

The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Local residents make Tangyuan, a kind of round and ...

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Tammy Beaumont and Heather Knight ease England to ODI win...

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Parag Kumar Das Journalist Award

Guwahati, February 24: The Parag Kumar Das Journalist Award, 2021 has been conferred to internationally famed Photojournalist Anupam Nath at a prestigious ceremony held at Gauhati Press Club in the city on Wednesday. The award carries a memento, a citation and a cheque of Rs 25 thousand. Eminent litterateur Dr. Dhruvajyoti Bora, Prof Rajiv Handique Head of the Department of History, Gauhati University, Senior journalist and Rajya Sabha MP Ajit Kumar Bhuyan has conferred the prestigious award to Anupam Nath.

1 Lakh Gamosas

Guwahati, February 24: The Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) has collected over 1 lakh Anti-CAA gamosas so far through its collection drive which was announced early this month. APCC had promised to build Anti-CAA memorial in Guwahati if voted to power and put up the signed gamosas on it. "Resonating with the plight of the people in Assam, the Congress cadres have been able to garner over one lakh gamosa through its door-to-door collection drive."

World's First Free Vaccine

New Delhi, February 24: West African nation Ghana became the first country to receive the first batch of doses coronavirus vaccines from Covax in India. Covax is a global scheme launched last April to distribute two billion COVID vaccines for free among poorer countries. "The next phase in the fight against this disease can begin — the ramping up of the largest immunisation campaign in history," UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore declared in a statement. "At last!" World Health Organization (WHO), Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, whose organisation also backs the Covax initiative, said in a tweet. A day to celebrate, but it's just the first step," he added. The 600,000 doses delivered to Ghana are the Oxford/AstraZeneca formula, made under license by the world's largest vaccine manufacturer, the Serum Institute of India.

Rakesh Tikait warns Centre of 'Parliament march with 40 lakh tractors' if farm laws not repealed

New Delhi, February 24: Speaking at a farmers' rally in Sikar in Rajasthan on Tuesday, Tikait said, "Our next call will be for a march to Parliament. We will tell them before marching. This time it won't be just 4 lakh tractors but 40 lakh tractors will go there if farm laws are not taken back." Sikar: Renewing threat to the Central Government, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) leader, Rakesh Tikait said. **Contd...Page 6**



Refurbished Motera stadium renamed after PM as Narendra Modi stadium



New Delhi, February 24: President Ram Nath Kovind on Wednesday inaugurated the world's largest cricket arena -- the refurbished Sardar Patel Stadium in Motera -- a state-of-the-art facility which can accommodate an awe-inspiring 1.32 lakh spectators. The President inaugurated the stadium in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju among a host of other dignitaries. It opens

with the third Test between India and England, a day-night game from Wednesday, and will also host the fourth and final game of the series from March 4. India vs England Live Score, 3rd Test, Day 1 The stadium, which was earlier named after India's first deputy prime minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, has been renamed after current prime minister Narendra Modi and will henceforth be known as the Narendra Modi Stadium. Spread over 63 acres, the stadium has been built at an estimated cost of 7800 crore and with a seating capacity for 1,32,000 spectators, it has surpassed the hallowed Melbourne Cricket Ground which can accommodate 90,000. "The total area is equivalent to 32 Olympic size soccer fields put together," stated a note from the Press Information Bureau giving specifics of the enormous structure. The facility, which was closed for renovation in 2015, was witness to some major milestones in Indian cricket in its previous avatar. These included Sunil Gavaskar reaching the 10,000 runs mark in Test cricket against Pakistan in 1987 and Kapil Dev claiming his 432nd Test wicket to become the highest wicket-taker in the world in 1994, surpassing Sir Richard Hadlee. Australian architect firm Populous, which designed the Melbourne Cricket Stadium among others, is the **Contd...Page 6**

CM Sonowal Lays Foundation Stone For Industrial Park At Jamugurihat

Guwahati, February 14: Taking forward the State government's initiatives for boosting industrial ecosystem, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday laid the foundation of an Industrial Park and permanent campus for ITI, Sootea at Jamugurihat in Sonitpur district today. The foundation stones were laid during a Mahila Samaroh organized by Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission in association with Sonitpur district administration and Sonitpur Zila Parishad at Jamugurihat. The Industrial Park will be built at a sprawling 315 bigha of land and the permanent campus of ITI, Sootea will be built with a financial outlay of Rs. 25 crores. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sonowal terming the women as the source of supreme energy said that the BJP led state government in **Contd...Page 6**



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Over 1,000 Militants belonging to 5 Insurgent outfits lay down Arms in Guwahati

Guwahati, February 24: A total of 1,040 members of five militant outfits that were operating in the hill districts of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong joined the mainstream by laying down arms in Guwahati in presence of Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday. The arms laying down ceremony was held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati by the Home department of the state government. Apart from Sonowal, Karbi Anglong Autonomous District Council (KAADC) CEM - Tuliram Ronghang, Assam Police DG Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta and several other dignitaries were present in the function. The rebels, belonging to five groups -



PDCK, KNLF, KPLT, KLF and UPLA were active mostly in the hill district of Karbi Anglong, declared unilateral ceasefire with the government earlier. CM Sarbananda Sonowal during his address praised them for abjuring the path of violence. "You have returned to the mainstream reposing your faith and trust in the Indian Constitution and democracy. We believe in peace and peaceful co-existence. We should work as a family for the state's overall development," Sonowal said. In a major boost to reigning state government's goal of making an insurgency-free Assam and ushering in lasting peace in the State, 1040 militants of five Karbi ethnic militant groups laid down arms and joined the mainstream in front of Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at a function held at Srimanta Sankardeva **Contd...Page 6**

Kalakshetra in the . On the occasion, total 1040 cadres of Karbi **Contd...Page 6**

Sonowal performs bhumi puja and inaugurates construction work for Assam Police Academy

Unveils statue of Swargadeo Chaolung Siu Ka Pha at Khumtai

Guwahati, February 24: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, "In the changing face of crimes in the 21st century, the Assam Police personnel need to be empowered to combat with the crimes". Therefore, the present State government has taken series of steps for empowering the police forces". In tune with the steps, Sonowal today inaugurated the construction work of Assam Police Academy at Dergaon. Participating at the bhumi puja for the Police Academy at Dergaon today, Chief Minister Sonowal said that a Police Academy has been a long felt need of the police forces in Assam and once completed the academy would help a great deal in transforming Assam Police into Smart Police. He said close on **Contd...Page 6**



Ahead of Amit Shah visit organisations demand to insert Article 244(A) in peace agreement



Diphu, February 24: Several Organisations of Karbi Anglong demand the implementation of Article 244(A) of the Indian Constitution should be inserted in the peace agreement which is likely to be signed between the militant organisations Karbi Longri N.C. Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF), United Peoples Liberation Army (UPLA), Karbi People's Liberation Tiger (KPLT) (2 faction) and People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK) with the State Govt. and Central Govt. during the visit of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on February 25. Convening Committee for Unification (CCU), Joint Action Committee for Autonomous State (JACAS), Karbi Students Organisation and several others stated that, it is a welcome note to be made to the militant **Contd...Page 6**

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"125-Year-Old Congress Defeated": Arvind Kejriwal On AAP Show In Gujarat

New Delhi, February 24: The Aam Admi Party's (AAP) emergence in the Surat civic body is the beginning of a new politics in Gujarat and each of its winning candidates will execute the responsibility with honesty, party chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said today. He also vowed to improve Gujarat in partnership with the people of the state. AAP garnered an impressive 27 seats in the coastal city, replacing the Congress as the main opposition party in the city municipal corporations, elections for which were held on Sunday. Gleaming over his party's performance, Mr Kejriwal said, "The people of Surat have defeated a 125-year-old party, the Congress, to give the AAP the responsibility of the main opposition. I would like to assure you that each of our winning candidates will handle the responsibility with honesty." Of 576 seats that voted on Sunday, the BJP has won **Contd...Page 6**



483 seats, according to the results announced yesterday. The Congress came a distant second with just 55 seats. AAP, contesting the polls for the first time, won 27 - all from Surat, delivering a big jolt to the Congress which didn't win a single seat in the city this time. In 2015, the BJP won 391 of these seats and the Congress ended up with 174. The Patidar Anamat Aarakshan Samiti (PAAS), a body of the Patel community, boycotted the Congress in Surat this time. The AAP took advantage of this and fielded candidates belonging to the caste, decimating the Congress. The Congress's defeat in Surat raises questions over its Working President, Hardik Patel, who led the state-wide Patel agitation of 2015. Many members of PAAS were given tickets by AAP in the city this time. The results reflect this, too, since AAP could not win a single seat elsewhere. In today's video, Mr Kejriwal said AAP's victory is the beginning of a new kind of politics in the state. "The politics of honesty, the politics of good schools, the politics of hospitals, the politics of inexpensive electricity with 24-hour supply," he emphasised. "We will partner the people in improving Gujarat." AAP's impressive performance is a cause for worry for state BJP chief CR Patil, too, who is an MP from Navsari. He, however, expressed satisfaction yesterday that Surat was the only corporation that was 'Congress-muk'. The Delhi Chief Minister said he will be visiting Surat on February 26 to personally thank the people of the city.

Foundation stone of Amingaon Science Centre and Planetarium in Pachim Dadara laid

Guwahati, February 24: Assam Health, Finance and Education Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday laid the foundation stone of Amingaon Science Centre and Planetarium in Pachim Dadara, North Guwahati, Assam. "Advancements in #science and #technology are must for overall development in the state. Today, inaugurated Amingaon Science Centre & Planetarium, an ambitious project of Science & Technology Dept, GoA, at Pachim Dadara, Guwahati along with Min @keshab_mahanta# AssamAlwaysAhead," Tweeted Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. Minister Keshav Mahanta was also present in the foundation stone lay down ceremony. Earlier, today the minister inaugurated office of the Treasury officer in Chandmari, Guwahati. "Advancements in #science and #technology are must for overall development in the state Laid foundation stone of Amingaon Science Center & Planetarium, an ambitious project of Science & Technology Dept, at Pachim Dadara, North Guwahati along with Min @keshab_mahanta," Dr. Sarma Tweeted. Meanwhile after a number of fake COVID-19 pictures and videos circulated on Social Media, it created panic among the people of Assam. Clearing the air Assam Health Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday said that there is no reason to panic as the COVID-19 situation is under control in the state. "There is no reason to **Contd...Page 6**

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BSF (India) - Bgb (Bangladesh) Sector Commander Level Border Co-Ordination Meeting Held At Bop Purbasahebganj, 129 Bn Under Ftr Hq Guwahati



Guwahati, Feb 24 : On 23 Feb 2021, Sector Commander level Border Co-ordination meeting between Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh held at BOP Purbasahebganj of 129 BN under SHQ Coochbehar. BGB delegation was led by Md Arefin Talukder, psc, Deputy Director General Sector Commander BGB Sector HQR Rangpur (Bangladesh) and BSF delegation was led by Sh Prabhakar Joshi, DIG, SHQ BSF, Coochbehar. 02. This meeting yielded positive result in many important issues and constructive solution were arrived to curb trans-border crimes. Emphasis was laid upon sharing of information at cutting edge level between both border

guarding forces and expediting of developmental works, Coordinated Border management Plan (CBMP) which are crucial for welfare of border population on both side. 03. Further it was also mutually agreed to make all possible efforts to ensure peace and tranquillity among the borders. Both sides shared commitment and expressed satisfaction over the outcome and reiterated full commitment in ensuring their effective implementation in a collaborative manner. 04. Expressing satisfaction over the outcome of the meeting both the delegation Commanders reiterated commitment to work jointly for maintaining peace, tranquillity and security at the border.

NPS employees boycott duty for old pension scheme at Nagaon

NAGAON, Feb 24 : As per call of All Assam Govt NPS employees Union, along rest of the state, Nagaon district unit of the Union today boycotted their duties in the office of Deputy Commissioner here and staged a protest against the new pension scheme. During the protest, the agitators shouted various slogans against the new pension scheme and appealed to the state government to implement the old pension scheme instead of that new one. On the other hand, the

teachers as well as other employees who are rendering services in various educational institutions of the district under the NPS also boycotted their duties in their respective institutions and demanded to implement the old pension plan before the upcoming state assembly election. During the protest, the agitators however warned that if the government mechanism would fail to implement it, the employees will pay in return in the upcoming poll, a release said.

MLA Flags off 10 km Township Extension Road

Likabali, Feb 24 : The MLA Likabali Shri Kardo Nyigyor Inaugurated and Flagged off 10 KM Improvement and Extension of Likabali Township road executed under NESIDS from NH-Road to School field via GHSS, Likabali Boy's Hostel amid cheer and applause on 23rd February. He appealed every citizen to extend cooperation to Executing Agency to give all cooperation so that the work is completed in time for the larger interest of the people of Likabali. Lower Siang Deputy Commissioner Shri A.K. Singh along with all Head of Departments of



Likabali and public leaders were present to witness the Ceremony.

Soon Assam will be the No.1 State in India : Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma

Hojai District Civil Hospital inaugurated



Hojai, February 23: Health & Family Welfare, PWD and Finance Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Tuesday here in Hojai that within five years of Bharatiya Janta Party regime Assam has witnessed a historic development and progress. Sarma said five years ago no one had any notion that the State will have such an intensive level of development in all the sectors. "I think once all the projects which are in progress gets complete 'Assam' will be the 'Number 1 State in India', Sarma asserted. Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma was here in Hojai to inaugurate a no. of welfare projects. Notably, Sarma along with local MLA Shiladitya Dev. Lumding MLA Shibu Mishra and other officials, at first formally inaugurated the much awaited health project for the residents of the district i.e the 200 bedded Hojai District Civil Hospital, then he addressed the thousands of gathering which was waiting to listen him, then Sarma Kicked off the statewide Jansamparkh Abhiyan

Mission of Saffron party from here by visiting two residence in the Krishna Nagar area of the town namely of one Sajal Debnath and Pawan Bhimsaria, which was followed by the formal inauguration of the Rabindranath Tagore University and laying off the foundation stone of an administrative building at the University Campus. After inaugurating the Hojai District Civil Hospital which is built at a sprawling land of 6544 square metre at a cost of Rs 27,36,79,400 crore. Sarma said this hospital will boost health facility in the district. He said today OPD facility has began and within three months indoor facility will also begin. He further quoted, "I have a strong believe one day the District Civil Hospital will be upgraded to Medical College, which will further enhance the district to the next level", he added. In case of Covid 19 cases in the State, Sarma said there is nothing serious to worry. At the public meeting, Sarma said BJP has worked whole

heartedly within last five years for the overall development of the state. He also slammed the people and organisations which were leading CAA agitation. Sarma said this agitation has wasted our time and slowed down the rate of progress. He said now it is crystal clear that those who were leading agitation had an expectation of being the 'Raja' (Chief Minister) of the state, that's why they have formed political parties. But, the Citizens of Assam, knows everything, he added that We are cent percent sure BJP will form the government with 100 plus seats. At Rabindranath Tagore University, Sarma announced that he has accepted the request of Vice Chancellor Professor Amalendu Chakrabarty, soon a B.ed College affiliated to this university will be established in Hojai. Laying special emphasis on the development RTU, Sarma said University will get 100 crores within next three years and 70 new faculty positions. He also said the road along the university will be soon made, as already the amount for it has been sanctioned. Sarma further reiterated about the achievement of the BJP Government within the last five years. He talked about the pace on which Saffron party is continuously working, to fulfill the dreams and expectations of the Citizens of Assam. Meanwhile, people from all the walks of life marks their attendance at all the venues. The youths were highly energetic and excited to see Sarma, hundreds of youths were seen taking selfie with the Minister. Sarma also waved, his hand met with people with full of zeal.

