



The Assam Rising

Projecting the best of Northeast India everyday

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Public holiday Assam Rising Guwahati, June 01 :

In view of the ensuing Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) elections, the Assam government has declared June 8 as public holiday within the jurisdiction of Karbi Anglong and areas falling under Koklabari in Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC). "All the Govt/ Non Govt offices, Educational Institutions and Business establishments including Banks, Tea Garden and Industries etc falling under the Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council and No. 22 BTC constituency under Bodoland Territorial Council will remain closed on that day," an order by the governor read.

Drugs seized Assam Rising Guwahati, June 01 :

A large amount of narcotic substances belonging to a drug peddler was seized from Dhubri Railway station in Assam. According to reports, the consignment containing 140 bottles of Roscof Cough Syrup, 4500 capsules of Pyeovon Spas Plus and 200 capsules, reached Dhubri Railway station from West Bengal, Siliguri-Dhubri Demo Express train. A team of Dhubri police was able to apprehend one suspected person after the Demo express reached Dhubri Railway Station and recovered a huge quantity of addictive banned substances from his possession. The accused, identified as Ratul Hussain, had brought the banned addictive substances from West Bengal.

Road accident Assam Rising Guwahati, June 01 :

One person was killed and eight others were injured in a road accident in Assam's Cachar district on Tuesday. According to sources, the incident happened when the Maruti van in which they were travelling in suddenly lost control and fell in to a 50-foot deep gorge. The incident was reported at Nepali basti area near Kumbhigram when the van with passengers on-board was travelling from Kumbha village. Following the incident, nearby locals informed Indian Army jawans at a camp located close to the incident area, after which, rescue efforts were initiated. All the injured were rushed to a nearby hospital for medical attention soon after. Meanwhile, the deceased has been identified as Manik Tantibai, a resident of Kumbhigram tea estate.

Minority Certificates Row: Assam CM Himanta Hits Out At Opposition



Assam Rising Guwahati, June 01 :

Two days after the Assam Cabinet announced its decision to provide Minority Certificates to people from six religious minority communities, several opposition leaders expressed their dissent at the decision and questioned the relevance of the 'minority certificates'. Following this, Assam

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has now slammed those opposing the move for the minorities. Sarma on Tuesday stated that the move was to certify the minorities in the state, and claimed that there was no political meaning to it. "Certain scholarships are being given by the Welfare of Minorities Dept to 6 communities that are considered minorities - Mus-

lims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains & Parsis. Certificates will be provided to give scholarships," Himanta Biswa Sarma said while speaking about the minority certificates being issued. Further slamming the opposing leaders, he added, "this is a simple matter and no political meaning should be attached to it. If somebody is criticizing it, they are not really looking into the issue in depth." The Assam CM's remarks came after he and his government met criticism over the Assam minority certificates. Following the CM Sarma-led Cabinet's decision to issue the certificates, the leader of Opposition in the Assam assembly, Debabrata Saikia questioned the move and asked, "Why is the Assam government proposing to issue separate icards?" He further added that there were many communities

that come under Minority and stressed that everyone should enjoy the benefits of the Constitution. The All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) also slammed the move and called it a part of the government's "divide and rule policy." The Assam Cabinet on Sunday decided to provide Minority Certificates to people of six religious minority communities. These include Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, and Parsis. The development was confirmed by Assam Minister Keshab Mahanta. Notably, CM Sarma expressed his thoughts on redefining the

minority status in Assam in April this year. The CM had stated that Muslims, who many think are the only minorities in India, are a majority in Assam's several districts such as South Salmara-Mankachar in the west, where Muslims account for nearly 95% of the population. Speaking during the Budget Session of the Assembly, the Assam CM had also rooted for a more granular division of religious minorities, which he believed should be decided at the district level. His remarks came after the Centre told the Supreme Court that states have the power to designate minority status.

Vladimir Putin likely to get even more dependent on India



Moscow, June 01 :

President Vladimir Putin may need to count even more on China and India should the European Union ban Russian oil, with few other takers in

Asia able to process the type of crude Europe typically buys. EU leaders agreed to pursue a partial embargo on Russian crude oil shipped on sea, potentially

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Bollywood singer KK's died, Kolkata Police begins probe

Kolkata, June 01 :

Kolkata Police has registered a case of "unnatural death" over the demise of renowned Bollywood singer Krishnakumar Kunnath, popularly known as KK, and started an investigation, even as the main opposition BJP blamed the West Bengal government for "lapses", drawing a sharp retort from the ruling TMC which asked the saffron party "not to politicise" death. A post-mortem examination of the singer's mortal remains was conducted and the report is awaited, the police said. "Police has spoken with the manager and other staffers of the hotel where KK had put up. A case of unnatural death has been registered with New Market Police Station, under whose jurisdiction the hotel falls where the singer felt unwell before being taken to a hospital,"



an officer was quoted. "We are scrutinising the CCTV footage to understand what had happened before he was taken to the hospital," the police officer said, adding that two persons have been questioned in connection with the case. An initial probe has revealed that the 53-year-old singer, who was on a two-day tour to Kolkata to perform at two college programmes, was "almost mobbed" by fan followers

at the hotel where he had returned after performing at Nazrul Mancha auditorium in the southern part of the city, he said. "The singer had allowed a couple of fan followers to take snaps with him, but then he refused to carry on with the selfie session. He left the lobby and then went upstairs where he had reportedly stumbled and fallen on the floor. People who were with him informed the hotel authori-

ties," the officer said. KK was then rushed to a private hospital in the southern part of the city where he was declared "brought dead" by doctors, he said, adding that probably because of the fall, the singer had two injuries - one on the left side of his forehead and another on his lips. "He was brought to the hospital around 10 pm. It's unfortunate that we could not treat him," a senior official of the hospital said. Doctors at the hospital said they suspected "cardiac arrest" to be the cause of the death. "The autopsy report will throw light on the exact cause of death. We are waiting for it," the police officer said. Meanwhile, the West Bengal government paid last respect to KK with a gun salute to his mortal remains. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who supervised the proceedings, paid floral tributes to the late singer, whose body was kept at Rabindra Sadan for some time. Banerjee was seen consoling KK's wife and other family members

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'Have you ever seen a criminal say I'm criminal' BJP chief JP Nadda on ED summons to Sonia, Rahul in National Herald case

New Delhi, June 01 :

BJP chief Jagat Prakash Nadda on Wednesday made a scathing attack on Congress, which said that it won't bow to such pressure tactics after the Enforcement Directorate summoned Sonia Gandhi and her Congress MP son Rahul Gandhi in connection with the National Herald case, which was closed by the investigating agency in 2015. "Have you ever seen a criminal say I'm criminal? They'll (Sonia-Rahul Gandhi) of course deny it. Documents are proof. If the chargesheet is filed, you'd approach the court to get it quashed, but they sought bail. It means they're guilty,"



BJP chief JP Nadda said. The remarks from the BJP chief came shortly after the federal agency issued summons for questioning Sonia Gandhi and Rahul. Its move followed the questioning of senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge and Congress Treasurer

Pawan Bansal in April this year in New Delhi in connection with its money laundering probe into the National Herald case. The agency then recorded the statements of both the Congress leaders then under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The National Herald is published by Associated Journals Limited (AJL) and owned by Young Indian Pvt Limited (YIL). While Kharge is the CEO of YIL, Bansal is

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China's help to Russia through oil and gas purchases amid war with Ukraine irks US



Beijing, June 01 :

China's support for Russia through oil and gas pur-

chases is irking Washington and raising the risk of US retaliation, foreign observers say, though they see no sign Beijing is helping Moscow evade sanctions over its war on Ukraine. Beijing's importance as a lifeline to Russian President Vladimir Putin rose Monday after the 27-nation European Union, the main market for fossil fuels that supply most of Moscow's foreign income, agreed to stop oil purchases. President Xi Jinping's government declared ahead of Russia's Feb 24 attack that it had a 'no limits' friendship with Moscow

and has kept the West guessing about whether it might bail Putin out. China rejects the sanctions as illegal because the United States, Europe and Japan cut off Russia from their markets and the global banking system without working through the United Nations, where Beijing and Moscow have veto power. The sanctions don't prohibit China, India or other

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AIADMK calls BJP 'anti-Tamil' on language issue



Chennai, June 01 :

The BJP's key ally in Tamil Nadu, the AIADMK on Wednesday slammed the Saffron party alleging that it is anti-Tamil, claiming that the party could never grow in the state. The alliance

with the BJP was merely an 'electoral adjustment' and the Saffron party's ideology is diametrically opposite to that of the AIADMK, veteran party leader C Ponnaiyan said. Ponnaiyan alleged that the BJP is continuously 'imposing' Hindi despite AIADMK's stiff opposition all along. "The imposition of Hindi is many times more than what it was during the Congress-led governments at the Centre," he told PTL. "We firmly stand by the 2-language policy of Tamil and English." Ponnaiyan, a founding member of the AIADMK,

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Over 1.1 lakh Covid-19 cases among children reported last week



Washington, June 01 :

More than 112,000 child Covid-19 cases were reported in the US during the past week, a doubling of case counts from the four

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Kaziranga National Park Collected Over Rs 6 Cr Revenue During 2021-22

Assam Rising Guwahati, June 01 :

Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNP&TR) have received a tourist footfall of a little over 2.75 lakh generating over Rs.6 crore revenue during 2021-22, an all-time record collection. Informing the same, KNP&TR director, Jatinder Singh said that altogether 2,75,835 tourists visited the UNESCO World Heritage Park famous for one horned rhinos for the period October 2021 to May 2022. With this, an all-time

record revenue of Rs 6,39,23,389 was collected, he said. "In 2020-2021 the park received 1,67,644 tourists with total revenue generated being Rs.3,60,00,611. In the year 2019-2020, a total of 1,42,859 tourists visited the park, generating a revenue of Rs.4,20,63,541," an official press communique stated. During the period 2019-2020 and 2020-2021, the tourist flow was greatly affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it further state. Kaziranga National Park is

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BHEJA FRY



How many tests will I take in this life.....



Children attend activities celebrating the upcoming Dragon Boat Festival at a farm in Huzhou City

Legal logjam: bid to build Australia's finest public toilet dubbed 'Cistern Chapel' runs into trouble

Melbourn, June 01: A big stink is brewing over a public toilet billed as Australia's best, with legal threats exchanged between the committee that commissioned it and the painter who lavishly adorned its walls. The "Cistern Chapel" was unveiled in mid-May to much fanfare, with its extravagant murals and golden "throne" splashed across TV screens countrywide. But hidden from the glowing coverage of a project which took two years

and cost tens of thousands of dollars to complete was the increasingly toxic relationship between the small-town organisers and the passionate Hungarian artist who helped bring their dream to life.

No. DJG/Vehicle/2022/

TENDER NOTICE FOR HIRING OF VEHICLE

Tenders are to be invited from interested parties for supply of one Vehicle on monthly hire basis for the Official use of the Additional District & Sessions Judge, Goalpara. The details of tender will be also published in the Notice Board of the District & Sessions Judge, Goalpara & the Official website of the Goalpara District Judiciary (<http://goalparadistjudiciary.gov.in/>). The tender in the tender shall quote the rate of the monthly rent which they expect for the outsourced vehicle to be supplied by him/her and the said tender shall have to reach the Office of the District & Sessions Judge, Goalpara on or before 22nd day of June/2022 (within Office hours). Bids received after the due date/time shall not be entertained. The received bids shall be opened in this Office on the 23 day of June, 2022@ 2pm.

The category of the vehicle to be supplied is as follows:

Sl. No.	Category of Vehicle	Colour
1	Hyundai Verna SX (0) Petrol	White
2	Hyundai (i20) (Petrol)	-do-
3	Hyundai Verna Bs6 (Petrol)	-do-
4	Hyundai Verna SX IVT	-do-

The usage of the said outsourcing vehicle will be for 30/31 days in a month subject to 1,000 kms per month.

