



The Assam Rising

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Vol. No. VII ■ Issue No. 88 ■ RNI-ASSEN/2014/58385 | GUWAHATI ■ MONDAY ■ MAY 16, 2022 | PAGES 8 ■ PRICE RS. 10.00

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NEWS IN BRIEF

AANLA cadres surrender

New Delhi, May 15 :

Two cadres belonging to the rebel outfit All Adivasi National Liberation Army (AANLA) surrendered before security forces in Dibrugarh on Saturday. The cadres have been identified as Subal Gohri and Lukash Kangri. According to reports, Subal, who hails from Bokajan in Karbi Anglong district, surrendered with one 9mm pistol, a magazine and three rounds of ammunition while Lukash Kangri, a resident of Hatukajan village, Dilai in Karbi Anglong district, surrendered with one 0.22 pistol, magazine, and ten rounds of ammunition before Dibrugarh police. "The two active cadres of AANLA surrendered before Dibrugarh police on Saturday evening."

Child marriage

New Delhi, May 15 :

Assam police along with district Childline foiled a child marriage bid to marry off a minor at Batadrava in Nagaon district. As per reports, the marriage between the minor girl and the boy was fixed by their families secretly. Upon receiving information, a team of Nagaon police along with district Childline reached the spot and took custody of the minor girl after a brief chase. The boy (groom) however managed to flee from the spot. The incident was reported at Bherbheri village. The rescued minor girl was later handed over to the Childline.

ULFA link man

Assam Rising Guwahati, May 15 :

A suspected linkman of United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) was arrested in Assam's Hojai on Saturday night. According to sources, the linkman, identified as Abdul Istak, was arrested for allegedly having ties with the insurgent outfit. Abdul was later remanded to four-day judicial custody by a local court. Last month, the Crime Branch of Guwahati Police apprehended a person believed to be a linkman for a senior functionary of the banned outfit, Tutu Bora, aged 38, a resident of Gormur in Assam's Majuli district was arrested in a major breakthrough. He was reportedly working with Ganesh Lahon to secure information on contractors working in Majuli.

Assam flood's first wave kills three persons

Affects 24,000 people in 6 districts



Assam Rising Guwahati, May 15 :

Three people, including a woman, died in landslide incidents in Haflong area in Dima Hasao district as Assam has been hit by the first wave of floods this year, the state's disaster

management authority said on Sunday. Assam, along with neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya saw incessant rainfall in the past couple of days following which the water level of several rivers has gradually increased and the water in Kopili river

is flowing above the danger level mark. Till Saturday, a total of 24,681 people in 94 villages in six districts - Cachar, Dhemaji, Hojai, Karbi Anglong West, Nagaon and Kamrup (Metro) - have been affected due to floods, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority said. Floodwaters have submerged 1732.72

hectares of cropland in the affected districts. Incessant rains triggered landslides in 12 villages parts of the Dima Hasao district on Saturday. Over 21,000 people have been affected alone in the Cachar district. As many as 2,150 people were rescued from the district on Saturday. In the Hojai, Lakhimpur and Nagaon districts, several roads, bridges, and irrigation canals have been damaged due to floods. According to the flood reports of Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), till May 14, a total of 24,681 people in 94 villages in six districts - Cachar, Dhemaji, Hojai, Karbi Anglong West, Nagaon and Kamrup (Metro) have been affected in the first spell of flood. Around 25,000 people across six districts of Assam have been affected by the first wave of floods in the state this year. Three people including a woman died in landslide incidents in Haflong area in Dima Hasao district on Saturday. Following incessant rains in Assam

and neighbouring states-- Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh-- in the past couple of days, the water level of several rivers are gradually increasing and the water in Kopili river is flowing above the danger level mark. According to the flood reports of Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), till May 14, a total of 24,681 people in 94 villages in six districts - Cachar, Dhemaji, Hojai, Karbi Anglong West, Nagaon and Kamrup (Metro) have been affected in the first spell of flood. The flood waters have also

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Jorhat-Majuli Ferry Service Shut Down Indefinitely



Assam Rising Guwahati, May 15 :

The Jorhat-Majuli ferry service has been shut down for an indefinite period of time, authorities informed on Sunday. The decision was taken by the district administration of Majuli following the heavy downpour and rise in the water level of Brahmaputra River. This comes into effect from today (Sunday), sources said. Ferry services at

Nimati ghat, Kamlabari and others will also remain suspended. It may be mentioned that the rise in water level is primarily due to incessant rains that have gripped the entire state of Assam. This year, around 25,000 people across six districts were affected by artificial floods triggered by heavy rain. Moreover, three people including a woman died in landslide

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18th Century Indian Who Fought Casteism Declared Saint By The Vatican

Chennai, May 15 :



Devasahayam, who converted to Christianity in the 18th century in the then kingdom of Travancore, was declared a saint by Pope Francis at the Vatican today. Devasahayam, also known as Lazarus, is the first Indian layman to get sainthood for what the Vatican calls "enduring increasing hardships". Born Neelakandan Pillai in Hindu upper caste family in present-day Kanyakumari,

he worked at Travancore palace. In 1745, he converted to Christianity and took the names of Devasahayam and Lazarus. He went on to fight against caste discrimination and was persecuted and then killed. In 2012, the Vatican recognised his martyrdom after a rigorous process. Devasahayam was chosen for the sainthood after a woman in her seventh month of pregnancy

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Mundka fire: Manish Lakra, owner of Delhi building arrested

New Delhi, May 15 :

The Delhi Police has arrested Manish Lakra, the owner of the commercial that caught fire near Mundka metro station on Friday evening, killing at least 27 people and injuring 17 others. "We have nabbed Manish Lakra. He was arrested during raids conducted to nab him," DCP (Outer District) Samir Sharma said. The police had earlier said the building did not have fire NOC. "The building did not have a fire NOC. The owner of the building has been identified



as Manish Lakra who lived on the top floor. Lakra is currently absconding, teams are on the job and he will be nabbed soon,"

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Amit Shah to KCR: Will defeat you convincingly in 2023 elections

Hyderabad, May 15 :

Sounding the poll bugle in Telangana, Union Home Minister and BJP veteran Amit Shah on Saturday hit out at the TRS government in the state during a public meeting at Tukuguda on the outskirts of Hyderabad. Asking the gathering whether the Centre should have abrogated Article 370 or not, Shah said, "I can hear you all say yes. We know Kashmir is part of us. Did you not get benefits of central schemes of Narendra Modi? You are all saying yes, but TRS says no." mit

Shah said the Centre has given over Rs 2-lakh crores to Telangana. "Telangana government and KCR does not want to show any of this," he said. He alleged the TRS government failed to implement its promises like double bedroom houses for poor, distribution of three acres of land to SCs and to provide Rs 1,000 crore annually for the welfare of backward classes. Amit Shah challenged KCR to opt for early elections. "We are ready. We will defeat you convincingly. BJP governments in state and

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'Aag lagegi': Rahul Gandhi targets BJP over inflation



New Delhi, May 15 :

Rahul Gandhi said on Sunday (May 15) that the Congress needs to accept

that its connection with people has "broken", and announced a yatra in October across the country to revive the grand old party's relation with the common citizens. Addressing the closing session of the Congress' three-day 'Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir' in Udaipur, Gandhi said, "We have to accept that the Congress' connection with the people has been broken." The former Congress chief said strengthening the connection with people

requires "hard work" and not "shortcuts". "We have decided that the Congress party in October will go to people and take out a yatra and strengthen the relation... With people. This cannot happen with shortcuts," PTI quoted him as saying. Attacking the BJP-led Central government, Rahul Gandhi said the institutions are under attack and they have to ensure "they do not set the country on fire", in an apparent reference to the saffron party. "Inflation will rise in near future. Unemployment, inflation, and attacks on India's institutions are on the rise. 'Aag lagegi', we have to ensure they don't set the country on fire," ANI quoted him as saying. Endorsing the party's formula of 'One Family, One

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Historic : India wins its first Thomas Cup final



New Delhi, May 15 :

Today it's been a grand day for India. India has won the Thomas Cup for the first time defeating the 14 times champion team Indonesia. India was in full form from the beginning of this series. India was like a shuttle-like Australia used to be in cricket during the 1990s. Indonesia was a very tough contender to play with but the Indian badminton team played commendably well and toppled every other team just like the 1983 Indian cricket team which

eventually led India win the world cup under Kapil Dev. Previously the Indonesian team had won 14 times the Thomas Cup. India was off for a perfect start as Lakshya Sen defeated Anthony Ginting by 8-21, 21-17, 21-16 with an energetic tie. India's double pairs Satwik and Chirag defeated Ahsan-Sukamuljo. It was the most sensational victory of their career. They gave India a grand 2-0 lead. In the third game too Kidambi Srikanth defeated Jonathan Christie by 21-15, 23-21 to make it 3-0. The biggest plus point of the

Indian team was they have not lost even a single match. There was a deep belief in the players mind and as well as the coaches

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NF Railway Announces Cancellation, Delays In Trains Due To Heavy Rains

Assam Rising Guwahati, May 15 :

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) on Saturday announced cancellation, partial cancellation, short termination, and short origination of trains in the Badarpur Hill section owing to heavy rain and landslides in Luming in Assam. The decision was taken keeping in mind the landslides and water logging in several areas due to heavy rainfall in the

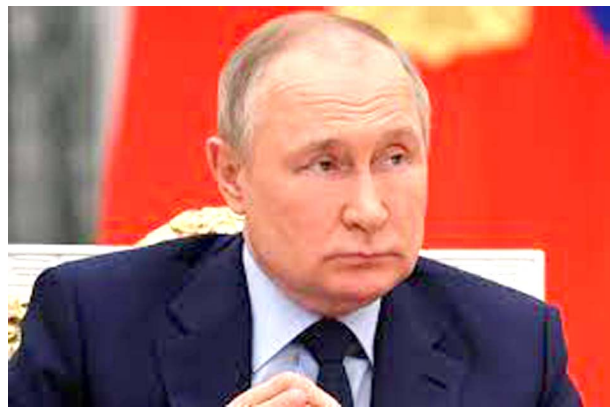
region. The notification read, "In view of water logging and landslides due to heavy rain at km 113/4-5 between Jatinga Lumpur and New Harangajao, at Km 131/1-2 between Bandarkhal and Ditokcherra sections and other several locations in Luming-Badarpur hill section of Luming division, services of several trains have been cancelled and partially cancelled, short terminated and short originated." Partially Cancellation/Short



Termination/Short Origination of Trains Train No 15888 Guwahati Badarpur Tourist express commencing journey on 14 May 2022

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Putin warns Finland that joining Nato would harm Russia relations



Helsinki, May 15 : The Russian president has warned his Finnish counterpart that relations between the two neighbours could be "negatively affected" if Finland follows through with plans to apply for Nato membership. The Kremlin's press service said in a statement that Vladimir Putin told Sauli Niinistö that Finland's abandonment "of its traditional policy of military neutrality would be an error since there are no threats to Finland's security". The statement added: "Such a change in

the country's foreign policy could negatively affect Russian-Finnish relations, which had been built in the spirit of good neighbourliness and partnership for many years, and were mutually beneficial." The response came after Niinistö told Putin in a phone conversation that the militarily non-aligned Nordic country, which has a complex history with its eastern neighbour, "will decide to apply for Nato membership in the coming days". Niinistö's office said the Finnish head of state

told Putin how starkly Finland's security environment had changed after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine, and pointed to Russia's demands on Finland refraining from seeking membership of the 30-member western military alliance. "The discussion [with Putin] was straightforward and unambiguous and was held without exaggeration. Avoiding tensions was considered important," said Niinistö, Finland's

president since 2012 and one of a handful of western leaders who has been in regular dialogue with Putin over the past decade. Niinistö said he had already told Putin at their first meeting in 2012 that "each independent nation would maximise its own security". "That is still the case. By joining Nato, Finland will strengthen its own security and assume its responsibilities. It is not something away from anybody," Niinistö said.



The first C919 large passenger aircraft to be delivered takes off from Shanghai Pudong International Airport in Shanghai.

