The Assam Rising

03

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Aide who made bullying claims against Meghan to leave service ... French champion jockey Pierre-Charles Boudot charged with rape

CM reviews COVID19 situation in Majuli and status of various schemes **IN BRIEF**

Make COVID tests mandatory in all entry points : CM

elephants die Guwahati, May 13 : In a tragic incident, at least 18 wild elephants were killed by lightning atop Bamuni Hills in Central Assam's Nagaon district.As per reports, the elephants were hit by a lightning atop the hill on Wednesday night. Four elephants were partially charred and three elephants were found dead lying on the foothills.Forest officials said the report of the elephant deaths came on Thursday afternoon after local villagers informed them.Forest officials have rushed to the spot and a postmortem examination will be conducted on Friday

EWS

18 wild

Guwahati, May 13 : Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today reviewed the prevailing COVID19 situation in river island district of Majuli at a meeting held with Deputy Commissioner

(DC) and other senior officers at Majuli DC Office conference hall and directed strict implementation of restrictions for containing the pandemic. The

of the availability of ICU beds in the district along with oxygen, medicines, health infrastructure etc in view of the rising number of cases. He directed for Chief Minister took stock generating mass aware-

and he stressed on ensuring quality of construction and *Contd...Page 6*

CM visits Dakshinpaat, Auniati and Uttar Kamalabari Satra at Majuli

Guwahati, May 13: After assuming the charge of Chief Minister of the State, Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma today made his first visit to river island Majuli and took part in a host of activities. The Chief Minister visited Sri Sri Dakhinpaat, Sri Sri Auniati and Sri Sri Uttar Kamalabari Satra, which are known for rich repository of Satriya culture and tradition. After landing at temporary helipad at Bonkhowa in Majuli, Chief Minister Sarma first went to Dakhinpaat Satra and

prayed for well being of the people of the State. The Chief Minister took a look at the three hundred years old 'Akshay Banti' which is preserved at the grand treasury

of the Satra. Satradhikar Sri Sri Nanigopal Devgoswami presented the Chief Minister with a few silver coins of Ahom era Contd...Page 6

Curfew and Odd0Even rule Assam Govt. Issues Notification on Exampted Categories



UPSC Postpones Civil Services Prelims Exam

New Delhi, May 13 : The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has postponed the preliminary exam Commission said. The comwhich was scheduled to be mission conducts civil ser-

the COVID-19 situation in the country. The exam will nary, main, and interview be held on October 10, the to select officers of Indian (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), and Indian Poheld on June 27 in view of vices examination annually

Guards, Civil Defence, Fire and emergency services, District AdministrationPay & Account Office, Electricity, Water and Sanitation, Public *Contd...Page 6* Contd...Page 6 lice Service (IPS) among in three stages — prelimiothers."Due to the prevailing conditions caused by Administrative Service the Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19), the Union

Public Service Commission

has deferred the Civil Ser-

vices (Preliminary) Examina-

tion, 2021, which was sched-

uled to be held on 27th June

2021. Now, this Examination

will be held on 10th October

2021," the UPSC has

Guwahati, May 13: The Assam State Disaster Manage-

ment (ASDM) on Thursday issued a notification stating

the list of exempted categories from curfew and odd-even

vehicular regulation. All Officials and persons, both gov-

ernment and private involved in emergency services such

as health and family welfare are exempted from the

restrictions. The notification states, "All Officials and per-

sons, both government and private involved inemergency

services such as Health and Family Welfare and all re-

lated medical establishments, Police, Prisons, Home 👱

Kamkhya Devalaya Guwahati, May 13 : The Kamkhya Devalaya administration on Wednesday informed that the Devalaya and all other Temples atop Nilachal Hills would be closed from Thursday (May 13) for 15 days. Earlier in the day, the

gious places to remain closed for 15 days. It further mentioned that the religious head of a religious place or their representative may continue minimal religious rituals.The Kamakhya Temple is a Sakta temple dedicated to the mother goddess Kamakhya. It is one of the

oldest of the 51 Shakti





May 12. Bharat Biotech International Ltd., Hyderabad (BBIL) had proposed to carry out a Phase- II/III clinical trial of Covaxin in the age group of 2 to 18 years. The trial will be conducted in 525 healthy volunteers.In the trial, the vaccine will be given by intramuscular route in two doses at day 0 and day 28.As rapid regulatory response, the proposal was deliberated in Subject Expert Committee (SEC) (COVID-19) on 11.05.2021. The Committee after detailed deliberation recommended for grant of permission to conduct proposed Phase II/III clinical trial to certain conditions.Bharat Biotech, which developed Covaxin in association with the Indian Council of Medical Research, submitted the proposal of conducting trials on children early this *Contd...Page 6*

ness about the importance of following COVID19 protocols for containing the spread of the pandemic and instructed DC Majuli to ramp up testing and make testing mandatory at all entry points to the district. Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also reviewed the status of implementation of various schemes in Majuli

cmyk

DCGI Approves Phase II/III Trials Of Covaxin In 2-18 Age Group

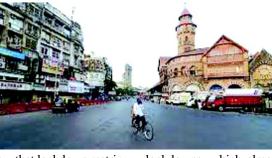
tor of the country, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), has accepted the recommendation of the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) and accorded permission to conduct the Phase II/III clinical trial of Covaxin (COVID vaccine) in the age group 2 to 18 years after careful examination to

its manufacturer Bharat Biotech Ltd on

Pithas. Situated on the Nilachal Hill in western part of Guwahati city in Assam, India, it is the main temple in a complex of individual temples which is the most comprehensive representation of the ten Mahavidyas of Saktism, namely, Kali, Tara, Tripura Sundari, Bhuvaneshwari, Bhairavi, Chhinnamasta, Dhumavati, Bagalamukhi, Matangi and Kamalatmika. **Odd-Even rule** Guwahati, May 13: Movement of people in contravention of 'Odd-Even rule' in Assam is permitted if they produce paper of vaccination slot booking of that day. "Important Update regarding new #Covid19 Directives. Movement of people in contravention of Odd-Even rule is permitted if they produce paper of Vaccination Slot booking of that day.We request citizens to follow these directives to avoid any kind of inconvenience," Assam Police said in a statement.

Most of country should remain locked down for 6-8 weeks to curb Covid spread : ICMR chief

New Delhi, May 13 : The those tested.Currently, Indian Council of Medical three-fourths of India's 718 Research (ICMR) has said districts have what is known districts reporting a high as a test-positivity rate number of Covid-19 infecabove 10%, including major cities like New Delhi, tions should remain locked Mumbai and the tech hub of down for another six to eight weeks to control the spread Bengaluru. Bhargava's of the rampaging disease.Dr comments are the first time Balram Bhargava, head of a senior government official has outlined how long the ICMR, said in an inter-



view that lockdown restrictions should remain in place in all districts where the rate of infection is above 10% of

lockdowns, which already encompass large parts of the country, need to continue to rein in the Contd...Page 6

Govt Recommends To Increase Gap of Covishield Doses To 12-16 Weeks



New Delhi, May 13 : A government panel on Thursday recommended to increase the gap between two doses of Covishield to 12-16 weeks which is currently four to eight weeks of interval.No change in dosage interval for Covaxin was suggested by the panel. Those who have tested positive for Covid-19 and are waiting to take the vaccine should defer vaccination for six months after recovery, the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) rec-

government panel said those having laboratory test-proven SARS-CoV-2 illness should defer Covid-19 vaccination for six months after recovery. However, the panel recommended that pregnant women may be offered the choice to take any Covid-19 vaccine and that lactating women can be inoculated any time after delivery.As per sources, the panel said that pregnant women may be offered a choice to take any

ommended, reported India Today. The

notified.Last year, the Civil Services exam was also rescheduled from May 31 to October 4. So far, the main written exam has been over. The interview was put on hold due to the rise in coronavirus cases. The exam Contd...Page 6

for the selection of enforcement officers in the Employees' Provident Fund Organization which was scheduled on May 9 has been postponed. "As and when dates are decided for the deferred Tests/Interviews, it will be ensured that candidates are

Bharat Biotech, Serum Institute submit Covid vaccine production plans for next 4 months to Centre

vaccine production of the country will be accelerated in the next coming months as both Pune's Serum Institute of India and Hyderabad's Bharat Biotech are ramping up their monthly production capacity and have sub-

New Delhi, May 13 : The Covid-19 mitted their plans for the coming four months to the Centre. In a meeting on Wednesday with seven states/ UTs which are lagging behind in terms of vaccinating people against Covid-19, Union health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan said India's vaccine

production is likely to reach eight crore doses in May and 9 crore doses in June.After Maharashtra, Karnataka suspends Covid vaccines for 18-44 from FridayThe pace of vaccination has got stymied in some states like Contd...Page 6

given a notice of at least 15 days," the Commission has informed candidates.The Commission has also deferred the registration for the Combined Medical Services exam which was scheduled to begin on May 5.

COVID-19 : Sputnik vaccine sale could begin next week, says NITI Aayog's Dr VK Paul

New Delhi, May 13: Russia's Sputnik vaccine for COVID-19 has arrived in India and its sale could begin as early as next week, informed NITI Aayog member Dr VK Paul on Thursday (May 13).He said that the limited supply of Sputnik vaccine doses that has come from Russia is likely to be available in the market next week. "Sputnik vaccine has arrived in India. I'm happy to say that we're hopeful that it'll be available in the market next week. We're hopeful that the sale of the limited supply that

has come from there (Russia), will begin next week," Dr VK Paul said.He said that the vaccine's production in India will begin in July."Further supply will also follow. Its production will begin in July and it is estimated that 15.6 crore doses will be manufactured in that period," he said.Regarding other vaccine candidates such as Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, Dr Paul said that the authorities are constantly in touch with the manufacturers and significant headway is likely to Contd...Page 6



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CM Himanta Biswa Sarma meets Ritul Saikia's wife Guwahati, May 12: Assam chief minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma on Thursday met wife of Ritul Saikia, one of the



ONGC employees abducted by the United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I).Dr Sarma met Saikia's wife and brother at Majuli circuit house in the presence of Titabor MLA Bhaskarjyoti Barua. The chief minister assured them that all the efforts have been taken by the Assam government to rescue the ONGC employee. The two other employees abducted by the militants were rescued by the security forces following a gunfight with the abductors in Nagaland bordering Myanmar.

The Assam Rising

Chief Minister reviews schemes of Finance Department

Asks the department to help State government's fight against COVID 19 pandemic



Guwahati, May 12: Chief Minister Dr.HimantaBiswaSarma on his third day in office after taking over the post of Chief Minister, held a meeting with the Finance Department and asked the officials to accord high priority on any file related to health to augment the state's fight against COVID pandemic. Taking a review of the works of the Finance Department where State Finance Minister Ajanta Neog was also present at the conference hall of Finance Department, Chief Minister Dr.Sarma asked the department to accord high priority to the files and dispose them expeditiously to strengthen the government's proactive guards against the Corona pandemic. Taking stock of the issues with respect to the Finance Department, Dr.Sarma also asked the department to expeditiously release funds following all financial norms for all the welfare schemes for the benefit of all sections of the people. He also made it clear that the momentum of development of the state depends to a great extent on the finance department. He, therefore, asked the department to seamlessly continue the best practices adopted and implemented over the last five years to continue to sustain the good fiscal health of the state. Dr.Sarma also asked the Finance Department to declare July as the Orunodoi month to give a new facelift to State retary to Chief Minister and Finance Samir government's pro-people scheme of finan- Kumar Sinha, and other senior officers of

cial inclusion. He also asked the officials of the department to include more eligible beneficiaries under the ambit of the scheme. He asked the department to release funds under SVAYEM scheme for youth empowerment. On taking note of distribution of scootys under BanikantaKakati Merit Award of Pragyan Bharati scheme, Dr.Sarma asked the department to expeditiously complete all modalities to carry forward the scheme and distribute the remaining scootys among the girl students on an urgent basis. Chief Minister Dr.Sarma also asked Principal Secretary Finance Samir Sinha to take a lead in assessing the existing vacancies in different government departments for the state government to take pragmatic steps for recruiting one lakh youths in government jobs. He also asked the department to undertake an extensive evaluation on the volume of loans provided by micro finance institutions to enable the government to prepare a realistic roadmap for the waiver of loans. Taking into consideration of the 'demography and demand' of the state, the Chief Minister asked the Finance Department to work more aggressively so that the state finance grows and be kept in good stead. Finance Minister Ajanta Neog, Chief Minister's Political Secretary Jayanta Malla Baruah, Principal Sec-

There is a Life beyond Alcoholism & **Drug Addiction: Vikas Goenka**

Guwahati, May 12: Alcohol and cidents and many more. Apart from would like to introduce Mr. Vikas them& the family to enjoy the Drug addiction is a persistent relapsing disorder that has been distinguished by the compulsive use of addictive substances regardless of the consequences to the individual and the society. Not known to many but this is actually a disease which can be arrested ONE DAY AT A TIME. Nowadays this is becoming a trend or a style statement per se, not only in India but worldwide. Youngsters, men as well as women are drawn towards it. They are being clenched into the jaws of despair. This is not only affecting the health of the individual but also his mental and emotional state of mind. Addiction to drugs and alcohol is now a major public health problem. Assam has recorded a whooping rise of 50% Drug related cases in the last few months. Alcoholism is not conservatively restricted to the youth and men. Reports state that consumption of alcohol among women is on the rise. A recent research shows a significant increase in the percentage of female drinkers in Assam. Assam is the surprising winner in both male and female categories as Nation's Top Drinkers crushing Punjab and Telangana's reputation as big drinking states. Assam is way ahead of any mainland state as only two tribal states of the region Mizoram and Meghalaya had given some competition. Not only male, but also female drinkers have topped the charts. Government of India reports state that one out of four female and every second male of Assam is a drinker. Abuse of alcohol and drugs is a worldwide problem. Not only it imposes a threat to the individual's health but also consequently gives rise to socio-economic problems. Evidence also supports the association of drugs and alcohol with crime such as domestic violence, murder, theft, drug peddling, rape, road ac-

the individual being affected, their families are equally or more traumatised in many ways including emotionally, financially, legally and medically. Every person in the addict's family is affected by the individual's substance abuse. Withdrawal, Strained relationships, financial hardships, poor school performance, reckless behaviour within the home, stealing money from parents to support their habit, running away from home, mood swings, marriage failure, verbal and



physical fights at home, use of abureceived one of the best treatsive language are some of the most common repercussions which affects the family dynamics. This has also resulted in one's loss of career, hindrance in social life and the list goes on. Addiction impacts a family to a great deal. But this is of sobriety. Now, he is a successnot the end of the story. In the ful Real Estate Consultant, Owner midst of hopelessness, anguish, distress we have some heroes who have fought their battle against the dark, murky night and have become victorious. They have while for the society by helping

Goenka, one such individual who was once a prey to alcoholism. He was an out-an-out alcoholic. He had given into alcohol at the cost of his family, friends and also his career. Just one bottle of beer during his hostel days had dragged him into the world of alcohol dependency. He had been through many trials and tribulations, drinking endlessly, not knowing the difference between night and day. Finally, he was sent to a Rehabilitation Centre in Kohima, where he

focus & objective of the treatment process is not only to guide the inmates about how to leave drugs & alcohol but also to teach them how to live without it for the rest of their life. Here, they have tried every possible way to create an ambience where it's not just treatment, it's about the holistic development of their patients& family also. They have made sure to keep in mind the patients' recovery as well as his comfort. It is fully airconditioned backed up with CCTV surveillance. Every meal on the ments. By the grace of God and table is made with utmost love and his loving family and friends and care which is healthy and delicious. of course his treatment, he is a free Apart from State-Of-The-Art treatment procedure, they have included man.Today, he has completely reexcellent Counselling Sessions, mare and is enjoying 8 plus years Family Counselling with some of the best Counsellors, Withdrawal Management, Group Therapies, Games of a Showroom, doing multiple and Activities as well. Mr. Goenka's businesses and a responsible citiultimate dream is to make this society free from Drugs and Alcohol zen of our country. He has pledged himself to do something worth-Abuse so that we all can live a healthy, successful and peaceful life. aligned themselves towards the Drugs and Alcohol afflicted Let us all join hands together in makbrighter side of life. Proudly, I people. He wishes each one of ing this a grand success.