The general terms and conditions to be annexed with the tender notice will be as hereunder:

- The vehicle provided for hire should be of latest model and in the good running condition. Preference will be given to new vehicle & which isn't more than 1(One) year old. The vehicle should be in neat, clean and in perfect condition with a clean interior and proper in upholstery.
- The vehicle should be comprehensively insured and should carry necessary permits, clearance from the Transport authority or any other concerned authority. The vehicle should also carry necessary pollution certificate issued by the competent authority. Undertaking in this regard is required to be submitted by the tendered along with his/her tender.
- The vehicle shall be at the disposal of the hiring establishment during the contract period and the said vehicle cannot be withdrawn during the existence of the contract without the express consent of the hiring authority.
- In case of any mischief, theft or accident the hiring establishment shall not be liable and stand indemnified.
- All source of maintenance and repairing of the vehicle shall be done by the outsourcing vendor which excludes the driver and fuel. Non incumbency Certificate shall be done by the outsourcing vendor.
- The rates quoted shall be valid for 1 (one) year from the date of awarding the work of hiring vehicles by the office of the District & Sessions Judge, Goalpara or till new vehicle is provided by the Government/ High Court to the Addl. District & Sessions Judge, Goalpara whichever is earlier.
- The outsourced vehicle should be free from any encumbrances.
- In the event of any unsatisfactory performance of the vehicle or non-compliance with terms and condition of the contract shall be terminated without assigning any reason whatsoever. In case of such termination, services of other empanelled service provider will be utilized at the contracted rate.
- The interested parties must be SBI account holder and the GST, Registration Card etc. shall be furnished by the vendor for online payment of bill.
- The tender / quotation shall be submitted in a sealed envelope marked as "Tenders for outsourcing vehicle".
- The payments to the vendor/service provided shall be made through online after submission of bill.
- Incomplete quotation of bids not accompanied with the requisite supporting documents or quotation without sealed envelope shall be summarily rejected without assigning any reason and without any communication.
- Road worthiness of the vehicle shall be ensured at all times by the vehicle provider. The maintenance of vehicle shall be done by the outsourcing vendor. The outsourcing vendor/service provider will conduct regular cleaning and washing as well as serving (as and when due) of the vehicles.
- The bill for the payment of the hiring charges shall be submitted to this office by the contracted agency at the beginning of the following months. No payment in advance shall be made to the contracted agency/vehicle provider by this office.
- The service provider shall undertake to indemnify the office of the District & Sessions Judge, Goalpara against all the damages/ charges arising out of or connected with the negligence of service provider. Whether concerning public or any person in general while executing the contracted work or other wise and against all the claims and demand thereof.
- The vehicles may be physically inspected on the date of opening of the bids by the committee. The service provider on being intimated over telephone / mobile must be ready to place the concerned vehicle in the office premises of the District & Sessions Judge, Goalpara for such physical inspection.
- This committee reserves the right to reject any bid without assigning any reasons if there appears to be reasonable and probable cause for same.
- The undersigned also reserves the right to secure the fulfillment of other condition not expressly mentioned herein which are otherwise consistent with and necessary as per law with the use of hired vehicles.

Janasanyog/C/3522/22

Sd/-
District & Sessions Judge,
Goalpara.

Late singer KK accorded gun salute at Rabindra Sadan

Kolkata, June 01: Tuesday (May 31) night brought a piece of shocking news for India's music fraternity. Singer and composer Krishnakumar Kunnath, known by his stage name KK, passed away at the age of 53, shortly after finishing a live concert in Kolkata. 'Pyaar Ke Pal', 'Tu Aashiqui Hai' (Jhankar Beats), 'Tadap Tadap' (Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam) are some of KK's iconic songs that have left an indelible mark on his fans. Over the span of his almost 3-decade-long career KK sang more than 500 songs in Hindi and more than 200 songs in Telugu, Bengali, Kannada and Malayalam languages. He had also received various honours including two Screen Awards for Best Playback Singer- Male (Non-Film Music) and many more. Punjabi singer Daler Mehndi mourned the untimely death of popular singer KK on Tuesday night in Kolkata. He wrote: It's very sad when a true Artist & Musician passes away! It's very shocking Rest in Peace. May God give strength to all his fans and family. Singer and music director Himesh Reshammiya said the celebrated playback singer KK was a warm-hearted human being and his untimely death felt like a personal loss. No foul play

found, says the verbal opinion of post mortem of KK. "Pathological condition of internal organs mainly heart." Final report will come after the chemical examination. Actor Sonu Sood tweeted, "Pal... yaad aayenge wo Pal... Rest in harmony bhai #RIPKK". Singer-politician Babul Supriyo tweeted, "One of the nicest guys the music industry ever had... One or bestest voices we ever had... KK's sudden so very untimely demise is too shocking and devastating a reality to deal with... Rest in Peace my friend." "Today is my birthday and losing such a good friend and a talented singer on this day is even more disheartening. He was a very good human being and an honest person. There are a lot of memories with him," said music composer Ismail Darbar on KK's demise. The body of KK is being taken from SSKM hospital to Rabindra Sadan in Kolkata. He will be given gun salute by the Bengal government here. Actor Akshay Kumar on Wednesday called singer KK's sudden demise a big loss. Akshay Kumar tweeted, "Extremely sad and shocked to know of the sad demise of KK. What a loss! Om Shanti." Playback singer Abhijeet Bhattacharya said, "Many

singers came, but a playback singer whose voice of silk was meant for the screen was KK... this is a big loss for music, now the playback singing system has finished with him... I respect, miss and love KK. I am his biggest fan." "Gun salute will not be given at the airport, it will be given in Rabindra Sadan as the postmortem is still going on. We have consulted with the family, they have a 5.15 pm flight so we will pay respect there," West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on the demise of KK after a concert. Reportedly, after watching the last show of KK online from Odisha, Bagchi, a national award-winning singer-songwriter, came live on Facebook and made controversial comments on the talent of KK. "The singers of Kolkata are much better singers than KK. But the people of Bengal do not care for them. They just remain enthralled with Mumbai. But how long will this continue? It is high time to stand by Bengal. Who is this KK? Who is he? People of Kolkata get so thrilled when KK comes to the city to perform. But they do not show the same enthusiasm for us," Bagchi said in the live video. Meanwhile, the sporting fraternity expressed their sadness at



KK's untimely demise with former Indian cricketers Virender Sehwag and VVS Laxman expressing their condolences. IPL franchises Kolkata Knight Riders and Rajasthan Royals and sports commentator Harsha Bhogle expressed their sadness on social media. A staff of Nazrul Mancha Auditorium in Kolkata, who was present during the live concert, told ANI that the venue was overcrowded and to disperse the crowd the bouncers sprayed a foam. "There was very much a huge crowd. People were jumping over the barricade and gate. However, nothing happened inside the auditorium. He (KK) was feeling unwell. He took a break and performed again," he said. A probe into the matter is underway. Investigators are waiting for the preliminary report of the postmortem. Mourning the demise of KK, Chief

Minister Mamata Banerjee in a Twitter post, said, "The sudden and untimely demise of the Bollywood playback singer KK shocks and saddens us. My colleagues have been working since last night to ensure that all requisite support is given for necessary formalities, his rites and to his family now. My deep condolences." Gautam Chikermane, friend and former band member of late singer KK, said, "KK was a drummer and lead singer in our college band of six. More than that, he was the energy in our band. I couldn't believe the news. I double and triple checked everywhere and I was so upset, I couldn't sleep all night." "West Bengal Government will give gun salute to singer KK at Kolkata airport," says CM Mamata Banerjee. He passed away last night in Kolkata after a live performance.

Shanghai's subway and shops reopen and streets fill up after two-month lockdown

Shanghai, June 01: Residents in areas deemed low-risk for Covid are allowed to move around the city freely again. Shanghai has eased a range of Covid-19 restrictions in a step towards returning to normal after a two-month lockdown that confined residents of the megacity to their homes and battered China's economy.



The commercial hub of 25 million people was closed down in sections from late March, when the Omicron virus variant fuelled China's worst outbreak since Covid first took hold in 2020. After some rules were gradually relaxed over the past few weeks, authorities on Wednesday began allowing people in areas deemed low-risk to move around the city freely. Factories and businesses were set to restart work after being dormant for weeks. "This is a moment that we have been looking forward to for a long time," the Shanghai municipal government said in a statement on social media. "Because of the impact of the epidemic, Shanghai, a megacity, entered an unprecedented period of silence." On Wednesday morning, people were seen travelling on Shanghai's subway and heading to office buildings, while some shops were preparing to open. On the streets, people took photos of themselves out and about. Shanghai residents spoke of their relief at the relaxation of restrictions. One 20-year-old who declined to give his name said his community let off fireworks at midnight and that it "feels like Chinese New Year". Another said she was happy to reconnect with friends offline and had celebrated with a picnic on the Bund. "A few friends and I had a picnic... played music, drank, chatted, watching people coming and going on both sides of the Huangpu River." Others expressed relief, tinged with fear that lockdowns could return. A 27-year-old who only gave her name as Wang, said: "I am a little anxious about the future situation in both work and life. But emotionally, it's a lot easier than the time in lockdown. I told my boss that I'm leaving [China] if the city is locked down again."



A staff member plays with a killer whale calf at the Shanghai Haichang Ocean Park

Smriti Irani slams Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal for giving 'clean chit' to Satyendar Jain

New Delhi, June 01: A day after Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal broke his silence on his cabinet colleague Satyendar Jain's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a case of money laundering, Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani took potshots at the AAP national convenor saying Jain himself declared under Income Disclosures 2016 that he indulged in money laundering of Rs 16.39 crores. Satyendar Jain has been sent to ED custody till June 9. Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Smriti Irani slammed Arvind Kejriwal for saying that the charges against Jain were baseless, adding "Pronouncing himself judge, Kejriwal set Satyendar Jain free in the people's court." Union Minister questioned, "Kejriwal ji, is it true that Satyendar Jain himself declared under Income Disclosures 2016 that he indulged in money laundering of Rs 16.39 crores? Ankush Jain and Vaibhav Jain became the channels for it." She also asked the Delhi CM, "Is it true that the Principal Commissioner of Income Tax rejected that the true owners of Rs 16.39 crores were neither Ankush Jain nor Vaibhav Jain but Satyendar Jain himself was the owner of this black



money?" At a media briefing here on Tuesday, the Delhi Chief Minister said that the case against Satyendar Jain was "completely fake and politically motivated", and defended him as a "hardcore honest and patriotic" person. He also asserted that the charges levelled against Jain are "completely false", adding that he himself would have

taken action against him if there was even one per cent truth in the allegations. Satyendar Jain was arrested by the ED in a case of money laundering on Monday. He holds various portfolios, including health, home and power in the Arvind Kejriwal government. Asserting that the Delhi government and the AAP are "hardcore honest" and consider corruption as treason, PTI quoted Kejriwal as saying "I have studied the case against Jain. It is completely fake and motivated by political reasons and he has been deliberately framed." He further said, "We have faith in the judiciary."

SHORT SALE NOTICE

MITNo. 2 of 2022-23

Sealed tenders affixing Court fee stamps worth of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Paise twenty five) only on each tender are invited for Sale of Timber Lots under various Ranges/Depot etc. of Aie Valley Division, Bongaigaon. Details of Lot timbers & other terms and conditions in the original Sale Notice which can be procured from the office of the undersigned during office hours of any working day on payment of Rs. 50.00 (Rupees Fifty) only for Sale Notice.

The intending Tenderers shall have to pay Rs. 5.00 (Rupees Five) only for Tender Form to submit tenders. The date of receiving tenders have been fixed on **24/06/2022 up to 3.00 P.M. (I.S.T.)** in the office of the undersigned. In case the office remains closed on that day for any unforeseen or unavoidable reason, then tenders will be received up to 3.00 P.M. (IST) on next working day.

Divisional Forest Officer
Aie Valley Division
Bongaigaon.

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Green Tea launched at THB College

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chari, June 1: A meeting was held at Tyagbir Hem Baruah College today wherein three books were released besides launching Green Tea; an organic product of the college itself. Padma Hazarika, MLA Sootea LAC inaugurated Bhinno Prasanga: Nadia Roro Jolonga Video; a publication of the college edited by Rasna Rajkhowa; Asst. Professor, Physics. He also inaugurated a packet of green tea. Dr. Ajit Hazarika outlined the plan of the college to utilize the land resources of the college with involvement of the students to generate income. The inaugural session was presided over by Bipul Kumar Bora. All the proceedings of the session were conducted by Sumanta Rajbanshi. Nava Jyoti Hazarika offered a vote of thanks.

Tree plantation conducted at LCC



Assam Rising, North Lakhimpur, June 1: A massive tree plantation drive was carried out by Lakhimpur Commerce College (LCC), North Lakhimpur at its Chuklibhoriya campus in a bid to provide more green coverage to the locality on Monday. The plantation drive was organized by the Resource Management and Maintenance Committee of Lakhimpur Commerce College in active collaboration with Lakhimpur District Forest Division (Territorial) under its Green School Initiative programme. The plantation drive began with the planting of saplings by Ashok Kumar Dey Chowdhury, DFO (T)-Lakhimpur and Dr. Lohit Hazarika, Principal of Lakhimpur Commerce College. Speaking on the occasion DFO Chowdhury asked the college authority to introduce some model activities in its adopted village to generate livelihood like seed germination, plant nursery and mushroom cultivation and assured all possible help from his department. The village headman of Chuklibhoriya under Chaboti GP Padmeswar Chutia, Forest Beat Officer Nazrul Islam, social worker Hamidur Rahman and other forest personnel also participated in the plantation drive. The plantation drive programme was anchored by Prof. Dipul Baruah, coordinator of the Resource Management and Maintenance Committee of the college and was assisted by Prof. Padmeswar Dihingia, Prof. Achyut Kumar Gogoi, Prof. Aban Chandra Barman, Prof. Mahesh Dutta, Prof. Deepjan Gohain, office assistant Deepak Borborah and actively participated by General Secretary of students union Aziz Ali and his union colleague Devangshu Diswania.