APSCW Concluded their Weeklong Legal Awareness at Likabali

Likabali, Feb 24 : Arunachal Pradesh State Commission for Women in coordination with Galo Welfare Society Women wing organized One Day Legal Awareness Programme at Likabali on 23rd February last. The programme were attended by Ms. Heyomai Towsik Vice Chairperson, Smt Mabi Taipodia Jini Member Secretary, Sri Kardo Nyigyor, Hon'ble MLA, 28 Likabali (ST) Assembly Constituency, Sri A.K. Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Lower Siang District and all HoDs, Public leaders and thousands of women folks under Lower Siang. Smt Jarjum Ete, former Chairperson APSCW, Dr. Todak Taba, Gynecologist TRIIMS, Ms. Karmu Chotten and Smt Mabi Taipodia Jini attend as resources person to sensitize on various issues like marriage complications, women empowerment, Gender budgeting, health and legal related issues. Further, speak-

ing on behalf of Galo Welfare Society, Smt Mipu Sora, Dr Ngulom also dealt many issues relevant to women folk of Galo Society. Speaking on occasion the Occasion Sri Kardo Nyicor MLA Likabali said that Drugs and alcoholism has become menace for modern day society and he urged the women folk to be very vigil on the issue and control the children at their respective household levels. Parental care is the only remedy to chek this growing menace. Speaking on the occasion Sri A.K. Singh, DC Lower lauded the Women Commission for organizing such beautiful programme at Lower Siang which will immensely help the women folk of Lower Siang in improving their status and quality of life in days to come. He further informed that through Malinithan Vikash Parishad he and his MVP team have constructed 25 rooms within Temple complex where 25 women have been allot-



ted room to run shops. This step though small will certainly improve the life of women in days to come. Through State Rural Livelihood Mission many Self Help Groups have been formed and he has directed all HoDs to dive tail the scheme to empower the women. Speaking on occasion the Occasion Sri Kardo Nyicor MLA Likabali said that Drugs and alcoholism has become menace for modern day society and he urged the women folk to be very vigil on the issue and control the chil-

ren at their respective household levels. Parental care is the only remedy to chek this growing menace. In her concluding speech Smt Heyomai Towsik vice Chairperson to APSCW expressed her gratitude to District Administration everywhere in course of their weeklong awareness campaign and all out support of APWWS branches, GWS women wings team of Galo Welfare Society for their coordination and hard work in successful conduct of one day legal awareness programme.

Government of India & AIIB sign agreement for \$304 million to improve reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in the state of Assam

Delhi, Feb 24 : The Government of India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) today signed a loan agreement for a \$304 million Assam Intra-State Transmission System Enhancement Project to improve reliability, capacity and security of the power transmission network in the State of Assam. The project aims to strengthen Assam's electricity transmission system by, a. constructing 10 transmission substations and laying transmission lines with the associated infrastructure; b. upgrading 15 existing substations, transmission lines and existing ground wire to optical power ground wire; and c. providing technical assistance to support project implementation. The programme would strengthen the existing intra-state transmission network of Assam by augmenting it with newer networks to achieve affordable, secure, efficient and reliable 24x7 power. This would, in

turn, bring Assam closer to ensuring long-term sustainability of its electricity supply. The loan agreement was signed by Shri Baldeo Purushartha, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance on behalf of the Government of India, and Shri Rajat Misra, Acting Director General, Investment Operations on behalf of the AIIB. Shri Purushartha said that the project is expected to improve the transmission network and reduce transmission losses. The strong backward and forward linkages associated with the project will create socio-economic opportunities for both households and business communities in the State. Shri Purushartha added that this project financing will help achieving the AIIB energy sector mandate and also support Government of India in fulfilling the national development priorities. The State of Assam currently witnesses substantial energy and peak demand deficits. One of the main reasons for the power-deficit scenario in Assam is congestion of the electricity distribution and transmission networks.

Panigaon February 24:

Under the aegis of Lakhimpur Bidhan Parishad, a 'Mahila Jagaran Sabha' (a meeting for political consciousness in women fraternity) was held today at Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) Lakhimpur district committee office 'Gana Bhavan', North Lakhimpur under the presidentship of Lakhimpur Mahila Parishad ex-president Aruna Phukan. The objective of the meeting was explained by Lakhimpur Bidhan Parishad secretary Niran Kumar Borah. In his inaugurating speech, Lakhimpur AGP MLA Utpal Dutta appealed the women fraternity to progress the society as well as the country by taking part actively in politics. Attending in the meeting, Asom Mahila Parishad central vice-president Tarulata expressed hope in her speech that the women power of Lakhimpur would contribute to success the present MLA Utpal Dutta in the field of politics in near future. Another speaker, Asom Mahila Parishad central general secretary Sahara

Mahila Jagaran Sabha at North Lakhimpur held

Laskar said that the Islamic people of Assam should think that they are Assamese at first, then they are Islamic. "AGP is the only political party which is free from communalism", she commented. The other speaker, Asom Mahila Parishad central president Boroda Kalita doubted on the Congress party's role in developing the state. She said, "Congress gave farewell to Assam during the Chinese advent in 1962. Later, the Congress demarcated the Seven Sisters by conspiracy. Is it possible to develop Assam under the hand of such a party?" "This party cannot save the lives and resources of Assam," she added. In today's meeting, 41 members Lakhimpur Mahila Parishad Committee was newly formed. In the new Committee, Dhatri Tamuli was appointed as the president while Punya Devi, Junumai Saikia and Juri Saikia were appointed as the secretaries. Asom Mahila Parishad central secretary Ajoya Rabha was also present in the meeting, besides a large number of AGP women officials and workers from the Lakhimpur legislative constituency.

In The High Court of Manipur at Imphal

MC (CRIL.A.) NO. 1 OF 2018
With Cril.A. No. 3 of 2018
With MC (Cril.A.) No. 2 of 2018

(In the matter of an application under Sec. 5 of the Limitation Act, 1963 read with sub-sec 4 & 5 of sec 378 Cr.P.C. praying for Condoning the delay of 392 days in filing the Special Leave Application and against the impugned Order dated 19.01.2017 in Cril. (C) Case No. 17 of 2016, passed by the Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Imphal West, by which the said case is disposed on the ground of failure of the complainant to appear and to prosecute the case)

Shri Pradeep Kumar Maika son of Shri Nawaratan Lal Maika, aged about 32 years, having my place of business at M/S Senapati Traders, below HDEC Bank P.O. Senapati Bazar, Senapati District, Manipur.

Applicant/Complainant

-Versus-

- Shri Bhoraj Nahata, S/o (L) Mohan Lal Nahata
 - M/S Pallavi Auto (India), a Proprietorship concern of Smt. Santosh Nahata, W/o Shri Bhoraj Nahata
- All the above mentioned respondent/Accused persons have their place of business of Shop No A-5, Kothari Super Market, Koyala Gali No 9, Beldola, P.O. Guwahati - 781029, Assam

Respondents/Accused

To

- Shri Bhoraj Nahata, S/o (L) Mohan Lal Nahata.
 - M/S Pallavi Auto (India), a Proprietorship concern of Smt. Santosh Nahata, W/o Shri Bhoraj Nahata.
- All the above mentioned respondent/Accused persons have their place of business of Shop No A-5, Kothari Super Market, Koyala Gali No. 9, Beldola, P.O. Guwahati - 781029, Assam.
Home Address: Bhojraj Nahata Rajdhani Apartment Flat No 4C, 4-Floor, Nalinbala Devi Path, Shreenagar-Guwahati -781006, Assam.

NOTICE UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 C.P.C. (SUBSTITUTED SERVICE)

Whereas the above named Applicant/complainant has filed an application under Sec. 5 of the Limitation Act, 1963 read with sub-sec. 4 & 5 of sec. 378 Cr. P.C. praying for Condoning the delay of 392 days in filing the special Leave Application and against the impugned Order dated 19.01.2017 in Cril (C) Case No 17 of 2016, passed by the Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Imphal West, by which the said case is disposed on the ground of failure of the complainant to appear and whereas, the attempt to serve summons to you would not be effected and served upon you in ordinary way.

And, whereas, the Hon'ble Court vide its order dated 10/02/2021, has been pleased to allow the Applicant/Complainant to serve the notice upon all the respondents by way of substituted service.

Therefore, notice is hereby issued to you by way of substituted service by making advertisement in the News Papers requiring you to appear before the Court on the returnable date i.e. 09.03.2021 at 10.30 A.M. either in person or by a lawyer duly authorized.

If no appearance is made on your behalf, by yourself or by someone by law authorized to act you in the aforementioned case on the date of appearance or before such latter date on which the case may be heard, the case will be heard and decided Ex-parte in your absence.

Signed and sealed by Order of the Court on this the 16th day of Feb 2021

By Order,

Mr. BR Sharma
Advocate
The 16th Feb. 2021

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR-I
High Court of Manipur
Imphal (Manipur)

केन्द्रीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान कोकराज्जर
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KOKRAJHAR
(Deemed to be University under the MoE, Govt. of India)
KOKRAJHAR: PIN : ASSAM : 783370

No.CITK/Temporary Room Partition Materials/290/2019/1683;Dt: 24.02.2021

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed quotations are invited from the experienced & reputed firms/vendors of relevant categories having up-to-date registration/license for supply of materials for temporary room partition in Hostels, New Physics Lab, etc. at CIT Kokrajhar, BTR, Assam. The bidders may download the tender paper from the Institute website: www.cit.ac.in. Last date for submission of tender paper is 10.03.2021

Sd/- Registrar, CIT Kokrajhar

EU tells six countries to lift Covid border restrictions



Brussels, February 24: Brussels has put six EU member states on notice that their tight Covid border restrictions, including exit and entry bans, should be lifted over fears of a wider breakdown in the bloc's free movement of people and goods. Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary and Sweden have been given 10 days to respond to the European commission's concerns that they have breached commonly agreed coronavirus guidelines. Restrictions imposed by Germany at its border with the Austrian Tirol region have been a particular cause of tension in recent weeks, with the German ambassador in Vienna summoned to justify the "unnecessary measures that do more harm than good". There are concerns in Germany, however, that the country could be heading into a third wave of infection, with the number of cases per 100,000 residents in the last seven days at 60.5 - up from 55.57 the previous

week. The commission published its guidelines in January recommending EU member states keep open their borders and only "strongly discourage" non-essential travel, with the option of imposing testing and quarantine requirements on travellers from areas with high levels of infection. The commission's president, Ursula von der Leyen, a former German minister, has said she is determined to avoid a repeat of the early months of the pandemic when a series of unilateral decisions caused chaos at the borders and threatened supply chains. But in recent weeks, stricter controls have been applied by the six countries targeted by the EU's executive branch, in what a commission spokesman said presented a clear risk to the functioning of the single market in goods and people. "We underline the need for free movement restrictions to be non-discriminatory and

proportionate, and we urge member states to align their provisions, more closely with the commission recommendations that we have jointly agreed, and review [their] rules on free movement," a commission spokesman said. The contentious new border controls include a broad ban on non-essential travel imposed by the governments of Belgium and Sweden and the selective entry restrictions enforced by the German government on traffic from Austria's Tirol region, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Currently only German citizens, foreign residents and essential workers are allowed to cross the border. On Tuesday, Austria's chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, tweeted a call for "common standards for travel and the transport of goods within the EU to ensure the functioning of the single market". "It is a necessity to go back to a coordinated approach to all the measures taken in relations with the free movement of people and goods in the European Union," the EU commissioner for justice, Didier Reynders, a former Belgian minister, said. Germany's Europe minister, Michael Roth, insisted his government needed to act due to its exposure as "a transit country in the middle of the European Union". He said: "I reject the accusation that we have not complied with EU law ... These measures obviously put a massive strain on border regions, commuters and the transport of goods and the single market, but the protection of our citizens is paramount." The restrictions on the German-Austrian border were

enforced earlier this month over concern at the high incidence in the Czech Republic and Tirol of the newer more infectious coronavirus variant first identified in the UK. A commission spokesman said: "We trust that we will find solutions with member states concerns without having to revert to legal steps, which can be lengthy. So, member states have now 10 days to reply and we will then take it from there."



Dancers perform Banquet of Tang Palace during the finals of Lotus Awards in Luoyang, central China's Henan Province

COVID-19: People above 60 years of age to get vaccine shots from March 1, says Centre

New Delhi, February 24: The Centre on Wednesday (February 24, 2021) announced that people above 60 years of age will get the COVID-19 vaccine shots from March 1. The Centre also informed that people above 45 years of age with comorbidities will also be vaccinated from the same date. "From March 1, people above 60 years of age and those above 45 years of age with comorbidities will be vaccinated at 10,000 government and over 20,000 private vaccination centres," said the Union Minister Prakash Javadekar. He added that the coronavirus vaccine will be given free of cost at the government centres. "Those who want to get vaccinated from private hospitals will have to pay. The amount they would need to pay will be decided by the health ministry within 3-4 days as they are in discussion with manufacturers and hospitals," stated Prakash Javadekar. This is to be noted that as of Wednesday till 7 am, 1,21,65,598 people have been vaccinated across India through 2,54,356 sessions, as per the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. These include 64,98,300 health care workers (1st dose), 13,98,400 health care workers (2nd dose) and 42,68,898 front line workers (1st dose). The world's largest COVID-19 vaccination drive

for the first dose was started on January 16, whereas, the 2nd dose of coronavirus vaccination began on February 13 for those beneficiaries who completed 28 days after receipt of the 1st dose. The vaccination of the front line workers started on February 2. Earlier in the day, the Centre deputed high-level multi-disciplinary teams to Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for supporting them in public health measures for targeted COVID-19 response and management, and effectively tackling the pandemic. The three-member multidisciplinary teams are headed by Joint Secretary level officers in the Health Ministry. These teams will work closely with the states and UT administration and ascertain the reasons for the recent surge in the number of COVID-19 cases. They will also coordinate with health authorities of the states and UTs for requisite COVID-19 control measures to break the chain of transmission. The states have also been advised for regular critical review of the emerging situation with concerned District officials to ensure that gains made so far in COVID management are not lost. The Centre has also written to

Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir which have been witnessing a surge in the daily coronavirus confirmed cases, along with decreasing proportion of RT-PCR tests and a rise in positivity in some districts. In the letter written by the Union Health Secretary, he has exhorted Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to focus on undertaking aggressive measures to break the chain of transmission and to ensure that RT-PCR testing is amplified to flush out hitherto undetected cases from the population. Meanwhile, India's cumulative COVID-19 recoveries increased to 1,07,26,702 and the recovery rate now stands at 97.25%. India recorded 13,742 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours, which took the country's active caseload to 1,46,907.