My assassination being planned: Imran Khan



Islamabad, May 15 : Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Saturday said that a conspiracy is being hatched to kill him and that he has recorded a video that has the names of all those people who are involved in the alleged conspiracy to oust his government. Khan added that in case something happens to him the video will be made public. The Pakistani cricketer-turned-politician made the remarks while addressing a rally in Sialkot. "I know people in Pakistan and abroad are planning to kill me. I have recorded a video with complete details of conspiracy against me with all names and kept the

video in a safe place." However, the former Prime Minister did not name who was behind the alleged conspiracy to kill him. "A conspiracy is being hatched against me abroad and in Pakistan to kill me. I know who has planned my assassination. If I am killed then this video will be made public," he added. The former PM continued by saying that these people think of him as a roadblock and want to shun him. Earlier, issuing a weird statement, Imran Khan said that "dropping an atomic bomb would have been better than handing over the helm to the thieves". Khan made these remarks while interacting

with reporters on Friday at his Banigala residence. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman also said that he was shocked to see the "thieves" being foisted on the country, adding that dropping an atomic bomb would have been better than handing over the helm to these people. Khan said those powerful people who would tell him the tales of corruption of the "previous rulers" started advising him to focus on his government's performance instead of the graft charges against others. He further said that the thieves brought into power destroyed every institution and the judicial system, asking now which government official would probe the cases of "these criminals". Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that Imran Khan is "poisoning" the minds of the people of Pakistan with his speeches targeting state institutions. "The nation has been divided as Khan repeatedly called (the then Opposition and now government) thieves and dacoits," Shehbaz had said during the first regular

session of the National Assembly since the new government's formation. The PTI chairman had warned Shehbaz Sharif's government that no power could stop them from entering the federal capital during the long march to be held on May 20. He warned the federal government led by Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) that over two million people will reach Islamabad to get real independence and to protest against the "imported government." Khan told the Shehbaz Sharif-led government that two million people will come to the federal capital irrespective of how many containers are put up to create hindrances. "Our opponents say if the temperature is high, then people will not come out. Put as many containers as you want, but 2 million people will come to Islamabad," said Imran Khan. The former Prime Minister told his supporters that the incumbent government "fears" their passion and added that 11 parties had gathered to remove him from power.

North Korea reports 15 deaths and nearly 300,000 new 'fever' cases as Covid outbreak spreads

Seoul, May 15 : North Korea said on Sunday a total of 42 people had died as the country began its fourth day under a nationwide lockdown aimed at stopping the impoverished country's first confirmed Covid-19 outbreak. At least 296,180 more people came down with fever symptoms, and 15 more had died as of Sunday, the outlet said. North Korea's admission on Thursday that it is battling an "explosive" Covid-19 outbreak has raised concerns that the virus could devastate a country with an under-resourced health system, limited testing capabilities and no vaccine programme. State news agency KCNA said the country was taking "swift state emergency measures" to control the epidemic, but there is no sign that Pyongyang was moving to accept international offers of vaccines. "All provinces, cities and counties of the country have been totally locked down and working units, production units and residential units closed from each other since the morning of 12 May and strict and intensive examination of all the people is being conducted," KCNA reported on Sunday. A day earlier North Korean leader Kim Jong-un said the spread of Covid-19 had thrust his country into "great turmoil" and called for an all-out battle to overcome the outbreak. Despite the lockdowns, Kim and other senior officials on Saturday attended funeral services for Yang Hyong-sop, a former de facto head of state during the rule of Kim's father, Kim Jong-il, KCNA reported. Health authorities set up more epidemic prevention posts, and urgently transported medical supplies to hospitals and clinics, while senior officials had donated reserve medicines, KCNA reported. A "large proportion" of the deaths have been due to people "careless in taking drugs due to the lack of knowledge and understanding of stealth Omicron variant virus infection disease and its correct treatment method," the report said. Korean Central Television on Saturday night broadcast treatments for the fever.



10 killed in 'racially motivated' attack at New York supermarket

New York, May 15 : A teenage gunman in military-style clothing opened fire with a rifle at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, in a shooting that authorities called a "hate crime and racially motivated violent extremism", killing 10 people and wounding three others before surrendering to police on Saturday afternoon, authorities said. Police officials said the 18-year-old gunman, who is white, was wearing body armor and military-style clothing when he pulled up and opened fire at people at a Tops Friendly Market about 2.30pm, with the shooting streamed via a camera affixed to the man's helmet. Later, he appeared before a judge in a paper medical gown and was arraigned on murder charges. "He exited his vehicle.



He was very heavily armed. He had tactical gear. He had a tactical helmet on. He had a camera that he was livestreaming what he was doing," city police commissioner Joseph Gramaglia said at a news conference afterward. According to the Associated Press, the shooting was broadcast live on the streaming platform Twitch for at least two minutes before the service ended his transmission. Gramaglia said the gunman initially shot four people outside the store, three fatally. Inside the store, a security guard who was a retired Buffalo police officer fired multiple shots at the gunman and struck him, but the bullet hit the gunman's bulletproof vest and had no effect, Gramaglia added. The commissioner said the gunman then killed the security guard. Buffalo Police told 2 On Your Side that in all, 13 people were shot.

Scottish support for monarchy falls to 45%, poll reveals

London, May 15 : Fewer than half of people in Scotland say they support retaining the monarchy, according to a major new poll that reveals the cultural divides emerging within the union. Almost six in 10 people across Britain want to retain the monarchy for the foreseeable future, with only a quarter saying that the end of the Queen's reign would be an appropriate time for Britain to become a republic. The overwhelming majority, some 85%, expect that Britain will still have a monarchy in a decade's time. However the poll, by the British Future thinktank, found that only 45% in Scotland said they wanted to retain the monarchy - with 36% saying the end of the Queen's reign would be the right moment to move to a republic. Some 19% either rejected the choice, or said they didn't know. It also revealed weaker support among young people and ethnic minorities across Britain. Only 40% of 18 to 24-year-olds backed keeping the monarchy, while 37% of



People march to the burial place during the funeral of Ivica Osim in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

New Delhi, May 15 : The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Party President and Member of Parliament Srinagar Dr. Farooq Abdullah on Saturday (May 14, 2022) said that spike in killings disprove the central government's normalcy claims in Kashmir. Dr. Farooq made this claim while interacting with a delegation of Kashmiri Pandits led by the party Minority Wing Vice President Amit Koul. The visiting delegations

discussed number of issues concerning Kashmiri Pandits such as those Kashmiri Pandits who took up government jobs as the first step toward rehabilitation were now struggling for timely payment of earned wages, promotions, and a decent quality of life. They also stated that despite the political rhetoric by the incumbent government, nothing has been done to make them feel safe and secure across Kashmir. In addition, they have no



respite from cramped living quarters, and discriminatory service rules. Interacting with the delegation members, Dr. Farooq assured them that he will take up the issues with the Lieutenant Governor and

Wheat export ban: India will fulfil all its commitments, Union Min Hardeep Puri

New Delhi, May 15 : Addressing the discomfort expressed by G-7 nations

about its recent 'Wheat Exports ban', Union Minister Hardeep Puri said India will fulfil all its commitment to vulnerable countries and won't abandon the neighbours who depend on India for their food supplies. In a Twitter post on Saturday, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said the country's wheat stocks are at a "comfortable" level and will be used to fulfil all the prior export demands as well as the domestic need. "Wheat stocks are comfortable. The decision to restrict wheat exports was taken with a focus on India's food security, ensuring affordable foodgrains & combat market speculation. India, a reliable supplier will fulfil all commitments including needs of neighbours & vulnerable countries," wrote



Puri on Twitter. Wheat stocks are comfortable. Decision to restrict wheat exports taken with focus on India's food security, ensuring affordable foodgrains & to combat market speculation. India, a reliable supplier will fulfil all commitments including needs of neighbours & vulnerable countries. The remark came just hours after the Centre declared that it had halted the export of wheat to check the rising domestic

prices and demand in India. Soon after the announcement, Group of Seven (G7) industrialised nations' agriculture ministers meeting in Germany said India's move to restrict wheat exports "would worsen the crisis" of rising commodity prices. The reason for the ban on wheat exports is to ensure food security of our citizens and ensure adequate food supply to the public distribution system and also ensure that we are able to direct food supplies to vulnerable food-deficit countries, said government secretaries of three departments of Food and public distribution Sudhanshu Pandey, Commerce Secretary BVR Subrahmanian and Agriculture Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

Government of India as well. Reaffirming the party's stand on the return of KPs to Kashmir, he said, "Our stand is clear as crystal. Kashmiri pandits, for that matter Sikhs and other minorities are part of our socio-cultural milieu. Every attack on our Pandit brothers is an out and out attack on the very soul of Kashmir. I'm looking for times when both Kashmiri Muslim and Kashmiri Pandits live side by side." Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Vice President Omar Abdullah on Saturday, also questioned the incumbent government on its normalcy claims saying that the situation on ground has vindicated his party's stand on August 5, 2019, decisions. Omar said "It was said that Article 370 was an obstruction towards achieving peace. But now when the hindrance in the form of Article 370 has been

removed, where is that promised peace? I just came from Srinagar today. People are being killed in their homes. Yesterday only a policeman was killed inside his house. A Kashmiri Pandit was also mercilessly killed as well. He was shot dead inside his office. Does this qualify as normalcy? Where is the sense of security?" he said. "It was told that the August 5, 2019 decisions will end separatism in Kashmir. But has it? There are still people who want to walk the wrong path and pick up weapons. It was said that regional PAGD parties are a major hurdle in the development of J&K. Where is that development now?" Omar further said. Omar said this while addressing a public gathering at Poonch on Saturday (May 14). He commenced his week-long Pir Panjal tour from on the same day.

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Society for Srimanta Sankaradeva calls for rejuvenation of Namghars



The Assam Rising, Guwahati, 15 May: The annual general meeting of Society for Srimanta Sankaradeva (SSS) was held today at Nagaon. It was attended by the members of

the Society coming from different parts of the state. Dr. Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti, President of SSS conducted the meeting. Mridu Moucham Bora, secretary of SSS pre-

sented annual reports and accounts, which were accepted. The AGM elected a new committee for the period 2022-2025. Dr. Sanjib Kumar Borkakoti and Mridu Moucham Bora were re-

elected as President and Secretary. Dr. Mallika Kandali, Dr. Madhuchanda Chaliha Bhuyan and Amitabh Bora were elected Vice President, while Pradip Hazarika was elected co-ordinator cum treasurer and Indranil Gayan was elected assistant treasurer. Dr. Buljit Buragohain and Nilamani Bora were made media in-charge of the society. Prominent businessman Joon Rajkhowa also attended the meeting. In a resolution, the society lamented the mal-administration of the Namghars in the urban areas and called for their rejuvenation.

The Namghariyas of the urban area Namghars need to be more active in generating interest of the people in Sankari culture. The committee decided to organise a workshop in July on the use of Brajawali as it is very important for Sankari culture. It also decided to set up a weaving unit in its Aharya production centre. It may be mentioned that the society has trained many youths in Aharya production and also running its own production unit.

Construction agencies engaged in work of four lanes road at Nagaon are yet to pay several lakhs of taxes to government: DTO, Nagaon

The Assam Rising NAGAON, May 15: The state government has fixed target revenue of Rs 58 crores to DTO, Nagaon for the session 2022-23. However, the department concerned collected transport revenue of Rs 46.85 crores from the district in the last fiscal year. Sources claimed that during the last fiscal year, several leading construction agencies that being engaged in construction work of ongoing NH four lanes road across the district, did not pay their outstanding taxes to the department concerned for which the department concerned had to seize over a half dozen of their vehicles. The construction agencies being engaged in construction of four lanes road on NH 37 across the district like Sintex construction company and T K Engineering had to pay taxes of several lakhs of rupees to the district transport department for the fiscal year 2021-22 and the construction agencies did not heed to pay the amounts for reasons unknown, sources from the department concerned added. While speaking to this correspondent here, the new DTO, Nagaon Sunit Bora said that not only those two construction agencies, but some others also had not yet paid several lakhs of rupees of their respective outstanding taxes during the last fiscal year. Hence, having no options, the department concerned finally decides to go for further legal action against those defaulters soon, DTO Bora reiterated.