Two-day long online workshop held

covered from this horrific night-

Panigaon, May 13: Under the aegis of Lakhimpur Telahi Kamalaboria (LTK) College IQAC and ICT Cell, North Lakhimpur and in association with Teaching-Learning Centre, Tezpur University, a two-day long online workshop titled "Use of Information and Technology in the classroom" held on 10 and 11 May.On 10 May, LTK College Principal Dr.Bubul Kumar Saikia inaugurated the workshop at 10 a.m. which was followed by the keynote address of Prof. Bipul Sarma and Teaching-Learning Centre, Tezpur University Director Dr. Subhanshru Shekhar Sarkar. Then, LTK College ICT Cell co-ordinator Manas Pratim Borah addressed. In both the Biju Kumar Sonowal offered vote of thanks.

two days of the workshop, Teaching -Learning Centre, Tezpur University, Assistant Professor Dr. Swapna Borah and Ikbal Hussain Ahmed participated in the workshop as the Resource Persons.70 Professors from different colleges, including LTK College, took part in the workshop through Google Meet App. Participating in the concluding ceremony on the second day of the workshop, Tezpur University Registrar Dr.Biren Das spoke on how to solve the problems of online system in teaching-learning process arised in case of the economically weak students.LTK College IQAC co-ordinator

Asom Nagarik Moncha requests Hojai **District Administration to setup three counters**

Biswanath To Further Intensify Covid Fight In Rural Areas, Various Task-Forces To Be Formed

Biswanath Chariali, 13 May: With Covid 19 fast taking rural areas in its clutch, the Biswanath district administration has decided to further intensify its fight against the deadly virus in countryside and interior areas. Chairing a high-level meeting here today, Mr. Ashok Singhal, minister-in-charge of Covid management for Biswanath district, today instructed the administration to form Task Forces at



"Punarvaas" is not just a Rehabilitation Centre, it's a HOME AWAY FROM HOME located in Ganeshguri area of Guwahati. The

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021

same freedom that he is doing now.

He has helped hundreds of Alco-

holics & Addicts by showing them

the way to recovery & getting rid

of this deadly disease. Keeping

this in mind Mr. Goenka has

founded "Punarvaas Rehabilita-

tion Centre" a Project under

Santosh Gupta Memorial Trust. He

is the Project Director of the same.

Panchayat levels involving civil society; self help groups (SHGs), Naamghars etc. to generate awareness and to initiate preventive measures at micro level. "Prevention and awareness are the only ways to prevent Covid-19 and importance has to be laid on these two," said Mr. Singhal. Singhal further said that it was the joint responsibility of the district administration and the society to make people aware of the deadly virus. He also underlined the important role of the Gaonburhas and Panchayat members in this fight against Covid 19, particularly in the rural areas. He instructed the concerned departments to hold regular meetings with Panchayati and Rural Development department so that preventive measures could be further intensified. Deputy Commissioner of Biswanath, Mr. Pranab Kumar Sarmah, apprised the minister on the measures be-

Covid Update from Golaghat

Golaghat, May 12: Covid has badly hit Golaghat. Today 161 Positive cases were reported. At present the number of Active Cases of Covid in the district is 1139. Also today four persons lost their lives due to Covid .With these four deaths, the toll rises to nineteen. Meanwhile in view of the rising Covid positive cases and to prevent further spread of Covid two areas in Golaghat have been declared as Containment Zone by the administration today. Borfolong Tea Estate under Khumtai Revenue Circle and Dharmapur village under Dhansiri Sub Division are declared as Containment Zones. Taldanga Line and Maz Line of Borfolong Tea Estate also covered under Containment Zone. Any type of individual or vehicular movement is prohibited and entry and exit have also been restricted in the declared Containment Zones. Till today there are five active Containment Zones in the district.

Appeal for Vaccination Drive in **Tea Gardens**

Golaghat, May 13: Seeing areas . Barhoi said , " I the rise in number of Covid positive cases and deaths Commissioner of Golaghat due to it in Golaghat, to make arrangements and Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha Golaghat Branch Secretary Ghanshyam ers for the greater inter-Barhoi has made an appeal to the district administra- The ACMS official has tion to carry out a Vacci- also given the list of Tea nation Drive in Tea Garden

have requested Deputy provide Covid Vaccines to the tea garden workest of garden people." Estates

ing taken by the district administration in preventing and fighting Covid 19. "Our prime aim is to intensify testing so that we can isolate the infected patients immediately. We also urge the people not to take the virus lightly and voluntarily abide by all Covid related protocols and rules," said Mr. Sarmah. The meeting was also attended by Superintendent of Police (SP), Chief Operating Officer (CEO), Zilla Parishad, Sub-Divisional Office (Civil), Gohpur, all the Additional Deputy Commissioners (ADCs) and other administrative officers of the district and top officials from health department.

Within 24 hours five persons succumb to novel corona virus at Nagaon

NAGAON, May 12: Within the last 24 hours, five COVID patients succumbed to novel corona virus, taking the total toll during the second wave of COVID 19 in the district to 20. Besides, 302 fresh COVID positive cases were recorded today including which the total number of active COVID positive cases in the district were recorded around 2361 till filing of this report, sources added. Significantly, 73 COVID patients who were under-

going treatment in hospital as well as being isolated at their home were recovered from the infection of the virus so far. Sources claimed that among those who tested positive today, 38 were immediately admitted to Nagaon COVID hospital while the rest were put in home quarantine. Rapid Antigen Test was conducted on 2545 people while RTPCR test was conducted on 61 swab samples, sources added further.

counters at each

Assam's new health minister KeshabMahanta visits FAAMCH, Barpeta on Thursday

Family Welfare, Water Resources etc. Minister KeshavMahanta today arrived at Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College Hospital in Barpeta and held a review meeting on the treatment of Covid patients. Where Deputy Commissioner, Barpeta (in-charge) Tej Prasad Bhusal, Deputy Commissioner, BajaliMrigesh Narayan Baruah, Barpeta SPDr.Raveen



Barpeta, May 13 : State Health and Kumar, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College Principal Dr. Ramen Talukdar and other district officials were participated. The Minister, who is also in charge of science and information technology, announced the decision to provide Covid vaccine to one lakh people every day in Assam from today onwards. In the conversation with the reporters he said the government will fo-

cus on providing a second dose vaccine on priority basis. The Health Minister also announced that another oxygen plant will be set up at Barpeta Medical College Hospital. The work of setting up the oxygen plant will be complete within the next fortnight. Once the project is complete, oxygen can be given to the patient through pipes in about two hundred beds. He also directs the public sector department to start the work of the project from this day or tomorrow. The

Covid positive patients will be under constant monitoring from the district administration, police administration and health departments and appropriate treatment will be provided, he added. The minister directed the district commissioner to provide food grains of Rs. 2000 to families under the BPL i.e. poverty line in isolation or in the containment zone at home. On the other hand, patients at the Covid Care Centre will be given food of Rs. 300 per day. The minister informed that the prominent technical institute in Guwahati, which is administered under the guidance of Shrimanta Shankar Academy (SSA) Society, was also used as a Covid Care Centre after the first wave of Covid19 hit Guwahati. The awareness on the part of the new health minister regarding the state's Covid19 situation has brought hopes to the people of Assam.

at each Vaccination Centre category wise

Hojai, May 13: In Vaccination centre within the district in age People have to stand in large serpentine a bid to mitigate group category wise- one counter for 18 to 44 years, one counter for 45 years and above the inconvenience age group and another one counter for secsuffered by the citizens of Hojai ond dose. "In this regard We have submit-District, Asom ted a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Dr. Sadnek Singh, via online mode on Thurs-Nagarik Moncha have requested the District Adminisdent over phone. He said," a large no. of denizens within the district." tration to setup three vaccination

queues' for long hours thereby losing patience at the centre, as a result Covid 19 protocol is violated as there are single vaccination counter at each centre, seeing the agony of the people at large, ANM have come forward and raised this issue and urged the disday.", told Bijay Chakraborty, General Sec- trict administration to take necessary action retary, ANM while informing this Correspon- immediately in order to provide relief to the

DC, DF&CSO Monitors Distribution of PMGKAY-111 Rice to AAY&PHH Beneficiaries

Mechuka, 13 May: The Shi-Yomi Deputy Commissioner Shri Mito Dirchi accompanied by Er. Minli Tato DF&CSO Mechuka witnessed and monitored the distribution of PMGKAY-111 Rice to all AAY and PHH beneficiaries of the districtat Mechuka town today. %kg per head rice was distributed to the beneficiaries for the month of May and

June were distributed at a go. Till evening 75 Ration Card Holders 70 quintals of rice were distributed. The ration commodities were distributed to all poor and needy people of the district as per policy and guidelines framed by the state and Govt. of India. The distribution assumes significant keeping in consideration of coming monsoon and pandemic situation to meet up any food scarcity in the days to come. They people expressed their gratitude to the district administration and Supply department for providing the essential commodities at such a crucial time.



Video conference of hon'ble CEM of BTC Pramod Boro, Arup Kr Dey EM health services, Ranjit Basumatary EM Forest, Rakesh Brahma EM Fishery and Principal Secretary, BTC Anant Lal Gyani IAS with all DCs of BTR was held on May 13, 2021 at BTC Secretariat vedeo conference room at around 10.30 am, CEM was asking details of stock of Medicines ICU rooms PPE kits treatment centres, Oxygen cylinders, no. of positive & negative patients in each district of BTR, wherether daily testing are going on at Sriram pur gate & Railway stations to the all passengers of railways, buses, drivers, Discussion was also held on DRDA on developmental works of four Districts of BTR with DCs





Israel continues Gaza airstrikes amid rise in mob violence

ahead with a fierce military offensive to Ben Gurion due to conflict. A on Gaza that has flattened high-rise buildings and Hamas fired volleys of rockets deep into the country on Wednesday night, while racist mob attacks spread through Israel in the worst Arab-Jewish chaos for years. Thousands of Israelis went into shelters early on Thursday after warning sirens sounded in the economic capital Tel Aviv in the middle of the country, but also in Jezreel Valley in the north, the first time it has happened since the unrest escalated this week, the army said. There was no immediate word of any casualties from the pre-dawn salvo, and later reports suggested the sirens in the north were false alarms.Israel continued to carry out airstrikes on residential areas in Gaza. Since Monday, the Israeli military has carried out hundreds of airstrikes in Gaza, killing four senior Hamas commanders and a dozen more Hamas operatives. Two highrise buildings containing flats and offices in Gaza City were targeted.At least 67 people have now been killed in Gaza since the violence escalated on Monday, according to the enclave's health ministry. Seven people have been killed in Israel, medical officials said. As the crisis continues to spiral, US energy corporation Chevron said it had shut down the Tamar natural gas platform off the Israeli coast as a precaution. Israel said its energy needs would continue to be met.At least two US airlines cancelled flights to Tel Aviv on Wednesday and Thursday. Israel, which briefly suspended operations at Ben Gurion airport on Monday after a rocket barrage on Tel Aviv, said national airline El Al stood ready to provide supplemental flights. Thursday's barrage on Tel Aviv prompted Israel to reroute an El Al flight from Brussels away from Ben Gurion, its intended destination, to Ramon airport in the south. It

Gaza, May 13: Israel has pressed had used Ramon as an alternative Bat Yam, a Tel Aviv suburb, was calm."US secretary of state, Tony flight was previously diverted there due to bad weather, according to aviation tracker Avi Scharf.While the conflict raged, Israel appeared on the brink of losing control of its mixed cities. Overnight on Wednesday, far-right Jewish mobs took to the streets across the country searching for Arabs, while Palestinian citizens of Israel clashed with police.Prime minister, Benjamin

broadcast live on television but police and emergency services did not arrive on the scene until 15 minutes later, while the victim lay motionless on his back in the middle of the street.Videos were posted on social media of what appeared to be other attempted lynchings overnight. Violent incidents, including the burning of shops and restaurants, were reported in multiple towns across



Netanyahu, has called on both Jews and Arabs to cease attacks on each other: "It doesn't matter to me that vour blood is boiling. You can't take the law in your hands," he said.However, Netanyahu had also pledged to restore order "with an iron fist if needed, and his public security minister, Amir Ohana, appeared to encourage mob violence.On Wednesday, Ohana called for the release of a Jewish man arrested in connection with a fatal shooting of an Arab man in the city of Lod, after a synagogue and other Jewish property was torched.Ohana alleged, without providing evidence, that the shooter "acted in self-defence". He added that "law-abiding citizens carrying weapons" were an aid to authorities.Later on Wednesday a mob of far-right Israelis dragged a man they thought was an Arab from his car and beat him until he lay on the ground motionless and appeared to be the first time Israel bloodied. Footage of the attack in complete quiet can we talk about

Israel, including Acre, Haifa and Tiberias. The latest unrest took place after US president, Joe Biden, spoke to Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. Biden voiced hope the recent upsurge in violence centred on Gaza would soon end, saying: "My expectation and hope is this will be closing down sooner than later, but Israel has a right to defend itself."Biden did not explain the reasons behind his optimism. Netanyahu's office said he told the US president that Israel would "continue acting to strike at the military capabilities of Hamas and the other terrorist groups active in the Gaza Strip". Amid reports that Egyptian mediators were attempting to broker a deal to end the fighting, Benny Gantz, the Israeli defence minister, said: "Israel is not currently no end date for the operation. Only when we achieve

Blinken, condemned the rocket attacks during a call with Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, on Wednesday, and emphasised the need to de-escalate tensions, the US state department said. Abbas is a Hamas rival whose authority is limited to the Israeli-occupied West Bank.Hady Amr, the US deputy assistant secretary of state for Israel and Palestinian affairs, is to travel to the region immediately to meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders. A nominee for the empty post of US ambassador to Israel is to be made in the next few weeks, the White House said.Since hostilities escalated on Monday evening, Hamas has fired around 1,500 rockets from Gaza into Israeli territory, according to the latest estimate by Israel's army. The launch of around 350 rockets had failed, while hundreds more were intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome air defence system, the army said.The Israeli military said earlier

it had killed four senior Hamas commanders in a "complex and firstof-its-kind operation" jointly with the Shin Bet security service. The dead included Bassem Issa, the Gaza City Brigade commander, the head of the cyber-command and the head of Hamas's production network, said a security agency statement."We eliminated senior Hamas commanders and this is just the beginning," Netanyahu said. "We will inflict blows on them that they couldn't even dream of." The Israeli military would use "increasing

force", he added.

