



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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Elon Musk plans to 'vote Republican' and warns ...

02

Rob Key primes Pope for No 3 and sets out plan to ...

07



NEWS IN BRIEF

Emergency flight service

Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 19 :

To mitigate communication crisis due to floods and landslides disrupting rail and road links to Barak Valley and Dima Hasao, emergency flight service has been introduced between Silchar and Guwahati by the Assam Government for the stranded passengers. The state government has introduced the flight service under UDAAN scheme at a subsidized rate of Rs. 3000 and the subsidized rate will be heard by the government. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma informed that the Assam Tourism Development Corporation (ATDC) will sign an MoU with Fly Big Airlines in this regard.

Ferry service

Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 19 :

The Jorhat-Majuli ferry service has been suspended for an indefinite time due to the rising water level in the River Brahmaputra. The ferry service between Majuli-Nimatighat was resumed on Wednesday (May 18). The service which was suspended since May 15 was resumed on Wednesday but due to the rising water level due to incessant rainfall, the ferry service was suspended again for the safety of the people. Meanwhile, the ferry services between Guwahati and North Guwahati on the Brahmaputra River have also been suspended on Tuesday amid rising water levels. Water levels in the Brahmaputra are reaching dangerous levels as heavy rains lashed several parts of the state and the Northeast.

Elephant attack

Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 19 :

A 16-year-old minor boy was killed in an elephant attack in Assam's Goalpara district early Thursday morning. The incident was reported at Kursapakkhri village in Lakhimpur area. According to sources, as many as 40 wild elephants barged into the village and started vandalizing houses and property. Unfortunately, the minor, identified as Janak Koch, was trampled to death during the ordeal. It may be mentioned that wild elephants have been tormenting several areas in and around Lakhimpur for a long time.

Flood situation deteriorated in Assam, 9 dead



Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 19 :

The flood situation in Assam deteriorated on Wednesday with the number of affected increasing to 6.62 lakh in 27 districts and the toll rising to nine with one more person losing his life in Darrang district, an official bulletin said.

Assam State Disaster Management Authority said that at present 1413 villages are under water and Nagaon is the worst hit district where 2.88 lakh people are reeling under the calamity. In Cachar nearly 1.2 lakh people and in Hojai more than 1.07 lakh people were

affected, it said. The other affected districts are Bajali, Baksa, Barpeta, Biswanath,

Bongaigaon, Charaideo, Darrang, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Dima Hasao, Goalpara, Hailakandi, Kamrup, Kamrup Metropolitan, Karbi Anglong West, Karimganj, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur, Tamulpur and Udalguri. ASDMA said 46160.43 hectares of crop area have been inundated in the current wave of flood and massive erosion was seen in Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Charaideo, Chirang, Darrang, Dhubri, Dibrugarh, Kamrup Metropolitan, Nalbari, Sivasagar, Sonitpur, Tamulpur, Tinsukia and Udalguri districts. Authorities are

running 248 relief camps and distribution centres in 14 districts, where 48,304 people, including 6,911 children, have taken refuge. They have distributed 2,264.22 quintals of rice, dal and salt, 5,977.48 litres of mustard oil, 2,393.84 quintals of cattle feed and other flood relief items, it said. Till Tuesday over 4.03 lakh people were affected in the deluge across 27 districts in the state. Met office in Guwahati has warned widespread rain in the region over the next four days, according to ndtv.com. The Assam government will give financial assistance of

CONTINUED TO PAGE 60

BJP MLA Slammed For Piggyback Ride During Flood Review



Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 19 :

A BJP MLA from Assam is being slammed by social media users after a video of him taking a piggyback ride to a boat on the back of a flood rescue worker surfaced online. Sibum Misra, MLA from Lumding assembly, is being criticised for being "insensitive" as the floods have

caused devastation in the northeastern state, killing at least nine and affecting more than 6.6 lakh people spread over 27 districts of Assam. Mr Misra was in the Hojai district to review the flood situation in the area. A video tweeted by news agency ANI shows the MLA being carried by a rescue worker to a boat,

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

CM Dr. Sarma presents sanction letters of PMAY (G) houses

6 lakh new beneficiaries to be included in Arunodoi scheme with resultant increase of monthly aid: CM

Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 19 :

Close to government's objective to grant 'Housing for all' in the rural areas, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma along with Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh presented sanction letters to 12 beneficiaries as a part of providing houses to 5 lakh beneficiaries at a programme held at Court Field in Jorhat today. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma termed the day as eventful and memorial in the field of service delivery to the people of the state. He said that the process of giving 5 lakh houses to the beneficiaries



under PMAY Gramin started from Jorhat and it would be replicated throughout the state. He said since 2014

when Narendra Modi became Prime Minister of the country till today, Centre has sanctioned 19 lakh houses for Assam with a financial outlay of Rs. 27 thousand crore. Out of this, 7 lakh houses are under different phases of construction and building of another 5 lakh has begun today involving a financial outlay of

Rs. 7739.50 crore. As first installment, steps have been taken to disburse the amount of Rs. 1657.50 crore. He on the occasion also called upon the beneficiaries to make good use of the money which has been disbursed in their bank accounts. At the same time if any undeserving person's name gets included in the

beneficiary list, he asked the people to lodge complaints at 1800-1232-35600 help line number. The Chief Minister further said that of the 12 thousand beneficiaries in Jorhat district, four thousand belong to tea garden communities. He, therefore, asked the tea garden management to provide NoC for the construction of the houses. The scheme meant for people belonging to below poverty line, Dr. Sarma said that the scheme would also lead to strengthening rural economy as the purchase of construction materials like brick, sand, cement, road for building houses would ensure livelihood for the local traders. Giving a snapshot of the steps that the Government of Assam has taken to fulfill electoral promises, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma asked the youth to get involved in productive activities. He also said that the State

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

PM Modi to hold bilateral meet with US President Joe Biden during Tokyo Quad summit



New Delhi, May 19 :

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold a bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden on May 24 during the QUAD Leaders Summit in Japan's Tokyo, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday (May 19). PM Modi is also slated to meet his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida on May 24. "Prime

Minister Narendra Modi will attend the Quad Summit on May 24 in Tokyo. This would be the 4th Summit of Quad leaders. Bilateral meetings with Japanese counterpart and bilateral meeting with US Prez to take place on May 24," MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi was quoted. Besides interacting with the Indian community in Japan, Modi will also take part in a business event in Tokyo. "During the visit, PM Narendra Modi will participate in a business event with Japanese business leaders. He will also

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Centre to review Covid-19 vaccination program with states, UTs on Friday

New Delhi, May 19 :

With India witnessing a decline in COVID-19 cases and following the administration of 191.79 crore vaccine doses, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan will review the coronavirus vaccination program with all the states and union territories on Friday, informed sources. India's COVID vaccination coverage had exceeded 191.79 crores (1,91,79,96,905) till 7 am today, according to data shared by the Union Health Ministry. COVID-19 vaccination for the age group 12-14 years was started on March 16, 2022. So far, more



than 3.22 crore adolescents have received the first dose of the COVID vaccine. The administration of precaution dose for the age group 18-59 years was also started from April 10, 2022, onwards. The country wit-

nessed a slight rise in coronavirus infections with 2,364 fresh cases in the last 24 hours. India's active caseload now stands at 15,419 at present. The daily positivity rate of the country is 0.50 per cent. A total of 2,582 people recovered from the disease in the last 24 hours, added to the Ministry. The country also reported 10 COVID-related fatalities, increasing the total reported death count to 5,24,303. India added 2,364 new coronavirus infections taking the total tally of COVID-19 cases to 4,31,29,563, while the active cases declined to 15,419, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Thursday. The death toll climbed to 5,24,303 with 10 fresh fatalities, the data updated at 8 am stated. The active cases

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

GST Council recommendations not binding on Centre and states

New Delhi, May 19 :

The Supreme Court has ruled that the GST Council recommendations are not binding on the Centre and the states, and are only 'persuasive', in a landmark judgement that may impact the landscape of GST provisions under judicial review. The Parliament and

state legislatures possess equal powers to legislate on GST, the Supreme Court said, upholding the judgement of the Gujarat High Court in Ocean Freight matter in the case of Mohit Minerals. It is for the GST Council to suitably advise the Central government and the state governments, the Supreme Court bench led by

Justice DY Chandrachud said. "As the court has gone ahead to categorically hold that the GST Council recommendations have only persuasive value, there will be a pragmatic approach to the provisions which are subject to judicial review by way of challenge to the

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6

Assam floods: Indian Railways cancels trains till end of next month



Assam Rising

Guwahati, May 19 :

Inclement weather and incessant rain caused massive landslides and water-logging at several locations of the Lumding-Badarpur hill section of the North-

East Frontier (NFR) zone of Indian Railways. This resulted in damage to the railway track, bridges, road and communication network in this hilly terrain. The NFR zone had geared up its entire machinery and controlled train services over

the affected section due to this serious condition. However, two trains got stranded in these flash floods, each with about 1,400 passengers. One was train number 15616

CONTINUED TO PAGE 6



Dhakuakhana- A fisherman catching fish on Thursday

Gyanvapi Masjid Row

Supreme Court asks Varanasi trial court to not hear case till Friday



New Delhi, May 19 : The Supreme Court has asked the trial court in Varanasi not to proceed with the Gyanvapi Mosque case till Friday, May 20. Vishnu Shankar Jain, the advocate of the Hindu side, told Supreme Court that senior advocate Hari Shankar Jain is not well and requested it to hear the Gyanvapi Mosque issue tomorrow. The Supreme Court has asked the civil court in

Varanasi to not proceed with proceedings in Gyanvapi case till the top court takes up the matter on Friday at 3 pm. Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi, appearing for the Committee of Management Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, said several applications have been filed across the country to "seal" various mosques and in the Gyanvapi case in Varanasi, the hearing is going on and an application has been filed

to "demolish" a wall around the 'wazukhana' (ablution room). Ahmadi said he cannot oppose adjournment on the grounds of health of a counsel but an undertaking should be given that Hindu devotees will not proceed with the civil court proceedings. Advocate Vishnu said they are assuring the bench that the Hindu parties would not proceed with the hearing before the civil court at Varanasi. The bench recorded the submission and passed the order asking the civil court to not proceed with the hearing in the case till Friday, when it will hear the matter. On May 17, the top court had directed the district magistrate of Varanasi to ensure protection of an area inside the Gyanvapi-Shringar Gauri complex where a 'Shivling' is said to have been

found during a survey and allowed Muslims to offer 'namaz' and perform 'religious observances'. Meanwhile, a commission appointed by a court in Varanasi to conduct a videographic survey of the Kashi Vishwanath temple-Gyanvapi Mosque complex submitted its report on Thursday (May 19), an advocate said. Special Advocate Commissioner Vishal Singh submitted the report of the survey work carried out on May 14, 15 and 16 in the court of the District Civil Judge Ravi Kumar Diwakar, said advocate Madan Mohan Yadav, who is representing the Hindu side in the case. Also, Ajay Mishra, who was removed by the court as the advocate commissioner, filed a report late Wednesday evening on the survey conducted

by him on May 6 and 7, Yadav said. After removing Mishra on Tuesday, the court had appointed Vishal Singh as the special advocate commissioner and Ajay Pratap Singh as the assistant advocate commissioner. The reconstituted commission had carried out the survey on May 14, 15 and 16.



Workers net crayfish during an event celebrating the harvest season of crayfish in Xuyi County of Huai'an, east China's Jiangsu Province

3 dead, over 12 injured as truck crushes migrant workers in Haryana's Jhajjar

New Delhi, May 19 : Memories of the tragic accident in Aurangabad in 2020 have returned to Haryana. This time the truck crushed the migrant workers sleeping on the roadside. At least 3 people were killed and at least 12 others were injured. The incident took place on Thursday morning

in Jhajjar area of Haryana. In Haryana, 18 migrant workers were sleeping on the roadside near a toll plaza in Bahadurganj area of Jhajjar. On Thursday morning, a truck lost control and crushed them and drove away. Three people died on the spot. Another 12 people were injured. Local sources said they were rescued and sent to the hospital. The condition of 10 of the injured is critical. The truck driver fled the scene after the accident. The police contacted the owner of the car with the number. He said there were two drivers and one helper in the truck. The

Haryana police have launched a manhunt for them. According to police (Haryana Police) sources, the migrant labourers had gone to build a local bridge. While no one has been identified separately, they had gone to work in Haryana from two districts of Uttar Pradesh. The group of migrant workers had also barricaded the area before sleeping on the roadside at night. They surrounded the area along the road. But that wasn't the end either. The reckless truck broke through the barricades and crushed the migrant workers. It is not yet clear what caused the accident. A police official

said the incident took place as the truck lost control. It will be probed whether the truck driver was drunk or fell asleep while driving. It is to be noted that during the lockdown in 2020, 16 migrant labourers died in a similar accident in Aurangabad (Aurangabad) in Maharashtra. A group of migrant labourers fell asleep on the railway track due to exhaustion while walking home from Maharashtra to Madhya Pradesh. That's when the danger happens. Fifteen people were killed after being hit by a goods train near Aurangabad. The haryana incident brought back those sad memories.