Over 39 villages under Kampur and Raha circles submerged in Nagaon district by flood water

The Assam Rising, NAGAON, May 15: Due to incessant rains during last couple of days as well as the release of excessive water from the dams of Karbi Langpi hydro electric power project in west Karbi Anglong by its authority concerned, the Kapili river is flowing one meter above the danger level for over last 48 hours and the overflowing water of the river submerged over 39 villages under Kampur and Raha revenue circles in the district since Saturday last. Besides, the flood water of Kapili river inundated 2391 hectares of crops land and also submerged the Kampur -

Jamunamukh PWD road at various places for which the transportation throughout the road have been disrupted till filing of this report. Besides two houses were ravaged in greater Kampur area and over 1400 domestic animals were affected by the first shower of the flood water, resource added. As per an official release issued by district disaster management authority, the overflowing water inundated 18 villages under Kampur revenue circle like Raja Ali Gaon, Rangolu basti, Juripar, Langjap, Ujanmari, Daparaogaon, Shalibukgaon, Alitangani

gaon, Chiropothar, Kumbhirdubi, Kapilikangaon etc while other 21 villages under Raha revenue circle like Bajabatomari, Balijuri, Banduraati, Barubari, Barunguri, Bandura Duba, Chiuguri, Deblong ati, Dabolu Beel, Dalimguri gaon etc have been submerged by the overflowing water of Kapili river. It is however expected that more areas under those two revenue circles may have submerged by flood water in coming next few hours. Significantly, no lives has been claimed by the first wave of flood in the district till filing of this report.

GRA Annual General Meeting held in Guwahati

Guwahati, 15 May: The 5th Annual General Meeting of the Guwahati Realtors Association (GRA) was held today. The meeting was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by President Sanjay Agarwal, Secretary Sachin Agarwal, Vice President Vikash Goenka, Treasurer Pabitra Kumar Deka and Convenor Gaurav Agarwal. Thereafter Ganesh Vandana was performed. Welcoming all the members present, GRA President Sanjay Agarwal said that due to the Corona period, the offline meeting of GRA could not be organized for the last two years. But today the situation is back to normal. In such a situation, everyone will have to work unitedly to take GRA to a new height. He expressed his gratitude to the members while giving information about the work being done by the GRA during the Corona period. Thereafter, Secretary Sachin Agarwal laid a brief information about the work done by the organization during the year 2021-22 before the meeting. At the same time, Treasurer Pabitra Deka kept an account of the income and expenditure in the year 2021-22,

which was passed unanimously. In this general meeting, GRA founder president Mahesh Mittal, founder secretary Sanjay Agarwal, IPP President Shailesh Baheti, outgoing secretary Vikash Goenka, CSR Chairman Gaurav Aggarwal, former Joint Secretary Sachin Agarwal and wives of the members of the GRA were also felicitated. On this occasion, the members of GRA also gave their important suggestions, so that the organization can be taken to new heights. Along with this, the members also apprised the office bearers about the various problems faced during the



work. President Mr. Agrawal assured all the members that the organization will pay at-

tention to the suggestions of its members and will make every effort to solve them. In

the end the vote of thanks was given by Vice President Vikas Goenka.

Lack of markets for retailers in Margherita.



as they sit near railway track to sell their products where daily trains such as Intercity, Demo and other Express move from led to Tinsukia between Margherita town. Arun Rastogi President of Bajrang Dal, Margherita Unit said that after 75 years of our Country's Independence no Government has able to built a Permanent market shed at Margherita town which is very unfortunate where regularly 1000 of petty traders and Hawkers by taking risk sell their products near railway track where any moment inci-

dent can occurred if train gets derailed. Saheb Dayal Verma a small shopkeeper of Margherita said that Margherita Bazaar which falls under Ward Number 5 of Margherita Municipal Board no development work took place as two times Congress and two times BJP have ruled Margherita Municipal board. At Margherita Bazaar there is no proper urine, poor drainage system, encroachment of roads by shopkeepers, poor parking facilities etc which several times we have written to Margherita Administration (Civil), Margherita Municipal board and Margherita MLA but all in vain as only during Election period shopkeepers and petty traders are remembered only said Saheb Dayal Verma. Arun Rastogi said that



Felicitated Dr. Pankaj Pradhan at Jagun

The Assam Rising, Margherita 15 May: Several organisations jointly felicitated Dr. Pankaj Pradhan at Gyandeepp English School on 15th May. Youth Social activist Robin Keot Presided over the meeting. Secretary of Purvoday Sahitya Pariwar Jagun Khilanath ShSamitixplain the purpose of the meeting. Mr. Robin Keot lighted the lamp before started the meeting. Chairman of the Purvoday Sahitya Pariwar Jagun Mr. Dev Karan Rai felicitated with a Pholam

Gamosa and a Gorkha cape to Pankaj Pradhan who was recently awarded Doctorate degree by Theophany University Haiti in New Delhi 8th May of this month. A Citation letter also provided to Pankaj Pradhan by PSP Jagun. Dr. N.K. Tiwari from All Assam Bhojpuri Parishad on behalf of Jagun regional Committee felicitated to Pankaj Pradhan with a Assamese Gamosa. President of Nepali Sahitya Vikash Samiti Tirap Mr. Mukesh Regmi also felicitated to Pankaj

Pradhan. All world Gayatri Pariwar Shantikunj Haridwar representative and member of Jagun Gayatri pariwar Mr. G.S. Tyagi felicitated to Pradhan with a Mantra Chadar. Santra Mukti Sangram Samiti Tirap regional Committee working President Dharmaraj Sharma felicitated to Pradhan Asom Nepali Sahitya Sabha Bishnupur branch Committee president D.K. Rai, Jagun Public Higher Secondary School assistant teacher Mr. Loknath Sharma also felicitated to Pankaj Pradhan.

No Vehicle Day at LCC

The Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 15: In a bid to contribute towards minimising carbon emissions inside the campus, Lakhimpur Commerce College (LCC), North Lakhimpur observed No Vehicle Day on Saturday. The day to stop bringing any vehicles to the college by the students, teachers and non-teaching staff was being called by the transport cell of the college. In response to the call, all the students, teachers and office staff of the college stayed away from bringing any engine or motorized vehicles to the college. An awareness briefing for the students were made on that day at the college where Principal of LCC Dr. Lohit Hazarika asked the students and teachers to be



climate resilient and said that little steps of not releasing carbon to the atmosphere can bring difference to the current situation of pollution and toxic air. Dr. Hazarika further said that No Vehicle Day would be observed

on every second Saturday of the month to contribute towards minimising carbon footprints. The coordinator of the transport cell of the college, Prof. Achyut Kumar Gogoi expressed his gratitude to all for responding to the call for No Vehicle Day.

Revolt in BKU on Mahendra Singh Tikait's death anniversary

New Delhi, May 15: Rajesh Chauhan told reporters that the Tikait brothers were trying to politicise the organisation which was unacceptable to farmers. "We are an apolitical organisation and will remain so," said Chauhan. Rakesh Tikait

could not be contacted for his comment. The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) has split with a breakaway group, claiming to be the 'real' organisation, appointing the sitting vice-president Rajesh Chauhan as the new chief. The group also said that it has removed Naresh Tikait from the president's post and so has BKU spokesman Rakesh Tikait. The development took place on the death anniversary of BKU founder Mahendra Singh Tikait in Lucknow. Rajesh Chauhan told reporters that the Tikait brothers were trying to politicise the organisation which was unacceptable to farmers. "We are an apolitical organisation and will remain so," said Chauhan. "Rakesh Tikait

and Naresh Tikait will be the leaders of the Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) but we have decided to form a separate union that will be 'Bharatiya Kisan Union Non-political'," Rajesh Singh Chauhan was quoted. "For the last eight to nine months, we had a difference of opinion, due to which we explained to them many times and our ideological difference was the reason for this," Rajesh Singh Chauhan said. "We wanted to go without any platform which is political and work in the interest of the farmer. We changed our path and will expand this organization from state to country level, after a few days we will hold a press conference in Delhi," he added. No comments were available from Rakesh Tikait.



Tezpur- 175 years celebration of The Church of the Epiphany

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THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 88 MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022

Road accidents in India

Every year, the lives of 1.3 million people are cut short due to road accidents. In India itself, around 150,000 people lose their lives on roads every year. While India accounts for about 1 percent of motor vehicles globally, it records more than 11 percent of road traffic deaths. In the past few years, countries like Sweden, Australia and the United Kingdom have improved their road safety outcomes through effective central legislation. India too enacted the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act, 2019. It was the result of a five-year effort to improve national legislation on road safety. The enactment of the new legislation is a positive step; however, even after two years, the situation on the ground has not improved much. While implementation of the Motor Vehicles Amendment Act 2019 needs to be done on a priority basis, this article highlights three additional steps to be undertaken to improve road safety in our country. India is a signatory to the second global high level Conference on Road Safety held in Brazil in 2015, referred to popularly as the Brasilia declaration, which, inter-alia, resolved to halve the deaths and injuries from accidents by 2020 and to include this target in the 2030 agenda for sustainable development by the participating countries. Road accidents continue to be a leading cause of death, disabilities and hospitalization in the country despite our commitment and efforts. India ranks first in the number of road accident deaths across the 199 countries and accounts for almost 11% of the accident related deaths in the World. A total number of 449,002 accidents took place in the country during the calendar year 2019 leading to 151,113 deaths and 451,361 injuries. In percentage terms, the number of accidents decreased by 3.86 % in 2019 over that of the previous year, while the accident related deaths decreased by 0.20 % and the persons injured decreased by 3.86.

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Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

Farewell to the iPod, the device that ushered in too much choice

There are a couple of old iPods in my desk drawer still, tangled up with cables that will definitely come in useful one day. One is a Shuffle that I clipped to my T-shirt during a brief attempt to have a jogging phase. The other is a scuffed, black, fifth-generation iPod. If I charge it for hours, it plays for a few songs before the screen dissolves and if you press the wheel in a way it doesn't like, the screen freezes completely. It is a frozen object in other ways, too, capturing life at a certain time, in playlists called things such as

Dip It Low!! and Happy Birthday Matt 7. Last week, after just over 20 years, it was announced that the iPod was going to be discontinued; when the last remaining iPod Touches have sold out, there will be no more. "[It] redefined how music is discovered, listened to and shared," said Greg Joswiak, Apple's senior vice-president of worldwide marketing, wheeled out for the quote to accompany the announcement. Given the sorry state of the music industry for anyone not at the very top of it, I'm not sure that is something to be proud of entirely, but of course it redefined music. As the iPod's capacity grew, from 5GB to 160GB, it put vast choice in our pockets and made it portable. You could settle on almost any of the iPod's

innovations and see it as a turning point in how music became something we talked about consuming rather than listening to, but I keep thinking about that element of choice. It is a luxurious position to be in, I know, but two decades later I often feel stifled by choice, not just when it comes to music but with all entertainment. It is easy to throw away time on choosing which TV series to watch on a streaming service, for example, and more often than I would like to admit, I will scroll, fidgety at the possibilities, before not

Rebecca Nicholson

choosing anything at all and going to bed with a book. It's the same with podcasts, with films and, of course, with music. How can anyone settle when there is so much to choose from, all the time? Choosing has become a pointless activity in its own right. As is often the way with the death of a device, there has been a wave of nostalgia for the iPod, just as people fondly thought of the passing of the BlackBerry and its tiny, intricate keyboard from the perspective of an era in which we idly tap a screen twice to send a lengthy voice note. I felt it too. I am nostalgic for what might have been the perfect balance of choice: just enough for the possibilities to seem endless, without them actually being so. The dust has settled on the

With sedition, SC has dipped its toes in the civil liberties pool. Now we wait for the dive