Aide who made bullying claims against Meghan to leave service of Cambridges



London, May 13: The royal aide who made a bullying allegation against the Duchess of Sussex is to leave his senior role with the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Jason Knauf will leave his post as the chief executive of the Cambridges' Royal Foundation at the end of the year. Knauf was the Sussexes' communications secretary when, in October 2018, he reportedly emailed concerns about Meghan's treatment of staff to William's then private secretary.Last week Knauf's unequivocal" denial that he helped Meghan write a letter to her estranged father helped her win her copyright claim against the Mail on Sunday, which had published parts of the document, a high court judge ruled. The American-born former corporate affairs executive is said to be moving abroad. He worked for a range of institutions, from the office of the New Zealand prime minister to HM Treasury and the Royal Kensington Palace and leading the press allegations against Meghan.

team for the Cambridges and the Sussexes. He has been the Royal Foundation chief executive since September 2019. In a statement, William and Kate said they were "immensely grateful for his hard work and commitment", and were sad to see him go. Knauf said working with the couple had been "the privilege of my career". The Mail on Sunday, which printed extracts of the letter, alleged Knauf helped Meghan draft a letter to her estranged father and that he could have joint copyright. His "unequivocal" denial of this led to Meghan being granted summary judgment in her favour. Earlier this year the Times claimed Knauf had expressed concerns over claims that Meghan had driven out two personal assistants during her time as a working royal. Lawyers for Harry and Meghan told the newspaper it was a "wholly false narrative", while Buckingham Palace said Bank of Scotland, before joining it would investigate the bullying

Liz Cheney removed from House leadership over Trump criticism

London, May 13 : Congresswoman Liz Cheney of Wyoming was preparing for a ceasefire. There is removed from her leadership position in the Republican caucus of the House of Representatives on Wednesday morning in the outcome of an internal battle seen as a bellwether of the future direction of the party.Immediately after the meeting where she was stripped of her position, Cheney said she was "absolutely committed" to not embracing Donald Trump's "big lie" about the election."We cannot both embrace the big lie and embrace the constitution," Cheney said. "The nation needs it: the nation needs a Republican party that is based upon fundamental principles of conservatism, and I am committed and dedicated to ensuring that that's how this party goes forward, and I plan to lead the fight to do that."Cheney's ouster was widely expected after she found herself



who has fumed about Cheney's criticism and her decision to vote to impeach the president, alongside almost a dozen other House Republicans. Cheney has been the highestranking outspoken anti-Trump Republican in Congress. That stance looks to be felt back home in Wyoming, where multiple candidates have jumped into the Republican primary to oust Cheney from her congressional seat. Trump and his allies are assessing who to support in that election. The former president's political operation is watching the primary field closely, looking to see who might emerge as the strongest challenger to Cheney. Cheney's troubles are the latest sign that Trump's influence is still hugely powerful within the Republican party, more so than any of the other recent Republicans who were elected president or were nominated to be president. Cheney herself is no newcomer to primary challengers. She once ran for Senate in Wyoming, challenging then senator Mike Enzi. She ended up dropping out after failing to get serious traction. She was later elected to Congress as the sole representative from the state. Ahead of the vote, Cheney had some support from some like-minded Republican allies.Expelling Liz Cheney from leadership won't gain the GOP one additional voter, but it will cost us quite a few.The office of Washington congresswoman Jaime Herrera Beutler said earlier this week Buetler would vote to keep Cheney in her leadership position.

Boris Johnson apologises 'unreservedly' for Ballymurphy deaths

London, May 13: Boris Johnson BBC. "What kind of insult is it to apology was not enough. "Is he

has apologised for the British families that he couldn't have the trying to sneak it in? I don't care army operation that resulted in the conversation with ourselves. His about an apology, I want to know eath of 10 innocent civilians in office couldn't come and speak to why. Our loved ones were all completely innocent, so why were they shot? His apology means nothing. We need him to go back not an apology to us."The killings took place when the army swept through republican districts across erupted.The Parachute regiment spent several chaotic days detaining and shooting people in Ballymurphy from 9 to 11 August. There were no TV crews or document what happened, unlike in Derry five months later when the same regiment massacred concluded that soldiers killed nine coroner, Mrs Justice Keegan, could not establish who killed the 10th victim, John McKerr. "All of inquests were entirely innocent of wrongdoing on the day in question," her report said.Her blistering report rejected army claims that troops had opened fire were under threat. No weapons were recovered from any of the dead, who included a parish priest, Hugh Mullan, and a mother

the west Belfast neighbourhood the families of what he was doing. of Ballymurphy in 1971. The prime That's not acceptable to the minister made the apology on families and never will be. This is Wednesday, a day after an inquest in Northern Ireland found the use of force had been unjustified, implicating the army in a Troubles Northern Ireland to round up atrocity to rival Bloody suspects for internment without Sunday.Johnson made his trial. Violent street protests remarks in a phone call to Northern Ireland's first minister, Arlene Foster, and the deputy first minister, Michelle O'Neill, Downing Street said in a statement."He said the newspaper photographers to conclusions of the Ballymurphy inquest, published yesterday, were deeply sad and that the events of August 1971 were protesters and triggered worldwide tragic. The prime minister condemnation. The inquest apologised unreservedly on behalf of the UK government for of the Ballymurphy dead. The the events that took place in Ballymurphy and the huge anguish that the lengthy pursuit of truth has caused the families the deceased in the series of of those killed," it said. The statement followed mounting pressure from political leaders and the families of those killed for an official apology for the killings and for the fact that it took 50 years to only when they perceived they establish the truth.John Teggart, whose father, Daniel, was one of those killed at Ballymurphy, said Johnson's statement was not a public apology. "The apology was of eight, Joan Connolly.Briege to third parties, it wasn't to the Voyle, one of Connolly's Ballymurphy families," he told the daughters, said Johnson's

to the MoD and tell them to tell the truth, tell our legal team the names of the soldiers who murdered our loved ones and ask them why."An apology in the House of Commons would have been more respectful, she said. "To do it this way is trying to push it under the carpet."David Cameron apologised in the Commons after the findings of the Bloody Sunday inquiry in 2010. That Johnson made his apology off-camera in a phone call may reflect the government's sensitivity to army veteran groups and their campaign to shield veterans from prosecution for alleged crimes during the Troubles."The prime minister restated the government's intention to deliver a way forward in Northern Ireland that focuses on reconciliation, delivers for victims of the Troubles and ends the cycle of reinvestigations," the Downing Street statement said."He stressed the importance of working hard to keep the gains made through the Belfast/Good Friday agreement and of all parties doing their utmost to help the victims' families find out what happened to their loved ones, so that future generations are not burdened by the past."Some families may welcome the statement, but they are expected to continue to pursue a civil action against the Ministry of Defence. Some also want the police to launch a criminal investigation. The shadow Northern Ireland secretary, Louise Haigh, welcomed the apology as vindication for families who campaigned amid "disgraceful slurs" against their loved ones. "If this apology is to be meaningful the PM must immediately confirm that amnesty

odds with other members of Republican leadership over her refusal to stop blaming Trump for inciting the mob attack on the US Capitol on 6 January.Before the closed vote on Wednesday, Cheney addressed the caucus, standing by her position."If you want leaders who will enable and spread his destructive lies, I'm not your person - you have plenty of others to choose from. That will be their legacy," Cheney said. At moments she was booed by some of her colleagues. She also previously addressed the vote on Tuesday evening in a fiery speech to the House of Representatives. "Today we face a threat America has never seen before," she said. "A former president who provoked a violent attack on this Capitol, in an effort to steal the election, has resumed his aggressive effort to convince Americans that the election was stolen from him."On Tuesday night Cheney had doubled down on condemning Trump and his allies for risking the peaceful transition of power with their baseless accusations that the election was rife with fraud. The daughter of the former vice-president Dick Cheney, Cheney has become a symbol of a dwindling band of Republicans largely opposed to Trump's vicelike grip on the party. But though she is a staunch conservative, she has faced implacable hostility from Trump and his loyalists. Cheney had faced the threat of removal from her leading role before, but she survived that handily, in part, thanks to support from other members of Republican leadership. This time was different though. Cheney lost support from Congressman Kevin McCarthy of California, the House minority leader, and Congressman Steve Scalise of Louisiana, the House minority whip.McCarthy had endorsed Congresswoman Elise Stefanik of New York to replace Cheney before the vote. "Yes I do," McCarthy said in an interview on Fox News when asked if Stefanik had his support now instead of Cheney.He was also recently caught on a hot mic saying: "I've had it with her."McCarthy had set the vote for a new conference chair for Wednesday. In a letter announcing the new election, the California representative echoed arguments many Republicans made against Cheney - that her criticism of Trump was distracting from Republicans' primary efforts to retake control of the House." This is no time to take our eye off the ball," McCarthy wrote in the letter. "If we are to succeed in stopping the radical Democrat agenda from destroying our country, these internal conflicts need to be resolved so as to not detract from the efforts of our collective team."Having heard from so many of you in recent days, it's clear that we need to make a change."The main driver behind the attack on Cheney, though, has been Trump,



Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisatio and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to M/s Ashin Textile, Prop: Mr. Hafizur Rahman, Borrower & Sri Abdur Rouf Talukdar S/o Lt. Wahid Ali & Mr. Harunar Rashid, S/o Md. Abdur Rouf Talukdar Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged. charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical/Constructive/Symbolic (whichever is applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank (eAB), Barpeta Branch, Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 28.05.2021, for recovery of Rs. 15,73,794.00 (Rupees Fifteen Lacs Seventy Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Four only) as on 09.02.2020 due to the Indian Bank, Barpeta Branch, Secured Creditor, from M/s Ashin Textile, Prop: Mr. Hafizur Rahman, S/o Md. Abdur Rouf Talukdar (Borrower) / Sri Abdur Rouf Talukdar (Guarantor) of Beki Road, Village - Nagarjhar, Barpeta, Assam. The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below: Detailed description of the Plot of Md. Abdur Rouf Talukdar having Dag No. 157 and Patta No. 103 having area 2 Kathas Property and 95 Lechas

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	[Encumbrances on property	Md. Abdur Rouf Talukdar
		Reserve Price	Rs. 28,73,500.00
		EMD Amount	Rs. 2,87,350.00
		Bid incremental amount	Rs. 5,000/-
	[Date and time of e-auction	28.05.2021, 11.00 am to 14.00 pm.
		Property ID No.	IDIB50179591304D

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Place: Barpeta

Authorised Officer



will not feature in any upcoming legacy legislation," she said.





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The Covid wave has peaked

India's second COVID-19 wave seems to have flattened but the climb down will be a more prolonged, long drawn-out process than the first and will possibly run till July, eminent virologist Shahid Jameel said .Though the new variants of the virus may partly be responsible for the explosion in the number of cases, there is no indication the mutant versions are more lethal, added the director of the Trivedi School of Biosciences, Ashoka University, amid mounting worries about what is fuelling the second wave in India. Addressing an online event organised by the Indian Express, Jameel noted that it is a little too early to say if the Covid wave has peaked."The curve may have flattened but the other side of the peak is not going to be an easy climb down. It's possibly going to be a more prolonged long-drawn-out process running possibly till July, That means, even if the curve starts to decline, we will continue to have to deal with a large number of infections every day," Jameel said. According to the scientist, COVID-19 cases in the second wave also won't come down in as steady a fashion as they did after the first wave. "In the first wave, we did see a steady decline. But remember... this time we are starting from a higher number. Instead of 96,000-97,000 cases, we are starting from over 400,000. So it will take that much longer. And during the process at every time point, you'll have a lot of cases," Jameel explained. In his view, the actual mortality data for India is completely wrong. "... not because of some evil design of someone or a group of people or the state or whatever. But the way we record data I think is faulty." Discussing why India faced a second wave, he said the constant narrative was that somehow Indians are special and have some special kind of immunity. "You know, we had BCG shots when we are children. We get a lot of malaria. So you get all sorts of arguments," he said. The BCG vaccine is primarily used against tuberculosis. The noted virologist also said people gave opportunity to the virus not to just spread but also to transmit quickly by not adhering to COVID-19 protocols."..by the time we came to December and the cases kept going down, we did start believing in this narrative (of immunity). There were a lot of big weddings that we had in January and February. So super spreading events happened," he added. He cited other "super spreading events", including elections rallies and religious congregations, for the high number of cases in the second wave. Vaccine coverage is a matter of concern in his view. Enough people, he said, did not get vaccinated when they had the opportunity in January and February. "... around the third week of February when numbers started going up, we had very, very little vaccine coverage, possibly about 2 per cent of people," Jameel said, adding that some people believed in the messaging that vaccines were not safe."Vaccines are safe and the side effects are very rare. There are more chances of someone dying from lightning than due to rare side effects of vaccines." Referring to the vaccine shortage in some states, he noted that all big countries that had vaccinated a considerable proportion of their population had booked their doses around June 2020. "India didn't do that. We did have a big vaccine enterprise but remember our biggest vaccine companies are private limited companies. You know, it's another story that going back a few years we closed down all our public vaccine enterprises. So we depend entirely on the private sector. "Private sector does not work on charity. The private sector needs to be given orders for them to be confident or, you know, building facilities to make vaccines. And that is where we took our eye off the ball," he said. However, the virologis said funds have now been allotted to Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech and the Serum Institute of India, Pune, and both are expanding facilities. But it will take around July by the time vaccine supplies normalise. Calculations done during the first wave suggested that herd immunity may set in when about 65 per cent of the population gets infected or vaccinated. It no longer holds true, Jameel said. Herd immunity is a form of indirect protection that can occur when a sufficient percentage of a population has become immune to an infection, whether through vaccination or previous infections. However, for COVID-19, it is not known when such immunity will set in. "Now you have a virus that is moving at least twice as fast as thought, if not more. So what you need is you know, at least possibly 75 per cent of the population to be infected or vaccinated before we can achieve what you call herd immunity. So it's a shifting goal post right now. " "And that is why it is so important for us to go and get vaccinated as soon as vaccines are available," he added. The virologist also said India may possibly see many waves of COVID-19 pandemic depending upon the conditions at that time and the progress of the vaccination drive.

