



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

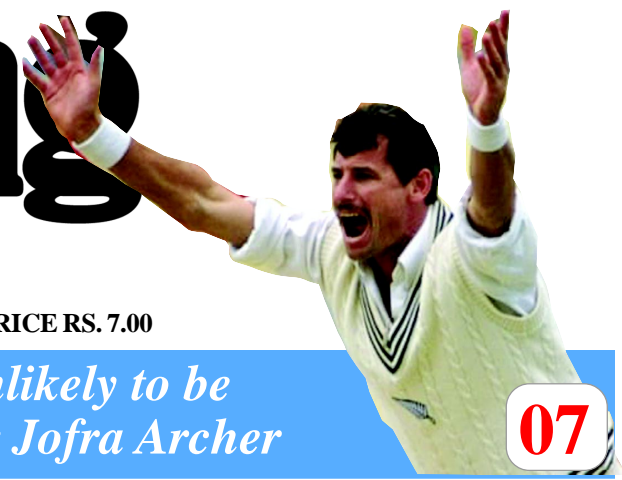
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Now that Rasputin Cummings has fallen, who will grasp ...

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England's team spirit is unlikely to be harmed by MVP award for Jofra Archer

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Amri Karbi Community To Stage Blockade

**Guwahati, November 16:** The Amri Karbi Student Union (AKSU), Amri Karbi Development Council (AKDC), Amri Karbi National Council (AKNC), Amri Karbi Arleso Aseim (AKAA), and other organizations of the Amri Karbi community will stage a blockade. The blockade will be observed from 8 AM, informed Additional DGP (Law & Order) GP Singh through his twitter handle. The ADGP advised the commuters to avoid the stretch on November 17 and asked the people travelling between Lower and Upper Assam may utilize the North Bank Highway. Singh in his tweet said, "Amri Karbi Student Union (AKSU), Amri Karbi Devt. Council (AKDC), Amri Karbi National Council (AKNC), Amri Karbi Arleso Aseim (AKAA) and other organisations of Amri Karbi community have planned to block NH 37 at Lalmai, Sonapur Guwahati starting from 8 AM on Nov 17th."

### lawyer arrested

**Guwahati, November 16:** In a bizarre incident reported from Assam's Guwahati city, a man has been arrested for allegedly biting a lady while Diwali 2020 celebrations were going on. The incident took place on Sunday - when the Diwali celebrations were on in full swing. According to reports, Abhishek Misra - who has claimed to be a lawyer - bit a lady during a scuffle in Guwahati's Silpukhri area. According to reports, a brawl broke up after Misra parked his vehicle near an apartment building, to which the residents of the building took affront. Chaos broke out after the residents of the building raised a hue and cry and in the scuffle that followed, Misra ended up biting a woman.

### Kamrup (M) Administration issues rules for 'Chhath Puja'

**Guwahati, November 16:** The Kamrup (Metro) District Administration has issued guidelines for Chhath puja celebrations in Guwahati. During a meeting held by the administration with the Chhath puja committees in the presence of senior police personnel



and other concerned authorities, a number of decisions were taken for the same and smooth conducting of the celebrations. The guidelines issued by the administration are: 1. Wearing of masks and social distancing is to be followed strictly in ev-

## CM attends state level programme of National Press Day 2020

A vigilant media is must for a robust and healthy democracy: CM



**Guwahati, November 16:** "A vigilant media is a prerequisite to keep a democratic society robust and healthy. Media must make the government accountable before the public and constructive criticism is necessary to a keep the government on track. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the media persons always stayed at the fore-

front and did not shy away from their duties to get news for people, even at the risk of their health," Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today said while speaking at the state level programme of National Press Day 2020 organised by Information and Public Relations Department, Govt of Assam at Srimanta Sankardev

Kalakeshtra. Admitting that media sector has lots of problems and COVID-19 pandemic also impacted it negatively, along with other sectors, the Chief Minister said that state government has been taking various steps for the welfare of the journalist fraternity and would launch more such schemes in the future as well. The Chief

Minister also referred to his visits to 36 districts during the trying times of Coronavirus induced lockdown and appreciated the role played by media personnel which he witnessed during those visits. Along with health department, which had the most crucial responsibility during the entire pandemic situation and other agencies like police, PHED, fire brigade, power department etc, media personnel also played key part in dissemination of information among the public and acted as a bridge between the government and the public, Sonowal said. He also urged the media to curb incidences of fear mongering and fake news during crisis situations. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's motto of sabka sath, sabka vikash, sabka viswas, Sonowal highlighted the visionary steps taken by Prime Minister to develop all corners of the country equally and how transparency has been

brought into the government system, rooting out middlemen in implementation of government schemes. He thanked the media for its support to the state government in the crusade against corruption and urged the media to highlight the state government's initiatives to protect the natural environment of Assam and motivate the youngsters to contribute in this mission. Media Adviser to the Chief Minister Hrishikesh Goswami also spoke on the occasion and referred to the adage of 'pen is mightier than the sword' to drive home his point that media must exercise caution while using its power as it has tremendous responsibility. **Contd...Page 6**

## AASU threatens economic blockade against Nagaland

**Guwahati, November 16:** The AASU on Sunday threatened to launch an economic blockade against Nagaland if the neighbouring state continues "encroachment" of Assam land. The All Assam Students Union (AASU) said they would not concede an inch of land to

Nagaland. A team of Jorhat AASU on Sunday visited Nagajanka, the spot where the Nagaland administration had set up a police camp inside Dissoi Valley Reserve Forest under Mariani Range of Jorhat forest division on November 10. The step from the Nagaland administration triggered tension along the



Assam-Nagaland border. The next day, Assam Police set up a camp near the spot

to stop further encroachment. Hectic parleys followed between officials of Jorhat and Mokokchung districts with the former demanding Nagaland to dismantle the bamboo and tarpaulin structure as it was constructed on the disputed land. A few years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that status quo be maintained in the disputed areas and no state should make any construction until the conflict is resolved. On November 9, Assam Police personnel dismantled a temporary structure which was reportedly constructed by the Mokokchung district administration. Just two days after the dismantling of that structure, the Nagaland administration set up another camp at a place about 200 metres away on a hillock which

could house 25 people and had a separate room for rations. The AASU unit flayed the Assam government for its failure to protect the state's land and criticised chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who is also in charge of the home department. The AASU leaders said the Assam CM is behaving like a silent, shy bride (Nimati Koina), even after Nagaland managed to "erect two Border Out Posts (BOPs) at Nagajanka, inside Assam territory". The AASU team lauded the Assam Police personnel for taking up a confrontational position at the place and firmly holding ground. The team alleged that the Assam police personnel were short of food items and drinking water. The AASU team alleged that 82% of Dissoi **Contd...Page 6**

Nitish Kumar returns as Bihar Chief Minister for seventh time in 20 years, gets two deputy CMs



**Patna, November 16:** JD(U) chief Nitish Kumar has been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh time in two decades. The swearing-in took place in presence of top leaders of the NDA including Union Home minister Amit Shah and BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda. Kumar, who heads the JD(U), was administered the oath of office at Raj Bhavan by Governor Phagu Chauhan. This comes a day after he staked a claim for the formation of a new government in the state, **Contd...Page 6**

enth time in two decades, in presence of top leaders of the NDA including Union Home minister Amit Shah and BJP national president Jagat Prakash Nadda. Kumar, who heads the JD(U), was administered the oath of office at Raj Bhavan by Governor Phagu Chauhan. This comes a day after he staked a claim for the formation of a new government in the state, **Contd...Page 6**

## Martyred Army soldier Haradhan Roy cremated at his own village



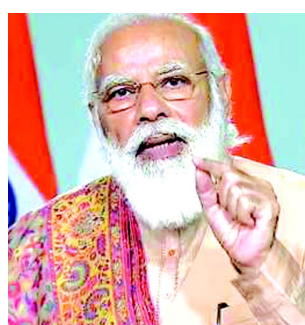
**Guwahati, November 16:** The last rites of martyred Indian Army havildar Haradhan Chandra Roy were performed at his village in Dhubri on Monday morning with full military honours. The braveheart was cremated at his native village in Futukibari Medhipara under Bilasipara sub-division of Dhubri district. Roy's last rites were performed on the bank of river Gauranga. He is survived by his parents, wife and a two-year-old son. The funeral pyre of the martyred Indian Army havildar was lit

by his wife along with their son in the presence of hundreds of people including villagers, police, Army personnel, district officials and others. Before the cremation, a final wreath-laying ceremony was organised where Assam food & civil minister Phani Bhushan Choudhury, social welfare minister Pramila Rani Brahma, Assam BJP president Ranjeet Kumar Dass and district officials paid their last respects to the braveheart. The people chanted 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' and 'Vande Mataram' and

"Pakistan Mordabaad" during the funeral procession and bid a tearful adieu to the martyred Army havildar. Roy, who served as a havildar in the army, achieved martyrdom on Friday last along with 3 other jawans during Pakistani firing in Jammu and Kashmir. Earlier, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, senior Army and police officials paid floral tributes to Roy at 151 Army Base Hospital at Basistha after his mortal remains were brought to Guwahati in a flight on Sunday **Contd...Page 6**

## PM Modi to attend virtual summit of BRICS on November 17

**New Delhi, November 16:** Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and Russian President Vladimir Putin are scheduled to attend the 12th summit of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend a virtual summit of the influential grouping BRICS on November 17 which will focus on cooperation in counter-terrorism, trade, health, energy



and ways to offset impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and

Russian President Vladimir Putin are scheduled to attend the 12th summit of the Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa (BRICS) grouping. For BRICS, challenges and opportunities. The BRICS summit is taking place at a time two of the Bloc's members, India and China, are locked in a bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh for over six months. Both Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi had come face-to-face virtually at **Contd...Page 6**

## Around 300 terrorists present at each launching pad of Pakistan: BSF

**New Delhi, November 16:** "There are 250-300 terrorists across the border, present at each launching pad in Pakistan," Rajesh Mishra, BSF Inspector General (IG), Kashmir has said. Earlier on November 13, three Indian soldiers were killed at two separate locations in Jammu and Kashmir. Srinagar: Rajesh Mishra, BSF Inspec-

tor General (IG), Kashmir has said that there are 250-300 terrorists across the border, present at each launching pad in Pakistan. "There are 250-300 terrorists across the border, present at each launching pad in Pakistan. Our security forces have been successful in thwarting their attempts of infiltration," Mishra told reporters

here on Sunday. Mishra said that a lot of harm was inflicted on civilians, including damage to their properties, because of the recent ceasefire violations by Pakistan. "Lot of harm was inflicted on civilians including damage to their properties. Issue of human rights violation should be raised," said the **Contd...Page 6**

## IIT-G Develops Catalytic Systems From Industrial Wastes

**Guwahati, November 16:** Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati researchers have developed efficient "pincer" catalytic systems that transform industrial or biomass wastes into valuable chemicals. According to a PTI report, tiny amounts of these "pincer catalysts" repeatedly convert large amounts of industrial waste such as glycerol into lactic acid and hydrogen. Such catalysts also

efficiently convert bioethanol, a low-energy density fuel, into high-energy density butanol. "Pincer catalysts are complex molecules in which, an organic moiety holds on tightly to a metal core, much like the claws of a crab. Such an arrangement not only confers stability to the catalyst, but also selectivity to bring about the intended transformations," said IIT Guwahati professor Akshai Kumar Alape

Seetharam. "The most efficient pincer catalyst was found to be one that had least crowding around the metal centre. Such an arrangement enabled easy removal of hydrogen from the starting materials, glycerol and ethanol, and their selective conversion into lactic acid and butanol, respectively," he added. The findings of the time have also been featured in the Royal Society of Chemistry journals-Chemical Com-

munications and Catalysis Science and Technology, the report said. "Our computational studies have attributed the unprecedented activity of the pincer catalysts to the minimal crowding present at the metal centre and have enabled good understanding of the electronic and steric (crowding) factors that control reactivity," said Hemant Kumar Srivastava from National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research

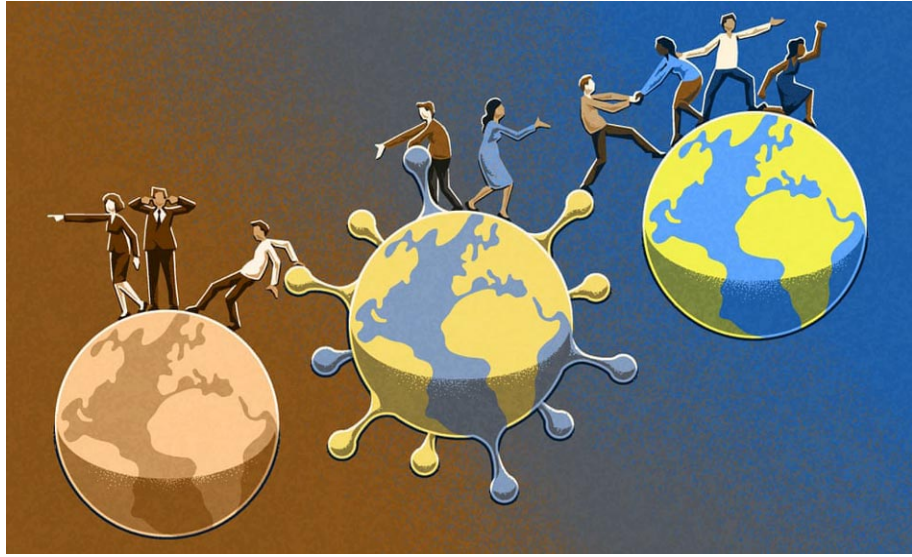


(NIPER) Guwahati. The team also included research scholars Kanu Das, Moumita

Dutta, Siriyara Jagannatha Prathapa, Eileen Yasmin and Babulal Das, report added.



## The dream of going 'back to normal' is a huge distraction from the need for change



Back in June, as people in England were adjusting to the loosening of Covid-19 restrictions, and Black Lives Matter was all over the news, I interviewed a number of young people who live in east London. As the conversations went on, a fascinating question came up: if they were presented with the opportunity to rewind to a time before the pandemic, would they take it? Most of them answered with an emphatic no. "This world is crazy, and it really needs to change," said one. "If it doesn't, we're all going to get hurt." She mentioned the killing of George Floyd but also talked about injustices and inequalities she saw on her own doorstep, and the sense that since lockdown began everyone had learned things about the state of society.