What is common between Bhagat Singh, Shashi Tharoor and Umar Khalid? All three men have been slapped with sedition at some point in their life. And that's how the sedition law, under Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code, has survived in this country since 1890. All successive governments, as did the colonial regime, have found a use for the law, which makes it a crime for anybody to bring or attempt to bring "hatred or contempt" or "disaffection" towards the government. It can be by spoken or written words, or signs or visible representation. The law also managed to survive constitutional challenge, with the Supreme Court upholding it in 1962 in the Kedarnath judgment. However, 60 years after that verdict, the Supreme Court, within 10 days, saw Attorney General K.K. Venugopal - in his "personal capacity" - being in favour of drawing guidelines to stop misuse of the law, the Centre defending the colonial law but taking a U-turn two days later to submit that it wants to review the provision, and a three-judge bench virtually suspending the law on sedition 132 years after it was first introduced and 12 years after its parent country, United Kingdom, scrapped it. And that is why, sedition is ThePrint's Newsmaker of the Week. Sedition was brought to the Supreme Court's doorstep by several petitions last year, alleging that the Kedarnath judgment was no longer a good legal principle. The matter was listed for the first time on 15 July 2021, when the court issued a notice to the Centre seeking its response. The matters

were taken up again in April this year, even though the Centre hadn't filed its response to the petitions. When the petitions came up again on 5 May, the Centre, through Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, demanded more time. But this time, Attorney General Venugopal differed from the stand of the central government and said that while the law was constitutional, it would be necessary to lay down guidelines to prevent its misuse. Mehta, on the other hand, orally argued that the law was fine as it is. In written submissions filed on 7 May, the Centre again defended the law. But just two days later, on 9 May, it took a U-turn. It filed an affidavit, saying that the Prime Minister has "expressed his clear and unequivocal views in favour of protection of civil liberties, respect for human rights and giving meaning to the constitutionally cherished freedoms by the people of the country". It went on to say that at a time when the nation is marking 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (75 years of independence), the PM believes that we need to "shed colonial baggage". The Centre told the court that since it was re-examining and reconsidering the sedition law, the court should wait and not "invest time" in

examining its validity. In response, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed all pending trials, appeals and proceedings that involve a sedition charge. As for new cases, the order says that the judges "hope and expect that the State and Central Government will refrain from registering any FIR, continuing any investigation or taking any coercive measures" under the law. In such cases, affected parties can approach the courts for "appropriate relief" and "the courts are requested to examine the reliefs sought, taking into account the

Apoorva Mandhani

present order passed as well as the clear stand taken by the Union of India". Finding legal faults with the Supreme Court order could be a drinking game and if you drank a shot for every loophole, it would leave you at least a little tipsy. For instance, it is clear that the order does not function as an absolute stay, because it says that if a fresh case is registered, the accused would have the option of approaching courts. This means that for fresh cases and for pending ones, those with access to lawyers will be able to enjoy the benefits of this stay, while those without the means might not be able to. It is also unclear whether a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court could have passed such an order, when the constitutional validity of the provision had been upheld by a five-judge

bench in 1962. The fact that Section 124A officially stays in the statute books could also prove to be a problem. Take the case of Section 66A of the Indian Penal Code, which was struck down by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional in the celebrated Shreya Singhal judgment in 2015. But the police across the country continued filing FIRs under the provision because it stayed in the statute books. Neither was an amendment brought in to remove it from the books, nor was the local police adequately trained and informed. Consequently, the Supreme Court had to step in and demand a response from the Centre, six years after Shreya Singhal, in 2021, saying that it was "distressing," "shocking" and "terrible" that people are still booked and tried under the scrapped provision. So, the hope and expectation really is that the message from the Supreme Court will percolate down to the courts and the authorities, and that they would abide by it. Additionally, with sedition being stayed at least till the next date of hearing in July, laws like Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), National Security Act (NSA), and the Public Safety Act (PSA) still remain in the hands of the authorities to continue the sort of clampdown on free speech that the sedition law allows. In fact, the language used in Section 124A is similar to that used in the UAPA 1967, when it defines "unlawful activities". In Wednesday's order, the Supreme Court saw the Centre's stand as an affirmation of its own prima facie view that "the rigors of Section 124A of IPC is not in tune with the current social milieu, and was intended for a time when this

country was under the colonial regime". It said that it is "cognizant of security interests and integrity of the State on one hand, and the civil liberties of citizens on the other", and wants to find a way to balance the two sets of considerations. Therefore, with this order, the Supreme Court has once again begun to dip its toes in the civil liberties pool, at a time when there's an ocean of challenges pending before it, including the petitions challenging the constitutional validity of certain provisions of the UAPA. It is also much tougher to get bail under laws like UAPA, so until safeguards are laid down to prevent misuse of laws like UAPA, NSA or PSA, sedition's departure might not have too much of an effect on ground. It would also be interesting to see how the Supreme Court deals with these constitutional challenges, because times have changed to not just give us a technological revolution (and more platforms to air our views on), but also to give us a Constitution which has since transformed and evolved in many ways. For instance, the sedition law was upheld in 1962. Since then, the Supreme Court has ruled that the procedure to be used to deprive a person of their life or personal liberty has to be fair, just and reasonable, and not fanciful, oppressive or arbitrary. In the years that have followed, it has recognised the right to a free and fair trial, and speedy trial, commented on the value of human dignity, ruled against undue harassment by state forces, struck down Section 66A of the IT Act on the ground that it uses vague expressions, settled the law on right to privacy, decriminalised adultery, and read down Section 377 of the IPC that criminalised homosexuality.

India shakes the Foreign Hand-Nehru to Modi, PMs have deepened ties with Western spies

The entire village is in the pub, drunk," an irate East German Communist party official reported to Berlin. In the summer of 1953, a tidal wave of worker protests erupted across the new socialist republic, tens of thousands of citizens storming government offices, freeing political prisoners from jails, and beating up party functionaries. Finally, tanks were ordered in to confront protesters in East Berlin; elsewhere, soldiers opened fire on unarmed crowds. Many were killed, and thousands imprisoned. In a secret report, the General Staff of the Soviet army reported that "the provocation was prepared in advance, organised, and directed from Western sectors of Berlin." Few believed them—even inside the top Soviet leadership. Last week, though, declassified documents emerged showing that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had funded anti-Soviet activists from at least 1949. The Fighting League Against Inhumanity, one of the key actors in the 1953 German rebellion, was "subsidised and guided by the CIA since its inception," one document reveals. Even the highly-respected International Commission of Jurists traces its origins to the International Committee of Free Jurists in Berlin, which its financiers at the CIA knew as Project CADROIT. To those schooled in the CIA's sordid history, the idea of a malign power plotting regime change will be no surprise. Foreign Hands, politicians have long warned, are ceaseless in the efforts to mutate the motherland. There's a part of the story, though, that's less well-known: Even as Indian governments have warned of the peril from the Foreign Hand, they've been warmly shaking hands with it for a while now. Earlier this week, India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) fired fresh shots in the long-running government campaign against foreign aid donors—this time, naming the



Praveen Swami

Omidyar Foundation, which has provided funding to institutions like Ashoka University and the Centre for Policy Research. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has earlier claimed that foreign-funded NGOs have been hatching conspiracies against him. Foreign-funded campaigns, the Intelligence Bureau claimed in 2014, were knocking up to 3 per cent off India's GDP. True or otherwise, Indian prime ministers have shown rare agreement on the Foreign Hand. As early as 1955, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru accused the United States of "buying up newspapers and spreading a network of publicity organisations." Then, Indira Gandhi as PM assailed foreign powers plotting to "run down India." CIA agents, American intelligence officer Russel Jack Smith wrote, "were to be found according to Madame Gandhi, beneath every charpoy and behind every neem tree." Even Manmohan Singh, arguably the most globalist of Indian

leaders, had suspicions about the funding of NGO campaigns against the Kudankulam nuclear reactor. Left in "a tragic-comic state of helplessness" by the large-scale removal of personnel and sensitive information by their former colonial masters, India's intelligence services consisted at independence of "the office furniture, empty racks and cupboards, and a few innocuous ?les dealing with office routine." The Security Service, popularly known as MI5, soon began providing assistance. India became debilitatedly reliant on this relationship, Avinash Paliwal has recorded. "This is satisfactory," an MI5 memo smugly noted. In the summer of 1949, TG Sanjeevi, the first head of the Intelligence Bureau, travelled to the United States to explore setting up an alternate relationship with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The visit was well-timed: India was battling an insurgency against communists in Telangana, and the IB hoped to secure counter-intelligence expertise. Yet, the scholar of the India-United States intelligence

relationship Paul McGarr has recorded, the meeting was an unmitigated disaster. Irked by the notoriously-racist-FBI director Edgar J. Hoover, Sanjeevi let it be known he would oppose any relationship with the organisation. Even though an FBI-IB relationship did not flourish, the CIA stepped in. BN Mullik, Sanjeevi's successor, chose to turn a blind eye as the CIA ran secret flights supplying nationalist insurgents in Tibet. Exactly how much Nehru knew or wanted to know about this relationship remains unclear. According to scholar Christopher Andrews, Mullik kept much of the liaison with MI5 and the CIA out of Nehru's view, fearing the prime minister would shut it down. Historian John Garver has noted that "whatever the actual extent of Indian complicity with US covert operations, Beijing believed that Nehru knew of and cooperated with CIA efforts"—in part laying the foundations for the war of 1962. Following the 1962 war, though, the relationship came into plain sight—or its equivalent, in the dark world of spies.

SpiceJet and Axis Bank launch co-branded credit card

Delhi, May 15 : SpiceJet, the country's favourite airline and Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, have partnered to launch the most rewarding co-branded credit card, powered by Visa that will offer a host of privileges and benefits to customers. The card comes in two variants - SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black, and is aimed at facilitating a superlative travel experience for flyers through SpiceClub, the first frequent flyer program by a low cost carrier in India. Through this collaboration, the two brands hope to capitalize on the resurgent demand for travel following two years of stagnation caused by the pandemic. Further, with the shared goal of expanding their reach to Tier 2 & 3 cities and other synergies, the brands are committed to serving a much larger populace. SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage & Voyage Black credit cards were officially launched at Indira Gandhi International airport in the presence of Ajay Singh, Chairman and MD, SpiceJet and Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO, Axis Bank, where they unveiled a special SpiceJet-Axis Bank credit card livery on a SpiceJet Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The products are designed to enable customers use the rewards earned on their daily spends for booking flights and add-ons, thus encouraging both



travel and digital payments embedded with benefits of SpiceJet's frequent flyer program, Spice Club. Customers can earn benefits up to 7% on the Voyage Black credit card which is a Top-tier offering in the travel credit card segment. In addition, the redemption of earned points does not have any limitations on blackout dates, festival demand, and are on first-come basis. Cardholders would get exclusive SpiceClub membership with direct entry in either Silver or Gold tiers, and special benefits like complimentary or discounted travel add-ons, priority check-in, SpiceMax upgrade, preferred seat selection, complimentary meal etc. Ajay Singh, Chairman and Managing Director, SpiceJet, said, "I am delighted to announce the

launch of the SpiceJet-Axis Bank co-branded Credit Card. This card will make every customer journey an even more rewarding one. We are the pioneers of the frequent flyer program for budget airlines in the country and this partnership with Axis Bank significantly strengthens the value offering of SpiceClub. Our association with Axis Bank - founded on the shared vision to offer unparalleled customer experience - is yet another innovative step towards creating a world class travel experience. I hope to see our customers enjoying the benefits of this rewarding collaboration as much as they love to fly with us." Commenting on the occasion, Amitabh Chaudhry, Managing Director & CEO, Axis Bank said, "We are delighted to partner with

SpiceJet, a brand that shares our vision of expansive reach and unmatched services. As we strive to give our customers a hassle-free payments experience across all touchpoints, this partnership becomes key, especially as we witness travel

opening up again and becoming a leading category. The two teams will work together to bring in the synergies, with best of offers and services, thereby truly making a difference to the customers and their travel experience." Sandeep Ghosh, Group Country Manager, India and South Asia, Visa said, "With air travel across the country coming back to pre-pandemic levels, consumers rely on credit cards that offer the best of on ground and inflight experiences remain a popular choice for air travellers. At Visa, we have helped power the SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage credit card to cater exclusively to the needs and indulgences of the discerning Indian air traveller. We are confident of the card setting a new benchmark for air travellers in the country."