The idea that Labour lacks patriotism is nearly as old as the party itself



The Labour party's endless debates about "patriotism" have a by the "vigorous vir-tues" of bourgeois James Stafford Groundhog Day quality to them. From Blair to Brown, Miliband, Corbyn and now Starmer, it's hard to remember a time when the party wasn't earnestly interrogating itself about its supposedly antagonistic relationship to questions of British - latterly English - identity. This discourse has barely changed since Blair's third term, and has often exhibited the worst and most self-defeating qualities of a party in decline: inwardlooking, exclusively focused on Labour and its alleged failings, and largely neglectful of the political context in which the party operates. To the wider public, Labour's endless discussions of patriotism suggest a fatal lack of confidence and self-belief, in sharp contrast to the Conservatives' unshakeable, breezy entitlement. Accusations that Labour lacks a sense of "patriotism" are nearly as old as the party itself. The revisionist history told by many commentators, that Labour was regarded as irreproachably "patriotic" by all and sundry until Jeremy Corbyn came along, is a laughable invention. In the 1930s and 1980s, Conservative governments succeeded in portraying the organised industrial working class - inflationary, uncouth and potentially seditious - as standing outside a "true" British nation characterised party has a dynamic relationship with tional political culture, would not be ever the cameras are rolling.

thrift and propriety. Now, it is the urban precariat and even many salaried, university-educated professionals who have suddenly found that their interests and values aren't included within the Conservatives' definition of national politics.Because gig economy workers, renters and urban professionals don't conform to many people's idea of a traditional Labour supporter - and because some people who look and sound like versions of the latter have switched allegiance to the Tories - it can be hard to identify the structural similarity between these people and Labour's core constituencies in earlier periods of electoral defeat. Yet the similarities are there. The economy under the Conservative party during the 1930s and 1980s was notoriously stacked against workers in declining heavy industries in Scotland, Wales and northern England. In our own time, a combination of stagnant wages and skyrocketing asset prices disadvantage young workers and renters everywhere, especially in Britain's Labour-voting cities. Treating "patriotism" as a static set of values that a metropolitan Labour party has carelessly abandoned misunderstands the challenge confronting Labour. The

test with its opponents over endless possible visions of the nation, and by peoples' changing material circumthe party's abandonment of an English working class that has long been undergoing a wrenching process of decline. Rather, it's of how the right has asset-owners at the expense of everysocial democracy from Britain's political culture. The result of this is a superficial, misanthropic kind of nationalism that is devoid of any real regard for Britain's history or institutions, and is ence to privilege, cru-

elty to outsiders, and contempt for our fellow citizens. To voters, the main attraction of this new Tory nationalism is that it makes voting for Britain's traditional governing party seem like an act of thrilling rebellion against the "woke orthodoxy" represented by under-40s living in big cities. In focus groups conducted in "red wall" seats, you often hear the accusation that Labour is a party "for students". The Labour leadership rightly reads this as an invitation to find out what it needs to do to convince former voters the party still represents them. But it's the intensity of the disdain for for those students, that is new and concerning here.As things stand, Labour is going to have a hard time convincing anybody that it isn't "for" young people and those who are "woke" - at least to a greater degree than the Conservatives, which is what matters in electoral terms. It would be folly, then, to allow this kind of ginned-up resentment to set the parameters for how Labour tries to tell its own story about Britain. Unless the party can convincingly articulate why idealistic young people have a role to play in the nation's

patriotism, shaped by a rhetorical con- such a hard sell), then it will be permanently boxed into the defensive crouch it has occupied for much of the past decade. The only way to break free is for stances. The story of our time is not Labour and the people it represents (whoever they are) to establish their own idea of the country's future, and confidently invite others to join them. A good starting point would be to take a little presided over an economy that rewards more pride in Labour's good standing with young people. In many other Euroone else, while purging liberalism and pean countries, established parties of the centre left would do almost anything to attract thumping majorities among the under-35s in support of their programmes. It is not something to take for granted; nor is it surprising that in based on little more than blind defer- an ageing society where young people are forced to seek work in a small number of large cities, the votes of these cohorts count for less than they once did. But Labour shouldn't accept a zerosum choice between keeping the coalition it has and growing the coalition it needs. The party leadership doesn't need to praise or condemn every action by social movements advancing racial and climate justice. Nor should these movements set much store by what the leader of the opposition does or doesn't say about them.What Labour politicians can do, however, is vigorously reject the notion that there is something inherently unpatriotic about challenge and dissent; and proudly weave popular movements, students, not the belief that Labour is past and present, back into a more generous, less brittle account of what it means to live in 21st-century Britain. Unlike the cynical politicians and journalists who fall over themselves to sneer at movements such as Black Lives Matter and the climate strikers, these movements actually believe (at least on some level) that Britain is capable of addressing both the nation's past atrocities and present injustices. This isn't patriotism by the lights of the opinion pages or the focus groups. But it exhibits a greater faith in the actual moral and intellectual capacities of British citizens than the boosterish rhetoric future (something that, in a more func- Johnson and his acolytes spout when-

How John Lewis's brand of middle-class aspiration lost its lustre

knows where renovating their official Lewis felt like more than a vital shot at adverts, but it was never the case in flat in order to avoid the shame of be- economic regeneration: it was a way of reality. Having a John Lewis on your ing upper-class people with middleclass furnishings. It's not surprising that their - and according to Tatler magazine their visitors' - distaste for Theresa May's "John Lewis furniture nightmare" seems to have attracted just as much attention as the questions over how Johnson might have paid for it.John Lewis, like all class signifiers in Britain's neurotic social minefield, means more than just a name: it means respectability and, by extension, middle-class acceptance. Although it's been around for ever - it first opened in 1864 - in the last 20 years the brand has taken on ever greater social cachet. Its recentish growth mirrored New far from dissolving amid mass afflu- was opened at Birmingham's refurpirations, and the idea that the way to trenched. The laughable idea that "ev- John Lewis costing £35m as its "an-"rescue" declining high streets was ef- eryone" went to John Lewis - tell that chor" store. Whether Birmingham cal authority in the UK.

oris Johnson and his fiancee, fectively to price working-class people to my entire extended family - was ce- needed another department store is Carrie Symonds, have spent an out of using them. For towns and cities mented by the chain's extravagant, another matter: it was literally across estimated £200,000 from who that lacked a branch, getting a John Brown- and Cameron-era Christmas the road from a vast Debenhams - like

cent history points to its status as a and 2020, the company opened more

than 20 new stores and, prior to the pandemic, planned to open even profit-sharing partnership model - was made for an era in which class markers,

saying that the place mattered. Its re- high street meant something more than "footfall" and "average spend": it boom-time store, associated with the meant middle-class - dominant class expanding homeownership and boom- credibility. Indeed, the success of this ing equity of the 2000s. Between 2008 strategy seemed to insulate the comwider collapse of department stores after the 2008 financial crash. But only for so long. The John more.But there was something subtler Lewis Partnership, which only a few and more insidious going on in paral- years ago seemed to be on a ceaseless ity" - not to mention the piety of its closure of 16 stores - about a third of its total estate - since July 2020. In 2015, a new shopping centre, Grand Central,

BHS, soon to disappear from our high streets - and the gimmicky, New Labourera Selfridges building.Last summer, when it was announced that the store would close permanently after the first lockdown, the West Midlands Tory metro mayor, Andy Street - whose pre-Lynsey Hanley pany against the vious job was actually running John Lewis as its MD - declared that to close one of the chain's largest stores was "a dreadful mistake" and that John Lewis needed to maintain a presence in the big regional cities. That the second largest lel. John Lewis's relentless emphasis on upward trajectory, reported losses of city in the UK couldn't sustain its own understated "good taste" and "qual- £517m for 2020 and has announced the branch of John Lewis seems significant in itself, until you consider Birmingham's demographics: almost half of the city's population is under 30, with an overall unemployment rate of 9.8% and - as the Labour's aggressively middle-class as- ence, were only becoming more en- bished New Street station, with a huge Observer reported late last year, more workers on furlough than any other lo-

An electoral stamp of approval for the Tories risks dishonesty becoming the new normal

Thursday's election results roll in are obliged to pretend the voter have a duty to vote: I'd make it across even devoutly Tory newsby the weekend. Polls are narrowing but the Tories average 42% against Labour's 35%. That's ex- ever atrocious views or insults traordinary, when a party 11 years get hurled at them, resisting the tions of alleged dishonesty, power of X on a ballot paper can here's Einstein: "The world is in there's no clear winner in sight in in power should expect heavy impulse to shake sense into unlosses in midterm votes.But these reasonable people. When politiare exceptional times: after 14 cians lose elections, they must months of draconian restrictions the UK emerges blinking into the voter. Failure sends them into mea light, vaccinated and liberated, bouncing with anticipated the fault within their party.But bingeing and boozing. Many the rest of us are under no such households who've saved money through lockdown are awash with surplus cash and homeowners gullible or pork-barrel bribed, revel in Rishi Sunak's deliberately without checking basic facts created house-price boom. Even available at the click of a mouse. those who lost relatives and live- Try Full Fact or the BBC's Reality lihoods celebrate freedom: if not, Check for clear and simple terrorise the rest. His government vote on the quality of their coun- opposite. As Johnson arms him- blows to his old employer. If not then success on Thursday tells explanations. Worse, many don't meddles with public bodies for po- cils. But they look unlikely to turn self with a hyped-up culture war quite yet, not this Thursday, the the government it can safely ig- bother to vote at all, proclaiming: litical ends. His ministers in TV stu- out in multitudes to denounce of English nationalism and Brexit Johnson timebomb is ticking.

That kind of country has nore them as a discontented "They're all the same." No, they dios defend the indefensible. their deplorable leaders. The "au-tribalism, he thrives on a more danthis become? We will minority. Politicians soliciting never are, and the man in No 10 is Mounting investigations may be thentic" showman elected in 2019 know more when votes, like fixed-grin salesmen, a Trump-favoured knave. Citizens shrugged off. Scandals splashed has got Brexit done and he's vacis always right. Out canvassing, they may listen politely to whatblame themselves - but never the culpas of "listening" to seek out constraint to pretend the voter can't be wrong or irresponsible,

compulsory, as non-voters forfeit papers mean any slightly interested any right to complain. Everyone citizen must have noticed. Despite anything witnessed in their life- week, inflict a humiliating condem-

flow this column with allegations He will seize on anything less as of contracts for cronies, Greensill endorsing his behaviour. If voters lobbying, ministerial codes don't care, none of it matters: nothholidays and claims that nannies were paid for by donors, not to mention country-wrecking Brexit lies.A prime minister beyond anyone's control elbows out civil

times. The full litany would over-**Polly Toynbee** nation of the Johnsonocracy. nonsense", as he says. An electoral stamp of approval risks dishonesty becoming the new normal. That's why far more rides on these local elections in England than usual:

keep their government straight. has been shown recent revela- a corrupted voted system, the Myriad quotes make the point, but "evil" is too epic for tawdry selfishness, self-obsession and sually imperilled peace in North-

gerously divided country. Deciphering local election results will cinating everyone. That's not good be complex: despite a 1% lead over enough. Citizens have a duty to Tories in "red wall" seats, YouGov predicts Labour losing many of those wards and councils, and greed, and arrogance, far beyond throw the scoundrels out or, this greater peril from those who toler- Hartlepool. Before Labour - a party ate or encourage evil than from that Rob Ford, professor at those who actually commit it." If Manchester University, calls "as precariously put together as Tito's Yugoslav republics" - breaks into greed, remember Johnson has let its usual strife, it should consider the bodies pile higher in the UK this. Be patient. Soon, voters will flouted, gold wallpaper, Mustique ing to see here in this "farrago of than anywhere in Europe and ca- see the chancellor's brutal budget cuts causing crises in the NHS, ern Ireland. Voters have no excuse, schools, policing and jobs. Meanwith Keir Starmer and his while, later this month, watch frontbench a thoroughly electable, Dominic Cummings, in a "suicide decent and honest alternative vest" of explosive tapes and texts, servants who demur in order to most of the time, people should compared with the rogues' gallery deliver potentially career-limiting Mumbai, May 13: On May 10, 2021,

Economic activity down in April, May but shock less severe than 2020: Fitch

Mumbai, May 13 : Fitch Ratings on Monday said the shock to economic activity from the latest wave of COVID-19 pandemic will be less severe than the one in 2020, but recovery is likely to be delayed as economic activity dropped in April-May.fitch ratings, Indian economy, COVID-19 pandemic, drop in economic activity, RBI support to financial sectiorFitch said there are growing indications that the latest wave of COVID-19 infections will add to risks among financial institutionsFitch Ratings on Monday warned that India's slow pace of vaccination could mean that the country remains vulnerable to further waves of the pandemic even once the current surge subsides.Just 9.4 per cent of the population had received at least one vaccine dose as of May 5, according to figures from Our World in Data, the agency said.MSP, wheat procurement, rabi crop, crop harvesting season, fram laws, MSP systemEnd of MSP? Far from it, rabi wheat purchases at brisk paceXLRI professor and noted labour market expert KR Shyam Sundar said since around 21 states have resorted to restrictions, including stricter curfews, it was but natural that the urban unemployment rate breached the double-digit level.Covid effect: Weakened economy can't produce jobs, unemployment rate at 19-week high"India's slow pace of vaccination means that the country could remain vulnerable to further waves of the pandemic even once the current surge subsides," Fitch added. The Centre has already provided more than 17.56 crore vaccine doses to states/UTs free of cost. The cumulative tutions (FIs) by sapping near-term momentum number of COVID-19 vaccine doses admin- from the economic recovery," it said.

istered in the country exceeded 16.94 crore on May 9.The global rating agency said there are growing indications that the latest wave of coronavirus infections will add to risks among financial institutions (FIs). It also anticipates that the RBI may introduce additional measures to support the financial sector if indications of economic stress mount."We expect the shock to economic activity from the

latest wave of the pandemic in India to be less severe than in 2020, even though caseloads and fatalities are much higher." Nonetheless, indicators show activity dropped in April-May, which is likely to delay the country's recovery, and the number of newly recorded cases remains extremely high," Fitch Ratings said in a report.It said that currently, authorities are implementing lockdowns more narrowly, and companies and individuals have adjusted behaviour in ways that cushion the effects."There is a risk that disruption could persist longer and spread further than our baseline case assumes, particularly if lockdowns are introduced in more regions, or nationwide," it added.India is facing the world's worst outbreak of COVID-19 cases with more than 3 lakh new daily COVID-19 cases being reported for two weeks now and the new cases reached more than 4 lakh new daily cases over the weekend. More than 2.46 lakh people in India have died from the coronavirus infection. Public health system is buckling under the weight of surging infections and deaths with several parts of the country reporting shortage of hospital beds, medical oxygen, medicines and vaccines.Last month, Fitch had said the surge in COVID-19 cases could add to headwinds facing India's banks and non-bank financial institutions (NBFIs) if it led to a resurgence in asset-quality pressures. The latest data suggest that this risk is mounting, the agency said."There are growing indications that India's latest wave of COVID-19 infections will add to risks among financial insti-

three Indian Navy warships arrived with consignment of Oxygen and medical supplies from overseas --INS Kolkata at New Mangalore, INS Trikand entered Mumbai and Airavat reached INS Visakhapatnam. INS Kolkata at New Mangalore, INS Trikand entered Mumbai and INS Airavat, Indian navy helping in covid fight, armes forces, Cabinet of Kuwait, Kuwait aircraft, These ships are part of the nine ships, according to the Indian Navy, have been deployed for shipment of LMO and other medical relief materialOn Monday, (May 10, 2021), three Indian Navy warships arrived with consignment of Oxygen and medical supplies from overseas - INS Kolkata at New Mangalore, INS Trikand entered Mumbai and INS Airavat reached Visakhapatnam. These ships are part of the nine ships, according to the Indian Navy, have been deployed for shipment of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) and other medical relief material from countries in the Persian Gulf and South East Asia.Pakistan, FATF, anti-corruption, Paris-based Financial Action Task Force, money laundering, terror financingPakistan govt to set new rules to meet FATF demandsIAF, CASMC, Embassy of South Korea, Republic of Korea, rapid antigen test kits, Oxygen concentrators, cryogenic oxygen tanksIndia gets more Oxygen from overseas as Operation Samudra Setu II hits top gear! IAF sets up its COVID airDeeply value the gift of 40 MT of LMO from our friend Kuwait. A special thanks for the generous donation to the Indian community in Kuwait for 200 O2 cylinders and 4 O2 concentrators, and to the community in Qatar for 200 O2 cylinders and 43 O2 concentrators. pic.twitter.com/ Yulhke5fTGAs had been reported earlier in Financial Express Online,

Gulf countries; Japan funds O2 plants for North East action mentioned that on Monday, Mumbai. The consignment on areas. The Army units have started May 10, 2021, INS Kolkata will carry LMO from Kuwait.INS Kolkata reached New Mangalore Port with 400 bottles of Oxygen, two 27 MT containers of LMO and 47 concentrators that were embarked at Qatar and Kuwait. The three ships that arrived on Monday, will augment oxygen supply in three different states. Also, two more ships are on

their way to India from Kuwait, and

board is part of the French mission "Oxygen Solidarity Bridge" which is in support of India's fight against the pandemic.From Singapore, this warship reached Visakhapatnam with a load of eight cryogenic oxygen tanks and around 4000 oxygen cylinders together with other critical medical equipment/ supplies.Indian Army's Northern Command readies to fight the pan-



