



# The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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**Brendon McCullum set to be appointed England men's Test ...**



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Landslide in Dima Hasao

**Assam Rising Guwahati, May 12:** Landslide in several places of Dima Hasao district of Assam on Thursday. Normal life has been disrupted and road connectivity has been blocked at different locations of the district. According to reports, the road connecting Haflong to Silchar has been completely cut off as water level rose up to the highway near Kapurcherra. While the Haflong-Lanka road have also been cut off at many places. Meanwhile, police force and personnel from the civil administration rescued eleven labourers who were stuck on the other bank of Jatinga River at Harangajao.

### Junmoni Rabha transferred

**Assam Rising Guwahati, May 12:** Junmoni Rabha, Nagaon SI who had grabbed media attention a few days ago by arresting her fiancé on charges of cheating has been transferred from Nagaon to Kaliabor. Notably Junmoni Rabha arrested her fiancé Rana Pogag on May 4 on charges of cheating. The couple was about to tie the knot but she came to know that he had given wrong identification saying that he is an OIL officer. When she came to know that he is a fraudster, she arrested her and sent him to jail.

### Eviction drive

**Assam Rising Guwahati, May 12:** Eviction drive is underway at the Doloo tea estate in Silchar in Cachar district of Assam. Eviction is being carried out in 2,500 bighas of land of the tea estate by around 200 excavators. The land is being cleared for the construction of a Greenfield airport in the area. The eviction drive is conducted under the supervision of Special Director General of Police (DGP), Law and Order GP Singh. A huge police force and Central Police Reserve Force (CRPF) have been deployed at the eviction site for maintenance of peace and order during the eviction.

## Date of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council elections declared



**Assam Rising Guwahati, May 12:**

Assam State Election Commissioner, Alok Kumar on Thursday announced the date of the Karbi Anglong

Autonomous Council (KAAC) elections to be held on June. The polling for KAAC elections will be held on June 8 and the counting will take place on June 12. The polling for 26

seats will be held across 906 polling stations. A total of 7,32,98 voters are eligible to cast their votes. The election commissioner was in Diphu for a two-day visit to assess preparation for the conduct of KAAC election in the two hill districts of Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong. During his visit Kumar convened a meeting with Deputy Commissioner (DC), Karbi Anglong; Prabin Ch. Saloi, DIG Central Range; Pushpraj Singh, SP Karbi Anglong and SDO (Civil) Bokajan at Deputy Commissioner's conference

hall. "Normally, KAAC election is held in June and a new government is formed by July, so following the earlier schedule, the election has to be held by June," Kumar said. The SEC also visited Hamren and held a meeting with the DC of West Karbi Anglong. Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) is an autonomous district council in the state of Assam, India for development and protection of

tribals living in area namely Karbi Anglong and West Karbi Anglong district. The council is constituted under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India and administratively functions under the Government of Assam. It was formed with the name Karbi Anglong District Council on 17 November 1951. Later changed to Karbi

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## Ranil Wickremesinghe Takes Oath As Sri Lanka PM, Protests Continue

**Colombo, May 12:**

Sri Lanka's veteran political leader Ranil Wickremesinghe has been appointed the next Prime Minister of the crisis-hit island nation by President Gotabaya Rajapaksa. The 73-year-old was administered the oath of office by the President, who in an address to the nation yesterday, declared that a Prime



Minister and his cabinet will be put in place this week. With the country's largest opposition party

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## Assam Woman Declared Indian 9 Years After Son Died

**Assam Rising Guwahati, May 12:**



Nine years ago, her son allegedly died by suicide after being served a notice to prove his citizenship in Assam. Three months ago, she received a similar notice. On Wednesday, she was finally declared "Indian". It's a "very happy occasion" for her family. But 82-year-old Akol Rani Namasudhra doesn't know it yet. "We will break the news to my mother in the morning... we went through a lot because of this case," said Anjali Roy, Akol's daughter, who had successfully defended her

own citizenship in 2015. The Foreigners Tribunal (FT) in Cachar district's Silchar ruled that Akol was "not a foreigner" after she had successfully proved her case by "aducing cogent, reliable and admissible evidence". A resident of Haritkar village, about 20 km from Silchar, Akol was summoned by the Tribunal earlier in February, based on a case first registered in 2000 alleging she had "illegally" entered India after March 25, 1971. However,

it was her children Anjali and Arjun, who both received summons from the Tribunal in 2012 to prove their citizenship. Disturbed by the summons, the family says Arjun took his own life. The news had led Narendra Modi, while campaigning for the 2014 Lok Sabha election in Cachar before becoming the Prime Minister, to say he was pained by the death. "In the name of detention camps, the Assam government (of the Congress) violated human rights. Arjun's death was not in vain. He had died for the rights of the lakhs who are inside detention camps in Assam. He sacrificed his life... we will not let it go in vain," Modi had said. However, in what Anjali described as a "shock", Akol was served a notice in February 2022. "We had already gone

through a lot because of what happened to my brother. We could not believe that after all that, after what the Prime Minister said, my mother would have to go through it again," she said. Local lawyers helped the family. "They bore all the costs, without charging us anything. So that was a relief," said Anjali, 55. Speaking to The Indian Express, Silchar-based advocate Anil Dey said Akol was a "genuine" resident of Assam. "She was born and brought up here. Apart from her name appearing in voters lists in 1965, 1970, 1977... she also had pre-1971 land deeds in her name," he said, adding that this was the basis on which they were able to prove her citizenship. At the Tribunal, Akol had submitted that her

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## Rajiv Kumar appointed next Chief Election Commissioner

**New Delhi, May 12:**

Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar was on Thursday appointed as the next Chief Election Commissioner. Kumar will assume charge on May 15 after incumbent Sushil Chandra demits office on May 14, said a notification issued by the Law Ministry. Putting the notification in public domain, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju extended his best wishes to Rajiv Kumar. Rajiv Kumar, who is an IAS officer of 1984 batch of Jharkhand cadre, was appointed as Election Commissioner in August 2020. Kumar has widespread administrative experience in more than 30 years of service during which he held various important assignments including the Administrative postings in his home state of Jharkhand. He also worked in the Central



government in various capacities. Kumar was posted as Joint Secretary and then Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance from March 19, 2012, to March 12, 2015. Later he took over as Establishment Officer & Additional/Special Secretary, Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances & Pension, D/o Personnel & Training from March 12, 2015, till August 30, 2017.

## Sedition Law: 'Historic Judgement', Says Akhil Gogoi

**Assam Rising Guwahati, May 12:**

Activists, academics, journalists and writers in Assam—which saw a high number of cases filed under Section 124A in the first term of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, from 2014 to 2019—have expressed joy at the recent judgement of the Supreme Court on sedition charges. Assam recorded as many as 54 cases of sedition around the time, what with the state riven by a series of protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Some cases were filed against people for their social media posts

considered as anti-India or pro-Pakistan, a trend that was new to this part of the country. While offenders of the first two categories received some public attention, most people charged with sedition over social media posts were youths from lower-income groups and flew under the radar. Activist-cum-legislator from Assam, Akhil Gogoi, has been slapped with multiple sedition cases since 2017 till 2021, most of these during his protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act, 2019. Assam recorded 19 cases under Section 124A in 2017. In 2018 and 2019, it recorded 17 sedition cases each. In the previous three years, it



has recorded only one sedition case. Gogoi said, "Assam is a place where sedition laws are abused the most both quantitatively and qualitatively. Those who are dissenting against the BJP, get slapped with sedition charges in Assam."

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## Allahabad HC rejects plea for opening 22 closed doors of Taj Mahal



**New Delhi, May 12:**

The Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court on Thursday rejected a petition seeking its directions to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) for opening 22

closed doors of the world-famous monument Taj Mahal, which is located in the Agra district of Uttar Pradesh. A petition has been filed in the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court seeking direc-

tives to the Archaeological Survey of India to open 20 rooms inside the Taj Mahal in Agra to find out whether Hindu idols and inscriptions are hidden there. Amid all this, BJP Lok Sabha MP from Rajsamand and Jaipur Royal scion Diya Kumari had claimed on Wednesday that the land on which Taj Mahal was built was owned by the erstwhile Jaipur Royal family. She also claimed to have documents to prove that the land was originally owned by the Jaipur Royal family, which was later captured

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## Assam Climber Hedayet Ali Scales Mount Everest

**Assam Rising Guwahati, May 12:**

Assam man, who hails from Hajo, Hedayet Ali now settled in California, USA has climbed Mount Everest on Thursday morning. Ali reached the top at around 7.30 AM and is the seventh Assamese mountaineer to climb Mount Everest. Ali started trekking from Lukla to Everest Base Camp. Ali is a software engineer based in

California. He also climbed Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe, Mount Aconcagua in 2019 and Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest peak in Africa in 2018. The Explorers Club of Guwahati salutes Hedayet Ali for his expedition. This is the first expedition of the season to Mount Everest. Ali climbed the peak in an International team with 11 other mountaineers. Mount Everest is Earth's highest mountain above sea level, located in the Mahalangur

Himal sub-range of the Himalayas. The China-Nepal border runs across its summit point. Its elevation (snow height) of 8,848.86 m (29,031.7 ft) was most recently established in 2020 by the Chinese and Nepali authorities. Mount Everest attracts many climbers, including highly experienced mountaineers. There are two main climbing routes, one approaching the summit from the southeast in Nepal (known as the "standard route")



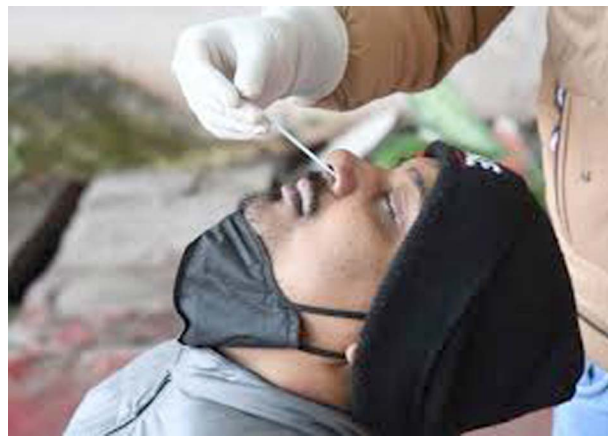
and the other from the north in Tibet. While not posing substantial technical climbing challenges on the stan-

dard route, Everest presents dangers such as

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# India logs 2,827 new cases, 24 deaths in last 24 hours



**New Delhi, May 12 :** With 2,827 new Covid-19 infections being reported in the last 24 hours, India's total tally of cases rose to 4,31,13,413, according to Union health ministry data updated on Thursday (May 12, 2022). The active caseload stands at 19,067. India recorded 24 new deaths in the last 24 hours. The country also reported 3,230 recoveries in a day. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease has increased to

4,25,70,165, while the case fatality rate has been recorded at 1.22 per cent. A decrease of 427 cases has been recorded in the active Covid-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The ministry also informed that the active cases comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national Covid-19 recovery rate has been recorded at 98.74 per cent. The daily positivity rate was recorded as 0.60 per cent and the weekly positivity rate as 0.72 per

cent. The cumulative doses administered under the nationwide Covid-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 190.83 crore on Thursday at 8 am. The last 24 hours saw a total of 4,71,276 Covid-19 tests being conducted in the country. Meanwhile, a new study, which was published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, has said that even after two years, almost half of the patients who had to be hospitalised showed at least one symptom. "Regardless of initial disease severity,

## 'Completely devastating': US passes 1m overdose deaths since records began

**London, May 12 :** Trevor Foster, 26, loved the Cowboys, the Yankees, fishing, animals and above all his daughter. Jarod Galloway, 21, wanted people

Covid-19 survivors had longitudinal improvements in physical and mental health, with most returning to their original work within two years; however, the burden of symptomatic sequelae remained fairly high. Covid-19 survivors had a remarkably lower health status than the general population at two years. The study findings indicate that there is an urgent need to explore the pathogenesis of long Covid and develop effective interventions to reduce the risk of long Covid," the study states.