US reports rare case of monkeypox amid small outbreaks in Europe

Washington, May 19 : Massachusetts officials on Wednesday reported a rare case of monkeypox in a man who recently traveled to Canada, and health officials are looking into whether it is connected to small outbreaks in Europe. Monkeypox is typically limited to Africa, and rare cases in the US and elsewhere are usually linked to travel there. A small number of confirmed or suspected cases have been reported this month in the United Kingdom, Portugal and Spain. Health officials in the US said they are in contact with officials in the UK and Canada as part of the investigation. But "at this point in time, we don't have any information that links the Massachusetts case to cases in the UK," said Jennifer McQuiston of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Though it's the only US case the CDC is aware of, "I do think we are preparing for the possibility of more cases," she said. The man traveled to Canada at the end of April to meet friends and returned in early May, McQuiston said. A CDC statement said he used private transportation. The case is the first in the US this year. Last year, Texas and Maryland each reported a case in people who traveled to Nigeria. Monkeypox typically begins with a flu-like illness and swelling of the lymph nodes, followed by a rash on the face and body.

Elon Musk plans to 'vote Republican' and warns of political attacks on him

Los Angeles, May 19 : Elon Musk said on Twitter that he plans to "vote Republican" and warned of "political attacks" on him, the latest in a series of tweets from the billionaire expressing discontent with Democrats and progressives. Musk's tweet comes as the Tesla CEO shocked markets this week by announcing his \$44bn deal to purchase Twitter was on hold as he awaited further data on fake and spam accounts on the social media platform. Analysts have speculated the Tesla executive is seeking to back out of his



Twitter takeover plans, or buy the company at a lower price, his tweets since - including that he was buying the platform to "own the libs" - have attracted further

controversy. On Wednesday, Musk warned that political attacks against him would "escalate" in the coming months and said he will no longer support Democrats because they were the party of "division" and "hate". Musk, who says he is politically "moderate", made a similar claim earlier this week, stating that he had long backed Democrats, but would now vote for Republicans. Musk has become increasingly critical of Joe Biden, who he has accused of snubbing his electric car company Tesla. He has also moved his home and company headquarters from California to Texas, where, unlike the Golden state, there is no state income tax.

'Huge spike' in global conflict caused record number of displacements in 2021

London, May 19 : Conflict and violence forced people from their homes a record number of times last year, a report has found, with sub-Saharan Africa bearing the brunt of mass internal displacement caused by "huge spikes" in fighting. People fleeing violence were internally displaced 14.4m times in 2021, an increase of 4.6m on 2020, according to figures published by the Norwegian Refugee Council's Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC). Most of those displacements - 11.6m, or 80% of the total - took place in sub-Saharan African countries, with the war in northern Ethiopia dwarfing other conflicts in terms of the number of times people were forced from their homes. Alexandra Bilak, IDMC director, said the geographic



concentration of the conflict-related displacement across sub-Saharan Africa, from the Sahel to east Africa, was a huge concern. "These are, of course, countries that have experienced long histories of conflict, but what these numbers show is that the conflicts are far from having been resolved," she said. "So on top of protracted crises, you get new waves of violence every year. In Ethiopia and Burkina Faso, we're talking huge spikes of new violence that have led to

incredibly large numbers being displaced and, at least for now, very little prospect for returns." New flare-ups of violence often collided with climate pressures such as drought or flooding, and resulting food insecurity, making it even harder for countries to give internally displaced people (IDPs) the help they needed, she said. "There's absolutely no window during which some kind of stabilisation could happen, and some degree of return or sustainable local integration. These constant shocks to the system mean that the numbers keep increasing." According to the report, there were 59.1 million IDPs globally in 2021, a

cumulative figure, which has grown steadily since the IDMC began documenting in 2003. Every year more displacement is caused by natural disasters than conflict, but last year the number of forced movements due to disasters such as such as storms, floods and volcanic eruptions - 23.7 million - was down considerably on 2020.

Russia says 900 Ukrainian troops sent to prison colony from Mariupol

Moscow, May 19 : More than 900 Ukrainian troops who were at Mariupol's besieged Azovstal steel plant have been sent to a prison colony on Russian-controlled territory, Moscow has said, as their fate remains uncertain. A foreign ministry spokesperson, Maria Zakharova, said on Wednesday evening that of the 959 Ukrainian service personnel Russia said had surrendered since Tuesday, 51 were being treated for their injuries and the remainder had been sent to a former prison colony in the town of Olenivka in a Russian-controlled area of Donetsk region. Russia's defence ministry also released videos on Wednesday of what it said were Ukrainian fighters receiving hospital treatment in the Russian-controlled town of Novoazovsk after surrendering at the besieged Azovstal steelworks in Mariupol. In the videos, a group of men were shown lying on beds in a room, and



two spoke briefly to the camera. In one, a soldier said he was being treated "normally", adding that he was not being psychologically pressured. It was not possible to establish if the soldier was speaking freely. Zakharova told journalists all the wounded Azovstal soldiers "will be provided with qualified medical care". Ukraine has not commented on Russia's latest update. In his address to the nation late on Tuesday, the president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, said an "evacuation mission" was continuing with help from "the most influential

international mediators". It is also not clear how many remain inside the plant. Denis Pushilin, the head of the self-proclaimed republic of Donetsk, said on Wednesday that the "commanders of the highest level" were still hiding in the plant. Earlier, Ukrainian officials had said some of its soldiers remained. The two sides in the war have released practically no details of the agreement that led to the surrender of the troops, who were holed up for weeks in an extensive network of tunnels and bunkers underneath the steelworks.



A rhinoceros-shaped mirror bracket of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) is exhibited at Hainan Museum in Haikou, south China's Hainan Province

THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT (THE HIGH COURT OF ASSAM, NAGALAND, MIZORAM & ARUNACHAL PRADESH)

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Sealed quotations are invited affixing Court Fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Non-refundable) from the intending registered firms for supply of 13 Nos. Desktop Computers for the Gauhati High Court, Principal Seat at Guwahati. For details, visit website www.gheonline.gov.in or the High Court Notice Board.

The sealed quotations should reach on or before 27th of May, 2022 during office hours on working days and no quotation/tender will be received thereafter.

By Order,
Sd/- Dipak Kr. Nath,
JOINT REGISTRAR (FINANCE)

NIT No. DDM/Snle Notice/Timber/2022/20

E-Tender Short Sale Notice Dated 19.05.2022

Under the provision made in the Assam Settlement of Forest Coupes and Mahal by the tender system Rule, 1977 and Amendment Rule 2000 bids are invited online by the undersigned from Registered Companies/firms/individuals etc. for the Sale of timber lots of Doomsdoo Forest Division.

Details of E-Tender will be available on and <http://www.nssamforestonline.in> Portal from 21.05.2022 to 15.06.2022.

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Water level of river Kalahi in Chhaygaon rises. Photo-Abhijit Kalita

Workshop on Writing Manuscript & Publishing at USTM

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 19: The Department of Sociology in association with Centre for Innovation Incubation and Entrepreneurship, University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) is organising a month-long workshop on "Writing Manuscript and Publishing" from May 24 to June 24 next, aimed at enabling the participants with at least one paper publication in ABDC/Scopus Indexed/UGC Care listed journals and/or as book

chapters. This program is planned to impart the researchers' basic skills in writing and publishing a scientific paper in a peer-reviewed journal. The workshop will benefit the participants to comprehend how to draft a scientific paper, become acquainted with constructing an argument in a scientific manuscript, do effective literature search and review, manage references using different software, and understand

composition, plagiarism, and ethics in publication. In addition, the course will provide participants with an understanding of the submission process and peer review, selection of a journal, and responding to reviewers' comments. The workshop is limited to 30 participants (research scholars and faculties). The participation fee is Rs 4000 for Research Scholar and Rs 5000 for faculty members which includes lunch and workshop kit.

Webinar on Principles of Investing held at LCC

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 19: An Webinar on Principles of Investing was organised by Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Lakhimpur Commerce College (LCC), North Lakhimpur in association with Bombay Stock Exchange, Mumbai on Wednesday last. The

webinar was inaugurated by Dr. Lohit Hazarika, Principal, Lakhimpur Commerce College. Marina Jose, Resource Person of the Webinar delivered a lecture on the topic of Principles of Investing. She emphasised on the use of investment opportunities available in the share mar-

ket. She also explained the volatility of the share market and measures to be taken to lessen the risks involved in the investment market. A good number of students and teachers participated in the webinar. Dr. Dadul Rajkonwar, Co-ordinator of the webinar, offered vote of thanks.

Sexual assault: Accuse sentenced 20 years jail

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 19: Aman Suleman Barbhaya by name from Laluk of Lakhimpur district was sentenced to 20 years jail under section 6 of the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act and a fine of Rs. 5000/- was imposed by Additional Sessions Judge Rashmita Das today as the convict had been sexually assaulting his own minor daughter. Altogether 9 witnesses, including the M.O. and I.O., were examined during the trial, sources said.

Aid to flood victims



Assam Rising, Hojai, May 19: Hojai Girls' College Students Union distributed relief among flood victims of Amtola area under Hojai Revenue Circle on Thursday. The food packets consisted of chira, gur(jaggery), biscuits, cake, toned milk, drinking water bottle and clothes which were distributed to 200 stranded people. General Secretary of the Hojai Girls' College Students Union Ankita Dutta led the team.

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Minister Suklabaidya instructs admins to expedite relief work

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 19: Minister for Environment and Forest, Fisheries and Excise, Primal Suklabaidya on Thursday visited the flood-hit Karimganj district in southern Assam's Barak Valley to oversee relief operations. At the direction of the Chief Minister, Minister Suklabaidya visited the flood affected Badarpurghat, Kalairbond and Srighouri areas under Badarpur revenue circle to inspect the relief work at the relief camps set up at 993 Badarpurghat LP School, Kalairbond LP School and Srighouri Higher Secondary School. He interacted with the camp inmates and enquired about their conditions. Taking stock of the situation, Suklabaidya, who also happens to be the Guardian Minister of Karimganj district, expressed satisfaction that the affected people have been provided adequate relief and timely rescue by the admin-

istration. The Minister also directed the authorities to swiftly engage in relief work and to provide relief materials in all the newly set up relief camps and also to those who are unable to leave their homes due to floods. Circle Officer Badarpur, Twahir Alom and officials of concerned departments accompanied the Minister. Altogether 4,603 persons have been affected by floods in the district. The administration has opened nine distribution centres at Karimganj and five relief camps at Badarpur. Flood waters have damaged two embankments at Krishnapur and Morolapara near Umarpur and roads at six locations, besides a culvert. SDRF personnel have evacuated 511 persons under Badarpur Revenue Circle and moved them to safer places. Later Suklabaidya, who is also

the Guardian Minister, visited adjoining Hailakandi district to monitor the flood situation. Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner, Rohan Kumar Jha and other senior officials, Suklabaidya inspected the relief camp at Panchgram High School and interacted with the inmates. The Minister instructed the Deputy Commissioner to leave no stone unturned in extending relief materials to those affected with focus on medical care at the camp housing 300 inmates. Suklabaidya also visited the Thandapur LP School and Annada Charan HS School relief camps and took stock of the relief work. He asked the Deputy Commissioner to ensure safe drinking water to the inmates. Currently 1,850 persons are affected in three villages under Algapur revenue circle of the district. Presently, 125 persons are housed in a relief camp.

Assam youth selected for UTT-2022



Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 19: Nur Alom Sarkar (27), of Noonmati, Guwahati, Assam has been selected for prestigious Universal Top Talent-2022. Universal records forum (URF) to organise the Award function on May 20 next at Kolkata. It is to be recalled that Alom Sarkar was a NYV, Assam, session 2015-16 & 2016-17 of, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. Sarkar has been organizing useful and meaningful youth development programmers. Moreover, he is a well recognize sports person, multiple world record holders, multiple National & international award winner, URF hall of Fame award winner, National Level Sports Organizer and holds the designation for the same and he is now joint secretary of Grappling federation of India (GFI) and General secretary of Grappling Association of Assam.