"This is a time to remember," John Harris said. All the issues this vivid, volatile period of history had brought to the surface were too important to be pushed back to the margins. This remains the hope of many people who are focused not just on racism but on other fundamental social and political questions that the Covid-19 era has so starkly highlighted. On a good day, it still feels as if no end of urgent issues are now finally out in the open, something recently illustrated by Marcus Rashford's campaigning on food poverty. Indeed, the list of once-neglected subjects that are now being talked about goes on and on, from our hopelessly centralised system of government to the uselessness of the private companies that have built themselves into the state. Thinking about what kind of country we ought to be has been part of the Covid experience - something dimly echoed in the promises of politicians, including Boris Johnson, to "build back better". Recently, though, the story has changed again. In myself and many people I know, I can trace how our energy and enthusiasm about the politics of the pandemic were eventually weakened by weariness and fatalism. Now, with the news about Pfizer and BioNTech's vaccine and the prospect of mass inoculation, millions of people are surely waiting for the return of normality, whatever that is. Huge questions swirl around the vaccine's efficacy and how it will be distributed. But if everything begins to work, it will open up possibilities that will seem amazing: human contact, restored family ties, travel, the return of the arts, and the prospect of at least some of our current economic anxieties beginning to recede. In that sense, 2021 holds out the prospect of a national quietening. This chimes with what has happened in the US, after Donald Trump's four years of misrule reached its nadir with his bungling response to the virus. Joe Biden and Kamala Harris's victory did not deserve the instant sneers and doom-mongering voiced by some on the left. But politics is always full of ambivalence, and it is also impossible to ignore what the New York Times columnist Charles M Blow recently characterised as "public nostalgia for the normalcy and decency

the Obama years provided". Biden, he said, "is not so much a change agent as a reversion agent. He is elected to Make America Able to Sleep Again". This is as much about basic psychology as high politics: whereas Trump tapped into the human propensity for hate and anger, Biden won thanks to the pull of calm and emollient. On this side of the Atlantic, we may yet witness our own version of the same story, centred not on change at the top but the stereotypical British longing for a quiet life. This, after all, is a country no less tired than America - of austerity, endless political convulsions, the unending aftermath of the 2016 referendum - and now of a mixture of horror, hardship and awful government incompetence.

### John Harris

By the middle of next year, to still be alive and suddenly relieved of fear may feel like enough. Depending on the outcome of Britain's negotiations with the EU, do not write off the chances of a reawakening of the mood that followed the 2019 election, when the Conservative party had promised to get Brexit done and restore politics to a state of everyday tedium, and Jeremy Corbyn's promise of sweeping change had been comprehensively rejected. It was always difficult to understand the visions of Dominic Cummings and his allies - there was often a sense of "car parks on the moon", to use an old Gordon Brown joke - but his departure from Downing Street could spell the end of an idea of government that seems to be about constantly picking fights, and the start of a period of comparative placidity. Meanwhile, Keir Starmer's decision to focus on matters of competence rather than big questions about society and the economy may deepen the sense of things being put back in their box. If all that initial noise on the left about the pandemic leading to a fairer society fails to go anywhere, it will not be that much of a surprise: the same plotline, after all, defined what happened after the financial crash of 2008. And yet, and yet ... Compared with where we were in early 2020, this is now a different country, isn't it? The emergence of Black Lives Matter is not the only big change that feels like it will last. The divide between the north and south of England, and the inequalities it embodies, have arguably not been as prominent since the 1980s. The ties that bind the UK are loosening at speed. The impossibilities of the benefits system are now being endured by hundreds of thousands of people who have never had such an experience. Even if some Tories would like to resume austerity, it feels as if the understanding of its cruelties has now settled into the public mind. Toryism itself looks damaged and devoid of content. Sight unseen, you would not think that the Johnson government had only just won a supposed landslide. Navigating the next period of this crisis will require holding two potentially contradictory thoughts. The rolling out of a vaccine will start to ease our current state of collective anxiety, and the resulting euphoria will be felt by millions.

## Now that Rasputin Cummings has fallen, who will grasp control of Tsar Boris?

Tory MPs started planning celebratory laps of Barnard Castle when they heard that Dominic Cummings was being defenestrated from Number 10. Many ministers have been at the champagne and just about the entire civil service is whooping with relief. For the past 16 months, he has been both the most powerful and the most rebarbative unelected adviser ever to inhabit Number 10. His fatally self-defeating flaw was that he never mastered how to use his clout productively rather than destructively. Intoxicated by his past campaign successes, he couldn't grasp the difference between fighting and governing. He talked a bellicose game to the journalists he used as his megaphones. The BBC would be "whacked". A "hard rain" was going to lash the civil service. He was absolutely right about absolutely everything and anyone who didn't get with his programme, including cabinet ministers and Conservative MPs, could "fuck off". Yet in the end, he has exited "without leaving much trace", comments one former cabinet minister. Six senior civil servants, including the cabinet secretary, were pushed out. Only to be replaced by other career civil servants. Sajid Javid, Boris Johnson's first chancellor, quit because he would not bow the knee and concede to Mr Cummings's thirst to concentrate power around himself. Only for the replacement chancellor, Rishi Sunak, to become so much more popular than the prime minister that he is a threat to Number 10 in a way Mr Javid would never have been. The unconcealed contempt for Conservative MPs so soured the prime minister's relations with his parliamentary party that it was imperiling the capacity of the government to get legislation through the Commons and even endangering his position as Tory leader. Self-preservation was a crucial factor in the decision to terminate the Cummings chapter of the Johnson premiership. As power is removed from him and the clique of Vote Leave campaigners that he imported into Number 10, it is worth asking how a gang with so few qualifications in governing managed to capture the high castle in the first place. The answer lies in the character of the prime minister. Mr Johnson is an insecure loner who wants to be loved. "He can be lazy, but it is probably more accurate to characterise him as ill-disciplined," remarks one senior civil servant. As a journalist, he was notorious for crashing deadlines. As a prime minister, he quickly gained a reputation within government for being a procrastinator. He has instincts and enthusiasms, but he doesn't have many firm convictions. By contrast, Mr Cummings was a brutal operator who didn't care who hated him, never displayed a scintilla of self-doubt and blazed with fierce beliefs.

"Boris thought Dom filled gaps in himself," says someone who ought to know. So much so that the prime minister was prepared to sacrifice a huge amount of his personal political capital and make himself

look pathetically dependent on the other man by refusing to sack an utterly uncontrite Mr Cummings even after his lockdown-busting excursions had ignited outrage among both Tory MPs and the public. To wait six months and get rid of him now makes the prime minister look doubly weak and foolish for not dispatching him then. Just as many were staggered that the prime minister delegated so many of his powers to Mr Cummings, so they have been bewildered that Lee Cain, another

a long time, it was usually Mr Cummings who stayed in the room with the prime minister after everyone else had left. This is why a vicious power struggle erupted within Number 10 around the issue of who would fill the vacant position of chief of staff. All the factions involved in the warring on Downing Street agree that it boiled down to "who controls Boris". Which makes him sound less like a prime minister than a TV remote being wrestled over by squabbling aides. There were already some indications that Mr

topped 50,000. The appointment of a substantial figure as chief of staff would help. Many Tory MPs want that to be accompanied by a reshuffle in the not too distant future to raise the competency level of the cabinet by kicking out the duds. In place of the hyper-belligerent "war with everyone on all fronts at all times" doctrine of the Cummings era, a less adversarial, more user-friendly style is apparently being urged on the prime minister by his fiancée and his new press secretary. Left to his own devices, Boris will wander off from decisions and read Pliny or Pericles or eat or shag. It may be relevant that they are both female and the Brexit gang are overwhelmingly male. Tory moderates will be hoping that liberating Mr Johnson from Mr Cummings will allow the prime minister to rediscover the liberal Tory he was as mayor of London. There is another possible parallel from his period at City Hall. His first year there has been characterised by those on the inside as a shambolic "shitshow". It became less disorderly when the running of City Hall was essentially handed over behind the scenes to some grown-ups: Eddie Lister, the then leader of Wandsworth council, and the late Sir Simon Milton, the then leader of Westminster council. "Boris needs to find himself another Simon Milton," comments one senior Tory. There's a snag with these theories, though. They come with a Boris-shaped hole. He can change his personnel, he can soften the tone and improve the messengers of his government. What he can't do is reform himself. Left to his own devices, Boris will wander off from decisions and read Pliny or Pericles or eat or shag," remarks a senior Tory who has sat in the cabinet with this prime minister. "The bit of self-knowledge that Boris has is that he needs someone who will sit him down at the table and say there's a decision to be made and tell him that you're not leaving this room until you've made it." It was by being the person who cajoled decisions out of the prime minister that Mr Cummings made himself so powerful. He's gone. That gap in Boris Johnson, that hole at the heart of government, remains. There is now a vacancy, which means a fresh competition, to be the new person who captures control of the prime minister by filling the empty vessel.



### Andrew Rawnsley

Cummings was losing his grip on the prime ministerial clicker. To protect his access and influence, he wanted the position of chief of staff to be filled by his mucker, Mr Cain. He was opposed by a constellation of other forces, including Carrie Symonds, the prime minister's fiancée, and Allegra Stratton, who was recently poached from the chancellor's team to be the prime minister's press secretary. When they prevailed in this medieval-like struggle for the king's ear, it was goodbye to Mr Cain and game over for Mr Cummings. The question now preoccupying Westminster is whether this upheaval will lead to a change of style, performance and direction. Those Conservative MPs who have long been demanding "a reset" of an alienating and dysfunctional Number 10 are fervently hoping it will. So should everyone else if it means the Johnson government will evolve into a less hapless and more professional outfit than the amateurish and chaotic regime that has stumbled from calamity to U-turn to debacle to disaster throughout the epidemic. It said much, none of it good, that an internal power struggle was consuming all the nervous energies of Number 10 in the same week that the official death toll from the virus

## Labour should not underestimate the political power of a multiracial Tory party

In a recent Commons debate for Black History Month, the Tory MP Bim Afolami caused quite a stir when he said, in response to a jibe about his Eton education: "I reject the idea that if you are black or you are non-white then there are certain places you are not able to go." It was a well-intentioned intervention into a good-natured debate, and he went on to concede: "I have had advantages that certain black people from working-class backgrounds may not have had." However, his subsequent article in the Mail on Sunday in which he described "patronising nonsense disguised as liberalism" as one of the "principal racist barriers holding back black people in this country" cannot be interpreted



so charitably. Afolami argues that the left's "virtue signal[ling]" conceals paternalistic attitudes towards black people and suggests that the real barrier to racial equality is the left's low expectations. On one level, it's easy to object to this. Labour enjoys the support of the majority of Britain's black and ethnic minority voters in part because it has historically devoted more effort to combating racism. You'd also expect Labour's economic offer to appeal to black voters at a time when nearly half of black African Caribbean households are living below the poverty line. Still, it would be a grave mistake to entirely dismiss Afolami's argument. Contained within his takedown of the "regressive left" is a warning that Labour and other progressives would do well to heed. Too often, the British left's language when talking about race comes across as impersonal and assumes a degree of poverty and hardship that isn't an intrinsic feature of black life. For now, Labour can continue to count on the black vote but cracks may start to deepen in their coalition in the years to come. (According to the Runnymede Trust, there was a small but "statistically significant" increase - from 11% to 14% - in the proportion of black Africans who voted Conservative in 2017 compared to 2010.) Afolami's intervention is a timely reminder that broad statements about how black people have been "held back" or "left behind" don't always resonate with the experience of individuals. Yes, redistributive policies are badly required to address long-standing issues such as the ethnic pay gap, but the left shouldn't be afraid to highlight individual success stories if they help to convey a more empowering message. This is something the Tories have intuitively understood and tried to exploit for decades. In 1983, the Conservatives ran an election poster featuring a besuited young black man alongside the words "Labour say he's black. Tories say he's British" - their argument in favour of ensuring equality of opportunity strikes a chord with many, regardless of the colour of their skin.

## The Himalaya Drug Company launches "AbDaantHamesha 10/10" campaign through its new film for Himalaya Complete Care Toothpaste

**Guwahati, Nov 16 :** The Himalaya Drug Company, one of India's leading wellness brands, launched a new film under their "AbDaantHamesha 10/10" campaign. This new campaign for Himalaya Complete Care Toothpaste focuses on the importance of using the right toothpaste to prevent toothache and cavities and bring happiness in our daily lives. The film features a conversation between two mothers talking about their children's oral hygiene. The film is set in the new normal, wherein one of the mothers shares the challenge that she faces while trying to get her children to brush the right way. The other mother then recommends Himalaya Complete Care Toothpaste and explains how it helps her child in keeping oral problems at bay. The TVC also captures the key ingredients of the toothpaste, Neem, Triphala, and Miswak. These well-



known and effective ingredients help protect the teeth from toothache and cavities and provide complete oral protection. Adding to this, Saif Ahmad, Brand Manager - Oral Care, The Himalaya Drug Company, said, "Through our campaign 'AbDaantHamesha 10/10', we have tried to depict the real-life challenges of oral care in the early years of life and how choosing the right toothpaste is crucial. Himalaya

Complete Care has Neem, Triphala, and Miswak that help protect teeth and gums, making them strong and healthy. Not just kids, but adults too tend to overlook oral care needs. So, the best way to prevent problems would be to brush regularly with the right toothpaste". Highlighting the insight behind the campaign, Prateek Srivastava, Co-Founder, Chapter Five, said, "Ask any mother and she'll tell you that

her kids don't brush their teeth properly. That's why they need Himalaya Complete Care Toothpaste, which has the most effective combination of herbs for oral health problems. The creative route of securing full marks for your teeth should help build a good recall for the brand among our target audience".