to be the best version of themselves, and his niece was his favorite human. Taylor Miller, 27, was a nursing student and a staunch supporter of anyone in recovery. Michael Stabile, 15, was ending his freshman year with great grades and a promotion at the restaurant where he worked. Jordan Humphrey, 21, loved sneakers, cars and his family, who loved him "as big as the sky". All were among US overdose deaths in 2021, a record year for such fatalities with an estimated 107,622, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Wednesday.



shows the accident site where a passenger plane veered off the runway during take-off and caught fire at the Chongqing Jiangbei International Airport in southwest China's Chongqing

## Short-term use of ibuprofen may increase chance of chronic pain, study suggests

**London, May 12 :** Using drugs like ibuprofen and steroids to relieve short-term health problems could increase the chances of developing chronic pain, new research suggests. The findings from the small study indicate that it could be time to reconsider how pain is treated. Normal recovery from a painful injury involves inflammation - the body's natural reaction to injury and infection - and new research suggests blocking inflammation with drugs could lead to harder-to-treat

issues. It may be that inflammation has a protective effect, such as preventing acute pain from becoming chronic, and that overly reducing it may be harmful. Jeffrey Mogil, a professor of pain studies at McGill University in Canada, said: "While ibuprofen was not studied explicitly in either the human or the mouse data (in the mouse we used diclofenac), as ibuprofen is so common in the UK, it is highly likely that a large

percentage of those in the UK Biobank who reported taking 'NSAIDs' (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) were in fact taking ibuprofen." Researchers said lower-back pain was the most commonly reported form of chronic pain - pain that persists for longer than would be expected after the injury - and resulted in massive economic and medical costs each year. Most patients receive standard treatments such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs including ibuprofen and corticosteroids. But these drugs are only somewhat effective, and little is known about why acute pain, which begins suddenly in response



to something specific, is resolved in some patients but persists as chronic pain in others. To understand the transition from acute to chronic lower-back pain, researchers followed 98 patients with acute lower-back pain for three months.

## Car crash kills Papua New Guinea's deputy PM, Sam Basil

**London, May 12 :** Papua New Guinea's deputy prime minister, Sam Basil, has died after a car crash, police have said. Basil died in hospital while awaiting airlift to Port Moresby late on Wednesday after the crash, which took place in the Wau-Bulolo region, Morobe province. "Local police attended to the accident site and immediately retrieved the deputy prime minister and three other injured persons and transported them to Bulolo to seek medical attention at the Bulolo Health facility," said David Manning, the police commissioner, in a statement. "After hours of attempting to revive him Mr Basil succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced clinically dead at 11:30 pm last night." Police later confirmed that a close protection officer travelling with Basil had also died. Police launched an investigation into the accident and the second vehicle involved.

## Pet dog's barking leads rescuers to missing Texas woman with dementia

**Texas, May 12 :** A Texas woman who suffers from dementia and was missing for three days was found in the early hours of last Friday, bruised and dehydrated but safe, after her dog's barking helped rescuers track her down. Sherry Noppe, 63, left her home in Houston, Texas last week, to take her black Labrador, Max, for a stroll. The pair never

returned. For three days, authorities and volunteers searched for Noppe, who had recently been diagnosed with dementia. They eventually found her next to three-year old Max in George Bush Park, an 8,000-acre expanse next to her home. According to a family friend, Michael England, who joined search efforts, Noppe was found several hundred yards into the park. "As they got closer to her, I think that's what caused him to bark because he was protecting her," Sherry Noppe's brother, Justin Noppe, told KHOU.

### Affidavit

My actual name is ABUL HUSSAIN PATOWARI. But it is recorded in Passport no-A66/3816 and some documents as Mohammed ABUL Hussain. Mohammed ABUL Hussain and ABUL HUSSAIN PATOWARI are the same and single person.

ABUL HUSSAIN PATOWARI  
S/O- L. A. HALIM PATOWARI  
Jamunamukh, Hojai Assam

## Guest House

A/C Non A/C Rooms with  
Car Parking At POGL  
Brahmaputra,  
Chandmari, Guwahati-21  
Ph. WA : 9678009493  
9707183470

## Finland expected to announce bid to join Nato

**London, May 12 :** Finland is expected to announce its intention to join Nato on Thursday with Sweden likely to follow soon after, diplomats and officials have said, as Russia's invasion of Ukraine reshapes European security and the Atlantic military alliance. Nato allies expect Finland and Sweden to be granted membership quickly, five diplomats and officials told Reuters, paving the way for increased troop presence in the Nordic region during the one-year ratification period. In the lead-up to their Nato accession, British prime minister Boris Johnson on Wednesday promised to defend Sweden and Finland against potential Russian threats as he travelled to both countries to sign mutual security agreements. In the wider Nordic region,



Norway, Denmark and the three Baltic states are already Nato members, and the addition of Finland and Sweden would probably anger Moscow, which says enlargement of the organisation is a direct threat to its own security. Russian president Vladimir Putin has cited the issue as a reason for his actions in Ukraine, which has also expressed a desire to eventually join the alliance. Moscow has also repeatedly warned Finland and Sweden against joining the alliance,

threatening "serious military and political consequences". Asked on Wednesday if Finland would provoke Russia by joining Nato, President Sauli Niinisto said Putin would be to blame. "My response would be that you caused this. Look at the mirror," Niinisto said. On Thursday European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen warned Russia was the "most direct threat" to the international order because of its "barbaric" war in Ukraine.

NoAFKG 234/RKVY/2020-21/A

### NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

Staled quotations in plain paper affixing (court) fee stamp of Rs 8. 25 (Rupees Eight ft twenty five paise) only is hereby invited the intruding authorized suppliers for supply of following inputs under the scheme "Conversion on of water logged arras to Fish pond/Tank under RKVY RAFTAAR" 2020-21, along with FMD as Demand Draft/Term Deposit/FIDR etc. From any Nationalized Rank in favour of District Fishery Development Officer, Kamrup. Guwahati 16

The quotation will be received up to 1 00 PM on 20 05-2022 and will be opened on the same day at 3.00 PM in presence of the quotation or this authorized representative (s) quotations must be delivered directly in the specified box place in the Office of the District Fishery Dev. Officer, Kamrup, Guwahati by the last date and time specified above. The undersigned will not take any responsibility for late receipt of the quotations beyond the last date and time due to delay for any other reason quotation for each item as mentioned below in the Colum 1 (at Sl. No 1 to 8) should be submitted separately be clearly mentioning the name of item to the envelop top of side

Sl. No.	Item	Where to Supply	Quantity Kg./No.	Estimated Amount (Rs.)	Governme nt Amount (Rs.)	Beneficiar y Amount (Rs.)	EMD amount in Rs.	
							General (2% of estimated cost)	SC/ST/M OC (1% of estimate d (Cost)
1	Lime	To be beneficiaries conversion of water logged areas to Fish pond/Tank under RKVY-RAFTAAR 2020-21.	1600 Kg	24000.00	0.00	24000.00	3000.00	1500.00
2	Urea		480 Kg	4800.00	0.00	4800.00		
3	SSP		600 Kg	6000.00	0.00	6000.00		
4	Cow dung		20000 Kg.	10000.00	0.00	10000.00		
5	Fish Seed average of (4"-5") of Indian Major Carp and Exotic Carp.		16000 Nos.	64000.00	64000.00	0.00		
6	Formulated Fish Feed (at least 22% protein)		7000 kg.	182000.00	86086.00	95914.00		
7	Prophylactic measures		LS	4000.00	0.00	4000.00		
8	Miscs including accessories, harvesting etc.		LS	5200.00	0.00	5200.00		
Total=				300000.00	150086.00	149914.00		
Say				300000.00	150000.00	150000.00		

- The items should be delivered at the project site of beneficiaries.
- The actual Quantity to be supplied may be increased or decreased.

Detail terms & conditions may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours from the date of publication of N.I.Q. to.

- The Supplier must submit photographs along with bill & challan in duplicate copies duly certificate by concern field staffs.

Sd/

District Fishery Dev. Officer  
Kamrup, Guwahati-16.

Janasanyog/C/2303/22



Palestinian people protest against the killing of Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in Jerusalem,



# International Nurse Day celebrated



**Assam Rising**  
**Aalo, May 12:** The 6th Batch of Auxiliary Nursing Midwife (ANM) students of Govt ANM School Aalo celebrated the 202nd Birth Anniversary of Florence Nightingale as International Nurse Day on May 12 here. Panga Tato APCS Deputy Commissioner,

West Siang District Aalo as Chief Guest and Dagi Angu DACO West Siang District, Aalo as Guest of

honor inaugurated the International Nurse Day at ANM School Aalo today. Tato in his speech encouraged the newly inducted 6th batch ANM students to be sincere and dedicated in their duties. And Dagi Angu DACO west Siang advised the newly inducted ANM students to be hard work and dedicated for the cause of society in their training period. Dr. Dubom Bagra DMO Aalo and Dr Jombom Kato gave valuable advice to the trainees. Meena Koje, Principal Govt. ANM School Aalo welcomed the visiting Guest and told the roles of Nurses towards the societies and Hospitals in particular. The function started with lamp lighting, cake cutting and a colorful cultural programme.



Dhubri- Rupsi Airport mock drill on Thursday

## A 2 days Rongali Bihu Sanmilian from today in Hojai

**Assam Rising**  
**Hojai, May 12:** Hojai's Rongali Bihu Sanmilian is all set to organise two days' grand 'Rongali Bihu' programme on May 13 and 14. The programme will be organised in Gandhi Vidyapith High School at Bishnupally in Hojai. For smooth functioning of the event a strong committee is being formed taking Dr. Dibakar Goswami as President, Dr. Saidul Islam and Tapan Kar as Working President, Pintu Deb as Secretary, Ganjendra Nath Sarma as Treasurer and many more sub-committee's are also formed. As per the scheduled programme on May 13 morning 9 am the event will begin with the hoisting of Bihu flag, at 9:30 am a traditional procession will be taken out in the town, from 11 am onwards sports competition, from afternoon 3 pm quiz competition and from 8 pm onwards cultural programmes and performance by local and invited artists. On May 14 from 2 pm onwards sports competitions and 7 pm onwards prize distribution ceremony and a souvenir 'Rongali' will be released and 8 pm onwards cultural programmes where noted vocalist Zublee Baruah and many more artists will enthrall the audience by their mesmerizing performance's on May 14. Talking to this Correspondent, Pintu Deb, General Secretary and Mridul Saikia, assistant general secretary, Rongali Bihu Sanmilian, said, "Since last 22 years Rongali Bihu is being celebrated here every-year with pomp and gaiety, were people from all the communities irrespective of caste, creed, race take part with lots of enthusiasm." They further appealed to the denizens of Hojai and nearby areas to take part in this auspicious celebration.

ing of Bihu flag, at 9:30 am a traditional procession will be taken out in the town, from 11 am onwards sports competition, from afternoon 3 pm quiz competition and from 8 pm onwards cultural programmes and performance by local and invited artists. On May 14 from 2 pm onwards sports competitions and 7 pm onwards prize distribution ceremony and a souvenir 'Rongali' will be released and 8 pm onwards cultural programmes where noted vocalist Zublee Baruah and many more artists will enthrall the audience by their mesmerizing performance's on May 14. Talking to this Correspondent, Pintu Deb, General Secretary and Mridul Saikia, assistant general secretary, Rongali Bihu Sanmilian, said, "Since last 22 years Rongali Bihu is being celebrated here every-year with pomp and gaiety, were people from all the communities irrespective of caste, creed, race take part with lots of enthusiasm." They further appealed to the denizens of Hojai and nearby areas to take part in this auspicious celebration.