North Korean defector spends six hours walking around heavily guarded border unnoticed

London, Feb 24: South Korea's military is facing criticism over security lapses along the country's heavily armed border with North Korea after a man was able to cross into the South despite being spotted multiple times by surveillance cameras. The man, wearing a wetsuit and flippers, reportedly swam to South Korea in the early hours of 16 February, but evaded capture for more than six hours, according to the Yonhap news agency. After arriving on the South Korean coast via the East Sea, he reportedly crawled through a drainage tunnel inside the demilitarised zone (DMZ), hid his wetsuit and flippers and walked,

undetected, along a road for about 5km. He was apprehended after a guard spotted him via a CCTV camera and alerted his superiors. By the time the manhunt began, the man had been picked up five times by coastal surveillance cameras. They twice triggered alarms, but soldiers failed to notice the warnings and took no action. He was able to continue his journey after three fence cameras near a frontline military post failed to trigger an alarm. "Service members in charge of the guard duty failed to abide by due procedures and failed to detect the unidentified man," an official from the joint chiefs of staff [JCS] told Yonhap.



Local residents make Tangyuan, a kind of round and sweet dumpling made of glutinous rice flour, in Miaozhou Town of Huzhou City, east China's Zhejiang Province

Memo No. FA/TP/Tender/BTC SOPD-G/2020-21/986-89 Dated, Barpeta Road, the 23.02.2021.

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender affixing a non-refundable Court Fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and paise Twenty Five) only with a validity a period of which will subsequently to be converted and drawn up in the printed F.2 Form are invited from the registered contractors Class-I (A), (B), (C) and Class-II category of Assam PWD, Roads accordingly to their eligibility for submitting tenders under SOPD-G for the year 2020-21 for the work stated below.

Sl No	Name of work	Location	Estimated Amount (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Cost of Bid documents (in Rs)
1	Earth filling and Sand Graveling from Bethari Camp to New Korebari Camp under Manas Tiger Project.	Bhuyanpara Range	10,00,000/-	20000/-(for Genl.) 10000/-(for SC,ST & OBC)	500/-
2	Earth filling and Sand Graveling from Agrang Camp to Digjari Tinali Road under Manas Tiger Project.	Bhuyanpara Range	10,00,000/-	20000/-(for Genl.) 10000/-(for SC,ST & OBC)	500/-
3	Earth filling and Sand Graveling from Digjari Camp to Makhibaha via New Korebari Camp under Manas Tiger Project.	Bhuyanpara Range	10,00,000/-	20000/-(for Genl.) 10000/-(for SC,ST & OBC)	500/-
4	Earth filling and Sand Graveling from Kaljhar Camp to Doomanighat Tinali Road under Manas Tiger Project.	Bhuyanpara Range	10,00,000/-	20000/-(for Genl.) 10000/-(for SC,ST & OBC)	500/-
5	Earth filling and Sand Graveling from Kalpani Camp to New Kalpani Camp (Dwimari Road) under Manas Tiger Project.	Bhuyanpara Range	10,00,000/-	20000/-(for Genl.) 10000/-(for SC,ST & OBC)	500/-

The Tenders will be received on 01.03.2021 upto 3 P.M. and will be opened on 01.03.2021 at 3:30 PM in the Office of the Field Director, Manas Tiger Project, Barpeta Road. In the event of any unusual occurrence due to strike, bandh, holiday etc. the same will be received and opened on the next working day at same place and same time.

Details NIT may be seen in all working days during office hours in the office of the undersigned. The Tender paper will be issued to the contractor or their authorized agent from 11.00 Hrs. to 14.00 Hrs. on all working days from 25.02.2021 to 28.02.2021 on payment of Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five hundred) only in the form of Bankers Cheque in favour of **Principal Secretary, BTC, Kokrajhar payable at SBI, Kokrajhar.**

The contractors should submit attested copy of up to date Contractor's Registration Certificate, Labour License, Registration of GST, Annual Turnover, PAN Card, Previous Experience Certificate, Financial Soundness Certificate, Income Tax return etc. along with the tenders.

The Earnest Money should be deposited along with the filled up tender documents in the form of "Deposit at Call Receipt"/Fixed Deposit/Bankers Cheque/Bank Draft of scheduled Bank in favour of **Field Director, Manas Tiger Project, Barpeta Road, Assam.**

The payment will be made on **availability of fund from BTC SOPD-G.**

Sd/- Field Director, Manas Tiger Project,
Barpeta Road, Assam.

IPR(BTC)-320/2020

Memo No. FA/TP/Tender/BTC SOPD-G/2020-21/986-89 Dated, Barpeta Road, the 23.02.2021.

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed tender affixing a non-refundable Court Fee Stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and paise Twenty Five) only with a validity a period of which will subsequently to be converted and drawn up in the printed F.2 Form are invited from the registered contractors Class-I (A), (B), (C) and Class-II category of Assam PWD, Roads accordingly to their eligibility for submitting tenders under SOPD-G for the year 2020-21 for the work stated below.

Sl No.	Name of work	Location	Estimated Amount (in Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Cost of Bid documents (in Rs)
1	Improvement of Road with Sand Graveling from Bidarsing Narzary House to Bihuram Boro L.P. School Nabadihira under Manas Tiger Project.	Bhuyanpara Range	10,00,000/-	20000/-(for Genl.) 10000/-(for SC,ST & OBC)	500/-
2	Improvement of Road from Bhehguri L.P. School to Dipen Boro House under Manas Tiger Project.	Bhuyanpara Range	10,00,000/-	20000/-(for Genl.) 10000/-(for SC,ST & OBC)	500/-

The Tenders will be received on 01.03.2021 upto 3 P.M. and will be opened on 01.03.2021 at 3:30 PM in the Office of the Field Director, Manas Tiger Project, Barpeta Road. In the event of any unusual occurrence due to strike, bandh, holiday etc. the same will be received and opened on the next working day at same place and same time.

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The Earnest Money should be deposited along with the filled up tender documents in the form of "Deposit at Call Receipt"/Fixed Deposit/Bankers Cheque/Bank Draft of scheduled Bank in favour of **Field Director, Manas Tiger Project, Barpeta Road, Assam.**

The payment will be made on **availability of fund from BTC SOPD-G.**

Sd/-
Field Director, Manas Tiger Project,
Barpeta Road, Assam.

IPR(BTC)-319/2020

N0: SE/TB/TEN/ 14/2020-216301

PRESS NOTICE

The Superintending Engineer, PWD, Tezpur Building Circle, Tezpur invites bids from eligible contractors with a validity period of 180 (one eight zero) days from the date of bidding from the Registered APWD (Building) Contractors Firm/Private Limited Co. of class I (A, B & C) category and Class-II category (Registered under Tezpur Building Circle) for the following work as detailed below.

Name of work-	Approx. value of work (in Rs.)	Bid Security (in Rs.)	Cost of Bidding Documents per set (in Rs.)	Time & Date of receiving application for bidding documents	Time & Date of issue of bidding documents	Time, Date & Venue of Pre-bid meeting	Time & Date of receiving Bid (Both Technical & Financial)	Time & Date of opening of Tech. Bid	Bid security is to be drawn in favour of
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Construction of District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) at Sonitpur.	30,87,992.00	1,760/-for Gen. category 30,880/-for SC/ST/OBC/M OBC/UGE/ UDE category	930/-	01/03/2021 upto 1700 hrs.	05/03/2021 and 06/03/2021 upto 1700 hrs.	1100 hrs. on 10/03/2021 at O/O the S.E. PWD, Tezpur Bldg. Circle, Tezpur	12/03/2021 upto 1400 hrs.	15/03/2021 at 1430 hrs.	Executive Engineer, PWD, Tezpur Building Division, Tezpur

N.B. :

- Time of Completion -6 (Six) months from the 10th day from the date of issue of the Notice to proceed with the work.
- The Registered -APWD (Building) Contractor/ Firm/Private Limited Co. of Class-I (A, B & C) category and Class-II category (Registered under Tezpur Building Circle), having experience of similar nature of works as detailed in the table above are eligible to participate in the bid. Registration certificate for the year 2020-21, Registration certificate of GST & EPF, and Demand Draft for cost of Bid documents should be furnished along with application for seeking issue of Bidding document.
- Bid documents (Additional copies) may be purchased from the office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Tezpur Building Circle, Tezpur on payment of non-refundable fee as stated in the above in the form of Demand Draft of any Nationalized Bank drawn in favour of Assam State Road Board Maintenance (Roads) Fund A/C No. 10566991479 of S.P.I. Payable at Guwahati. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the office of the Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Tezpur Building Circle, Tezpur.
- Details may be seen in the 1FB (Detailed Notice Inviting Bid) and in the bidding document in the office of the undersigned during office hours on 05/03/2021 & 06.03.2021.

Janasanyog/C/12596/20

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, P.W.D.
Tezpur Building Circle, Tezpur

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VI, ISSUE NO. 13 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021

The Afghan peace pact

With the May Day deadline looming for a complete withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, President Joe Biden faces his first tough foreign policy decision. There are no good or easy options. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin has promised there would be no "hasty or disorderly withdrawal" that puts US and NATO forces at risk, no matter what the outcome of the current policy review. He also stressed that more progress was needed in the intra-Afghan dialogue accompanied by a reduction in violence. US commanders have the "right and responsibility to defend themselves and their Afghan partners against attacks," he said last week. The signal from the US is clear — the 1 May deadline is not etched in stone. That means a possible delay in the timetable for the departure of the remaining 2,500 US troops and about 5,000 from NATO countries. The extension will have to be negotiated, which means Pakistan will once again come centre stage. Army Chief General Qamar Bajwa has already named his price for the intervention. He apparently told US CENTCOM Commander General Kenneth McKenzie Jr. that Secretary of State Antony Blinken should call Taliban leaders to request a deadline extension. Bajwa's aim is legitimisation of the Taliban with the new administration, raising Pakistan's clout while keeping the Afghan government on the sidelines. As for India, New Delhi has long been concerned about the arbitrary deadline, even while accepting the reality of an eventual US exit. It has watched Taliban's continuing attacks on Afghan security forces and civil society leaders in Afghanistan with alarm. What was supposed to be a conditions-based withdrawal became a plain exit strategy in the last days of the Trump Administration as thousands of US troops left in December and January. But the Taliban haven't held up their side of the bargain — the intra-Afghan dialogue is stuck and a ceasefire is nowhere in sight. The most important US demand that Taliban cut ties with al-Qaeda is caught between what's in the written agreement and what might have been verbally agreed to in terms of "assurances and understandings." US Special Representative, Zalmay Khalilzad, is the only person who truly knows — he conducted several one-on-one meetings with Taliban leaders in Pashto with no note-takers. Under the deal he crafted, the US committed to 10 clear actions, including a complete withdrawal of troops by 1 May. While most of the US commitments are either partly or fully verifiable, the Taliban's promises are unclear and subjective, according to Jonathan Schroden, a military operations analyst and an Afghanistan expert. The most important Taliban commitment of not allowing terrorist groups to use the "soil" of Afghanistan to threaten the security of the US or its allies is highly subjective and cannot be verified, he says. Of the seven commitments Taliban made, only one is objectively and publicly verifiable. Usually, the Americans craft agreements that weigh heavily in their favour but the Afghan peace agreement is clearly not one of them. Some US experts have suggested a six-month extension, which, at first, seems too short. The idea is to recalibrate the entire peace agreement with the US, using removal of UN sanctions and release of Taliban prisoners as leverage. The Taliban want international legitimacy and have long demanded lifting of UN sanctions. Taliban leader, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, threw down the gauntlet last week. In an open letter addressed to the American people, he urged the US "to remain committed to the full implementation of the accord." He went on to repeat the many Taliban propaganda points to buttress his case: A majority of the Afghan people support the "Islamic Emirate," rights of women will be granted as per Islamic law (whatever that might mean), and the Taliban will curb poppy cultivation. There's no question that a delay in US withdrawal would have to be negotiated because a unilateral announcement from Washington would amount to abrogating the deal and open western forces to Taliban attacks. Biden Administration's policy review is expected to be completed this week after which Khalilzad is expected to travel to Doha, Islamabad, and possibly New Delhi. Hard-nosed analysts who want to end America's longest war say that the Biden Administration must focus only on the main outcome it wants. The real question has to be about Taliban breaking their links with al-Qaeda. Can US negotiators get the Taliban to publicly sever connections and find a way to hold them accountable? Continued presence of US troops will not help guarantee the rights of women, they say. Others are displaying a certain kind of fatalism — the government of President Ashraf Ghani "may be too corrupt and fragile to survive" no matter what the US chooses to do. The Taliban will continue attacks because they believe victory is near regardless of any change in the deadline. This is nothing but throwing the Ghani government under the bus. As an observer of the region wryly noted, if other "corrupt and fragile" governments — there are some right in the neighbourhood — can survive, so can Ghani's. The Afghans fought the Taliban before 9/11 without much help and they will fight them again and this time they are better prepared. Meanwhile, the situation on the ground is dire.