Tree plantation drive at Fatasil

Assam Rising, Guwahati, May 19: A tree plantation drive was carried out by Fatasil Beat with planting out of 50 nos of seedlings of native species of trees at New Fatasil Town High School on Thursday. As a part of massive plantation drive across the city educational institution, today officials from Kamrup East Division namely Jnana Ranjan Das, AFS, ACF, Golap Kr Bania AFS, ACF, Pranjal Baruah RO, Guwahati Range and Beat officer Fatasil Praneswar Sarma along with the teachers and students of the School participated in the event to create awareness among students about the importance of trees for the planet earth and mankind. Forest officials gave practical experience to students by briefing the method of planting and care that should be taken by them. Head Mistress of school Purabi Kalita inaugurated the programme and welcomed the initiative of the Forest department for making the Guwahati Greener.

Budhidihiing erosion in Rath Duba area



Assam Rising, Margherita, May 19: The water level of Budhidihiing river in Rath Duba area under Margherita assembly

Roads closed due to flood

Assam Rising, Sipajhar, May 19: By an official order issued by the Assistant Executive Engineer, PWRD, Sipajhar Teritorial Road SubDivision has closed the following PWD road due to heavy flood and breaching of roads at various stretches. The roads are -Bhuktabari--Sonapur Road,

Padmajhar to Andharighat Jayantipur Road, Dolongghat--Barpathar Road, Duni--Padmajhar Road, Naodinga to Andharighat Jayantipur Road, Bagachala to Andharighat Jayantipur Road and Duni Sareng Road.

constituency. About 20 houses in the area as well as hundreds of hectares of land have already been hit by erosion. The victim public has immediately requested the chief minister and local MLAs to take action in preventing erosion.

Flood caused havoc in Sipajhar LAC

Assam Rising, Sipajhar, May 19: The flood water has caused havoc in the entire Patharughat, Duni, Bonmajha and Sarabari Gaon Panchayat area in Patharughat revenue circle under Darrang district. Most of the paddy fields and roads are submerged. Nearly twenty thousand people are affected by the flood. Furthermore the 15 No National Highways

near Saktola bridge has already been submerged by flood water of Saktola river. The road connection is affected as flood water has breached the embankment of Saktola river. MLA, Sipajhar Legislative Assembly Constituency Dr Paramananda Rajbansi has actively visited the flood affected areas under Patharughat revenue circle under Sipajhar Legislative Assembly Constituency

and urged the concerned department to take necessary steps for the interest of the flood affected people of the locality. Minister, Flood control Pijush Hazarika visited the area along with Dr Paramananda Rajbansi, MLA.

ence Dean Dr. Umaram Tamuli emphasised the farmers to occur a milk revolution in Assam by modern methods and assured the farmers to provide helping hand by the college in this respect. The farmers observed the practical aspects of cattle-rearing in the dairy farm of the college under the guidance of Godrej Agrovet Limited, Guwahati, Technical Servicer Dr. Ainul Hoque. Dr. Dipandita Barman, Dr. Arunudoy Das, Dr. Prashanta Boro, Dr. Biraj Sharma, Dr. Jitumoni Das and Dr. L. Sanathoi Khumon were the other resource persons of the training program. The farmers spoke about the problems faced in their own farms in the interaction session of farmers and scientists. The organiser of the training program Dr. Kandarpa Baruah emphasised on more production of dairy products in his speech. He also offered a vote of thanks. At the end of the program, each farmer was given a praising letter.

LCC observed International Accounting Day

Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, May 19: International Accounting Day was observed at Lakhimpur Commerce College (LCC), North Lakhimpur today. On this occasion, a lecture was organized by the Department of Accountancy of Lakhimpur Commerce College which was inaugurated by Dr. Lohit Hazarika, Principal of the college. The objective of the meeting was explained by Dr. Diganta Das, assistant professor of Accountancy. Manish Rathi, Chartered Accountant and alumni of Lakhimpur Commerce College attended the programme as the resource person. In his address, Rathi spoke in length and breadth about dif-



ferent aspects of accounting and its application in modern life on business and other transactions. The concluding speech of the

meeting was delivered by Prof. Gopal Kumar Chetry, Vice Principal and Head of the Department of Accountancy of LCC.

WARREN TEA LIMITED

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that :

(a) The 45th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Warren Tea Limited ('the Company') is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 22nd June, 2022 at 2 p.m. IST through Video Conferencing (VC)/Other Audio Visual Means (OAVM) facility to transact the businesses as mentioned in the notice of AGM.

(b) The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has vide its circular dated 08th April, 2020, 13th April, 2020, 21st April, 2020, 05th May, 2020, 15th June, 2020, 13th January, 2021, 8th December, 2021, 14th December, 2021 and 5th May, 2022 ('Circulars') permitted the holding of the AGM through VC/OAVM at a common venue without the physical presence of the Members. In compliance with the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 ('the Act'), SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 ('the Listing Regulations') and the SEBI Circular dated May 12, 2020, January 15, 2021 and May 13, 2022 ('Circulars'), the 45th AGM of the Company is being held through VC/OAVM and the Members can attend and participate in the ensuing AGM through VC/OAVM.

(c) The Company has facilitated the Members to participate at the 45th AGM through the VC facility provided by Central Depository Services (India) Limited (CDSL).

(d) In accordance with the aforesaid circulars, Notice of the AGM along with the Annual Report 2021-22 will be sent within the statutory time limit only by electronic mode to those members whose e-mail addresses are registered with the company/depositories. Members may note that the notice of AGM along with the Annual Report will be available on Company's website at www.warrentea.com, website of the stock exchanges i.e. BSE Limited at www.bseindia.com and The Calcutta Stock Exchange Limited at www.cse-india.com and also available on the website of CDSL www.evotingindia.com.

(e) Pursuant to Section 108 of the Act read with Rule 20 of the Companies (Management & Administration) Rules, 2014, Regulation 44 of the Listing Regulations and Secretarial Standard on General Meetings, the Company is pleased to provide to its Members with the facility to cast their votes on all resolutions set forth in the Notice of the AGM using electronic voting system (remote e-voting and voting during AGM) and has engaged the services of CDSL to facilitate voting through electronic voting system. Detailed procedure of remote e-voting and voting at the AGM will be part of the AGM Notice.

(f) For receipt of AGM Notice and Annual Report by electronic mode (e-mail), shareholders holding shares in physical mode and have not registered / updated their e-mail addresses with the Company and wish to register/update may contact/write to the Company at its e-mail id investors@warrentea.com or Registrar and Share Transfer Agent of the Company, CB Management Services (P) Ltd., at their e-mail id rtag@cbmls.com. Shareholders holding shares in dematerialized mode may contact/write to their Depository Participant to register/update their e-mail address.

For Warren Tea Limited
Soma Chakraborty
Company Secretary

Place : Kolkata
Dated : 18th May, 2022

THE ASSAM RISING

VOL. NO. VII, ISSUE NO. 92 FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2022

Finland and Sweden in Nato

Whether Finland and Sweden will actually be safer in Nato is another question. Their declarations have only drawn a mild rebuke from the Kremlin, which has warned against a military buildup in both countries. Vladimir Putin's regime has never suggested the possibility of hostilities against either country, with which it has consistently enjoyed cordial relations. Memories of past Russian-Finnish military confrontations suggest that anyone considering about an incursion into Finland should consider medical treatment (Finland has historically been able to mobilise vast swathes of its population; the country also produces its own version of the AK-47, and its elaborate bunker system may make even nuclear weapons less effective against it). One sensitive point in the Finland-Nato question is that Russians make up the largest minority in Finland. Their main representative organisation has made it clear that it can resolve any of its political issues through the procedures of Finnish politics. But some Finnish officials fear Putin could still use Russian grievances inside Finland as a pretext for hostilities. Perhaps an even more salient pretext is Finland is virtually a member of Nato already. Since 1996, Finland has participated in joint Nato exercises in the Baltic states and Nato missions in Iraq, Kosovo and Afghanistan. Some Finnish politicians now believe that if they are already de facto members they might as well get into Nato proper before it is too late. Putin could, they argue, use Finland's quasi-Nato status as a reason to stop real membership from happening. By joining Nato, Finland appears to be giving up an unusual confidence in its own ability to conduct realpolitik. Finland's peculiarly delicate foreign policy - balanced between Russia and western Europe - typically goes by the name "Finlandization".

Be a Citizen Journalist

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

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Letter to The Editor

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

Editor,
The Assam Rising
Guwahati, Assam

First, Rahul Gandhi visited Nepal, then PM Modi. Different reasons, one common factor

Both Rahul Gandhi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have ensured that Nepal is not missed by those in India. A clip of Rahul Gandhi who was in Kathmandu to attend the wedding of Sumnima Udas, a journalist formerly associated with an American media house, had gone viral. Meanwhile, PM Modi visited Lumbini for the Buddha Jayanti celebrations. India and Nepal are working together to build the Lumbini Museum and India is going to set up the Dr. Ambedkar Chair of Buddhist Studies at the Lumbini Buddhist University. But what does Rahul Gandhi have to do with all this? There is a connection. According to the information available on the Internet, Sumnima Udas is the founder and executive director of the Lumbini Museum since 2018. Her name is listed in several other prominent places also. And her Twitter account reveals she is going to "set up" the Lumbini museum. The Government of India has once again sent a missive to all its high commissions and embassies across the globe that the Indian passport is merely a travel document, and not a certificate of citizenship. Last week, three BJP CMs visited Delhi. Actually, they were summoned. The trio met senior leaders, both in the government and the party. During

interactions, only two of the three CMs were told that the situation in their state needed to improve. They were also briefed on the dos and don'ts. However, the third CM present didn't receive any instructions; only his well-being inquired about. He happily assumed that the party high command was satisfied with his chief minister-ship. However, within 24 hours, the CM was asked to resign. You know it by now. Tripura CM Biplab Deb did not prove to be as lucky as the

BHARAT AGRAWAL

CMs of Karnataka and Himachal. Now let's see who's well-being is inquired about in the next round. It seems that Biplab had run completely out of luck. Out of compulsion, he had to propose Manik Saha's name for the post of new CM. However, he truly wished that Jishnudev Varma, who belongs to the Tripura royal family, be his replacement. In the presence of Union minister Bhupendra Yadav as an observer, Biplab had no choice but to propose the name that had the high command's stamp. Things didn't settle though. An MLA, considered a staunch supporter of Biplab Deb, opposed Manik Saha's nomination and broke a chair as a mark of protest. Now, the high command has sought an explanation, both from Biplab Deb and the MLA who broke the

chair. Does the quashing of Jishnudev Varma's candidature for the post of Tripura CM hold any warning sign for the politics of western states? Several senior BJP leaders are considering it as a clear-cut indication. The message, according to them, is that because Jishnudev belongs to the royal family of Tripura, his candidature was not considered. Keeping some distance between the royalty and the democracy. Do you get it, hukum? A training camp of BJP's Rashtriya Yuva Morcha was underway in Dharamsala. But the gathering wasn't generating enough interest in the media. Amid this, an MLA claimed that former cricketer and India's head coach Rahul Dravid would be attending the event. Before 'Rahul's participation' could become "breaking news", the BCCI stepped in to deny it. But the MLA kept insisting that Dravid would come - 'you just wait'. Later, the national general secretary of Yuva Morcha, Rohit Chahal, had to clarify that the star cricketer won't turn up. UP's Unnao district and the BJP just don't get along. Earlier, the party was having a tough time dealing with incidents of murder and rape in the district, and now, a viral video has added to its troubles. A clip of a man removing the shoe cover for UP cabinet minister Baby Rani Maurya has gone viral.