## ULFA (I) cadre Biju Gogoi's suicide or death penalty? Biju Gogoi alias Bhagya

**Assam's death still under mystery**

**Assam Rising, Margherita, May 12:** The murder of Biju Gogoi, a member of ULFA(I) in Inthem Nagapathar under Pengeri police station in Tinsukia district, is still a mystery. But Ulfa(I) General Pares Baruah yesterday alleged that Biju Gogoi had suicided. Ulfa(I) General Pares Baruah's demand was rejected by Biju Gogoi family members. It may be recalled That Ulfa(I) member Santosh Lama in police custody had yesterday revealed the death of Biju Gogoi alias Bhagya Assam. Ulfa then issued a statement saying Biju Gogoi committed suicide on January 18. But the family members and local people refused to accept Ulfa(I) demand. Ulfa has finally sent a handwritten paper note to the media claiming to be a suicide note. But the family members of Biju Gogoi have rejected this suicide note

## Karnataka Cabinet clears anti-conversion bill, to be tabled in next assembly session

**NEW DELHI, May 12 :** In a significant development, the Karnataka cabinet on Thursday approved the anti-conversion bill, reported news agency ANI. The bill will now be tabled in the next session of the state assembly till then the ordinance will be in place, said Karnataka Home Minister Araga Jnanendra. Before the cabinet meeting, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that his government is going to implement the move through the ordinance route. It was earlier reported that the state's Home Department had drafted a note which was circulated during the Karnataka Cabinet meeting today. The note makes a case for pushing the Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill through the ordinance route. It is believed that the Law Department has stated in its opinion that there are no legal hurdles for bringing the bill to life through the ordinance route. The bill proposes imprisonment of 3 to 5 years with a fine of Rs 25,000 for 'forced' conversion. Converting a minor, woman or an SC/ST person will attract a jail term of 3 to 10 years, with a Rs 50,000 fine. Mass conversions will attract 3-10 years of jail time, with a fine of up to Rs 1 lakh. However, Karnataka Congress President DK Shivakumar said that the opposition will oppose the bill in the assembly. The Karnataka Assembly had, in December last year, passed the Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021 with a voice vote.

## International day of nursing observed at Nagaon

**Assam Rising, Nagaon, May 12:** On occasion of the 201th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, Sadou Asom Gramya Puthibharal Sangstha observed the International Dhatri Day at its central headquarter here at Nagaon today. Besides, the organization also observed the first death anniversary of the noted Assamese litterateur and journalist Lt Homen Borgohain. The members of the organization garlanded the portraits of those two great souls and paid homage to both the great dignitaries. A programme was also organized to commemorate the life and activities of Florence Nightingale as well as Borgohain in which Bhaben Bora, Punyada Bora and a host of dignitaries. The programme was initiated with lightning earthen lamp, a release added.

## Preparatory meeting on Lakhimpur District Day celebration held



**Assam Rising**  
**North Lakhimpur, May 12:** A meeting on the preparation how to celebrate the 'District Day' of Lakhimpur district was held at the office of Lakhimpur district Deputy Commissioner today under the presidentship of Lakhimpur district Deputy Commissioner Sumit Sattawan. In the meeting, anchored by Lakhimpur district Additional Deputy Commissioner Monurama Morang, all the officials and dignitaries who were present, provided their own opinions on the celebration of 'District Day'. On the other hand, the meeting wished collaboration from the people of Lakhimpur district heartily. Moreover, the meeting urged the people of Lakhimpur district that they could send any suggestion on how to celebrate the 'District Day' in the link of district administration-- <https://forms.gle/SkbbN4BB2zy5Demg> within June 30 next. In today's meeting, ex-Education Minister Premadhar Borah, Vice-Chancellor of Madhavdev University Professor Dibakar Chandra Deka, officials represented from various institutions-establishments and many dignitaries of Lakhimpur district were present. Notably, Lakhimpur district was declared as a full-fledged district on October 2

## AMPM annual meeting to be held on May 15-16

**Assam Rising**  
**North Lakhimpur, May 12:** The annual meeting for the year 2022 of Assam Multi-lingual Poets' Meet (AMPM) will be held at Public Library, Birjhora of Bongaigaon district on May 15-16, informed AMPM Vice-president Rupjyoti Dutta in a press release. On the first day, after registration of the delegates at 2-00 p.m., the central executive session of AMPM will be held at 4-00

p.m. On the second day, flag hoisting, lighting the lamp, smriti tarpan, delegates meeting and open meeting will be held. In the open meeting, besides releasing several books, the winner poets of the Assam-level self-composed multi-lingual poem competition

organised by the AMPM recently will be awarded. A multi-lingual poets' meet will also be held on that day. All poetry-literary lovers are requested to attend certainly in every program of the two-day long meeting by the AMPM Vice-president Rupjyoti Dutta in the release.



Guwahati- Drama We ARC MALICO

## Food distribution & awareness drive among workers

**Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 12:** A Community Food Distribution Drive and awareness about rights among the unorganized sector workers in the flyover construction site at the Zoo Road area of Guwahati was organized recently by the Department of Sociology, University of Science and Technology Meghalaya. After the distribution part was over, many of the workers felt comfortable opening up with many of the socio-economic issues they are facing in their life. Ifzul and Ananta, two of the workers, told the students how invisible they feel even if they work in the middle of the busiest road in Guwahati due to their status as laborers. "Madam, this is the first time anybody came to meet us and asked how we are other than dictating us what to do on the site," Said



Rahman, one of the workers working in the site. "People don't care if we are hungry or thirsty. Many of the rich kids often throw empty packets of chips and chocolates to the site from the car, considering it as a dump hole", Ifzul reiterated while talking to the students. The students of the department of Sociology felt empathetic towards the socio-economic condition of the workers and many of them vowed to take care of their issues through research work. The programme ended with a happy note by the students and faculties clicking photographs with the workers and returning with the promise of helping each other in future. Students from all the batches of the department volunteered for this noble initiative. Dr. Trishna M. Thakuria, Dr. Nazia Parveen and Ms. Hiya Barua coordinated well with students in terms of engaging with workers during lunch distribution and management.



Guwahati- DGP Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta Press Meet



Guwahati- Old age home Celebrate International Nurses Day

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The Superintending Engineer, P.W.D. Guwahati Building Circle-II, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for the following Works have experience of similar nature of work from APWD registered contractors Details of the bids may be Seen at e-Procurement portal [website:www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in) and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours. The bidders must be enrolled in [www.assamtenrters.gov.in](http://www.assamtenrters.gov.in) for participating in the bidding process.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approx. Value of Work (Rs.)	Category of APWD (B) registered contractor
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2	Front side development work by providing paver blocks for the ground +5 storied residential apartment building (Block-F) for MLA's at Old MLA Hostel Campus, Dispur, Guwahati-06	64,38,837/-	Class-I (A/ B/ C)/ Class-II (within this Circle)

Note:-

- Any modification of tender may be seen in the portal [www.assamtenders.gov.in](http://www.assamtenders.gov.in).
- The prospective bidder must visit the work site before submission of tender. The bidders have to submit evidence of site visit in the form of a certificate duly certified by the concerned Executive Engineer, P.W.D.

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Superintending Engineer, P.W.D.  
Guwahati Building Circle-II

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## THE ASSAM RISING

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## Sedition law in Indian democracy

Sedition as per Section 124-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) reads as, "whoever, by words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government established by law in [India], shall be punished with [imprisonment for life], to which fine may be added, or with imprisonment which may extend to three years, to which fine may be added, or with fine." This law was enacted in 1860, under the British Raj, to prevent any offences against the state. After Independence, the constitution framers had devoted considerable time to weigh in on various aspects of this colonial law. The sedition law was used by the British to suppress dissent and imprison freedom fighters such as Mahatma Gandhi and Bal Gangadhar Tilak who criticised the policies of the colonial administration. After Independence, the constitution framers had devoted considerable time to weigh in on various aspects of this colonial law. One of the most vehement critics of the sedition law was K.M. Munshi who argued that such a draconian law is a threat to democracy in India. He argued that, "as a matter of fact the essence of democracy is criticism of Government." It was due to his efforts and the persistence of the Sikh leader Bhupinder Singh Mann that the word sedition was omitted from the Constitution. However, this law was reimposed by the very controversial First Amendment that was passed by the government headed by the first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. While introducing the first amendment to the Constitution in 1951, Nehru had stated that, "Now so far as I am concerned that particular Section (124A IPC) is highly objectionable and obnoxious and it should have no place both for practical and historical reasons, if you like, in any body of laws that we might pass. The sooner we get rid of it the better." However, he dithered on this as his government not only reimposed the sedition law through the first amendment in 1951 but also strengthened it by adding two expressions — "friendly relations with foreign state" and "public order" — as grounds for imposing "reasonable restrictions" on free speech.

## Be a Citizen Journalist

Are you against of violence or corruption? Do you really want revolution in the social, educational, political or economical system? Do you have any questions for the Government, political or non political parties? Don't worry, be a part of The Assam Rising family, Be a citizen journalist and write to us about your problem and we will take the responsibility to publish your voice. We will give you a platform to raise your voice, because your simple voice can change society.

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## Letter to The Editor

You can send us your self-composed article, story, poem, letter to the editor or any other creative work done by you. We are responsible for publishing it in The Assam Rising. We will also find out one best contributor/writer every week and an attractive prize will be given to encourage him/her. So, without any further delay mail us your own work with full name and address to [assamrising@gmail.com](mailto:assamrising@gmail.com).

**Editor,**  
**The Assam Rising**  
Guwahati, Assam

## Denying Parliament info citing 'national security' undemocratic. Govt moves need oversight



An interesting theme has been flagged by Manish Tewari in his book, 10 Flashpoints 20 years: National Security Situations That Impacted India. The theme relates to parliamentary oversight in a democratic structure. In essence, the issue is about parliamentary supremacy over the executive as a value that must pervade the structure of India's democratic decision-making. The weakening of parliamentary oversight over the executive has the potential to strike at the very roots of India's democratic foundation and tilt it towards authoritarianism. The value of parliamentary oversight has to be preserved without unduly interfering and inhibiting the ability of the executive to carry

out its functions. The oversight is structurally mandated in India's Constitutional structure from which the executive and Parliament derive their powers. Since 2011, Tewari has been flagging the need for parliamentary oversight of national intelligence agencies and it led to a private member's bill that did not find much political patronage. When the Pegasus issue surfaced, yet another bill was presented that aimed at regulating the way intelligence agencies functioned and it was especially focused on surveillance measures required to be undertaken. It called for the setting up of tribunals and committees for better control and oversight. Both bills are offshoots of the same theme and there are no signs of the bills finding legislative

approval. Interestingly, in his book, Tewari has suggested a dedicated Standing Committee of Parliament staffed with military advisers and other professionals to independently monitor the major defence reform process of transition to a Theatre Command structure. It is necessary to recall that the mandate to shift to a Theatre Command System was purely an executive decision. It is a decision that must be lauded and one that was long overdue. What could a parliamentary committee, as suggested, contribute towards smoothening the envisaged transition? In all probability, the Ministry of Defence will look at this

borders have remained unanswered. If secrecy was the issue, then nothing prevents the government from providing a classified briefing to the leaders of opposition parties. Denial of such information to parliamentarians must be viewed as an act of undemocratic centralisation of power. A phenomenon that characterises authoritarianism. Such denial of information diminishes our political democracy that is one of the four pillars of India's national power. The others are domestic economic growth, social inclusion and a broadly

## Lt General Prakash Menon

proposal as unnecessary interference in their functioning. However, if Parliament considers that the change proposed has major national security implications, then, in principle, it is within the right to seek oversight. But the existing power imbalance between Parliament and executive would ensure that the oversight is only facilitated as determined by the executive. It has not been uncommon to deny information sought by parliamentarians on grounds of secrecy and national security. Most questions pertaining to China's actions on the northern

Nourishing these foundations is a strategic imperative of a high order. In practice, over some time, there has been a steady regression in transparency, which is the lifeblood of a strong democracy. The Standing Committees of Parliament appear to be having progressively shrinking ability to monitor and correct the transgressions of the executive. Even their recommendations are often met with inaction by the ministries concerned. The executive acts mostly when it perceives benefits in a narrow silo.