China recognises India's growing role in South Asia but won't give it the 'global power' tag

How China perceives itself has fundamentally changed in recent times. Erstwhile Chinese President Hu Jintao laid emphasis on China's "peaceful rise"; his successor Xi Jinping now has a bellicose tone. In November 2020, he told the Central Military Commission (CMC) — China's apex military authority — to improve training of People's Liberation Army (PLA) personnel to enable them to win wars. In October 2020, the Chinese Communist Party's Plenum — a key forum that discusses policy — resolved to expedite the modernisation of national defence capability. With China's rise as the second-largest economy, it is able to devote more resources to its military might, which has led to tensions with India, Japan and Taiwan. In early February, the China Aerospace Studies Institute, under the aegis of Air University in Alabama, published a report titled 'Science of Military Strategy (2013)' which gives a peek into the minds of its planners. The report has been translated from Mandarin-language strategy documents produced by China's Academy of Military Science. The strategy documents are revised by the academy every 13 years. This report assumes significance given that Chinese President Xi Jinping came to power around the same time. Xi has resolved to build a strong country bolstered by a powerful military. While Chinese and Indian troops were involved in a protracted standoff since May 2020, the disengagement along the Line of Actual Control has led some to question over whether it is a fair deal that will bring stability along the borders or is merely a "strategic pause" for China. According to the report, since the establishment of the People's Republic in 1949, the PLA has tried to metamorphose from a revolutionary army to a fighting force. During the civil war between the Chinese Communist Party and the Nationalists, the Red Army adopted the strategy of 'active defence' that concentrated on "luring the enemy into the deep." The guerrilla tactics were summarised as "retreat when the enemy advances, attack when the



enemy retreats." China perceived threats from the US, and the Soviet Union in the form of an all-out attack, hence Mao Zedong posited that "actively preparing for battle" and an "immediate response to a war" were key to strategic deterrence. During this phase, China was involved in the conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, and a brief border skirmish with India in 1962. China concluded that the psychological contours of its citizenry. This points to the use of disinformation as a strategy. A case in point being media reports based on the claims made by Jin Canrong, a professor at Beijing-based Renmin University, that China had deployed "microwave weapons" in Ladakh, which forced Indian forces to abandon some hilltop posts. While India denied these claims, the reports had the potential to dent national morale. According to the report, China perceives that since the 19th century, the primary aim of American military strategy was expansion and domination. Since the 21st century, each US President has worked towards consolidating global hegemony, and suppressing nations that may pose a challenge to its primacy, the report states. America's plan to maintain its hegemony is through creating a technological gap with its rivals, creating bridgeheads in Western Europe and East Asia to box in China. The 2013 report foresaw the US strengthening its alliances in East Asia and the Western Pacific in order to consolidate its hegemony in the Asia Pacific. Interestingly, the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue forum between the United States, India, Japan and Australia has gathered momentum since the pandemic. China's leadership and its strategic elites are wedded to entrenched views of American efforts to maintain dominance in the Indo-Pacific.

Consequently, how does the People's Republic of China (PRC) respond to an American-led hegemonic order? For the Chinese, there is a structural shift underway from unipolarity to multipolarity, which the US is trying to resist through a network of alliances. The PRC perceives a natural and ineluctable shift of power from the West to the East. However, cooperation and competition are likely to co-exist in that if there is cooperation in one sphere, it need not translate into cooperation in another or second sphere. Rather, there will be competition and struggle in the second sphere. These contradictory pulls and pressures between cooperation and struggle will temper and mitigate the ferocity of inter-state relations creating thresholds that will prevent escalation to a general war. However, in order to contend with this emerging pattern of inter-state relations, the PRC has to consolidate itself internally and externally and "...fight local wars under informationised conditions." The report does not anticipate or expect the possibility of a "full-scale confrontation" between the US and PRC as was the case between the Soviet Union and the US. Rather, the PRC sees external actors exploiting conflicts between China and states on the Chinese rim land and periphery; these military flashpoints and disputes or issues cover Taiwan, East China Sea (ECS), South China Sea (SCS) and the "south west border and territorial dispute." This is a vulnerability. The Chinese state, as the report states quite emphatically cannot wait to be attacked if it is to break the deadlock over these disputes that remain unfavourable to it presently. Nevertheless, as the report lays out through the development of a "strategic attack capability" and "strategic attack" the PRC can force change by "...open[ing] new paths to a political resolution of the issues." Tellingly, the report, in order to achieve military success, calls for a focused effort for "large scale strategic attacks operations" involving all the service arms and combined effort of China's military including the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN).

With CBI at Mamata's family doorstep, BJP got what it wanted in Bengal—a dynasty issue



A few days ago, Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee dared the Bharatiya Janata Party to take his name while hurling 'baseless charges'. But after a CBI summons to his wife Rujira Narula this weekend, it is clear that Abhishek is fast becoming the Achilles heel of his aunt and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have already made Didi's 'bhatija' (nephew) and corruption a poll issue in the state. Is he turning out to be the 'Robert Vadra' of the Trinamool Congress? BJP leaders — from Union minister Babul Supriyo to Kailash

Vijayvargiya — have trained their guns at Abhishek Banerjee. It's also a clever strategy by Modi-Shah's party to ensure that the TMC is left defending their own leaders at a time when many have jumped ship. And it is succeeding, to an extent. Senior Bengal minister and Mamata's close associate Firhad Hakim accused the BJP of cowardice and taking the help of the CBI and Enforcement Directorate to attack family members of TMC leaders. Mamata Banerjee said that the BJP had been targeting her nephew because they were finding it difficult to attack her. Addressing a rally in South 24 Parganas,

Mamata said, "Day and night they are talking of 'Didi-Bhatija'. I challenge Amit Shah, contest against Abhishek Banerjee first, then me." But ever since the CBI news broke, Mamata has not spoken about her niece. Instead, more than two hours after the CBI went to Abhishek's Kolkata residence, Mamata attended a scheduled public function on Language Day in the city. While addressing the gathering, Mamata did not utter a single word on her nephew. But she repeatedly asserted that the battle of protecting Bengal and Bangla should be given utmost priority and the "onslaught" unleashed by the non-Bengalis (meaning the BJP) must be resisted at all cost. She called herself a

goalkeeper. But no one knows Abhishek Banerjee's role in this football field. Her studied silence on the CBI and Abhishek is unusual. Only two years ago, when a team of CBI officers had gone to then Kolkata Police Commissioner Rajiv Kumar's residence, they were promptly detained by state police forces. Mamata Banerjee rushed to his home to stall and resist any kind of investigation of Kumar in the Saradha chit fund case. Mamata did not stop at that — on the same night, she started a sit-in demonstration at Kolkata's Esplanade area to protest against the Centre's interference in the state's affairs. Today, Abhishek Banerjee is left to defend himself and his family alone — apart from some TMC leaders — through tweets. Perhaps, Mamata wants to distance herself from the raging controversy around Abhishek and his family, lest it embroils her in it and queers the election-pitch for TMC. In a state where Mamata Banerjee's welfare programmes are all the rage, the BJP is hoping the corruption allegations stick. And there isn't much the Trinamool can do if the charges are levelled directly at the house of Banerjee. For the last two years, Amit Shah has led the attack on Abhishek Banerjee by referring to him as bhatija in a number of public meetings. The state BJP leaders followed suit. But most refrained from taking Abhishek's name while raising allegations of coal pilferage, cow smuggling racket and extortions. In December last year, addressing a public meeting in Medinipur, Suwendu Adhikari, the recent convert from TMC to BJP, raised the slogan, "Remove extortionist nephew". But today Adhikari is more categorical. In a public rally in January, he referred to a

purported document showing money being deposited in a bank account in Bangkok every month. On 22 February, after CBI went to Abhishek's residence, Suwendu referred to that allegation made by him and said, "The account belongs to one Madam Narula. Who is this Madam Narula? She is none other than the same person who was detained in Kolkata airport in 2019 for carrying gold." Adhikari alleged. Incidentally, Abhishek's wife Rujira Narula — a Thai passport holder — was detained briefly at Kolkata airport in 2019 while returning from Bangkok by Customs officials for allegedly carrying large quantities of gold but senior police officers intervened — a claim that Abhishek Banerjee refuted. Allegations of corruption of TMC leaders and cadres have made news earlier too. Mamata herself admitted that some party workers were pilfering public funds and taking "cut money" from the poor beneficiaries of the state's various welfare schemes. The BJP has been trying to raise this as a major issue in the coming election. With its known stance on Muslims as "illegal immigrants" and "termites" causing lot of damage in the state, the BJP wanted to highlight corruption to attack the ruling Bengal government. But the TMC, with its slew of welfare schemes for the poor, has been able to counter the attack. The muck has, however, now reached Mamata's family. So, it would be difficult to launch a counter offensive. What is significant is that the rise of Abhishek Banerjee as TMC's No. 2 was not done through any official declaration. Mamata Banerjee has the last word in the party, and Abhishek was hoisted after Mukul Roy left and joined the BJP. In any big gathering in the state capital or in the districts, it became customary to display big cut-outs of Abhishek, vying in stature with only Mamata. But soon people in the party started grumbling about Abhishek's highhandedness, and many pointed out that the situation had come to such a pass that without Abhishek's nod, no one was able to get a proper role in the TMC. Senior leaders like Suwendu Adhikari and Rajib Banerjee who left the TMC openly accused Abhishek of amassing disproportionate power. Then, allegations of extortion and involvement in coal smuggling started doing the rounds. But neither Mamata nor Abhishek ever tried to come clean on that.

What Puducherry, 9th govt brought down by Modi's BJP in 7 yrs, tells us about party's politics

A Report: Puducherry is in the headlines today because the BJP successfully managed to bring down the Congress-led government there at a time when it does not have a single MLA in that union territory. "BJP just wants to paint the entire country's saffron. And if it can't be saffron, then it should not be the Congress — it should be some party or some faction that the BJP can then dominate," observed Shekhar Gupta. In episode 688 of "Cut the Clutter", ThePrint's Editor-in-Chief Shekhar Gupta looks back and explains the different strategies the BJP has employed to bring down some of the nine state governments, in the span of seven years, including Puducherry and Jammu and Kashmir, and how no prize in politics is too small for the BJP. In November 2015, the Congress had 42 seats in a house of 60 in Arunachal Pradesh. That was when 21 members of Congress Legislature Party (CLP) refused to attend

a party meeting, saying that they didn't have confidence in then chief minister, Nabam Tuki. J.P. Rajkhowa, who was the governor of the state at the time, advanced the Assembly session that was due in January 2016 to December 2015. However, the courts became involved and that did not happen. Then, on 16 December 2015, 20 rebel MLAs, 11 BJP MLAs, plus two independents and the deputy Speaker, decided to hold an assembly session in a 'guest house' outside the assembly premises where they impeached the Speaker and expressed no confidence in the government of the day. Here too, the courts were involved and while the High Court ruled in favour of the people supported by the BJP, the Supreme Court intervened and restored Nabam Tuki's government. That was until the Congress Chief Minister Pema Khandu himself along with 31 MLAs joined the BJP, said Gupta. As we know, Gupta added, the BJP did not

win the Bihar assembly elections in 2015 — a combination of Nitish Kumar, Lalu Prasad Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal and the Congress did. But in the course of time, there was trouble between Kumar and RJD over Lalu Yadav's son Tejashwi Yadav. Soon after, Kumar joined hands with the BJP leaving the Congress and RJD out of the picture. What was an anti-BJP government became an NDA government, explained Gupta. The BJP then turned to Manipur where, in a 60-member assembly, Congress had 28 seats, just three short of a majority while the BJP had 21. The saffron party's czar in the Northeast, Himanta Biswa Sharma, presented governor Najma Heptulla with a list of BJP MLAs along with independents. Heptulla then invited them, instead of the single largest party, to form the government. In Karnataka, the result was very close. BJP had the largest number of MLAs, but they were short by nine of the majority mark.

Jubilant Foodworks now looking beyond Domino's

London, February 24: Beyond Domino's: In the last decade, JUBI has focused mainly on Domino's and there has been some effort to scale up Dunkin' which met with limited success. The recent quarters have seen a series of initiatives beyond 'Domino's', including FMCG, Biryani, Hong's Kitchen ramp-up and 10.8% stake in Barbeque Nation. JUBI has now picked up a 32.8% stake in DP Eurasia, which has presence in Turkey & Russia among others, at attractive valuation. While this raises concerns (volatility, bandwidth etc.), investment is small at Rs 250 crore and despite being the largest shareholder, there will not be line-by-line consolidation. Beyond Domino's: In the last decade, JUBI has focused mainly on Domino's and there has been some effort to scale up Dunkin' which met with limited success. In 2019, JUBI forayed into Chinese through own brand Hong's Kitchen, which currently has 10 stores. During lockdown last year, JUBI also expanded into FMCG through a range of ready-to-

cook and plans are underway to expand into ready to eat as well. In 2020, JUBI also forayed into Biryani under own brand, Ekdum!. The company also picked up 10.8% stake in Barbeque Nation for `0.9 billion although this is purely a financial investment, per management. Heranba IPO, Heranba Industries IPO. Heranba gmpHeranba Industries IPO opens for subscription today; raises Rs 187 crore from 18 Anchor investors stocks in focus, RIL, Airtel, PNB, hdfc bank Stocks in focus: Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, HDFC Bank, Future Retail, Punjab National Bank DPE deal: JUBI has now picked up 32.8% stake in DP Eurasia (DPE) for GBP24.8m from Turkish Private Equity Fund II LP. DPE is listed on London Stock Exchange and based on Bloomberg estimates, the deal valuations comes to about <8x EV/Ebitda and <1x EV/Sales, a significant discount to JUBI's own valuations. DPE is the exclusive master franchisee of the Domino's Pizza brand in Turkey, Russia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Heranba Industries IPO opens for subscription today; raises Rs 187 crore from 18

Mumbai, February 24: The initial public offering (IPO) of Heranba Industries opens for subscription today. The Rs 625 crore issue will remain available for subscription till February 25. Ahead of the issue, Heranba Industries has managed to raise Rs 187.5 crore from anchor investors, allotting them 29.90 lakh equity shares. The agrochemical company's IPO includes a fresh issue of Rs 60 crore and the remaining is an offer for sale by existing investors. Pre-issue, promoters of the company own a 98.8% stake in the company which will be trimmed to 74% post issue. Other shareholders made up just 1.2% prior to the issue, which is expected to increase to 26% post issue. Stock market today, Sensex today, Nifty today Monday massacre on D-Street: Sensex, Nifty nosedive over



2% each, Rs 3.78 cr investor wealth erased Nureca IPO. Nureca share allotment, Nureca gmp Nureca IPO: Check share allotment status; grey market premium falls amid broad-based sell-off. Largest portion of anchor investment was made by Government Pension Fund Global, buying 5.58 lakh shares. HDFC Trustee Company picked up 12% of the anchor portion of Heranba Industries, followed by Dovetail India Fund and Cohesion MK Best Ideas Sub-trust, both picking up 8% each. Other investors include IDFC Emerging business fund, Ashmore India Opportunities Fund, Morgan Stanley Asia, Societe Generale, IIFL Special Opportunities Fund, Emkay Emerging Stars Fund, among others.