Forget Gyanvapi for a moment, Varanasi needs justice for a recent carnage



Praveen Swami sent it to Azamgarh through Saraimir resident Shah Nawaz Alam. The improvised explosive devices, Sheikh said, were prepared at a rented Indian Mujahideen safe-house in Azamgarh's Saraimir, using simple clock-based timers assembled by Arif Badr, an operative who had earlier trained with the Lashkar-e-Taiba in Pakistan. Atif Amin, the group's commander, planted the pressure-cooker bombs at Sankat Mochan, along with Ariz Khan; the bombs planted at the railway station were put there by Asad Khan and Mohammad Sarwar Azmi, among others. Andhra Pradesh Police counter-terrorism investigators arrived at the same conclusions. In a classified dossier, the police reported that reconnaissance for the attacks had been conducted in March 2016. The bombers, it said, travelled to Varanasi by bus on the morning of the bombings, planted the devices, and returned home to Saraimir. Few of the men named survive. Atif Amin, the terrorist commander at the core of the Indian Mujahideen network, was killed in a shootout with the Delhi Police. Abu Rashid

Ahmad last appeared in an Islamic State propaganda video and is thought to have been killed in Syria. Shah Nawaz Alam is thought to have died in the siege of Mosul. Ariz Khan, though, is in prison and is appealing against the death sentence he was awarded for his role in Batla House. Asad Khan is being prosecuted on terrorism charges linked to Indian Mujahideen attacks, and Mohammad Sarwar Azmi was arrested for his alleged role in a bombing in Jaipur. There's plenty for investigators to go on - should someone start looking. Egregious disinterest in the truth has been a leitmotif of several similar cases. Five years ago, a court sentenced Kamal Sheikh, Faisal Ansari, Ehtesham Siddiqui, Naveed Khan and Asif Khan to death for their role in the bombing of Mumbai's suburban train system. Seven other conspirators were handed down life sentences; one alleged perpetrator, Wahid Sheikh, was acquitted. Like in the Varanasi case, evidence has long existed to question if those convicted for the crime in fact carried it out. In a statement to the Delhi Police's Special Cell on 20 November 2008, for example, Sheikh said he and Atif Ameen had "prepared the bombs which were kept in three local trains in Mumbai in 2006." To the NIA, similarly, Sheikh provided a granular account of how the explosives were made, and who planted them. The NIA even stated in court, in a separate prosecution, that the 7/11 bombings were carried out "by Indian Mujahideen operatives including but not limited to Sadiq Sheikh, Bada Sajid ['Big' Sajid, a nickname for Mohammad Sajid], Atif Ameen and Abu Rashid". Law-enforcement officers have asked questions about key elements of the ATS'

7/11 investigation - even questioning whether the Govandi chawl it had identified as a bomb factory had enough space to assemble seven explosive devices. Former Director-General of Police Rakesh Maria, then leading the investigation into the Indian Mujahideen attacks by Mumbai's Crime Branch, recorded a confessional statement from Sheikh, detailing his role in the 7/11 bombings. A second, supporting confessional statement was obtained from his associate, Arif Badruddin Sheikh. The chargesheet the Crime Branch filed, indicting Sheikh, before 7/11 special judge YD Shinde, remains unopened more than a decade on. The appeals of the accused are pending. Evidence showing that three Kashmiri men charged with carrying out blasts in New Delhi a day before Diwali in 2005 - which the Indian Mujahideen took responsibility for - was similarly ignored. The Andhra Pradesh Police said that suspects had revealed, during interrogation, that the Delhi bombings had been carried out by Atif Amin - but the Delhi Police never followed up. Eventually, two Kashmiri men were acquitted, and one convicted of a terrorism charge unconnected to the bombing. Like historical grievances, this depressing record suggests, terrorism cases aren't primarily concerned with the truth of what happened. Instead, the terrorism issue has been used as a political tool, which serves to surrender communities and consolidate communal resentment. The manifest failure to deliver justice engendered conspiracy theories and toxic anger among both Muslims and Hindus, more lethal in the long-term than any bombs the Indian Mujahideen planted.

For long, Congress wavered on social justice. Now it's waking up to BJP's OBC politics

The Congress' revival strategy has gained a potent factor. At the recently held three-day Nav Sankalp Chintan Shivir, or New

Resolution Brainstorming Conclave, in Rajasthan's Udaipur, the Congress constituted a social justice committee headed by senior leaders Salman Khurshid and K. Raju. The committee has recommended several social justice measures to restructure the party. The panel, according to media reports, has recommended "50 per cent representation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and minorities at all levels in the party organisation". It has also recommended fighting for OBC reservation in Parliament and state assemblies, and "quota within quota in the women's reservation bill" with "proportionate reservation for SC, ST and OBC women". More crucially, the social justice panel has recommended caste-based reservation in the private sector. This is a difficult area for

enumeration of caste census, which the BJP has been ignoring. It now openly, and categorically, challenges the BJP, which is in power largely because of the OBC vote. If the Congress does make a resolution on these recommendations, its composition and ideological position will undergo a metamorphosis unlike anything we have seen since Independence. Unsurprisingly, the social justice agenda of the Congress has shocked not only the BJP but also those who don't want social justice issues - particularly the reservation question - to take centre stage in the national polity. The Congress'

Kancha Ilaiah Shepherd

brainstorming teams were sympathetic to the view that the party should seek power by focussing on issues like secularism, diversity, pluralism, and anti-communalism. But the Shudra/OBC/Dalit/Adiavasi masses are not interested in these abstract ideas anymore. Clearly, the Congress has realised this. The Congress has long wavered on taking a strong position on the social justice agenda because of its internal structural dilemma. Though the Congress ruled India for 15 years after the Mandal Commission's report was implemented by the V.P. Singh Government - five years of P.V. Narasimha Rao rule and 10 years of Dr Manmohan Singh's tenure - the party was mainly under the hegemonic grip of anti-social justice elite. Most of its elite leaders were boardroom managers but not vote mobilisers. Manmohan Singh, P. Chidambaram, Jairam Ramesh, Mani Shankar Aiyar, and the



late Ahmed Patel were managing the government and the party, with a negative view about the Mandal forces at the ground level. Rajya Sabha route became the power politics of the elite. Now that route

has been cut short for two terms. After Rajiv Gandhi's victory in the 1984 Lok Sabha election, when the party won 414 seats in the backdrop of the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the Congress effectively became a Doon School team. The victory made the Doon School team overconfident, causing internal crisis and the rise of V.P. Singh as a new national leader. Though the Congress was able to form a minority government under the leadership of P.V. Narasimha Rao in 1991, Rao was no mass leader to take the Congress forward. The Mandal movement was opposed by the anti-reservationists, who raked up a merit theory. And Rajiv Gandhi's arch-enemy V.P. Singh implemented the Mandal Commission Report, much to the annoyance of Rajiv and his elite team. They opposed the OBC reservation with all their strength. Not a single person in the Congress' elite team was from the Shudra/OBC/Dalit/Adiavasi background. Both the Congress and the BJP misjudged the aspirations and strength of the Shudra/OBC youth and the

masses. During the ten years of UPA rule - 2004 to 2014 - some positive steps were taken to satisfy the Mandal forces that were getting more and more organised. But the Congress did not give any visible position to any Mandalite either in the government or in the party. It mainly depended on the Dwija, minority (Muslim and Christian), Dalit and Adiavasi electoral base and Dwija leaders to run the government. By 2014, there was no leader in the Congress who could effectively communicate to the masses in rural India as to what they did in their ten-year rule. It solely depended on young Rahul Gandhi to fight the well-organised RSS/BJP across India. Manmohan Singh did not address any major public rally as he was never a mass leader. Such a Rajya Sabha PM was no match to the BJP, which had positioned its understanding of Mandal forces and brought Narendra Modi with an OBC card. The rise of Narendra Modi and consecutive electoral losses has perhaps made the Congress realise that the OBC won't align with the party unless it restructures itself. Given the numbers of the Shudra/OBC - 52 per cent as per the Mandal estimation - winning a general election without addressing their concerns is unthinkable in today's politics.

David Zaslav gathered movie-studio executives

London, May 19 : Days into his role as CEO of Warner Bros. Discovery, WBD - 4.90%? David Zaslav gathered movie-studio executives and grilled them about a recent string of box-office flops, including "Cry Macho," a Clint Eastwood neo-Western. Warner Bros. executives conceded they had doubted the movie would turn a profit, people familiar with the meeting said. Why, Zaslav asked, was "Cry Macho" made if they had reservations? When they replied that Eastwood had given the studio many hits and never delivered a movie late or over budget, he answered: We don't owe anyone any favors. "It's not show friends, it's show business," he told them, quoting from the 1996 Tom Cruise movie "Jerry Maguire." Zaslav, who last month took over the company resulting from Discovery's merger with AT&T Inc.'s WarnerMedia, has given every indication he wants to be a talent-friendly mogul, schmoozing with industry personalities at the Beverly Hills Hotel. But the 62-year-old cable-industry veteran, a protégé of the late Jack Welch, longtime CEO of



General Electric Co., has shown he isn't afraid to ruffle the industry's elite. He and his team have been scouring the company's books, making it clear spending needs to be reined in. They have abandoned projects they consider costly and unnecessary. That included pulling the plug on CNN+, barely a month after previous management launched the streaming service, and canceling a DC. He has given an unwelcome jolt to executives in the WarnerMedia empire who were happy when AT&T decided to part with it in the merger, hoping there would be less financial scrutiny-not more. "It's the first time they've had a leader there who is challenging them and asking the right questions," said Ari Emanuel, CEO of Endeavor, which owns talent agency WME. "When there

are things he wants, he goes after them in a very aggressive manner," he said of Zaslav. Heavier Burden Ratio of debt to earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization Source: RBC Capital Markets Note: Ratios are as of March 31 except for Warner Bros. Discovery, which was management's forecast for

the merger's close in early April. Warner Bros. Discovery Paramount Disney Comcast 0 times 12345. Select streamers' global subscriber base Sources: The companies; Wells Fargo (Discovery+, Paramount+) Note: As of 1Q 2022. Hulu majority-owned by Disney. Owned/controlled by Walt Disney Owned by Warner Bros. Discovery Netflix Disney+ HBO Max Hulu Paramount+ Discovery+ 0 million 100200. Zaslav, who starts working at 6 a.m. and holds meetings as early as 7 a.m., is looking to be more hands-on than his predecessors. Creative executives now report directly to him, a change that led to the ouster of many executives who once held these inter-

mediary roles. "Command and control" is a favorite phrase for Zaslav-Zas to friends and colleagues. "Zas is not particularly patient," said Margaret Loesch, now retired, who ran Discovery Kids for him. "He is going to want to change things quickly." His axing CNN+ was "pure Zas," she said. Zaslav has few options other than drastic moves. The deal brought the new company-now home of Warner Bros. and cable channels including HBO, CNN, TNT, Food Network and HGTV-\$55 billion in debt, and he has promised to cut at least \$3 billion in costs. He has given executives a few weeks to provide restructuring and business plans.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui in Kahaani

Mumbai, May 19 : In his first scene of Kahaani itself, Nawazuddin Siddiqui caught people's attention. After smoking in the washroom while assessing the situation, he marches into a sleepy police station and barks at whoever tries to give him orders. He doesn't mince his words; he is probably that coarse and brash officer in front of whom you would rather play dead. He knows he is superior to the rest of relaxed policemen there, and doesn't hesitate to show them his badge with grim satisfaction after cursing them liberally. Later, he meets a pregnant Vidya Balan, who is hunting for her missing husband. Her predicament doesn't mean he will rein himself in when dealing with her - they're all the same when it comes to work. Juxtaposed against Parambrata Chatterjee's easy-going, empathetic and understanding policeman avatar, filmmaker Sujoy Ghosh struck the perfect balance in the film. Kahaani was a Vidya Balan



driven film and yet, Nawazuddin Siddiqui stood out, with his clearly defined personality. It was a fast-paced thriller where a seemingly helpless pregnant woman is searching for her missing husband and finds out that she is being used by the Intelligence Bureau to track down a criminal - except, in the plot twist, she was the one using them all along. And, she was using Nawazuddin Siddiqui's help, who was going to use her as bait. Nawaz's Khan had only one goal in mind: To nab a dangerous criminal. He wasn't too worried about risking one person's life for the greater good, as he coolly told

Parambrata Chatterjee, "Col-lateral damage." He was ruthless; he didn't really bother with excessive emotions and didn't show much sensitivity when dealing with a grieving woman. He had a job at the end of the day; and he was here to do it. He wasn't going to accommodate other people's whims or fancies - if he wanted to smoke in front of a pregnant woman, hell, he would do it. As Nawaz told Hindustan Times this year, the film's initial buzz wasn't strong enough to convince him that this would later become one of his most prominent roles. "Shurumein koi itnakhaas idea nahithake film isstarahit hogi. In fact,

jab film release hui, teen din tak kuch nahitha, aurnapatachalake hit hogi. After Sunday, I started getting calls from producers and Ghosh that the feedback is good, and it is growing. Uskebaadjaise film uthiwohtohkamal hi thi," he had said. 2011 was also the time when Nawaz was juggling between several films and almost didn't take up the Kahaani offer, till Sujoy Ghosh convinced him. He was in the midst of shooting for other films that would later prove to define his career - Gangs of Wasseypur and Talaash, though in the latter, he might not have been as prominent. With these three films in 2011, Nawaz cemented his position on the Bollywood scene. His understated acting, comic timing and dry wit were duly noted. Yet, there was something a lot more real about him in Kahaani, perhaps more so than even the first installment of Gangs of Wasseypur. Stripping away the idealism of Bollywood heroes, he created the space between the hero and the anti-hero.



walked the red carpet with her daughter and stole everyone's attention. Meanwhile, Deepika Padukone, who has managed to make heads turn at Cannes this year, is representing the country as a jury member. On Wednesday, Deepika

talked at the inauguration of India Pavilion. She said, "India is at the cusp of greatness, this is just the beginning...there will come a day I truly believe where India won't have to be at Cannes, but Cannes will be in India."