Newly launched OnePlus Mobile Price



Bangalore, May 15 : OnePlus is looking to strengthen its position in the Indian market and is planning to launch an array of devices, to join the current line of the OnePlus 10 lineup in India. These included the budget-oriented OnePlus Nord CE 2 Lite 5G, OnePlus 10R 5G, and the much anticipated OnePlus Nord Buds launched at 7:00 PM, on the 28th of April. The specifications of the devices have been known for quite some time, given that these phones, or rather, some versions of these phones have already been launched in international markets. It was the pricing that had people making all sorts of speculations. The OnePlus 10R 5G will be available in two variants. The base variant will be available with 8GB RAM + 128GB storage and comes with a 5,000 mAh battery, with support for 80W fast charging. This variant will

cost customers Rs 38,999. The device will be available in two colours, black and green. The second variant will be available with 12GB RAM + 256GB storage, will support 150W superfast charging, and will be priced at Rs 42,999. The Sierra Black version, which is only available in the 12GB RAM + 256GB variant, will cost Rs 43,999. The OnePlus 10R 5G will be equipped with a 6.7-inch FullHD+ AMOLED display with a refresh rate of 120Hz. It is expected to be shipped with an octa-core Media Tek Dimensity 8100 Max

processor. All of this will be powered by a 4500 mAh battery, which will support 80W or 150W SuperVOOC charging. As for the camera setup, the OnePlus 10R 5G will have a primary camera with 50MP, an 8MP ultrawide shooter, and a 2MP macro sensor. For the front-facing camera, users will be getting a 16MP shooter. The OnePlus Nord CE 2 Lite 5G will also be available in two variants. The base variant will be available with 6GB RAM + 128GB storage and will support 33W fast charging. This variant will cost customers Rs 19,999.

Pharma companies are now busy adding capacities

Mumbai, May 15 : Over the past two years, as the world was grappling with the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic, BDR Pharmaceuticals, a leading generic pharma company based in Mumbai, was churning out drugs for treating it. It worked on active pharma ingredients (APIs) and formulations for favipiravir and amphotericin B, and manufactured remdesivir for a large pharma company. "Covid has been a gamechanger for several companies like ours. Our Covid-specific drugs and peripheral compositions did extremely well," says Dharmesh Shah, CMD of BDR Pharmaceuticals. The company booked 65% and 50% growth in the pandemic years of 2020-21 and 2021-22 respectively. A huge chunk of this came from its Covid-19 portfolio but BDR was not just making Covid drugs. It quietly launched nearly a dozen drug molecules to treat critical ailments such as cancer. It has also started work on a range of fifth-generation antibiotics that it says could come handy for doctors treating



patients with severe and resistant infections. The pandemic paved the way for BDR to, as Shah says, "follow the disease pattern in India" since the company now had enough surpluses to expand its product profile. "This is a good time to do incremental research and find cures for diseases that affect our people. Pharma companies should research affordable therapies for our people which can then be exported to the world. That is the best way to stay in the market - and India is a large market," he says. Shah's confidence in the Indian pharma sector stems from

the enormous successes several companies have had over the past two years. "While the Covid segment has plateaued now, we are seeing a massive push in our cardiac, urological, lifestyle diseases and dermatology portfolios," he says. Covid-19's impact on the pharma sector has been unlike anything else of late. It was chaotic in the beginning of the pandemic, but most firms found their feet in a few months. Large multidivisional pharma companies began benefitting immensely from their new

Covid portfolios although they lost out heavily on non-Covid segments as people stopped visiting hospitals and elective surgeries got postponed in the middle of an infection wave. Mid-sized, branded generic drug manufacturers like BDR flourished as sales of Covid peripherals such as anticoagulants, antipyretics, antihistamines, painkillers and multivitamin tablets went

through the roof. Companies that were narrowly positioned, in terms of product profile, had to wait a little longer - till the second wave of Covid subsided and people started visiting hospitals. Now, as Covid cases have dropped, and the fear of getting out for a hospital visit has subsided, most pharma companies see a thrust in their non-Covid portfolios. Kirti Ganorkar, CEO (India Business), Sun Pharmaceutical NSE 3.82%, said in an investors' conference call recently: "We have witnessed growth across most of our therapies. This was driven by a combination of factors such as improved demand for non-Covid treatment, which led to higher growth in the chronic and semi-chronic segments, better patient flow to doctor clinics and increased healthcare awareness." Growth is there for everyone

KVIC clocks record Rs 1.15 lakh crore turnover



Delhi, May 15 : Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has clocked a record turnover of Rs 1.15 lakh crore for the year ended March 2022, making it the only fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) company in the country to reach Rs 1 lakh-crore turnover. KVIC's turnover for 2021-22 grew 20.54% year on year at Rs 1,15,415.22 crore against Rs

95,741.74 crore in 2020-21. As per the state-owned entity's data, overall production in khadi and village industry sectors registered a growth of 172% between 2014-15 and FY22, while gross sales during this period increased by over 248%. KVIC chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena said PM Narendra Modi's constant support and appeals to go 'swadeshi' were critical to this growth story. "Hon'ble PM's repeated appeals to achieve self-reliance by promoting 'swadeshi' and particularly 'khadi' has done wonders," Saxena

said. "Today, khadi stands far ahead of all FMCG companies in the country. By employing new scientific methods and diversifying khadi's product range, KVIC has succeeded in achieving such massive growth which no other FMCG company can match." In FY22, the khadi sector recorded 43% growth at Rs 5,052 crore against Rs 3,528 crore in 2020-21. The village industries sector grew 20% to reach Rs 1,10,364 crore in 2021-22 from Rs 92,214 crore the previous year. A range of innovative ideas, schemes and scientific methodology have helped diversify the product range and generate market interest, Saxena said.

Tata Motors goes big bang with Rs 32,000-crore capex plan

Delhi, May 15 : Tata Motors has increased its capital expenditure by 30% or Rs 9000 crore or 900 million pounds in FY-23 hoping to extend a strong recovery path after the pandemic and buoyed by hopes of the supply chain scenario improving. Tata Motors will be making its highest ever domestic investment of Rs 6000 crore in the current financial year to fund expansion of portfolio of capacity across all its businesses - commercial vehicle, passenger vehicles and electric vehicles under both businesses. Whereas Jaguar Land Rover will be investing about 2.6 billion pounds or Rs 26000 crore. Compared to FY-22's capex of Rs 23000 crore, Tata Motors will be spending about Rs 32000 crore at a consolidated level in FY-23. The company will use this money to accelerate its shift towards EVs across all businesses right from



Jaguar Land Rover, the truck and bus and car businesses and in debottlenecking capacity and supply chain to deliver more cars. From a demand perspective, the company is sitting on a record booking of over 2.5 lakh units or Rs 1.1 lakh

crore of business, which needs to be delivered in the coming 6-9 months. Jaguar Land Rover is sitting on its highest ever booking at 1.68 lakh units, whereas the passenger vehicle business is at little over 75000 units to 1 lakh. Speaking to media

after Q4 earnings were announced, P B Balaji, Group CFO, Tata Motors, said "The businesses will be well funded to transition to the EV roadmap. We will be investing Rs 5500 to 6000 crore for the domestic business and it will be

used across CV, PV and EV businesses." The management said that it was making all possible effort to advance EV product launches at JLR too. "Jaguar goes all electric by 2025. 2024 onwards - there will be half a dozen Land Rover BEV. From a management perspective, we will try to bring forward the launches, if we are able to bring a breakthrough," he added. On improved capacity for passenger vehicle business, Balaji added, "Our focus on debottlenecking continues. We will take it closer to 50000 units per month, we will continue to look at options (including buyout) to meet future demand." The company's confidence can be gauged from the fact it guided for 1 billion pounds cash flows for the current fiscal year both for JLR and domestic operation despite it raised capital expenditure spending. JLR had guided

for capital expenditure of 2.5 billion pounds for FY22, however curbed it by 500 million pounds amidst a drop in volume due to chip shortage. The capital expenditure as percentage of revenue of the JLR was 11% in FY22. It has a long-term average of capex to revenue percentage of 14.5%. This is getting revived. In the last ten years JLR has cumulatively spent 30 billion pounds on capital expenditure. JLR's full year revenue dropped to 18.32 billion pounds in FY22, the lowest in the ten years as volume dropped 15% to 294,000 units. Back home, the PV and CV businesses spent Rs 2202 crore on R&D, besides Rs 1462 crore on capital investment in FY22 taking cumulative investment to Rs 3664 crore for full fiscal. Tata Motors' stock gained 8.6% to Rs 404 a piece on Friday trade on the BSE.

FISME plans collateral-free MSME lending platform



Delhi, May 15 : The platform is being set up by the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) and Eqaro Surety Pvt Ltd, a provider of financial guarantees. Aimed at fulfilling the need for urgent funds, a digital lending platform is being created to provide access to collateral-free capital up to Rs 25 lakh to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The platform is being set up by the Federation of Indian Micro and Small & Medium Enterprises (FISME) and Eqaro Surety Pvt Ltd, a provider of financial guarantees. A memorandum of understanding in this regard was signed by Prashant Patel, president of FISME, and Vikash Khandelwal, CEO of Eqaro,

in Delhi recently. "Lending has traditionally been collateral based. This unique, first time in India initiative will help MSMEs get easier access to credit backed by a surety guarantee without the need to put up collaterals," Khandelwal said. According to Patel, it is like an overdraft facility, initially pegged at Rs 25 lakh, which could be tapped anytime from anywhere should an MSME need funds. Former Secretary, Department of Financial Services, DK Mittal termed the initiative "path-breaking", adding, "Lack of collateral is the single biggest bottleneck that small entrepreneurs face in accessing institutional funds and obviating the need for asset-based collateral by sureties can revolutionise MSME lending."

Contd. From Page 1

Assam flood's first wave kills three

submerged 1732.72 hectares of cropland in the flood-hit districts. More than 21,000 people have been affected alone in Cachar district. The Army, paramilitary forces, SDRF, Fire and Emergency Services on Saturday had rescued 2,150 people from flood-hit areas of Cachar district. Several roads, bridges, and irrigation canals were damaged in Hojai, Lakhimpur, Nagaon districts.

18th Century Indian Who Fought

testified to a "miracle" after praying to him in 2013. The woman said that her foetus had been declared "medically dead" and that there was no movement. However, she said, she experienced movement "after praying to the martyr". The Vatican accepted this and recognised Devasahayam for sainthood. "This sainthood is an invitation for us to live and lead a life free of discrimination," said Father John Kulandai, who attended the canonisation at the Vatican as a key member of the team in Kanyakumari that worked on this matter. The original invitation from the Vatican had mentioned Devasahayam's former caste "Pillai". However, following protests that adding the caste name defeats the purpose of what Devasahayam stood for, the Vatican removed it. "Saint Devasahayam stood for equality and fought against casteism and communalism. His sainthood comes at a time India is facing a surge in communalism," said retired IAS officer Devasahayam, who had written to the Vatican, seeking removal of Devasahayam's caste name. "This canonisation is a great opportunity for the Church to stand against the prevailing communal poison. The church should have made this a people's movement, but they failed and made it a clergy-centric event," he added.

Mundka fire: Manish Lakra

Sharma had told reporters. The police have already arrested the two men - Harish Goyal and his brother Varun Goyal - and were on the lookout for the owner of the building who allegedly managed to escape the fire with his family from the top-floor flat by climbing onto the roof of an adjacent building. According to police, the Goyal brothers were questioned on the lack of fire safety arrangements in the place, despite nearly 250 employees working in their firm, and storage of inflammable materials in large quantities on the floors. The police said they would seek reports regarding violations pertaining to the building and the businesses running there from the fire department, civic body, trade department and other concerned departments.

'Aag lagegi': Rahul Gandhi targets

Ticket', Gandhi said, "We must ensure the idea that one person per family should get a ticket (to contest elections)." The Congress MP said it is important to "limit the number of family members that are involved in our organization". Further, he lauded the discussions held at the Chintan Shivir and asked which other political party would allow this kind of a deliberation where the top brass is bluntly told about the party's concerns. "Which other political party in this country would allow this type of conversation? Certainly, the BJP, and RSS would never allow such a thing," Gandhi said. "It is critical for the union of the country that the states and the people are allowed to have a conversation. The only alternative to a conversation between the people of India is violence between people of India," he added. Addressing the leaders and workers present at the Shivir in Udaipur, Rahul Gandhi said, "I want to tell all Congress workers and leaders that you don't need to be scared. This country believes in truth. I'm with you for the rest of my life. And I'm going to fight this fight with you."