## Why we confronted Priti Patel about her inhumane 'Rwanda plan' at a Tory dinner



On Friday night, I and several others went undercover to a crowded dinner party held by the Bassetlaw Conservatives Association and challenged the home secretary, Priti Patel, on her inhumane "Rwanda plan" to process refugees offshore. The newspapers called us a "mob", but I know that we were simply standing up for what is right. A lot had led up to this moment. We at Green New Deal Rising, who are based all over the UK, had been thinking for days about how to get our message across. We bought tickets to the event, knowing that if we had been outside we might not have been able to speak directly to Patel. On

the way there I felt nervous, but determined. As we travelled there together we shared our stories of why we cared and why we were willing to take action despite the personal risk. This helped us remain focused and positive, even through our nerves. Dressing the part helped, too, and we spent time restyling our slightly "youthful" haircuts into something that wouldn't ring alarm bells. Once we were inside we took our places, spread out across a number of different tables in various groups. After Patel began to speak, our first challenger stood up and addressed her directly. "Priti

Patel, your racist policies are killing people. Your plans to send people seeking asylum to Rwanda are inhumane and are going to ruin people's lives." Then it was my turn. By this point the crowd were booing and shouting at us, and security were trying to pull us away. But we stayed the course, standing one by one to peacefully protest and explain why we were there and what we were standing up for. I've been

## Holly Hudson

asked whether I was afraid at this moment. It was definitely scary, but I also remember that, just before I stood up, I imagined the faces of people I have worked with who are migrants and refugees. These are the people at the real sharp end of these racist policies, and the least that we can do is passionately and repeatedly stand up to those in power who seek to persecute and scapegoat them just for seeking safety. You may be thinking:

if we're climate activists why are we getting involved in refugee legislation? It's all connected. For one, the climate crisis will force many people to move. And many of the crises in the global south are the direct result of centuries of colonial exploitation by wealthy countries such as the UK. We believe it is the responsibility of our government to provide safety for people facing these situations. The "Rwanda plan" and the nationality and borders

bill must continue to be challenged and scrutinised in parliament and in public. How we treat people seeking refuge and how we treat the most vulnerable people in the global community says a lot about Britain. Why wouldn't we want to live in a country that supports people to rebuild their lives and to live free from persecution and violence? And let's be clear, Patel's Rwanda plans are violent, possibly illegal, and inhumane. They have been condemned across society and will further harm those seeking safety. These are people who are escaping terrifying situations as they bear

the brunt of the multiple crises of war, poverty and the climate catastrophe. The abuses that can accompany the offshoring of refugees, such as has happened in Australia's centre in Nauru, are widely documented. Sending people by force 4,000 miles away, to be detained for indefinite amounts of time is dangerous and cruel. By denying vulnerable people their right to safe asylum in the UK, and by following a model that, in Australia, led to an epidemic of self-harm and even suicide in processing centres, we as a nation are abandoning our legal and moral obligations. As the dust settles on our action, I know that we did the right thing. No matter what the repercussions, history shows that if enough of us stand up and say, "No more", we can make a difference. Already we've seen councillors and archbishops, teachers and people seeking asylum themselves condemn this government's plans. The movement for compassion and hospitality is growing. It is these principles that will win out - not this government's heartlessness.

## Methane is a big climate problem that Bitcoin can help solve

That unlikely headline was recently splashed across major business publications. In a project that began in January 2021, Exxon teamed up with the startup Crusoe Energy Systems Inc. to use excess gas from its North Dakota oil fields to mine Bitcoin. Here's why: The oil production process gives off gas as a byproduct. For logistical reasons, not all of the gas can be captured and transported. Common industry practice is to burn the extra gas. Called "flaring" in industry parlance, the practice is very bad for the environment. By one measure, flaring is responsible for 1% of man-made atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions globally. Even worse is the release of methane: As Scientific American put it, "while CO2 persists in the atmosphere for centuries, or even millennia, methane warms the planet on steroids for a decade or two before decaying to CO2." Crusoe is able to use the excess gas in a process it calls digital flare mitigation. The startup has built

dozens of mobile data centers that are placed onto oilfield sites where flaring takes place. "People have tried to solve flaring for a long time," Crusoe CEO Chase Lochmiller tells me. "But the standard chemical engineering approaches like compression or liquefaction don't make sense economically." Enter Bitcoin: The digital asset maintains its record of transactions through a process that requires a lot of computing power to solve math puzzles. Bitcoin miners receive rewards for solving these puzzles. It is this incentive that provides the economics for Crusoe to deploy a technology able to divert gas from flaring. Last month, Crusoe raised \$350 million in a Series C funding round. It already operates in North Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado but will use the funds to expand into other areas where flaring is widespread: the Permian Basin (Texas), Argentina, Oman and Abu



## Trung Phan

Bloomberg TV that if the 14 billion cubic feet of gas that gets flared every day could be harnessed for computing, you could power the whole Bitcoin network eight times over. When selecting new sites, Crusoe makes sure it's not creating new demand for gas. Typically, the startup takes on projects where gas is a byproduct of an existing oil well operation. "It's a fine line to walk," Lochmiller says of choosing sites to work on. "We are in the business of reducing emissions." While Bitcoin provides a climate-friendly alternative to flaring, a critic might point out that the entire digital network is an energy sink that is net-net bad for the environment. The International Energy Agency notes that Bitcoin consumes about 100 terawatt hours of electricity (0.3% of total global consumption). Data center and data transmission networks - which power everything from Snap DMs to Netflix shows to medical research - consume a total of 460-590 terawatt hours (1.4%-1.8%). Not all electricity consumption is equal, though. Coal plants are obviously worse than wind power, so it's worth considering that renewable energy sources make up 39% of Bitcoin's total energy consumption (vs. 17% for U.S. electricity production). If you assign zero value to Bitcoin, then the electricity consumption is a complete waste. But even a skeptic has to acknowledge Bitcoin's achievements: It currently has a \$752 billion market cap and there are more than 1 million

active Bitcoin wallets. To Lochmiller, data centers are not criticized as much as Bitcoin because people "see value" in them. If you accept the premise that Bitcoin has real-world value, consider also that it has two key attributes that can help transition the world to cleaner energy: Distributed operation: Bitcoin mining is highly distributed. A mobile data center can make it economical to unlock stranded renewable energy resources. Interruptible workload: Mining operations can turn on and off at a moment's notice, which helps to stabilize energy grids. When demand is low, Bitcoin mining can consume the otherwise unused electricity. When demand is high - say, household consumption in the evening - miners shut down without a hitch. "Bitcoin mining is the best buyer of last resort," Lochmiller explains. "Few industrial use cases can use lots of energy like Bitcoin and shut down in 5 minutes. You can't do

that for an aluminum smelting plant." Wind and sun power famously have an intermittency issue (the sun doesn't always shine, the wind doesn't always blow). Deployed properly, Bitcoin mining operations could also conceivably subsidize the build-out of renewable energy sources. For Crusoe, it's not only about Bitcoin. The company believes that a mobile, low-cost and energy-efficient data center is a solution that can sustainably power all forms of computing tasks in the future from AI to graphics rendering to digital assets. And to that end, its technology is also being tested with wind-farm projects. "The ability to source, harness and use energy is a sign of a productive society," says Lochmiller. "So the use of energy is not a bad thing, so long as we can mitigate harmful climate effects." Until the grid is liberated from fossil fuels, helping to mitigate the problem of flaring would be a big step.

## Letter to the Editor

## Staying Sedition Law helps save democratic practices

Dear editor,

Indian Laws should be reviewed and revised in view of suitability and applicability during the present days. The Supreme court started the review with the Sedition Law, which is welcome. The Government at the Centre and in states where it is ruling has been misusing the Sedition Law for quite some time. Any one criticizes or opposes the Government policies was taken to task wrongly by the misuse of the sedition Law. At last the Apex Court staying and reviewing its applicability is helping to save Democratic practices. Kudos to the judiciary under the leadership of Shri NV Ramana, Chief Justice of India.

**Kantamsetti Lakshman Rao**

Visakhapatnam



## Britney Spears confirms writing a book in Instagram post, deletes later



Pop star Britney Spears has shared she is writing a memoir and spoke about how putting the pen to paper has been a "healing and therapeutic" journey. Her remarks come months after multiple outlets reported in February that the singer secured a book deal with publishing house Simon & Schuster. Britney, however, didn't reveal any more details of the book, such as a release date, or confirm reports that it has been picked up by a publisher. "Well, I'm writing a book at the moment and as it's actually healing and therapeutic it's also hard bringing up past events in my life I've never been able to express openly I can only imagine that I do sound childish but I was extremely young with those events took place and addressing it now I'm sure it seems irrelevant to most and I'm completely aware of that !!!" the 40-year-old wrote on Instagram Monday. According to USA Today, the post appeared to have been deleted later in the day. In the now unavailable note, Britney had also mentioned Justin Timberlake, whom she famously had a high-profile relationship with, apologising to her and

Janet Jackson amid criticism he received in the wake of "Framing Britney Spears", a documentary presented by The New York Times last year. Citing Timberlake as an example when comparing her mother Lynne and sister Jamie Lynn, both already having written and published books, the singer wrote, "My mom and sister also did the 'intellectual approach' in indulgence by writing their own books as I couldn't even get a cup of coffee or drive my car or really anything." Reports of Britney's book deal came amid her sister recently releasing her memoir, "Things I Should Have Said". The siblings had a public fallout during the promotions of Jamie Lynn's book where Britney had criticised her younger sister for making claims about her in interviews to sell copies of her book. On the other hand, Lynne co-wrote a memoir with Lorilee Craker named "Through The Storm: A Real Story of Fame and Family in a Tabloid World". The book was published in September 2008, the same year Britney's conservatorship began. The conservatorship was established when Britney began to have public mental struggles as hordes of paparazzi aggressively followed her ev-

erywhere and she lost custody of her children. The singer's father Jamie Spears was removed from the 13-year conservatorship by a California judge on September 29, 2021. In the deleted Instagram post, the singer also said she "never felt heard" by her family and went on to share why she publicly writes stories on social media. "So sorry if I've offended anyone by writing these stories but just as my sister can legally mention my name in her book over 200 times cry on TV and get a heartfelt 'awww' from most I also have the right to share a couple of paragraphs on my Instagram. Anyways, Godspeed my friends," she wrote.