NCC organised bicycle rally in Nagaon

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 1: On occasion of world no tobacco day, NCC cadets of Nagaon Govt Boys' HS School took out an awareness bicycle rally throughout the small town on Tuesday last. The rally was ceremonially flagged off by Dipika Laskar, principal of the institute saying that it was organized with a view to sustain awareness of harm caused by tobacco products among the youths. Over 100 NCC cadets as well as other teaching staff from the educational institution participated in the rally with enthusiasm and also displayed placards with various slogans against tobacco products under the NCC officer Saiful Islam, a release added.

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Modern English School observed World no tobacco day



Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 1: On the occasion of World No Tobacco Day, Modern English School, Guwahati, Assam, organised a series of activities to educate and sensitise students on the health risks of consuming tobacco. The school organised an interactive

session for the students of Class 8 on the occasion under their "Lecture Series 2022- The Academic Learnathon for a better tomorrow". The session was conducted by Dr. Shantanu Kumar Das, MBBS, MS

Chief Coordinator Project - CHILD. It focused on educating students about the ill effects of consuming tobacco in any form and its impact on their bodies. Students up to Class 5 created artwork on the theme of environment, while

students from Class 6 onwards created posters and slogans on topics like quitting smoking, health is wealth and dangers of smoking. The school also introduced a student board where they can put their thoughts in a creative way. According to the fourth round of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS-4) released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), about one-fifth of the students between 13 to 15 years used any form of the tobacco product in their life. Due to various awareness initiatives taken by the government, there has been a 42% decline in tobacco use among this age group in the last decade.

CCRT scholarship conferred to Krishnika Bora

Assam Rising, Nagaon, June 1: Krishnika Bora, daughter of Dipen Bora and Rupa Bora of Teliapohukata has been selected for scholarship by Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT), Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Govt of India.



She is a class VII student and is learning Satriya dance under Kehuram Bora at Monikanchan Kala Kendra, Nagaon. She has been selected under cultural talent search scholarship scheme 2020-21, a release added.

Gunautsav phase 3 begins in Tamulpur

Assam Rising, Tamulpur, June 1: The third phase of gunautsav begins today in 687 schools in the newly formed Tamulpur district. All schools in Tamulpur district are ready for the third phase of gunotsav to be held from today to June 4th and so joy and triumph prevails among the teaching staff and students of the schools. Gunatsav started at 9.00 am today in a total of 687 schools including 477 primary schools, 121 ME and MV schools, 67 High schools under the office of the Tamulpur Block Elementary Education and under the office of the Goreswar Block Elementary Education in Tamulpur district. As per the directions of



the education department, the programme started from 9.00 am today with various activities like morning assembly, prayers, physical exercises, oath taking etc. This is followed by self-evaluation of respective schools, reading lessons etc. The first day of the

third phase concludes with a multiplication programme. The gunotsav will be conducted with written examination and other programmes also will be conducted among students in presence of officially appointed evalua-

tors in schools as per the specific schedule from tomorrow to June 4th. Every school campus in Tamulpur district has been well decorated to attract evaluators and common people and is now gearing up to excel in its own school through gunotsav.

No tobacco day observed in Biswanath College

Assam Rising, Biswanath Chari, June 1: The World No Tobacco Day was observed in Biswanath College on Tuesday under the aegis of Environment and Climate Cell of the college and the department of Zo-

ology in the presence of the teachers, students and non teaching staff. The students took out a procession on this occasion displaying play cards and festoons so as to create awareness among the students and the public about the dangers of consuming tobacco. The August gathering was addressed by Dr Chinta Mani Sharma, principal, Biswanath College who dwelt at length about the significance and objectives of observing the day. Dr Sharma told the students that the entire human community had to grapple with the issue of consumption of tobacco. He also noted that more than six million deaths were caused by tobacco annually and the number would grow in coming years. Dr Sharma also narrated in detail the effects of tobacco on the human body and asked the students to refrain from consuming the deadly item. Earlier, Dr



Rahul Sarmah, Asstt Professor of Zoology explained the objectives of organising the event. In his speech Dr Naresh Thakur, Coordinator, IQAC, Biswanath College urged the students to keep themselves away from tobacco so as to enable them to lead a healthy life. The event was also attended by Mr Ajit Kumar Dutta, Head of the department of Education, Dr

Biswajit Sarmah, Head of the department of Zoology and Dr Sunayana Goswami and Ms Shibasree Hojaisa both Asstt Professor, Department of Zoology. It is worth mentioning that Biswanath College has volunteered itself as an institute with "No Tobacco Zone" and is working actively in this noble venture.

Local Utpaat enters 1 crore-plus club

Assam Rising, Guwahati, June 1: Local Utpaat has become only the 5th Assamese film to enter the Rs 1 crore box office club. A remarkable feat, considering that Assam has only 50-odd screens, this milestone was achieved on the 3rd Sunday of the film's release. Expressing his happiness, director Kenny Deori Basumatary said: "I had never thought we would achieve such huge success. We're extremely grateful to the people of Assam for the love they have showered on the film." All the money doesn't go to the producers, though. After GST, hall share, distributor share etc, around 35-40% of the box office comes to the producer. Kenny added: "I'll be able to pay my cast and crew what they deserve, and also return the money I borrowed for the film's release. But most importantly, we won't have to ask anyone for money to make the next film, and I can make it freely without any interference from anyone." The film started



out in 51 screens and made it to the third week in 27 screens, highly significant for an Assamese film. Even the Bangalore show did very well, with the weekend shows being almost houseful. Local Utpaat distributor Sukanta Paul is trying to get shows in Delhi, Noida, Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune and Hyderabad from June 3 or June 10 next. The team is also planning to take the film through projector screenings to towns in Assam where there are no cinema halls. Asked about

what he plans next, Kenny said that the next thing audiences will see is a comedy web series called Ki Kowa, Doston regional OTT platform Reeldrama. After that comes the post-production of Jiya, a film about a single mother, written, produced and starring Sarmistha Chakravorty, heroine of Local Kung Fu 2. "Most likely, we will shoot Local Kung Fu 3 in winter this year and release it in winter 2023," said Kenny. "We hope the public will support us then also as they've done during Local Utpaat," he added.

Awareness drive on garbage disposal held

Assam Rising, Dhemaji, June 1: An awareness meeting under the president of Betanipam Gaon Panchayat President Bikram Gogoi against the construction of Silapathar town committee garbage disposal project held on June 1. The allegations raised at the meeting that several times in the past they had tried to construct projects like the garbage disposal project at the site but have been obstructing the local people and various groups. On the contrary, the land conservation department recently started running the garbage disposal project on its own without taking any permission from the local people and Betanipam Gaon panchayat sits on the land of the soil conservation department led by Silapathar town committee. However many times the local people have sought help from the administration in demanding closure of the garbage disposal project. Though recently a few youths have been witnessing the construction of a large paved wall at a high speed on soil conservation department land but till date the administration has not given any importance. It is to be noted that in the course of the construction of the drainage process, the authorized plaque is not logged in any form of work and the incoming application of the entire project of the project has been postponed. Similarly, in the same meeting, Labanya Pait Doley, Bikram Gogoi, Sharmistha Dev, Nandini Hajong Saikia, Paban Boruah, Bhanu Rajkhowa, Rupali Gohain, Pradip Boruah, Jayanta Gogoi, Ajit Gogoi and Bhaban Saikia formed an 11-member observation committee as representatives of Silapathar Town Committee and Betanipam Gaon Panchayat respectively.

Tourist footfall in Kaziranga national park increases

Assam Rising, Kaziranga, June 1: Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNP&TR) received a tourist footfall of a little over 2.75 lakh generating a revenue of Rs.6 crore during 2021-2022, an all-time record collection. Disclosing this information, Director of KNP&TR, Jatin Sharma said altogether 2,75,835 tourists visited the UNESCO World Heritage Park famous for one horned rhinos for the period October 2021 to May 2022, setting an all-time record revenue collection of Rs.6,39,23,389. Altogether 2,74,116 domestic and 1,719 foreign tourists visited the park. In 2020-2021 the park received 1,67,644 tourists with total revenue garnered being Rs.3,60,00,611. In the year 2019-2020, a total of 1,42,859 tourists visited the park, generating a revenue of Rs.4,20,63,541. The tourist flow to the park was affected during the period 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic. In 2018-2019, the inflow of tourists was partially affected due to COVID.

No.ACE-50/TECH/KOK(Bldg)/IFB/2016-17/498 Dated Kokrajhar the 31/05/2022
Tender No. 05 of 2022-23.
PRESS NOTICE.

The Addl. Chief Engineer cum Director, PWD, BTC, Kokrajhar invite bid for the work "Construction of Security Barrack at BTC Secretariat Complex, Kokrajhar" under Kokrajhar Building Division, bid amount of Rs.47,63,400.00 (Rupees forty seven lakh sixty three thousand and four hundred) only from the registered contractors of Class-I (A, B & C) & Class-II category of Assam PWD (Building)/BTC.

Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-
Addl. Chief Engineer, Cum Director, PWD,
Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar.

IPR (BTC)-74/2022



Guwahati- Parrot take rest branch of tree

THE ASSAM RISING

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Water scarcity limits access to safe water

Water scarcity limits access to safe water for drinking and for practising basic hygiene at home, in schools and in health-care facilities. When water is scarce, sewage systems can fail and the threat of contracting diseases like cholera surges. Scarce water also becomes more expensive. Water scarcity takes a greater toll on women and children because they are often the ones responsible for collecting it. When water is further away, it requires more time to collect, which often means less time at school. Particularly for girls, a shortage of water in schools impacts student enrolment, attendance and performance. Carrying water long distances is also an enormous physical burden and can expose children to safety risks and exploitation. Fetching water in India has been perceived as a women's job for centuries, especially in the rural areas. As groundwater resources come under increasing pressure due to over-reliance and unsustainable consumption, wells, ponds and tanks dry up. This has escalated the water crisis and placed an even greater burden of accessing water on women. Several girls are denied education purely because they are thrust with the responsibility of fetching water. India constitutes 16 per cent of the world's population, but the country has only four per cent of the world's freshwater resources. With the changing weather patterns and recurring droughts, India is water stressed. As many as 256 of 700 districts have reported 'critical' or 'over-exploited' groundwater levels, according to the latest data from the Central Ground Water Board (2017). This means that fetching water in these districts has become harder as the water table has fallen. A rural woman in Rajasthan walks over 2.5 kilometres to reach a water source, according to a report by the National Commission for Women. This is probably an underestimation, but the bottom-line is that our women and girls spend a significant proportion of their time fetching water.

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

George Floyd's murder should have been a watershed, but Britain has learned nothing

Since the murder of George Floyd two years ago today, I have been anecdotally observing the phenomenon of African-American refugees: families I have met who have fled racism in the US and sought refuge in Britain. Their journey follows the arc of all that has happened since. This time two years ago, they were traumatised by the possibility of police violence against their own children. Little more than six months later they were tipped over the edge by the Capitol riots. Seeking another English-speaking home where they could obtain visas and avoid armed police, they came here. As they have discovered, Black people here hardly perceive this country as a sanctuary. In the past week alone we were confronted with inquest evidence that Ian Taylor, a 54-year-old asthmatic, was told to "stop acting up" by police officers but then died from a cardiac arrest. The verdict found that police assessments of the risks he faced were inadequate. The timing finds us on Floyd's anniversary absorbing another painful story of a Black man pleading in vain for help to breathe. In the same week, they may have encountered the story of Raheem Bailey, a little boy who lost a finger desperately trying to flee attackers. We don't yet know the full facts of his case, but his mother says he had been hounded by racist bullies since

the beginning of the school year. They will read the findings of a year-long study describing systemic racism in UK maternity care. And that minority-ethnic people make up about 13% of the UK's population, according to census data, but the latest figures from England and Wales

Floyd's death were matched with action. The government's Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities was a humourless joke, sponsored by a minister who is tolerant of colonialism and intolerant of anti-racism. And yet this ineffectual and often

bodies of Black people and anti-racist activism as a whole at risk. In the US at least 160 Confederate statues were removed in 2020, but the UK has moved swiftly to protect its racist symbolism. The Police, Crime Sentencing and Courts Act invokes the toppling of Bristol's Edward Colston statue - for which

return to the African continent, while the Nationality and Borders Act means black and brown refugees from poorer nations face being deported there against their will. Those Americans, like other middle-class Black families, are also likely to be better cushioned against the coming recession, which new data suggests will widen an already record level unemployment gap between ethnic minority workers in Britain and everyone else. Recent statistics from the Office for National Statistics show Black households face being disproportionately affected by the cost of living crisis, with the majority of households having less than £1,500 in savings, and being more likely to go hungry. And yet, I have not seen the same energy for racial inequality evidenced in October - when Black History Month gave racial inequality modest airtime - on budget day. In June, the UK will celebrate the Queen's platinum jubilee, but questions of racism are almost nowhere to be seen. It's as if the royal family and structural racism are wholly unconnected. But the years since Floyd's murder have emboldened Black and Indigenous communities around the world to see British royal tours as the tip of a multi-generational iceberg of racist trauma.