Indian Navy warships carry back Oxygen from

one ship is presently in Brunei and medical supplies are being loaded up.Last week on Wednesday, the INS Kolkata set off from Shuwaikh port carrying around 40 metric tons of liquid oxygen and 200 oxygen cylinders. According to Ambassador Al-Najem, "Two more ships with 175 tons of LMO and around 2,400 oxygen cylinders are on their way to India."The Cabinet of Kuwait had decided recently to send emergency aid to India to help it fight the spread of the global pandemic of COVID-19.A military aircraft of Kuwait Air Force had delivered 40 tons of emergency aid from Kuwait Red Crescent Society last week. The medical aid carried included around 282 oxygen cylinders, ventilators, medicines, 60 oxygen concentrators, and other medical supplies.Has carried back 40

demic in UTs of J&K & LadakhThe Northern Command has geared up to help the serving personnel, exservicemen. Veer Naris, and their dependents.In a pre-emptive move, the Northern Command has joined hands with the Civil Administration and has started ramping up its holding capacity of COVID patients. It has ensured that there are enough ICU beds, oxygen availability, setting up four COVID Care Centre with around 490 bed capacity for the Awaam. It has also started vaccination of serving and retired personnel and Veer Naris.According to an official statement from the Indian Army, the Northern Command is ensuring the twin objectives of "Force Preservation" and "Optimised Utilisation of Medical Resources". This is going to be for the benefit of all the serving, the ambassador of Kuwait to India MT LMO in Cryogenic containers retired and their dependants and Jassem Al-Najem, had in an inter- from Hamad Port, Qatar to also the Awaam located in far flung concentrators

massive awareness drives and providing transportation support which will help in the movement of the medical supplies and also provide assistance to the UT administration or civil organisations. The Army along with the government have jointly activated COVID facilities for the people of J&K and these include 250 bedded COVID Care centre at Rangreth in Srinagar. Another 200 bedded facility at Damana near Jammu and 20 bedded facilities each at Uri and Baramulla have been set up.Japan and UNDP join hands to help IndiaTo boost supply of oxygen generation plants to the North Eastern Region, Japan has joined hands with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). To ensure uninterrupted supply, with the support of the people of Japan, the UNDP has procured and installed eight Pressure Swing Absorption (PSA) oxygen generation plants in the States of Nagaland, Meghalaya, and Tripura. Some hospitals have been identified in the region for these oxygen plants and they have a capacity of 1,300 beds in total. Once the production starts, the excess oxygen will be distributed among other health facilities in the hospitals' vicinity."North East occupies a special place for Japan India relations", says Satoshi Suzuki, Abassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to India, in an official statement. According to Ms Shoko Noda, Resident Representative, UNDP India, "The situation in India is devastating and the pandemic continues to threaten millions of lives." In an effort to ensure that no one is left behind, UNDP is seeking urgent additional support.As reported earlier, Japan has already delivered medical aid to India and more is expected to arrive in the form of ventilators and oxygen

Your Vehicle in COVID-19 Lockdown: How to save on insurance premium

Mumbai, May 13 : With people hardly taking their vehicles on road, it does not make sense in buying a comprehensive motor in



government rules, only third-party catch fire usually get completely an accident and cause damages to the third party, your insurer will bear the expenses on your behalf and pay to the third party. Also, in case your vehicle gets stolen while it is parked on road outside your home or any other place you might feel is safe, the insurer will pay you the entire IDV - Insured Declared Value mentioned on your insurance policy document. While renewing your motor insurance vehicle, it is always advised to make sure that you select the maximum IDV possible. This is because in case of incidents like total damage and theft, in case the authorities fail to retrieve your vehicle, the insurer will pay you the IDV mentioned on your policy. In order to get the maximum returns from your damaged vehicle, always select maximum IDV. The third incident for which the plan provides you adequate protection is fire. With day temperature crossing 40 degrees in most parts of northern India, incidences of vehicles catching fire are quite common. Most vehicles that

insurance is mandatory for driving damaged and cannot be used the vehicle on Indian roads. If while again. The insurer places such vedriving the vehicle, you meet with hicles under the total damage cat egory in which the vehicle owner gets the complete IDV of the vehicle. Fire and Theft are the two most common incidences that cause maximum damages to the vehicle and it is always important to provide adequate coverage to your vehicle against both of them. Third-party cover is also important, as it is mandatory by the government for driving the vehicle on road.During the lockdown period, when you are hardly driving your vehicle and only using it for emergency purposes, it is better to get Third party + Fire + Theft insurance in place of a comprehensive policy and save considerably on the premium. In the last one month - with lockdown rules again coming into force - there has been 2x increase in the sales of Third party + Fire + Theft insurance plans. Currently, these plans are available with a prominent insurer like Future Generali, United India Insurance and Digit. For a 1200CC sedan, the plan costs approximately Rs 4,500 - Rs 5,500.

By building competency amongst the poverty-stricken populations can eradicate the longest stand-

surance policy.During the lockdown period, when you are hardly driving your vehicle and only using it for emergency purposes, it is better to get Third party + Fire + Theft insurance in place of a comprehensive policy. We are more than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic, and, the result is that our lives are changing drastically. Most of us have been hardly using our vehicles as commute to work remains cancelled due to the lockdown and also trips and journeys to see family and friends remain suspended. The situation is expected to continue for a few more months as workfrom-home orders continue to be in place at least until 70% of the population is vaccinated.In fact, many studies conclude that until remote work adoption and shift to online shopping remain in action, the traffic volumes probably will not be going to increase. With people hardly taking their vehicles on road, it does not make sense in buying a comprehensive motor insurance policy.coronavirus home treatments, tests, home care, cost of oximeter, oxygen cylinder, medicines, Is the cost of oximeter, oxygen cylinder covered in home care treatment of Corona Kavach policyholders? Find outA health insurance policy, including shortterm Covid specific covers-Corona Kavach and Corona Rakshak-will not only ensure financial protection in case of a medical emergency due to Covid but will also give peace of mind to the policyholder and his dependents.Health Insurance: Do you have health cover for Covid treatment?A combination of Third-party Cover and Own-damage Cover - a comprehensive motor insurance policy protects you against damages to your own vehicle and third party in case of an accident. Buying a comprehensive motor insurance policy only makes sense when you are taking your vehicle on road

plan - Third-party + Fire + Theft every day and driving for a considerable number of kilometres.Insurance is one of the big costs in keeping a car on the road, with the average price of a fully comprehensive motor insurance policy for a 1200CC sedan car ranging between Rs 15,000 and Rs 18,000. However, if you are not driving your vehicle so frequently due to the ongoing lock-down and work-from-home orders, it is better to only buy coverage that is required. Considering the prevailing conditions, several insurers have come up with a special insurance

insurance. The plan gives your vehicle-required coverage at affordable prices - 50% less than regular comprehensive plans. Under this plan, the vehicle gets adequate coverage for damages to the Third Party and damages to your vehicle due to fire and theft. The plan works like any other regular plan, however, the extent of coverage differs, as it will not cover you for damages to your own vehicle. With this insurance, you can easily drive your vehicle on the roads because as per the

China's population grows marginally to 1.412 billion, may begin to decline by 2022: Census

Mumbai, May 13: According to the seventh national population census released by the Chinese government on Tuesday, China's population in all the 31 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities reached 1.41178 billion.Chinese population, chinese population growth, China annual census, second-largest economy., 0.53 per cent growth in Chinese population, National Bureau of StatisticsChina's population in all the 31 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities reached 1.41178 billion. China's population grew by 0.53 per cent to reach 1.41178 billion, up from 1.4 bil-

lion in 2019, keeping its status as the world's most populous country but the numbers are expected to decline from early next year, leading to labour shortages and a fall in consumption levels in the second-largest economy.



According to the seventh national population census released by the Chinese government on Tuesday, China's population in all the 31 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities reached 1.41178 billion. The figures do not include Hong Kong and Macao.China denounces US appeal for Taiwan to join WHO meeting' New era of genetic weapons': Reports say China probed weaponising coronaviruses in 2015'New era of genetic weapons': Reports say China probed weaponising coronaviruses in 2015Significantly, according to the data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the new census figures reveal that the demographic crisis China faced was expected to deepen as the population above 60 years grew to 264 million, up by 18.7

per cent last year. "The further ageing of the population imposed continued pressure on the long-term balanced development of the population in the coming period," the NBS statement said.

ing issue of our nation



As we all know, the United Nations has launched a blueprint of 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the objective is to create a more prosperous, capable, competent, egalitarian and protected world by the year 2030, and India actively participates to achieve the same. These goals are issues India has been grappling with for a long time, such as poverty, hunger, education, sanitation, health, climate, protection of other animals, water and plants, economic growth, industrial development and others. With regards to the first goal i.e. zero poverty, there are people in our country in millions who are deprived of clothes to wear and bread to eat. If it is indeed our intent to achieve this goal, creating opportunities to become self-sustainable over temporary philanthropy would empower them instead of their helpless reliance on others for subsistence. This will be the biggest help for them in the true sense.

Atul Malikram says that under India's goal of 2030, not only the government, but also is a moral obligation of responsible citizenship to contribute to end poverty in our country and that should be highlighted in every individual's life from today itself. We have to understand that the poor already bear the burden of struggling against their social and economic subjugation in our society, and need policies in place for a more efficient medical and education systems instead of mere subsidies that in turn prove to be counterproductive since it reinforces their dependence on others. The first step to boost their morale, uproot their sense of helplessness, and help them tap their potential is to provide them with safety of having the right infrastructure and basic needs fulfilled. The time is now for strict laws and policies that priorities adherence to the first sustainable development goal and to implement these seriously. The benefit of every such scheme introduced in the country should be given to the poor first, so that their confidence in themselves and this country can be increased. Maleficent individuals who stop or take advantage of these schemes should be punished severely. By adopting these measures, India will be able to become a poverty-free country by the year 2030.



Contd. From Page 1

CM visits Dakshinpaat, Auniati

symbolically to keep the economic condition of the State strong. The Chief Minister also had a look at the fabric produced in the handloom of the Satra which depicted the 24 th incarnation of Lord Bishnu. The Chief Minister also interacted with the Satradhikar and other devotees at the Satra. Thereafter, Chief Minister Sarma visited Sri Sri Auniati Satra and Sri Sri Uttar Kamalabari Satras respectively and prayed for peace and progress in the State. He took blessings of Satradhikar Sri Sri Pitambor Devgoswami of Auniati Satra and Sri Sri Janardan Devgoswami of Sri Sri Uttar Kamalabari Satra and also had conversation with them as well as the devotees present there. During his visit to Sri Sri Uttar Kamalabari Satra, Chief Minister Dr. Sarma also had an interaction with Padma Shree Gopiram Borgayan Burhabhakat. Lakhimpur MP Pradan Baruah was also present during the visit of the Chief Minister.

CM reviews COVID19 situation

timely completion of ongoing schemes in the district. He instructed for strengthening vulnerable points of the embankments in the district on war footing ahead of the floods. Construction of Majuli-Jorhat connecting bridge, status of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna, road construction, Ro-Pax ferry service to and from Jorhat, activities of agriculture department also came up for review in the meeting. The Chief Minister also looked into matters such as setting up of office of the District Elementary Education Officer (DEEO), making the stay of staffs of various government offices in the district compulsory instead of traveling from outside etc. MP Pradan Baruah, DC Majuli Bikram Koiri, SP Aparna Natrajan, Joint Director of Health Services in Majuli along with officials of various departments were present in the meeting.

Curfew and Odd0Even rule

Transport (Air/Railways/Buses) including all incidental services/activities that are essential for smooth functioning of all modes of public transport (such as handling of cargo ticketing, air freight station, CFS, ICD etc.), Disaster Management and related services, IMD.CWC, Water Resources Department, PHE, NIC, NCC and Municipal services, and all other essential services on production of valid Identity card. The uninterrupted delivery of public services shall beensured by the concerned departments/agencies. 2. All Judicial officers / officials of courts of Assam on production of valid Identitycard. 3. All private medical personnel such as doctors, nursing staff, paramedical stafftc. and other hospital services (such as hospitals, diagnostic centres clinics, pharmacies, pharmaceutical companies and other medical & healthservices) 4 Pregnant women and patients for getting medical /health services. 5. Person coming from/going to Airports/Railway stations/ISBTs allowed totravel on production of valid ticket. 6. Officers/officials related to functioning of offices of Diplomats of variouscountries as well as persons holding any constitutional post on production ofvalid Identity card. 7. Electronic and print Media on production of valid Identity card. 8. There shall be no restriction on inter-state and intra-state movement /transportation of essential / non-essential goods. No separate permission / epass will be required for such movements. 9. Movement of persons related to commercial and private establishments providing following essential services/commodities shall be allowed: Shops dealing with food, groceries, fruits & Vegetables, dairy & milk booths meat & fish, animal fodder, pharmaceuticals, medicines and medical equipments"

DCGI Approves Phase II/III

year. The proposal was deliberated in the meeting of the subject expert committee in February as Bharat Biotech was asked to submit a revised clinical trial protocol. A few days ago, a wrong claim was doing the rounds that Covaxin has been approved for children above 12 years. The Centre refuted the claim and said no such approval was given. As India is going through the second wave of the pandemic amid which the ongoing vaccination drive has been opened from people between the age group of 18 and 44 years, the need to extend vaccination to those below 18 years has been felt. Pfizer-BioNTech's Covid-19 vaccine has been given emergency use authorisation for children aged between 12 and 15 in the US. Canada too has approved Pfizer for 12-year-olds.

Govt Recommends To Increase

Covid-19 vaccine and added that lactating women are eligible for jabs any time after delivery. The recommendations of the NTAGI will be sent to the National Expert Group on Vaccine Adminstration for Covid-19. The Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech's indigenously developed Covaxin and Oxford-AstraZeneca's Covishield are currently being used in India's inoculation drive against coronavirus. Earlier in March, the Centre had written to states and Union Territories to increase the gap between two doses of Covishield from 4-6 weeks to 4-8 weeks. A three-month interval between doses of the Oxford Covid-19 vaccine results in higher vaccine efficacy than a six-week gap, according to a new study which says the first dose can offer up to 76 percent protection in the months between the two jabs, a study in Lancet said. The results of the analysis from a Phase 3 randomized controlled trial, published in The Lancet journal, suggested that the interval between doses can be safely extended to three months given the protection a single dose offers.

Maharashtra, Karnataka and Delhi as they do not have adequate vaccines to inoculate both the population below 45 and above 45, simultaneously. Since the administration of the second doses is of priority, the states are mulling halting the vaccination of the people between the age group of 18 to 44 years.Serum, Bharat Biotech submit production plan to CentreNudged by the Centre and the Drugs Controller General of India, both the vaccine makers have submitted their production plan for June, July, August and September, news agency PTI reported. According to the plan, Bharat Biotech is all set to raise the production of Covaxin to 3.32 crore doses in July and 7.82 crore in August. Serum Institute aims at increasing the production up to 10 crore doses in August.3 public sector companies to produce CovaxinApart from Hyderabad's Bharat Biotech facility, three public sector companies, including Mumbai's Haffkine Biopharmaceutical Corporation Ltd, Hyderabad's Indian Immunologicals Limited and Bulandshah's Bharat Immunologicals and Biologicals Limited, have been given the nod to produce Covaxin.States are floating global tenders to procure vaccines from abroadRajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Delhi have decided to float global tenders to procure vaccines from abroad.