## Kartik Aaryan says a fan stalked his mother

Actor Kartik Aaryan revealed that one of his fans turned rather obsessive and even started stalking his mother. The actor is currently neck-deep in the promotions of his film Bhool Bhulaiyya 2, a sequel to the 2007 hit, which will release at the end of May. In an interview with comedian Tanmay Bhat, Kartik Aaryan was asked about his crazy fans. Speaking about it, he said, "Ek recently huatha, usne mujhe aapka naam likh kar stalk karne laga. Main usko ID mei message bhejne lagai thi, 'mujhe aapki baahubannahi, main aapke ghar pe jhadu pochahilaga lungi' (It happened recently, she began to stalk my mother. She used to message her privately saying that she wants to become her daughter-in-law, and said that she is ready to sweep and mop the house as well)." Kartik Aaryan usually engages with his fans and has even spent time with those who have waited outside his house. Kartik, who made his debut with the film Pyaar Ka Punchnaama, explained how he got into acting. He didn't tell his parents at first, and came to Mumbai on the pre-



text of studies. He explained, "DY Patilka entrance exam clear hua. I started studying there, study kyakarrahathawahana se yaha audition keliye jata rehatha. Wahan se tabhimerachaluhua jab Pyar Ka Panchnamaka audition crack hua. Tab maine mummy papa ko batayi ki main acting karne aya tha, padhne nahai. Agle din Luv sir ke office mein pohoch gayi thi, meri mummy aur meri mami. Luv Ranjan ne jo laptop rakha huatha audition tha, jismeek romantic scene karrahathaa aur suddenly dono audition tape dekh rahethi. They were shocked ki hum kahan baithe haik yaha, maine padha keliye bhejatha ye kyakarne agaya (I cleared

"Satyameva Jayate" franchise, action drama "Romeo Akbar Walter" and last year's "Mumbai Saga". In an interview with PTI, the actor said sensibilities of films like "Water" and "No Smoking" reflect the "real John Abraham". "I lost myself somewhere down the line. Aditya Chopra once told me, 'John, you're the only actor who has made the most interesting choices that have failed, because they're way ahead of their time. But that has defined you'. 'I am defined by the choice I have made. From 'Jism', 'Kabul Express', 'Water', 'No Smoking', 'New York' to 'Taxi no 9211', that entire phase. But somewhere down the line, probably I hold myself completely responsible for the choices I made. I lost my way." The 49-year-old said



the reason could be "partly because of commerce, partly because of commitment". "When you commit to a certain film, because a particular kind of film works, you don't back out of the project. If a film fails, I'm the last actor who will throw the director under the bus. I signed the film, I'm responsible for it as well," he added. The actor is gearing for the release of his next, "Attack". The action drama, which features him as a "super soldier", will be released on April 1. "Attack" will be followed by Yash Raj Film's much-awaited "Pathaan", Mohit Suri's "Ek Villain Re-

turns" and the action-thriller "Tehran". "After losing myself in the middle, I'm slowly coming back on track. I did 'Batla House', 'Madras Cafe' and that's why I'm now doing 'Tehran'. I'm coming back to my space. I'll still make mistakes, still go wrong, but I believe I'll make fewer mistakes today than I did in my last phase," he said. Abraham said he established his production banner JA Entertainment in the first place because as an actor he wasn't getting the projects he wanted to do. Now that he is in a position of power, he no longer wants to play safe. "Today, I'm going back to

that space because I am getting frustrated with the stuff I've been doing. I thought, 'What the hell am I belting out?! This is c\*ap!' If I've done five commercial films and one different film in the last ten years, in this phase, barring one commercial film, all of them are going to be different. 'I've been told for the other films that they're a big risk. But higher the risk, greater the profit, in terms of creative satisfaction. I don't have a problem failing if I'm trying something different. I've a problem failing when I do something conventional. Frustration has brought me back into this space," he added.

## Maverick' to screen at Cannes Film Festival

Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise will be in attendance in Cannes on May 18 for the screening of "Top Gun: Maverick", where he will also be honoured with a special career tribute, the festival confirmed. The film, which marks the sequel of the actor's 1986 film "Top Gun", is scheduled for release on May 25 in France and May 27 in the US. Cruise, 59, had attended Festival de Cannes on May 18, 1992 for Ron Howard's "Far And Away", which was the closing film of the 45th edition of the festival. He had awarded the Palme d'Or to director Bille August for his film "The Best Intentions". The action star is returning to the festival exactly 30 years later to receive a tribute for his



lifetime achievements, according to a release posted on the festival's website. Cruise will have an on-stage conversation with journalist Didier Allouch in the afternoon and will walk up the steps of the Palais des Festivals for the evening screening of

"Top Gun: Maverick", directed by Joseph Kosinski. The Paramount Pictures film, produced by Jerry Bruckheimer, also stars Jennifer Connelly, Miles Teller, Jon Hamm, Glen Powell, Lewis Pullman and Ed Harris. The 75th edition of the Cannes Film Festival runs from May 17 to 28.

## Vivek Agnihotri takes a dig at Akshay's praise

The Kashmir Files director Vivek Agnihotri has alleged that Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar's praise for his film was fake and the actor was forced to talk about it. Reportedly, recently in interaction with VJ Raunac Vivek spoke about how everyone is going gaga over the film. He also admitted that people were crazy for his film and when Ranaud added Akshay Kumar's name to the list of praise, the filmmaker said, Wohtoh... abmajboorimeinkya bole gaaadmi jab 100 log saamnekhadihokesa waal puchenge... ki The Kashmir Files nahichali... aapki film nahichali... aurwohe chalgayi. Kyabolsaktehai? Wohtoh hum ekfunktionmein the Bhopal mein... tohbolna pad gaya. He even alleged that Akshay's praise for the film was only limited to the stage, Peeche koi nahibolta.

## Shehnaaz and Salman's real bond REVEALED

A very well-placed source told BollywoodLife, Salman Khan is Shehnaaz Gill's mentor. We all know he is very fond of her because of her honesty and innocence. Ever since Sidharth Shukla's death Salman Khan has had a lot of empathy for Shehnaaz and he has been guiding and helping her in making decisions, especially professional ones. And talking about the Eid party day, we all know how Sana is. She never shies away from hiding her affection for the person she likes. And she is very fond of Salman Khan before entering the Bigg Boss 13 house and the girl was just expressing her gesture, that's all. Shehnaaz is right now extremely focused and wants to grow big in her career and make her mark. Salman Khan is a thorough professional but when it comes to his people he is very protective, and he has made Sana her own and one cannot question their relationship, they are friends and he is a perfect mentor to her.



## Shahid Kapoor on 'Jersey'



Actor Shahid Kapoor says he was looking for an emotionally intense story post the success of his last release "Kabir Singh" and found that in "Jersey", a redemptive drama of a former cricketer picking up the bat again for his son. The 41-year-old actor who has attained both commercial success and critical acclaim with films such as Ishq Vishk, Jab We Met, Vivah, Kaminey, Haider and Kabir Singh among others said his aim was to entertain the audience with a story that is peppered with romance, emotion and has its fun moments. After I did Kabir

Singh, I wanted to find a story which can give the audience a complete experience. People do come with expectations after you have given them an experience that stays with them, which Kabir Singh was. I have worked very hard to find a subject which had the emotional potential and the story to stay true to people's expectations. Shahid told in an interview. Kabir Singh, directed by Sandeep Vanga Reddy, was a remake of the 2017 film Arjun Reddy. The Hindi version received mixed to negative reviews from critics but it turned out to be one of the highest-grossing Bollywood films of 2019. "Jersey" would be the second film where Shahid is working on a

remake but the actor is of the belief that good content travels with time, irrespective of the language or culture it is set in. "I do feel within the Hindi film industry, we are struggling to find good stories. It is important to recognise the fact that today a real star or superstar or someone who is widely connecting with people would be the kind of person, who collaborates with the right kind of content creators," he said, crediting the OTT boom for opening up people to stories of all kinds. Both "Jersey" and "Kabir Singh" maybe emotional stories, but they are also different from each other. "It has the

same kind of emotional depth that the love story of Kabir Singh had. 'Kabir Singh' was a modern aggressive version of Devdas', actually. It is a man who destroys himself out of love for someone... The only difference is that man is reactive, aggressive. "(But) Arjun is a family man. I could very much relate to Arjun, I am a family man, I have been married for seven years. I understand what comes with marriage, in terms of relationships, responsibilities, how it changes you from being a boy to a man. All your priorities and considerations get driven by the larger unit, you don't feel like an individual," the actor, who is married to Mira Rajput and shares two children with her, said. What resonated the most with Shahid about "Jersey" was the character's feeling of demotivation and being disconnected, emotions that he has struggled with in real life like any other actor going through career ups and downs. I have gone through times where I have felt disconnected, demotivated and I could connect with it (this film). I have questioned whether I will ever get to a place where I can choose the

work that I want to do or will I have to choose from what is there in front of me and say yes as I can't keep sitting at home. Those are very difficult times. And in those times either you give up or not. That fire (passion) never went, the actor recalled. Shahid said he has learned from his life that it is important to "wait" for the right moment with a positive frame of mind. "When the right moment comes, I have seen everything change in a minute. I have seen that happening in my life and to people around me. And I have great respect for people who are able to do that. Everybody's destiny is different and we all faced different kinds of circumstances. Having the right attitude and waiting for the right moment, also teaches you a lot. It makes you a far more complete person." Jersey is a remake of the Telugu film of the same name featuring Nani and Shraddha Srinath and is helmed by Gowtam Tinnanuri, who had also directed the original. Shahid said he saw 'Jersey' a week before 'Kabir Singh' released and he wanted to tell this story in Hindi cinema but people advised him against playing a family man

or father role after his role as a college boy and an aggressive character. The story of the film, the actor said, just stayed with him. "I am very proud of 'Jersey', it is a film that is close to my heart because I have grown through many phases in my career. I have films where I have played crazy characters, like Tommy Singh in 'Udta Punjab'. If this film can make people feel the way I felt, it will give them a lot of hope. When I saw the film, it made me feel that I can chase my dreams." There were many delays along the way due to the pandemic as the film's release got pushed. Shahid admitted that there were moments when they dealt with the feeling of "being pushed down and bogged down by our reality" but it was the spirit of the film that kept them buoyant. "It is a journey of two years of fighting out of our circumstances." The film is now slated to release on April 14. Also starring Mrunal Thakur and Pankaj Kapur in pivotal roles, Jersey is presented by Allu Arvind and backed by Aman Gill, Dil Raju, S Naga Vamsi.



## Contd. From Page 1

## Ranil Wickremesinghe Takes Oath

refusing to join a government headed by a member of the Rajapaksa clan, Mr Wickremesinghe -- a four-time Prime Minister of the country -- appeared the only option. Mr Wickremesinghe heads the United National Party. The breakaway SJB faction of the party currently forms the principal opposition party. Already struggling with the most devastating economic crisis since Independence, Sri Lanka was plunged into chaos on Monday as Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa stepped down from his post, nullifying the elected government. Anti-government protesters also want President Rajapaksa to step down and the Lankan parliament is expected to debate a no-confidence motion against the President on May 17, the Speaker's Office has said. With widespread shortages of food and fuel, soaring prices of essential commodities and hours-long power cut, there have been massive protests over the government's handling of the situation. On Monday, groups of pro and anti-government activists clashed in Colombo, triggering curfew and a state of emergency across the island. In his address yesterday, President Rajapaksa had said to "control the current situation, and prevent the country from heading towards anarchy", he would appoint a Prime Minister and cabinet "that can command a majority in Parliament and can gain the confidence of the people of the country". Sources indicated that he held talks with Mr Wickremesinghe before and after the address and an agreement was reached. Mr Rajapaksa had also said that discussions were in progress on who will take over after the interim Prime Minister. Several names have been proposed and in the coming days, Mr Rajapaksa will hold meetings to zero in on the right candidate.

## Date of the Karbi Anglong

Anglong Autonomous Council on 23 June 1952, which is now celebrated as its foundation day. After Signing of M.O.U. between Government of India, Government of Assam and United People's Democratic Solidarity, it was renamed to Karbi Anglong Autonomous Territorial Council. It has administrative functions over two districts, Karbi Anglong district and West Karbi Anglong district. Its headquarters is in Diphu, Karbi Anglong district. The total area of the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council is 10,434 sq. km having a population of 961,275 as of 2011.

## Assam Woman Declared

father Gopi Ram Namasudhra was a permanent resident of Haritika - and that after her marriage to Ananta Kumar Namasudhra, she cast her vote for the first time in 1965 in the village which fell under the Katigorah Legislative Assembly constituency. During cross-examination, Akol said her daughter was declared Indian in 2015 on the basis of her voter documents. In his opinion, Dharmananda Deb, Member, FT-4 (Silchar) said it appeared that Akol had been "casting her vote from the year 1965 till date" and submitted her name on the electoral roll of 1965, 1970, 1977 and 1985. He also said Anjali was declared Indian on the "basis of Voter List of 1965 containing the name of her parents i.e. Ananta Kumar Namasudhra & Akol Rani Namasudhra". "She has clearly been able to establish the fact of presence on Indian soil as well as in the State of Assam, reliable to a period prior to 01.01.1966 in accordance with law," Deb said. Citizenship is a contentious subject in Assam with local groups alleging that "illegal migrants" from Bangladesh have swamped the state. Several agitations by these groups finally led the Supreme Court to order an update of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) to identify "foreigners". The updated NRC was published in August 2019, leaving out 19 lakh people. In the same year, the BJP-led Centre amended the country's citizenship act, much to the consternation of several Assamese who fear that the grant of citizenship rights to "outsiders" would change the essential nature of the state. The Act, however, has widespread support in the Bengali-speaking Barak Valley in which Cachar district falls.