Historic : India wins its first

mind, who have been training the boys since a long time, that this time the Indian time is in full form and will definitely win. This was the first time ever that India made to the semi finals and subsequently winning the finals was definitely a dream come true moment for the entire Tomas Cup Indian Badminton team and the eager and excited spectators too. India has never won a Tomas Cup Badminton championship ever since the game started. So, indeed, it's been a treat for the badminton fans and proud Indians. This time seasoned and technical sophisticated strokes, fabulous strategy finally led India to a historic win. But unofficially in the world of badminton the Thomas Cup and Uber Cup is believed to be the benchmarks of being a gold standard. Vimal Kumar, who had dreamed of playing in a Thomas Cup final at least once after hearing stories from Prakash Padukone, was among the support personnel. Mohammad Siyadatullah, a friendly coach from Gopichand's academy who has coached Srikanth, Prannoy, and Satwik-Chirag since they were teenagers, was also present for the important singles. Veteran coach Vijaydeep Singh and youngster Arun Vishnu, who has coached the doubles players, were also part of the planning team. Vimal Kumar said, "Right from the beginning, it was made clear to the players that we have a very balanced team and each one, whether in singles or doubles, has beaten the best. Hence we needed to firmly believe that we were at par with any of the best nations that had won the Thomas Cup before." A very good analysis of the strength and weaknesses of the opponent team, good strategies, ample practice and proper guidance has helped the team to win in the end of the day.

NF Railway Announces

has been short terminated at Langting and will remain partially cancelled in between Langting and Badarpur. Train No 15887 Badargur Guwahati Tourist express, commencing journey on 14 May 2022 has been short originated at Langting and will remain partially cancelled in between Badarpur and Langting. Train No. 15615 Guwahati-Silchar express, commencing journey on 13 May, 2022 has been short terminated at New Haflong and will remain partially cancelled in between New Haflong and Silchar. The train will run as passenger special with the stoppage of 15616 Silchar-Guwahati express in open timings. Train No. 13173 Sealdah-Agartala Kanchanjunga express commencing journey on 13 May, 2022 has been short terminated at Maibang and remained partially cancelled between Maibang and Agartala. Train No. 13174 Agartala-Sealdah Kanchanjunga express, commencing journey on 14 May, 2022 has been short terminated at Badaraur, originated at Madang and will remain partially canceled between Badarpur and Maibang. Train No. 12504 Agartala - Bangalore Cant Humsafar express commencing journey on 14 May, 2022 has been short terminated at Badarpur and will remain partially cancelled between Badarpur and Bangalore Cant. Train No. 01665 Rani Kamalapati-Agartala special, commencing journey on 12 May, 2022 has been short terminated at Lumding and will remain partially cancelled between Lumding and Agartara. Train No. 01666 Agartala-Rani Kamalapati special commencing journey on 16 May, 2022 will be short originated at Guwahati and will remain partially cancelled between Agartala and Guwahati. Train No. 14038 New Delhi-Silchar express commencing journey on 12 May 2027 has been short terminated at Lumding and will remain partially cancelled between Lumding and Silchar. Train No 02983 Bangalore Cant-Agartala special commencing journey an 11 May, 2022 has been short terminated at Guwahati and will remain partially cancelled in between Guwahati and Agartala. Train No. 02984 Agartala-Bangalore Cant special commencing journey on 17 May, 2022 will be short originated at Guwahati and will remain partially cancelled in between Agartala and Guwahati. Cancellation of trains: Train No. 15641 Silchar-New Tinsukia express, commencing journey on 14 May, 2022 has been cancelled between Silchar and New Tinsukia. Train No 15642 New Tinsukia-Silchar express commencing journey on 15 May, 2022 will remain canceled between New Tinsukia and Silchar. Train No. 15626 Agartala - Deoghar express, commencing journey on 14 May, 2022 has been cancelled between Agartala and Deoghar. Train No. 15625 Deoghar Agartala express, commencing journey on 16 May, 2022 will remain canceled between Deoghar and Agartala. Tram No 15611 Guwahati - Silchar express, commencing journey on 14 May, 2022 has been cancelled between Guwahati and Silchar. Train No 15615 Guwahati-Silchar express commencing on or 14 May, 2022 he been cancelled between Guwahati and Silchar.

Jorhat-Majuli Ferry Service Shut

incidents in Haflong area in Dima Hasao district on Saturday. Following incessant rains, the water of several rivers are gradually increasing and the water in Kopili river is flowing above the danger level mark. Neighbouring states including Meghalaya, and Arunachal Pradesh also witnessed heavy rains, resulting in massive floods.

Amit Shah to KCR: Will defeat you

Centre will implement welfare schemes," he said. Accusing the TRS government of failing to fulfil the major planks of separate Telangana agitation of "water, funds and jobs", Shah said BJP, if elected to power, would implement them. He also said his party would end minority reservations in the state and provide the benefit to STs, SCs and backward classes. Shah's meeting marked the culmination of state BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar's second phase of 'padayatra' (foot march). Shah advised the state BJP leaders to counter the allegations being made by ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi ministers, and Congress leaders against the saffron party.

Curfew lifted for Buddhist festival in crisis-hit Sri Lanka

Colombo, May 15 : A nationwide curfew was fully lifted on Sunday to allow Sri Lankans to celebrate the Buddhist festival of Vesak, while new Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe assembled a cabinet to resolve the island nation's economic and political crisis. The curfew was imposed on May 9 after deadly clashes that forced Mahinda Rajapaksa to resign as premier, leaving his brother, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, to rule on as president. Many public and private buildings were flying the multi-coloured Buddhist flag, while residents visited temples dressed in all-white for Sunday's festival, which commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and death of the Buddha. More than a month of predominantly peaceful anti-government protests turned violent at the beginning of last week when supporters of the former prime minister stormed a protest camp in Colombo, torching tents and beating protesters. The clashes, and reprisals against government figures, left 9 dead and more than 300 injured. Police have arrested about 230 people in connection with last week's violence, police spokesman Nalin Thalduma said on Sunday. "Police stations country-wide have been ordered to increase patrols and continue vehicle and people checks. There are more arrests taking place as investigations into the violence continue," he said.

Prompt efforts by N. F. Railway Ensures safe evacuation of passengers



Guwahati, May 15 : Inclement weather and incessant rain led to cause massive landslides and water logging at several locations in Lumding - Badarpur hill section of Lumding division. N. F. Railway controlled train services over the section due to this serious condition. However, two trains got stranded, each

Boris Johnson backs away from Northern Ireland protocol threat ahead of talks

London, May 15 : Boris Johnson will vow not to scrap the Brexit deal governing Northern Ireland and instead back reform that has "the broadest possible cross-community support", in an attempt to cool tensions over the issue. In a shift in tone before emergency talks in Belfast on Monday, the prime minister will make it clear that he has no intention of scrapping the so-called Northern Ireland protocol, which he claims is causing significant disruption to trade between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Officials said that Johnson was intending to deliver a "tough message" to the leaders of Northern Ireland's parties. He will plead with them to "get back to work", after the Democratic Unionists blocked the election of a speaker at the Stormont Assembly on Friday. The move means the assembly is unable to function. DUP leader Jeffrey Donaldson said that his party's move was a protest at the impact that the protocol was having on trade crossing the Irish Sea. Such goods have a series of checks that have placed a de facto trade border between Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In an attempt to push the DUP into re-engaging, Johnson will say that any action by his government to alter the protocol must lead to all parties coming together to form an executive and assembly. But after threats by foreign secretary Liz Truss to override large parts of the protocol, the PM is expected to strike a less strident tone. Johnson will tell Northern Ireland leaders next week that "we will always keep the door open to genuine dialogue", but that there will be "a necessity to act" if the EU does not allow significant changes to the way the protocol is operating in practice. Whitehall insiders also say that any legislation on the issue is some way off, with nothing yet presented to the cabinet. Johnson will make it clear that the government has never suggested scrapping the protocol and that there will always need to be a treaty in place between the UK and the EU that prevents a hard border on the island of Ireland. He will also recognise the need to protect the integrity of the EU single market.



Majuli- ferry service closed

'We will not go back': thousands rally for abortion rights across the US

Washington, May 15 : Thousands of people were taking part in protests across the US on Saturday to decry the supreme court's expected reversal of the landmark 1973 law that made abortion legal in America. Organizers said there were more than 380 protest events in cities including major ones in Washington DC, New York City, Los Angeles and Chicago to demand that the right to an abortion is not stripped away by the court, which is dominated by rightwing justices. Gathering in large groups and holding signs that included slogans such as "Reproductive justice for all" and "We will not go back", and chanting "My body, my choice", the protesters have been spurred by the leak of a supreme court draft opinion on 2 May. The leaked draft showed that the five rightwing justices on the nine-member court had voted to overturn Roe v Wade, the historic case that provided federal protection for abortion rights and proved a beacon in international efforts to improve the rights of women. In the US capital, protestors gathered at the Washington Monument before marching to the supreme court, which is surrounded by a security fence. Some held pictures of coat hangers to symbolize the dangerous measures some people resorted to for illegal abortions prior to the Roe v Wade ruling. "If it's a fight they want, it's a fight they'll get," said Rachel Carmona, executive director of the Women's March, one of the groups, along with Planned Parenthood, UltraViolet and MoveOn that organized Saturday's demonstrations, which they called "Bans Off Our Bodies". "We have to see an end to the attacks on our bodies," Carmona added. "You can expect for women to be completely ungovernable until this government starts to work for us."

Fire at Delhi cow shelter, dozen animals burnt alive

New Delhi, May 15 : In yet another tragic fire incident, over a dozen cows were burnt alive as a blaze engulfed a cow shelter on Delhi's outskirts on Saturday, officials said. According to information, the fire in Savada area broke out at 1.15 p.m. and on being reported, ten fire engines were sent to extinguish the blaze. The fire personnel took four hours to bring the fire under control, and it was found that more than dozen cows were burnt alive and the shelter home damaged. "Charred bodies of cows are being taken out of cow shelter. The reason behind the fire is yet to be ascertained," a fire official said. An FIR was lodged with the local police station.

with about 1400 passengers - one Train No. 15616 Silchar - Guwahati express at Ditokcherra station and another Train No. 15615 Guwahati - Silchar express at New Haflong station. Massive landslides and water logging resulted in huge damages to the railway track, bridges and the road communications in this hilly terrain. Railway initiated massive evacuation operation with the help of Air Force, NDRF, Assam Rifles and local people. Around 1245 railway passengers of the train No. 15616, stranded at Ditokcherra station have been brought up to Badarpur and Silchar and 119 passengers have been airlifted by the Indian Air Force to Silchar. Stranded passengers at New Haflong station are being moved to Maibang station by buses. From Maibang station, relief train connectivity up to Guwahati has been provided. 204 passengers have already left for Guwahati from Maibang. The remaining passengers at New Haflong are also being moved to Maibang where another relief train is waiting to take them to Guwahati. The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of N. F. Railway remains on the forefront. They swung into action and rescued stranded passengers by carrying them on their shoulders from one side of the damaged bridge to the other between Ditokcherra and Bandarkhal. The Railway while putting efforts on rescuing the stranded passengers is taking care of sanitation and ensuring medical facility for every passenger. Food and drinking water have also been supplied to them.