Film Title: AbDaantHamesha 10/10  
Brand: Himalaya Complete Care Toothpaste

Duration: 35 Sec  
Agency: Chapter Five  
Brand Planning: Sunita Murthi  
Creative: Prateek Srivastava  
Account Management: Mansi Gupta  
Production house: Little Lambs Films  
Director: Shamik  
About the Himalaya Drug Company:

In 1930, a young visionary by the name of Mr. M. Manal foresaw

the benefits of herbal remedies while riding through the forests of Burma. After diligently researching the science of the traditional field of Ayurveda, he decided to dedicate his life creating products that would improve millions of lives across the world. Today, with a history spanning more than nine decades in herbal research, Himalaya has earned the trust of millions of customers by enriching lives and is committed to spreading the promise of "Wellness in Every Home, Happiness in Every Heart" with their "head-to-heel" range of products. Seeped in a legacy of researching nature, Himalaya has successfully been able to harness the science of Ayurveda through cutting-edge research to become a brand that is safe, gentle, and trustworthy. For more information on the product, please visit: <https://himalayawellness.in>



## Shi- Yomi DEO Conducts all Party Meeting for Ensuing Panchayat Election



**Aalo 16th Nov :** The Shi- Yomi District Administration under the Chairmanship of Shri Mito Dirchi has convened an all Party Meeting to discuss some urgent issues concerning conduct of Panchayat Election in the district in the month of December at his Office Chamber on 13th Dec last. The DC elaborately discussed issues like notification of election, latest A/Roll and its updation, appointment of BLA, Election and Counting Agents, inspection of polling stations, law and order situation, draw of lot for women reservation and many other election related issues with

political parties and election related officers. He asked all department of the district to furnish the names of officers and officials of the concerned departments to DPDO Shri Gantum Padu. Assigning all duties and responsibilities to all officers, the DEO has asked everyone to discharge their duties in a time bound manner as not much time is left for all preparatory works. He also appealed all political parties to cooperate with concerned DPDO, EROs, AEROs and all election related officials to conduct the grassroots level of govt. in a free, fair and transparent manner.

## GU Campus NSS Unit Volunteers appealed for Green Diwali

**Gauhati, Nov 16 :** Gauhati University campus NSS Unit volunteers took an initiative for an eco-friendly and green Diwali. In this connection a webinar was held and speaking to the volunteers Dr Ranjan Kr Kakati, Director, Students' Welfare, GU and Programme Co-ordinator, NSS, Gauhati University appealed to the volunteers for celebrating this Diwali to be eco-friendly and for making awareness "Say No To Crackers". Dr Kakati said crackers contain toxic compounds like Copper and Cadmium and due to change in the weather these particles mixes with the fog and becomes smog causing asthma attacks, bronchitis, symptoms of allergic rhinitis including running nose and headaches which is very serious matter in this pandemic situation of coronavirus spreading in the society. It is high time that

people should recognize the problem and should build a roadway by which we can make a healthy and balanced environment said Dr. Kakati. Speaking on the webinar Nayanika Gogoi, Coordinator, Human Society International, India, Assam Chapter appealed to the volunteers for making awareness for an Animal friendly Diwali and she also said with the bursting of loud firecrackers, the pollution in the country rises to the dangerous level causing discomfort to the elderly people, children and pets. Also, Birds and animals suffer the most due to high level of noise generated from firecrackers. Many NSS volunteers raised their voice to make this Diwali celebration healthy and eco-friendly and assure to make awareness for celebrating Diwali with locally made earthenware Diyas and light.

## Lalan's Coaching Classes opens new branch at Budh Bazar, Satgaon



**Guwahati, Nov 16 :** One of the most renowned coaching institutes of this region, Lalan's Coaching Classes (LCC) has opened a new branch at Budh Bazar in Satgaon, Guwahati. The branch was opened with an aim to give students of the area more convenience and so that the students residing near Satgaon area need not to travel much. Speaking on the occasion, the managing director of Lalan's Coaching Classes, Lalan Kumar, said, "We believe in creating interest towards learning in a simple way. Every student has the right to get best guidance." LCC is known for excellent selection rate and high quality coaching in Assam. Therefore, it is going to add more branches in the region for the benefit of the students. To provide all types of help to student some of the best faculties of engineering and medical preparation have also joined LCC this year. The co-founder of LCC, Satgaon branch, Ramesh Malhotra said, "We will provide all types of help to student and will also maintain the best management of coaching in this area." The coaching centre is all set to start new batches from November 25, 2020 at all the centres. To produce best quality education to the students, Nityanand Kumar who is a famous faculty of Physics from DCI along with Raushan Singh famous faculty of chemistry has joined hand with LCC. Animesh Kumar a well-known faculty from Aakash Institute has also joined LCC team. "We are going to add many more things in the near future to serve the students and we would love to welcome any suggestions from students' or parents," Lalan Kumar further added. Lalan's Coaching Classes is one of the most premium and result-oriented coaching centres of the region. The faculty team includes

an experienced bunch of doctors, engineers and alumnus of top engineering and technology institutes who aims to go to the core of every topic in a friendly manner. Lalan's Coaching Classes provide the best education and aims to expand its footprints to the rest of the NE region.

## DEO takes up meeting with EROs/AEROs /HOOs for Smooth Conduct of PR Election



**Aalo, Nov 16 :** The West Siang District Election Officer Shri Moki Loyi conducted meeting separately with ROs, EROs and AEROs and Head of Offices separately today for peaceful, fair and free Panchayat Poll at Conference Hall of DC office today. Shri Loyi said that election is a team work and its success depends on men and materials provided by different departments. He asked all departments to list out names of officials and vehicles and not to grant any kind of leave to any

officials till completion of all election process. He said that though the covid-19 cases have gone down in the district, all protocols have to be maintained as second wave of the disease is sweeping some places. The DPDO Shri Liyi Bagra dwelt at length on Modal Code of Conduct in operation and appealed all to abide by the guidelines as enshrined in it. The Head of offices also shared their problem on sending aged people out of the district headquarter, requisitioning of entire staffs of departments that require timely feedbacks to govt. etc.

## Eco-friendly Bamboo and Local products of Assam have tremendous potential to be Game Changer for Trade and Commerce, opines experts

**Guwahati, Nov 16 :** Eco-friendly Bamboo and Local products of Assam have tremendous potential to be Game Changer for Trade and Commerce, experts opined in a Webinar organised by Press Information Bureau, Guwahati on the topic 'Leveraging the Natural and Bio-Diversity- Core Competence of Bamboo and Allied Sector in Assam for Economic Development' here today. Experts from Industry fraternity including organisations of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Textiles along with academicians deliberated and discussed about the market potential of eco-friendly products and its awareness from socio-economic, cultural, academic and policy perspective. Talking about Central Government awareness initiatives on 'Vocal For Local' for wide assortment of textile, pottery, culinary and hospitality products and the potentiality of the bamboo and

allied sectors, Shri Manoj K Das, Managing Director, North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd., Guwahati said that domestically and internationally the market of bamboo and its allied sector products are evolving and has huge potential. The Galaxy of dignitaries in the discussion, which included Dr. Abhinav Kant, Incharge, Bamboo and Cane Development Institute, Ministry of Textile, Agartala said that efficacy of the bamboo in Assam is not only in socio-economic development, but also in trade and commerce and employment for the youth. He said that bamboo products are environment friendly and has utility in multiple sectors be it in construction, building, tourism, hospitality, energy, medicinal, environmental and Small and Medium Enterprises. He said that bamboo has tremendous potential for employment of youth. Shri Hemanta Rabha, Project Head, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Guwahati and National Youth Awardee (2003) and UNESCO General Conference Youth Forum Attendee in Paris (2003) said awareness initiatives such as 'Vocal for Local' products is an opportunity to talk about talent and advantages of tribal products, which are having the efficacy of bio-diversity and eco-tourism. He said it helps in economic growth and development of a region and becomes a WIN-WIN scenario for all in the value-added process of market development.

## Maheswar Bora memorial meeting held at Jamugurihat



**A Correspondent, Biswanath Chariali, Nov 16:** Maheswar Bora memorial meeting was held at

Madhupur village of Jamugurihat on November 14. Notably, Maheswar Bora was a noted scholar of Sankari

propagate the customary practices of Naga way of life. To give effect to these ideals, there is a general body of NCD comprising of councillors representing all Naga tribes of Dimapur. Though the tenure of the outgoing NCD expired on March 31, 2020, the Committee said the previous office bearers continued to officiate as caretakers due to exigencies and unavoidable circumstances due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and thereafter the lockdown being imposed in Dimapur. Consequently, as a prevalent practice, a search/selection commission was set up on July 4. Hence, they asserted that "no illegality could be attributed to the stop-gap arrangement that was in place during the lockdown". They said due to the lockdown and ban on gathering/meetings, the commission could not call for a general meeting. The signatories pointed out that the then NCD president and general secretary had written to Dimapur deputy commissioner (DC), perission for holding the AGM but it was not granted due to pandemic. However, the signatories said they were taken aback to learn that some individuals with vested interests had approached a court in Dimapur and had also obtained an interim order, whereby the election/selection/nomination was stayed. Nevertheless, as law abiding citizens and respect for due process of law, they said the commission kept the search/selection of new office bearers in abeyance till further order was passed by the court on August 13 vacating the Interim order of July 9. As a natural corollary to the interim/stay order being vacated, the commission convened a general meeting on August 22 and appointed the new team of office bearers for 2020-2025 tenure in the presence of councillors of the current tenure of various Dimapur-based tribal hohos, including presidents and officials of different tribal hohos, attending the NCD AGM. Therefore, they said the rejoinder by "some of the dissidents/ vested interest group" as appeared in local dailies on November 13, was "nothing but an after thought, concocted and with mala-fide intention of misleading the people."

## Sipajhar public mourns Dhiraj Narayan Nath demise

**SIPAJHAR, Nov 16 :** The various social-social-educational and cultural organizations and individuals of greater Sipajhar area in Darrang district mourns the demise of former energetic All Assam Students Union (AASU) leader, former Vice president of Post Gratitude Students Union (PGSU) of



Guwahati University and General secretary of the students union of BARUA college, Guwahati. He breathed his last on Sunday after prolonged illness. He hailed from Sipajhar and after passed HSLC examination from Sipajhar Higher Secondary and Multipurpose Schools with brilliant result passed HSSLC and BA examination from B Barua college. After graduation with major in Education did his MA from Guwahati University. During his students days he was actively associated with organizational activities of All Assam students Union. He had served few years as part time lecturer at Sipajhar college and Guwahati college. Later he turned into entrepreneur. Following the footsteps of his father late Reban Chandra Nath, leading social activists and retired principal of Sipajhar college he was also closely associated with social works. As one of the life member of Assam Sahitya Sabha he took active part in Sipajhar session of Assam Sahitya Sabha in 2005. Furthermore he was actively associated with the celebration of Diamond jubilee of Sipajhar Higher Secondary and Multipurpose School and 96th annual session of Assam Pradeshik Yogi Sammilan held at Sipajhar. He has left behind his mother retired teacher Bokuli Nath, his wife Juli Nath, his son Mahasi Mahanta Nath, his sister Dipsikha Nath and a host of relatives. He was 45. Darrang district and Sipajhar regional committee of All Assam Students Union, Sipajhar Sahitya Sabha, MLA Sipajhar LAC, Binanda kumar Saikia, Darrangi Kala Krishi Unnayan

## Role of creative literature highlighted Shwasti Sarma's book released

**SIPAJHAR, Nov 16 :** "Only creative literature attracts the attention of serious readers. This is the great relevance of creative literature" Said, Prominent folklore Research Scholar and retired professor of Mangaldai college Dr Dr Bijoy Kumar Sarma. Dr Sarma has released a book of Shwasti Sarma titled Asomiya Praband, Prabasan Aaru

Phakara Jojana at a function held at Mangaldai Press club under the president ship of Dr Rama Kanta Bora, prominent poet. Releasing the book he has stressed on the need of the proper use of words in literature. Addressing the function Dr Pabitra Kumar Sarma, secretary of Udalguri district committee of Assam Sahitya Sabha said that books

are the source of happiness for both individuals and society and only it can provide immortality. Hiren Saikia, essayist was attended as distinguished guest. The guest of honor of the function includes Sailendra kumar Rajbansi, President of Darrang district committee of Assam Sahitya Sabha, Barada Saikia, Vice president of Darrang district committee of Assam Sahitya Sabha, Secretary of the regional office of the Assam Sahitya Sabha, Abdul Khalek, president, Mangaldai press Club, pankhi kajal Kayastha, President of Darrang district Kabi Sammilan, Mukut Raj Sarma, secretary of Mangaldai press Club, Prafulla Sarma, Associated Pro-

fessor, Majbat college, Munindra Baishya, essayist, Nila Kanta Bora, Head master, Sipajhar Academy, Binu Saikia, Head Mistress, Kalaigaon Adarsha High school, Kulsum Bibi, writer and Ghana Hazarika, Associated Professor, Tangla college. Dipanjali Saharia enthralled the audience presenting a Bargeet.

tribututions of Late Bora and appealed the gathering to follow the way of Maheswar Bora to preserve and inculcate Sankari Sanskriti. The meeting was also attended by Phanindra Baruah, president of Naduar press club, journalist Rajmoni Bhuyan, Prem Kanta Saikia, Chintamani Hazarika, Sailen Bora along with others. Joon Bora offered a vote of thanks while Subarna Bora anchored in the meeting.



## THE ASSAM RISING

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## Is Sars-Cov-2 a superpowered virus?