## Sedition Law: 'Historic Judgement

Communalism is also a factor playing out here. "Though sedition charges were also levelled against people during the previous 15-year-old Congress rule as well, there is a difference in the nature of the allegations that are invoked in the charges. Reports show that earlier, sedition charges slapped against individuals were related to allegations of terrorism. Most of these cases were filed against people accused of having an association with insurgent groups like United Liberation Front of Assam, among others. Hailing the Supreme Court ruling, Gogoi said it's high time the law is scrapped from the country's lawbooks. "This is a historic judgement. The intervention of the Supreme Court will strengthen democracy in our country, and will also uproot a colonial legacy," he said. Anirban Roy Choudhury, a journalist from Silchar district of Assam, who runs a news website, was slapped with such a case in December 2021 over an editorial he had written. The FIR was filed by a member of the All Assam Bengali Hindu Association. The editorial had allegedly extended support to Pradip Dutta Roy, a politician from Barak Valley, who was booked under the same law a few weeks ago. Dutta Roy had been booked for asking the government to remove a hoarding written in Assamese and to replace it with one written in Bengali. Barak Valley of Assam, in which Silchar is located, is dominated by Bengali speakers. Bengali is the associate official language there. The complainant stated that Roy Choudhury's article could hamper the "brotherhood between Assamese and the Bengalis of Assam". In my case, it was an attempt to shut us up. We are a hyper-local website operating from a remote corner of the state without having a big reader base. It was an example of sheer misuse of the law. The article for which the sedition case was slapped was an opinion piece. The problem is that the government doesn't want us to write. "Roy Choudhury, who is out on bail, is still fighting the case in the Silchar district court. He does not keep high hopes on the Supreme Court ruling, though he feels it is somewhat of a 'starting point'." These cases are mostly filed against people who raise their voice for minorities, be they of sentimental, religious, linguistic or any kind. But what if the sentiments change and the tables turn? Then the same law can be used against the majority," he says. Arif Jwadder, a Supreme Court advocate from Assam, says arrests under sedition laws are problematic anywhere, as it is a colonial-era law enacted to suppress and arrest freedom fighters; it cannot be used in a democracy. While welcoming the Supreme Court ruling, Arif advocated the striking down of the law. "It is a welcome step, but SC didn't put the law into abeyance rather it has put the pending trials etc in abeyance. Fresh FIRs under this section could still be lodged and the SC merely asked the governments for restraint. Court should either strike it down or allow it. Laws can't be kept in abeyance," Jwadder says, adding that the sedition charges are used actively to instil fear in the minds of young activists. "Rule of law is nowhere to be seen. Extra-judicial killings are happening every day in broad daylight. There have been many instances where dissenters were charged with this colonial-era law. This law has always been misused against any political dissenter. It has been actively used against young activists in order to instil fear in them." In April 2021, a case of sedition was slapped on Assamese writer Sikha Sharma. The case was registered by the police based on a Facebook post by Sharma on security personnel massacred by Maoists in Chhattisgarh. Sikha Sharma was later released on bail. Sharma said, "The Constitution has given us the right to freedom of speech and I will keep on exercising it. Just for criticising a particular party, or for dissent of opinion against anyone, one cannot be charged with sedition." Even Congress Legislator Abul Kalam Rashid Alam, who criticised the state government for its handling of the pandemic, was booked for sedition in May 2020. "I had the means to defend myself against the charges. But not everyone can hire a lawyer and arrange for bail. Look at the rate of conviction against the cases registered in the past eight years. The sedition laws should be scrapped, it is outdated and we no longer live in the British era," says Anirban Roy Choudhury.

## PM Modi interacts with a little girl

the other in class 12, and the third one is class 1. The government will take care of the youngest one's education till class 8. The other two also get a scholarship. "PM Modi also interacted with the Patel's daughter, who teared up while saying: "I want to become a doctor because of the problem that my father is suffering from." At this moment, even PM Modi got emotional and said, "Your compassion is your strength". After the interaction, PM Modi also extended his support to the family and asked the man to inform him if he "need any help to fulfil the dream of your daughters." According to PMO, the district administration had carried out a special drive - "Utkarsh Initiative" - from January 1 to March 31 this year, with the aim to ensure the complete coverage of schemes providing assistance to widows, elderly and destitute citizens. A total of 12,854 beneficiaries were identified across the four schemes, PMO said. Taluka-wise WhatsApp helpline numbers were announced to collect information about those who were not receiving benefits of the scheme for the drive. PMO also stated that Utkarsh camps were organised in all villages and wards of municipality areas of the district for applicants to provide necessary documents for on spot approval. Incentives were also given to Utkarsh assistants to further facilitate the drive.

## SLPRB Assam Police Constable

under DGCD & CGHG, Assam. Candidates should know that the result of 154 posts of Constable from SPOs against sanctioned posts of AISF Battalion has been withheld due to a court case.

## Assam Climber Hedayet

altitude sickness, weather, and wind, as well as hazards from avalanches and the Khumbu Icefall. As of 2019, over 300 people have died on Everest many of whose bodies remain on the mountain. The first recorded efforts to reach Everest's summit were made by British mountaineers. As Nepal did not allow foreigners to enter the country at the time, the British made several attempts on the north ridge route from the Tibetan side. After the first reconnaissance expedition by the British in 1921 reached 7,000 m (22,970 ft) on the North Col, the 1922 expedition pushed the north ridge route up to 8,320 m (27,300 ft), marking the first time a human had climbed above 8,000 m (26,247 ft). The 1924 expedition resulted in one of the greatest mysteries on Everest to this day: George Mallory and Andrew Irvine made a final summit attempt on 8 June but never returned, sparking debate as to whether they were the first to reach the top. Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary made the first documented ascent of Everest in 1953, using the southeast ridge route. Norgay had reached 8,595 m (28,199 ft) the previous year as a member of the 1952 Swiss expedition. The Chinese mountaineering team of Wang Fuzhou, Gonpo, and Qu Yinhua made the first reported ascent of the peak from the north ridge on 25 May 1960.

## Allahabad HC rejects plea for

by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. "When Shah Jahan took the land of the Jaipur Royal family, the latter could not oppose him because it was under his control at that time," Kumari said. "The Jaipur Raj Parivar Trust possesses the land records. If the court orders, then the Royal family will present the documents," the BJP MP told the media. She added, "Even today if a government acquires any land, it gives compensation in return for it. Some kind of compensation was given at that time too, but there was no law to appeal against Shah Jahan or take any action against him. Now it is good that someone has raised their voice and filed a petition in the court." Kumari said, "It is a good thing that someone has appealed to open the doors of the Taj Mahal so that the truth comes out. We are also examining the matter now." Earlier during the Ayodhya temple dispute, the Jaipur Royal family had claimed that they were descendants of Lord Ram.



Guvahati- International Nurses Day Cultural rally on Thursday

## Yogi Adityanath makes National Anthem recital mandatory in UP Madrasas

New Delhi, May 12 : Singing of national anthem "Jana Gana Mana" has been made compulsory at all madrasas in Uttar Pradesh from Thursday, an official said here. The Registrar of the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board, SN Pandey, also issued an order to this effect to all the District Minority Welfare Officers on May 9. According to the decision taken in the board meeting on March 24, the singing of national anthem at the time of prayer at all madrasas across the state has been made mandatory, he said. He said regular classes at the madrasas began from May 12 after Ramzan holidays, and the order came into effect from the same day. The order said that before the commencement of classes, national anthem will be sung by teachers and students from the upcoming academic session in all recognised, aided and non-aided madrasas in the state. The District Minority Welfare Officers have been tasked to ensure compliance of the order. General Secretary of Teachers' Association Madaris Arabia, Diwan Sahab Zaman Khan, said that till now at madrasas, usually Hamd (praises to Allah) and Salam (salutations to Muhammad) were recited before the start of classes. The national anthem was also sung in some, but it was not compulsory. "Now it has been made mandatory," he added. The order comes after state's Minority Welfare Minister Dharampal Singh last month emphasised on teaching nationalism at madrasas. Minister of State Danish Azad Ansari had also said that the government wants the madrasa students to be "full of patriotism". At present, there are a total of 16,461 madrasas in Uttar Pradesh and 560 of them receive government grants.

## Tata Sons appoints Campbell Wilson as CEO and MD of Air India

Mumbai, May 12 : Tata Sons has appointed Campbell Wilson as the CEO and Managing Director of Air India. Wilson is the CEO of Scoot, wholly-owned low cost subsidiary of Singapore Airlines (SIA). The Air India board approved the appointment of Wilson subject to requisite regulatory approvals, the company said in a statement. Earlier in February this year, Tata Sons had announced the appointment of former chairman of Turkish Airlines Ilker Ayci as the CEO and MD of Air India. However, he declined to take up the position amid controversies over his views related to India. Campbell Wilson has 26 years experience in the aviation industry and started as a Management Trainee with Singapore Airlines in 1996 in New Zealand. He then worked for SIA in Hong Kong, Canada, Japan, before returning back to Singapore as the founding CEO of Scoot, which he led till 2016. Wilson then worked as the Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing at SIA, before returning back as the CEO of Scoot in 2020. Vistara, the Indian full-service airline is a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines. Tata Sons and Air India Chairman N Chandrababhan said, "I am delighted to welcome Campbell to Air India. He is an industry veteran having worked in key global markets cutting across multiple functions. Further, Air India would benefit from his added experience of having built an airline brand in Asia. I look forward to working with him in building a world-class airline."



Silchar- eviction drive for making Greenfield Airport on Thursday

## India relaxes 9-month mandatory waiting period for Covid-19 precaution dose for overseas travellers

New Delhi, May 12 : The Centre on Thursday (May 12) announced to relax the existing guidelines on Covid-19 booster doses for overseas travellers. These foreign-bound travellers will now be able to take a precaution dose before the stipulated nine-month waiting period as required by the guidelines of the destination country. Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said in a tweet, "Indian citizens and students travelling overseas can now take the precaution dose as required by the guidelines of the destination country. This new facility will be available soon on the CoWIN portal." Indian citizens & students travelling overseas can now take the precaution dose as required by the guidelines of the destination country. The health ministry's decision to ease rules on the precaution dose for overseas travellers comes after the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI)'s recommendations. According to PTI, last week, the advisory panel suggested that those travelling overseas can take the precautionary jab of the Covid-19 vaccine as per the norms of their destination country before the mandatory nine-month gap. "The issue was discussed in a meeting of NTAGI held last week after which it recommended that those who need to travel overseas can take the booster shot, before the stipulated nine-month waiting period, as per the booster guidelines of the country they are travelling to," a source had told the news agency. Notably, India has allowed all those above 18 years to take a precaution jab, providing they have completed nine months after the second dose. This third vaccine shot has been made available to the adult population groups at private vaccination centres. India had commenced administering precaution doses of Covid-19 vaccines to the healthcare and frontline workers and those aged 60 and above with comorbidities from January 10 this year. Later, the Centre had extended the booster dose for all those above 60 and eventually for 18 plus population at private vaccination centres. Meanwhile, over 190.83 crore vaccine doses have been administered in the country so far since the commencement of the nationwide vaccination drive.