Chile's constitutional assembly rejects plans to nationalise parts of mining sector

London, May 15 : A constitutional assembly in Chile has rejected plans to nationalise parts of the crucial mining industry in a blow to progressive hopes of overhauling the neoliberal Pinochet-era political settlement. The proposal, known as article 27, would have given the state exclusive mining rights over lithium, rare metals and hydrocarbons and a majority stake in copper mines. But it faced fierce opposition from the mining sector and was voted down last week in a defeat for progressive hopes of redistributing wealth in the world's top copper producing nation. Overthrowing the 1980 constitution adopted by the rightwing dictator General Augusto Pinochet was the main objective of anti-government protests in 2019 that succeeded in establishing a constitutional assembly to oversee reform. The country's environmental commission submitted multiple variations of the article to a vote on Saturday, but they all failed to achieve the 103-vote supermajority needed to pass into the draft constitution. However, a separate clause, article 25, which states that miners must set aside "resources to repair damage" to the environment and harmful effects where mining takes place, did get a supermajority and will be in the draft constitution. The assembly also approved banning mining in glaciers, protected areas and regions essential to protecting the water system. Articles guaranteeing farmers and Indigenous people the right to traditional seeds, the right to safe and accessible energy and protection of oceans and the atmosphere were also approved. Voting to approve articles concludes after Saturday, and new commissions in charge of fine-tuning the text take over on Monday. The final draft is due in early July and citizens will vote to approve or reject it on 4 September. The environmental commission, dominated by self-proclaimed eco-constituents, saw just one of 40 of its proposals approved during their first votes in the general assembly.

Former Australian cricketer Andrew Symonds dies in road accident

Melbourn, May 15: Former Australia cricketer and two-time World Cup winner Andrew Symonds has died in a car crash on Saturday night. Symonds was the sole passenger in the crash just outside of Townsville in his home state of Queensland and police confirmed that a 46-year-old male died at the scene. "Early information indicates, shortly after 11pm the car was being driven on Hervey Range Road, near Alice River Bridge when it left the roadway and rolled," the police statement confirmed. "Emergency services attempted to revive the 46-year-old driver and sole occupant, however, he died of his injuries. Symonds averaged 40.61 with the bat from 26 Tests for his country, but was perhaps more well known for his exploits in white-ball cricket. He featured in 198 ODIs - scoring six centuries and 30 half-centuries - while also contributing 133 wickets with his more than handy off-spin and medium pace. It



was at the 2003 World Cup where Symonds burst on to the stage with perhaps his greatest innings as he torched Pakistan with an unbeaten 143 in Johannesburg early in the tournament and helped Australia remain unbeaten and defeat India in a one-sided final. The swashbuckling right-hander was also part of the victorious World Cup side

at the 2007 World Cup in West Indies as Australia claimed their fourth 50-over World Cup title. Symonds also played 14 T20I for Australia, managing 337 runs and eight wickets. His death is the second famous Australia cricketer to tragically pass away in 2022, after champion leg-spinner Shane Warne died from a heart attack in Thailand in March. Former

wicketkeeper Rod Marsh also passed away from a heart attack earlier this year. Former Australian captain Allan Border was among those to pay tribute

to Symonds on Sunday. Border said Symonds "hit the ball a long way and just wanted to entertain". "He was, in a way, a little bit of an old-fashioned cricketer," Border told the Nine Network. "He was an adventurer, loved his fishing, he loved hiking, camping. People liked his very laid-back style." In 2008, he missed Australia's one-day series against Bangladesh after going fishing when he was required to attend a team meeting. He also was disciplined prior to the 2009 Twenty20 World Cup for breaching team rules around alcohol. With dreadlocks and his face daubed with zinc cream, Symonds always cut a flamboyant figure in the Australian team.

Phil Mickelson continues to pay a heavy price for chasing Saudi payday

London, May 15: In his newly published and excellent book *Tiger and Phil: Golf's Most Fascinating Rivalry*, Bob Harig describes the scene in the scoring tent at the conclusion of the 2002 US PGA Championship. That Rich Beem makes no worse than a bogey at the 72nd hole ensures a surprise one-stroke victory over Tiger Woods. Fred Funk looks on, bemused, as Woods bellows: "Yes." Prompted to clarify his obscure outburst, Woods says: "That's Rich Beem one, Phil Mickelson zero." Lefty remained without a major title. The scale of antipathy between Mickelson and Woods was illustrated by the latter's strange display of emotion. The intervening years have seen relations soften between the most high-profile player and the individual who for so long



was in his shadow. Yet Woods and Mickelson now sit on the opposite sides of the ongoing battle for hearts and minds. Woods, who has created much of his legacy via the PGA Tour, sits in firm endorsement of the existing ecosystem.

public in recent weeks. Albeit not at all of their own doing, it is a blow to the PGA of America. Its reigning champion, a player who won in such dramatic style just weeks short of his 51st birthday, has suffered such a fall from grace that even turning up at Southern Hills is apparently too much to bear. Twelve months on from being mobbed by adoring galleries, from proving there is sporting life after 50, Mickelson is a pariah. He has not played since infamous remarks relating to Saudi Arabia's human rights abuses and attempts to leverage the kingdom's public investment fund against the PGA Tour entered the public domain. Where, at the Masters, Woods's comeback from a serious car crash understandably dominated the narrative until Scottie Scheffler breezed to victory, the second men's major of 2022 gives cause to ponder what on earth Mickelson does next.

Sam Tomkins leads Catalans Dragons to thumping win over Warrington

Warrington, May 15: Catalans Dragons inflicted Warrington's seventh defeat of the season with a second-half peppering in Perpignan. Sam Tomkins returned early from his broken leg to torment the Wolves with a dynamic display from full-back, including eight crucial goal-kicks which were decisive in what had been an edgy contest until three very late tries. Warrington had nerves of steel early in this game as they held the Dragons 6-6 at half-time but five second-half tries from Mitch Pearce, Julian Bousquet, Gil Dudson, Fouad Yaha and Arthur Mourgue saw the Dragons worthy winners. Tomkins was first to trouble the scoreboard with a ninth-minute penalty goal after Warrington second-rower Oliver Holmes was punished for a high tackle on Mourgue. But the



Wolves scrum-half George Williams turned the tide with two breaks which led to winger Connor Wrench scoring the first try of the game in the right corner, Peter Mata'utia on target from the touchline with the conversion to make it 6-2. Young French centre Matthieu Laguerre soon crossed the line for Catalans but referee Liam Moore ruled he had not grounded the ball properly. However, there was nothing wrong with Tom Davies' 23rd-minute touchdown after he collected a clever slip-pass from the tackle by his centre Tyrone May to level the scores.

Giro d'Italia: Breakaway artist Thomas De Gendt wins stage eight

London, May 15: Thomas De Gendt won stage eight of the Giro d'Italia as Guillaume Martin used a breakaway to vault his way up to fourth in the overall standings. De Gendt accelerated past Davide Gabburo and Jorge Arcas with 200m to go on the seafont in Napoli to get his reward for

splitting up the break and carrying clear a four-man group which also included his Lotto-Soudal teammate Harm Vanhoucke. Cofidis' Martin followed the pre-stage favourites Mathieu van der Poel and Biniam Girmay 33 seconds down, three minutes ahead of the chasing peloton to move up from 14th



in the general classification to fourth, now 66 seconds behind

Trek-Segafredo's Juan Pedro Lopez who held on to pink going into Sunday's stage on Blockhaus. This short, punchy 153km circuit around Napoli was always expected to produce attacking racing, and Van der Poel and Girmay were quick to get themselves in the early breakaway.

Novak Djokovic finds rhythm in Rome to set up showdown with Tsitsipas



Rome, May 15: With the defence of his French Open title inching closer, Novak Djokovic continues to make smooth progress in Rome. After starting the clay court season without the stamina to even last a three-set match, he is ending its final ATP event striking the ball sweetly. Thanks to a composed and dominant performance, Djokovic reached the final of the Italian Open by defeating Casper Ruud, the fifth seed, 6-4, 6-3. The victory marks Djokovic's 1000th career win, a milestone achieved only by Jimmy Connors, Roger Federer, Ivan Lendl and Rafael Nadal. Rome will be his first Masters 1000 final since Paris in November. He has done so without dropping a set, defeating his first two Top 10

opponents of the year, No 10 Ruud and No 9 Felix Auger-Aliassime, in back to back matches. Djokovic will face Stefanos Tsitsipas, the third seed, in the final, who recovered from a set down to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 beat his old rival Alexander Zverev, the second seed, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3. After Friday night's encounter with Auger-Aliassime, in which Djokovic was broken while serving for both sets but recovered impressively, he arrived in the semi-final filled with confidence. B From the beginning, he was dominant, serving at an extremely high level and striking the ball cleanly from on top of the baseline. He dictated Ruud for much of the opening set while anticipating brilliantly from defensive positions. Djokovic broke Ruud's serve in the opening game before repeating the feat to breeze to a 4-0 lead. But at 5-1, on Ruud's serve, a fire alarm rang out in the stadium. After a brief pause, the match shifted, with Ruud beginning to impose his heavy forehand from inside the

baseline as the crowd, cheering for the Norwegian, briefly irritated Djokovic. After losing his serve, Djokovic served out the set at the second time of asking. Ruud entered the second set on far more equal terms and he ran with it, firmly holding serve in his first three games. Djokovic made his move in the seventh game, securing the break after a long deuce game, and then ended as he started, breezing through the final games to seal victory while looking like a man hunting a 21st major title in the coming weeks.

Alf's revenge

Disruptor Erling Haaland can be the striker Pep Guardiola craves



London, May 15: Once upon a time, many years ago, there were two warriors named Alf and Roy who fought for rival clans. Alf accused Roy of feigning injury after he had collapsed with ruptured knee ligaments and for the next four years, whenever

they met on the battlefield, their fighting was fierce. But then Alf joined the local rivals of Roy's team. In the derby, Roy hit Alf on the knee, hard, and Alf conceived a terrible revenge. Alf had a young son, less than a year old, and he raised him to be a great warrior. His son had extraordinary physical gifts. He was tall and powerful and fast. He was highly skilled. Kings and queens from all around the world wanted Alf's son to join their army. But Alf's son was only going to end up at one place: at the rivals to Roy's team. Roy's team were already struggling after their great commander had retired. Alf's old team, aided by the wealth of a great family from abroad, were already dominant. And now they had the mighty young warrior many believed might become the greatest in the world. It had taken 21

years, but Alf was ready for his victory. If football these days is largely about content production, this is a great narrative strand in the Uefa Football Universe. Here is Erling Haaland, who looks like he was brought to life in a tower at midnight during a storm: could this be the dark magic that will, at last, bring Manchester City the Champions League?

Baaed charges to emphatic victory in Lockinge Stakes at Newbury

Paris, May 15: Baaed made the perfect start to his highly anticipated four-year-old campaign with an emphatic victory in the Al Shaqab Lockinge Stakes at Newbury. The Sea The Stars colt was a hot favourite to extend his winning streak to seven and the 4-9 market leader made short work of eight rivals in the mile showpiece. William Haggas's superstar made effortless progress last term, going unbeaten in six runs and graduating from winning a Leicester maiden in June to

winning back-to-back Group Ones in September and October. Chindit set out to make all, giving jockey Jim Crowley the opportunity to settle in behind, and he could be called the winner some way from home as his rider started to move up the gears and Baaed lengthened away. Real World tried to make a battle of it in second and ran a fine race, but he was no match for the three-and-a-quarter-length winner, with Chindit staying on gamely for third, a further length and three-quarters back.

James Lowe at the double in Leinster's Champions Cup demolition of Toulouse



London, May 15: Penalty joy for Toulouse in Dublin last week but little more than punishment seven days on. Leinster produced one of the most emphatic performances

as dominant as the scoreline suggests and while the Aviva Stadium was a sea of blue, having been painted Munster red seven days ago, it might as well have

been green. Leinster are a Test side in all but name. They lined up with 13 Ireland internationals in their starting XV and the same number of players in their 23 who featured against France in Paris this year. Toulouse do not exactly lack Test players themselves but for all their counterattacking threats, and their star man at scrum-half in Antoine Dupont, they simply could not live with Leinster's power and poise.