A recent study showed declining antibodies in more than 350,000 people, leading to headlines that immunity wanes rapidly just months after infection. The next day, another study concluded the opposite: in more than 30,000 patients in New York City, the majority showed high levels of IgG antibodies, which are the type of antibodies that typically neutralise Sars-Cov-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. Naturally this is very confusing. Is Sars-Cov-2 a superpowered virus that can subvert the immune systems that protect us so effectively against many other pathogens? Can people who have recovered from Covid-19 expect to have long-lasting protective immunity or not? The good news is that we are unlikely to be reinfected with Sars-Cov-2 repeatedly until it eventually wipes us all out. Most of the evidence in both Covid-19 patients and animal models shows that the immune response to this is quite typical for an acute viral infection. Initially, the body ramps up high levels of IgG antibodies, but after the infection is cleared, those antibodies drop to a baseline level, which may be below the limit of detection of some serological tests. Antibodies are produced by B-cells, a specialised type of immune cell that recognises a specific antigen, or viral target. When an infection is cleared, B-cells producing antibodies convert from being plasma cells, which are specialised to pump out massive quantities of Sars-Cov-2-specific antibodies, to being memory B-cells. These cells produce lower levels of IgG antibody; but, importantly they persist in the body for years. If they are re-exposed to Sars-Cov-2, they rapidly convert to plasma cells and begin producing high levels of antibody again. There is no indication that most Covid-19 patients are not developing immune memory, and animals experimentally infected with Sars-Cov-2 are protected against rechallenge with high doses of virus. Most people who recover from Covid-19 have detectable neutralising antibodies months after infection. This suggests that Sars-Cov-2 infection does produce an immune response that is protective, at least for several months. To determine how long this protection lasts, unfortunately, we have no choice but to wait. Sars-Cov-2 has been circulating in the human population for less than a year, and there is no way to study immune durability other than to wait and see. Furthermore, antibodies are not the only important part of the immune system. T-cells are also a key component to the immune response. They come in two flavours: helper T-cells, which coordinate immune responses and facilitate immunological memory, and killer T-cells, which kill infected cells. Previous studies have shown that Sars-Cov-2 infection induces robust T-cell responses. Interestingly, some people who have never had Covid-19 have memory T-cells from prior common-cold coronavirus infections that cross-react with Sars-Cov-2, suggesting that there may be some existing protection in the population. It's important to note that the role of T-cells in protecting against Sars-Cov-2 is largely unknown and this is an active area of research. T-cells alone are unlikely to provide complete immune protection, but they are a key contributor to immune memory, and illustrate that antibody levels alone do not tell the full story of protective immunity. The responses of these cells further underscore that Sars-Cov-2 is not an anomalous virus capable of miraculous feats of immune evasion. Sars-Cov-2 can certainly suppress some antiviral responses, which is probably how it causes severe Covid-19 in some people, but it is not invulnerable to our immune defences. While there have been some reported cases of reinfection, there is currently no evidence that this is common. It is also possible that reinfection in people with partial immunity may result in milder disease, although that is still an untested hypothesis. There needs to be more research into reinfection to understand how common it is, but we should not regard it as evidence that immunity is useless and there is no hope for preventing Sars-Cov-2 in the future. On the contrary, there are promising findings in animal studies and clinical trials that candidate vaccines elicit antibody levels equivalent to recovering patients with the highest levels of antibodies and these antibodies endure. This is true of the Pfizer vaccine that was recently announced to be protective against symptomatic Covid-19 cases after an interim analysis of the phase 3 trial data. This suggests that vaccines may provide more potent, durable protection than natural infection. Our search for functional immunity to Sars-Cov-2 is less a biological quandary than a psychological one. To explain the widespread transmission and death, the chronic debilitating illness that has resulted in many Covid-19 patients who have cleared the infection but not recovered from the disease, and the severe disruption to our everyday lives, it is tempting to think that the virus is a singular pathogen the likes of which we have not seen before. In reality, it is our inadequate policies and lack of evidence-based public health strategy that has gotten us to where we are today in the US, the UK and most of the rest of Europe.

## Voter suppression couldn't happen in the UK, could it? Don't be so sure...



The corruption of the American right is seen at its most decadent in the disenfranchisement of black and poor citizens and the refusal to accept defeat when voter suppression fails. If you think it could not happen here, consider the fate of Britain's "independent" Electoral Commission that once kept politics clean. The Conservatives are in the process of either neutering or abolishing it. They are bringing voter suppression to the UK and making it clear to anyone who takes notice that the right, with its overwhelming financial advantages, wants minimal controls of big money and the political propaganda it buys. Few take notice. The corruption of politics is the strangest thing: an unnoticed outrage. It's not that it's an official secret. It's just that few seem to care. One day, we'll look back at today's obscure manoeuvres in esoteric committees and ask why more did not protest when protesting might have made a difference. The secret history of the rigging of the system begins with Michael Gove showing a suspiciously keen interest in the workings of the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission. Despite Covid-19 raging, the economy

shrinking and the Brexit debacle looming, Gove finds the time to attend what ought to be the duller deliberations in Westminster. A healthy democracy seeks compromise and does not allow one party to set the rules. The Speaker's Committee is not a healthy body. It has a Conservative majority that can override all other parties. The Conservative leadership has filled it with Tory MPs with grudges against electoral regulation. Alongside Gove is Craig Mackinlay, who was

## Nick Cohen

cleared of knowingly falsifying election expenses in 2019. His campaign manager received a nine-month suspended sentence for dishonestly preparing election returns, however, and the experience left the MP for South Thanet full of self-pitying resentment. "I can't even begin to relate, in words, the indignity of being in the dock, behind glass in court 7 of Southwark crown court," he lamented. Karl McCartney, the Conservative MP for Lincoln, joins Gove and Mackinlay. The Crown Prosecution Service cleared him of electoral impropriety in 2017. He, too, couldn't take investigation on the chin and complained he was a victim of an Electoral Commission "witch hunt". The

Speaker's Committee meets in secret as if it were a cabal in a dictatorship rather than a regulatory body for a democracy. After its last meeting on 30 September, the Conservatives decided secrets weren't secret when it suited their interests. They leaked to their friends on the Telegraph that they had denied Sir John Holmes a second term as Electoral Commission chairman. They had a case against Holmes. He broke public service impartiality when he said he "regret[ted] the result" of the 2016 Brexit referendum. But the Tory reaction is out of all proportion to the offence. Grateful Conservatives have used Holmes's blunder as an excuse to restrict democracy. They announced in another leak to the Telegraph (which receives so many leaks it is in danger of becoming a Tory urinal) that they were "touting" Timothy Straker QC to succeed Holmes. The leaking of Straker's name had a strategic purpose. As they have done by announcing their favoured candidate for BBC chair, the Conservatives were signalling to better qualified men and women that it was a waste of time applying for a job that may well be sewn up. Like voter suppression, candidate suppression is becoming a favourite rightwing tactic. To keep the commission in line while they wait to put their man in charge, the Conservatives are battering it with threats. Amanda Milling, co-chair of the Tory party, said the government wanted either abolition or wholesale change. She showed how biased she was about political corruption when she said Companies House could monitor donations to parties instead. Companies House is a library, not a police force. Every crooked business and money-laundering racket can use its shell companies because it has neither the power nor the ability to stop fraud. Asking Companies House to police corruption in Westminster is like asking the British Library to investigate murders in the Euston Road. A staple tactic of the

American right is to make needless demands that voters produce photographic ID. Impersonating voters is a virtually unknown crime because a bent politician would need to persuade thousands of accomplices to flood polling stations to be sure of victory. It is, however, an excellent way to suppress turnout. Instead of being appalled, British Conservatives are inspired by the prospect of disenfranchising poor and ethnic minority citizens who are likely to vote Labour. They are pushing through with demands that UK voters produce ID, even though in 2019 there were only 34 allegations of "personation" fraud at the polling station, 0.000058% of the 58m votes cast in all elections. At the last count, 3.5 million citizens did not have access to photo ID or a passport or driving licence and an estimated 1.3 million people did not even have a bank account. With fewer of the poor able to vote, Tories can lobby the Boundary Commission to give the poorer regions of Britain fewer seats. The intimidated Electoral Commission justified going along with voter suppression by maintaining that demanding ID had a "positive impact on people's perception of the security of the polling station process". Ah "perception", what crimes are committed in thy name. It's not that there is real fraud. Only that the Conservatives have created the "perception" of fraud and because of that false perception the franchise must be denied. We ought to be remaking election law to protect against foreign interference and plutocrats funding online campaigns. In the 2019 election, 88 groups spent £2,711,452 on propaganda on Facebook without voters having the right to know where the money came from. The Tories, it appears, are happy with that. They will make it easier for dark money to influence politics and harder for poor people to vote. I long ago gave up trying to understand why some scandals make the news "agenda" while others are ignored. But still it's worth asking: why isn't this a story?

## OPEC's got to play the coronavirus waiting game ahead of crucial meetings

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies meet at the end of the month to decide the future of their record output cuts that helped put a floor under oil prices. Hopes had been high they could ease their restraint, but headwinds to the recovery in oil demand and rising production from countries outside their control mean they'll have to wait. Under the deal reached over several days of fractious meetings in April, the 23 OPEC+ countries agreed to reduce production by an initial 9.7 million barrels a day before tapering those cuts in two steps. The first easing of the cuts, originally scheduled for July, was pushed back to August. Now the second one, due at the start of January, will almost certainly be deferred. Compliance with the deal has been remarkably good, due in no small measure to the determination of Saudi Energy Minister Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman to hold everyone's feet to the fire. He's publicly called out those who have fallen short, demanding they make up for any lapses. Some countries, like Iraq, have struggled to deliver the compensatory cuts, but they've probably made



more of an effort thanks to the Saudi

## JULIAN LEE

spotlight. The one non-OPEC country that has escaped reprimand is Russia, even though it has, on average, pumped nearly 100,000 barrels a day more than its target since May. The transgression may be small in percentage terms - the country's initial output cut was just over 2.5 million barrels a day - but its overproduction is the second largest in volume terms among the whole group. You

could be forgiven for thinking Russia's getting special treatment as such an important new ally. OPEC's members have been better at meeting their obligations and it is their over-compliance - led by Saudi Arabia - that has helped the wider group to beat its target in each of the past three months. The pandemic's persistence means the producers can't relax just yet. Oil demand hasn't recovered as fully, or as rapidly, as they'd hoped. The

coronavirus's second wave has led to renewed travel restrictions in Europe and may trigger similar moves in the U.S. Even in Asia, where the recovery is seen as stronger, traffic levels remain significantly below year-ago levels in many cities, according to figures from TomTom Traffic Index. Even though oil demand in both China and India has topped year-ago levels, the picture for crude suppliers remains shaky. In its latest monthly report published on Thursday, the International Energy Agency noted that while refiners in Asia are expected to be operating next year at close to 2019 levels, processing in the Atlantic Basin (mostly Europe and the Americas) will remain at its lowest level for two decades. And it's refiners, not motorists, who are the oil producers' customers. Russia and Nigeria, most exposed among the OPEC+ members to the Atlantic market, have a lot to worry about. It's little surprise, then, that the OPEC+ group is getting concerned. More than a third of the surge in crude prices that followed Monday's vaccine announcement had been given up by Friday. Even if all the vaccines being tested are as effective as the Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE shot - and let's hope they are - it will still be many months before enough people have been inoculated to alter the pandemic's path significantly. Until then, the types of restrictions that have slashed oil demand this year remain key tools to slow the virus's spread. That's a problem for producers. Their second big headache, as I mentioned last week, is rising supply. Libya, not shackled by the OPEC+ agreement, is restoring production much more quickly than many anticipated after a devastating civil war. Production on Friday reached 1.145 million barrels, up from the just 90,000 barrels a day it was pumping in September. Now that rival factions in the North African country reached a preliminary agreement with a goal of holding elections within 18 months, there are hopes this peace deal, and the oil production that goes with it, will last. Suffice it to say that OPEC+ oil ministers can't afford to relax their output restraint in January. They're unlikely to try to agree to deepen the cuts - that would open too many arguments at a time when they need to show unity and clarity of purpose. Their only realistic option is to delay the tapering of cuts, with the only real question they have to answer: For how long? Covid continues to provide a major impetus for this often quarrelsome group to show an unusually united front.

## Macron and many of his supporters are also misled by ideological dogma

French President Emmanuel Macron seems a worried man. He first proposed to reform Islam along French lines. Then after the vicious killing of a schoolteacher by a Muslim teenager, he extended France's support to caricatures of the Prophet that most Muslims see as blasphemous. Many Muslim countries erupted in protest. Criticism also appeared in the British and American press. Macron now claims he was misinterpreted, clarifying in an interview to Al Jazeera that he was defending "the freedom to speak, to write, to think, to draw." He wrote to the Financial Times this week to denounce "media articles that divide us." The newspaper removed an article to which Macron objected from its website. Nevertheless, the damage has been done - and not just to the principle of free expression. Two of the loudest voices against Macron - Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan - have exploited Macron's missteps to deflect attention from their domestic excesses and failures. There has been more terrorist violence, in France, Austria and now Saudi Arabia. German Chancellor Angela Merkel struck the right note at a video conference of European leaders this week; she cautioned against talk of civilizational clash between Islam and the West, and chose to focus

on how "our democratic social model" could deal with terrorism. Certainly, it is one thing to defend freedom of expression - an obligation of all democratic leaders. It is quite another to deploy a whole nation behind a particular expression of that freedom. In one striking instance of rising majoritarian sentiment against an already alienated minority, high schools across France plan to circulate booklets with degrading images of the Prophet in order to affirm "the values of the Republic." Part of the blame for this unfolding disaster must lie on Macron's increasingly desperate wish to beat his explicitly anti-Islam rival

## PANKAJ MISHRA

Marine le Pen at her own game in presidential elections due in 2022. But Macron and many of his supporters are also misled by ideological dogma. Much has happened in recent decades, from the rise of Islamophobic troll factories in India to recrudescent anti-Semitism in Europe and Facebook-created "bubbles" in the U.S., to complicate the quasi-religious faith that free expression is an absolute value, an unambiguous sign of moral and political progress. France's close neighbor Germany has been criminalizing defamatory "fake news" and cracking down on social media companies. France itself has declared the denial of the Holocaust to be a crime - a

contradiction that bedevils its advocacy of free speech. A perplexed Muslim today may well wonder why casualties against the Prophet and Islam should become the true test of a heavily and frequently compromised principle. Determined to resolve once and for all the "crisis" of Islam, Macron and many of his supporters assume that the right to offend the devout is an essential step in mankind's passage from religious superstition to secular enlightenment. The historical evidence for this belief may seem strong in the case of France, which in the late 18th century began to

define its modern identity against a powerful and oppressive church. But the country now has a substantial non-Christian minority, largely from the Muslim countries it once brutally colonized, and it seems highly unlikely that Macron or anyone else can manage to offend this historically humiliated population into an Enlightenment. As Le Monde reported, Macron sneered during a cabinet meeting at American "multiculturalism," calling it a "form of defeatist thought." In fact, there is much he can learn from the United States, the impregnable bastion of free speech. The "N" word, indissolubly linked to centuries of slavery, was once freely deployed across the U.S. Only the most bigoted white supremacist today will

claim that the banishing of such free speech from public life is a blow to freedom. The First Amendment didn't have to be cancelled in order to stigmatize such offensive discourse. Rather, anti-racist activists created broad social acceptance for their moral conviction that the dignity of a once systematically degraded people be respected. Contemptuous of America's experience, Macron could at least look to Simone Weil, the rare French thinker to take into account the presence of her country's colonial subjects and to understand that 18th-century articles of faith cannot remain the sole guide to human co-existence. Examining France's catastrophic political and moral collapse in the late 1930s and early 1940s, Weil came to see duties and obligations rather than rights as the basis of an irrevocably mixed society. For her, words like "I have the right" evoke a "latent war and awaken the spirit of contention." As Weil saw it, "to place the notion of rights at the center of social conflicts is to inhibit any possible impulse of charity on both sides." The spirit of contention, grown nasty, even lethal, is ravaging societies around the world today while the impulse to charity grows ever more feeble. Macron can do a lot more to squash the impression that insulting the core beliefs of nearly 2 billion Muslims is what will sustain the core beliefs of French people.