20% of the anchor portion was picked up by IDFC and HDFC Mutual funds through three schemes. Investors can from today bid for the issue in the price band of Rs 626 to 627 per share. The bid lot is of 23 equity shares, making the minimum application size of Rs 14,421. Of the total Rs 625 crore issue size, 50% of the portion is reserved for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB), while Retail Investors can place bids for 35% of the issue, and non-institutional investor (NII) can bid for merely 15% of the total issue. The proceeds from the OFS will go to the selling shareholders, while the amount received from the fresh issue of shares will be used for funding working capital requirements

and general corporate purposes. The selling shareholders include Sadashiv K Shetty, who is the Promoter, Chairman and Executive Director of the Company, along with Raghuram K. Shetty who is the promoter and Managing Director of the Company. Heranba Industries is a crop protection chemicals manufacturer, exporter and marketing company. It has over 9400 dealers/distributors across 16 states and 1 Union Territory in India and also exports to over 60 countries across the Middle East, CIS, Asia, South East Asia and Africa. In revenue terms, the exports constituted over 41% of sales. The Company holds registrations of 18 Technicals and 169 Formulations for manufacture and sale in India, 103 Technicals and Formulations for exports. ICICI Direct has a 'Subscribe' rating on the issue saying that the company offers one of the strongest return ratios in the industry and a healthy balance sheet. At the upper price band of Rs 627, Heranba Industries is available at P/E of 18.9x, according to Geojit Financial Services who find the valuation reasonable compared to peers. "We assign a 'Subscribe' rating for the issue on a long-term basis considering the strong distribution network, increasing export opportunity with healthy margins and profitability," analysts at Geojit said.

The all-new BMW R 18 Classic debuts in India

Delhi, Feb. 24: BMW Motorrad India has launched the all-new BMW R 18 Classic in the country. The all-new BMW R 18 Classic can be ordered as a completely built-up unit (CBU) from today onwards through the BMW Motorrad dealer network. Following the premiere of the BMW R 18 last year, BMW Motorrad India has now introduced the second member of its new cruiser segment: The R 18 Classic. The all-new BMW R 18 Classic is a nostalgic touring bike that echoes the beginnings of great touring cruiser models. Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "BMW Motorrad made a striking entry into the cruiser segment with the BMW R 18. Building on the success and popularity of BMW's first cruiser in India, we now present the BMW R 18 Classic with a reimagined, even more iconic character. The eye-catching styling of the BMW R 18 Classic adds on to the riding experience and evokes the emotions of a bygone era. While the design calls on the historic roots, the state-of-the-art technology and riding dynamics provide the most authentic, unparalleled experience one can enjoy on two wheels. This motorcycle will have an enormous appeal for motorcyclists who live for unforgettable cruising moments." In the all-new BMW R 18 Classic, a timeless design is merged with clear-



cut yet contemporary technology to create a fascinating overall concept - offering a riding experience that is as cultivated as it is emotional. While the R 18 is purist in style, the R 18 Classic features a large windscreen, passenger seat, saddle bags, LED additional headlights and 16-inch front wheel. It features the largest displacement boxer engine ever built by BMW. The all-new BMW R 18 Classic is available at following ex-showroom price -

The all-new BMW R 18 Classic 'First Edition' : INR 24,00,000

*Price prevailing at the time of invoicing will be applicable. Delivery will be made on ex-showroom. Ex-showroom price (inclusive of GST) (incl compensa-

tion cess) as applicable but excludes Road Tax, RTO statutory taxes/fees, other local tax/cess levies and insurance. Prices and options are subject to change without prior notice. For further information, please contact your local authorized BMW Motorrad Dealer.

For complete peace of mind and to ensure that the journey of pure motorcycling continues uninterrupted at all times, the all-new BMW R 18 Classic comes with a standard warranty for 'three years, unlimited kilometers', with an option to extend the warranty to fourth and fifth year. Roadside Assistance, a 24x7 365 days package further ensures prompt services in case of breakdown and towing situations.

Kawasaki India teases two new motorcycles: BS6 Ninja 300 launch likely soon

Mumbai, February 24: So, we hadn't heard from India Kawasaki for some time now. While they did roll out updated versions of existing models one after the other, now something new is in store. The Japanese manufacturer is set to launch two new motorcycles as per a social media post by the Delhi dealership. One of these is expected to be the BS-VI engine-powered 2021 Kawasaki Ninja 300 also because the sport-class 300 is the best-selling motorcycle for the brand. There are no details on the second model in the image below. As for the 2021 Ninja 300, the changes will likely be restricted to the engine and the design & styling will remain the same and so would the list of features on board. This means it will still have a twin headlamp setup, a semi-digital instrument cluster, front indicators integrated into the fairing, a chunky tank, and split seats. It could, however, be offered with new colour schemes and graphics. It remains to be seen if Kawasaki will equip it with the company's new Bluetooth-connected tech operated through the 'RIDEOLGY' application. Considering it will be powered by the same 296cc liquid-cooled parallel-twin engine, it will get about 38 hp and 27 Nm of torque. The BS-VI transition could lower the power figures very slightly. While the BS-IV model retailed at Rs 3.98 lakh (ex-showroom), expect the new 2021 model to carry a slightly larger price tag. Not much is known about the second model, but Kawasaki should drop some more details soon.

Amazon India partners with Mahindra Electric to help fulfil its commitment towards electric mobility

Delhi, Feb 24: Amazon India today announced its partnership with Mahindra Electric to further strengthen its commitment towards electric mobility in the country. In 2020, Amazon India had announced that its fleet of delivery vehicles will include 10,000 electric vehicles (EVs) by 2025 in India. These EVs are in addition to the global commitment of 100,000 electric vehicles in the delivery fleet by 2030 announced in the Climate Pledge signed by Amazon. This partnership with Mahindra Electric is an important step towards India's progress in the e-mobility industry to achieve its environmental sustainability goals. The Mahindra Treo Zor vehicles have been deployed in seven cities so far including Bengaluru, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Indore and Lucknow with Amazon India's network of Delivery Service Partners. Significant progress in the Indian e-mobility industry in the last few

years has led to advanced technology, and superior motor and battery components. In addition, the government's focus to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles in the country with awareness campaigns such as 'Go Electric', and steps towards setting up of charging infrastructure with the FAME 2 policy has helped the company

steps taken towards setting up of infrastructure backed by policy measures will help more companies adopt e-mobility. India's dynamic public and private-sector leadership, entrepreneurial culture, ability to build world-class infrastructure, and a unique confluence of IT and manufacturing skills will enable us to take global leadership

'The Climate Pledge' and agreeing to decarbonize on a faster time horizon, signatories will play a critical role in stimulating investment in the development of low-carbon products and services that will be required to help companies meet the pledge. In support of The Climate Pledge commitment to be net-zero carbon by 2040, 10,000 Ama-

lution for our customers as well as the larger society." The Mahindra Treo Zor was launched in October 2020 and provides an advanced Lithium-ion Battery and ease of charging, making it easy for delivery partners to charge the vehicles in various locations. Additional design features such as Automatic Transmission, reducing loading and unloading time provide fatigue-less driving experience. Mahindra Treo Zor has been designed and developed in India and offers best-in-industry performance and the longest-in-industry wheelbase offers a very safe and stable ride.

About Amazon.in

The Amazon.in marketplace is operated by Amazon Seller Services Private Ltd, an affiliate of Amazon.com, Inc. (NASDAQ: AMZN). Amazon.in seeks to build the most customer-centric online destination for customers to find and discover virtually anything they want to buy online by giving them more of what they want - vast selection, low prices, fast and reliable delivery, and a trusted and convenient experience; and provide sellers with a world-class e-commerce marketplace.

About Mahindra Electric Mahindra Electric, a part of the USD 19.4 billion Mahindra Group is a global pioneer in the development and production of electric vehicles. Mahindra Electric is India's only EV manufacturer with indigenously developed EV technologies that have won global accolades. Over the years, Mahindra Electric has developed one of the most diversified portfolio of electric vehicles with the e2oPlus hatch, the Treo range of three-wheelers, the electrified eVerito sedan & the electrified eSupro mini-van for the passenger and the commercial segment.

FullOnSpeedy Samsung Galaxy F62 Goes on Sale with Exciting Offers

Delhi, February, 24: Galaxy F62, Samsung's FullOnSpeedy smartphone with Flagship Exynos 9825 Processor, 64 MP Quad Camera and 7000mAh battery will go on sale for the first time today. Galaxy F62 is available on Samsung.com, Flipkart.com, Reliance Digital, My Jio retail stores and select retail stores from 12 noon onwards. Galaxy F62 is Samsung's most powerful smartphone offering under INR 25000. Galaxy F62 is priced at INR 23999 for 6/128GB variant and INR 25999 for 8/128GB variant. Galaxy F62 comes with an in-box Type-C 25W superfast charger that recharges the smartphone's 7000mAh battery in less than 2 hours. Galaxy F62 also has reverse



charging, allowing consumers to share their power on the go. The smartphone is just 9.5 mm thick and weighs just 218 grams. Galaxy F62 has a 6.7" FHD+, Super AMOLED Plus Infinity-O display for an uninterrupted and immersive viewing experience. The #FullOnSpeedy smartphone supports Android 11 and One UI 3.1 out of the box which takes user experience to the next level with a refined design, enhanced customization and greater control of the features you rely on the most to help you, do more. Galaxy F62 comes in two memory variants - 6/128GB and 8/128GB and will be available in three colours - Laser Green, Laser Blue and Laser Grey.

accelerate and chart its vision for EVs in India. The inclusion of these electric vehicles in Amazon India's fleet also complements the Government of India's focus on electric mobility and 'Make in India' EVs for a sustainable AtmaNirbhar Bharat. Shri Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India said "Clean mobility powered by clean energy is an important element in the action to prevent climate change. The partnership between Amazon India and Mahindra Electric is a welcome step, which reaffirms India's significant progress in the e-mobility industry, and highlights the role of auto makers and e-commerce companies to achieve our environmental sustainability goals. We are confident that the government's efforts to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles in the country, and

position in advanced mobility solutions." Akhil Saxena, VP, Customer Fulfilment Operations, APAC, MENA & LATAM, Amazon said, "We are committed to building a supply chain that will minimize the environmental impact of our operations. The expansion of our Electric Vehicle fleet to 10,000 vehicles by 2025 is an integral milestone in our journey to become a sustainability leader in the industry. We continue to work with several OEMs to build a fleet of 'Made in India' electric vehicles that ensure sustainable and safe deliveries of customer orders, and this partnership with Mahindra Electric is a testament of our commitment." In September 2019, Amazon became the first signatory of the Climate Pledge, which states that the company will be net zero carbon by 2040 across its businesses - a decade ahead of the Paris Agreement's goal of 2050. By join-

ing The Climate Pledge and agreeing to decarbonize on a faster time horizon, signatories will play a critical role in stimulating investment in the development of low-carbon products and services that will be required to help companies meet the pledge. In support of The Climate Pledge commitment to be net-zero carbon by 2040, 10,000 Ama-

lution for our customers as well as the larger society." The Mahindra Treo Zor was launched in October 2020 and provides an advanced Lithium-ion Battery and ease of charging, making it easy for delivery partners to charge the vehicles in various locations. Additional design features such as Automatic Transmission, reducing loading and unloading time provide fatigue-less driving experience. Mahindra Treo Zor has been designed and developed in India and offers best-in-industry performance and the longest-in-industry wheelbase offers a very safe and stable ride.

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CM Sonowal Lays Foundation

state through its commitment to the empowerment of women has been taking a series of steps to make women an important stakeholder in the process for the economic development of the state. He said that during the last several months the women Self Help Groups by selling the products produced by them across the country and outside earned several hundred crores. Chief Minister Sonowal while hailing this effort of the women SHGs said that this has helped the state to expedite its economic growth. Chief Minister Sonowal also said that true to the spirit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for Aatmanirbhar Bharat this achievement of the women SHGs would definitely help the state towards achieving Aatmanirbhar Assam. In a bid to boost the industrial ecosystem in the state, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Tuesday laid the foundation of an Industrial Park and permanent campus for ITI, Sootea at Sonitpur's Jamugurihat. The park will be built at an area of 315 bighas of land and the ITI campus in Sootea will be built at a cost of Rs 25 crores. "Also laid the foundation stone for construction of 'Industrial Park' at Dighalichapari and Industrial Training Institute (ITI) at Sootea. The initiatives will boost the overall development of the district & its neighbouring areas and give a further push to #AatmanirbharAssam." Tweeted CM Sonowal.

Refurbished Motera stadium

architect of the new stadium. It has 11 pitches made of both red and black soil and is the only stadium in the world to have same soil surfaces for the main and practice pitches. "As children, we used to dream about the world's largest stadium in India. And now as sports minister, my happiness knows no bounds that this has finally happened," said Rijju at the inauguration. "It is one of the most modern sports facilities in the world," he added. Players from both the India and England teams, who have been training here for the past few days, have expressed their admiration for what they have experienced at the arena. The ground claims to have a drainage system which will take just 30 minutes from the time it stops raining to drain out the water. Instead of high mast floodlights, the field of play has LED lights fixed along the perimeter of the roof providing shadow-less light -- a first of its kind arrangement in India. This is the only cricket stadium in the world to have four dressing rooms for the players so that back-to-back games can be played on the same day. It also has a cricket academy, indoor practice pitches, and two separate practice grounds with small pavilion area. The President performed the ground-breaking ceremony for a sports complex in the stadium for disciplines like football, hockey, basketball, kabaddi, boxing, and lawn tennis among others. The Motera stadium, the biggest cricket stadium in the world, was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind, and was renamed the Narendra Modi Stadium. The Sardar Patel Stadium has been renamed to the Narendra Modi Stadium. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the stadium in Ahmedabad. It will host its 1st international match starting today since renovation. President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the newly revamped Motera cricket stadium in Ahmedabad, which has been renamed the Narendra Modi Stadium, on Wednesday. The ground, which was earlier named the Sardar Patel Stadium, and more popularly known as the Motera stadium, has been renamed after the Prime Minister, who was also formerly a president of the Gujarat Cricket Association. Home Minister Amit Shah and Sports Minister Kiren Rijju, along with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah, were also present at the event. The Narendra Modi Stadium -- the largest cricket ground in the world -- will host its first international match on Wednesday, when India will take on England in the Day-Night Test. The stadium will be a part of the planned Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave in the city. "This stadium was conceptualised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat. He was president of the Gujarat Cricket Association at that time," President Kovind said in his address after the inauguration. "This stadium is an example of eco-friendly development," he added. "1,32,000 people can sit and watch cricket here at the Narendra Modi Stadium which has been inaugurated by the President. This will be the world's biggest sports stadium." Home Minister Amit Shah said at the event. "Coupled with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave and Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera, a sports complex will also be built in Naranpura. These three will be equipped to host any international sports event," he said. "Ahmedabad will be known as the 'sports city' of India," he added. "Olympic Games can also be held here," Amit Shah said about the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave. "Not just for cricket but it's a proud moment for India. Besides being the largest cricket stadium, it's also one of the most modern stadiums in the world," Sports Minister Kiren Rijju said earlier. "As children, we used to dream about the world's largest stadium in India. And now as sports minister, my happiness knows no bounds that this has finally happened," he had said. The stadium held the knockout stages of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy earlier this year. The stadium is now set to host seven international matches in quick succession. The Narendra Modi Stadium will host the third and fourth Tests between India and England as well as the entirety of the five-match T20I series between the two sides.