■■■ *This time two years ago, they were traumatised by the possibility of police violence against their own children. Little more than six months later they were tipped over the edge by the Capitol riots. Seeking another English-speaking home where they could obtain visas and avoid armed police, they came here. As they have discovered, Black people here hardly perceive this country as a sanctuary* ■■■

show that these groups make up 34% of those held on remand in prison. The promises that flowed after the murder of Floyd have been flagrantly broken, or kept only in the most cynical way. It's true that for those working in companies or public sector organisations, language and tone has adjusted. US studies have shown that the mention of "systemic racism" has increased 300-fold at company events such as earnings calls and investor meetings. But investigations into British companies, museums, academic institutions and public sector organisations found that few of their high-profile public statements in the six months after

Afua Hirsch

performative anti-racism has still been enough to trigger a backlash. In the US, rightwing fanatics have confused the hitherto academic critical race theory with anything anti-racist. This has proved such a heady cocktail that some US states have spiralled into a book-pulping frenzy. While the British government is yet to embark on this particular bender, it seems inspired, and has also attempted to make CRT a villainous household name. But the most sinister, perverse consequences of Floyd's murder are the new laws that put both the actual

four people were acquitted of criminal damage - and makes future damage to memorials punishable by up to 10 years in prison. Protest will now be harder and more aggressively policed. This speaks directly to already aggressively overpoliced Black people in particular as a double attack. The Nationality and Borders Act makes it possible to strip people with dual citizenship of their Britishness without notice, a fitting tribute to another troubling anniversary this year: 10 years of the "hostile environment". But not all refugees are equal. The Americans I have met, who were able to arrange corporate relocations to facilitate their flight from racism, are likely to consider visiting Rwanda as a form of chosen

Some sacred trees of Assam

The Banyan tree (scientific name - Ficus benghalensis), called 'Batabriksha' in Sanskrit is one of the sacred trees of Assam. The new leaves of this tree are essential for Vedic functions. The tired people take rest under this sacred tree after walking a long distance. The common people believe that the Banyan tree is the dwelling place of God.

The Peepal tree (scientific name - Ficus religiosa), called 'Ashwatha' in Sanskrit is regarded as a sacred one. The new leaves are essential for Vedic functions. During the time of Ahom rule, the pure minded and hard-working teenagers spent the whole night performing 'Rati

Bihu' under this sacred tree. The mango tree (scientific name - Mangifera indica) provides us with the sweet or sour fruits. Its leaves are also very much essential for Vedic functions. Especially, in the marriage ceremony we decorate the doors and entrance gate with mango leaves.

People who are against the Vedic performance never use mango leaves. The small branches of the mango tree are also essential for sacrificial fire. The Palash tree (scientific name - Butea monosperma) is one another sacred tree of Assam. Its leaves are essential for performing Vedic rituals. The flower of the Palash tree has no scent at all. The Jajna Dimaru tree (a variety of fig tree, scientific name - Ficus glomerata) is also a sacred one.

Debeswar Gogoi

these are used as sacred dishes for eating food in religious functions. The backside of this leaf is used as a good seat by the common people. It is said that a banana is a good and healthy fruit. Bananas are of different varieties and these are used in different ways. The banana called 'Chenichampa' in Assamese is very sweet and it smells very nice like a 'Chini Champa' flower. This sweet-smelling banana is offered to God or other deities along with some raw eatables by the devotees. It has digestive powers. The banana called 'Malbhog' empowers our eyes very well. Moreover, it is considered as sacred food of our ancestors in Hindu religion. So, these types of bananas are very

much essential for offering a funeral cake to a deceased ancestor during the time of the funeral ceremony. The banana, known as 'Bheemkal' in Assamese, is mainly used as baby food. Gone are the days, when our forefathers planted a good and young plant of this variety on the day of the auspicious bath (Aadyaritu Shubha snana) ceremony of girls. During the ceremony, the banana plant was considered a sacred one. Proper care was taken with a pure hope of getting baby food in time in future. At present, we are dazzled by the glare of artificialities and forget the use of such types of natural and healthy foods which are available around us.

Is the Covid pandemic finally nearing its end?

More than two years on from the realisation that we are dealing with a novel pandemic, we are still nervously wondering what comes next. In the UK, Covid infection rates appear to have fallen to their lowest level since the summer of 2021, as has the number of deaths the virus is causing, but we know that new variants are still likely to emerge. So when will the end of this pandemic come, and what might it look like? This is a very difficult question, because we won't know we have passed the end of the pandemic until some time has elapsed. The expectation is that eventually the disease will reach endemic levels, meaning immunity in the population will balance out the reproduction of the virus, resulting in a stable level of infection year on year. That stability could include regular, repeatable fluctuations such as seasonality, but we won't know that stability has been achieved unless the same pattern of infections is observed for more than one consecutive year. There are two big unknowns in attempting to determine how soon the end of the pandemic may arrive and what it might look like. The first is: how durable will our immunity be, particularly against severe disease but also against infection? And the second is: how fast will the Sars-CoV-2 virus evolve, in particular with respect to overcoming our immune defences? To answer these questions, we need to look at the lessons the

pandemic has taught us so far. The year of the Sars-CoV-2 virus was very much 2020, when it caused high levels of mortality and disease, and changed lives around the world. We saw a virus transmit into humans and began to observe some evolution, but thanks to the relatively slow rate of evolution of Sars-CoV-2 compared with other RNA viruses, we did not observe much change beyond the immediate public health impact until the very end of the year, with the emergence initially of the Alpha, Beta and Gamma variants. Looking back, 2021 appears to have been the year of the variant. The Alpha variant rapidly displaced the initial strain of the virus: it was more transmissible and more likely to cause severe disease and death, necessitating far more robust public health responses including the reimposition of restrictions in the UK and elsewhere. The degree of adaptation was staggering; the Alpha variant was more than 50% more transmissible in humans compared with the original virus, a leap of adaptation that has never previously been observed in real time. The Beta and Gamma variants also displayed a degree of immune escape, a brief glimpse into the possibility that these viruses might be able to, at least in part, evade defences we had built against previous forms of the virus, whether by infection or vaccination. And of course, these variants were succeeded by the Delta variant, which was about 50% more transmissible than the Alpha variant, and also more severe, bringing another wave of disease and devastation. Towards the end of 2021 we were hit by another variant, Omicron, which brought its own unique challenges and lessons

in viral evolution. Omicron is highly evasive of the antibodies that vaccination and prior infection confer, and thereby can breach our immune defences. Fortunately, protection against hospitalisation and disease is not eroded to the same extent, though protection against severe disease has declined. And of course, Omicron is capable of re-infecting individuals who have previously been exposed to other forms of the virus. The idea that viral infection is a "one and done" risk - that you can get it over with by being infected - has well and truly been dispelled by Omicron. Thus, if 2021 was the year of the variant and the vaccine, 2022 so far appears to be the year of reinfection. We don't yet know how severe reinfections will be going forward - presumably there will

Aris Katzourakis

be some decline on average between primary infections and reinfections. However, as immunity wanes and the virus keeps evolving and changing, will the gap in severity between secondary and primary infections be eroded, increasing levels of mortality? We also don't know to what extent secondary infections bring reduced risks of morbidity, such as long Covid. And we don't know how the importance of reinfections varies across risk groups. We will almost certainly see the further erosion of immune protection as the virus continues to evolve, and the need to redouble vaccination campaigns as well as research and development is as pressing as it ever has been - we cannot take the earlier success of vaccines for granted. We may know how the end of the pandemic might occur in theory, and the patterns to look out for to determine whether we are approaching endemicity. What is a lot less clear is what our future with this virus will look like when

Covid is no longer at pandemic levels. For now, we are experiencing multiple waves per year, each with a substantial burden of disease and death. Will endemicity continue to involve multiple waves of infection, with potentially high severity each year? How frequently will variants like Omicron, capable of partial breaching our immune defences, arise, and will this eventually include variants that can escape the protection that vaccines induce, at least in part, against hospitalisation and death? The pandemic will not end this year, but the behaviour of this virus in highly vaccinated countries across the world may offer a glimpse of what the endpoint may look like: low risk of severe disease from any given infection, a better understanding of the cumulative disease toll of reinfections, an idea of the likelihood of further Omicron-like immune escape events and whether disease severity is further restored, and data available to guide further vaccination strategies.

BJP forgot about its 'temple achievement' & Vice-President buzz around Naqvi, Thaawarchand

Preparations are in full swing for the event marking successful completion of eight years of the Narendra Modi government. A blueprint highlighting the 'achievements' of the government is ready. Strangely, the issue of Ram Mandir and Kashi

Vishwanath temple is missing. Abolition of Article 370 and renovation of soldiers' homes

Bharat Agrawal

are mentioned. The BJP has taken note of this, but it remains unclear whether the omission of temples was deliberate or a genuine mistake. Last Friday, Karnataka governor Thaawarchand Gehlot met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Officially, it is being termed as a "courtesy meet", but the grapevine is buzzing about Gehlot being a candidate for vice president. Also, it is being pointed out that whenever he has met the PM, he has always been rewarded with a 'return gift'. After one such meeting, he was appointed as a Union minister and after another, he

was elevated to the post of Rajya Sabha Leader. Following another meeting, he was appointed as Karnataka's governor. So the possibility of 'zero return' from this meeting is quite low. Haryana's former CM Om Prakash Chautala has been sentenced to four years of imprisonment. This has happened at a time when the BJP government in Haryana is being propped up by his own grandson Dushyant Chautala's party Jan Nayak Janata Party. Now, there is a lot of talk about what Dushyant Chautala will do next. Even though Om Prakash and Dushyant belong to rival camps, a despondent Congress is still hoping that Dushyant might pull a rabbit out of the hat that would turn things around for the party in Haryana.

Letter to the Editor

Let trees not be turned to 'green monsters'

Sir,

Trees no doubt offer shade and do function as a sort of landscape in cities and villages but at the same time they pose heavy disaster and are a menace to the public if their growth is unchecked. Planting trees and saving trees is good but when the same turn out to be a threat to human life definitely the authority concerned or the organisation that took the job to plant them will have to either prune or cut them to avoid mishaps. Organisations and departments while planting trees must definitely bear in their mind that with the planting of saplings in the name of celebrations and functions their work is not over, truly it is their task to see that the growing saplings do not turn out to be "death causing green monsters". Many clubs and the so called tree lovers ignore matters like locating the right place to plant saplings. They plant trees wherever they like under electric posts, very close to buildings and roads and unaware about the fact how these can later damage the roads and the buildings and other structures in future. The lackadaisical attitude and the 'perennial ignoring' attitude of the authorities to check the growth of trees later end up in severe destruction to the life of citizens, vehicle's and property. Let us not turn shady trees into 'shady green monsters'.

MPray
Kerala



World Environment Day

In 1972, the UN General Assembly designated 5 June as World Environment Day (WED). The first celebration, under the slogan "Only One Earth" took place in 1974. In the following years, WED has developed as a platform to raise awareness on the problems facing our environment such as air pollution, plastic pollution, illegal wildlife trade, sustainable consumption, sea-level increase, and food security, among others. Furthermore, WED helps drive change in consumption patterns and in national and international environmental policy. World Environment Day was established in 1972 by the United Nations at the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment (5-16 June 1972), that had resulted from discussions on the integration of human interactions

and the environment. Two years later, in 1974 the first WED was held with the theme "Only One Earth". Even though WED celebrations have been held annually since 1974, in 1987 the idea for rotating the center of these activities through selecting different host countries began. The World Environment Day 2022 global campaign #OnlyOneEarth calls for transformative changes to policies and choices to enable cleaner, greener, and sustainable living in harmony with nature. It will focus on the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature, and our possibilities for shifting to a greener lifestyle through both policies and individual choices. "Only One Earth" was the motto for the 1972 Stockholm

Conference. 50 years on, the motto is as pertinent as ever - this planet is our only home, and humanity must safeguard its finite resources. The year 2022 is a historic milestone for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the global environmental community. It marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of UNEP as an outcome of the Stockholm Conference. It also coincides with the high-level Stockholm+50 international meeting. These emblematic events serve as an opportunity for the international community to strengthen cooperation and show leadership in the transformation towards a more sustainable society.