## Lufthansa apologises after barring Orthodox Jewish travellers from flight

Berlin, May 12 : Lufthansa has apologised for refusing to let any members of a large group of Orthodox Jewish passengers on to a flight after some of them had refused to wear masks. The German airline said in a statement that it "regrets the circumstances surrounding the decision to exclude the affected passengers from the flight, for which Lufthansa sincerely apologises". The airline said it was reviewing what had happened during the incident on 4 May, involving passengers from New York transiting in Frankfurt for a flight to Budapest. Some of the passengers had allegedly refused to comply with rules requiring them to wear face masks, whereupon Lufthansa staff allegedly blocked all passengers who were visibly identifiable as Jewish from boarding their connecting flight, German daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung reported. Local German media reported that the staff excluded those passengers who were recognisable as being Jewish because they were wearing skull caps or had sidelocks. "We regret that the large group was denied boarding rather than limiting it to the non-compliant guests," the airline said. "We have zero tolerance for racism, antisemitism and discrimination of any type," it added. Uwe Becker, the antisemitism commissioner of the state of Hesse, where Frankfurt is located, sharply condemned the incident. Becker said that apparently an entire group of people - solely because of their recognisable faith - had been held responsible for something that obviously only affected individual travellers. "This is discriminatory and not a trivial matter, and all the more reason why the company's top management should also feel personally responsible for apologising for this incident and taking a clear and unequivocal stand," Becker told the German news agency dpa.

## Contentious Croatian abortion goes ahead after medical officials step in

London, May 12 : A Croatian woman who was denied an abortion although her foetus had serious health issues has undergone the procedure, it was revealed on Wednesday. The case sparked nationwide outrage in the EU country where Catholic church-backed conservative groups aspire to curb the right to abortion, which is legal until the 10th week of pregnancy. After that period, it can be performed if the health of the mother or foetus is seriously jeopardised, as well as in cases of rape or incest. But abortion is becoming more restricted as rising religious pressure sways doctors to refuse it on moral grounds. Mirela ?avajda's foetus was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumour in late April, in the sixth month of pregnancy. Doctors told the 39-year-old, who already has one child, that the foetus would - if born - either die or have serious defects, she told local media. They advised ?avajda to seek help in neighbouring Slovenia. Meanwhile, four public hospitals in the Croatian capital, Zagreb, refused to carry out the abortion without explanation or after saying they could not confirm the diagnosis or lacked the necessary conditions. But Croatian health minister Vili Beroš said on Wednesday that a medical "commission allowed the termination of [?avajda's] pregnancy". "The situation is extremely difficult," as the MRI scan of her foetus's brain showed, he told reporters. That is why the commission estimated that "both medical and legal preconditions for the approval of abortion have been met", he said.

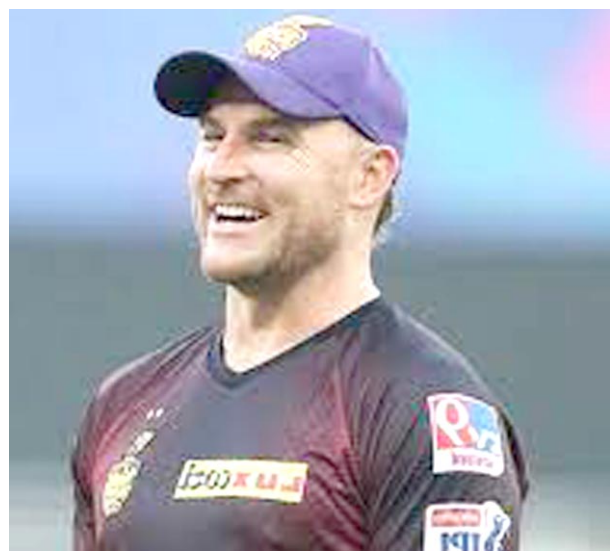


Majuli- laying lakhuta Abirbhab Mahotsav on Thursday



# Brendon McCullum set to be appointed England men's Test coach

**London, May 12 :** Brendon McCullum's appointment as England's Test coach appears imminent with the New Zealander having informed close contacts that he has been offered the job. Reports in India suggest he has also handed in his notice at Kolkata Knight Riders and will be free to begin a new role after their final game of the Indian Premier League season has concluded next Wednesday. A formal announcement from the England and Wales Cricket Board is expected before the end of the week, with the 40 year old McCullum emerging as favourite following the completion of the interview process. England captain Heather Knight congratulates her Rwandan teammate Henriette Ishimwe (centre). The pair



are playing for the Barmy Army team in the FairBreak Invitational in Dubai. His first task as coach would be to prepare the side to face the team he once captained, New Zealand, in a three-Test series next month. After the Black Caps won the World Test Championship last

summer Kane Williamson, the captain, credited McCullum with instigating the "drastic changes in terms of the culture" that propelled the team forward. The Indian Express has reported that KKR's players have been told about McCullum's

departure, with an unnamed insider quoted as saying: "He informed us that he won't be part of KKR going ahead as he will be taking up a job as England cricket team coach. He informed us during a team meeting a few days ago." The new England director of men's cricket, Rob Key, said last week that a job in the IPL would not stop a candidate from being appointed coach of the Test team, but McCullum has decided to concentrate on his role with the ECB. "It's not an issue if they're the best person," Key said. "You have to move with the times and I can't see why Jos

Buttler, for instance, could play the whole IPL but our coaches couldn't be there for it all. Who knows where the IPL will be in five years' time but at the moment there's no international cricket when the IPL's on. I'd rather have the best person for 10 months a year than someone not as good for 12." McCullum guided KKR to the IPL final last year, albeit via a stunning and unexpected turnaround after the team lost five of their first seven games. This season they have struggled and only the bottom-placed Mumbai Indians have lost more than their seven matches.

# Emily Upjohn made clear favourite for Oaks after winning Musidora



**York, May 12 :** Many horses were struggling to quicken on the ground here on Wednesday but Emily Upjohn was emphatically not among them. John and Thady Gosden's filly shot away from her field with a sustained burst of speed two out in the Musidora Stakes, eventually crossing the line five-and-a-half lengths clear of Life Of Dreams, and is now clear favourite at around 6-4 for the Oaks on 3 June. This was a seventh Musidora winner for the Gosden stable and the record of the previous six in the Classic at Epsom a few weeks later

is uninspiring, with the only three fillies that went on to run in the Oaks all beaten. Everything about Emily Upjohn's win here suggested she will be the one to break the sequence, however, as the step up to a mile-and-a-half is likely to see further improvement from a filly with stamina on both sides of her pedigree. "A mile-and-a-half will be right up her alley and she couldn't have done it any better, really," John Gosden said afterwards. "That's probably where she'll stay after this. She's very well balanced but there's no reason we won't go to the breakfast at Epsom [on 23 May], have a canter round the track there and see how she handles it. She likes to show off and enjoy herself but I thought she settled

## Rudrankksh, Abhinav make it 1-2 in men's 10m air rifle competition

**NEW DELHI, May 12 :** India made it a 1-2 in the men's 10m air rifle competition of the ISSF Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, after Rudrankksh Balasaheb Patil won gold and Abhinav Shaw silver in a tight title-decider going 17-13 in the former's favour. The Indian duo shot consistently well throughout Wednesday morning, first crossing the eight-man final stage elimination hurdle and then putting up a show in the gold-medal match. Also Read - Rib injury rules Ravindra Jadeja out of remainder of IPL 2022 Earlier on Tuesday, day one of competitions, Rudrankksh had also topped the qualification stage with 627.5 points, leading three Indians into the top-eight stage. Paarth Makhija accompanied the duo, holding on to his fifth position in qualifying in the end classifications. But Wednesday morning belonged to Rudrankksh who dominated all three stages of the competition over two days of shooting. In the final, it was Abhinav who started the stronger in the early stages, going up 4-2 after the first three shots. Also Read - Rajib Dey appointed national swimming team coach Rudrankksh recovered quickly though, and went past his countryman, keeping his nose ahead till the very end to seal victory. Germany's Nils Palberg won bronze. In Junior women's 10m air rifle, Ramita of India, after topping qualification on Tuesday with a solid 630.5, also topped the final stage elimination with a score of 261.0. However, she settled for silver in the end, going down 8-16 to France's Oceanne Muller, the reigning junior world champion and Tokyo Olympics finalist, in the gold medal match. Also Read - Indian Archers claim record haul at Asia Cup India are presently topping the medals tally as well with one gold and two silver medals.

# Olympic boxing at risk, IOC warns Iba chief amid fresh governance worries



**London, May 12 :** The International Olympic Committee has warned the Russian president of amateur boxing that it still has "significant concerns" over the governance, integrity of judges and financial sustainability of the organisation he leads in a striking intervention that comes just days before he faces re-election. The letter, sent to the International Boxing Association (Iba) president, Umar Kremlev, who has in the past thanked Vladimir Putin for his backing, also questions the sport's readiness for the Paris 2024 qualification

cycle - and reminds Kremlev that boxing is not currently in the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles because of its problems. The timing of the IOC's letter, which was sent on Tuesday, is particularly noteworthy given that Kremlev's hold on the sport is being challenged by his Dutch rival Boris van der Vorst in Istanbul on Friday. Kremlev is regarded as the favourite, although many are increasingly uneasy at having a Russian president after the invasion of Ukraine. The fact that Gazprom, the Russian

majority state-owned energy company, provides most of the sport's finances only increases those concerns. Last month Kremlev claimed that Iba had "built trust and confidence" with the IOC. However, an unusually punchy letter from the IOC that has been seen by the Guardian cast doubt on the assertion. "At the outset, we must reiterate that the IOC's recognition of the International Boxing Association remains suspended," the letter states. "Boxing is not currently included in the sports programme of the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028, with concerns remaining in the key areas of governance, financial sustainability and the proven integrity of the refereeing and judging systems." The IOC's letter also suggests Iba has not provided clear answers about its Paris 2024 qualification plans, to the detriment of the boxers.

# Nuruddin Senior Inter District Cricket Tournament started in Guwahati



**GUWAHATI, May 12 :** The final round of the Nuruddin Senior Inter District Cricket Tournament kicked off in different venues in Guwahati. Altogether 12 teams will participate in the final round and they are

divided into four groups. Guwahati, placed in group 'A', will start their campaign tomorrow against Morigaon with a 3-day game. On the same day Nagaon will face Tinsukia and Barpeta will clash against Biswanath.

Both the semi finals will kick off on May 24 and final will begin on May 28. Also Read - Rajib Dey appointed national swimming team coach Guwahati team for Nuruddin: Gokul Sharma (capt), Rahul Hazarika (VC), Sumit C Ghadigaonkar, Hrishikesh Tamuli, Nipon Deka, Romario Sarma, Erik Roy, Dharani Rabha, Biplab Saikia, Abdul Ajij, Rohan Hazarika, Pradyun Saikia, Rohit Singh, Jitu Ali and Hira Jyoti Choudhury. Head Coach-Palashjyoti Das, Coach-Bhaskarjyoti Barman. Manager-Nabajit Narzary.

# Jamie Vardy double lifts Leicester and piles more misery on Norwich

**London, May 12 :** Normal service has been resumed. Jamie Vardy, without a goal since 1 March, scored twice in eight minutes to return Leicester City to the top half of the Premier League with their first win in eight games as Norwich City's loyal fans celebrated their biennial relegation from the top flight with unstinting irony. At set triggers, the Norwich fans launched into synchronised leaping and singing, even after James Maddison scored the 78th goal against them this season, the most they have conceded in a top flight season. Their last four seasons in the Premier League have ended in relegation but Dean Smith is relishing the challenge ahead. Maddison made the game safe 20 minutes from time as he leathered the ball home, left-

footed, from 12 yards out after Angus Gunn could only parry Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall's fierce cross from the inside-left channel of the penalty area. Leicester's resources have been stretched to breaking point at times this season but, after the disappointment of losing in the Europa Conference League semi-final against Roma last week, this was a reminder that the hunger still burns brightly in the stomachs of Vardy, Maddison and, even if his days appear numbered at Leicester, Youri Tielemans. "I thought he was excellent tonight," Brendan Rodgers said of the midfielder being linked with a move to Arsenal. "The speculation shines a light on him. For me, he's still the same guy, his professionalism is first class. That's why I always play him." Both managers are

looking forward to this season ending, for different reasons. "I've applied to the Premier League to ask if we can play Wolves tomorrow and Tottenham on

Friday," Dean Smith joked. "It won't be a big rebuild in the summer.