Sonowal performs bhumi puja

the heels of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for Smart Policing, Sonowal said that State government's decision to empower the police forces and make them competent technologically is a way forward to make Assam Police Smart. Sonowal on this occasion also stated about Anundoram Borooah ACS Training Institute being constructed at Umrangshu and said that for giving state of the art training to all the government officers, State government took steps for the training institutes in the state. Sonowal also said that Narendra Modi led BJP government immediately after coming to power took several welfare schemes for all sections of the people of the country. He said that the Jandhan scheme taken by the government enabled the people particularly from the unorganised sectors to come within the ambit of banking services without letting the middle men siphon off the benefits meant for the original beneficiaries. Stating on the nose dip corruption during the erstwhile Congress regime which deprived competent claimants of their rights, Sonowal said that the present BJP led State government immediately after coming to power in 2016 acted against corruption with the help of the police forces and eliminated corruption from all levels. Additional Director General of Police (Security) Harmeet Singh gave the welcome address in the programme which was also addressed among others by Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, MLA Bhabendra Nath Bhabari, DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, commissioner and secretary Home and Political M.S. Manivannan. Managing Director Assam Police Housing Corporation Limited Arabinda Kalita, DC Golaghat Bibhish Chandra Modi and a host of others were present on the occasion. Chief Minister Sonowal also inaugurated the newly built police station of Dergaon under MOITRI scheme on the occasion. Later on the day, Chief Minister Sonowal unveiled a statue of Swargadeo Chaoling Siu Ka Pha at Khumtai.

Rakesh Tikait warns Centre

Tikait has said that if the three farm laws are not repealed, the farmers will hold a march to the Parliament on 40 lakh tractors. Speaking at a farmers' rally in Sikar in Rajasthan on Tuesday, Tikait said, "Our next call will be for a march to Parliament. We will tell them before marching. This time it won't be just 4 lakh tractors but 40 lakh tractors will go there if farm laws are not taken back." The BKU leader also demanded that a new law should be enacted ensuring minimum support price for farmers. On February 18 at a 'kisan mahapanchayat' at Kharak Punia in Haryana, Tikait said the protesting farmers will take the agitation to the poll-bound West Bengal if the Centre does not concur with their demands against the new farm laws. He again reiterated the claim the next day and said, "Talks are going on about taking out a tractor rally to West Bengal." Farmers broke barricades to enter Delhi and indulged in vandalism across several parts of the national capital during their Kisan tractor rally organised to protest against the Centre's three new farm laws on January 26. Several public and private properties were damaged in acts of vandalism by the protestors. A total of 22 FIRs have been filed by the Delhi Police with one of them mentioning the incident at ITO where a farmer died after his tractor overturned. Farmers have been protesting on the different borders of the national capital since November 26 against the three newly enacted farm laws - Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; the Farmers Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act 2020 and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

Foundation stone of Amingaon

panic as the COVID-19 situation is totally under control. Yesterday, 12 people tested COVID-19 positive, the day before yesterday, 7 people in Assam tested positive. We have not crossed 25 cases per day. So, it can be said that the situation is normal. After the detection of the COVID-19 positive case in Don Bosco School, it created panic among the people. We should follow all the norms like wearing masks, follow social distancing, and when vaccination will start all must take the vaccine," said Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma. "In government schools, many teachers tested COVID-19 positive in the last few days but why the 'Don Bosco COVID' issue is creating panic among the people, I don't know," he added.

Ahead of Amit Shah visit

organisations by laying down of arms at Guwahati on February 23. We congratulate leaders and cadres of all the militant organisations on their eschewing violence to join the mainstream society. In this regard, on February 25 peace accord is going to be signed by the recently surrendered militant organisations in a massive rally at Nurak Aklam, Dengaon as publicised. But, settlement without the long standing demand of the hills people i.e. Article 244(A) to the Constitution of India is not acceptable by the people. If Union Home Minister Amit Shah fails to declare Autonomous State, then a massive full scale democratic movement for Autonomous State will commence from February 26. "It is a fact that implementation of Article 244(A) of the constitution has been the poll promise by the BJP since 2008. So, if the BJP fail to declare on February 25 on creation of Autonomous State, comprising Karbi Anglong (bifurcated in 2016) and Dima Hasao or if the accord does not reflect the fulfilment of the political aspiration of hills people, then the BJP District Committee of Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao alongwith Team Karbi Anglong shall held responsible for betrayal to the hills people. Son full scale democratic mass movement for Autonomous Statehood shall be commenced from February 26, 2021," said JACAS Chairman Khorsing Teron at a press conference at KSA's office, Rongthang on Tuesday. 24+ Organisations welcome the recent laying down of arms by the militant organisations. But the implementation of Article 244(A) as written in the constitution of India must be included in the peace settlement with a fixed time frame. It has been seen that Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) has been put on hold till date. So, to prevail a permanent peace in Karbi Anglong implementation of Article 244(A) must be included in the peace settlement. 24+ Organisation Convenor Litsong Rongphar stated at a press conference at Semson Sing Ingti Memorial Park on Tuesday. Earlier, Organisation Conclave (comprising of 25 organisations) also held a press conference at District Press Club of Karbi Anglong (DPCKA) on Tuesday in this regard. Stating that, they have warmly welcomed the militant organisations by laying down arms recently. But the peace agreement which is to be signed must be covered with Article 244(A) for a permanent peace in the hill districts, without which there will be nothing worth, they stated.

Over 1,000 Militants belonging

People's Liberation Tiger (KPLT), People's Democratic Council of Karbi Longri (PDCK), Karbi Longri N C Hills Liberation Front (KLNLF), Kuki Liberation Front (KLF) and United People's Liberation Army (UPLA) including self-styled Chief of PDCK Ingti Kathar Songbhit laid down their arms. 338 arms of different kinds alongwith 11203 bullets were surrendered by the militants. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal welcomed those members of Karbi militant groups back to mainstream society and congratulated them for deciding to give up arms while reposing faith in the constitution of the country. He also commented that Karbi Anglong is one of the most beautiful districts in the state and he urged the surrendered militants to contribute in the mission of making Aatmanirbhar Assam through Aatmanirbhar Karbi Hills Region. Karbi youths have lots of potential and they must utilise it to make Karbi Anglong a developed region in the state by harnessing its tourism potential, he said. Saying that due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's endeavour of equal development in every corner of the country Assam is making rapid strides towards prosperity, Sonowal congratulated the surrendered militants for coming back to mainstream society and urged them to contribute in the journey of state's progress. The government's role is not limited to only bringing back the militants but also it is committed to ensure a life of dignity and respect for those who have surrendered arms by facilitating opportunities for livelihood and employment, he added. The Chief Minister also appreciated Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council led by CEM Tuliram Ronghang for ushering in a period of peace and prosperity in the Karbi Hills and he also commended the Unified Command structure comprising Assam police, Indian Army, Paramilitary and Intelligence Agencies for their success in bringing peace to the state. Sonowal also thanked noted litterateur and former president of Asom Sahitya Sabha Rong Bong Terang for his presence at the programme alongwith representatives of Karbi Sahitya Sabha and members of Karbi Cultural Society. While Additional DGP (Special Branch) Hiren Nath gave the welcome address, Chief Executive Member of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council Tuliram Ronghang, Chief Secretary Jishnu Baruah and DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta also spoke on the occasion. Chief Minister's Media Advisor Hrishikesh Goswami, Dipu MP Haren Singh Bey, Additional Chief Secretary to Chief Minister Paban Kumar Borthakur, Principal Secretary Home & Political Department Niraj Verma, Additional DGP (Law & Order) GP Singh, GOC 21 Mountain Division Indian Army Major General SP Singh, Joint Director, SIB Rashmi Sinha and other senior officers were present at the programme. Besides, former President of Asom Sahitya Sabha Padmashree Rong Bong Terang, Gaon Burahs and other leading citizens of Karbi Anglong district were present.

Amit Shah To Attend Puja Of Pran Prathishta Mahotsav At Maha Mritunjay Temple

Guwahati, Feb 24 : The Pran Prathishta Mahotsav of the world's largest 126-foot-tall Shivalinga at at Puranigudam, Nagaon will culminate on February 25. For this special occasion Union Home Minister Amit Shah will arrive in Assam on Thursday to join the Puja of Pran Prathishta Mahotsav and the Yagna of Maha Mritunjay Temple. The Puja Pran Prathishta Mahotsav of Maha Mritunjay Temple started on February 22 and will end on February 25. The temple will be open for all the devotees from February 26. The construction of the temple started in 2003 with the help of Acharya Bhriuguri Maharaj. In that year, Bhriuguri Maharaja chose this place after performing meditation. According to Maharaj, in ancient times, demon guru Shukracharya performed Yagna at the site of the temple. Speaking to the media one of the prominent priests said that around 250 priests from Tamil Nadu have come to the temple to perform the Pran Prathishta Yagna. Jitu Goswami,

General Secretary of the puja Committee said, "We are happy that the dream of the great Acharya Bhriuguri Maharaj has come true today. He has been dreaming about the temple since 2003 and we are happy that we could make the dream come true. We would like to thank all those who have contributed to fulfill the dream of such a temple and wish the presence of everyone at the inauguration ceremony of the temple." Goswami also added that the temple authorities are very happy with the arrival of the Home Minister. It is worth mentioning that a huge mandapa has been constructed near the temple to complete the Yagna at 108 Kundas. In this mandapa, 108 Yagna kundas have been set up and all the arrangements have been made so that all the priests can perform the grand Yagna. On Tuesday evening, Assam Health, Education, Finance Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma reviewed all the preparations at Maha Mritunjay Temple ahead of Home Minister Shah's visit.

RJD Leader Tejaswi Yadav coming

Guwahati, February 24: Rashtriya Janata Dal, Assam State President Shonarul Shah Mustafa, Vice President Sayed Ahmed Barbhuiya, Chief General Secretary Bhupen Sarma, General Secretary Asrafur Arif Sikdar and Mahila President Swarna Hazarika said in a press release that Rashtriya Janata Dal National youth Leader and leader of opposition Bihar Legislative assembly Tejaswi Yadav coming to Assam on 26 Feb next for 2 (Two) days programmes of Rashtriya Janata Dal. He also will address Press Meet on 27/02/2021 at 3 PM in Hotel Taj Vivanta, Guwahati. Respected Electronic and Printing Media reporters are request to attend in the said Press Meet.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Batadrova Than and Maha Mritunjay Mandir today

NAGAON, Feb 24: Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit the birthplace of the great Assamese Saint Srimanta Sankardeva, Batadrova Than and newly constructed the largest 'Shiva Ling' shaped Shiva temple 'Maha Mritunjay Mandir' at Barhampur Bherbheri area tomorrow.

During his visit to the district, the Union Home Minister Amit Shah will ceremonially start the construction work of the proposed Sankardeva Cultural Complex with estimated amount of Rs 188 cores covering around 130 bigha of land at Batadrova Than.

Significantly, it may be mentioned that in this proposed project, a world class museum of Sankari culture is also included to conserve the Sankari cultural heritage for displaying to the pilgrims from across the world.

The minister will also address a public rally there at Batadrova Than area. Besides, the Union Home Minister will visit the newly constructed the largest Asian 'Maha Mritunjay Mandir' at Barhampur Bherbheri area where he will offer prayers to the lord Shiva.

Training program on capacity

Hailakandi, Feb. 24: A one-day training programme on capacity building for SHGs, User Group and Watershed Committee members under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) was organised by Soil Conservation department at SIRD Extension Centre at Boalipar here on Sunday. The programme was inaugurated by District Development Commissioner, Ranajey Kumar Laskar. Resource persons of Fisheries department, Lucy Ingti and Binky Sharma and Dr. Ahoy Bain of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary department along with Syed Choudhury, faculty of UBI, RCT, Cachar spoke on various aspects of biofloc, poultry firm, goatery firm, local dairy firm for the benefits of SHG members. Range Officer of Hailakandi Soil Conservation Range and WDT leader of East Kushiara IWMP, Debabrata Das along with Junior Engineer of Soil Conservation department, Komollesh Bhattacharjee discussed about the different schemes of Soil Conservation department for the benefit of SHG members and assetless poor. The training programme was conducted in association with Rural Development and Social Service Organisation.

India Sees Sharpest Increase In Active Covid Cases Since End-November

New Delhi, Feb 24 : Active coronavirus cases in India increased by 4,421 in 24 hours - a spike of three per cent - to go back over the 1.5 lakh mark for the first time in 17 days and register the steepest increase since end-November. On November 27 the active caseload was 4,55,555 - an increase of 3.85 per cent from the 4,38,667 recorded on November 24. This is the fifth consecutive day in which active cases (calculated as the difference between new cases and recoveries) have increased; 13,506 new cases have been added in this period. The three per cent increase in active cases is also double that recorded this time last week - 1.5 per cent - and a massive 2.9 per cent bigger than two weeks ago, when active cases decreased by 157. The total number of new cases reported per day have also increased - from a low of 9,121 on February 16 to 14,199 today, with the seven-day moving average increasing by 13.8 per cent. The spike in national numbers comes as five states - Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh - report increased daily numbers. The centre has warned all five states that continued "adherence to Covid-appropriate behavior" is critical to break the chain of transmission and contain the novel coronavirus. "Over 74 per cent of active cases are in Kerala and Maharashtra... there has also been a spike in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh... Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir are also witnessing a surge in daily new cases," the Health Ministry said Sunday. In Maharashtra, the worst-affected state, the seven-day moving average of new cases was 5,230 this morning - the highest since 5,576 on December 2. This morning 6,971 new cases were reported in 24 hours - the most since October 24, when 7,347 were detected. In Kerala, the second worst-affected state, the seven-day moving average of new cases was 4,361 this morning and 4,070 new cases were reported in 24 hours. In Punjab the weekly positivity rate has increased from 1.4 per cent to 1.6 per cent, while weekly cases in the last four weeks have seen a rise from 1,300 to 1,682. On Sunday, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said the situation in his state was "serious" and warned of a lockdown if the numbers continued to increase. Authorities have cautioned against abandoning Covid-appropriate behaviour, including not using face masks or maintaining social distancing while in public, which they say is contributing to the spike. The spike in Covid numbers in some states comes as 240 new strains of the virus have emerged across the country; Dr Shahshank Joshi, a member of Maharashtra's Covid Task Force, told NDTV the new strains could be the reason for an increase in cases in the state.