Eiza González's Boyfriend History

London, May 19 : Ever since her days as a telenovela star, Eiza González has had quite the love life with some major Hollywood stars! After the actress began scoring roles in major English-language flicks like Baby Driver and Fast and Furious, she also scored some relationships with stars like Josh Duhamel, Timothee Chalamet, and now, Jason Momoa. In September 2021, Eiza revealed that one of her biggest turnoffs is messiness. "That's a big dealbreaker for me," she explained during an interview on The Kelly Clarkson Show. "You're in the relationship and then you start kind of living together, and you're like, 'Oh, wow, this is not gonna [work].'" Eiza was initially linked to Liam Hemsworth in 2013 after they were spotted out engaging in some serious PDA shortly after Liam split from ex Miley Cyrus. Eiza refused to directly comment on the matter, however, telling Latina magazine in 2017, "I think that your life as a public person is already so exposed. I'm being linked to people because it's my environment. It's like your school. We know each other. It's people I surround myself with. I don't know why it's such a big thing." "I would never talk about that. I focus on my work, that's what really matters," Eiza continued to Latina. "I'm looking for love like every other human being. I've been meeting a lot of people and finding what I like and what I don't like - defining myself as a person." Although they were never an official "couple," Eiza and the hit singer Maluma sparked romance rumors in July 2017 when they were seen getting up close and personal at a Los Angeles club. Eiza started dating Josh Duhamel in 2018 after he got divorced from ex-wife Fergie. The pair apparently met at a Super Bowl after party hosted by Jennifer Lopez and ended up getting flirty. "They drank and partied together until very late," a source told Us Weekly at the time. "After, Josh reached out to a mutual friend and asked for Eiza's number." Eiza was linked to Timothee Chalamet in June 2020 after they were photographed together making out during a Mexico vacation. The pair never made a public appearance together and apparently called it quits that October.

Is 365 Days: This Day a worthy sequel?



assigned to it. The overall pop soundtrack of this movie is not bad. In fact, even the soundtrack in the preceding film was touted by many as its sole redeeming factor. No doubt this movie was sponsored by companies behind cars, vibrators, shades and jacuzzis, judging by the numerous close ups of these items in the movie which seems more like an extended music video than anything. The characters are paper thin, coming off as corny with equally corny dialogues. There is no moment in this film in which we feel empathy for these people or care about what happens to them. The plot itself is bare-thin and insignificant. By the

second half of the movie, the couple's fairytale honeymoon is brought to an end thanks to the husband's unavoidable mafia duties which he needs to tend to. So the bored Laura is left alone by herself with nothing to keep her busy. She walks around the estate and encounters a mysterious young man named Nacho (Simone Susinna). Nacho's introductory scene is laughably cringe - almost bordering on parody - as the camera caresses his muscles, tattoos and face like they do in advertisements for men's grooming products. Nacho claims to be the new gardener at the estate. But this guy is not what he claims to be and once again, the

couple's marriage is thrown against the rocks by dangerous outside forces. It's unbelievable how the plot is crammed into the second half of this movie, and if stripped to its essential scenes (cutting out the sex/party/travel scenes), it would only last for twenty minutes. Such is the state of the plot of this film. Just like its predecessor, 365 Days: This Day is another unintentionally funny, slightly amusing, and mostly boring uninspired piece of Netflix content. There is no way the makers of this film don't realize how bland and embarrassing this movie is and how people perceive it. All that matters is that the film

grabs people's attention, is talked about by reviewers no matter how negatively, and has people checking out the movie for curiosity. And so far, it seems like people are watching it. This thriller, directed by Barbara Bialow's and Tomasz Mandes, is ranking at #5 on Netflix's Movies Today as of writing this. Not all movies have to be serious or need to make complete sense. This sequel, with its lazily written plot and clunky English dialogues, could have been made into a campy thriller. All the energy and focus could have been put into making this movie entertainingly slapstick and self-aware about its caricature of mafia characters and overall lack of logic. But instead, it tries to be stylish and pretty, glamorous but not too out-there, not quite here nor there; and as a result, it makes for an unconvincing film. However, some audiences aren't concerned about the blandness or lack of plot in a movie as long as they can hang out with their friends, munch snacks and watch a flick where they can make fun of the characters. Perhaps in that way, this film will prove useful.

What went wrong with Ranveer Singh starrer Jayeshbhai Jordaar?

Mumbai, May 19 : Last Friday's mega release Jayeshbhai Jordaar was expected to work due to the presence of a popular actor like Ranveer Singh, concept, and the backing of the reputed production house, Yash Raj Films (YRF). Shockingly, the film had a poor opening of Rs. 3.25 crore. It saw a marginal jump and earned Rs. 4 crores on Saturday. On Sunday, it earned Rs. 4.75 and hence, the weekend collections were just Rs. 12 crores. What shocked the industry is that even the other recent films like Runway 34, Heropanti 2, and Jersey had similar kinds of openings and showed no growth. We asked the trade experts first, as to why Jayeshbhai Jordaar flopped. Trade veteran Taran Adarsh said, "The trailer is the first impression that we give out to the audience as to what to expect from the film. And the trailer was hardly exciting enough. Secondly, the makers narrated the entire story in the trailer itself. Thirdly, it's a 'jordaar' concept but the writing is very 'kamzor'. Moreover, certain films were started pre-Covid. Post-Covid, everything has changed. Larger-than-life films like Pushpa, RRR, and KGF have worked. Or even Gangubai Kathiawadi for that matter; there was enough drama and enough content for the people to enjoy on the big screen. Here, everything went wrong. And I am shocked that Yash Raj and Ranveer Singh couldn't realize it before the release of the film." Trade analyst Atul Mohan explained, "There were a lot of flaws in the script. From the poster, it seemed like a fun, family film. But the trailer was weak. The subject was outdated." He added, "Also when you have a title like Jayeshbhai Jordaar, you expect a dynamic character. Then, it would have made a difference. Lekin title mein 'jordaar' hai par dekhnejaootoh hero mein kuchbhi 'jordaar' nahihai. That was a spoilsport." He also said, "Ranveer Singh kolekeap entertaining film banasakte ho. Preachy film bananahisakte ho. Uska image waisahai. So, we have to play around with the image that the actor has among the audience. Nevertheless, he attempted to do something new." Girish Johar, producer and film business analyst, explained, "The content faltered big time. Also, the timing was wrong. This film was supposed to come two years earlier. During the pandemic, thanks to the rise of OTT, the audiences got exposed to worldwide content at the push of a button. The consumption patterns have changed drastically. The quality is far superior to what it used to be earlier. That's probably why the film seemed dated. And I'll also add that it seemed like the makers were also not too confident of the film. After the trailer launch, I couldn't see that extra push. Look how the makers of Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2 are trying to create a noise. I didn't see that happening with Jayeshbhai Jordaar. Maybe the producers knew what was coming. So, they did not build up that hype. If you build up that hype and the content is not up to that standard, you get more brickbats. That's why they presumably went for minimal marketing."



Mumbai: The first movie had made a splash when it was released on Netflix. With its steamy scenes, the handsome cast, its Fifty Shades of Grey premise, and its romanticization of abusive relationships, the film was much talked about on social media. Adding to that, it was objectively underwhelming and devoid of real substance which made the movie a target for mockery and incinerating commentary videos on YouTube. Based on the novel of the same name by Blanka Lipi'ska, 365 Days followed our heroine, Laura Biel (played by Anna Maria Sieklucka), who gets kidnapped by a handsome, brooding Italian gangster named Massimo (Michele Morrone). Besotted by her angelic beauty, Massimo keeps her hostage and asks her to live with him for exactly one year. If Laura doesn't fall in love with him by the end of the year, he will let her go. The ending is inevitable. The bored Laura falls hard for the mysterious gangster and they get it on. There's also mafia rivalry and mind games which occur throughout the movie, but we know no one watched

it for that. The sequel, 365 Days: This Day, begins with Laura and Massimo making out passionately right before their wedding to some pop music. The filmmakers are essentially saying, "You came for the sex scenes, isn't it? Here, take it!" Then we see the couple tying the knot in a lavish Sicilian wedding sequence with even more background pop music. And then there's the honeymoon. Cue the rollout of more Rated R scenes. The first half of this erotic "thriller" is basically a montage of said scenes as well as Laura and Massimo doing leisurely activities in pretty locations. With crisp cinematography, a never-ending pop music playlist and characters dressed in designer clothes, the film looks more like a music video or an extended commercial. Then there are more scenes of the couple attending parties. This is followed by Laura and her best friend Olga going on a girls' trip in their shiny car in a scene straight out of a tourism ad. In fact, there is less spoken dialogue and more background music throughout the course of this movie. One could argue that each scene has a song