# Giro d'Italia: Démare sprints to stage five victory after Cavendish dropped



**Paris, May 12 :** Arnaud Démare won stage five of the Giro d'Italia on a day when Mark Cavendish and Caleb Ewan were caught out on a climb and left unable to contest the sprint in Messina. Groupama-FDJ won the battle for position going into the final corner and got their reward as their rider Démare held off Fernando Gaviria and

Giacomo Nizzolo to take the win. The sprint finish meant there were no major changes at the top of the general classification, with Juan Pedro López retaining the leader's pink jersey he gained on Mount Etna. Britain's Simon Yates remains fourth overall, one minute 42 seconds down and the best placed of the main favourites. Victory

was a repeat for Démare, who won a similar stage to this in the 2020 Giro. Just as happened then, the race split on the only categorised climb, the Portella Mandrazzi, midway through the 174km stage from Catania, with several sprinters put in trouble. With the peloton around halfway up the 20km-long climb, Mathieu van der Poel's Alpecin-Fenix squad moved to the front and upped the pace, successfully distancing Cavendish, Ewan and, briefly at least, Démare himself. Cavendish crossed the summit around three minutes behind the main pack with Ewan conceding five, but Démare limited his own losses and got back into the pack on the descent. Gaviria, the main victim in 2020, held on this time but had to settle for second place at the finish. "My victory today means that in cycling we must never give up," said Démare. "The sprint has been fluid from my point of view, even though it might have appeared chaotic. I've been patient before I launched the sprint. I lost a fair bit of time up the hill but my teammates have done a great job to bring me back quickly in the downhill. Then we worked hard to

maintain Cavendish and Ewan behind."

# Chelsea stroll to victory and crank up pressure on 10-man Leeds

**London, May 12 :** Jesse Marsch has spoken effusively of his use of motivational quotes from the likes of Mahatma Gandhi to inspire his Leeds players but at the rate his side's fortunes are spiralling, he would perhaps be wise to draw inspiration from Harry Houdini instead. Rudyard Kipling's legendary poem, If, discusses the importance of keeping your head when all around you are

losing theirs but as the door on Leeds United's Premier League status inches shut, the last four days show they are playing with an inverse mindset. Defeats to Arsenal and Chelsea should not ordinarily define a team's Premier League survival chances but it is the nature of them which are concerning. Conceding early is disastrous enough, as Leeds did on Sunday and again here when Mason

Mount struck past Illan Meslier after four minutes. But to receive red cards in the first half of both games for tackles which are entirely avoidable is the very definition of deepening your own mire. After Luke Ayling's dismissal at Arsenal three days earlier, Dan James followed suit here with a terrible tackle on Mateo Kovacic that left Anthony Taylor with little choice but to dismiss him.



# Is new women's T20 tournament in Dubai a sign of progress or a threat?

**New Delhi, Mat 12 :** Welcome to The Spin, the Guardian's weekly (and free) cricket newsletter. Here's an extract from this week's edition. To receive the full version every Wednesday, just pop your email in below. "The ICC and its members do not recognise privately owned tournaments or leagues in the men's or women's game. Any Twenty20 tournament that features the best players in the world outside ICC competitions would need to be run and controlled by one of the full members, as opposed to by a private operator." That was the England and Wales Cricket Board's view, as expressed by Clare Connor, in response to the radical idea of an independent women's T20 league proposed by the Australian businessman Shaun Martyn



in 2014. Eight years later, five England players are taking part in just such a private competition - the FairBreak Invitational, run by Martyn's company FairBreak Global Ltd. The tournament started last week and is taking place in Dubai until 15 May, contested by six teams, and -

uniquely - featuring players from 35 different nations (including Rwanda, Bhutan, and Vanuatu). A nice touch, epitomising the tournament's distinctive philosophy, is that instead of numbers on the back of their shirts, players have their national flag. Five of them are sport-

ing St George's crosses - Sophie Ecclestone, Danni Wyatt, Sophia Dunkley, Tash Farrant and - significantly - the England captain, Heather Knight. Knight's inclusion appears to signal the ultimate seal of approval from the ECB - a board that in 2014 banned its players from competing in such an endeavour. Somehow, in the eight years since Connor unequivocally rejected it, Martyn's vision has gained official sanction from the ECB and International Cricket Council alike. It has not been straightforward. Since 2014, international players in almost all full member nations have been handed professional contracts; within two years of Martyn's failed proposal, franchise tournaments owned by Cricket Australia (the Women's Big Bash

League) and the ECB (the Kia Super League) had sprung up, in what was partly a deliberate attempt to take the wind out of Martyn's sails. "We spent a couple of years where the ICC would send us off to partner with a board, the board would send us back to get permission from the ICC, and that just became a bit of a revolving door," Martyn tells the Spin. "So I backed off from doing that." Instead, his vision shifted - becoming centred on the component that he felt was missing from those leagues: associate nation players. "The women's side of the game is so diverse and so globally spread, that to think that the talent is only concentrated in a few major countries is not understanding the difference between the two games at all," he says. "There's great players in all countries." Through 2018 and 2019, Martyn staged a series of charity matches involving a single FairBreak XI, made up of a mix of associate and full member players. Eventually he gained backing from Cricket Hong Kong, which paved the way for ICC endorsement and the current, fully fledged tournament. "I think the ICC understands now that we're not trying to compete with anyone, we're just trying to grow opportunity for all the players and coaches that we engage with," Martyn says.



## IPL 2022: Titans first among equals

**New Delhi, Mat 12 :** Gujarat Titans' 144/4 wasn't a match-winning total. Far from it. But the pitch wasn't ideal for stroke-play and grafting was the order of the day. Once in a while, such low-scoring games are enjoyable amid an overdose of batting bludgeoning in T20 cricket. Titans won and secured a place in the playoffs because they had Shubman Gill's class and a well-rounded bowling attack to see them through. A top-heavy Lucknow Super Giants batting imploded once their openers got out cheaply. They were bowled out for 82 to lose by 62 runs. Titans' innings, for the greater part,

was an exercise in sterility, in sync with the stadium atmosphere. Large swathes of empty seats at the MCA Stadium in Pune greeted the two table-toppers and it seemed to have affected the Titans' batting intensity. The pitch wasn't a highway and some innovations were needed to up the ante. A couple of soft dismissals didn't help matters. After a longish spell on the sidelines, Matthew Wade was brought back to the fold, as Titans made three changes on the heels of two successive losses. Wade started off with back-to-back fours against Dushmantha Chameera but fell to Avesh Khan, trying to play his favourite lap shot through the vacant fine-leg region. He ended up nicking

it straight to the wicketkeeper and cursed himself. Avesh didn't mind a good start. Luck was smiling on the fast bowler on the night and Hardik Pandya's scalp with a loosener, short and wide outside off, was a real bonus. Nine times out of 10, Hardik would dispatch it to the point boundary. On Tuesday though, he got an outside edge to the 'keeper instead. It happened right after the resumption following the first strategic time-out. Maybe, Hardik's concentration had been affected. Also, he tried to hit the ball a little too hard. The Titans skipper admonished himself.

## Reality check for Indian shuttlers in Uber Cup Final

**New Delhi, Mat 12 :** Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu was vanquished by world number four An Seyoung yet again as the Indian women's badminton team suffered a demoralising 0-5 defeat against Korea in their final group D match of the Uber Cup Final on Wednesday. After two successive wins against Canada and USA, it was a reality check for the young Indian team as it could not take a single game from the Koreans during the five-match tie. However, the

defeat will not count much as India have already sealed a quarterfinal berth after ensuring itself a top-two finish in the group after two victories. For Sindhu, it was a disappointing outing as she succumbed to her straight fifth loss to An Seyoung, losing 15-21 14-21 this time in a lopsided contest as India conceded an early 0-1 lead. The combo of Shruti Mishra and Simran Singh was no match to world number two pair of Lee Sohee and Shin Seungchan, going

down 13-21 12-21 in 39 minutes. Aakrushi Kashyap then was sent packing 10-21 10-21 by world number 19 Kim Ga Eun as India surrendered the tie 0-3. In the next two matches, Kim Hye Jeong and Kong Heeyoung beat Tanisha Crasto and Treasa Jolly 21-14 21-11, while Ashmita Chaliha lost 18-21 17-21 to Sim Yujin as Korea completed the 5-0 drubbing of India. The Indian men's team will face Chinese Taipei in group C of Thomas Cup Final later in the day.

## Brendon McCullum to step down as KKR coach to take over England job

**New Delhi, Mat 12 :** Former New Zealand captain and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) coach Brendon McCullum has informed the franchise that he will be stepping down from the role at the end of the current season to take over the England head coach's job. The Indian Express understands that McCullum informed the KKR players of the development during a recent team meeting. McCullum, part of KKR in the inaugural edition in 2008 when he hit a swashbuckling 158 in the first-ever IPL match, has also played for and coached Trinbago Knight Riders in the Caribbean Premier League. "He informed us



that he won't be part of KKR going ahead as he will be taking up a job as England cricket team coach. He informed us during a team meeting a few days ago," a KKR insider said. The former New Zealand wicketkeeper-batsman has

emerged as the favourite to become England's Test coach, the BBC and other British media reported. A formal announcement is due this week. Chris Silverwood left the role in February in the aftermath of their 4-0 Ashes defeat in

Australia, with Paul Collingwood named as caretaker. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) then invited applications for separate Test and white-ball coaches. Reports said 40-year-old McCullum had expressed

his interest in the job. McCullum played the last of his 101 Tests in Christchurch in February 2016 against Australia, when he hit the fastest century in the format (54 balls), finishing his career with 6,453 runs, 12 tons and 31 half-centuries. If McCullum does take over as England's Test coach, it will add a layer of intrigue to his first assignment on the job - a three-match home series against the Kiwis. England have already unveiled New Zealand-born Ben Stokes as their new Test captain, hoping for a swift turnaround under the talismanic all-rounder after a tame end to Joe Root's five years in charge.

## Australia set to target Eddie Jones for role at 2027 home World Cup

**Melbourn, Mat 12 :** Australia are expected to be confirmed as the host nation of the 2027 Rugby World Cup on Thursday and could target Eddie Jones to help their bid for success on home soil. World Rugby's council will meet in Dublin to confirm the host nations of the 2027 and 2031 tournaments - the latter lined up to break new ground in the US - as well as the next three women's World Cup tournaments. Australia has been identified as the preferred bidder for the 2027 men's tournament and after the union secured the necessary financial backing from the federal government in March, it is little more than a formality that they will be confirmed on Thursday. World Rugby

overhauled its bidding process after the controversial decision to award France the 2023 tournament five years ago, after South Africa had been recommended in an independent evaluation, and another late U-turn is inconceivable. Australia last hosted the World Cup in 2003, when England were crowned champions following Jonny Wilkinson's famous drop goal against Jones's Wallabies in the final. Jones's contract with England ends after the 2023 tournament and, though he has recently been linked with a move to Racing 92, his future after ending ties with the Rugby Football Union is unclear. Dave Rennie is the incumbent Australia head coach and it is thought his deal could be extended until the British &



Irish Lions tour of Australia in 2025, depending on how his side fare at France 2023. The Brumbies head coach, Dan McKellar, is being lined up as his potential successor - though flopping in France would no doubt lead to a rethink - and Jones's experience and track record at World Cups is not lost on Rugby Australia.





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