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. C/S. File No. 592 of 2020-21/... Scaled tenders eventually to be drawn in F-2 form affixing non refundable Court Fee Stamps of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and paise twenty five) only and with a validity period of 180 (One Hundred and Eighty) days are invited from the registered contractors of APWD Bldg. works for the work as detailed below and will be issued in the Office of the undersigned from 1-3-21 to 2.3.2021 and received upto 14.00 hours of 4.3.21 to 5-3-21 and will be opened on 5-3-31 the same date at 2.30 pm in the office of the undersigned

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of work	Bid security (in Rs.)		Cost of Estimate	Time of completion	Eligibility of Contractor
			(For Gen. category)	(For SC/ST/OBC/ MOBRUGE/)			
1	Repairing & Renovation fitting & fixing tiles on staircase at Block (B, C & D) of Jawahar Nagar Housed Apartment, Tripura Road, Guwahati-29.	1252051.00	25041.00	12521.00	1000.00	30days	Class-I(A,B,C)Bldg. & Class-II& III category Contractor only
2	Repairing & Renovation fitting & fixing tiles on staircase at Block (E, F & G) of Jawahar Nagar Housed Apartment, Tripura Road, Guwahati-29.	1160909.00	23218.00	11609.00	1000.00	30days	
3	Installation of Deep Tube Well at IAS Colony, Khanapara, Guwahati-22.	1821802.00	36436.00	18218.00	1000.00	30days	

- Details particulars and tender papers will be issued to the eligible contractor or their authorized agents with attested signature in application from 1-3-2021 to 2-3-2021 upto 2.00 P.M.
- IPO and bid security must be payable in favour of the 44 The Executive Engineer, PWD, PCC Division, Dispur, Ghy-6.
- Contractor must have pre-qualification documents having similar nature of works executed for last 3 (Three) years.
- The Contractor will have to submit upto date registration certificate for the year 2020-21, GST.E.P.F.PAN Card, Labour Licence Partnership deed/Power of attorney in case of Proprietorship firm dully attested by self.
- If for any reason fast date of receiving or issuing tender paper is a declared holiday/bandh, tender will be received and opened on the next working day.
- The undersigned will be the sole authority to cancel or accept any tender without showing any reason.
- The short NIT will be a part of the contract agreement.
- Other details can be seen in the tender document.
- Please note that payment will be made subject to receipt of, financial sanction and F.O.C. from the Government.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. PCC Division, Dispur, Ghy-6 Janasanyog/C/12615/20

Virat Kohli calls on crowd to 'make life more difficult' for England in third Test



New Delhi, February 24: Virat Kohli has called on a bumper crowd in Ahmedabad to make life difficult for England as India's firebrand captain heads into Wednesday's crucial day-night third Test seemingly brimming with confidence. The pink ball fixture at the Motera Stadium marks the first international at the ground since it was revamped for a new 110,000 capacity and while Covid-19 rules will mean the attendance is capped at 50%, Joe Root's tourists still face their largest audience since the 2017 Boxing Day Test in Melbourne that drew 88,000 fans on day one. Kohli credited the return of spectators in Chennai last week – around the 12,000-mark each day – for helping to power his side to their series-levelling 317-run win and will look to harness this advantage once more under lights. Kohli said: "The crowd plays a massive role. I've experienced that as a batsman – walking onto the field with 30,000 fans booing you or clapping when the bowler's running into bowl. It does play on your head so we would love for that atmosphere to be present to make life more difficult for the opposition and really get behind the team. That's what playing at home is all about, it's not only about the conditions on the field but 50,000 people and their energy behind your team. It does push you in the right direction and it does put a lot more pressure on the opposition." While India have requested another dry pitch to aid their spinners, England's seamers have been salivating at the prospect of bowling with a pink SG ball that has swung during their training sessions. Jimmy Anderson, expected to be back after being rested specifically for this fixture, could well be in his element. However Root held off from confirming his XI on Tuesday, with up to five spots being debated by the captain and his head coach, Chris Silverwood, and one last look at the surface required. Root said: "With the limited information we have on this ground we're going to make sure we give ourselves as much time as possible before we make that decision." Kohli, however, knocked down the notion of the pink ball assisting the tourists any more than his own team – a fair point given the rise of India's pace stocks in recent years, led by the similarly returning Jasprit Bumrah, and the fact they took all 20 wickets in their only other day-night Test at home. He added: "I'm not bothered about England's strengths. We have beaten them in their home where the ball does way more. If it's a seam friendly track for them it is for us too. There are many weaknesses in the opposition as well as strengths. We are ready for anything that comes our way."

Neil Lennon quits as Celtic manager with John Kennedy set to replace him

London, February 24: Neil Lennon has resigned as Celtic manager with the club 18 points behind the champions-elect Rangers in the Scottish Premiership. The 49-year-old has been under pressure for months but had previously maintained he would not quit. His departure comes after Celtic's defeat at Ross County on Sunday left Rangers seven points from title and heightened the prospect they will secure the prize at Parkhead on 21 March. Since returning to the club in 2019 Lennon has led Celtic to two titles, two Scottish Cups and a League Cup. There was widespread expectation he would leave at the end of this season. John Kennedy, Lennon's assistant, is likely to take charge for the remainder of the campaign. A Celtic statement said: "Neil Lennon has resigned from his position as football manager with immediate effect. Neil has served the club with distinction as both player and manager, delivering numerous successes, most recently completing the domestic treble in December." In his second period as Celtic manager, he has achieved five trophy successes, to add to his three League titles and two Scottish Cup victories in his first period as manager. "Neil said: "We have experienced a difficult season due to so many factors and, of course, it is very frustrating and disappointing that we have not been able to hit the same heights as we did previously. I have worked as hard as ever to try and turn things around, but unfortunately we have not managed to get the kind of run going that we have needed. I have always given my best to the club and have been proud to deliver silverware to the Celtic supporters. The club will always be part of me. I will always be a



Celtic supporter myself and I will always want the best for Celtic. "Lennon has been subject to vociferous criticism from a section of the Celtic support for months. He returned to the club in early 2019, following the departure of Brendan Rodgers to Leicester. Lennon, a decorated player with the club, also managed Celtic between 2010 and 2014. When seeking what would have been a record-breaking 10th title in succession, Celtic have failed

to win 11 of their 30 league games. There was an exit from the Champions League at the qualifying stage at the hands of Ferencvaros, with County also responsible for elimination from the League Cup. Celtic's recruitment has been widely criticised, as was a January training trip to Dubai that led to a raft of negative publicity and forced the isolation of 13 players – plus Lennon – for a draw with Hibernian. Peter Lawwell, Celtic's chief executive, said: "I would like to pay tribute to Neil for all he has done for the club in his second spell, delivering our eighth and ninth successive league titles, the quadruple treble and winning the last five available domestic trophies. "Neil has always been and will always be a true Celtic man and someone I will always hold in the highest regard ... While this season has not progressed as we would have liked, it cannot diminish the character or integrity of a man who has given the club so much."

Police say Tiger Woods 'lucky to be alive' after car crash in California

California, February 24: Tiger Woods has had surgery for multiple fractures of his right leg after a car accident that a Los Angeles police officer said he was "very fortunate" to have survived. The golfer was "awake and responsive" after the operation to insert a rod into his tibia and stabilize his ankle with pins, according to a statement by his TGR foundation on Tuesday night. Carlos Gonzalez, the first LA county deputy to respond after Woods' car went off the road in a single-vehicle accident, said the sports star had been "calm and lucid" despite being trapped inside his vehicle. Woods was removed from the crash by firefighters, and his vehicle suffered "major damage". Woods was transported to the nearby Harbor-UCLA medical center by ambulance and underwent surgery for "multiple leg injuries" after the incident early on Tuesday. Woods had been driving a 2021 Genesis GV80 northbound on Hawthorne Boulevard when he drove over the center median, into the southbound lanes, struck a tree and rolled the vehicle several times, said Alex Villanueva, the Los Angeles county sheriff, at a press conference Tuesday afternoon. The crash is still under investigation. Gonzalez noted that this "specific stretch of roadway is one of our trouble spots". Deputies have often caught motorists speeding



here, sometimes at up to 80 miles per hour, which would be nearly double the locally reported speed limit. Gonzalez said Woods was responsive and coherent when he arrived on scene, and was able to tell him his name. Though his injuries were visible, Woods appeared to be in shock and unconcerned with them, Gonzalez said. "I've been doing this for a while. I've seen fatal traffic collisions," the deputy added. "It was very fortunate that Mr Woods was able to come out of this alive." Woods was the only person in the vehicle at the time of the accident and was conscious when

deputies arrived on scene. While the cause of the crash has not yet been determined, Villanueva said Woods' vehicle was "going at a relatively greater speed than normal". When asked if Woods was under the influence at the time of the crash, Villanueva said there was "no evidence of impairment at this point in time." Authorities previously reported that Woods had to be extricated from the vehicle by the jaws of life, but fire department personnel were able to remove him with the help of an ax and Halligan tool, said Daryl Osby, the Los Angeles county fire chief. Responding to the news,

Barack Obama said: "Sending my prayers to @TigerWoods and his family tonight – here's to a speedy recovery for the GOAT of golf. If we've learned anything over the years, it's to never count Tiger out." Tennis great Serena Williams said: "Love you big brother ... but We will get through this @TigerWoods." Justin Thomas, a fellow major champion, expressed concern for his friend. "I'm sick to my stomach ... You know, it hurts to see one of your ... closest friends get in an accident. Man, I just hope he's all right. Just worry for his kids, you know. I'm sure they're struggling." Jack Nicklaus, the 18-time major champion and lone name above Woods on the all-time leaderboard, said he was "deeply concerned" by the news in a statement. "Barbara and I just heard about Tiger's accident, and like everyone else, we are deeply concerned," Nicklaus said. "We want to offer him our heartfelt

support and prayers at this difficult time." The PGA Tour released a statement shortly after news of the crash broke, saying: "On behalf of the PGA Tour and our players, Tiger is in our prayers and will have our full support as he recovers." Woods had been in California to film a TV programme for Discovery and Golf Digest, featuring the former NBA player Dwyane Wade and the actor David Spade. He also attended the PGA Tour's Genesis Invitational at Riviera over the weekend. He has not played competitive golf this year after undergoing back surgery in January. In May 2017, Woods was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence in Florida after he was discovered passed out in his car. He later pled guilty to reckless driving over the incident, and said his condition was caused by prescribed medications. Woods was also involved in another crash in 2009 near his home in Florida, which led to news that he had been unfaithful to his then wife, Elin Nordegren. The fallout led to Woods losing sponsors and he took an extended break from golf to address issues in his private life. The 2017 arrest was seen by many as a turning point for Woods, whose career had slumped since the days when he was one of the most successful athletes on the planet. Less than two years later a rejuvenated Woods won the Masters, his first major championship since the 2008 US Open. Authorities said that a second car accident occurred nearby while authorities were responding to the Woods crash, most likely a case of someone trying to see what was happening. No one was injured in that crash, Villanueva said.

British & Irish Lions 'home tour' could be expanded to four Tests

London, February 24: A final decision on this summer's British & Irish Lions tour will be taken by the end of March with officials increasingly keen to host it on home soil in front of live audiences. Tentative plans are also in place to expand the eagerly-awaited series against South Africa to four Tests in July and August. While the possibility of the tour going ahead behind closed doors in South Africa has yet to be formally abandoned, it is understood that idea has now been all but discounted. Lions sources have also confirmed that governmental guarantees are being sought to cover costs incurred if fresh Covid outbreaks force a delay to the proposed 21 June easing of all lockdown restrictions in England. Shifting the entire eight-match Lions tour to the northern hemisphere would be a huge logistical undertaking even without the noisy disapproval of those who believe playing it on "home" soil would be sacrilege. The other possibility is to move the entire series to Australia but, once again, that would pose significant administrative challenges. The Lions board, however, is increasingly confident the tour will proceed this year, with a warm-up game against Japan at Murrayfield on 26 June already in the diary. One idea is for the South African sides involved

in this year's new Rainbow Cup tournament to remain in the UK to provide provincial opposition, leaving four potential dates to be filled by Tests in London, Cardiff, Edinburgh and Dublin. Not everyone is comfortable, in the current climate, with the idea of taxpayer's money being used to facilitate a rugby tour but Lions officials have stressed to the government the potential economic benefits to bars, shops and local businesses. With the go-ahead also required from the Irish government and the devolved governments of Scotland and Wales, though, it could be that playing in Dublin, where strict restrictions are in place until at least late April, might prove difficult.

Jamal Musiala sets English Champions League record as Bayern thrash Lazio

London, February 24: Jamal Musiala became the youngest English goalscorer in Champions League history and Bayern Munich's youngest goalscorer in the competition at the age of 17 years and 363 days in the holders' 4-1 thrashing of Lazio in Rome. It was a night of landmarks, with Robert Lewandowski becoming the Champions League's third top scorer of all time in their last-16 first leg, the Polish striker pouncing on a poorly judged back pass after nine minutes to steer in his 72nd goal in the competition. In doing so, he surpassed former Real Madrid striker Raúl in the competition's scoring charts to reach a total only bettered by Juventus's Cristiano Ronaldo, with 134 goals, and Barcelona's Lionel Messi, with 119. Musiala doubled Bayern's advantage with a well-taken strike and Leroy Sané tapped in a third before the break. A Francesco Acerbi own goal stretched the visitors' advantage further early in the second half, but Joaquin Correa soon pulled one back for Lazio, whose unbeaten run in the competition came crashing to an end. It was an 18th consecutive match without defeat for Bayern in the Champions League, 17 of which have been victories, leaving the German champions in a dominant position ahead of the second leg in Munich on 17 March.



London, February 24: England Women cruised to an eight-wicket victory against New Zealand in their first 50-over international in more than a year. Tammy Beaumont, who hit 71, and their captain, Heather Knight (67 not out), steered the tourists to the winning target in only 33.4 overs having skilted their hosts for 178 at Christchurch's Hagley Oval. The victory puts England 1-0 up in the three-match series. England, back in action in the ODI arena for the first time since playing Pakistan in December 2019, lost the toss. New Zealand elected to bat, but despite being deprived of Anya Shrubsole – who is missing the tour with a knee injury – England were soon on the front foot after Tash Farrant and Katherine Brunt both struck inside the opening 10 overs. Hayley Jensen provided New Zealand with some hope after she claimed her first ODI

half-century, but her dismissal by Sarah Glenn left the hosts on a precarious 94 for four. Brooke Halliday struck 50 from 54 deliveries in her first ODI appearance before she was the last woman dismissed – run out by Danni Wyatt – with the hosts' innings ending after 45.1 overs. In reply, Wyatt's wicket fell in the eighth over after she registered 17. But Beaumont and Knight steadied the ship, with the former reaching her 50 from 67 balls – her 10th ODI half-century – before she was caught behind off Lea Tahuhu's delivery. Knight then reached her 20th ODI 50 in 58 balls, with Nat Sciver, who made an unbeaten 21, hitting the match-winning boundary in a crushing triumph for the tourists. The sides will meet in Dunedin on Friday with England seeking an unassailable 2-0 lead.

