs woman who also happens to model, who holds the WNBA single-game scoring record and is a three-time All-Star. She's an example to little girls across the world, little girls who might feel too small or too large or if they're lucky, just right, but who will internalize that comment, all 300lbs of insult. There's a bigger problem at play here, too: the problem of how we talk about athletes without even a shred of humanity. An analyst calls a draft prospect a freak of nature instead of laying out the skills that make him one-of-a-kind. A manager tells the media that his best hitter, a 28-year-old adult, deserves to be spanked for swinging at a pitch he should have taken. A fan bellows at a struggling receiver (a struggling point guard, a struggling catcher, a struggling striker, a struggling defenseman) that he's a bum, a good-for-nothing piece of trash who doesn't deserve a job. It's as if we forget these are people, too, who are trying their hardest and operating with limitations, who might flinch at our ill will. We channel our frustrations into these games, and they mutate into tribalism and pettiness and a total disregard for the athlete on the other side of the insult. But what Miller said about Cambage takes the everyday callousness of sports one step further. It wasn't trash talk. Not even close. It had sharper barbs, more insidious implications. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, rates of eating

disorders in women are twice that of men. For men, size often equates to power. But for women, it's usually portrayed as a stain on our character. We are better if we are smaller. When I was 12, I barely ate for several months to try to deflate a set of chubby cheeks and look more like the faces smiling from magazine covers at the grocery store. So I can't help but think of all the 12-year-olds watching today, who see Liz Cambage and hear Curt Miller and wonder what they should believe. And then, of course, there's the power dynamic: coach to player, man to woman. Miller's job is to lead, and instead, he chose to tear down. He chose to add to the worst conversation in women's sports, where style often trumps substance. Appearances hold unreasonable value, and women are sexualized, ranked for their hotness, sexiness, choice of outfit. If you're not conventionally hot, not conventionally sexy, not unconventionally petite, well, good luck. Good luck getting endorsement deals. Good luck keeping an opposing coach from cutting you down from the sideline. A few hours after Miller said what he said, Cambage posted a video to Instagram. She called the coach "little" and said she'd just weighed herself, that she was proud of the number on the scale. She got the last word - except I hope it's not that. I hope this ordeal can help shift the conversation in women's sports away from appearances and stereotypes and the perverse need to cut powerful women down to size.

Manchester United playing for a trophy that could start an era of success

cmk

Manchester, May 27 : Ole Gunnar Solskjær has urged Manchester United to win the Europa League final to honour Sir Matt Busby and encouraged his team to enjoy the "pleasure of the pressure" of playing for a trophy that could start an era of success. Busby is considered

it's something positive you think it will work in your favour," the manager said. "I think it will be a good omen for us but the players need to do their job. Maybe we can honour Sir Matt's birthday with another win." My wife's birthday is on the 26th, we got married on the



one of United's two great managers alongside Sir Alex Ferguson, having led the club to its first European Cup in 1968. Wednesday's final falls on Busby's birthday, which is also the date when United won the 1999 Champions League final against Bayern Munich in which Solskjær scored the late winner. The Norwegian was asked whether he is superstitious. "When

26th, so I have to believe in destiny, or skjebne [in Norwegian]. It's a special number for us, for my family as well. I'm not very superstitious but it looks like a good sign." United can claim a sixth major European trophy by beating Unai Emery's side and after four barren years Solskjær believes victory could ignite a period of success. Sir Matt Busby with Alex

Ferguson and the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1991 after Manchester United beat Barcelona 2-1 in Rotterdam. "We have five [final] wins in Europe, we have lost twice to Barcelona [in the 2009 and 2011 Champions League finals]," he said. "These are big nights for us. It might be the stepping stone for something better to come, a bright future, because this team is a young team and it is a team we have rebuilt over the last couple of years so hopefully this is the start of something more." Ferguson, who oversaw so many triumphant United nights, is with the team in Poland. "We know Sir Alex is with us, we know the 26th of May is Sir Matt's birthday, but the players when they sign for Man United they do so to win trophies, they accept the challenge of being the best because this is the best club in the world so that is the pressure of Man United," Solskjær said. "That is something they are ready for because they wouldn't have signed here if they weren't top players." Solskjær shrugged off the notion that United start as favourites. "Every player who goes into a final has the expectation and pressure to win," he said.

"We prepare to win, we plan to win, we expect to win. That is the pleasure of the pressure of Manchester United." I'm sure Unai feels the same with his team and his players. It's been a long qualification to get there and it's 50-50 when you get to a final. I'm confident, we're ready for this. But in a final anything can happen. You can concede a goal in the first minute, injury, get sent off." Solskjær scored the 1999 winner as a late substitute and he will have a message for those who do not start here. "They can be disappointed and angry with me but be ready when you come on," he said. Of Ferguson's presence Solskjær said: "Just to have him around when we eat in the restaurant, I'm sure the players if they wonder about something they can ask him and he's always available for a chat because this is the club in his heart. I hope he enjoys it as well because I owe most of my career to him and this club, so hopefully he will enjoy the night." Harry Maguire took no part in the final training session after Solskjær had said the centre-back, who is recovering from strained knee ligaments, would "probably try to join in".