Significance of Agriculture in Assam Building



Assam is one of the richest states in India in agriculture. The economy of Assam is mainly agricultural. 69% of the citizens of Assam are engaged in agriculture. The agricultural products produced here are tea, cotton, bananas, maize, rice, beans, soyabeans, coconuts, various vegetables, fruits and spices. Assam alone produces 50% of the country's tea. Since independence after two hundred years of British colonial rule, the economy of Assam has not kept pace with the economy of India. For example, from 1981 to FY 2001, India's growth rate was 6% while Assam's growth rate was 3.78%. However, during the 1950s, the per capita income of Assam was higher than that of other regions of India, but today it is lower than that of India. In 2001, the per capita income of Assam was Rs. 6,157, compared to Rs. 10,198 per capita in India. That is about 40% less. Similarly, sectoral analysis shows that agriculture is the main commercial center of Assam but its use is very limited and seasonal. The main reason for this is lack of irrigation in the fields during the dry season. The land distribution in Assam is also not scientific. 96.6% of the farmers in Assam are small and marginal farmers. Therefore, the agricultural sector of Assam has not developed. Currently, the growth rate of the agricultural sector is 2.8%. Assam is a riverine country. The vast

Brahmaputra River flows from Shadia to Dhubri in Assam. The main rivers are the Brahmaputra and the tributaries of the Barak together number more than twenty. Therefore, Assam is a fertile state in terms of crops and fish and has the potential to become the best state in India. The government should connect pipes to the rivers of Assam at all times of the year and implement irrigation schemes to the agricultural fields of Assam. Agriculture accounts for a large part of the economy of Assam. Agriculture employs about 53% of the workforce in Assam. Among the horticultural crops, the tea industry dominates the economy of Assam. Assam produces about 630-700 million kg of tea leaves annually. Apart from tea, there is a huge demand for several agricultural commodities worldwide - for which the soil of Assam is very suitable for production. These include ginger, bell pepper, lemon, garlic, orange, watermelon, jackfruit, groundnut, rubber. However, due to lack of proper storage systems, many vegetables have been destroyed at one time or another. Now the era of traditional agricultural practices is over. If agriculture is taken as agriculture alone, farmers

can never expect to get the reward of their labour. Therefore, it is essential to provide value addition to agricultural commodities. Industry and commerce are now closely linked to agriculture. Therefore, the concerted efforts of several government departments or agencies are required to give a sustainable, form to the agricultural sector. In recent times, biotechnology and innovative techniques have given a new dimension to agro-based trade and industry. However, most of the farmers in

Assam are away from scientific methods which has resulted in decline in agricultural production. The agricultural production rate in the economy of Assam is much lower than that of the national economy. The average yield per hectare of the main crop is only 1,435 kg. The minimum supportable price of ordinary paddy is Rs 1,940 per quintal as per the latest government directives. The government needs to increase the number of paddy procurement centers and show the farmers the way to earn income by purchasing paddy produced by farmers at a fixed price. Assam lemon, pumpkin, bell pepper, garlic are already popular in the world market. Assam produces paddy, beans, soyabeans, tea leaves, bananas, maize, Coconut, coconut various fruits, vegetables, medicinal crops, spice crops. To get suitable market for exportation to foreign and neighbouring states, emphasis should be placed on facilitating rail, air and water transportation. In addition, emphasis should be placed on setting up

large reservoirs of cold storage in every district of the state for long term storage of food grains. Animal husbandry will strengthen the economy of the state and provide financial relief to the people of the state. Animal husbandry enriches the rural economy. Establishment of poultry, broiler farms, fish farming, dairy farms, increasing production of agricultural products, eri velvet, jute velvet, beekeeping, cooperative farming etc. help the villagers to become self-reliant and enrich the economy of Assam. There is a need to further dynamize and expand the agricultural cooperative societies in Assam such as cattle breeding, fisheries, agricultural parks, weaving mills, jute and velvet, indigenous handicrafts. Registered cooperative societies have provided a platform to the people employed in indigenous agriculture and industries and provided markets. Therefore, it is important to develop the rural economy and the problem of unemployment will be almost eliminated.

Astronomers to unveil groundbreaking results about the center of galaxy

If the Event Horizon Telescope (EHT) sounds familiar, it's because its team was responsible for a pretty impressive achievement. Back in 2019, the team released the first-ever image of a black hole's event horizon, a stunning development that at the time marked an incredible milestone for radio astronomy and physics. Now, the EHT, collaborating with The European Southern Observatory, is planning to announce some "groundbreaking results" about the center of our galaxy, according to a statement published by the EHT on Thursday. "The U.S. National Science Foundation with the Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration will hold a press conference to announce a groundbreaking discovery in the Milky Way," reads the press statement. What could this new discovery be? Well, EHT was not just studying the supermassive beast at the center of the Messier 87 galaxy dubbed M87, which produced the first-ever image of a black hole. The organization was also investigating the supermassive black hole at the center of the Milky Way known as Sagittarius A, or Sgr A. This black hole is about 4.3 million times more massive than the sun and sits just 25,000 light-years from Earth.

Snake& our environment

Snake, (suborder Serpentes), also called serpent, any of more than 3,400 species of reptiles distinguished by their limbless condition and greatly elongated body and tail. Classified with lizards in the order Squamata, snakes represent a lizard that, over the course of evolution, has undergone structural reduction, simplification, and loss as well as specialization. All snakes lack external limbs, but not all legless reptiles are snakes. Certain burrowing lizards may have only front or hind limbs or be completely legless. Unlike lizards, snakes lack movable eyelids, which results in a continuous and often disconcerting stare. Snakes

reduced or even lost entirely. However, snakes possess increased numbers of vertebrae and have developed two novelties among vertebrates: a tracheal lung in the neck region and a venom-conducting system for subduing prey. Snakes are thought to have evolved from terrestrial lizards as early as the Middle Jurassic Epoch (174.1 million to 163.5 million years ago). The oldest known fossil snake, Eophisunderwoodi, was a small snake that lived in southern England about 167 million years ago. Snakes are misunderstood and often maligned, primarily out of ignorance about their true nature and

tion to the entire group, as most people cannot tell the dangerous from the harmless. Only a small percentage (fewer than 300 species) are venomous, and of those only about half are capable of inflicting a lethal bite. Although snakebite mortality worldwide is estimated at 80,000-140,000 people per year, the majority of deaths occur in Southeast Asia, principally because of poor medical treatment, malnutrition of victims, and a large number of venomous species. Although there are about 8,000 venomous snakebites per year in the United States, the average number of annual fatalities is less than 10 or so per year-fewer



self. Rattlesnakes, for example, are venomous, and large ones are quite dangerous owing to the amount of venom they can inject. However, most are shy and retreating, and none will attack a person unmolested. When approached or molested, they will coil up and rattle as a warning to be left alone, striking only as a last resort. Most cases of reputed snake attack are based upon encroachment by a person into the snake's territory, which makes it feel trapped or cornered, or provocation of a snake during the breeding season. Even in these scenarios, only two snakes have a reputation as dangerous aggressors: the black mamba (Dendroaspis polylepis) of Africa and the king cobra (Ophiophagus hannah) of Southeast Asia. Nevertheless, snakes are inoffensive under the vast majority of circumstances. People are rarely indifferent about them, generally exhibiting emotions that range from religious awe and superstitious dread to repulsion and uncontrollable fear. It is interesting to note that, although most people profess to fear or hate snakes, one of the most visited areas of any zoo is the snake house-proof that snakes are mysterious and fascinating, even if they are loathed. Given their exquisite colours, patterns, and graceful movements as they crawl, swim, or climb, some snakes can be considered among the most beautiful animals. In common parlance, venomous snakes are often referred to as "poisonous snakes." This phrase is not technically correct, because the term "poisonous" only applies to organisms that unload their toxins when another organism consumes them. Very few snakes are truly poisonous. One of the most common, yet harmless, poisonous snakes in North America is the garter snake (Thamnophis), whose body has the ability to absorb and store the toxins of the newts, salamanders, and other poisonous prey it eats. Nearly every culture since prehistoric times (including various present-day cultures) has worshipped, revered, or feared snakes. Serpent worship is one of the earliest forms of veneration, with some carvings dating to 10,000 BCE. Although Satan is depicted as a serpent in the biblical account of the Creation, snakes are revered by most societies. A vast global compendium of superstitions and mythologies about snakes has sprung up. Many stem from the snakes' biological peculiarities: their ability to shed their skin is associated with immortality; their ever-open eyes represent omniscience; their propensity for sudden appearance and disappearance allies snakes with magic and ghosts; a phallic resemblance embodies procreative powers; and the ability to kill with a single bite engenders fear of any snakelike creature.



also lack external ear openings. Internally, they have lost the urinary bladder. The visceral organs are elongated, with reduction of the left member in relation to the right; the left lung is greatly

position in the natural world. All snakes are predators, but venomous snakes (that is, biting snakes that use their fangs to inject toxins into their victims) have given an inaccurate reputation

to the entire group, as most people cannot tell the dangerous from the harmless. Only a small percentage (fewer than 300 species) are venomous, and of those only about half are capable of inflicting a lethal bite. Although snakebite mortality worldwide is estimated at 80,000-140,000 people per year, the majority of deaths occur in Southeast Asia, principally because of poor medical treatment, malnutrition of victims, and a large number of venomous species. Although there are about 8,000 venomous snakebites per year in the United States, the average number of annual fatalities is less than 10 or so per year-fewer

Honeybee-An overview

Honeybee, (tribe Apini), also spelled honey bee, any of a group of insects in the family Apidae (order Hymenoptera) that in a broad sense includes all bees that make honey. In a stricter sense, honeybee applies to any one of seven members of the genus Apis and usually only the single species, Apismellifera, the domestic honeybee. This species is also called the European honeybee or the western honeybee. All honeybees are social insects and live together in nests or hives. The honeybee is remarkable for the dancing movements it performs in the hive to communicate information to its fellow bees about the location, distance, size, and quality of a particular food source in the surrounding area. The following sections provide an overview of the different honeybee species, honeybee biology, and diseases of honeybees. For more detailed information on honeybees, their colonies, and diseases, see the articles beekeeping and colony collapse disorder. With the exception of A. mellifera, all other Apis species are confined to parts of southern or southeastern Asia. A. florea, the dwarf honeybee, occurs in southern Asia, where it builds its nests in trees and shrubs. A. andreniformis, the black dwarf honeybee, is native to forested habitats of southeastern Asia. A. dorsata, the giant honeybee, also occurs in south-

eastern Asia and sometimes builds combs nearly three metres (more than nine feet) in diameter. A. cerana, the Eastern honeybee, is native to southern and southeastern Asia, where it has become domesticated in some areas. It is very closely related to A. koschevnikovi, or

sexes, male and female, and two female castes. The two female castes are known as workers, which are females that do not attain sexual maturity, and queens, females that are larger than the workers. The males, or drones, are larger than the workers and are present only in early summer. The workers and



Koschevnikov's bee, which is found only on Borneo and several other islands in Southeast Asia and on the Malay Peninsula. A. nigrocincta is native to Indonesia and Mindanao island in the Philippines. There are also a number of subspecies and strains of Apis. A. mellifera is about 1.2 cm (about 0.5 inch) long, although size varies among the several strains of this species. The head and thorax, or midsection, are somewhat bristly and vary in colour according to the strain. Two large compound eyes and three simple eyes, or ocelli, are located on top of the head. Keen eyesight is complemented by two sensitive odour-detecting antennae. Here are two honeybee

queens have stingers, whereas the drones are stingless. Queen honeybees store sperm in a structure known as the spermatheca, which allows them to control the fertilization of their eggs. Thus queens can lay eggs that are either unfertilized or fertilized. Unfertilized eggs develop into drones, whereas fertilized eggs develop into females, which may be either workers or virgin queens. Eggs destined to become queens are deposited in queen cells, which are vertical cells in the honeycomb that are larger than normal. After hatching, the virgin queens are fed royal jelly, a substance produced by the salivary glands of the workers. When not fed a diet consisting solely of royal jelly, virgin queens will develop into workers.

Contd. From Page 1

Bollywood singer KK's died

who were present at the venue. The singer's body was brought to Rabindra Sadan after a post-mortem examination was conducted at state-run SSKM Hospital earlier in the day, an official said. His mortal remains were taken to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport and handed over to his family, who will fly to Mumbai with the body, he said. Banerjee cut short her programme in Bankura district and reached Kolkata. "The sudden and untimely demise of the Bollywood playback singer KK shocks and saddens us. My colleagues have been working since last night to ensure that all requisite support is given for necessary formalities, his rites and to his family now. My deep condolences," she tweeted. "KK was a youth icon. We have lost a great singer," she said. The singer had performed at Nazrul Mancha Tuesday evening and also on Monday. He was scheduled to return to New Delhi on Wednesday. Meanwhile, the incident has triggered a political blame game with the BJP demanding an impartial probe, while the TMC asking it not to politicise death. "There should be an impartial investigation into the incident as there was a complete lapse on the part of the administration to ensure proper security arrangements." Around 7,000 people were reportedly present at the venue of the programme where the seating capacity was around 3,000 people. He was mobbed there, which means security arrangements were not in place for a VIP," BJP state spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said. Echoing him, BJP national secretary Anupam Hazra said strict action should be taken against the organisers. "What was the capacity of the hall and how many people were allowed entry? Was the air-conditioning enough for such a gathering? What was the oxygen level at the auditorium? These things need to be looked into," he tweeted in Bengali. West Bengal Congress chief Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury also demanded an inquiry by a 'competent authority'. "All said and done I do demand a thorough inquiry behind the sad demise of singer #KK by a competent authority. The prevailing ambience of the Nazrul Mancha during his performance reveals many unsavoury questions including critical mismanagement of the said platform which might have triggered his death," he tweeted. Reacting sharply to BJP's comments, TMC state general secretary Kunal Ghosh said the saffron party should stop its "vulture politics" and should not politicise an unfortunate incident. "His death is really unfortunate, and all of us are really sad about it. But what the BJP is doing is not at all expected. The saffron camp should stop its vulture brand of politics. They should stop politicising death. We won't be astonished if BJP starts claiming that KK was their party leader," he said. Ghosh said the administration is taking all measures and an investigation is underway. Senior state minister and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim said air-conditioning was working but there was an overwhelming crowd. "KK was a very popular singer and had a huge fan following among the young generation. I have heard that the capacity was around 2,800 but around 7,000 people had tried to enter the hall to have a glimpse of him and listen to his song. "You can't ask the police to baton charge a crowd as they wanted to listen to his song. The air-conditioning was completely in order. I would request everyone not to politicise death," he said. Initial hits such as 'Pyaar Ke Pal' and 'Yaaron' made KK popular among the youths of the country. As a playback singer, he has recorded Bollywood numbers such as 'Ankhon Mein Teri' (Om Shanti Om), 'Zara Sa' (Jannat), 'Khuda Jaane' (Bachna Ae Haseeno) and 'Tadap Tadap' (Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam). A versatile singer, KK has also recorded songs in Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi and Bengali, among other languages.