Contd. From Page 1

Flood situation deteriorated

Rs 4 lakh each to the families of deceased. The bulletin stated that the Army, paramilitary force, NDRF, SDRF, civil administration, trained volunteers, fire and emergency services and local people have evacuated 8,066 persons from various flood-hit parts of the state by deploying boats and helicopters. Fresh landslides have taken place in Hailakandi and the devastated Dima Hasao district, where the local administration has set up many relief camps for the affected people, the bulletin said. Embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure have been damaged by flood waters in Biswanath, Barpeta, Goalpara, Nagaon, Nalbari, Tamulpur, Bajali, Cachar, Darrang, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Morigaon, Sonitpur, Udalguri, Dibrugarh and Kamrup, ASDMA said. A total of 3,07,849 domestic animals and poultry have been affected in the deluge across 13 districts, it added. Kopili river is flowing above the danger marks at Dharamtul and Kampur, and Disang at Nanglamuraghat, the bulletin stated. In view of the damages to railway tracks in multiple locations, the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has already suspended all trains through Lumding-Badarpur Hill Section to Barak Valley, Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur, and restoration work is on in the damaged areas. In neighbouring Arunachal Pradesh the incessant rain over the last couple of days triggered landslides and flood-like situation in several districts. So far four people have died in Itanagar due to landslides while the body of three others, including a woman buried under one on Sunday night is yet to be recovered despite efforts, a police official said. Torrential rains have led to flooding by Lohit river and its tributaries in Lohit district and is threatening areas like Machuwa camp, Tezu Khola, Jhalukbari and 32 miles, the officials said. The Lohit District Disaster Management Office (DDMO) has advised people not to venture into Lohit river or any other vulnerable pockets for fishing or any other activities. Lohit deputy commissioner Marge Sora said that 35 families were shifted to temporary relief camps at Tezu, the district headquarters. The landslides have hit water supply in the capital complex since Monday night comprising Itanagar, Naharlagun, Nirjuli and Banderdeva areas and hit surface communication between Itanagar and Ziro in Lower Subansiri district via Potin. Meanwhile, Tripura, which is facing depleting stocks as railway services to the state has been snapped due to the devastating flood in Assam, may transport essential commodities through Bangladesh's Chittagong. "There has been no confirmation over the restoration of train service through Lumding-Badarpur section in Assam and disruption in train service for a long period will have an adverse impact on the supply of essential items in Tripura. That is why we are planning to bring essentials by using an alternative way - the Haldia-Chittagong-Akhaura-Agartala transshipment route to transport essential items on an emergency basis, L. Darlong, the principal secretary in Tripura transport department said. He said the state's stock of petrol will only last for eight days and diesel for five, which is a matter of concern. The Assam-Agartala national highway opened for vehicular movement on Wednesday and IOCL has started sending petrol and diesel to the state in takers from Guwahati and Silchar. Additional secretary in the food and civil supplies department, Tapan Kumar Das said. The flood situation in Assam has turned grim as incessant rainfall continue to wreak havoc with Haflong station in Dima Hasao completely inundated due to mud slides. Pratidin Time has come up with exclusive visuals and photographs from Dima Hasao which is completely damaged due to heavy rainfall. Dima Hasao which has recently attracted a huge number of tourists, has been completely cut off from the rest of Assam and other regions due to landslides and floods that occurred due to heavy rainfall. In Dima Hasao, roads, bridges and houses have been completely or partially damaged in several areas. Communication has also been snapped. Due to landslides, the district cannot be approached from outside. All roads and railways leading to Haflong have been blocked since May 15. Over 2.88 lakh people have been affected in Nagaon district as a result of the first wave of floods in Assam. This was stated by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), on Thursday. 147 villages under three revenue circles in the district are currently reeling under water. As per the reports, thousands of people in Borkola and Dakshinpaat area under Raha and Nagaon revenue circle respectively have been rendered homeless after the flood water entered their homes, compelling them to move to safer places. As per the data released by the ASDMA, currently, 9,742.57 hectares of cropland in the district is under water. Meanwhile, the water level of the Kopili River at Kampur is still flowing above the danger level mark and has crossed its highest level. And with forecast of more rain in the state for the next couple of days, the flood situation is likely to aggravate. It may be mentioned that over 6.62 lakh people in 27 districts across the state have been affected by the current spell of floods. The death toll in the state has risen to 10. Bongaigaon, Baksa Dibrugarh, Dhemaji, Goalpara, Barpeta, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Morigaon, Nalbari, Sonitpur and Kamrup are the other districts which are currently reeling under flood waters. The administrative heads of three districts of Barak Valley held a joint meeting at Silchar amid the rising water level of River Barak and its tributaries. Cachar Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli along with her Karimganj counterpart Midrul Yadav and Hailakandi DC Rohan Kumar Jha held talks with the wholesale and retail merchant associations of the districts along with LPG and Oil Suppliers and Godown owners at the DRDA conference hall. Keerthi Jalli said that there is no shortage of stock of essentials amidst the flood situation across the three districts, the wholesale and retail dealers assured the Cachar DC. "We have enough stock of essential food items for the next 15 days minimum and even if there is need to procure items, the districts will cooperate to mitigate the crisis. A WhatsApp number 7002178162 has been opened for people to register complaint with related video clips if any foul play regarding sale of potato or onion is done by any vendor during this crisis," she said. The DC also requested the public not to pay heed to any rumour of crisis and purchase at inflated cost. Even if there is a forecast of more rain in the next two days, the weather is likely to clear soon and all the roads will be opening as well. People in the relief camps will be given food and other necessary items, said Jalli. The DC also requested the people not to step out of their homes unless there is any emergency. Sharing a video message, Jalli said, "There has been heavy rain over the past few days. We are faced with flood situation as the rivers have swelled and water is entering into more areas across the district. Barring all those engaged in essential service, I request people who are not affected by flood, not to step out of their homes unless there is any serious need and unnecessarily create traffic congestion which deters the efforts to reach out to the victims with relief materials on time." Karimganj Deputy Commissioner Midrul Yadav informed that since water has entered in Karimganj town, there are six relief camps opened in Karimganj and two relief camps have been opened in Badarpur town area. Asked about the stock of petroleum, Yadav informed that 2 lakh litres of fuel is in store for now. Hailakandi DC Rohan Kumar Jha informed that six villages in Alagapur circle of the district and GR are being provided to all of them. In view of the flood situation, the Cachar district administration has closed all educational institutions (government and private) and non-essential private establishments for 48 hours with effect from Thursday. The order has come into effect from 6 AM of May 19 and will remain in force till next 48 hours, said a notification from the Cachar district administration. As many as 96,697 people across 206 revenue villages of Cachar district inundating 1462.90 hectares of cropland and 106 kaccha houses in Silchar circle have been affected by the first wave of flood. As per sources in the Water Resources Division, the level of water at Annapurma Ghat which kept rising by 7 cm per hour on Tuesday has crossed over 21 metres and is currently measured at 21.26 metres at 11 am on Wednesday against the danger level of 19.83 metres with a rising trend of 6 cm per hour. Reports have come that water of river Barak has overflowed into areas of Malugram, Sonai road and briskly inundating more areas of Silchar and other parts of the district. As per a report issued by the Water Resources Division at Silchar, 141.80 mm of rainfall has been recorded on Tuesday, stretching the cumulative rainfall to 999.80 mm with a predicted trend of rise in the water level. In order to mitigate communication crisis due to floods and landslides disrupting rail and road links to Barak Valley and Dima Hasao, emergency flight service has also been introduced between Silchar and Guwahati by the Assam Government for the stranded passengers. The state government has introduced the flight service under UDAAN scheme at a subsidized rate of Rs. 3000 and the subsidized rate will be beard by the government.

BJP MLA Slammed For Piggyback

which is barely a few steps away, in ankle-deep water. More than 48,000 people have been shifted to 248 relief camps after pre-monsoon rains triggered floods in Assam. Hojai and Cachar are the worst-hit districts. More than 1 lakh people have been affected in each district. The army has rescued more than 2,000 people trapped in the Hojai district as part of ongoing rescue efforts. Dima Hasao district in south Assam remains cut off for the fifth day today. Landslides triggered by rain have cut off road and rail links to Dima Hasao. Villages along the Brahmaputra, one of the world's largest rivers, are flooded as the water level rose following heavy rains. It has also snapped road and rail connectivity to the Barak Valley as well as vital parts of Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur since Sunday. The Assam government will provide financial assistance of ₹ 4 lakh each to the families of those who died.

CM Dr. Sarma presents sanction letters

government has set a target of meeting 10 lakh litre of milk by 2026. Similarly, he also mentioned several steps that the State government has taken for making the women self-help group more productive and professional. Stating that through agriculture and industrialization, the State government would rehabilitate two lakh youth, Dr. Sarma said that steps have been taken to give a facelift to Arunodoi scheme. He also said that the current financial aid given under Arunodoi scheme would be enhanced to Rs. 1250 from August 15 next. On the occasion, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also spoke briefly about different plans that the government has conceived for the development of Jorhat. Besides building a full-fledged stadium, the DC office Jorhat would be shifted to Cinnamara Tea Estate areas and the existing DC office would be converted into a state of the art museum. He said that Rs. 50 crore has already been sanctioned for an integrated DC office in Jorhat. Principal Secretary Panchayat and Rural Development Dr. J.B. Ekka gave the welcome address in the programme which was also addressed by Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Giriraj Singh, Panchayat and Rural Development Minister Ranjeet Kumar Dass. Minister Dass said that since 2016 in Assam 5,31,390 houses have been built. Moreover, the government led by Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma constructed 128398 houses in just one year. Thanking the Chief Minister, he said that to ensure housing for all by 2024, his ministry will take all possible steps to reach the target. MPs Topon Kumar Gogoi, Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, MLAs Hitendra Nath Goswami, Rupjyoti Goswami, Bhabendra Nath Bharali and a host of others were present on the occasion.

PM Modi to hold bilateral meet with US

address & interact with the Indian community in Japan. PM is also likely to have a bilateral meeting with Australia's PM," Bagchi added. The MEA spokesperson said the fourth Quad leaders summit in Tokyo will be an opportunity for the Quad leaders to "exchange views about developments in the Indo-Pacific and contemporary global issues of mutual interest". "We attach a lot of importance to the Quad. We have been keen to showcase what the Quad can do together and what it stands for. We will discuss contemporary issues and other issues of importance," the MEA spokesperson said.

GST Council recommendations not binding

constitutionality of such provisions based on GST Council recommendations, Abhishek A Rastogi, Partner at Khaitan & Co, added. Rastogi argued for the companies in the Ocean Freight matter in the Mohit Minerals case. The Supreme Court's judgement clarifies that GST Council is an informal body whose inputs should be taken into account, but it does not have a legislative power and laws have to be legislated by the bodies who are empowered to do so ie the Parliament and the state legislative assemblies, S R Patnaik, Partner & Head - Taxation, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas said. "The Courts would now have to be more proactive in the judicial review of GST legislation with the Apex Court clarifying that that decisions of the GST Council are not law and they are mere recommendations," Patnaik added. The Supreme Court on Thursday struck down integrated goods and services tax (IGST) levy on ocean freight. It upheld the Gujarat HC order to quash levy of IGST on ocean freight under reverse charge, dismissing Revenue's special leave petition challenging the Gujarat HC decision that had gone in favour of taxpayers. "The Supreme Court has held that GST on ocean freight paid in case of import of goods is unconstitutional. As a corollary, the Indian importers who had paid such tax will be eligible to refund. Further, those importers who had not paid the tax on import of services will now not be required to pay tax because of this Supreme Court ruling," said Abhishek Rastogi. The Supreme Court acknowledged that imposing tax on ocean freight is in violation of composite tax, ie, the government cannot dissect the unified import transaction to levy IGST on 'Ocean Freight' on transportation of goods from a place outside India to a place in India, said Himanshu Relan, Partner - Indirect Tax, Nangia & Co LLP.

Centre to review Covid-19 vaccination

comprise 0.04 per cent of the total infections, while the national COVID-19 recovery rate was recorded at 98.75 per cent, the ministry said. A decrease of 228 cases has been recorded in the active COVID-19 caseload in a span of 24 hours. The daily positivity rate was recorded at 0.50 per cent and the weekly positivity rate was recorded at 0.55 per cent, according to the ministry. The number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 4,25,89,841, while the case fatality rate was recorded at 1.22 per cent. The cumulative doses administered in the country so far under the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive has exceeded 191.79 crore. India had on Wednesday recorded a single-day rise of 1,829 new coronavirus infections, raising the tally to 4,31,27,199, while the active cases have declined to 15,647, the Union Health Ministry said. India's COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 23, 2020, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19. The country crossed the grim milestone of two crore on May 4 and three crore on June 23 last year. The 10 new fatalities include six from Kerala and one each from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh. A total of 5,24,303 deaths have been reported so far in the country including 1,47,856 from Maharashtra, 69,440 from Kerala, 40,106 from Karnataka, 38,025 from Tamil Nadu, 26,198 from Delhi, 23,514 from Uttar Pradesh and 21,203 from West Bengal. The ministry stressed that more than 70 per cent of the deaths occurred due to comorbidities. "Our figures are being reconciled with the Indian Council of Medical Research," the ministry said on its website, adding that state-wise distribution of figures is subject to further verification and reconciliation.

Assam floods: Indian Railways cancels

Silchar-Guwahati Express at the Ditokcherra station and another was train number 15615 Guwahati-Silchar Express at the New Haflong station in Assam's Dima Hasao district. Landslides triggered by incessant rain snapped rail and road links to Barak Valley and Dima Hasao district of Assam and neighbouring states of Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur. Cancellation of trains: 12503 Bangalore Cant-Agartala Exp. 12504 Agartala-Bangalore Cant Exp. 14620 Firozpur Cantt Jn-Agartala, 14619 Agartala-Firozpur Cantt Jn Exp. 14037 Silchar-New Delhi PSK Exp. 14038 New Delhi-Silchar PSK Exp. 15626 Agartala-Deoghar Exp. 15625 DGHR-AGTL Exp. 15641 Silchar-New Tinsukia Exp. 15642 New Tinsukia-Silchar Exp. 20501 Agartala- Anand Vihar Terminal Tejas Exp. 20502 Anand Vihar Terminal-Agartala Tejas. 01665 Rani Kamalapati-Agartala Spl. 01666 Agartala-Rani Kamalapati Spl. 15615 Guwahati-Silchar Exp. 15616 Silchar-Guwahati Exp. 15611 Guwahati-Silchar Exp. 15612 Silchar-Guwahati Exp. 07030 Secunderabad Jn.-Agartala Spl. 07029 Agartala-Secunderabad Jn Spl. 15888 Guwahati-Badarpur Tourist Exp. 15887 Badarpur-Guwahati Tourist Exp. Short termination/Short Origination of trains: Sealdah-Agartala Kanchanjunga Exp. 13174 Agartala-Sealdah Kanchanjunga Exp. 13175 Sealdah-Silchar Kanchanjunga Exp. 13176 Silchar-Sealdah Kanchanjunga Exp. Torrential rainfall and landslides in the past few days have eroded sections of roads and railway tracks in Assam's Dima Hasao district affecting road and rail connectivity to the Barak Valley region of the state. A report of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority on Wednesday revealed that more than 6.62 lakh people in 27 districts of Assam have been affected by the current spell of floods in the state.