People visit a cottage during the Destrehan Plantation's Fall Event in New Orleans, Louisiana, the United States

## 'Long Covid' causing organ impairments in 70% of low-risk patients, says UK study

New Delhi, November 16 :

Almost 70 per cent of 'low-risk' Covid-19 patients have impairment in one or more organs four months after initial symptoms of SARS-CoV-2 infection, according to a new study from the UK. In a paper, which is yet to be peer reviewed, researchers from Oxford University Hospitals, Mayo Clinic Healthcare and the University College, London, among others looked at 201 Covid patients in the UK with a mean age of 44 after they had recovered from the infection. Among the participants in the study, prevalence of pre-existing conditions such as obesity, hypertension, diabetes and heart disease was low. Only 18 per cent of individuals in the study had been hospitalised with Covid. While there have been reports of people suffering from symptoms like fatigue and brain fog after recovering from Covid infections, the researchers claim that the study is the first to evaluate medium-term impairment across multiple organs following SARS-CoV-2 infection. The study has implications for the burden of long Covid - which refers to the long-term consequences of coronavirus infection - in the younger population. So far, public health approaches have assumed low risk in young people with no comorbidities and focussed on protecting older adults who are at increased risk of death from Covid. The study shows that symptoms and blood tests did not give any clues about which patients were more likely to suffer from organ impairment. Heart and lung impairment were just as prevalent in low-risk individuals with long Covid as the older counterparts. Fatigue, shortness of breath, muscle pain, headache and joint pain are some of the symptoms that the team found were more likely to persist four months after Covid infection. "The good news is that the impairment is mild, but even with a conservative lens, there is some impairment, and in 25% of people it affects two or more organs," Amitava Banerjee, associate



professor at University College London and one of the authors of the study told. "This is of interest because we need to know if [the impairments] continue or improve - or if there is a subgroup of people who could get worse," he added. The researchers emphasise the need for further multi-organ assessment, including blood and imaging analysis in the Covid context, so that long Covid can be properly defined. "As the search for effective Covid-19 vaccines and treatments continues, potential and real long-term multi-organ consequences of SARS-CoV-2 infection in low-risk individuals reinforce the central importance of minimising infection through social distancing, wearing of masks, physical isolation and other population-level measures," the researchers wrote in the study. In India, researchers from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)'s Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology in New Delhi are currently recruiting participants for studying long Covid.

## SC issues notice to UP govt on Kerala journalist's arrest but says plea could be sent to HC

New Delhi, November 16 :

The Supreme Court Monday issued notice to the Uttar Pradesh government asking for its responses on a plea seeking the release of arrested journalist Siddique Kappan. A bench led by Chief Justice of India S.A. Bobde also sought the Uttar Pradesh Police's response on Kappan's plea. However, it asked the petitioners why they had not approached the high court first and also noted that the petition could still be sent to the high court after the responses are filed. The matter will be next heard on 20 November. Kappan, who is from Kerala, was arrested on 5 October when he was on his way to Hathras to report on the alleged gang rape and murder of a 20-year-old Dalit woman. The police had initially arrested Kappan, along with three others, under Section 151 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) on the suspicion that they may commit some cognisable offence. However, they were later booked on charges of sedition under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code and various other offences, including that of raising funds for terrorism. Section 14 and 17 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and various other offences under the Information Technology Act were also added against them. Following Kappan's arrest, the Kerala Union of Working Journalists (KUWJ) filed a habeas corpus petition challenging Kappan's custody, arguing that the arrest was illegal and unconstitutional. It has contended



that Kappan's detention violates his fundamental rights under Articles 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution. On 12 October, a bench headed by CJI Bobde had expressed disinclination to entertain the petition and had nudged senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for KUWJ, to approach the high court instead. The bench had then listed the matter after four weeks, and had also refused to issue notice to the UP government. The court had also asked KUWJ to amend the petition to incorporate the subsequent developments in the case. Meanwhile, KUWJ filed an interim application last week seeking permission for regular video conference meetings between Kappan and his family members and lawyers. This application claimed that when KUWJ's lawyers went to Mathura, where Kappan is currently lodged, to meet him for more

information on the case, the Mathura chief judicial magistrate denied permission for that. The plea has further sought orders asking the jail authorities to allow Kappan to sign the vakalatnama that authorises his legal representative, Wills Mathews, to act on his behalf. "The petitioner is left with no other alternative... as neither applicants nor their lawyer are allowed to meet the accused for conference and for getting the vakalatnama signed," the application said. During the hearing Monday, Sibal informed the court that the magistrate in Mathura did not allow Kappan to meet his lawyers or his family. But the bench asked the petitioners why they could not go to the high court instead. To this, Sibal emphasised that they cannot go to the high court as Kappan is not being allowed to meet anyone. He also pointed out that his advocate has also filed an affidavit saying he could not meet Kappan in jail. While the bench issued the notices, it added, "We might still send you to HC."

## Himachal: 7 Killed After Vehicle Falls In Khud

Spiti, November 16 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday expressed grief over the road accident in Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district in which seven people lost their lives. Seven people were killed when a vehicle in which they were traveling fell into khud police said. A person was also injured after the Mahindra pickup fell into Suketi Khud at Pulghrat near Mandi at around 2.30 am, they said. Six people died on the spot, while two injured were taken to a zonal hospital where one of them

succumbed to his injuries, the police said. The PMO in a tweet quoting PM Modi said, "Extremely pained after hearing the news of a road accident in Mandi in Himachal Pradesh. The government is involved in relief and rescue operations. I express my deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and wish the injured well soon." President Ram Nath Kovind also expressed grief over the loss of lives and wished a speedy recovery to the injured.



People wearing face masks check an off-road vehicle as they attend a mass sports event

## Inventors design high-tech helmets for Covid protection

Washington, November 16 : For the past two months inventor Yezin Al-Qaysi has been riding the Toronto subway in Canada wearing a huge black "mad helmet". The hazmat (hazardous materials) helmet completely encloses his head and upper torso, and has a visor that extends all the way down to his chest. On the back is a battery-powered fan and filter respirator system that purifies air that is sucked in, and pushes "stale" air out. Looking like a dystopian figure straight out of an apocalyptic movie, the 32-year-old unsurprisingly gets some strong reactions. "Somebody screamed: 'Where did you get that!' and many people approach me out of curiosity," he says. "Others are amazed. They certainly don't laugh, but even if they do, I cannot see their mouths because everyone is wearing masks." Mr Al-Qaysi is one of a number of designers and entrepreneurs around the world who have rushed to release hazmat, or PAPR (powered air purifying respirator), helmets this year, aimed at people looking for more protection against coronavirus than just wearing a face mask. His is called the BioVYZR, and the battery is said to last for up to 12 hours. The Canadian says that his business - VZYZ Technologies - now has sales in the "tens of thousands" mark. US Navy veteran Chris Ehlinger, is another hazmat helmet creator. "These helmets in a sense psychologically prepare us for the future destiny of our species," says the 35-year-old. His company, Valhalla Medical Design, based in Austin, Texas, has launched a product called NE-1, which looks similar to a motorcycle helmet. In addition to a powered air filtration system, it has internal and external microphones and speakers, so that the wearer can more easily speak to people around him or her. Michael



Hall, whose firm sells a PAPR helmet called Air, believes they will be popular in the longer term with people concerned about bad air quality. His company, Utah-based Hall Labs, says it has sold 3,000 so far. It is also now working on more high-tech versions, where the visor turns into a screen on which the user can watch videos. "And for airline travel we'll be able to create a segment [with helmets that work] like noise-cancelling headphones," says the 44-year-old. "We think that there's a market for that kind of serenity." Natasha Duwin, whose Florida-based firm Octo Safety Devices makes face masks, says she can see the appeal. Image caption Natasha Duwin, pictured with business partner Tobias Fransozek, says that a proper respirator mask would work as well as a helmet for most people. "Helmets have the advantage that they show people's faces," she says. "You can see smiles and human expressions, and have a very strong sense of security." Yet because each one of these helmets depends on at least two filtration systems, batteries, and [other things], all these items can break down. And if only one of them breaks down, you are in serious trouble. "She also cautions that the helmets will need to be thoroughly cleaned before each use. Ms Duwin

says that for most people, all they need is a fitted, respirator mask that meets the certified quality standard in that country. Respirator masks have inbuilt filters, and both fit more tightly, and work more effectively, than simple fabric face masks. The above three helmets cost in the range of \$149-\$379 (£113-£288), but none has yet to receive certification. However, each of the three firms say they are nearing the final stages of the process. Dr Suzanne Pham, medical director of the Covid-19 response team at Weiss Memorial Hospital in Chicago, says: "It remains to be seen if these fascinating helmets effectively battle Covid, as currently there is not enough research behind them. Dr Pham is also concerned that the helmets could lead to a societal division. "It will create a split in society between those who can afford something that seemingly might protect them more, and those who cannot." And with those who cannot being left feeling like, 'Oh, am I being under-protected by wearing just a surgical mask?' "However, she does think that the helmets will sell well, as much for the confidence they give the wearer as the actual protection they offer. "After all, the pandemic has been first and foremost medical, but also psychological, absolutely."

## India to carry out multiple launches of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles by November-end



New Delhi, November 16 : Amid the ongoing tensions with China, India is all set to showcase the massive firepower of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile by the month-end as the three defence forces would carry out multiple firings of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed missile system in the Indian Ocean Region in the last week of this month. The BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is the world's fastest operational system in its class and recently DRDO has extended the range of the missile system from the existing 298 km to around 450 km. The defence services are scheduled to carry out multiple test firings of the BrahMos in the last week of November against different targets in the Indian Ocean Region. The tests would help the defence services to further improve the performance of the missile system, government sources told. In the last two months, DRDO has been successful in testing both new and existing missile systems including the Shaurya missile system which can hit targets at over 800 km and technology demonstration vehicles for hypersonic missile technology. Recently, the Indian Air Force had flown its Sukhoi-30 aircraft from the Halwara airbase in Punjab and launched the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile at an old warship acting as its target in the Bay of Bengal area. The air-launched version of the missile has been used to equip a squadron of the Air Force in Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu. The BrahMos-equipped aircraft from the squadron were also deployed close to the Northern borders soon after the conflict with China had started and 20 Indian soldiers lost their lives in the Galwan valley in a clash with the Chinese Army. In October, the Indian Navy had also carried out the test firing of the BrahMos missile from its warship INS Chennai to showcase its capability to strike targets at ranges more than 400 km in high seas.

## No chance of lockdown, 3rd Covid wave has already peaked in Delhi, says Satyendar Jain

New Delhi, November 16 : Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Monday said there is no chance of reimposition of lockdown in the national capital since the third wave of coronavirus has peaked out in the city. Talking to reporters, he said the virus cannot be contained through lockdown and that people should protect themselves by wearing face masks. Delhi has witnessed a spurt in coronavirus cases since October 28 when the daily rise breached the 5,000-mark for the first time and it crossed the 8,000-mark on Wednesday. On Thursday, 104 deaths, the highest in over five months, were recorded in the city. Asked whether lockdown would be reimposed in Delhi, Jain said, "No chance." "I can tell you that the peak of the

third wave is gone," he said. Jain's remarks come a day after the Centre announced a slew of steps including making available 300 additional ICU beds, doubling the number of daily RTPCR tests and a house-to-house survey in the national capital to check the spiralling numbers of cases in Delhi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said some of the hospitals under the municipal corporations of Delhi will be converted into dedicated COVID hospitals. The National Centre for Disease Control, in a report drafted recently, had warned that Delhi needed to be prepared for about 15,000 fresh COVID-19 cases per day, taking into account the winter-related respiratory problems, a large influx of patients from outside and festive gatherings.



## Contd. From Page 1

## Nitish Kumar returns as Bihar

armed with the unanimous support of all legislators of the NDA despite his party's plummeted tally. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi took oath as the Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar. JD(U) leaders Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Vijendra Prasad Yadav, Ashok Choudhary, and Mewa Lal Choudhary take oath as Cabinet Ministers of Bihar. Santosh Kumar Suman, son of Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) chief Jitan Ram Manjhi and Mukesh Sahni of Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP) take oath as a Cabinet Minister of Bihar. Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders Mangal Pandey and Amarendra Pratap Singh take oath as Bihar Cabinet Ministers. The 69-year-old, who has had a continuous run since November 2005, except for the period in 2014-15 when Jitan Ram Manjhi kept the chair warm for him, is on course to becoming the longest-serving Chief Minister of the state, surpassing the record of Shrikrishna Singh who held the top post since before Independence till his death in 1961. Kumar was first sworn in as CM in 2000, for a term that lasted barely a week as he failed to muster a majority and returned as a minister at the Centre in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. Five years later, he returned with the JD(U)-BJP alliance winning a majority and upon completion of his tenure returned in 2010 when the coalition won a landslide victory in the assembly polls. He stepped down in May 2014, owing moral responsibility for the JD(U)s debacle in Lok Sabha polls, only to return in February 2015 when a rebellious Manjhi was elbowed out. In November 2015, the assembly polls were fought and won by the Grand Alliance which then comprised JD(U), Lalu Prasad's RJD and Congress with Kumar back as the Chief Minister. He, however, abruptly exited the alliance in July 2017, citing irreconcilable differences with the RJD and resigned as Chief Minister only to return in less than 24 hours armed with the support of the BJP.

## CM attends state level

of guiding the society as well. He also appreciated the role played by media personnel during COVID-19 pandemic and paid tributes to those journalists who laid down their lives in the line of duty. Senior Professor and Head of Mass Communication and Journalism Department, Tezpur University Dr. Joya Chakraborty, in her key note address, underlined the service rendered by the media while acting as the connection between the government and the governed during Coronavirus lockdown period and stressed on the need for specific training for journalists in fields such as health reporting etc. She pointed out slipups in communication of crucial messages by few media houses during the pandemic situation which led to unwanted situations while also throwing light on job loss, pay cuts, ad revenue loss etc. in the media sector due to the Coronavirus scare. Financial stability of journalists must be ensured by the media houses for facilitating ethical journalism, she added. On the occasion of National Press Day 2020, the Chief Minister felicitated Padmashree Eli Ahmed, veteran sports journalist Premadhar Sarma, journalists Mahesh Chandra Medhi, Tapas Samaddar, Ranjit Kumar Sarma and Kunja Mohan Roy for their contribution to the field of journalism and literature in the state. Commissioner and Secretary of Information and Public Relations Department Preetom Saikia gave the welcome address in the programme which was attended by Secretary of the department Neera Gogoi Sonowal, Director of Information and Public Relations Anupam Choudhury and several senior and eminent journalists of the state.