China's help to Russia through

countries from buying Russian oil and gas. But President Joe Biden has warned Xi of unspecified consequences if Beijing helps Moscow evade sanctions. That leaves open the risk that Chinese companies might be punished by losing access to valuable Western markets. Beijing appears to be complying. But state-owned companies are buying more Russian oil and gas, which gives the Kremlin export income. They also are potential investors in Russian energy projects as Western companies leave. "The Biden administration will likely become increasingly exasperated at China's continued support for Russia," Neil Thomas of Eurasia Group said in an email. "That increases the likelihood of "unilateral moves to punish Beijing" and "allied coordination on economic security measures aimed at countering China," Thomas said. The conflict adds to the tension with Washington over Taiwan, Hong Kong, human rights, trade, technology and Beijing's strategic ambitions. China poses the "most serious long-term challenge to the international order," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a May 26 speech. Xi's government has tried to distance itself from Putin's war by calling for peace talks, but it avoids criticizing Moscow. Other governments "must not harm China's legitimate interests in any way" in dealing with Ukraine, warned a foreign ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian. Monday's decision by EU leaders will cut imports of Russian oil by 90%, according to the head of its executive branch, Ursula von der Leyen. European customers have been paying Russia as much as \$1 billion per day for oil, gas and coal. Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's permanent representative to international organizations in Vienna, responded on Twitter: "Russia will find other importers." Moscow is tiny as a trading partner for Beijing but an ally against what both resent as US Dominance in global affairs. China sees Russian oil and gas as a way to diversify supplies for its energy-hungry economy. China bought 20% of last year's Russian crude exports, according to the International Energy Agency. The two sides announced a new 30-year gas contract on Feb. 4, three weeks ahead of Moscow's attack on Ukraine, that the state newspaper Global Times said will increase annual supplies to China by about 25%. While the two are friendly, China is taking advantage of the situation to get cheaper energy and favorable business deals, said Maria Shagina of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "They would always capitalize on Russia's isolation," said Shagina. "But they would be very cautious not to violate sanctions outright." On May 24, while Biden was visiting Tokyo, Russian and Chinese warplanes carried out 'strategic air patrols' above the Sea of Japan, the East China Sea and the western Pacific. The Japanese government said bombers flew near Japan. Biden warned Xi during a March 18 video meeting not to give Moscow military or economic aid. Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, said in March that Washington wouldn't tolerate China or any other country helping Moscow work around sanctions. The White House has criticized Beijing's 'rhetorical support' for Putin. Washington is 'monitoring closely' Chinese dealings with Moscow, the American Embassy said in a written response to questions. "We have not seen the provision of military equipment," it said. Asked about economic sanctions and possible violations, the embassy said it had nothing further. After BP and ExxonMobil announced they were pulling out of Russian oil and gas projects, "there are rumors state-owned Chinese companies might step in and acquire stakes," said Shagina. China's imports from Russia rose 56.6% over a year earlier in April to \$8.9 billion, according to customs data. That helped Putin's government record a current account surplus, the broadest measure of trade, of \$96 billion for the four months ending in April. Washington also is frustrated that India, the No. 3 global oil importer, is buying more from Russia to take advantage of low prices. The Biden administration is lobbying Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government to stop. In March, the US government told Asian and European allies that American intelligence had determined China indicated to Russia it would be willing to provide military support for the campaign in Ukraine and financial help to limit the impact of sanctions. Russia has been expelled from the global SWIFT network for bank transfers. China's credit card processor, UnionPay, refused to work with Russian banks after Visa and MasterCard stopped serving them, the Russian news outlet RBC reported in April. It said UnionPay worried it might be hit by "secondary sanctions" and cut off from the Western-controlled global financial system. China gave Moscow an economic lifeline following Western sanctions imposed over its 2014 seizure of Crimea from Ukraine. Beijing agreed to buy Russian gas in a deal estimated to be worth up to \$400 billion over three decades. Moscow turned to Chinese state-owned companies to help pay for oil and gas development after Crimea-related sanctions cut off Western financing. "The help will never come for free," Shagina said.

Vladmir Putin likely to get even

costing Putin up to \$10 billion a year in lost export revenue. Though that could eventually leave more of Russia's flagship Urals crude - an oil brand that had been popular in Europe - needing a new home, there will be limited buyers in Asia. That's because the grade can't easily be refined in large quantities in countries such as Sri Lanka and Indonesia that don't have sophisticated processing and blending capabilities to handle the highly sulfuric type of oil, said traders. That could lead China and India, which do have refineries that can process Urals, to pick up extra barrels. With Shanghai emerging from its months-long lockdown, Chinese state-owned and private refiners may have a renewed appetite to buy more from Russia, the traders said.

'Have you ever seen a criminal say

the Managing Director of AJL. The ED is currently investigating the shareholding pattern and financial transactions as well as role of party functionaries in the functioning of AJL and YIL. The YIL promoters include Congress President Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi. BJP MP Subramanian Swamy had alleged that the Gandhis cheated and misappropriated funds, with YIL paying only Rs 50 lakh to obtain the right to recover Rs 90.25 crore that AJL owed to the Congress. He had filed a complaint with a Delhi court earlier. Following the court taking cognisance of an Income Tax Department probe against YIL on Swamy's petition, the ED also registered a fresh case under PMLA. Meanwhile, Congress said that it will not be cowed down by any such "vendetta" by the BJP government. Congress leaders Abhishek Manu Singhvi and Randeep Surjewala said party president Sonia Gandhi has been summoned by the ED for questioning in a money laundering case linked to the National Herald newspaper on June 8, and she was determined to appear before the agency as she has nothing to hide. They said former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi has also been summoned, and that he has written to the probe agency to postpone the date to after June 5 as he is not in the country. "The Modi government should know that by registering such fake and fabricated cases, they cannot succeed in their cowardly conspiracy," Singhvi told reporters.

AIADMK calls BJP

is the party's organisation secretary and a senior spokesperson. A former Minister during the previous AIADMK regimes, he was part of the Cabinet led by both party founder M G Ramachandran and late leader J Jayalalithaa. He said the AIADMK is opposed to the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test for medical admissions. The BJP, however, is 'forcing' the test on Tamil Nadu and this has led to a scenario of 'students from northern states', taking away a chunk of seats in medical colleges in the state, he alleged. While 'state autonomy' is a fundamental principle of his party, the former Minister said the BJP-led central government has reduced state governments to the level of a 'village panchayat' by taking away the rights of states like those related to taxation. Pointing to the Supreme Court judgment on the Cauvery river water issue and inter-state river water matters like the Mullaperiyar, he condemned what he termed the BJP's 'step-motherly' treatment towards Tamil Nadu. Accusing the BJP of 'actively siding with' the Sri Lankan 'Rajapakse' government that was 'behind the killings' of 1.5 lakh Tamils in the 2009 war in the island nation between the now-defunct Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Army, he said the Tamil families affected by the war were yet to get due relief. Also, the Tamil people have not been empowered by giving them equal rights and opportunities. Ponnaiyan said AIADMK firmly stood for the rights of the Tamil people in Sri Lanka, which includes those related to equal employment opportunities, land rights and due respect and recognition for the Tamil language. "We do not accept the BJP's anti-Tamil race, anti-Tamil language sentiments (stand)." Asserting that the BJP can never grow in Tamil Nadu, he said the national party may get a space in the state only if it appropriately addresses all such issues. Asked if the AIADMK would continue its alliance with the BJP for the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, he said, "I do not know. How can we comment on that now." On May 31, addressing a party event here, Ponnaiyan had said that the BJP's growth (in Tamil Nadu) would not augur well for the AIADMK, the state and the Dravidian policies as well. It was the first, open criticism by an AIADMK leader against the BJP. The AIADMK fought the 2021 Assembly election in alliance with the BJP, PMK and other smaller parties. The Saffron party won 4 Assembly seats and the alliance, in total bagged 75 seats in the 234-member Assembly. The DMK-led coalition won 159 seats. Ponnaiyan's comments come against the backdrop of a growing perception in the state that the BJP, under the leadership of its state unit chief K Annamalai is performing the role of the main opposition party, while the AIADMK is not putting up a spirited fight to take on the ruling DMK.

Over 1.1 lakh Covid-19 cases

weeks prior, according to the latest report by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Children's Hospital Association. It marks the seventh consecutive weekly increase in child Covid-19 cases in the US, said the report published on Tuesday. Nearly 13.4 million children have tested positive for Covid-19 since the onset of the pandemic in the country, and nearly 376,000 of these cases have been added in the past four weeks, according to the report. Nearly 5.5 million child Covid-19 cases have been added nationwide so far in 2022, Xinhua news agency reported. Children represent 18.9 per cent of all Covid-19 cases in the US, according to the report. There is an urgent need to collect more age-specific data to assess the severity of illness related to new variants as well as potential longer-term effects, said the AAP. "It is important to recognise there are immediate effects of the pandemic on children's health, but importantly we need to identify and address the long-lasting impacts on the physical, mental and social well-being of this generation of children and youth," it added.

Kaziranga National Park Collected

a national park in the Golaghat, Karbi Anglong and Nagaon districts of the state of Assam, India. The sanctuary, which hosts two-thirds of the world's great one-horned rhinoceroses, is a World Heritage Site. According to the census held in March 2018 which was jointly conducted by the Forest Department of the Government of Assam and some recognized wildlife NGOs, the rhino population in Kaziranga National Park is 2,413. It comprises 1,641 adult rhinos (642 males, 793 females, 206 unsexed); 387 sub-adults (116 males, 149 females, 122 unsexed); and 385 calves. In 2015, the rhino population stood at 2401. Kaziranga National Park was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2006. The park is home to large breeding populations of elephants, wild water buffalo, and swamp deer. Kaziranga is recognized as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International for conservation of avifaunal species. When compared with other protected areas in India, Kaziranga has achieved notable success in wildlife conservation. Located on the edge of the Eastern Himalaya biodiversity hotspot, the park combines high species diversity and visibility. Kaziranga is a vast expanse of tall elephant grass, marshland, and dense tropical moist broadleaf forests, criss-crossed by four major rivers, including the Brahmaputra, and the park includes numerous small bodies of water. Kaziranga has been the theme of several books, songs, and documentaries. The park celebrated its centennial in 2005 after its establishment in 1905 as a reserve forest.

Law for population control will be brought soon: Union minister Prahlad Singh Patel

New Delhi, June 01 : Union Minister Prahlad Singh Patel on Tuesday said a law for population control will be brought soon. The Union Minister for food processing industries was in Raipur to attend 'Garib Kalyan Sammelan' at ICAR-National Institute of Biotic Stress Management, Baronda. When asked by reporters about a law on population control, Patel said, "It will be brought soon, don't worry. When such strong and big decisions have been taken then the rest too (will be taken)." He also attacked the ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh claiming it has failed to achieve targets under some Central schemes. "The state government has been able to achieve only 23 per cent work under Jal Jeevan Mission while the national average of target achievement under it is 50 per cent.