SSC Scam: Mamata Banerjee takes dig at BJP

Kolkata, May 19 : Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of Bengal targets BJP again. On Thursday, she attacked the saffron camp from the stage of the workers' meeting in Jhargram. Mamata claims that the BJP is trying to defame Bengal after losing the election. And they are using central government agencies as a tool to defame them. Mamata also warned that the Trinamool cannot be suppressed in this way. She also gave a message to the party workers to work harder. Former Education Minister Partha Chatterjee is already facing the heat of CBI in the SSC Scam

case. Anubrata Mandal has voluntarily appeared before the CBI at Nizam Palace in connection with the cow smuggling case. Mamata opened up about the CBI summons to her party leader-minister one after another. "The BJP party is running the Tughlaqi rule in the country today. They are running this Tughlaqi rule with the help of few central government agencies. No one has the right to live today. There is no right to freedom. There are no civil rights. All rights have been curtailed. No one is allowed to visit any important institutions. Only BJP men are

allowed to do so." Mamata also blamed the CPM (CPIM) for alleged SSC recruitment corruption case. She said, "They're talking big. They used to transfer with a note. In 34 years of the CPM rule, I have searched a lot. I'll open all the chapter slowly. I didn't because I was polite." Mamata also gave a message to the party workers to remain corruption-free. She advised the people of the state to write directly to the Chief Minister and lodge a complaint if they do not get the prescribed funds for any project. Mamata has even talked about taking legal action.



Hojai- flood on Thursday

Minister Atul Bora's Convoy Meets With Accident

Guwahati, May 19 : A convoy vehicle of Assam Minister Atul Bora met with an accident in Hojai district on Thursday morning. According to sources, the incident occurred at NH-54 in Barbaha area when the convoy vehicle, a Bolero, tried to overtake an Army vehicle but instead collided with it. The driver of the vehicle has been injured in the accident and is said to be in critical condition. Bora along with his convoy was enroute Hojai to take stock of the flood situation there when the accident occurred. It may be mentioned that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had directed his cabinet ministers to visit flood-ravaged districts of Assam and ensure smooth supply of essentials to the needy. Following a cabinet meeting yesterday, CM Sarma had also announced food relief package for Dima Hasao district which has been majorly affected by artificial floods since last three days. Speaking to reporters, he said that a total of 12 metric tonnes of food items will be airdropped at Haflong in Dima Hasao as relief package. He also instructed ministers Jogen Mohan and Bimal Bora to reach Haflong by any means possible to oversee the process. "Two cabinet ministers have already started their journey to the flood hit districts to take stock of the situation. If road connectivity is disrupted, they have been instructed to reach there even by two wheeler," he said. Further, the chief minister informed that Barak Valley, which is also greatly affected by floods, has ample amount of food items, petrol, diesel that will last for over a week. State ministers Parimal Suklabaidya and Ashok Singhal have been instructed to reach Barak Valley tomorrow and take stock of the situation, CM Sarma said.

Delhi Government's Doorstep Ration Scheme Set Aside By High Court

New Delhi, May 19 : The Delhi High Court Thursday set aside the AAP government's doorstep ration delivery scheme, Mukhyamantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojna. The high court allowed two petitions filed by ration dealers challenging the scheme. A bench of Acting Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi and Justice Jasmeet Singh said the Delhi government is free to bring another doorstep delivery scheme but it cannot use grains provided by the Centre for this doorstep scheme. The high court had on January 10 reserved its order on the pleas by petitioners Delhi Sarkari Ration Dealers Sangh and Delhi Ration Dealers Union after holding extensive hearings.

North Korea promotes traditional medicines in bid to fight Covid outbreak

Seoul, May 19 : North Korea is ramping up production of drugs and medical supplies including sterilisers and thermometers as well as encouraging the use of traditional Korean medicines said to reduce fever and pain as it battles an unprecedented coronavirus outbreak. Traditional medicines were "effective in prevention and cure of the malicious disease," state-run news agency KCNA said, although no medical evidence exists for those claims. A Covid wave that North Korea first confirmed last week has fanned concerns over the country's lack of medical resources and vaccines, with the UN human rights agency warning of "devastating" consequences for its 25 million people. At least 262,270 more people reported fever symptoms, and one more person had died as of Wednesday evening, KCNA said, citing data from the state emergency epidemic prevention headquarters. It did not specify how many people had tested positive for the virus. North Korea, which has imposed a nationwide lockdown, has so far reported 1,978,230 people with fever symptoms and 63 deaths, and brought in strict anti-virus measures. Kee Park, a global health specialist at Harvard medical school who has worked on health care projects in North Korea, said the number of new cases should start to slow as a result of strengthened preventive measures such as travel restrictions and keeping workers separated in groups according to their jobs.



Tamulpur- Pijush Hazarika supervises Matanga river erosion on Thursday

Giro d'Italia: Dainese delivers home win on stage 11 after Girmay forced out



Milan, May 19 : Alberto Dainese delivered the first home victory of this year's Giro d'Italia as he won stage 11 in Reggio Emilia. The 24-year-old upset the more fancied sprinters as he powered his way past Fernando Gaviria, Simone Consonni and Arnaud Démare to win on the line and take his first victory in two years - and his first in a Grand Tour. Mark Cavendish and Caleb Ewan were both too far back - Cavendish perhaps paying for the loss of key lead-out man Michael Morkov to illness - but Dainese had been alongside the Briton

when he launched his attack, finding space on the left to come from well back in the pack. Dainese had expected to be riding in support of DSM teammate Cees Bol, but made the most of a late change of plan. "In the morning the plan was to go for Cees in the sprint but in the last kilometres we swapped because he didn't feel so good," he said. "I tried to stay relaxed and following the guys. To have Romain [Bardet], third in the GC, giving me a lead-out to the last corner showed how we work as a team. I was a bit boxed in but found a gap on the left and in the last 20 metres I came past [Gaviria] and that felt super." With the threat of crosswinds not materialising, the sprint finish at the end of the 203km stage from Santarcangelo di Romagna allowed Juan Pedro López to retain the leader's pink jersey for another day. However, there was one notable change at

the top of the general classification with Richard Carapaz using the bonus sprint to pick up three seconds which moved him up to second, 12 seconds off the maglia rosa. That bumps João Almeida and Bardet to third and fourth, with Jai Hindley, Guillaume Martin and Mikel Landa the other riders still within 30 seconds of López as the race passes the halfway mark.

Jordan Spieth confident as he eyes US PGA chance for career grand slam

London, May 19 : Salvation for golf's purists, irked by the Saudi Arabian themes dominating their sport, may arrive in the form of a 28-year-old from Dallas. Should Jordan Spieth lift the Wanamaker Trophy on Sunday evening, a career grand slam complete, there will be an appealing narrative to at least momentarily offset incessant chatter about breakaway tours, human rights and golf's persona

non grata, Phil The Shill. Spieth arrived at Southern Hills in the kind of form that suggests this is his finest chance yet to add the US PGA Championship to the Masters, US Open and Open. He would become only the sixth man in history to win each of golf's big four. It is to Spieth's credit that he fully embraces another tilt at history-making. "Certainly at this point, having won the



other three, it's an elephant in the room for me," Spieth said. "It's a goal of mine. If you just told me I was going to win

one tournament the rest of my life, I'd say I want to win this one, given where things are at. If you told me that before my career started I was going to win one tournament ever, I'd say the Masters because that was my favourite tournament growing up." Things change, and this obviously has significant meaning. Long term, it would be really cool to say that you captured the four biggest golf tournaments in

the world that are played in different parts of the world and different styles, too. So you feel like you kind of accomplished golf when you win a career grand slam. "I have come close a couple times. This hasn't necessarily been my most successful major but I feel good heading into this week." Spieth has won the RBC Heritage and finished second at the Byron Nelson since a surprise missed cut at the Masters. Augusta National proved a head-scratcher for the man himself. "Friday's round, I shot 76 and I can't tell you that I missed a shot," he said. "It was bizarre. I just really didn't feel like I did much wrong. I've had weeks like that before. You just hope that they're not at the Masters."

'It's still swollen': Bryson DeChambeau pulls out of US PGA with injured wrist

London, May 19 : Bryson DeChambeau has decided to withdraw from this week's PGA Championship as he continues his recovery from surgery to repair a bone in his left wrist, with the 28-year-old insisting that over a four-day tournament his wrist "is just not able to hold up". DeChambeau, who has been limited to six worldwide starts this year because of wrist and hip injuries, underwent surgery on his left hand days after missing the cut at the Masters last month. One month later, he posted a video of his full swing - seemingly at full force - hitting golf balls into a net in his back yard. The big-hitting American, whose prodigious length off the tee has prompted many to wonder whether he is pushing his body too hard, played a practice round at Southern Hills on Tuesday with a wrap on his left wrist. "I didn't think it was going to be the right decision for me to play this week," DeChambeau told Golf Channel. "For me it was going to be a stretch. This week I'm unfortunately not going to play but I want to give someone else a chance who was fully prepared and ready to go out there and be healthy." I could play a couple of rounds, but considering I was doing half days and feeling fatigued and tired, four days is a big stretch for me right now. Endurance-wise my wrist is just not able to hold up, it's still swollen. I've got to give it more time." DeChambeau said before the Masters that he had ignored the advice of his doctors and taken a "huge risk" to compete at Augusta National after being sidelined for six weeks with wrist and hip problems. He posted a 12-over total in the first two rounds in Georgia.

US women's and men's teams agree historic deal to share World Cup prize money



New York, May 19 : The US men's and women's soccer teams will share prize money from their respective World Cups equally in a historic agreement announced on Wednesday. US Soccer and the unions for the two teams reached the deal during negotiations for their new collective bargaining agreements, which have now been ratified. "The accomplishments in this CBA are a testament to the incredible efforts of WNT players on and off the field," said USWNT player and USWNT players' association president Becky Sauerbrunn. "The gains we have been able to achieve are both because of the strong foundation laid

by the generations of WNT players that came before the current team and through our union's recent collaboration with our counterparts at the [men's players union] and leadership at US Soccer. "We hope that this agreement and its historic achievements in not only providing for equal pay but also in improving the training and playing environment for national team players will similarly serve as the foundation for continued growth of women's soccer both in the United States and abroad." USMNT defender Walker Zimmerman, who is a member of the men's union leadership group, also welcomed the deal. "There are tough conversations, but at

the end of the day, it is the right thing to do," Zimmerman said. "It's something that [the US women's team players] deserve. It's something that they have fought for so hard, and, to be honest, sometimes it does feel like we had just kind of come alongside of them and had been a little late." Fifa's prize money for the men's and women's World Cups is unequal. The bonus pool for this year's men's World Cup in Qatar is \$440m, while the prize money for the women's tournament in Australia in 2023 is \$60m. Under the new agreement, the unions for the US men's and women's teams will share the prize money from the 2022 and 2023 World Cups.

Rob Key primes Pope for No 3 and sets out plan to 'unlock' England Test talent



London, May 19 : Rob Key has backed England's new red-ball regime to "unlock" the latent talent in their underperforming Test players after naming a first squad of the Brendon McCullum era complete with a combination of fresh faces and the familiar. With much attention focused either on the recalled Jimmy Anderson and Stuart Broad or on the uncapped Matthew Potts and Harry Brook, perhaps the most intriguing innovation as England go into next month's three-match series against New Zealand will be Ollie Pope coming in at three, having never in a first-class career that now runs to 103 innings batted higher than No 4. Pope averages 72.73 from 54 knocks for Surrey, mostly batting at four, but has averaged only 28.66 across 40 Test innings for England in which he has appeared only three times in his favoured position.

However, England's selection panel of McCullum, the new captain, Ben Stokes, and Key, the managing director of England men's cricket, have concluded he has the makings of an ideal international No 3. "We feel that Ollie Pope is the man," Key said. "With a lot of these guys now, the bet is that with the talent they have, this environment, these coaches, can get the best out of our most talented cricketers - and Ollie Pope is one of those. If we can unlock him, which I think they can, there's a seriously good Test cricketer there." England have won only one of their past 17 Test matches, but Key insists many misfiring players will flourish under the team's new management. "There's some seriously talented cricketers in this country," he said. "We just

Tezpur attains big score in Nuruddin Cricket

GUWAHATI, May 19 : Tezpur put fighting total on the board in the first innings against Guwahati in the 2nd round of final leg match in the Nuruddin Cricket at the ACA Stadium, Barsapara. Invited to bat, Tezpur bowled out 374 in the first innings. Opener Bastab Basumatary, top scorer in the innings, scored 92 with the help of 12 boundaries. Sidharth Sarmah (56) also scored a half century in the innings. Diptesh Saha (46) and Jugen Das (48) also contributed well with the bat. Among the bowlers of Guwahati, Rohit Singh came out with the best figure scalping 5-136. Gokul Sarma bagged three wickets. At the Nehru Stadium only 33 overs were possible as the game witnessed a delayed start because of the wet field. Dibrugarh, invited to bat against NFRSA, scored 114-4. While Sandeep Sarma (33) was the top scorer, Karan bagged 3-21.