Bharat Biotech, Serum Institute

COVID-19 : Sputnik vaccine

happen in the third quarter of the year."Department of Biotechnology, other departments concerned and MEA have been in touch with Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson from the beginning. They were officially asked if they would like to send doses to or manufacture in India, we'll find partners and assist," Dr Paul said."They had said that they are working in their own way and they would talk of vaccine availability in Q3, in 2021. We are connected to them. I'm hopeful that they'll step forward to increase availability in India," he added. "Overall, 216 crore doses of vaccines will be manufactured in India between August-December - for India and for Indians. There should be no doubt that vaccine will be available for all as we move forward," Dr Paul asserted."Any vaccine that is approved by FDA or WHO can come to India. Import license will be granted within 1-2 days. No import license is pending," he said further.He informed that so far 18 crore vaccine doses have been administered in the country making India the third-best in the world in this regard."We are happy to report that one-third of people aged 45 and above are protected. This age group contributes to 88% of deaths. So you can imagine, how much dent it would have made to reduce the risk of death of this population," he said. Russian vaccine Sputnik V is likely to be available in market from next week, the Centre said today as the vaccine shortage in various states deepened and restrictions were brought in for vaccination. Several states including Maharashtra, are floating global tenders for vaccine supply."I'm happy to say that we are hopeful that it will be available in the market next week. We are hopeful that the sale of the limited supply that has come from there (Russia), will begin next week," said Dr VK Paul, chairman of the National Expert Committee on Vaccine Administration.Dr Paul added that further supply will follow and the production of the vaccine will begin in July. "It is estimated that 15.6 crore doses will be manufactured in that period," he said. Union Minister Anurag Thakur tweeted on Sunday that 1.5 lakh doses of Sputnik V "have already reached India and RDIF has also tied up with local Indian companies for bulk production". A group of scientists from the United States, the Netherlands, Italy, France and Russia, meanwhile, flagged concerns over the results of phase 3 studies - specifically data discrepancies, trial protocols, and the accuracy and quality of data from which conclusions were drawn. The Russian scientists have stressed their data meets "clear and transparent standards... considered sufficient for regulatory review and approvals".

Bengaluru residents go 80 km for Covid shot as medical hub just doesn't have enough vaccines

Gauribidanur (Karnataka), May 13 : A 36-year-old Bengaluru resident did all he could to book a vaccination slot for himself and his wife on CoWin. He stayed up through the night, trawling the portal for open slots. He signed up for updates on the Telegram app, and scoured the Bangalore Vaccine Updater minute by minute on Twitter. No luck. On 10 May, the day vaccinations for the 18-44 age group began in Karnataka, the man got a call from a friend. A jugglery

of nearby pin codes had revealed that a few slots were available in Gauribidanur

RSS worker Modi followed on Twitter dies of Covid. PM didn't help despite plea tweet, family cries

Agra, May 13 : The huge poster of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that had adorned the back of Agra resident Amit Jaiswal's car for many years is now gone. His sister tore it off the day Jaiswal, an RSS worker the PM even followed on Twitter, died of Covid in a private hospital in Mathura. The family had failed to find a hospital bed for him in Agra, and hoped PM Modi would "intervene" when they posted a tweet from Jaiswal's account, tagging him and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, and sought help to get remdesivir injections. The post also said they were "facing issues" in his treatment. The 42year-old died 10 days after testing positive for Covid, and the virus also claimed the life of his mother a few days later. Jaiswal's family called him a self-proclaimed "Modi bhakt" — his WhatsApp display photo is that of the PM. He proudly flaunted in his Twitter bio the fact that Modi followed him. All this gave his family the hope that the PM or the state government would respond to their call for help."He couldn't hear a word against Modi and Yogi. If someone said anything remotely critical of them, he would threaten to beat them up," said Sonu Alagh, Jaiswal's elder sister. On the early morning of 29 April, he died in Mathura's Niyati Hospital, where the family had got him admitted nine days earlier. That very day, Sonu and her husband Rajendra tore off the Modi poster from his car. The furious couple said they will "never forgive" PM Modi for his "indifference". "Amit ne poori zindagi PM Modi ke liye nikal di. Modi ne uske liye kya kiya? Aise PM sahab ki humein kya zaroorat? Humne poster phaadh ke nikaal diya (Amit spent his entire life fighting for PM Modi. What did Modi do for him? We tore off his poster)," Rajendra told .Barely 10 days after losing her brother, Sonu lost her mother too - on 9 May. Sonu and Rajendra said their life just changed in the course of a few weeks.But he was dedicated RSS worker too, who had been going to nearly every RSS shakha in and around Agra since his childhood, his sister Sonu recalled.In December 2020, he made a trip to Ayodhya to pray at the under-construction Ram Mandir site, and also put up LED boards all around the city that said 'Ram Janmabhoomi'."He wanted to put up these boards in Ayodhya for free of cost. It was a cause he strongly felt for," said Sonu.Both Amit and his mother Raj Kamal Jaiswal tested positive on 19 April, after which Sonu and Rajendra tried to get them admitted to multiple hospitals in Agra. But after failing to find a bed anywhere, took them to nearby Mathura. A week later, the Mathura hospital asked the family to urgently arrange remdesivir injections for the mother-son duo. Sonu logged into Jaiswal's Twitter handle and posted a message pleading for help, tagging both PM Modi and CM Yogi Adityanath."But we didn't get any help whatsoever," Sonu said. The family somehow managed to arrange the medicine, but couldn't save Jaiswal and his mother."He was one of the most hardworking members of the RSS. He was extremely passionate about the work at RSS," said Amit Gupta, Agra's Vijay Nagar chief of RSS wing Rozgar Bharti.In April last year, he was given "credit", along with other RSS volunteers from Agra, for organising an e-shakha amid the pandemic. The family alleged that the private hospital in Mathura "grossly overcharged" them, adding to their angst. According to the bills given to the family, the total cost for Jaiswal's treatment for 10 days ran into over Rs 4.75 lakh, while that for his mother, who spent 20 days in the hospital, cost around Rs 11 lakh."There are so many 'other charges'. But what are those for? We arranged remedesivir, what are these private hospitals charging us so much money for?" Sonu asked. Other private hospitals in the region have also come under the scanner for overcharging patients. Ravi Hospital in Agra was Monday debarred from the list of Covid hospitals after news emerged of a patient allegedly having been charged Rs 9 lakh."We were able to manage somehow. But a poorer family would never have been able to," said Rajendra. The family believes if PM Modi "intervened" in time, the Covid crisis across the country could have been managed better. An emotional Rajendra looked into ThePrint's camera to make an appeal to PM Modi."I am begging you PM Modi...I understand there is a crisis in the country, but you are the most important person in the country. I am begging you, PM Modi. Please do something."

Justice Chandrachud tests positivo Covid hoaring is deforred

Most of country should remain

crisis in India. The Centre has shied away from imposing a nationwide lockdown because of the economic impact and has left it to state governments. Several states have introduced varying levels of curbs on economic activity and public movement to stop the spread of the virus, which are mostly being reviewed and extended on a weekly or fortnightly basis. "The high positivity districts should remain (shut). If they come to 5% from 10% (positivity rate) we can open them, but that has to happen. That won't happen in six-eight weeks, clearly," Bhargava said in an interview at the New Delhi headquarters of the ICMR, the country's top medical research body.Referring to the capital, one of India's hardest hit cities where the positivity rate reached around 35% but has now fallen to about 17%, Bhargava said: "If Delhi is opened tomorrow, it will be a disaster." India is in deep crisis in the current wave of COVID-19 infections with around 350,000 cases and 4,000 deaths being reported daily. Hospitals and morgues are overflowing, medical staff is exhausted and oxygen and drugs are running short. Many experts say the actual case tallies and deaths could be five to 10 times higher.Prime Minister Narnedra Modi and other top political leaders have faced a public backlash for addressing mass election rallies where no major COVID-19 safety protocols were followed. The government also didn't intervene to stop a religious festival in a northern state in March that was attended by millions of devout Hindus.Bhargava did not criticise the Modi government but conceded there had been a delay in responding to the crisis."I think the only discontent we have was there was a slight delay in accepting the 10% (recommendation), but that did happen," he said.He said an April 15 meeting of the National Task Force on COVID-19 had made the recommendation to the government to lock down areas with a 10% positivity rate or higher. Yet, in a televised speech on April 20, Modi dissuaded states and said a lockdown should be used as "last resort" and the focus should remain on "micro containment zones". On April 26 - more than 10 days after the task force meeting - India's home (interior) ministry wrote to states, asking them to implement strict measures for "large containment areas" in hard-hit districts, but only for 14 days. The home and health ministries, as well as Modi's office, did not respond to requests for comment.Reuters reported earlier this month the head of the National Centre for Disease Control had privately told an online gathering that strict lockdown measures were required in early April.Two senior ICMR officials told Reuters the organization was frustrated about political leaders addressing large rallies and allowing religious gatherings, saying the actions publicly flouted required safety measures. Modi himself addressed several of the political meetings, maskless."Our messaging has been completely incorrect, not in sync with the situation," said one of the officials, referring to the government. "We have miserably failed."Bhargava denied there was any discontent within the ICMR and added the agency was on the same page with policymakers. Without commenting directly on political leaders, he said mass gatherings during COVID-19 should not be acceptable in India or anywhere else. "It's common sense," he said.

a taluk in the Chikkaballapur district that lies 80 km from Bengaluru. He checked out the lead and quickly booked a slot for himself and his wife. So did his friends. The 160-km trip back and forth was no deterrent for the IT hub residents desperate to get the jab."We had no other option but to book the slots in Gauribidanur. Every day, we hear about some young person succumbing to Covid. With no beds in hospitals, a vaccine is our last hope," the 36-year-old, who didn't wish to be named, told "Despite waiting for days, we were not able to get any slots (in Bengaluru). So, we decided to travel 160 km to and fro in the hope of protecting ourselves and our families."It was a similar motivation that brought Navneet and his wife Pooja, residents of Bengaluru, to Gauribidanur. outside a vaccination centre Tuesday. Navneet said the government should look into why this is happening."I was looking for a slot since it became applicable for those in the age group of 18-44 (1 May). However, despite several attempts, I didn't get anything," he added, waiting in queue at the district taluka office in Gauribidanur. Many other people in the queue said they were from Bengaluru as well, laying bare a strange phenomenon stalking the vaccination drive in one of India's most developed cities. Bengaluru, touted to be a medical tourism hub, doesn't seem to have enough vaccines for its residents.Karnataka allowed Covid shots for 18-44-year-olds 10 days after the official rollout date set by the central government (1 May), but many residents are still having to travel to places like Mysuru, 140 km away, and even lessknown pockets such as Gauribidanur to secure a shot. As of Wednesday, there were 11 vaccination centres for 18-44-year-olds in Bengaluru, with an average of only 150 shots per day at each of them. According to the bulletin issued by the Karnataka health department Tuesday, the state has administered 20,278 doses among 18-44-year-olds, with the cumulative at 41,803. In Bengaluru on Tuesday, 1,078 doses were administered to 18-44-year-olds. This, even as the state battles a surge in infections wrought by the second Covid wave.Dr Om Prakash Patil, Director at the Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Services (state health department), through phone calls, WhatsApp and SMS, for a comment on the vaccination drive but there was no response by the time of publishing this report. Dr Rajani Nageshrao, Deputy Director for Immunisation in the Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Services, didn't reply to a phone call and text from ThePrint either.Speaking off the record, however, a health department official acknowledged the shortage in Bengaluru, adding that efforts are underway to ease the situation. The second Covid wave has had a brutal impact on Karnataka. It was reported Tuesday that the state overtook Maharashtra to record the highest number of fresh Covid cases in the data released Monday. Bengaluru, the epicentre of the pandemic in Karnataka, recorded 15,879 cases and 259 deaths on 10 May. This was a fall as compared to 9 May, when the city recorded 16,747 cases and 374 deaths.In Karnataka, the vaccination drive for the 18-44 age group was launched Monday amid a shortage of vaccine doses. The Print visited four vaccination centres in Bengaluru — KC General hospital, Victoria Hospital, Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, and the civic agency-run Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike primary health centre at Vasant Nagar to take stock of the situation - only to find several accounts of chaos enveloping the process. Shubham Mehta, a 25-yearold analyst, said it "took three days of hard work to book an appointment". "Every time, you have to quickly go online, key in the (area) details, and then wait for an OTP. By the time you do all this, you realise that the slot is no longer available," he added. Shubham said he understood why someone would travel far to get a shot. "That's the desperation among the people — with no beds available and no vaccine in Bengaluru, they are willing to travel 70-90 km to get vaccinated," he added. "They don't have any other choice, although I think this is not right as we are in a way using the supply meant for the other districts.

tive, Covid hearing is deferred

New Delhi, May 13: Justice D Y Chandrachud, who is heading the Supreme Court's three-judge special bench on Covid management, has tested positive and is in isolation. The apex court said it has deferred Thursday's scheduled hearing on "distribution of essential supplies and services during the pandemic and similar matters". In a notification issued Wednesday, the Supreme Court said that "since one of the Hon'ble Judges of the bench scheduled to hear" the suo motu matter on Thursday has tested positive for Covid, "the Special Bench comprising Hon'ble Dr Justice D Y Chandrachud, Hon'ble Mr Justice L Nageswara Rao and Hon'ble Mr Justice S Ravindra Bhat in Court No.5 will not sit and the matters listed before this bench stand deferred and fresh date of listing shall be notified later". Due to the pandemic, the Supreme Court has been hearing cases via video conferencing. Four other judges of the court had tested positive in the past, and have since recovered.On May 10, the court adjourned the hearing in the Covid matter to May 13 following technical glitches. On Thursday, the bench was scheduled to take up an affidavit filed by the Centre in response to certain queries posed by it on April 30. The court had called for "revisiting" the Centre's "revised" vaccine procurement policy, saying "the manner in which the current policy has been framed would prima facie result in a detriment to the right to public health, which is an integral element of Article 21 of the Constitution."It had also sought some answers on the differential pricing of vaccines for states and the Centre.In its reply filed on May 9, the Centre said that its vaccination policy had been framed to ensure equitable distribution with the limited availability of vaccines and vulnerability, and that vaccinating the entire country was not possible in one go due to the suddenness of the pandemic.

Israel-Palestine conflict: Around 1500 rockets fired towards Israel from Gaza this week, claims IDF

Gaza, May 13: Amid the accelerating unrest between Israel and Palestine, the death toll in Gaza has reached 65, while Israel have reported over 7 deaths till Wednesday (May12, 2021) as the Hamas group launched a new barrage of airstrikes. As per AFP reports, Israeli Defence Force (IDF) on Wednesday said that 1,000 rockets had been launched from Gaza since Monday evening, but by early Thursday the number had leapt by roughly 500."So far, some 1,500 rockets have been fired at the Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip, about 300 of them were unsuccessful and the rockets fell in the Gaza Strip. The Iron Dome system has intercepted hundreds of rockets," the IDF said in a statement on Wednesday.Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden on Wednesday spoke to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Israel-Palestine conflict and said he hopes that the hostilities will come to a conclusion."My expectation and hope is that this will be closing down sooner than later. But Israel has a right to defend itself when you have thousands of rockets flying into your territory. But I had a conversation for a while with the -- with the Prime Minister of Israel. And I think that -- my hope is that we will see this coming to a conclusion sooner than later," Biden told reporters at the White House. The United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East, Tor Wennesand, took it to Twitter to call on both sides to de-escalate tensions the day before."Stop the fire immediately. We are escalating towards a full scale war. Leaders on all sides have to take the responsibility of de-escalation. The cost of war in Gaza is devastating and is being paid by ordinary people. The UN is working with all sides to restore calm. Stop the violence now," he tweeted.