## Martyred Army soldier Haradhan

evening. From the Base Hospital, Roy's mortal remains were taken to his home in an ambulance at night. Roy's mortal remains wrapped in the national flag and covered in flowers, reached his village Phutukibari-Medhipara under Sapatgram PS, this morning. The Army Havildar's family was also present to pay their last respects before the cremation. Assam Food and Civil Supplies Minister Phani Bhushan Choudhury, Dhubri MLA Wajid Ali Choudhury and Superintendent of Police Ananda Mishra were all present in the funeral procession to extend their condolences to the family and pay tributes. The martyred Army havildar's remains arrived at the Guwahati Airport at around 5:30 pm on Sunday. Later in the evening, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal paid last respect to the jawan at the Army Base Hospital, Basistha in Guwahati. Extending his condolences, the Chief Minister also announced the state government would provide financial assistance of Rs. 20 lakh to the bereaved family for his sacrifice. The CM tweeted, "CM Shri @sarbanandsonwal paid rich tributes to martyred Army jawan Hardhan Rai in Guwahati. The @adgpi jawan from Dhubri district of Assam laid down his life in the line of duty in J&K. #Salute2Soldiers" Assam's Haradhan Roy was among the 5 soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice at the Line of Control on November 13, 2020.

## AASU threatens economic

Valley Reserve Forest had been encroached by Nagaland and they had also built an RCC bridge and electrified the encroached areas. Jorhat AASU general secretary Dip Dutta said the team had gone to boost the morale of the Assam Police but if the government fails to push back the Nagas, then they would resort to an agitation and if required, an economic blockade. The All Assam Student Union (AASU) threatened economic blockade if Nagaland continued with its "encroachment" activities in Assam land. The student union reiterated that they won't budge an inch of land to Nagaland and will keep guarding the areas from further encroachment. A team of Jorhat AASU members had visited Nagajanka, the spot where the Nagaland administration had set up a police camp inside Dissoi Valley Reserve Forest under Mariani Range of Jorhat forest division on November 10. Hectic deliberation followed between officials of Jorhat and Mokokchung districts with the former demanding Nagaland to dismantle the bamboo and tarpaulin structure as it was constructed on the disputed land. A few years ago, the Supreme Court ruled that status quo be maintained in the disputed areas and no state should make any construction until the issue is resolved. On November 9, Assam Police personnel dismantled a temporary structure which was reportedly constructed by the Mokokchung district administration. Just two days after dismantling of that structure, the Nagaland administration set up another camp at a place about 200 metres away on a hillock which could house 25 people and had a separate room for rations. The AASU unit flayed the Assam government for its failure to protect the state's land and criticised chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who is also in charge of the home department.

## PM Modi to attend virtual

the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on November 10. "At the invitation of President Putin, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the 12th BRICS Summit hosted by Russia, under the theme 'Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth' on November 17," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement. The BRICS is known as an influential Bloc that represents over 3.6 billion people, or half of the world's population. The BRICS countries have a combined GDP of USD 16.6 trillion. BRICS should jointly deal with the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic: Chinese FM Wang Yi. The MEA said the leaders would be discussing intra-BRICS cooperation and key issues in the global context, including the reform of the multilateral system, measures to mitigate the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, cooperation in counter-terrorism, trade, health, energy and people-to-people exchanges. "India will be taking over the chair of the BRICS, which would be the third BRICS Presidency for India since its inception (after 2012 and 2016) and will host the 13th BRICS summit in 2021," the MEA said.

## Kamrup (M) Administration

boats and ferries during puja, but to maintain proper rescue boats in case of a probable mishap. 7. APDCL and the Chhath puja committees have been asked to provide proper unhindered lighting during the celebration. 8. No extensive decoration or pandals have been allowed on the sites. 9. The district administration has also restricted the use of plastics and thermocol and asked the committees to cooperate with GMC in cleaning the puja sites after the rituals are over. 10. Every Chhath puja site is to mandatorily have medical professionals and ambulances ready for an emergency. The health department is asked to provide the needful. This year Chhath puja will be held at Brahmaputra riverfront (Uzan Bazar to Bharalumukh), Sumsali, Pandu ghat, Maligoan Railway stadium, Birubari fishery, Basistha, Lalmati, Khanapara Farmgate, Hatigoan, Jyotikuchi, Narengi, Pathar Quarry, Narengi, Azara, and Chandrapur.

## Around 300 terrorists present

BSF IG, on being asked if he has any message for the international community over multiple ceasefire violations by Pakistan on November 13. Earlier on November 13, three Indian soldiers were killed at two separate locations in Jammu and Kashmir while foiling infiltration bids by Pakistan-backed terrorists and ceasefire violations by the troops of the neighbouring country. Two soldiers were killed in the Uri sector while one was killed in the Gurez sector, Army sources said.

## National Press Day celebrated at Karbi People's Hall



**DIPHU, November 16:** National Press Day was celebrated by District Press Club of Karbi Anglong (DPCKA) at Karbi People's Hall, Taralango here on Monday to commemorate the establishment of the Press Council of India which was formed in post Independence in 1966. DPCKA and District Information Public Relation Officer (DIPRO), Diphu have jointly celebrated the day. The theme of the celebration was 'Role of Media during Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on Media.' Attending as chief guest Executive Member (EM), Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), incharge Handloom & Textiles etc., Ratan Teron said, "Media is the fourth pillar in Indian democracy. It is a very respectable profession so also has its great responsibility in molding public opinion." Going by the topic of today's celebration Teron said, "During the Covid-19 pandemic has played a great role by providing correct information to the public. The media persons have risked their lives even during the pandemic in collecting reports and providing information to people." The media will continue to play an important role in the social lives of the people, Teron said. Deputy Commissioner, Karbi Anglong, Ng. Chandra Dhvaj Singha speaking on the topic 'Role of media during Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on media' said, "India being a democratic country has four pillars: the legislative, executive, judiciary and media. In the modern day time media has become very powerful due to the rise of electronic media and digital platforms. During Covid-19 pandemic media has played a great role in bringing attention about the pandemic to the public. Media should give an accurate and objective picture of the spread of the virus, the number of positive cases and the number of cures and fatalities rate. But there are certain reports in the media without any facts which create confusion." In a democratic country like India the role of the media is increasing day by day, he said. As scheduled, the celebration started at 10 in the morning with the hosting of DPCKA flag by the president, Kiri Ronghang and followed by remembrance to the deceased media persons which were led by Deputy Director, District Information & Public Relation (DIPR) Avinash Barman. Additional Director, Public Relation & Information, Shekhar Engti; adviser, DPCKA, Kangbura Singnar, general secretary, DPCKA, Danielson Bey including media persons working in different media houses both print and electronic media and digital media persons attended the celebration. On the occasion a book titled 'The impact of government advertisement policy to create mass awareness' written by Additional Director, Public Relation & Information, Shekhar Engti was released by EM Teron.

## CM inaugurates 5th North East Green Summit

**Economy cannot be developed at the cost ecology: CM**

**Guwahati, Nov 16:** Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today inaugurated the 5th North East Green Summit at IIT, Guwahati which is organised by Vibgyor N.E. Foundation in collaboration with IIT, Guwahati and UN Environment. Speaking at the programme, the Chief Minister highlighted the state government's initiatives to protect the environment and said that the economy cannot be developed at the cost of the ecology. He informed about the commitment of the state government to plant 10 crore trees in the state and said that it has been a successful endeavour for environmental protection as more than 8 crore saplings have already been planted. Dwelling on the importance of platforms such as North East Green Summit, Sonowal urged the policy makers, environmental NGOs, researchers, academicians, politicians etc attending the Summit to deliberate on various aspects of the environment and come up ways to prepare the future roadmap so that sustainable measures can be taken for preserving the ecology. COVID-19 pandemic taught how it is important to preserve the sanctity of nature and why timely actions must be taken in this regard, he added. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of making Northeast the organic hub of the country, Sonowal hailed the launching of schemes like Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna by the Prime Minister for providing free LPG connection to poor women to reduce their hardships and minimize deforestation activities in search of cooking fuel. He also highlighted recent collaboration of State Government with the Israeli Government in the agriculture sector and hoped for technological solutions for harnessing the potential of natural water sources for economic development. He also informed about the State Government's commitment to achieve industrial growth in the state while maintaining environmental balance at the same time. Union MoS for food Processing Rameswar Teli, Commerce and Industries Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary, Manipur MP Rajkumar Ranjan, Singh were also present at the programme where IIT Guwahati Director T. G. Sitharam gave the welcome address and Silchar MP Dr Rajdeep Roy explained the objective of the Summit.

## JAA &amp; NUJI observed National Press Day

**Guwahati, November 16:** National Press Day was observed on the office premises of the Journalists Association of Assam (JAA) collaboration with the National Union of Journalist India, NUJI under the Presidentship of President Dharendra Nath Chakravarty. Where appointed speaker and National Vice President of NUJI cum Chief Adviser of JAA Bhupen Goswami delivered the keynote speech on this year's theme, "Safety of media fraternity". In his speech Goswami said that the last 12 years, 15 media houses and 989 journalists have been attacked. So we need a protective act immediately. He dwelt at length about the challenges faced by the journalists of the country due to Corona pandemic. 55 Journalists across the state took part in the function through Zoom app Participating in the discussion. Several other speakers including Anup Biswas, Working President JAA, Dalim Phukan, Senior Journalist Sudip Sarma Choudhury, Indrani Sarkar, Paramananda Deka and Rakesh Kumer, Anjan Bora, while their anger against the brutal assaults on media persons in different parts of the country including Assam and north east. Earlier, President Dharendra Nath Chakravarty spoke on the significant role of the press in building a society with positive thought and creative writing. The NUJI and JAA reiterated its demand for a Journalists Protection Act and Media Council to ensure the safety and end "impunity" for attacks on journalists. A statement from unions said that the media is now the nerve centre of our society and that it plays a vital role in disseminating information to the people. The meeting also expressed serious concern over the killing of journalists and atrocities on media fraternity.

## Four injured in wild boar attack at Gulirpar in Burhachapori wildlife sanctuary

**A correspondent : NAGAON, Nov 16:** In a sudden attack of a wild boar on Sunday, four persons including two children were seriously injured at Gulirpar, a riverine area, scheduled as the first addition to Burhachapori wildlife sanctuary which is being encroached by some suspected nationals. According to sources, the victims of the boar - attack have been identified as Morjina Khatun (10), Sultana Begum (5), Shah Ali (55) and Samor Jan (40) among which Morjina's condition is very critical. Following the incident, people of locality immediately admitted all of them to Nagaon BP Civil Hospital for better treatment. Sources however claims this afternoon that the condition of the Morjina Khatun is still critical. One wild boar came out suddenly from the jungle and leaped over the victim family when they were working together in the crop field, the sources added.

## National Press day organised at BARPETA by District Administration BARPETA in Association DIPRO

**Barpeta, Nov 16:** "The

journalist is not only the fourth pillar of all democracies but a responsible person in the society. "It is necessary to have knowledge of politics but journalists should not talk like politicians". "Journalists and doctors are the frontline warriors against Covid 19 pandemic" Ex. Journalist Babul Chandra.. Azizul Haque, Barpeta, 16 November: National press day is organised at Tarunram Fakan Hall at Barpeta by District Administration Barpeta in Association with District Information and Public Relation. Babul Chandra Das, a former professor of Madhav Chowdhury College, is the keynote speaker of the programme said even some cases journalists is more important than the doctors. Addressing a seminar on Influence of Covid 19 pandemic on media and role of journalists during Covid 19 pandemic organised by District Administration Barpeta in Association with District Information and Public Relation Office Barpeta Babul Das said that journalists have played pivotal role in the prevention of the pandemic. He also added that "The journalist is not only the fourth pillar of democracies but a responsible person in the society. It is necessary to have knowledge of politics but journalists should not talk like politicians". He asserted that without press whether it print or electronic people would have become ignorant about social distance, use of sanitizer, quarantine and importance of hand washing." When the people kept themselves confined in home during lock down journalists were moving around to keep them updated about the happening in the world. He said that social distance is an age old tradition in India in general and Assam in particular as Namaskar and not handshake is prevalent here since Vedic period. Regarding the history of press the veteran scholar said that concept of media sprouted in Ancient India in the form of Sanjay during Kurukshetra War. He said that oral form of journalism is also prevalent in Assam in the form of Thanar Batori. Inaugurating the seminar Munindra Sarma deputy commissioner of Barpeta said that Press Council of India is the guardian and protector of the press in the country. He lauded the positive role of the journalists in Barpeta district not only during the pandemic Covid 19 but in all aspects and hope that they will continue to play a pivotal role in the development and welfare of the society in future too. Senior journalist Sunil Kumar Das who was felicitated on this auspicious occasion said about the formation and role of Press Council of India. He said that PCI is responsible for the freedom of press in India. He also warned about the excessive freedom. Earlier District Information and Public Relation Officer Bikash Sarma presented and overview of the significance of the day. Rich tribute was paid to the departed souls of the departed journalists of the district who lost their lives during the last one year. They include veterans like Bhubaneswar Barman, Tarun Chandra Goswami, Serifuddin Ahmed and youngster Arnab Jyoti Deka. A number of working journalists spoke in the meeting who focussed on the problems faced by this community and appealed to the authorities to find ways and means for the solution of their perennial problems. At least 70 Journalists of the District is congratulated By the Organisers of the Programme. Nokul Talukdar, The Secretary of All Assam Journalist Union demands from the government of Assam to enact the law that can secure the life of Journalists.