Karbi anglong- CM KAAC election campaign Chokihola

'Pragya Smaran' program held at GJV

Assam Rising, Golaghat, June 1 : Today a commemoration program named 'Pragya Smaran' was held at Jogen Punyaprabha auditorium of Golaghat Jatiya Vidyalaya. In the program tributes were paid to the departed founder members of Golaghat Jatiya Vidyalaya which was established in the year 2000. Tributes were paid to educationists Kandarpa Kumar Tamuli, Jehirul Hussain, founder president of school educational committee Prafulla Chaliha, well known Businessman Ajit Baruah, founder Headmistress Nilima Baruah, founder teacher and former Headmistress Saranani Bordoloi Khaund. To mark the occasion an inter school extempore speech competition and a quiz competition were organized by Golaghat Jatiya Vidyalaya. Several students from different government and private educational institutions took part in the competitions. The extempore speech competition was judged by former vice principal of Furkating College Dr Lukumon Goswami and senior teacher of Golaghat Govt Bezbaruah HS School Arupa Nath. On the other hand the quiz competition was conducted by well known quiz master and retired Principal of Athkheliya HS School Pradeep Sonar. He was assisted by another two upcoming quizmasters Kulajit Das from Debraj Roy College Golaghat and Priyam Bordoloi from Golaghat Engineering College. Golaghat President of Golaghat Jatiya Vidyalaya Dr Ajit Baruah chaired the commemoration meet. Purpose of the meeting was delivered by Secretary and Assistant Headmistress Banashree Kakaty. One of the founder members of the school Dr Manash Roy, trustees Sofia Hussain, Amiya Tamuli, former Headmistress Toru Gogoi, present Headmistress Smritirekha Bora, Secretary of the Trust and Assistant Headmistress Banashree Kakaty, Vice president of the Trust Porosh Boruah, Educational Committee President Anil Sharma, member Nirupama Rajkhowa along with several other distinguished personalities were present in the program. In the extempore speech competition the first position could not be determined. The second position was bagged by Anubrata Hazarika from Golaghat Jatiya Vidyalaya while the third position was bagged jointly by Arfina Mizan from Vivekananda Kendra Vidyalaya and Anubhav Barman from Sankardev Sishu Vidya Niketan, Golaghat. In the Quiz competition first position was secured by Shristipriya Deb, Rishid Das and Dilnawaz Ahmed from Mahatma Balya Bhawan school. Second position was bagged by Koustavmoni Hazarika, Debabrat Handique and Kangkan Bhushan Bora from the host school and from the same school Kaushik Saikia, Angarag Roy and Bornil Basanta Bora bagged the third position. Winners of both the competitions were awarded with cash prizes and certificates. The program was anchored by Assistant teacher Prince Phukan.

Satyendar Jain should be awarded

'Padma Vibhushan': Delhi CM

Arvind Kejriwal backs AAP minister

New Delhi, June 1 : Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal came out in support of Health minister and AAP leader Satyendar Jain, who is currently in the Enforcement Directorate's custody, on Wednesday (June 1) and said he should be awarded a Padma Vibhushan for giving mohalla clinics to the national capital. Delhi Health Minister Jain was sent to ED custody till June 9 in a money laundering case a day back. On Monday, the ED had arrested Delhi's Health Minister under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The Delhi CM said, "The country should be proud him as he gave the model of Mohalla Clinic that are being visited by people from the world, including (ex) Secretary General of the UN. He gave a health model that treats people free of cost." "I think, he should be given top awards like the Padma Bhushan or Padma Vibhushan," Kejriwal was quoted. The AAP convenor added that the CBI gave a clean chit to his minister earlier, now the ED will conduct its probe and Jain will come out clean again. Satyendar Jain holds the Health, Power and Home, in the Arvind Kejriwal-led AAP government in Delhi. After Jain's arrest on Monday, senior AAP leader and Deputy CM Manish Sisodia had claimed that the arrest came as the Delhi Health Minister was made the AAP in-charge of Himachal Pradesh where the ruling BJP fears defeat in the upcoming Assembly elections. Kejriwal had also backed his minister and said the charges against Jain were "completely false". "I have studied the case against Jain. It is completely fake and motivated by political reasons and he has been deliberately framed," he had said. The Delhi CM had also expressed confidence in his minister and said, "We have faith in the judiciary. Jain will come out clean and the fake case will not sustain."

Mumbai Warns Of Huge Spike In Covid Cases, Positivity Rate At 6%

Mumbai, June 1 : Testing for Covid will be ramped up in Mumbai as the test positivity rate in the city has jumped to six per cent, the civic body Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, or BMC, said today. It has asked officials to immediately increase testing "on war footing". Testing labs have also been asked to be proactive and fully staffed. "Daily new cases have tremendously increased in Mumbai, with monsoon around the corner, we will now see a rapid rise in symptomatic cases," it warned. The BMC has further asked for the vaccination drive in the 12-18 years category, and booster doses, to be pushed aggressively. Fearing another sharp rise in symptomatic cases, the civic body has asked for jumbo field hospitals to be kept adequately staffed and on alert now. Private hospitals have also been asked to be on alert. Other readiness measures like reviewing the status of ward war rooms to ensure they are fully equipped with staff, medical teams, and ambulances have been ordered. If hospitalisation increases in the coming days, the jumbo hospital in Malad is to be used on priority. Mumbai has witnessed a more than 100 per cent increase in the number of Covid cases reported in May as compared to the cases reported in April this year.



Former Wallabies coach Robbie Deans tips tight series with England

Paris, May 01 : Former Wallabies coach Robbie Deans believes Eddie Jones will need all his magic tricks to guide England to another series victory over Australia this winter. Australian Jones boasts an eight-from-eight record over the Wallabies since taking charge of England following their disastrous home Rugby World Cup campaign in 2015. The ex-Wallabies mentor tormented Michael Cheika for seven of those wins before masterminding a 32-15 rout over Dave Rennie's side at Twickenham last November. Deans, though, has been encouraged by the improvement of Australia's Super Rugby sides and also the Wallabies under Rennie and cannot see another 3-0 sweep to England like six years ago when Australia hosts another three-Test series in July. "You can only take so much punishment, particularly if you're a proud sporting nation like Australia," said Deans, two



days after guiding Saitama Wild Knights to a fifth Japanese Top League title with an 18-12 win over Suntory Sungoliath, where Jones is director of rugby. "They were always going to respond and they exposed a lot of young players through Super [Rugby]. It's just that time in the saddle and no Australian sportsman is going to stay down for long." They're on the incline and the

international program will benefit from that. They'll have more depth, more competition, more ability to ride out injuries and form. And they've got the ultimate incentive now - two World Cups ahead of them [in 2023 in France and 2027 in

Australia]. "Asked if Jones would have any tricks up his sleeve, Deans said: "I hope so - he'll need them. Yeah, they'll be a challenge. No doubt about it. Eddie will be looking at it and expecting to win. It won't be straightforward." The

Wallabies will be boosted by the return of the Wild Knights' star winger Marika Koroibete, who pledged his commitment to the series on Tuesday night. Rennie is also set to recall fellow Japan-based pair Quade Cooper and Samu Kerevi as his two other overseas options allowed under Rugby Australia's new eligibility rules. Deans is tipping an epic series. "It's going to be of great interest, which is good for the game," he said. "You wouldn't want too much at stake in terms of picking the outcome, which is good as well." It's a year out from the World Cup and it's an exciting time in Australian rugby, so it's the front end of what will hopefully be a really positive resurgence for the game in the south.

England confirm Matthew Potts will make Test debut against New Zealand

London, May 01 : Durham seamer Matthew Potts will make his England debut in the first Test against New Zealand on Thursday. The 23-year-old has been picked ahead of Somerset's Craig Overton and will join an attack led by the two most prolific wicket-takers in English history, James Anderson and Stuart Broad, at Lord's. Anderson, 39, and Broad, 35, were dropped for the recent tour of the West Indies but return at the first time of asking under new captain Ben Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum. England had already removed some of the

uncertainty around their XI by teeing up Jonny Bairstow's selection at No 5, meaning in-form Yorkshire batter Harry Brook must wait for his chance. Brook has scored 840 runs at an average of 140 for the White Rose this season, but has not been able to find a place in a familiar-looking top six. Domestic form has proved crucial to Potts' elevation, though, with the Sunderland-born quick rewarded for taking 35 wickets in his first six appearances this year. England are without a host of pace bowlers due



to injury, with Jofra Archer, Mark Wood, Chris Woakes, Olly Stone, Saqib Mahmood and Matt Fisher among those sidelined. Stokes, who is due to face the media

Ukraine players show their nation's culture is alive and kicking



London, May 01 : It would not be a huge surprise if the ball that scored Ukraine's first official goal was still travelling. They were 3-0 down against Hungary in the western city of Uzhhorod when, with virtually the final action, Ivan Hetsko lined up a free-kick just beyond the edge of the "D" and struck it with such shuddering force that it rebounded straight out of the net. The strike meant nothing and everything: it was 29 April 1992 and Ukraine would take some years to assemble a committed XI in the post-USSR shakedown, but Hetsko's thunderbolt had given them a form of lift-off. "It was very difficult for us at first and I think we are in a similar position now,"

says Myron Markevych, who was overseeing Volyn Lutsk in the inaugural Ukrainian championship back then and later managed the national team. "Except we had to begin from zero then, and today we are basically starting from minus two." When Ukraine face Scotland at Hampden Park it will be less a rebirth than a reminder that, much as Russia might wish to erase the country's cultural identity, its football heritage remains truly alive. The act of playing for a World Cup place on Wednesday night, and over the next five days if all goes well, is both one of defiance and of expectation that, despite everything, good things can lie ahead. But Markevych is right: Ukraine approach the tie from a standing start at best and it would be a seismic achievement if an undercooked, though highly talented, team can overcome battle-hardened opponents in both Glasgow and Cardiff. "The team has been training here for a month, and before the war I was at a training camp with Shakhtar, so I have the

'There is a line, we are human beings': Maguire opens up on threats and boos



London, May 01 : Harry Maguire has opened up on his season of misery and insisted he will bounce back, beginning in England's upcoming Nations League programme. The Manchester United captain has been jeered by fans of his own team at club and international level as his form has nosedived. But the 29 year old defender made it clear that the bomb threat to his family home on 20 April was beyond the pale. "There is a line," Maguire said. "We are human beings. I do have a family. People ask if it affects me. My mentality is that it doesn't affect me too much but when it comes to bomb threats, it is more about family. Jude Bellingham during a training session with the England football team at St George's Park stadium in Burton-upon-Trent on 30 May, 2022. "I'm just happy my kids are at an age where they don't read things and see things on the news. If my kids were an older age, they could see things and go to school and people are speaking about it. That is when it affects you a little bit more. "I'm in a position where I'm going to be criticised. Manchester United paid a large sum of money for me. It is one of the most loved clubs in the world and also one of the most hated in the world as well. "We know we are under the most scrutiny. I totally accept criticism when we concede goals or make mistakes. I'm big enough to accept people getting on my back and saying I can improve. "The bomb threat came the day after United's 4-0 defeat at Liverpool and led to Cheshire police returning to carry out a precautionary sweep of the property. The previous month, Maguire's late substitution in United's Champions League exit against Atlético Madrid was cheered by a section of the Old Trafford support and in his next game - for England against Ivory Coast in March - he was booed by some fans at Wembley. "I have had amazing times with the [England] fans and I am not going to let the minority - I don't know how many it was, 10-20 people doing that in the Ivory Coast game - affect my relationship with them," Maguire said. "I was a bit shocked. I wouldn't say I was hurt and upset. I know my family and friends might have been affected by it but I was more surprised."

Liverpool want more details on report into Champions League chaos

Liverpool, May 01 : The Liverpool chief executive, Billy Hogan, has said the club want more details about the independent report into the chaos

Monday that the Portuguese MP Dr Tiago Brandão Rodrigues will lead a review into the "decision making, responsibility and

outside France's national stadium and Hogan, who has been in regular dialogue with Uefa since Saturday, has revealed the club are still awaiting

commissioned a report, per the media statements, and we received a letter from Uefa today confirming that and I've had a conversation this evening with Uefa on that point. There isn't a lot of detail at this stage, it's an evolving process, but we want to ensure that the appropriate steps are taken to getting the facts about what happened on Saturday in Paris. Just as an example, this may just be a difference in language, but in our mind we requested an independent investigation rather than an independent report. "Detail is really important here and we'll be following up with Uefa on that over the coming days. "Liverpool launched an online form on Monday for supporters to provide details and video evidence of their experiences in Paris. The club has been inundated with first-hand accounts of the chaos.



outside the Champions League final on Saturday, with more than 5,000 fans giving accounts of the Stade de France shambles in the space of 24 hours. Uefa announced on

behaviours of all entities involved in the final". Liverpool have called for an independent and transparent investigation into the dangerous scenes

confirmation of the scope of the review. He wants an investigation to get "under way and in the right way". Hogan said: "We were aware they [Uefa] had

Sergio Pérez follows Monaco win with two-year contract extension at Red Bull

London, May 01 : Sergio Pérez has signed a two-year contract extension with Red Bull. The Mexican, who won the Monaco Grand Prix on Sunday, is now committed to the team until the end of the 2024 season. The 32-year-old is currently third in the drivers' world championship standings after finishing fourth last year. Pérez said: "This has been an incredible week. Winning the Monaco Grand Prix is a dream for any driver and then to follow that with announcing I will continue with the team until 2024 just makes me extremely happy. I am so proud to be a member of this team and I feel completely at home here now. "Pérez, who joined Red Bull at the end of 2020, won the Azerbaijan Grand Prix last season and claimed four other top-three finishes. This season he has won 110 points from seven races, including his Monaco triumph, while he also claimed pole position at the Saudi Arabia Grand Prix. Red Bull's team principal, Christian Horner, said: "Checo" has done a fantastic job. Time and again he has proved himself to not only be a magnificent team player but, as his level of comfort has grown, he has become a real force to be reckoned with at the sharp end of the grid. For us, holding on to his pace, race craft and experience was a no-brainer."