Thomas Cup

Of bond-building between Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy



New Delhi, May 15: It was all light-hearted banter, but the nibble of a bite to the undertone was unmistakable when Danish singles veteran, Hans Kristian Vittinghus cackled to Kidambi Srikanth on Instagram: "Very nice to know you left Lakshya at home" commenting on Team India's landing picture in Bangkok for the Thomas Cup. This was May 5, and the Indian men's team dressed in identical team uniforms at the airport, albeit minus Sen, had been upbeat: "On a mission" as Srikanth captioned. The friendly snipe from the Danish No.4 singles player was about whiffs of past friction in the Indian team where the shuttlers training

in Hyderabad, didn't get along with the Bangalore bunch, and Sen had even missed out after the last trials - omitted after losing a match when ill. News travels and news of acrimony mutates and flies faster. But Srikanth played it downward and steep, responding with a grinning emoji: "he reached before everyone." News of India's

team, bonding well before the team event and the No.2 piping up for the No.1 spearhead, wasn't exactly music to opponents. "Damn, that's not good news (for the rest of us)" Vittinghuus continued in a lighter vein. A good sport, the Dane admitted after his country went out 3-2 to India in the semis, that his exchange had aged well. But there was no denying the edge of a rivalry between the two Thomas Cup teams - Denmark having won in 2016 and India the absolute dark horses, yet predicted by those who followed the sport last six months as the team to look out for. Tall, well-built and noisy on court, the Danes can come across as a tad abrasive and arrogant about their pedigree in badminton. "Yes, sometimes they think too much of themselves, and even the commentary oozes that all-knowing arrogance. It was good to watch India beat them," national coach Pullela Gopichand would say later. Vimal Kumar, travelling with the team, would attest to the plop of good luck that helped Danes get past China, while telling his players to be completely irreverent of the rival's rankings.

Abhash Ramya Saikia brought Laurel to Assam

Guwahati, May 15: Abhash Ramya Saikia of Assam brought laurel to Assam by getting fifth position in National Under-14 Chess Championship-2022 held at Ahmedabad Gujarat. He scored 8.5 points from 11th rounds. John Veny Akkarakaran of Kerala won the title by scoring 9 points from 11 rounds. Gaurang Bagwe from Maharashtra also scored 9 points but he was declared second on the basis of tie-break. Ilamparthi of Tamil Nadu Yash Bharadia of Rajasthan and Abhash Ramya Saikia of Assam scored 8.5 points each declared third, fourth and fifth respectively on the basis of tie-break score. Abhash pocketed Rs 35,000 as prize money. Ameya Gupta and Suzen Ahmed also done well to get 11th and 12th position respectively in National Under-8 Chess (Girls) Championship held from 9th May to 14th May at Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh. Both scored 7 points each from 11 rounds. They get Rs 4000 each as prize money. All Assam Chess Association congratulated all the players for their stupendous achievement.

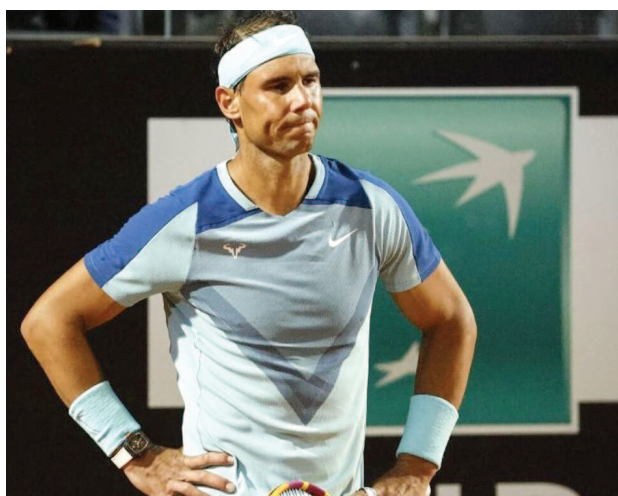


Liverpool beat Chelsea to win FA Cup, keep quad hopes alive

Liverpool, May 15 : Liverpool won an absorbing English FA Cup final on Saturday as they prevailed 6-5 in a penalty shootout after the Wembley showpiece somehow ended 0-0 after extra time. Substitute Kostas Tsimikas slotted the winning penalty after Chelsea captain Cesar Azpilicueta's had hit the post and Alisson had saved Mason Mount's effort. Chelsea keeper Edouard Mendy had kept his side alive when he saved Sadio Mane's penalty but it proved to no avail as Liverpool won the trophy for the first time since 2006. It was a carbon copy of the League Cup final in February, which Liverpool won 11-10 on penalties after that game also finished goalless. Saturday's win means Liverpool remain on course for an unprecedented quadruple of trophies. They are three points behind Manchester City in the Premier League race with two games to go and meet Real Madrid in the Champions League final on May 28. "I'm really proud of my boys," Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp told the BBC. "Chelsea were outstanding but in the end there can only be one winner and today it was us." For Chelsea it meant an unwelcome record of becoming the first side to lose three FA Cup finals in a row, after losing to Arsenal in 2020 and Leicester City last year.

Familiar injuries raise painful prospect that end is near for Nadal

Rome, May 15 : For nearly the entirety of his two-decade career, Rafael Nadal has been a picture of calm on the court. Nobody has endured as many moments of abject tension in the final rounds of the biggest tournaments but navigated them while betraying so few negative emotions, shrugging off mistakes and despair, remaining steadfastly positive. But on Thursday night for once his emotions were written all over his face. As he limped and grimaced, barely able to run during his loss to Denis Shapovalov, he continually looked up at his team in the stands. He shook his head, he cursed his bad luck and he spent time at the change of ends with his head buried in his hands. The source of Nadal's frustration was one of the most familiar sensations he has experienced in his career. Eighteen years ago, as he contested his first full season on the tour as a 17-year-old, Nadal had a stress fracture in his foot. The injury would reveal Müller-Weiss dis-



ease, a degenerative foot injury that weakens the navicular bone in the foot. Unhelpfully for an athlete in an 11-month season, it worsens with physical exercise. Over the years, Nadal has had to invest significant time, effort and anti-inflammatories into managing it. The effect on his career has sometimes been underreported but it has left a continuous, visible mark. It was the reason why he spent six months out last year and retirement skipped across his mind and it is unmistakable in the limp that sometimes accompanies him in press conferences and around

the grounds. Every player is dealing with something. Injuries are a common facet of sport, a natural result of athletes pushing their bodies past limits that few bodies are truly built to withstand. Tennis players have an even more complex relationship with them. While athletes are constantly determined to play through injuries at all costs, in team sports it is up to the coaches to limit their players' load and conserve their bodies, even against their will. In an individual sport such as tennis players are in charge of their schedules, which is not always a good thing.

Manchester City, May 15 : Emma Hayes has described the Chelsea captain, Magda Eriksson, as "a main reason we've been a winning team for years" and praised her influence on her return from three months out to help navigate Chelsea to a third consecutive league title and Sunday's FA Cup final against Manchester City. Eriksson suffered an ankle injury during Chelsea's 4-0 Champions League defeat to Wolfsburg in December, ruling her out of action for a significant part of the season. "We knew it was an injury that was going to take a bit of time," says Hayes. "Naturally, the team was going to lose something. In Aniek [Nouwen] we have a player that doesn't have the experience but stepped into a space that helped develop the team in some different ways. However, Magda's our captain for a reason." When Eriksson was fit again in March Hayes was reluctant to put

her straight back into a team on a winning streak, despite her quality. "I really rate and respect Magda but we had conversations around being patient and I knew that moment would come. Neither of us thought that would be when we went down to 10 players at Tottenham." Having Magda's leadership back on the pitch, and I don't want to take anything away from Millie [Bright] because Millie's been amazing, but having both of them together brings another dimension to us managing really tough moments. Particularly when the stress levels go up. "Being out was 'a challenge'," says Eriksson. "It

was my first long injury in a very long time. It wasn't nice to be out for three months and not be part of the team." But watching the team play and watching players grow in that period, every single player stepped up so that made me really proud. I was sad not to be part of it but it made me really proud to see how many younger girls in our team stepped up and really took that responsibility. "Coming back into the Chelsea side was a test. "You want to be back where you left off but you have to respect that your body has gone through an injury and you have been out for three months. I have really high demands, so I had to try



and be nice to myself. "Being captain from the sidelines was a different role for the Sweden centre-back. "It's important to know when to take a step back and when to let the

team figure it out themselves with their new roles," she says. "Millie had the armband and she did amazingly and the team performed really well. So I tried to mainly focus on my injury, getting myself right first, because that is important, you have to focus on yourself sometimes. But then I was always there if anyone needed a chat or anyone wanted to talk to someone who wasn't

maybe involved in playing that much." Eriksson's absence was keenly felt for Chelsea in their 3-1 Continental League Cup final defeat to their FA Cup final opponents, Manchester City. "They're back now, they're back to their old self," says Eriksson, who is in touch with the Chelsea men's team captain, César Azpilicueta, and said the two Chelsea teams would be cheering each other on.

Triumphant Gokulam Kerala become first team to defend title in I-League era

New Delhi, May 15 : Gokulam Kerala FC created history by becoming the first team in the I-League era to defend its title with a 2-1 victory over Mohammedan Sporting in a fitting finale on Sunday. Rishad PP, who plays as a defensive midfielder, put defending champions Gokulam Kerala ahead with his 49th minute strike to stun the partisan crowd of over 35,000 at the Salt Lake Stadium. However, the home team was soon celebrating as it found the equaliser in the 56th

minute, when Marcus Joseph's terrific free kick deflected off Azharuddin Mallick and got into the net. The home fans' joy, though, was short-lived as the Malabarians regained the lead when Emil Benny, running into the final third after receiving a pass from Majcen and with no defenders in sight, found the back of the opponents' net in the 61st minute. No club in the I-League era has defended its title. Kolkata side East Bengal had achieved the feat in the time of the Na-

tional Football League, the predecessor of I-League, by winning title in 2002-03 and 2003-04 seasons. Chasing a maiden I-League title, local heavyweights Mohammedan Sporting entered the match optimistic of getting the better of the in-form side from Kerala, especially with plenty of fans backing them from the stands. However, the determined Malabarians did not let anything come in their way and deservedly won the title for the second straight season.

IPL 2022: Prithvi Shaw discharged from hospital after being treated for typhoid

New Delhi, May 15 : "Delhi Capitals opener Prithvi Shaw has been discharged from the hospital where he was being treated for a bout of typhoid," Delhi Capitals said in a press statement. "Shaw has returned to the team hotel where he is currently recuperating, while being monitored by the DC medical team." Shaw himself put up an Instagram post from his hospital bed, informing about his recovery. "Admitted to hospital and recovering from fever. Thank you all for your good wishes. Will be back in action soon," Shaw had posted. In nine games in

IPL 2022, Shaw has scored 259 runs at an average of 28.77 and a strike rate of 160. In Shaw's absence, Srikanth Bharat has been used as David Warner's opening partner. Capitals currently have 12 points from 12

games with a healthy net run rate. Delhi Capitals will face Punjab Kings at the DY Patil Stadium on Monday, while their last game will be against Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium on May 21.



Thomas Cup All singles must-win games for India against doubles-heavy Indonesia

Mumbai, May 15 : Beating Indonesia in the finals of the Thomas Cup at once seems like an earworm - a song stuck in the head on loop, given the events of the last few days. Namely, the headbangers of Indian shuttle rock - Kidambi Srikanth, HS Prannoy, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty, presently the Unbeatables. But the prospect is also a number-scramble for the eyes - figuring out from where the three wins will come: all 3 singles or 2 singles and 1 doubles with HS Prannoy going for a third straight win in the decider. Winning Thomas Cup though is Indonesia's second skin. Their singles players routinely punch above their weight, and their doubles are so formidable that India's singles players might well think of all their matches as must-wins to add up the straightforward math. Yet, history is determined to play tricks and stands poised with favourable memories. In their only previous meeting, Satwik-Chirag had beaten Mohammad Ahsan and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo 18-21, 21-18, 24-22, at the Asian Championship in 2018 for a 1-0 head to head. On its own it shouldn't count for much that the Indians have beaten half of the legendary Daddies & Minions pairings for Indonesians are different beasts in team events and don't typically get frazzled. But it can incite dilemma over fielding of the Full Daddies (Ahsan with Hendra Setiawan) against whom top Indians are 2-3. Whatever may be the case, Satwik-Chirag cannot afford to flub 20-18 leads like against Denmark. Indonesians don't waste energy on obnoxious court antics and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo is a once-in-a-generation talent. The Indians will need to avoid being intimidated by defence and stay patient with their attack, and the usual high intensity wading into attacks might not work against the cool cats. Indonesian fans will create a din and are best silenced by winning, rather than outdoing their decibel.







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