## National Press Day observed in Hailakandi district

**Hailakandi, Nov.16:** The National Press Day was observed in a befitting manner maintaining all COVID-19 protocols here on Monday. Speaking as a chief guest at a function held at the Office of DIPRO, Deputy Commissioner, Hailakandi, Megh Nidhi Dahal said the National Press Day being observed by the Press Council of India is an occasion for both celebration and introspection as to 'what we have done and what we can do'. The Deputy Commissioner said the press has been playing a crucial role since the days of the freedom movement when it brought to the masses the message of the underground movement leaders and created a revolutionary zeal and patriotic fervour down to the COVID-19 pandemic situation despite several challenges confronted by it. Advocating for a free and independent press without any threat or under any influence, Dahal said the greatest weapon or a shield the press has in its arsenal is its credibility. Objectivity, free and fair and unbiased reporting determine the credibility of a newspaper or a news channel and that has to be maintained in a vibrant democracy like ours," said Dahal, adding that in the long run credibility counts rather than TRP rating and lopsided reporting. The Deputy Commissioner while saluting the media persons for reporting from ground zero on COVID-19 pandemic putting their lives at peril with some even succumbing to the disease, assured that the administration would do everything possible to safeguard the media for free and independent reporting. Editor of Nababarta Prasanga, Habibur Rahman Choudhury, in his keynote address, said the press has played a pivotal role during the COVID-19 pandemic situation by disseminating information by putting their lives and their families in danger and that some even lost their lives on the line of duty. "Whether it be the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak, flood or natural calamities, the media has all along been playing a pivotal role," he quipped. Narrating the ordeal faced by the print media during the COVID-19 pandemic following slump in advertisement, Rahman called upon the government to extend patronage to the newspapers by way of advertisements. Addressing the media persons as one of the speakers, former Administrative Officer with Central Government, Sandipan Dhar said the media played a great role in keeping the people abreast of all developments on the COVID front. He saluted them for their exemplary and dedicated services during the COVID pandemic and urged the administration to extend all possible help to them especially those who succumbed to the disease and those who were afflicted, including family members. Another appointed speaker, Prof. Sudip Choudhury from Assam University said the media persons have played a commendable role during the COVID outbreak. He made a plea to the administration to provide all possible help and assistance to the media persons to overcome the challenges posed by the disease. Addressing the media persons, DIPRO, Sabir Nishat said the media's coverage of the pandemic health crisis carries an important responsibility to offer balanced messaging about COVID-19 and public behaviour. "Trustworthy news is vital in particular when conveying personal risk and government mandated guidelines. After all, how the media portray health crises is an important influence not only on public behaviour but also on the long term repercussions for health," he added. Earlier, in his address, President of Hailakandi Press Club, Noimul Islam Choudhury narrated the trauma that he and his family had to undergo after being affected by the disease.



# Lewis Hamilton: ranking his seven Formula One world titles

**London, November 16 :** Lewis Hamilton's seven titles clockwise from left: For McLaren in Brazil (2008), Nico Rosberg makes a mistake at Monza (2014), victory in Singapore (2018), clashing with Sebastian Vettel (2017), leading the pack in Monte Carlo (2019), the British GP in 2015, and on the podium at Istanbul 2020. Photograph: Getty, Reuters, RexHamilton won his first title on the final corner of the final race of the season in Brazil. Seven points ahead of the Brazilian driver Felipe Massa, he needed to finish fifth or better if Massa won his home grand prix. Massa duly won the race for Ferrari while Hamilton was overtaken by Sebastian Vettel on lap 69 at São Paulo, which pushed him into sixth. But on the final corner, aided by rain he swept past a struggling Timo Glock to secure the required fifth-place finish and pip Massa by a single point for the championship. At the time, he was the youngest driver to win it, making up for the desperate disappointment of losing the 2007 title in the last race. How Hamilton saw it: "It's pretty impossible to put into words. I thought - do I have it? Do I have it? And when they told me I was ecstatic." After a fallow spell with McLaren and an unmemorable first year with the Silver Arrows, Hamilton emerged into a dominant car at the start of the hybrid era. The championship was characterised by his tit-for-tat battle with his teammate, Nico Rosberg. After a contentious coming together with Rosberg in Belgium, Hamilton went on to dominate the second half of the season, pressuring Rosberg into an error in Monza that gave him the momen-

tum to win five races on the bounce. He took the title under the double-points rules in the final race in Abu Dhabi. How Hamilton saw it: "This is the great day of my life: 2008 was a special time, but the feeling I have now is way, way past that, above and beyond. It's the greatest feeling I've ever had. This is like an outside-the-body experience." The Ferrari was quicker for most of the season and Vettel seemed in control of the championship heading



to Germany. The German driver was on pole, Hamilton 14th, but Hamilton won the race, chasing Vettel down in the rain, with his rival crashing out. From there on, Vettel seemed haunted, another error in Italy aiding Hamilton and in Singapore, at a race it was believed would favour Ferrari, Hamilton produced one of the greatest qualifying drives to sit on pole, saying: "That lap felt like magic." He won the race, and then the title in Mexico to equal Juan Manuel Fangio's five world championships. How Hamilton saw it: "It's definitely the best year I feel. It was the goal when I won the championship last year. I asked how can I improve? How can I be a better all-round driver, not just in the car but with my team in the garage, with the engineers and in the factory? I feel this year I have been able to lift them all up." Having lost the title to his teammate Rosberg in 2016, who immediately retired, Hamilton returned more motivated

and focused than ever with a new teammate in Valtteri Bottas. Ferrari were very strong and it was his first title battle with Vettel. In Baku, the eighth race of the season, the rivalry boiled over, Vettel going into Hamilton when the race was under the safety car, costing him dearly. Although the Ferrari driver held the championship lead into the second half of the season, from Belgium on, Hamilton cruised with Vettel crashing in Singapore and suffering reli-

ability issues elsewhere. In Mexico, Hamilton was champion again, despite finishing ninth having collided with Vettel on the opening lap. How Hamilton saw it: "It was a horrible way to do it, to be honest ... A big thank you to my family and my team. Mercedes have been incredible over the last five years and I am so proud to be a part of it. I never gave up. It was not the [type of] race I wanted. I kept going right to the end. I just want to lift it up to my family, and God and my team." This season was about the first half rather than the second for Hamilton; the foundations of his title coming from six wins in seven races having lost the opener in Australia to Bottas. The European leg included an inspired decision from his team to win on old rubber in Monaco. He conceded niggly penalties and Mercedes suffered what their team principal, Toto Wolff, described as "a bad day" that "could not have got much worse" in Germany, but

by the United States GP in early November, he had secured title number six. It was his third consecutive title, recorded with a second-placed finish in Austin after Bottas overtook him late in the race. How Hamilton saw it: "Still we rise, still we rise. What an incredible weekend. Thank you so much guys for today, and to everyone who came out. I can't believe it. I really can't believe it." Hamilton v Rosberg the sequel was marked by tension and squabbles, markedly in China and Monaco as the team won all but three of the season's 19 races. At Silverstone, Hamilton's decision-making in the wet was peerless and kickstarted a run in which he won six out of eight races. He sealed his third world championship in a wheel-to-wheel battle with Rosberg at the US GP, pressuring his rival into an error in the final 10 laps and winning the championship with three races remaining. How Hamilton saw it: "I remember my first British championship when my dad and I drove home singing We Are the Champions. It's hard to believe I'm sat here as a three-time champion." In a season unlike no other as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, Hamilton was calm and unthreatened, his focus on leading F1's battle against racism. He was nonetheless ruthless in closing out the title, beating his teammate Bottas from second in Imola to tighten his grip on the championship. In Turkey Hamilton displayed patience as well as speed, gradually working his way up after starting sixth and eventually taking the lead on the 37th lap. To underline his superiority he lapped Bottas, who finished 14th and out of the points, giving Hamilton an unsailable 110-point lead. His 10th race win of the campaign sealed the title and equalled Michael Schumacher's record of seven drivers' world championships. A world champion for the seventh time, Hamilton smiles after his 10th victory of the season in Istanbul. How Hamilton saw it: "We dreamed of this when I was young, when we were watching the grands prix ... and this is way, way beyond our dreams. It's so important for kids out there to hopefully see this - don't listen to anybody that tells you you can't achieve something. Speak it out to existence, you've got to work for it, you've got to chase it. Never give up and never doubt yourself."

## Lewis Hamilton wins Turkish GP to clinch record-equalling seventh F1 title

**London, November 16 :** Lewis Hamilton delivered high drama and high emotion for the spectacle of a coronation worthy of one of the greatest champions Formula One has ever produced. His victory at the Turkish Grand Prix sealed the championship and his seventh title. With it Hamilton has achieved what was once thought impossible, matched Michael Schumacher's record tally and in doing so become the most successful F1 driver of all time. He could not have done it in greater style than with the panache and masterly display of racecraft he showed at Istanbul Park in what can rightly be described as a champion's drive from one of F1's finest drivers. Head in his hands and in tears as he sat in his car after the race, even the world champion for whom winning has become commonplace seemed to struggle to take in this moment. Shortly after he climbed from the cockpit he was speaking through the tears that he could still not quite contain when he stood atop the podium. A moment even nature seemed ready to mark as the grey clouds that had loomed over



the circuit all day were banished by a dazzling rainbow bursting across the circuit. Hamilton admitted he found it hard to comprehend just how far the boy who had grown up on a council estate in Stevenage had come. "I am almost lost for words," he said. "We dreamed of this when I was young. It is so important for kids to see this and don't listen to anyone who says you can't achieve something. Dream the impossible. You have

got to chase it and never give up." Now 35, Hamilton has been chasing his dreams in F1 for 14 seasons. Matching his hero Ayrton Senna by just winning a championship had been his early hope, but having done so with his title in 2008, he surpassed Senna's three, then Juan Manuel Fangio's five and now stands alongside Schumacher as the champion of champions. Schumacher's records were thought to be untouchable but Hamilton has not only matched and beaten him but is in every position to set new benchmarks way beyond the German's tallies. He has already surpassed Schumacher's records of race wins and pole positions with 94 and 97 respectively. This season he has been indomitable with 10 wins and nine poles from 14 races, no driver has come close to even putting him under pressure, including teammate Valtteri Bottas who is in identical Mercedes machinery. Hamilton has closed the drivers' championship out with three races in hand. Hamilton only had to beat Bottas in Turkey to ensure he sealed the title but the world champion still did it decisively.

Mercedes knew this was going to be a difficult race, having been off the pace all weekend, unable to bring their tyres into the correct operating window in the low temperatures and with the track - resurfaced two weeks ago - offering very little grip. With rain from the off and Hamilton starting in sixth and Bottas in ninth a conservative cruise to ensure the title might have been expected. The champion was having none of it. He burst off the line into third with a statement of intent and as cars slithered on the treacherous surface Hamilton kept his sure touch. At one point, behind Sebastian Vettel's Ferrari and unable to pass,

he tempered his desire to press on, held his place as he sought an opportunity and crucially kept his car on the line. His moment duly came as it has done on many previous occasions with his fine judgment and touch on his tyres making all the difference. As the leaders pitted for the second time Hamilton insisted he could stay out as the track began to dry and his rubber wore down. It proved inspired. He passed Racing Point's Sergio Pérez, who finished second, for the lead and hared off into the distance. The Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff could not contain his admiration, describing his driver "hungry as a lion". The worn intermediate rubber might have been a danger but he had judged it to perfection, as the tyres wore their grooves down to slicks so the track had dried and they proved perfectly suited to. Even at the last with an enormous gap Hamilton controlled every aspect of his performance. The team wanted him to make a late stop for fresh rubber to guard against any further rain but Hamilton, perhaps thinking back to 2007 in China when his title efforts were derailed by a pitstop, insisted on staying out. This was the world champion at the very top of his game. There was great pace, his exemplary touch while as others cars spun off, as well as a master tactician's grasp of the bigger picture. By the chequered flag Hamilton was over 30 seconds clear of Pérez, as great a victory as his masterclass in the wet at Silverstone in 2008, the year he won his first title. Twelve years on the talent is still clear, now honed by a master who gave notice that having gone beyond his wildest dreams more was likely to come. "I remember watching Michael win those world championships. To get one or two or even three is so hard," he said. "Seven is unimaginable. There is no end to what we can do together, me and this team."

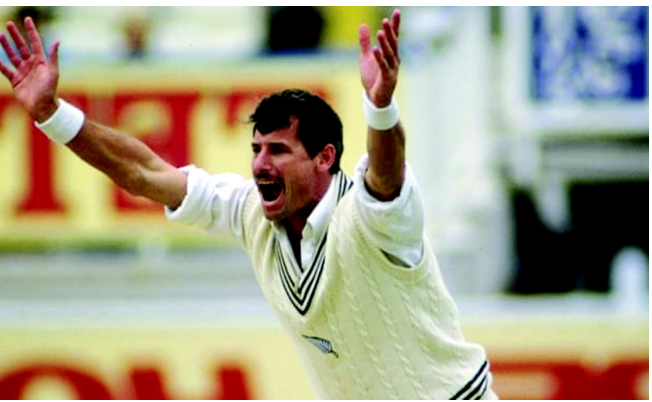
# Neil Ruddock: 'Souness wouldn't drop players, he would tackle you instead'

**Liverpool, November 16 :** Neil Ruddock gets his swearing from his mother. It's 10am on a Tuesday and in the den at the back of his house 'Razor' doesn't hold back with the Fs and Cs. But the swearing comes naturally, and as Billy Connolly once suggested, there can be a poetry to it, which is certainly true in Ruddock's cockney drawl. It is sometimes crass, or superfluous, but it's also who Ruddock is. He's the son of a swearer, so naturally he became one. It's a rule that could be applied to Ruddock's life. He's a product of his environment and, for better or worse, that is what has shaped his experiences and larger-than-life character. The youngest of three Millwall-supporting boys, Ruddock was schooled at Southampton by two of the hardest footballers to play the game - Jimmy Case and Terry Hurlock - before earning big moves to Tottenham and Liverpool where certain standards of professionalism had not quite caught up with the era's wages, brought on by the birth of the Premier League and Sky Sports. It will come as a shock to nobody, then, that Ruddock was a rugged player who enjoyed himself off the pitch as well as on it. In the early 1990s, even the clubs were not particularly professional. "I once injured my knee at Liverpool," remembers Ruddock, "and Ronnie Moran ran out of ultrasound gel, so he ran to the kitchen to get some washing-up liquid instead." When I first arrived at Liverpool, the doctor used to come into Melwood on Thursday afternoons. That was it. So if you got injured Friday, you were fucked. They didn't get a physio in until two years after I arrived." When Ruddock signed for Liverpool in 1993, for £2.5m, he briefly became the most expensive defender in the world. "Loads of teams were in for me," he says. "Glenn Hoddle at Chelsea, Kevin Keegan at Newcastle, Walter Smith at Rangers, Brian Clough at Forest and Kenny Dalglish at Blackburn all put offers in." Graeme Souness convinced me to choose Liverpool. He was still the best player in training at five-a-side. He wouldn't drop players, he would just tackle you instead, put you out for a couple of days so he wouldn't have to pick you. It was normally Don Hutchison. If you were on Souness's team on Friday, you knew you were playing the next day. "Souness's managerial stint at Anfield was not successful. Players such as Peter Beardsley and Steve Staunton were sold and expensively replaced with poorer models. Despite the presence of John Barnes and Ian Rush, and the emergence of Robbie Fowler, Steve McManaman, Jamie Redknapp and Rob Jones, Liverpool would sometimes languish in the bottom half of the table. An embarrassing FA Cup home



defeat by Bristol City in January 1994 led Souness to resign. Roy Evans was ushered in, and so the era of the Spice Boys began. Results improved, a League Cup was won, the now-infamous white suits were ordered for an FA Cup final. "Footballers were the new pop stars. Sky came in with all the money but as the Spice Boys we only went out when we were allowed. We went on an end-of-season trip to Marbella. Fowler, Barnes, Redknapp, Dom Matteo, John Scales, Phil Babb, big Ron Yeats. We had to have a member of staff with us, and big Ron was the only one daft enough to come." Ron was brilliant. He told us the story of when he himself signed for Liverpool in 1961, that Bill Shankly had called the Everton manager [Harry Catterick] up and said: 'I've just bought a big centre-half. Why don't you come over and we'll take a walk around him.' Another on that trip was Robbie Williams. Music and football were entwined at that time. Oasis would wear Manchester City shirts at their gigs. Mick Hucknall would travel on the Manchester United team bus to European away days. Redknapp married a member of Eternal." Robbie used to come and watch Liverpool," says Ruddock. "He was meant to be in the studios with Take That but he came away with us instead so they sacked him after that. But I like to think that if I hadn't kidnapped him, there would be no 'Angels' or Knebworth." Ruddock and Williams are still mates, and the pair recently reconnected via a video call. Ruddock has spent much of lockdown like this, reminiscing, collecting his memories and stories into a new book. It is dedicated to his wife, Leah, "who got me back on the straight and narrow and made me the happiest man on earth". uddock is certainly happier than he was. Last year he featured in Harry's Heroes, a television show that brought former England footballers together for one final veterans' match, under the guidance of manager Harry Redknapp. Ruddock had some sobering conversations about his weight and his drinking, but the show also uncovered some serious heart problems. "It was a wake-up call for me," says Ruddock. "I've got my pacemaker fitted now but I didn't know that my heart was racing. It was resting