No excuse for Uefa echoing Hillsborough by instantly blaming Liverpool fans

London, May 01 : Rush to instant judgment during the chaos in Paris instead of waiting for the facts was shocking from those responsible. Two days on from the Paris horrors, where Uefa demonstrated shocking ignorance of lessons learned from Hillsborough and other football catastrophes, Liverpool were already facing another one: beware the "independent inquiry". The Portuguese MP Tiago Brandão Rodrigues may well be made of the sternest independent mind, but Uefa has appointed him to conduct the review into the Champions League fiasco and



Uefa itself is very much a focus for the necessary investigation. The pile-up of catastrophes by police and organisers in the dystopian, teargassed approach to France's national stadium has mostly been identified rapidly,

by supporters with video evidence, the umbrella group Football Supporters Europe and some excellent reporting by sports journalists at the match. As so often, the causes of chaos can be terrifyingly simple: the police had no workable system

to check for valid tickets some way from the turnstiles and instead held thousands of people in a ridiculous bottleneck for an age, before giving up completely. There were then breakdowns and closures at the turnstiles leading to more huge static queues, clearly aggravated by some groups of local lads chancing it to get in. The excessively tooled-up police were filmed teargassing innocent people, young and old, at times with an air of bored dismissiveness, so even the French ministers are not denying that. The only real

point of contention left, although highly toxic, is how much of the turnstile clogging was caused by fake tickets. The ministers' claims, that there were 30-40,000 Liverpool fans with fake or no tickets, look ludicrous - where, physically, were all these tens of thousands of people? - but there will have been some, a routine issue to be dealt with at any major match. Yet many Liverpool supporters have said their tickets, either very expensively bought or even, as Andy Robertson said, issued officially to VIPs, did not scan at the turnstiles.

Dustin Johnson headlines inaugural LIV Golf event with Mickelson not listed

London, May 01 : Former world No 1 Dustin Johnson and past major champion Sergio Garcia were listed among competitors for the opening LIV Golf Invitational Series event in a field released by the Saudi-backed league on Tuesday that did not include Phil Mickelson. While six-time major champion Mickelson was not currently on the field list, he could still tee it up between 9 and 11 June at the Centurion Club outside London as six spots in the 48-player event remain open. Among the other notables included are former world No 1s Lee Westwood and



Martin Kaymer, as well as European Ryder Cup veteran Ian Poulter, Louis Oosthuizen, Branden Grace, Sergio Garcia and Kevin Na. The final six players will be announced at a later date, LIV Golf said. World No 13 Johnson, a two-times major champion, is the highest-ranked player in a field that currently includes 26 of the top 150 golfers in the world. "Free agency has finally come to golf," said LIV Golf CEO Greg Norman. "This is an opportunity to start a movement that will change the course of history by bringing new and open competition to the sport we all love."

Coco Gauff into French Open semi-finals after victory over Sloane Stephens

Paris, June 01 : For much of the past year, one of Coco Gauff's clearest goals has been to grow and advance at her own pace, ignoring all of the hype and expectation. But Gauff is 18, a high-school graduate as of just over a week ago, and on Tuesday she moved into her first grand-slam semi-final at the French Open. With a solid performance under immense pressure, she was too strong for her friend and fellow American Sloane Stephens, winning 7-5, 6-2. Gauff will have an enormous opportunity of reaching the final as she faces the unseeded Martina Trevisan of Italy, who upset Leylah Fernandez 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-3 as the Canadian struggled with an injury to her right foot. Gauff and Stephens, 29, go back a long time. As Gauff was growing up surrounded by hype, Stephens watched as she grew from a precocious eight-year-old to an adult with ample experience on the tour. She would attend some of Gauff's birthday parties and they know each other's families well. Here they played with so much on the line. This pitted two of the very best athletes in the game against each other,



but Gauff outworked Stephens in the numerous long rallies and remained solid as each tried to find a way through the other's defences. She served well when she most needed to and she brought Stephens forward with regular drop shots, demonstrating the variety that has become a central part of her game. Most of all, Gauff struck her forehand as well as she has done in any of her big matches. Throughout her young career, Gauff's forehand has become a big target for all players, the aim to rush her elaborate swing with depth and pace, but it was Gauff frequently pushing

Stephens back with her heavy topspin while constantly looking to dictate and finish points. This time last year, Gauff reached her first grand slam quarter-final in Paris, where she faced the eventual champion Barbora Krejickova. In the first set, Gauff had multiple set points that she failed to convert before she mentally fell away. This

week, Gauff has referenced that match numerous times as one of the most important steps in her growth, explaining that she has learned not to panic in those moments. In a tense second set that included several tight games on her serve, a long break after a spectator fell ill and two double-faults as she failed to serve out the match at 5-

1, Gauff took those lessons to heart and she remained composed throughout, shrugging off the pressure to continue her march through the draw without dropping a set. In her post-match interview, Gauff was asked by former champion Mats Wilander about the hype that has followed her since she was a child. Her response reflected the perspective she has garnered in her three years at the top. "Obviously I believe in myself," she said. "Even last year, I think I was too focused on trying to live up to other people's expectations of me. Just enjoy life. No matter how good or how bad my career is, I think I'm a great person, and that's a message to all young players. Your results, or your job, or how much money you make doesn't define you as a person. As long as you love yourself, who cares what anyone else thinks?"

No one remembers bilateral T20 series, play shortest format in just World Cup: Ravi Shastri

New Delhi, June 01 : Former India coach Ravi Shastri reckons that T20 format is not meant for bilateral series between international teams and the slam-bang style of cricket should be restricted to just World Cup. Shastri, one of the most successful India coaches, also feels that franchise cricket together with a biennial T20 World Cup is best way forward when it comes to shortest format, considering fans' appetite for it. Shastri's comments have come, days before India's five-match T20 series against South Africa. "...there's too much of bilateral stuff going on in T20 cricket. I've said that (before), even when I was the coach of India, I could see it happening in front of my eyes," Shastri told ESPNcricinfo. "It should go the football way, where, in T20 cricket, you just play the World Cup. Bilateral tournaments - no one remembers." Shastri, whose tenure as India coach ended last year, said he doesn't "remember a single (T20) game in the last six-seven years as coach of India, barring the World Cup." "A team wins the World Cup, they will remember it. Unfortunately, we didn't, so I don't remember that either." "Where I am coming from is: you play franchise



cricket around the globe; each country is allowed to have their franchise cricket, which is their domestic cricket, and then, every two years, you come and play a World Cup." The IPL media and broadcasting rights for the next five-year cycle are going to go up for sale in June. Discussing the future of IPL, former India opener Akash Chopra said: "I actually foresee there might be two editions of the IPL in every calendar year. And that's not too far away." Shastri agreed with Chopra. "It could be tomorrow - 140 games, split 70-70. In two seasons. You never know. That's the way it's going to go. That's the way it's developed as a beast of a property. And you cannot hide away from that." "You might think that's overdose, but nothing is overdose in India. I have been sitting outside the bubble, I have been watching people, how they have seen, how they have reviewed these last

few months, especially [after coming] out of Covid. And they are loving every bit of it, and they are almost having withdrawal symptoms." The 2022 season of IPL ended on Sunday with newcomers Gujarat Titans lifting the trophy.

Heartbreak for India, draw 4-4 with Korea to go out of Asia Cup title race

New Delhi, June 01 : Nilam Sanjeep Xess (9th minute), Dipsan Tirkey (21st), Mahesh Sheshe Gowda (22nd) and Shakhivel Mareeswaran (37th) scored for India, while Korea scored through Jang Jonghyun (13th), Ji Woo Cheon (18th), Kim JungHoo (28th) and Jung Manjae (44th). (Twitter/Hockey India) The young Indian hockey team dished out some impressive and fast-paced hockey in a Super 4s match against South Korea but an outright victory eluded them as a 4-4 draw pushed them out of the Asia Cup title race, here on Tuesday. Malaysia's 5-0 win over Japan early in the day meant that an outright win became a pre-requisite for India to qualify for the summit clash. Korea will now take on Malaysia in the final on Wednesday, while India will play Japan in the third-fourth place classification match. It was a midfield slugfest between the two sides as both India and Korea tried to take upper hand in the first quarter. India secured a penalty corner in the second minute but Nilam Sanjeep Xess' effort was saved by the Korean goalkeeper Jaehyeon Kim. But in the ninth minute Nilam scored with a low flick to



the right bottom corner of the Korean net past Kim from India's second penalty corner. Two minutes from the first quarter, India conceded a penalty corner and Jang Jonghyun was bang on target to draw level for Korea. Korea made it 2-1 five minutes later when Ji Woo Cheon chose his spot after being fed by Jungjun Lee following a defensive lapse from Pawan Rajbhar inside his own circle. But India drew level three minutes later when Dipsan Tirkey converted team's third penalty corner. Mahesh Sheshe Gowda restored the lead a minute later, pushing home Vishnukant Singh's pass from a counter-attack. Korea secured another penalty corner but this time the Indians defended well to deny Jang. Two minutes from halftime, Kim JungHoo equalised for Korea through a fine field goal from an acute angle as both

the teams went into the breather locked 3-3. India went all out and restored their lead in the 37th minute through an unmarked Shakhivel Mareeswaran, who tapped in a cross from Sheshe Gowda from the right flank. In the 42nd minute Uttam Singh missed a sitter when he failed to connect to Rajkumar's cross standing in front of open goal. A yellow card - five minute suspension - to Yashdeep Siwach three minutes from the third quarter cost India dearly as Korea equalised again when Manjae Jung deflected in a long ball from midfield. Just 27 seconds from the final hooter, Karthi Selvam came close to handing India the winner but Korean goalkeeper Kim Jaehyeon made double save to deny the title holders last-gasp winner.

Indian para-athlete banned for cheating at Paralympics



New Delhi, June 01 : Para-athlete Vinod Kumar, who had won the bronze medal in the discus throw event (F52 category) at the Tokyo Paralympics last August, was on Tuesday suspended for two years for 'intentional misrepresentation' of his abilities. Accusing the Indian of cheating, World Para Athletics, in a statement on its website, said the Board of Appeal of Classification (BAC) imposed the two-year sanction that will make Kumar ineligible to compete in para-athletics competitions until August 2023. "The World Para Athletics commenced disciplinary proceedings with the BAC after Kumar intentionally misrepresented his abilities when he presented for classification at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games," the world body said in a statement. "Under the World Para Athletics Classification Rules and Regulations, it is a disciplinary offence for an athlete to intentionally misrepresent their skills or abilities and/or the degree or nature of their impairment. It is also a disciplinary offence for any athlete support person to assist, conceal or be complicit in any Intentional Misrepresentation by an athlete." At the Games, Kumar had produced a best throw of 19.91m to finish third behind Piotr Kosewicz (20.02m) of Poland and Velimir Sandor (19.98m) of Croatia. Soon after the event, however, the results were put under review. A day later, the organisers announced the 'amendment' of the result. Kumar was found to be ineligible for the men's F52 discus medal as the classification panel was 'unable to allocate' him a 'sport class' after observation and re-assessment, a statement issued by the Games' technical delegates read.

Temba Bavuma open to discussing move up the order for David Miller after IPL success

New Delhi, June 01 : Backing David Miller to carry his confidence from the IPL to the away series against India, South Africa white-ball skipper Temba Bavuma said he is open to having a conversation with the southpaw regarding his batting position in the national T20 team. Miller enjoyed a fabulous IPL season with the bat where he was a vital cog in the Gujarat Titans team that went on to win the title in its maiden season. "It's always nice to see guys in form. A guy like David lifting the trophy with the Gujarat Titans - the confidence that he will bring into the team, we look forward to that," Bavuma told reporters at the pre-departure press conference on Tuesday ahead of the series against India. "The conversations that I have had with David, he has never expressed those types of feelings to me. David is still an integral member within our team and we trust



his performances will continue well into the future," he added. The big-hitting Miller has struggled to score runs in the limited overs format with the national team in the past few years. But batting mostly at number five, as opposed to his usual six with South Africa, in the IPL this season, Miller scored 481 runs with the best average in the competition of 68.71 at a strike rate of 143. "In terms of him batting a bit longer, that

has always been the conversation over the years when David has done well. He understands where he fits in within the team." "If he feels he can add more value in a different position, a conversation can be had in that regard." "There is no way we are going to stifle him or restrict David in any manner. That's how we try to treat all the players. We try to set them up in positions where they can succeed and make

strong plays for the team." Talking about another South African Dewald Brevis who had a decent outing in the IPL for the Mumbai Indians, Bavuma said the youngster should be given "time and the space to hone his game" before being pushed into international cricket. "In all fairness to him, he hasn't played a first-class game. In terms of expectation but also allowing the boy to grow within his game, it would be fair to allow him to play a couple of first-class games where he can really get an understanding of his game," he said. "It will be a lot of pressure to throw him into the international set up and expect him to make plays. He will be treated like any other exciting young prospect that comes onto the scene." "He should be given time and the space to hone his game within the system and ease into the international side of things.

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