Footballers winning their league's Golden Boot and suffering relegation

London, May 27 : "Giorgos Giakoumakis has finished as the Eredivisie's top scorer (by some margin) yet his team, VVV-Venlo, have been relegated," writes Willem Cleven. "Has any Golden Boot winner suffered such an ignominious fate before?" They certainly have, Willem. Let's start down on the south coast of England. "Southampton's Mick Channon managed that feat," writes Andy Grace. "The famous windmill celebration was seen 21 times in 1973-74 and he topped the Division One scoring charts, despite the club getting relegated that same season." Dirk Maas points out that just a couple of years later, in the 1975-76 La Liga season, Enrique Castro González (better known as 'Quini') suffered the same fate at Sporting Gijón. He stuck around to fire them straight back up to La Liga the next season, though, when they even qualified for the Uefa Cup. Dirk also found that Thomas Dalggaard went down with Viborg FF in the 2013-14 Danish Super Liga while scoring 18 goals in 33 games. It's happened in Italy, too. "Igor Protti was the only Serie A player to have suffered this fate," offers Jörg Michner. "In 1995-96 he scored 24 goals and became capocannoniere alongside Lazio legend Giuseppe Signori, but his Bari side got relegated anyway. Funnily enough, Protti's goalscoring prowess earned him a move to Lazio at the end of the season. He flopped there badly, however, and was released from his contract two years later. Incidentally, along with Dario Hübner, Protti is also the only player who was top scorer

wins recently but between a 2-1 league win in March 1912 and a 1-0 league win in March 1985, Spurs' record at Anfield was an impressive P48, W0 D15 L33." Stu Banks points out that what was made of Everton's awful away form at Anfield but their league form away at Chelsea is even worse. "The last time Everton won a league game at Stamford Bridge (1994), I hadn't even done my GCSE mock exams ... I'm 43 this year. Their away form at Arsenal, until this season, was almost as bad - no win since 1996. Their league record away at Old Trafford is utterly miserable: a win in August 1992, and only one since then (2013). I'm sure I'm not the only Evertonian who manages to be busy when certain away games are on TV." "I can beat the previous examples of bogey away-team results," begins Jon Smith. "As a Coventry City fan we had a ridiculous run of away misery against our most-hated rivals Aston Villa. Coventry first played at Villa Park in 1936 and it took 62 years until we recorded our first win there at the 27th attempt in 1998. Sadly we haven't played each other for 20 years so haven't been able to keep up this excellent form! Details of the wretched run." "As an Arsenal fan, I was relieved when Eddie Nketiah scored a very late 97th-minute equaliser at home to Fulham," cheers Simon Harding. "I remember the Guardian MBM including a comment that Fulham had never won at Arsenal. It turns out that Fulham's record there is P30 W0 D6 L24 across league and FA Cup going back to 1903-04." Ouch. And Alex



in Serie A, Serie B and Serie C. "This past weekend, Dinamo Vranje did exactly that in the Serbian second tier in a game against Radnicki SM," reports Richard Wilson. "Dinamo Vranje have long been an extremely controversial club in the nation and manager Dragan Antic was recently banned from football for 12 months after a long string of disciplinary issues that culminated with him being escorted from a ground by police after refusing to accept being sent off." When Radnicki SM equalised on the hour-mark, the club hierarchy - led by Antic, who attended the game in spite of his ban - simply pulled the side from the pitch with the game finishing after 64 minutes. Perhaps most amazingly, in doing so, it meant that Dinamo Vranje's relegation from the second tier into Serbia's regional leagues was confirmed. While Serbian football has a long and entertaining tradition of walk-offs, this is the first one I can remember in recent times where the game ended up abandoned as a result. "I'm surprised nobody mentioned Spurs' record at Liverpool," writes Sean DeLoughry (among others). "They've had a couple of

Metcalf highlights a miserable away-day for Oldham. "The Latics have never won at Charlton (whether at the Valley or Selhurst Park). Twenty-six fixtures since the first in 1929: W0 D11 L15. Awful." In light of Feyenoord's 10-0 defeat to PSV, when was the last time a European Cup-winning side conceded double figures?" pondered Rich Symes in October 2010. The Rotterdam side, winners in 1969-70, joined a rather exclusive group with that humiliation at the hands. The vast majority of European Cup- and Champions League-winning sides have never shipped 10 goals in one match - only three had done so before this - although, unlike the Dutch side, they had not been European champions at the time. Barcelona were hammered 12-1 by Athletic Club (later Athletic Bilbao) in February 1931, Porto were pummeled 12-2 by Benfica in February 1943, and Dortmund were on the wrong end of an 11-1 against Bayern Munich in November 1971, when Gerd Müller scored four. Uli Hoenes bagged a brace and even Franz Beckenbauer got his name on the scoresheet.

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