## England's team spirit is unlikely to be harmed by MVP award for Jofra Archer



**London, November 16 :** Eoin Morgan's squad seem to enjoy each other's company and a repeat of incidents such as the 1986 Richard Hadlee Alfa Romeo furore appear unlikely. The English players suddenly disappeared in the final stages of the Indian Premier League. So it was quite an achievement for Jofra Archer to be given the Most Valuable Player award at the conclusion of the tournament. His side, Rajasthan Royals, an English enclave since Archer was accompanied there by Jos Buttler, Ben Stokes and Tom Curran, finished bottom of the table. How strange would it seem if the PFA's player of the year played for Norwich City, who came last in the Premier League in the 2019-20 season? Archer won the award via some form of algorithm. So obviously there can be no arguments there. He accrued 305 points and was therefore ahead of Kagiso Rabada of Delhi Capitals, who came second (298 points), and Jasprit Bumrah who played for the eventual winners, Mumbai Indians (269.5 points). At last a formula has been concocted that seems to favour the down-trodden breed of pace bowlers rather than the fancy Dans up the order. Undoubtedly Archer performed superbly in the tournament even though he was on the losing side more often than not. He bowled fast and on target and was brimful of confi-

dence throughout as his opponents grew ever more wary of him. The stats that are spewed out may well demonstrate this: 20 wickets in 14 matches, 175 dot balls (at last the dot ball has been properly recognised and celebrated), five catches, as well as five fours and 10 sixes with the bat. I have also been wary of individual awards in cricket (except, perhaps, when I've won them). The award of the MVP or the man of the match is supposed to add a bit of interest and glamour at the end of the game or tournament and this usually means that there is someone else for the broadcasters and media to talk to afterwards. But cricket is supposed to be a team game. It should not matter much who wins these awards. The IPL seems to have a formula for deciding the winner of such awards, which is designed to be objective since it is based on numbers. Often the criteria have been more subjective, especially in the distant past. I like this example: in 1983 Somerset played Sussex in the quarter-final of the NatWest Trophy at Hove and they bowled out their opponents for 65 in 40.4 overs, Joel Garner taking four for eight, Ian Botham four for 20. Arthur Milton, the former Test opener and right-winger (the last man to play cricket and football for England) was tasked with deciding the man of the match award. "I can't separate the performances of Joel and Ian", he announced at the end-of-game presentation, "so I'm giving the award to Trevor Gard". Trevor was Somerset's wicketkeeper, who had taken five catches in the innings. This was a typically deft decision by Arthur and a univer-

sally popular one. Peter May, then the Chairman of Selectors, trumped this at Lords after the Benson & Hedges Cup final of 1984 between Lancashire and Warwickshire. Lancashire won a low-scoring contest by six wickets and May astounded everyone, including the recipient, by giving the award to John Abrahams, the Lancashire captain. Earlier in the day he had been dismissed for a duck, he had not bowled and he had taken one catch as well as dropping a sitter. However, he had won the toss. Sometimes these awards can cause mayhem. For a while in 1986 an Alfa Romeo saloon was the most famous car in New Zealand. Richard Hadlee had won it for being the International Player of the Year after the tour to Australia. The unwritten precedent was that any individual prizes should be put into the team pool but Hadlee wanted to keep the car and had it shipped back to New Zealand. This caused many ructions within the Kiwi dressing room and a famous stand-off between the captain, Jeremy Coney, and Hadlee ensued, which was most obvious throughout the Christchurch Test match of 1987 against West Indies. John Wright, the Kiwi opening batsman, has recalled one of his roles in that game. "I had to be a sort of go-between because they weren't speaking to each other. I'd be asking Richard if he wanted to bowl another over and telling Coney that Richard wanted another gully - I felt like Henry Kissinger. It was absurd." Hadlee took six for 50 in the first innings, with three of those victims caught by Coney in the slips, and New Zealand won by five wickets. There will not be the same friction in the England camp when the one-day side comes together for the tour to South Africa this week and no doubt the process of prize money distribution is precisely laid down. In recent times Eoin Morgan's squad have contained an unusually tight-knit group of players who clearly enjoy one another's company.



# Smith, Warner pose a challenge but wins don't come easy : Cheteshwar Pujara

**London, November 16 :** David Warner and Steve Smith's presence does make Australia stronger but Cheteshwar Pujara has full faith in India's "remarkable" bowlers, who, he feels, possess the wherewithal to script a repeat of the historic 2018-19 Test series victory. Pujara's 500 plus runs with three top-notch hundreds formed the cornerstone of a 2-1 series win back then, India's first in Australia in 71 years. However, Smith and Warner didn't play in that series due to their ball-tampering bans. "It (Australian batting line-up) will be a little stronger than what it was in 2018-19 but then victories don't come easy. If you want to win away from home, you need to work hard," India's dependable No.3 told PTI in an exclusive interview before he embarked on the tour of Australia. Pujara believes that India's fast bowling trioka of Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami can

again work up some magic like in 2018-19, posing a lot of discomfort for the home batting line-up. The upcoming Tests are scheduled to start on December 17. "No doubt Smith, Warner and

to be successful in Australia as they have enjoyed success there in the past. They have their game-plans in place and if we can execute them well, they are capable of getting Smith, Warner and

the man who is nearing 6000 Test runs (5840 in 77 games) with 18 hundreds in his kitty. "It will be a different challenge altogether playing with pink ball as pace and bounce also changes.



Marnus Labuschagne are great players. But the good part about our current crop of bowlers is that most of them play in the same series and our bowling unit will also not be very different to what it was in 2018-19. "For India's fast bowlers, it's like a "been there, done that" situation. "They know how

Labuschagne out quickly. "If we can do what we have done in the past, I am sure we have every chance of winning the series again. "The opening Test in Adelaide is a Day-Night game and batting against the pink kookaburra during the twilight session will pose its own set of challenges, said

We will be playing with pink kookaburra in Australia (against Bangladesh, it was Pink SG Test). It will be slightly different. "He believes that overcoming the challenges of playing their first overseas Day/night Test will have to happen collectively. "As a team and as individu-

als, one has to understand and accept and get used to it (pink ball and lights) as early possible. There will be a bit of difference with pink ball. "The twilight period is more challenging than other periods but as you play more and practice more, you get used to it. It does take a little while... "An astute student of the game, Pujara is known to work on his with father Arvind Pujara, who is also his one and only coach. He has plans in place but won't like to divulge much. "The technical aspect is something that I can't discuss. I prefer not talking about it. It's a strategic thing which can't be divulged. "Even during the last tour, my preparation was good, I am confident that I am able to repeat the same preparation before this series also. I always try and add a few more things in my game, which will help me get better," he said. The 32-year-old is confident that history will repeat itself in Australia this time. "You can't win matches on your own. Yes, you can perform exceptionally well but you need support from

other players to win. Even the bowling unit was remarkable during the last series. "In the end, you need 20 wickets to win a Test and wasn't just my performance, even other batters supported at some stage or the other. It was the team's success. When the Indian team succeeds, it is always a moment of pride," he recollected. Pujara has practised for a good two months at his academy in Rajkot under the watchful eyes of his father. Does it bother that before leaving for Australia, he didn't get enough match practice? "Look, this is a situation that has impacted millions of lives and people have lost lives. In normal circumstances, we would have played domestic cricket and gone to Australia but everyone needs to think about safety and security. "As far as I am concerned, I am happy if I am able to practice, do my fitness, running sessions and move my body well, which I did," he concluded.

## Pat Cummins yet to decide on whether to play in limited overs series against India

**... There's always cricket on, so we'll make sure we're all open about that, having those conversations," said the 27-year-old during a video conference as reported by 'cricket...'**

**Melbourn, November 16 :** Australia pace spearhead Pat Cummins on Monday said he is yet to take a call on whether to play in the limited-overs series against India beginning November 27 even though he is feeling fresh after spending three months inside bio-secure bubbles. Cummins, who has taken 143 wickets from 30 Tests. The right-arm was in bio-bubbles in Southampton and Manchester on Australia's white-ball tour of the UK before flying to the UAE for the IPL, where he was with his franchise Kolkata Knight Riders. He is now in Sydney spending 14 days quarantining and will join the squad on November 27, the day of the opening one-dayer at the SCG. Despite enduring bio-bubbles for three months now, Cummins said he felt it is a "pretty good place". "One of the benefits of being in a bubble in the UAE was we didn't spend much time travelling. A normal IPL we're on a flight every second day, different city, so I think sometimes that can be as draining as the playing part. "No doubt as well, the six or seven months we had at home (during the winter) put us in a pretty good place leading into the England tour and IPL. "Coming in fresh to those tours it doesn't feel like the end of the summer, it feels like I'm ready to start the tour and in a pretty good place. "Cummins also said he won't be going out there to intimidate the Indians but if

busy this next couple of months is but also a tour of South Africa (February-March) and a few away tours next year," said Cummins, who has taken 143 wickets from 30 Tests. The right-arm was in bio-bubbles in Southampton and Manchester on Australia's white-ball tour of the UK before flying to the UAE for the IPL, where he was with his franchise Kolkata Knight Riders. He is now in Sydney spending 14 days quarantining and will join the squad on November 27, the day of the opening one-dayer at the SCG. Despite enduring bio-bubbles for three months now, Cummins said he felt it is a "pretty good place". "One of the benefits of being in a bubble in the UAE was we didn't spend much time travelling. A normal IPL we're on a flight every second day, different city, so I think sometimes that can be as draining as the playing part. "No doubt as well, the six or seven months we had at home (during the winter) put us in a pretty good place leading into the England tour and IPL. "Coming in fresh to those tours it doesn't feel like the end of the summer, it feels like I'm ready to start the tour and in a pretty good place. "Cummins also said he won't be going out there to intimidate the Indians but if



players in the white-ball squad, including Steve Smith and David Warner, will get only a week to prepare for the opening Test, a day-nighter in Adelaide. "I wouldn't be surprised if there's times throughout the summer where some players might just need a little rest knowing not only how

he manages to have the effect, it would be a bonus. "If it happens I'll be happy. Hopefully the (pitch) conditions will be what we as Aussies are accustomed to," he said. "Hopefully they've got a bit more bounce and pace than you would a place like India so that home advantage might come into it."

## Ray Clemence always seemed to be in the right place at the right time

**London, November 16 :** Ray Clemence was not just one of the finest goalkeepers England has ever produced, he was a link back to the time when footballers used to have day jobs or summer occupations. Impossible as it will now seem to imagine, there was a period relatively recently when promising young footballers would find themselves meeting and dealing with members of the public, as Clemence famously did when working as a deckchair attendant on the beach in his native Skegness. Just in case younger generations find this hard to credit, photographs exist of a young Clemence not only distributing the aforesaid folding finger-traps, but also leaping around on the sand on being asked to demonstrate his goalkeeping ability. At that precise time in his life Clemence was on his way from Scunthorpe United to Liverpool, where once he started playing he would make his name and quickly force his way into

the England reckoning. Bill Shankly did some excellent business with Scunthorpe, but before he picked up Kevin Keegan for £35,000 in 1971 he spotted and signed Clemence for around £18,000 four years earlier. Even as a teenager Clemence had already played 48 games for Scunthorpe, but though the Liverpool manager

recognised his precocity, he initially signed him for the Anfield reserve team. Clemence would have to wait until 1970 to break into the senior Liverpool side, watching Tommy Lawrence in the later years of his Anfield career, until Shankly decided all at once that his powerful side of the 1960s had been allowed to grow old together

and culled Lawrence along with Ron Yeats and Ian St John to give a younger generation a chance. Tall, slender and gracefully athletic, Clemence was a different type of goalkeeper to Lawrence and he never looked back once he gained his opportunity in the first team. He was a virtual ever-present in the Liverpool goal

for the next 11 seasons, and by the time he left for Tottenham Hotspur in 1981 he had claimed five league titles, three European Cups, two UEFA Cups and a League Cup. With Spurs he would go on to add another FA Cup and another UEFA Cup, and go on to join the exclusive club of players with more than 1,000 official

appearances. Clemence played 1,117 senior games in all, 61 of them for England, and his total of caps would have been much greater but for having the misfortune to play at the same time as Peter Shilton. Those two were arguably the last of the production line of notable English goalkeepers that thrived throughout the 1960s, and it was a dilemma for England managers of the time which one to choose. Clemence played more often in the 1970s and Shilton ended up first choice for most of the 1980s, though there was a considerable period of overlap during which Ron Greenwood deliberately alternated between the two. Though a more than capable shot-stopper, Clemence was one of those goalkeepers who read the game so well he did not always need to fling himself about the goalmouth. His anticipation usually meant he was in the right place at the right time, whether to collect a cross or to reach an attempt on goal.



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