Olivier Giroud acrobatics earn Chelsea crucial lead over Atlético Madrid

London, February 24: One team wanted to spoil; the other wanted to play. While Atlético Madrid were determined to make the contest as dull as possible, Thomas Tuchel gave Chelsea freedom to express themselves. Liberated, Chelsea stood up to be counted. They refused to rise to Luis Suárez's provocation and they punished Atlético's grinding negativity under Diego Simeone when Olivier Giroud, with a bit of help from VAR, came up with a special goal midway through the second half. Tuchel could celebrate the perfect away performance in Europe and his most impressive win since replacing Frank



Lampard last month. Chelsea were solid and professional at the back after recovering from a slow start, they were mature and precise in

midfield and they were inspired when their first clear sight of goal arrived, Giroud's astonishing overhead kick ensuring they left Bucharest with a slender advantage. Atlético could have no complaints after ceding the initiative to Chelsea, who were by far the more progressive side. Andreas Christensen shone in the absence of Thiago Silva in the middle of the back three, limiting La Liga's pacesetters to few opportunities, while Callum Hudson-Odoi was a positive at right wing-back after being subbed on and off against Southampton last Saturday. Atlético barely created anything and their frustration

was epitomised by Suárez embarking on a solitary wind-up mission as the match wore on, testing Chelsea with his niggles off the ball and squaring up to Antonio Rüdiger at one stage. Rüdiger refused to be drawn in and Chelsea, who have a wonderful chance of progressing beyond the last 16 for the first time since 2014, focused on letting their superior football do the talking. Tested by Atlético's stifling tactics, they stayed calm. Mason Mount was outstanding despite picking up a booking that rules him out of the second leg on 17 March and Giroud, an unused substitute against Southampton, was ruthless with his only chance.

Jack Leach : 'As a spinner, you're going to get some treatment at times'

London, February 24: It might not be obvious at first glance, but Jack Leach is tough. His career has been built on confounding expectations and overcoming obstacles, many of which would have floored less tenacious characters. Still, he admits the assault he received from Rishabh Pant on the third day of England's series in India left him shaken. After his first six overs, Leach's figures read 0-59. Of the 14 balls he bowled to Pant, five went to the boundary, including four which

southpaw spinner and chanced his arm to brutal effect. But that did nothing to mask the horror of his figures. In his first Test in India, on a tour in which he was expected to spearhead England's spin attack, Leach had leaked 77 runs from eight wicketless overs. "That was really hard," says Leach, speaking less than 24 hours after England completed a stirring win in the first Test at Chennai. "Losing your place because of illness is hard because you're not getting the oppor-



clear the ropes. When Joe Root restored him to the attack a short while later, his next two overs were taken for 18, Pant again dispatching him over long-on. In truth, Leach hadn't bowled especially badly. With foot-holes formed outside his off stump, the left-handed Pant had decided attack was the best form of defence against the

tunity but, when you're actually getting the opportunity and everyone is watching you get whacked out of the park, that becomes quite a difficult situation. I do have an understanding as a spinner that at times you're going to get some treatment, but eight overs for 80 is tough to take. I certainly had tough times in that game. I've never

found a Test match that hard. I did joke about the fact that I felt like I was playing my first IPL game in those first few overs. "Pant's blitz is the closest Leach will ever come to a taste of the IPL. Somerset's left-arm spinner is an anomaly in that he has never played a professional T20 match. He has not even played a one-day match since 2016, something he says he hopes will change this season when The Hundred stretches his county's playing staff. It came as a shock, therefore, to have Pant repeatedly trying to launch him into the Bay of Bengal. But by stumps on day four he had produced the delivery of the match to set up England's victory charge, casting Rohit Sharma with a classic left-arm spinner's dismissal which drifted in late before turning sharply and knocking back off stump. "I knew we were going to have a little bowl at the end of the day and it was about trying to make the most of the hardness of the new ball. It felt like the new ball would spin a bit more and be a bit quicker off the surface. When I was bowling my best in that game I was getting some drift and then the spin, so I was trying to draw the batsmen into playing a certain line and then beating them that way. I'm not going to lie, I wasn't running up thinking about bowling that ball, but it's one of them that when you let go you feel like it's in a good place. To see the stumps light up was a nice feeling. I was happy with that

one." For Peter Such, the ex-England spinner who worked with Leach during his time as the ECB's lead spin bowling coach, it was simply "quality bowling from a quality bowler". "You've actually earned that by completely beating the batsman," says Such. "The batsman's not contributed towards the dismissal, it's down to the excellence of the delivery. As a batsman it's one of those balls where you walk off and say: 'You know what, I played it as best as I could but it was just too good.' That's what you like as a bowler." Leach claimed three more early wickets of Cheteshwar Pujara, to take his overall tally to 50 in 12 Tests. No English spinner has reached the milestone in fewer matches since Jim Laker in 1952. Given the 29-year-old's stop-start England career so far, it's a quietly impressive haul. It's a career that took longer than it should have done to get started. Speaking recently on the Sky Sports Cricket Podcast, Graeme Swann divulged that he had been in Alastair Cook's ear about giving Leach the chance to replicate his outstanding form for Somerset at international level as long as five years ago, only for the then England captain to offer a curious rebuttal. "I was championing for Jack Leach to be involved," said Swann. "I couldn't understand why Jack hadn't been picked to go to Bangladesh and India [in 2016]. He just said: 'Yeah, but he only takes his wick-

ets on spinning pitches'. Which, I mean, don't get me wrong, that's what I want. I want my spinner to take wickets when it spins because they're the ones who are more likely to cause problems when it's not." Cook probably won't thank his former teammate for that revelation but it's indicative of a widely held view at that time that Leach's wickets were somehow worth less because he was fortunate enough to play his home matches at a ground which offered something for the spinners. "It was never what people billed it to be," says Such of the pitch at Taunton. "In our game we've become anaesthetised to the ball seaming around. As soon as the ball goes off the straight from the spin bowler we panic. It's a skill in itself taking wickets when conditions are in your favour, because you have to deal with the expectations. When you go to the sub-continent... then you've got to do the same thing. I think it's been a great development opportunity for him." Leach's opportunity with England was further delayed when, in the winter of 2016, soon after being overlooked for the tours of Bangladesh and India, routine testing at Loughborough revealed a kink in his bowling action. He was on holiday in Portugal when he received a phone call from Andy Flower to deliver the bad news. "I was pretty shocked. It's not the news you want to hear." Finally, in March 2018, having remodelled his action, and with

Root having replaced Cook as captain, Leach made his Test debut at Christchurch. In the time since he has been pivotal to a brace of series wins in Sri Lanka and enjoyed a productive 2019 Ashes series (12 wickets at 25.83), which was rather overshadowed by his own batting exploits, but the hurdles have kept on appearing. Leach was hospitalised and dangerously ill after contracting sepsis during England's tour of New Zealand in late 2019, and then forced to return home from the subsequent trip to South Africa after being badly affected by a sickness bug which swept through the camp. In hindsight, he wonders if he had Covid, a virus to which he is particularly vulnerable due to the immunosuppressants he takes to manage Crohn's disease. At one stage, as the pandemic took hold, he questioned whether he would ever be able to play Test cricket again. When he was finally fit to return, he watched from the sidelines for the entirety of the 2020 Test summer, usurped by his junior spin partner at Somerset, Dom Bess, who has since signed for Yorkshire. This all meant that when he touched down in Sri Lanka earlier this year, he did so having bowled a total of 52 overs in 2020, a figure he surpassed in the first Test at Galle alone. It makes his performances so far this winter – 22 wickets in four matches at the time of writing, including six in the second Test defeat at Chennai – all the more impressive. He has proven himself to be England's most reliable and most threatening spinner, and Root's faith in him – as demonstrated by the skipper continuing to toss him the ball when Pant was on the charge – has been rewarded. "Rooty has been brilliant," confirms Leach. "I feel like we have a really good relationship and we're not afraid to bounce ideas off each other." It's a noticeable shift from the 2016 tour of India, when Cook struggled to effectively manage his three-pronged spin attack. "I think there was a sense that Cook didn't fully understand in terms of rhythm and field settings what the spinners wanted," says Zafar Ansari, who played two Tests in that series. "Spinners want seven or eight overs in a spell. Even if you're going at three-and-a-half an over, you feel like you need that to have a chance out there, and it was difficult to get those overs." "I think there was generally a feeling that there was a bit of a breakdown in communication sometimes. What you want, and what I think England have now got with Root, is someone who really backs the spinners that he has. And that's not just in what he says, but in the way he uses them. That's how you want to be treated as a spinner, and that's heightened in India when the pressure's on." For Such, the way English spinners are captained is representative of the country's attitude towards spin in general. "Captaincy is a massive factor in how well a spinner performs and because we've not encouraged spin in our domestic game for a long period of time, to an extent we've lost certain attributes when it comes to captaining spin. Joe Root has been very good in the way that he's captained spin bowlers. He's also a spin bowler himself, so he understands spin bowling, and that's a big part of it. He's played a lot of cricket on the subcontinent, so he's been around spin and been exposed to it, both as a batsman and captain."

Ellen White hat-trick inspires England to 6-0 win against Northern Ireland

London, February 24: Hege Riise praised England's "energised, fun and focused" character after a first international hat-trick from Ellen White helped secure a 6-0 win against Northern Ireland and ushered in a new, more direct, era. It looked fun, they wanted to play, to keep moving, to keep moving the ball and score goals," the temporary manager said. Much of the buildup had been dominated by Jill Scott's 150th cap and the midfielder, who provided the assist for White's third, reflected after on headlines and messages. "It feels so odd," she said. "I got a letter from Prince William, actually handwritten to my house. Going back 12 years I was at an [event] with him and I slipped in five-a-side and kicked him and he remembers it every time I see him. "Jill, watch them tackles, watch them tackles." Even at the World Cup in 2015 he video-called the team and said: 'Jill no yellow cards!' It's great that they take an interest. To get messages like that is very surreal. "People will talk about my hard work on the pitch; I think the most pleasing thing is when they say that they've maybe met us and I've been nice to them or I've gone that extra mile. That's what means the most. I got a video message [from] David Beckham. He was always a player that I used to look up to and although he was fantastic at putting in crosses and playing for England, I always loved how he was with the fans. "Little was going to be gleaned from a friendly between teams separated by 43 places in the Fifa world rankings, and a vicious wind affected the game. Positive signs were there, though, for England in a less familiar 4-4-1-1. They had won only three of their previous 11 games, including narrow and unconvincing victories over lowly ranked Portugal and the Czech Republic. Against Northern Ireland there was a directness somewhat sacrificed in Phil Neville's search for the perfect pass. Riise and Steph Houghton had said viewers should look out for better switches of play, the high press and a more direct attack, and it was easy to see the impact of the plan. "This is the style I like to play: to not be too direct but find the pocket in between and be direct in that way," Riise said.



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Olivier Giroud acrobatics earn Chelsea crucial lead over Atlético Madrid

London, February 24: One team wanted to spoil; the other wanted to play. While Atlético Madrid were determined to make the contest as dull as possible, Thomas Tuchel gave Chelsea freedom to express themselves. Liberated, Chelsea stood up to be counted. They refused to rise to Luis Suárez's provocation and they punished Atlético's grinding negativity under Diego Simeone when Olivier Giroud, with a bit of help from VAR, came up with a special goal midway through the second half. Tuchel could celebrate the perfect away performance in Europe and his most impressive win since replacing Frank Lampard last month. Chelsea were solid and professional at the back after recovering from a slow start, they were mature and precise in midfield and they were inspired when their first clear sight of goal arrived. Giroud's astonishing overhead kick ensuring they left Bucharest with a slender advantage. Atlético could have no complaints after ceding the initiative to Chelsea, who were by far the more progressive side. Andreas Christensen shone in the absence of Thiago Silva in the middle of the back three, limiting La Liga's pacesetters to few opportunities, while Callum Hudson-Odoi was a positive at right wing-back after being subbed on and off against Southampton last Saturday. Atlético barely created anything and their frustration was

epitomised by Suárez embarking on a solitary wind-up mission as the match wore on, testing Chelsea with his niggles off the ball and squaring up to Antonio Rüdiger at one stage. Rüdiger refused to be drawn in and Chelsea, who have a wonderful chance of progressing beyond the last 16 for the first time since 2014, focused on letting their superior football do the talking. Tested by Atlético's stifling tactics, they stayed calm. Mason Mount was outstanding despite picking up a booking that rules him out of the second leg on 17 March and Giroud, an unused substitute against Southampton, was ruthless with his only chance. Chelsea had excellent performances across the pitch, with Jorginho and Mateo Kovacic dictating play in midfield. They will know, though, that it is not over yet. Jorginho is also suspended for the return game and Atlético, who were denied home advantage because of Covid-19 restrictions, will be dangerous and cunning at Stamford Bridge, particularly if they give the lively João Félix more help in attack. It was Félix who inconvenienced Chelsea most. Jorginho and Mount were booked for fouling the young forward, who threatened with an overhead kick in the second half and was the only Atlético player who wanted to run with the ball. Simeone's smothering tactics were hard to



understand given that Chelsea were skittish during the early stages. Mount was booked for chopping Felix down in the first minute and Édouard Mendy almost gifted Saúl Ñíguez a calamitous goal after dithering with a backpass. Chelsea's goalkeeper got away with it. Soon, though, Tuchel was reonstrating with Rüdiger and Marcos Alonso after they left a bouncing ball to

often defended with a back six. Chelsea had 71% possession in the first half, though creating chances was difficult. Timo Werner had their best moment, darting in from the left before testing Jan Oblak. Once again Tuchel found himself craving more precision in the final third. Chelsea were running down dead ends and there always seemed to be a red and white shirt in the way.

each other on the right. Suárez nipped in, stealing possession before crossing for Thomas Lemar to poke wide with Mendy stranded. It was a reminder, not that one was needed, that Chelsea could not afford to relax with Suárez around. Yet they soon settled down. Hudson-Odoi was diligent in his defensive work, tracking back to contain Lemar, and dangerous when he linked with Mount. Although Atlético threatened again when Ángel Correa combined with Suárez just before half-time, they

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