Thursday's track and trip. York 2.10

French champion jockey Pierre-**Charles Boudot charged with rape**

Boudot. France's reigning champion jockey on the Flat, was charged with rape on Wednesday French prosecutors bv investigating allegations made by a female work-rider after a party during a race meeting at Cagnes-sur-Mer in February.Pierre Bazire, also a jockey, faces a charge of failing to report a crime in connection with the same allegations, while an unnamed individual was also listed, along with Bazire, as a "witness to intimidation of a witness".A statement issued by the office of the public prosecutor in Senlis, which includes France's major racing centre at Chantilly, said that Boudot had been released on bail of •50,000 [£43,000] and is barred from entering the department of Oise, of which Senlis is a part, under the bail conditions. He had been remanded in custody to assist with the investigation since Monday. Boudot won the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe on Waldgeist in 2019 and won the French Flat jockeys' title in 2015, 2016 and 2020. He set what was at the time a new record for winners in a season in France with 300 victories in 2016, and rode a double on the main card at last season's Breeders' Cup meeting in Kentucky on Aidan O'Brien's Order Of Australia and Audarya for James Fanshawe after the original jockeys booked for both horses tested positive for Covid-19.It was unclear on Wednesday evening whether and it is 14-1 bar the four."We France Galop, racing's ruling body in France, would respond to the news of the charges against the champion jockey, or move to suspend Boudot from riding until the investigation is complete. He had been expected to ride O'Brien's ride." Starman floundered on very colt St Mark's Basilica, the probable favourite, in the Poule D'Essai Des Poulains, the French 2,000 Guineas, at Longchamp on Sunday.Snowfall

Chantilly, May 13: Pierre-Charles after making all the running under the season."He's some beast," Ryan Moore to win the Musidora Stakes at York on Wednesday. Moore was gifted an easy lead by his six rivals, including Teona and Noon Star, second and third in the ante-post Oaks betting before Wednesday's trial, and made the most of the opportunity as Snowfall found an extra gear when sent for home two furlongs out.Aidan O'Brien, Snowfall's trainer, confirmed after the race that

Walker said. "That was a mindblowing performance. Oisin [Murphy, his jockey] was pretty speechless and we're really excited. [The plan is] Ascot and the Diamond Jubilee."Bolshoi Ballet stormed to the head of the Derby betting over the weekend but his stable companion High Definition, the ante-post favourite throughout the winter, has the chance to reaffirm his own Classic



Snowfall will now join her stable companion Santa Barbara, fourth home in the 1,000 Guineas, at Epsom on 4 June. She is top-priced at 6-1 for the Classic with Santa Barbara heading the market at 5-2, while Roger Varian's Teona, who was making her seasonal debut on Wednesday, is 10-1 to reverse the form. Zeyaadah, Varian's Chester Oaks winner last week, is also 10-1 always thought the world of her last year but things just didn't work for her," O'Brien said. "On pedigree she was always going to be suited by a step up in trip and Ryan gave her a lovely soft ground when fancied for the Champions Sprint at Ascot in October but Ed Walker's colt will get another chance to run in Group Cazoo Oaks at Epsom next month Of York Stakes on his first start of victories have come over juvenile start.

York on Thursday. The blood-test issues which ruled him out of Lingfield five days ago are presumably behind him, but High Definition is up against several very promising colts including Mark Johnston's Gear Up (3.10), a Group One winner at Saint-Cloud in October.High Definition may prove to be the best colt in Thursday's field in time. Gear Up battled admirably to win from the front on heavy ground in France, however, and will give the favourite's fitness a thorough examination. York 1.40 Copper Knight is without a win in 17 starts since July 2019, but his mark has dropped from 106 to 85 as a result. He took a step back in the right direction behind a peak-form Jabbarockie at Chester last time

Queen Power and Passion dominate the betting but the former has failed to make the most of similar opportunities in the past while Passion's most recent win came over an extra four furlongs. That leaves Jessica Harrington's Silence Please as an obvious alternative as she looks to maintain the steady progress during her three-year-old career.Salisbury 2.25 Just seven runners but a fascinating three-year-old handicap with several lightly-raced types that may already be pencilled in for Royal Ascot. Wahraan was a big eyecatcher behind Lord Protector last time but the time of their race at Windsor was nothing special and both look short enough in the betting. Lightening Shore is more interesting at around 10-1, having looked like a step up to Thursday's trip would suit when second on his latest run.York 2.40 As ever, there are plenty in with chances in this year's Hambleton Handicap, but the front-running Mostawaa has credentials in the Dante Stakes at drawn well in stall four and has Silvestre de Sousa in the saddle for only the third time in his career. The former champion has finished first and third on Heather Main's gelding on their previous outings and 16-1 looks more than fair. York 3.40 On the face of it, Acklam Express put up a remarkable performance to finish third in the Group One Al Quoz Sprint at Meydan in Dubai last time out, not least as he was racing alone for much of the final quarter-mile. Final Song, the runner-up there, did nothing to frank the form in Wednesday's Duke Of York, however, and Winter Power looks the more solid proposition at around 11-4 to build on his

Emile Smith Rowe pounces as Arsenal edge out distracted Chelsea

London, May 13 : The mistake from Jorginho that gifted Arsenal victory summed up Chelsea's lack of direction. Thomas Tuchel's side lost their bearings because they failed to treat the game with enough respect. They started with the wrong attitude and could not complain about a defeat that breathes life back into the race to qualify for the Champions League, even if Arsenal's winner was bizarre. This was a reminder that

Chelsea, who created little after falling behind to Emile Smith Rowe's early goal, have achieved nothing yet. They can still end the season outside the top four and Tuchel will hope the complacency has been drummed out of his players by the time they face Leicester in the FA Cup final on Saturday. It was not just about the moment when Jorginho's wayward backpass led to Smith Rowe's farcical goal. The third defeat of Tuchel's reign would have been avoided if Chelsea had shown more dynamism up front, yet they could not find a way through Arsenal's dogged back five. Chelsea were short of ideas long before the end and, although they remain in fourth place with two games left, they have given West Ham and Liverpool faint hope of catching them. The worry for Tuchel is that his side could not match Arsenal's fight. Rob Holding produced a gigantic display at the back for the visitors and Mikel Arteta was delighted with the way his bruised side held on for a win that lifts them up to eighth, with European qualification still a slight possibility. Tuchel preferred to look closer to home, blaming himself for picking the wrong lineup. Perhaps Chelsea were already thinking about Wembley. Their passing lacked its usual zip and Chelsea's lethargy during the early stages was typified by Kai Havertz, who produced far too casual a finish when Arsenal suffered the kind of defensive malfunction they have experienced so often on this ground. The moment called for ruthlessness when Havertz whipped the ball impressive success in the away from a dithering Pablo Mari in the 10th second favourite for Oaksfor the One company after taking the Duke and four of his eight career Cornwallis Stakes on his final minute. Yet the forward grew uncertain as only to see one goalbound shot saved by he advanced on Bernd Leno and he Leno and another blocked by Holding.



produced a weird finish in the end, spooning the ball over the bar.Havertz's vagueness was replicated at the other end six minutes later. Disrupted by Arsenal's determined pressing, Chelsea were struggling to play their way out of a tight position when Jorginho made matters worse with a moment of high farce, almost scoring a truly magnificent own-goal with a stray backpass. It was astonishingly slack from a player who is usually so composed and, although Kepa Arrizabalaga scrambled to push the ball away from goal, the Chelsea goalkeeper was powerless to prevent Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang collecting possession and giving Smith Rowe an easy finish. It should be stressed that none of this was on Arrizabalaga, who would have appreciated a quieter evening after being given a rare start in the league before his likely involvement against Leicester. It was on Jorginho, who failed to look properly before hitting his pass.It was also a lesson for Arsenal, who matched Chelsea's 3-4-2-1 system, about the value of making things happen with straightforward commitment. Wounded after their defeat by Villarreal in the last four of the Europa League, there was a steelier feel to Arteta's side. Smith Rowe and Martin Odegaard flickered behind Aubameyang and there was some resilient defending from Arsenal when Chelsea began to stir, with Mari particularly vocal at the back.Chelsea, who rested N'Golo Kanté and Antonio Rudiger, increased the tempo as the half wore on. Inevitably Mason Mount led the charge,

Wilson fires double as Newcastle dent Leicester's top-four hopes



and sole selector, adding an extra

Jofra Archer back in the mix as **England cast eye over Test candidates**

London, May 13: Next week Chris with Joe Root and Dan Lawrence the also gets one final workout before Gloucestershire at the top of Group

plays and the tail is lengthened. As a purveyor of right-arm pace back in summer - while over at Taunton, the day, England's latest supremo-Yorkshireman will be pleased at the queue starting to form here. It could yet include Jofra Archer, who has been named in the Sussex squad that

yards. Martin Dubravka Silverwood names his first England spin options, could be the way his expected call-up - Silverwood is Two. Robinson and Overton could foiled Wesley Fofana's Test squad as both the head coach Silverwood leans unless Jack Leach a known admirer of the 6ft 5in right- both make the England squad but armer and wants him blooded this the shake-up for the final XI will be competitive. Jimmy Anderson and where Somerset host Surrey, Craig Stuart Broad are up and running this season - albeit neither Overton is in the home team's squad despite a heavy workload. There is a Lancashire nor Nottinghamshire danger that Overton is pigeonholed after four Tests but since the start



London, May 13: Steve Bruce has faced all kinds of flak this season but one quality he undoubtedly possesses is resilience. Thanks to this win Newcastle will almost certainly be in the Premier League again next season, for better or worse. Leicester's staying power, on the other hand, is wide open to question once more after a jittery performance that leaves them at risk of letting Champions League qualification slip through their fingers for the second season in a row.Brendan Rodgers' team are still in the top four but to avoid the pain and embarrassment of dropping out again they may need to win their three remaining league fixtures, which are against Manchester United, Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur, with the FA Cup final in between. They had hoped to drain as much stress as possible from those meetings by dispatching Newcastle. Instead they self-destructed. The club's owner, Aiyawatt "Top" Srivaddhanaprabh, was able to fly in from Thailand to watch a match at the King Power for the first time since February 2020. He bore witness to Leicester's most disjointed and timorous performance in a season in which they have lost nine times at home. In none of the previous defeats have they defended as incompetently as they did this time.Late goals by Marc Albrighton and Kelechi Iheanacho brought no consolation whatever to hosts who flirted with slapstick as Joe Willock and Paul Dummett scored for the visitors before Callum Wilson added two more."It was a game in which we made so many mistakes and you can't afford to do that," said Rodgers. "It was uncharacteristic. It's a period of the season where we need to be super concentrated; you are very close to achieving what you want to achieve. We lacked concentration. It's very frustrating when you know the players we have."The first sign that things would not go to that plan for Leicester came when Jonny Evans injured his foot in the warm-up. Albrighton was drafted in at left wing-back while Timothy Castagne shifted to central defence. The other problem was that Newcastle had not come to act as bystanders. They defended strongly and counter-attacked fast. Leicester looked skittish without Evans at the back. Only a magnificent save by Kasper Schmeichel prevented Allan Saint-Maximin from firing the visitors into the lead in the 15th minute at the end of a counter-attack launched by Jacob Murphy and Wilson, whose pass left the Frenchman with a free shot from eight yards. The goalkeeper could not repeat the feat five minutes later when Caglar Soyuncu miscontrolled the ball outside his own area, allowing Willock to pounce and slot expertly into the net from 12

attempt to plunder an immediate equaliser, batting away the defender's closerange header. That was the first of several fine saves by Dubravka, who later denied Iheanacho, Jamie Vardy and Ayoze Pérez.Newcastle extended their lead thanks to an unlikely scorer, as Dummett outjumped Fofana to head home a cornert. It was Dummett's first goal since January 2016. Rodgers' men emerged much sharper after the interval, forcing Newcastle to defend with iron resolve. Leicester had to work hard for their chances. James Maddison had a free-kick deflected just wide in the 54th minute and Wilfred Ndidi's header from the resultant corner missed by inches. Then Leicester's defence fell apart again. Castagne failed to cut out a long pass from the back by Matt

the path of Wilson.

frisson to the six County Championship fixtures that begin on Thursday and, touch wood, are the last behind closed doors. To be fair, through a combination of decent weather, good pitches, the revamped streaming services and, perhaps, the curtailed Indian Premier League, the competition has already crackled this year. The players were clearly coiled springs after last summer's truncated campaign and the digital gurus tell us the audiences are greater and younger than the tired old cliches often have it. This surge of energy has given Silverwood plenty to consider for the two-Test series against New Zealand that starts at Lord's on 2 June: so too the 10-day quarantine being undertaken by England's IPL players. Jos Buttler, Chris Woakes, Jonny Bairstow, Sam Curran and Moeen Ali will not emerge until Sunday, hampering their ability to get match-ready before the squad bubbles up on 28 May. The absence of Ben Stokes Ritchie, merely prodding it into the Test side tricky. Four seamers, county colleague Ollie Robinson Somerset are keeping pace with



host Kent. The fast bowler returns from a worryingly persistent elbow injury and though he recently blew off the cobwebs in the second XI, he will need to prove his fitness in the first team given Sussex do not

of last year he has taken 62 firstclass wickets at 13 apiece, put a truckload of overs in and is said to be hitting the bat harder than before. Throw in a good number of valuable lower-order contributions with the with a broken finger makes balancing have a fixture next week. Archer's bat and it is not hard to see why

Mike Brown's Harlequins career over after six-week ban for stamping

London, May 13 : Mike Brown's Harlequins warranted a top-end sanction, meaning a ban of career has been brought to an abrupt end after he was handed a six-week ban following his red card for stamping last weekend, ensuring he will miss the rest of the season.Brown, who will join Newcastle next season, was initially given a 12-week ban for a stamp to the head of Wasps' Tommy Taylor - reduced to six on mitigation - but with only four matches left of the regular season the 35-year-old will miss Harlequins' run-in, even if they reach the Premiership final. It is a desperate end to Brown's illustrious career with the club he first appeared for in 2005, going on to make 351 appearances. Harlequins are currently in fourth place, nine points clear of Northampton in fifth and well-placed to reach the Premiership playoffs. Brown, however, will play no part in their pursuit of the title he helped Quins win in 2012 though he does have the right to appeal. The disciplinary panel determined that Brown's stamp

12 weeks but given it was the first red card of his career, and because he accepted the charge and showed "honesty and contrition" throughout the hearing he was awarded the maximum possible mitigation. His return-to-play date has not yet been finalised given it is unclear precisely when Harlequins' season will end, so there is the chance Brown's ban will extend into the start of his Newcastle career.Meanwhile, the British & Irish Lions will be broadcast live on free-to-air TV for the first time in 28 years after it was announced Channel 4 will show the warmup Test against Japan on 26 June. Channel 4 has also secured rights to show highlights of three Tests against South Africa. The warm-up match - the Lions' first on home soil since 2005 - is set to act as a key part of their preparations for the tour and while Sky Sports has secured rights for the eight matches in South Africa,

Channel 4 will exclusively screen the Japan Test at Murrayfield next month. The fixture is on the same day as the Premiership final and while it is understood the Lions match will have an afternoon kick-off the two games will not clash. The Channel 4 deal is a significant boost for the Lions, who according to the head coach Warren Gatland, are set to make a loss given the fact that crowds in South Africa will be significantly restricted - if they are allowed at all - with no hordes of travelling Lions supporters. In addition to the Japan match and Test highlights, All4 will also show highlights of the other tour matches in South Africa with the Lions set to confirm a revised schedule this week. The Lions were last on terrestrial TV when ITV screened the 1993 tour of New Zealand but Channel 4's move to bring them back to free-toair TV is the latest in a drive by the broadcaster to improve its sports portfolio.

play this week - with Broad telling PA Media: "By the end of last summer I think we showed that Jimmy and I were both in the best bowling attack in England."Silverwood may have other ideas, of course, and has outright pace options to factor in also. As well as Archer's return, Mark Wood is part of the Durham side hosting Worcestershire, while Olly Stone, resting given Warwickshire do not play, is expected to be fit despite a toe infection limiting his overs last week. This break for the Bears means Dom Sibley will make his comeback in the second XI after a fractured finger and thus has only next week's trip to Essex before Test duties. Any doubts here could present a chance for Gloucestershire's James Bracey perhaps at No 3 behind Rory Burns and Zak Crawley if so - although Adam Lyth, part of the unbeaten Yorkshire side visiting Glamorgan, and James Vince, whose Hampshire side meet Middlesex at Lord's, can further their claims.Bracey could also keep wicket if Buttler is afforded time off although Ben Foakes, who has won all eight of his Test caps away from home, will consider himself ahead here. Surrey's velvet-gloved matinee idol can shut down the debate at Taunton, where Ollie Pope will want further time at the crease before he, Root and Lawrence (playing for Essex at Derbyshire) make up England's likely middle order.Silverwood has meetings with his rejigged backroom staff in Loughborough on Thursday before choosing where to visit in person thereafter. As thousands young and old have already done this season, he can always switch between matches online too.Glamorgan v Yorkshire, Cardiff; Sussex v Kent, Hove.

FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021

The Assam Rising

Pep Guardiola has mixed possession and pressing to start new Manchester City era and Fernandinho were selected in

Manchester, May 13 : Pep Guardiola celebrates Manchester City's winner in Dortmund as his team's run of quarter-final defeats came to an end. The Premier League title was confirmed for Manchester City on Tuesday, having never been

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challenge the orthodoxy he had established at Barcelona: was it possible it had entirely supplanted it?There was evidence Guardiola had begun to make changes. Was he, too, having doubts? In part it was a question of circumstance: the truncated



in doubt since March. A run of 15 straight victories from mid-December. A team that, in rhythm, is mesmerisingly good. A squad able to withstand the rigours of a season even more relentless than usual.It would be easy from the perspective of late spring, as the tides of Covid recede - in the UK at least - to think City's triumph was just another super-club victory. But what makes it significant is how different everything looked three months into the season. It would be absurd to suggest their resources haven't helped, but this was a title that was far from inevitable. When City drew at home against West Brom on 15 December, they lay sixth in the table having won five of their first 12 games. The recruitment strategy was questioned: why had they not brought in a centre-forward? Had Leroy Sané been properly replaced? And what was it that meant Pep Guardiola kept wasting money on central defenders who then proved unable to adapt to his system?It seemed reasonable then to wonder whether this might be Guardiola's worst team and, more seriously, to ask whether the game's tactical evolution had moved perma-

nently beyond his possession-driven

juego de posición. The German

pressing school, through Jürgen

Klopp and Hansi Flick, had risen to

ture of the calendar meant the hardpressing teams were under great physical strain and also had little time between games to hone their approach for the next opponent.But Guardiola also seemed to be reconsidering his method, influenced perhaps by his new assistant, Juanma Lillo, the guru he had once moved to Mexico to play for.How Guardiola transformed Manchester City back into Premier League champions - video explainerLast season, City were repeatedly caught out by balls played in behind them. The defeat at Stamford Bridge last June that secured Liverpool the title was part of a wider pattern: City dominated, held possession, looked almost impossible to resist, but failed to score and then got picked off on the counter.It had happened again and again to Guardiola sides in the later stages of the Champions League over the previous decade, which presumably led to the bizarre selection against Lyon in the quarter-final last season, Guardiola creating the conditions for his downfall by his attempts to avert it. In those early weeks of the season City often played with two deep-lying midfielders screening the back four. The problem with that approach was exposed in their second game, as they lost 5-2 at home to Leicester. Rodri

what was effectively a 4-2-3-1 but, far from adding protection the additional defensive midfielder made them more vulnerable because when the press was sprung high up the field, Kevin De Bruyne was often left isolated. Nampalys Mendy and Youri Tielemans merrily passed their way around him and were then able to feed Jamie Vardy and Harvey Barnes before the second wave of the press got to them.Raheem Sterling battles for possession with Nampalys Mendy, Youri Tielemans and Daniel Amartey during City's home defeat by Leicester in September.But gradually Guardiola corrected the balance, found a way of easing back on the press so it remained effective while not being quite so vulnerable to those balls played in behind the defensive line.It is a sign of City's control that no side has attempted fewer "pressures" than them this season. Only Liverpool have attempted a higher proportion in the attacking third but they have attempted 17% more. That doesn't necessarily mean Liverpool will be 17% more tired, but it doesn't help.It was at Stamford Bridge in early January the difference from last season was highlighted. City won 3-1 but they were vastly superior to Chelsea. There have been some moments of concern since: the penalty Liverpool were awarded at Anfield stemmed from a simple ball over the top, before the visitors went on to win comfortably; Ole Gunnar Solskjær managed yet another win over City, by sitting deep and countering; Timo Werner exposed them in the FA Cup semi-final.But the real triumph of his reinvention came against Paris Saint-Germain, especially in the first leg last month. When the mechanisms have malfunctioned, Guardiola sides have had a tendency to go completely awry, one goal bringing two or three. Down 1-0 and under pressure in the Champions League semifinal, though, City had the control to slow the game to a more manageable tempo and then, in the second half, smother their opponents, generating the pressure that forced mistakes. In the second leg they did something that would previously have seemed utterly unnatural, absorbing pressure and attacking on the break.Rúben Dias may turn out to have been as transformative for City as Virgil van Dijk was for Liverpool:

at last a centre-back capable of playing in a Guardiola system who is also an exceptional orthodox defender. Guardiola has gone from being a coach who once observed in bewilderment that he didn't train tackles to one whose side celebrated Oleksandr Zinchenko making a block on Neymar.Kylian Mbappé is hustled off the ball by John Stones and Oleksandr Zinchenko. City restricted PSG to one set-piece goal in their two-leg tie. That represents a major development. City with the ball have always been terrifying, but the sense was that they were fragile if you could get through the press. If they have now worked out a way of combining possession with defensive resolve, they may have restored Guardiola's form of football to preeminence - although that will only become clear in a more normal season, when sides who follow the German model are less disadvantaged. Even if the superiority is temporary, the way Guardiola has adapted to circumstances demonstrates his qualities as a coach, his ability to improvise and change plan. It does make a difference that City's resources have provided him with a deeper squad than almost all of his rivals, but he has nonetheless deployed them expertly. The complaint that he has only achieved success with the biggest clubs slightly misses the point. Yes, his method would require significant tweaking were he suddenly to be thrust into the job at Grimsby or Southend, but he is the manager of Manchester City. Different levels of club require different skills. Necessity, perhaps, has proved a valuable guide and added a streak of pragmatism. It is probably no coincidence that the two sides who will contest the Champions League final are the two who have added a defensive element to the high press of modern football, while foregrounding the collective over celebrity. The question is what happens next. Guardiola's Barcelona made football about retaining the ball, then the German school made it more about regaining it. This season City - and to a lesser extent Chelsea - have found an effective synthesis of the two approaches, holding possession while protecting the space behind the defensive line and, at times, dropping deeper and getting players behind the ball.

Tom Brady's New En-gland return set for Week 4 as NFL schedule released

London, May 13 : The NFL is returning to London in October and Tom Brady begins his pursuit of an eighth Super Bowl title against Dak Prescott and the Dallas Cowboys when Tampa Bay hos the league's annual kickoff game on 9 September. The first game in London since the coronavirus pandemic will be played on 10 October as the Atlanta Falcons face the New York Jets. A week later, the Jacksonville Jaguars meet the Miami Dolphins. Both games will be played at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium. The Falcons and the Jaguars will be the home teams. The confirmation of NFL's international fixtures means the top two picks in this year's draft will be making visits to London during their rookie seasons: the Jaguars' Trevor Lawrence, arguably the most talented college quarterback of his generation; and Jets signal-caller Zach

and will adhere to any and all future Covid regulations and restrictions. "London has hosted 28 NFL games since 2007, with the city becoming a second home to the Jaguars, who will be playing their eighth game in the capital, while the Dolphins return for a fifth time. Reigning AFC champion Kansas City hosts the Cleveland Browns in a playoff rematch in Week 1. The Chiefs eliminated the Browns in the divisional round last season despite losing Patrick Mahomes to a concussion."Every year stands on its own merit. For us, the focus is on the 2021 season," Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said. "Now, I realize that last game last year ended in Kansas City, so that certainly is something we have to learn from. It will truly be a matchup that is unique to 2021. The game won't start in the fifth quarter



Wilson, the No 2 overall pick. The NFL's first 17-game season opens on the same field where the Buccaneers defeated the Chiefs to become the first team to win a Super Bowl at home. It'll be Prescott's first game since sustaining a gruesome ankle injury last October.Brady returns to New England to face Bill Belichick and the Patriots in a Sunday night game on 3 October.Other highlights from opening weekend include Matthew Stafford playing his first game for the Los Angeles Rams on Sunday night against the Chicago Bears with SoFi Stadium welcoming fans for the first time.Most teams are expected to be at full capacity following a season played before limited crowds because of Covid-19."We are excited our fans get to experience a couple of home prime-time games and our players certainly feed off the fans' energy," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said. "We will be opening at home for the first time since I became head coach and I am happy our fans will be there to kick off the season with us."The coronavirus pandemic meant last year was the first since 2007 that there was no NFL game in London, but the league has worked with the UK government to enable a return this year, subject to the situation continuing to improve."We are excited to be returning to London and welcoming back our fans for two great matchups," said the NFL's executive vice-president Christopher Halpin. "We expect these games to be a celebration of our sport and our robust UK fan base."We have been working closely with the UK government, the city of London and the relevant health organizations over the past year in planning the games. Through their successful vaccine rollout and commitment to bringing crowds back to sports events, the time is right for the return of NFL football this fall."We will continue to monitor the Covid environment, putting health and safety first,

from last year's game."Two other matchups feature playoff teams facing off in their first game. The Pittsburgh Steelers, who lost to Cleveland in the wild-card round, visit the Buffalo Bills, who reached the AFC title game.Carson Wentz and the Indianapolis Colts host Russell Wilson and the Seattle Seahawks. In Philadelphia, Wentz was 0-4 against Wilson. The Las Vegas Raiders host the Baltimore Ravens in the first Monday night game. The Green Bay Packers open the season with or without Aaron Rodgers at New Orleans minus the retired Drew Brees. Jaguars fans have to wait until the second game to see Clemson product Lawrence in person: Jacksonville open at Houston and hosts Denver in Week 2. Detroit, Dallas and New Orleans host games on Thanksgiving Day. The Lions face the Bears in the first game. The Cowboys play the Raiders in the second one. The Bills visit the Saints in the prime-time matchup.Four teams play on Christmas. Baker Mayfield and the Browns go to Green Bay and the Colts visit Kyler Murray and the Arizona Cardinals. The Bills visit the Chiefs in a rematch of the AFC championship game on Sunday night 10 October. A potential Rodgers-Mahomes showdown is set for Week 9 in Kansas City.Ten teams are scheduled for a league-high five primetime games: Ravens, Cowboys, Packers, Rams, Steelers, Seahawks, Chiefs, Saints, 49ers and Buccaneers. The 17th game, which was added in the new CBA last year, features teams from opposing conferences that finished in the same place within their respective divisions at the end of the previous season. AFC teams have the extra home game this year."One of the tremendous benefits of each team playing 17 regular-season games is the ability for us to bring more games to more fans," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said.

Vijender Singh's unbeaten run in professional boxing ends, lose to Artysh Lopsan in Goa

New Delhi, May 13: Indian pro- 2015. An eight-round duel, nick- Lopsan with a combination of left and fessional boxer Vijender Singh on named 'Battle on Ship', turned out to Friday (March 19) was handed his be a one-sided affair. Vijender, the first defeat in professional boxing by Russian Artysh Lopsan. Vijender lost via technical knockout (TKO) in the fifth round of an eight-round bout on the rooftop of the Majestic Pride Casino Ship in Goa.With this loss, Vijender's unbeaten-run in professional boxing came to an end. Before this match, the Olympic bronze medal winner pugilist enjoyed a 12-game winning streak in the professional boxing career since starting his career in

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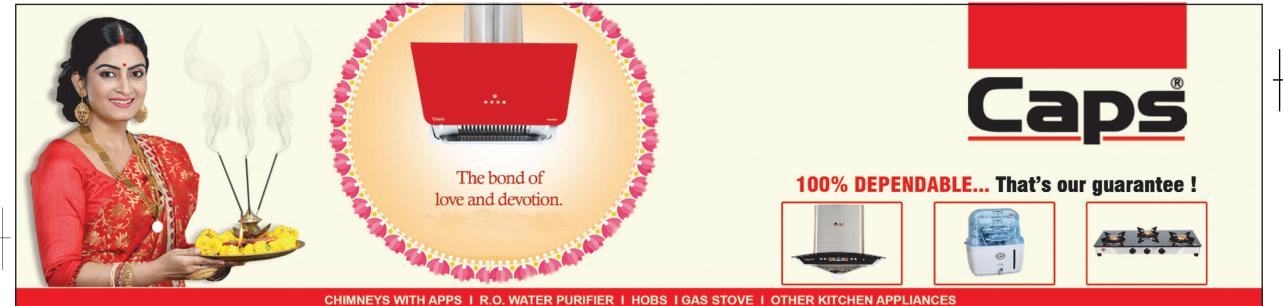
35-year-old poster boy of Indian boxing, looked visibly tired after the third round. And in the fourth round, the

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right punches thrice sent the Indian on the mat. The knockout punch was landed by Lopsan in round 5 as the referee deemed Vijender unfit to continue and handed the bout to Lopsan.A day before the fight Vijender had said: "I'm excited to return to the ring and the weigh-in gives me confidence that I'm on the right path. I never think about my opponent and don't really care who I'm fighting. I'll surely go for the knockout and if not that, I'll

make sure my every punch counts."Notably, this was Vijender's first professional bout in more than

15 months, partly due to the Covid pandemic as all sporting activities had stopped. In his 12th bout held in Dubai in November 2019, the Harvana boxer had defeated Ghana's Charles Adamu.Vijender looked bit rusty from the first round. With his better reach, 26-year-old Lopsan took advantage of his height and kept his rival at bay. Competing for the first time outside Europe, that too in the warm and humid conditions in Goa, the Lopsan didn't show any sign of fatigue. He kept the pressure on despite receiving some hard punches on the body.



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