NGO group says Fifa should pay £356m reparations to Qatar migrant workers

Doha, May 19 : Fifa should pay reparations of at least \$440m (£356m) to migrant workers whose human rights have been compromised by the Qatar World Cup, a group of non-governmental organisations has said. England and Gareth

Southgate have been asked to support the initiative, described as an "innovative scheme" that would "provide some real redress" for workers, as attempts to leave a positive legacy for the tournament come into focus six months before the opening World Cup fixture in Doha. Amnesty International, alongside Human Rights Watch, Football Supporters Europe and the trade union the

Building and Wood Workers' International are among those calling for a remediation scheme that would address the documented failings of human rights protections which have scarred the history of Qatar's World Cup. According to the organisations, Fifa should "reserve an amount not less than the \$440m prize money offered to teams participating in the World



Cup, to be invested in funds to support remediation. This would represent just a small percentage of Fifa's anticipated \$6bn revenues from the tournament and the \$1.6bn it holds in reserves. "This amount reflects a likely 'floor' for the scale of harm suffered. The final amount required for remedy will be determined

by the scale of the need, the harms to be redressed and repair measures to be offered, should be decided through a participatory process and subject to an independent evaluation." Sacha Deshmukh, the CEO of Amnesty International UK, called on England to support the idea. "We hope the FA and Gareth Southgate

and the players will back this innovative scheme," he said. "International football can easily afford to do the right thing here. This is a comparatively small share of Fifa's enormous prize money pot - and it would provide some real redress for the serious human rights violations that underpin this tournament."

F1 season cut to 22 races after Russian GP not replaced on calendar

London, May 19 : The Russian Grand Prix will not be replaced on this year's calendar after the Formula One race in Sochi was cancelled in the wake of the invasion of Ukraine. The F1 season, which had been set to host a record 23 meetings, will now revert to 22 races. F1 had been looking at potential alternative venues to stand in for Russia but concluded that the additional costs and burdens another race would have placed on teams and personnel were not warranted. The race was due to take place on 25 September as the first leg of

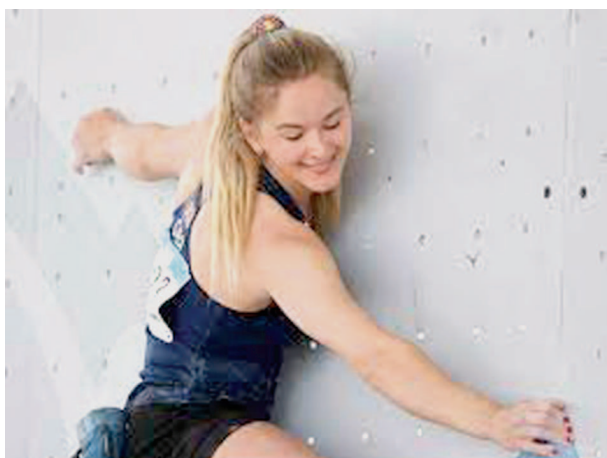
a triple-header with Singapore and Japan. It is understood that Qatar, which hosted its first GP last year, and a second race in Singapore were in contention to replace the Russian GP but organisers have confirmed the schedule will be shortened. Freight and logistical costs this year are already a major issue in F1, with a potential increase to the budget cap to deal with them under discussion. Adding another European race before Singapore was also ruled out because EU freight rules would have required

teams to return to their factories, unpack and repack to meet regulations after a European meeting. This was considered untenable from a logistical perspective, with two races in Asia and two in the Americas to follow. The Russian GP was scrapped by F1 during testing at Barcelona in February this year, a day after Russia's invasion of Ukraine began and under the clear threat of a driver boycott. F1 has terminated its contract with the Sochi race promoter and made it clear it has no intention of racing in Russia in future.

'I'm a pregnant woman making choices'

Shauna Coxsey on climbing - and the 'bullies' who want her to stop

London, May 19 : The week her baby is due, Shauna Coxsey is, as usual, at her local climbing centre in Sheffield. The British Olympic climber has scaled climbing walls and rocks throughout her pregnancy, and videos shared on her Instagram account show her making her way gracefully and powerfully upwards, in control of her body, as she switches holds to accommodate her growing bump. Her decision drew criticism - as she knew it would - and she was



forced to hit back at the online "bullying". For a start, she says, with nearly 450,000 Instagram follow-

ers, she knows social media "is a place where you're going to get criticised, regardless of what you say". But she had also seen the reaction other women have faced. "One of my good friends, who is incredibly strong and confident, stopped climbing because she couldn't be bothered with the judgment and the funny looks she got in her late pregnancy," says Coxsey. "The idea that someone would stop doing something they absolutely love because of the judgment; it's so sad we're in a position where that happens still." She knows not every climber can keep climbing through pregnancy, but wants people to know that for others, "it is possible. I think it's important we share those positive stories, and we know that there is a choice. It's not the case that we all have to go and sit on the sofa for nine months." Coxsey is, of course, not the first woman to climb while pregnant. The British climber Alison Hargreaves scaled the north face of the Eiger while nearly six months pregnant in 1988, and other athletes, such as the French rock climber Caroline Ciavaldini, have continued with the sport throughout pregnancy. "I have friends who are pregnant that are still climbing," Coxsey says. "They're climbing within their comfort zone, and mitigating these risks, and choosing to do something that keeps them fit, active, healthy and happy." She has been able to brush off most of the negative comments, she says, but it is "knowing that other women face judg-

ment which is hard. I hope that sharing it empowers women to make their own choices, and a small part of me hopes maybe some of the people who are judging might think twice about it next time." She smiles. "Maybe that's naive." Coxsey is grateful when other people point out she is an Olympic climber and knows how to climb safely, but she also thinks that is not quite the right message. "I'm a pregnant woman making choices," she says, simply, when we speak over Zoom. When we're done, she and her husband are going to take to the climbing wall. Today, she says with a laugh, they are going to strap a watermelon to his stomach so he can see what she has been dealing with. She did not necessarily plan to be climbing at this stage, "because a lot of my previous success and satisfaction has come from pushing it to the limit and trying to be the best that I could be. So I was fascinated to know whether I would still find climbing as fun." In fact, she has regained her love of the sport. "There is so much more freedom and enjoyment in a very different way. When you make your passion your job, it's difficult to stay in love with that." This stage, she says, "has brought it all back, fulfilled me again". She had been training hard for the 2020 Olympics, which was held last year. It was the first time climbing had been included, but Coxsey knew going into the Games that it would be her last event as a competition climber.

From having no motivation to being excited to wrestle, Vinesh Phogat makes progress on the mat

Mumbai, May 19 : It begins as a self-deprecating joke. But as Vinesh Phogat starts to peel off the layers, she reveals the extremes she had to go to propel her from a dark, deep corner and back into the spotlight on the wrestling mat. One Saturday, a few months ago, she went out on the 400m track to test her endurance by running as many laps as she could in three minutes, the time duration for one round of a wrestling bout. "I could not even complete one lap! I got so exhausted, I felt like vomiting." During sparring sessions, wrestlers much smaller and lighter than Vinesh began pummeling her. "Unhone mujhe utha, utha ke maara (They threw me around)," she laughs. Then, in February, she travelled to Istanbul to take part in the Yasar Dogu International. The former world number one wanted to gauge if she'd have to start from 0 all over again but her findings were far more severe. The competitive fire within her seemed to have doused. "I was dull. I did not feel anything... haarna hai, jeetna hai, khelne aayi hoon? (win, lose, have I come to compete?) I was confused, in some other world," she reflects. "If someone took two points against me, then I thought of giving up easily instead of fighting back." Vinesh won Monday's selection trials for the Commonwealth Games, a result she says gives her 'reassurance and relief' that 'everything is on track'. But for months after last year's Tokyo Olympics, the



thought of 'giving up' had been a recurring one, which must be frustrating for a wrestler whose game is a lot about chutzpah and doggedness. For most athletes, the Olympics are the ultimate highlights of their careers. For Vinesh, however, they've caused nothing but heartbreaks and miseries. In Rio, it was the physical pain caused by twisting her knee during a bout. In Tokyo, it was the 'mental torture' that undid her. Her campaign ended in the first round, was subsequently sanctioned by the federation for perceived 'indiscipline' and, in an emotional piece for The Indian Express, Vinesh narrated how she was left broken after unfair criticism of her performance. "I had no motivation. I was so tired mentally I thought, chod do sab, nahi karni wrestling. My body wasn't picking up and mind had given up. Imagine how it must feel if it reaches a stage where an athlete wants to stop doing the only thing she has done all her life?" she says. "But something within me still convinced me to give one more shot. Call it inner voice or what-

ever... that drive has always been there. So I thought, let's see where this takes me. Dekhenge kya likh rakha hai kismet ne. (Let us see what fate has to offer)" A year ago, Vinesh wasn't the self-doubting, low-on-confidence wrestler that she'd become. She was flying high, beating almost every opponent that stood in her way, winning titles, climbing up the rankings chart and becoming one of the favourites to win a medal in the 53kg category at the Tokyo Games. On the day of the competition, she lost in the quarterfinals to former world champion Vanesa Kaladzinskaya of Belarus, which sparked criticisms mainly from within the wrestling federation. Vinesh would have given up, she admits, but the thought that the rivals she had consistently beaten before had finished on the podium gave her some confidence to return to the mat. "So I know what my level is. There are some shortcomings, I know. Gir, gir k seekh gaye thoda," she smiles.

India will produce champions the day parents give more emphasis on sports: Kapil Dev



New Delhi, May 19 : Cricket legend Kapil Dev feels the day Indian parents start giving more emphasis on sports, the country will produce more champions across disciplines. Kapil said the mentality of Indian parents towards sports has changed drastically over the years, but more needs to be done. Kapil made the remarks close on the heels of the Indian men badminton team's historic Thomas Cup triumph on Sunday. "I feel (it's) the parents, not the kids. We produce more doctors, scientists, engineers in our country because parents want them to. The day parents want their kid to become a sportsperson, we will produce all champions," Kapil said on Tuesday. He was responding to a question by PTI on what changes he has witnessed in Indian sports over the years that is propelling the country's sportspersons to excel on the international arena.

Kapil noted that he used to hide his sports kit in his school bag and quietly go out and play, a scenario which has changed drastically with parents encouraging their children to take up sports. "Today I feel so proud to see the parents taking their kids to come and play." In his remarks, Kapil said that at 75, India is a "young country" which has achieved what not many in the world have managed to do. Consul General Randhir Jaiswal said the event celebrates the success of the legendary cricketer and "through his achievements, celebrates the contribution of cricket and sports in nation-building".

Russian gymnast Ivan Kuliak banned for one year for wearing pro-war 'Z' symbol

Moscow, May 19 : The Russian gymnast Ivan Kuliak has been handed a one-year ban for wearing the letter "Z" supporting Russia's invasion of Ukraine during an event in Qatar in March, the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) has confirmed. The 20-year-old, who won bronze in the parallel bars at the Apparatus World Cup in Doha, displayed the letter as he stood on the podium next to the Ukrainian gold medalist Illia

Kovtun. Ivan Kuliak finished third in the parallel bars final, behind Ukraine's Illia Kovtun. The Russian gymnast had a 'Z' taped across the front of his shirt which is a victory symbol seen on tanks taking part in the Ukraine invasion and also reportedly worn by Vladimir Putin's supporters. Russian forces have used the letter "Z" as an identifying symbol on their vehicles in Ukraine after the invasion, which Moscow calls a "special military operation". Sup-



porters of the invasion have also used the sign. "Mr Kuliak breached

the FIG statutes, the FIG code of discipline, the FIG code of ethics, the FIG code of conduct and the FIG technical regulations when he wore the letter 'Z' on his singlet," the governing body said in a statement.

"[He] is not allowed to participate in any FIG-sanctioned event or competi-

tion organised by an affiliated FIG member federation for one year as of the date of this decision." Kuliak was unrepentant about the display and claimed that he would always stand for peace. "I saw it with our military and looked at what this symbol means. It turned out [it means] 'for victory' and 'for peace'," he added. "I didn't wish anything bad on anyone, I just showed my position." Kuliak has also been stripped of his





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