

### p2 Oxford scientists to expand trials of COVID-19 vaccine

### Nagaland CM for resuming p**7** economic activities

### p11 34 quarantined at Silchar Civil Hospital released

### **NEWS** apsule

### Plasma therapy

NEW DELHI, April 28: The Health Ministry on Tuesday said plasma therapy is at experimental stage and there is no evidence yet to support that it can be used as treatment for COVID-19. The ICMR has launched a nationallevel study to find efficacy of plasma therapy in treatment of COVID-19. - PTI

### **HC** directive

GUWAHATI, April 28: The Gauhati High Court has directed Assam Police to submit the case diary related to the case of Dhing legislator Aminul Islam, who was arrested for making 'objectionable' comments related to the quarantine facilities for COVID-19 patients. - Staff Reporter

### Nadda meet

GUWAHATI, April 28: BJP national president JP Nadda on Tuesday held a review meeting by video conference on COVID-19 with the ruling party's legislators in Assam. Nadda said the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to be a long-drawn affair just as the fight to eradicate polio was. - Staff Reporter

### NITI Aayog

NEW DELHI, April 28: The NITI Aayog building here has been sealed for 48 hours after a directorlevel officer tested positive for coronavirus. The Aayog said disinfection and sanitisation of the building are under way and contacts of the officer have been asked to go on selfquarantine. - PTI

### Three killed

HAILAKANDI, April 28: Three persons were killed in two road accidents in Hailakandi district on Tuesday. Police sources said Ranjan Lal Dey (55)

### Fight against COVID-19



Different types of face masks seen in Guwahati on Tuesday. – UB Photos

# Sonowal for time-bound roadmap to revive economy

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 28: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today vouched for the need of preparing a time-bound roadmap to rejuvenate the State's economy hit by COVID-19 pandemic.

Sonowal, while taking part in a discussion with the leading economists of the State at the Assam Administrative Staff College, also said that it was important to ascertain both shortterm and long term goals to revive State's economy in the post COVID-19 scenario.

The Chief Minister taking note of the suggestions offered during the interactive session also threw his weight behind the idea of setting up economic task forces up to the block level for taking specific revival measures for the State's economy

During the deliberations, experts coming from various institutes urged the Government to take innovative

and strong measures to overcome this challenge and bring the State's economy back on track.

Stating that every crisis presents an opportunity, the Chief Minister called for unified approach to tackle the economic slowdown while discovering Assam's inherent strengths to make it a self-reliant economy which can bear the brunt of future situations.

Underlining the importance of a 100-

day action plan for restructuring the economic system, Sonowal said that prioritizing expenditures and streamlining various sectors such agriculture, livestock etc to overcome the situation through planned interventions are the focus points of the government.

He also stressed on the need to plug the loopholes in the system while cutting out unnecessary expenditures.

"Utilising natural soil fertility and climatic advantage for agricultural resurgence in the State are the keys and we must use this opportunity to make the State self reliant and production surplus in sectors such as fisheries, agriculture, livestock, horticulture etc to generate employment opportunities" he asserted. Referring to the nearly 10 lakh

youths returning to State from various parts of the country in view of

COVID-19 pandemic, Sonowal said that re-Meet with economists turning manpower should be viewed as an

asset instead of a burden. Earlier, State Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma that the State had a buoyant economy before the COVID-19 pandemic with it clocking a GDP growth of 12-16 per cent in the last three financial years as against na-

tional average of 6 per cent. >> SEE PAGE 6

# 2 more COVID-19 cases in State

stands at 37. However, the

number of active hospital

cases is 9 after the discharge

of 27 cured patients and the

Bongaigaon Correspond-

ent adds: The 16-year-old

girl, who tested positive, is a

Barpeta man

dies in Delhi

of COVID-19

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, April 28: A

Central Reserve Police Force

(CRPF) sub-inspector, Mo-

hammed Ikram Hussain hail-

ing from Barpeta district of

Assam, died of COVID-19 at

Safdurjung Hospital here on

Hussain was posted with

the 31 Battalion of CRPF in

Noida and was admitted to

the hospital after he was test-

ed positive for the dreaded

novel coronavirus a couple of

Tuesday evening.

days back.

death of one.

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 28: Two more persons in the State, including a 16-year-old girl, tested positive for COV-ID-19 on Tuesday.

A secondary contact of a Tablighi Jamaat attendee tested positive for the novel coronavirus at Goalpara.

The 61-year-old asymptomatic person was in quarantine at the Urban Health Centre and was to be released on Wednesday.

"His earlier four tests were negative, but unfortunately the last test came positive. We have sent him to MMCH in Guwahati for treatment. Six of his family members have been put in quarantine from today (Tuesday)," a district official said.

Another secondary contact of the Nizamuddin Jamaat attendee tested positive during the day. The 16-year-old girl is from Bongaigaon.

The total number of COV-ID-19 patients in Assam now

### **COVID-19 STATUS** WORLD

Confirmed cases	3,063,814
Cured/Discharged	906,898
🔹 Death	212,345
INDIA	
Confirmed cases	29,974
Cured/Discharged	7,026
🔹 Death	937
ASSAM	
Confirmed cases	37
Cured/Discharged	27
🐲 Death	1
Data as on Tuesd	ay

member of a family of six. The family had passive contact with a COVID-19 patient of Chapar in Dhubri district. They had completed home quarantine period on April 23.

The Health department had sent their third swab samples on April 24 and the test report released on Tuesday confirmed the infection only in the body of the 16-year old girl of the family and not the others, a source in the health depart-

ment said. The patient has been sent to Guwahati for better medical care and her five family members have been brought to the Bongaigaon civil hospital where they will be kept

in isolation wards, the source said. "It is the first case in our

district. The village has been declared as containment zone," Bongaigaon Deputy Commissioner Dr MS Lakshmi Priya said.

### Mohilary to move court on Guv rule STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 28: The Bodoland People's Front (BPF) chief Hagrama Mohilary today said that his party will move the court challenging Governor's rule in the **Bodoland Territorial Council** (BTC) area.

On Monday, for the first time in its history, the power of BTC was taken over by the Assam Governor and an IAS officer was appointed as its administrator. The development took place on the day the tenure of Mohilary-led council got over.

The election to the BTC could not be held due to the

national lockdown over COV-

Earlier, Hagrama request-

ed the BJP-led State govern-

ID-19 pandemic.

and Nagendra Nag (65) were hit by a speeding truck in Kalinagar, while in the second incident, another truck ran over a motorcyclist at Thandapur. The deceased was identified as Rahul Dutta, a resident of Station Road area of Badarpur in Karimgani district. – Correspondent

### **JOCOSERIOUS**



Don't forget to bring sanitizers and soaps!

### Security stepped up along Nepal, Bhutan borders

### **R DUTTA CHOUDHURY**

ders with Nepal and Bhutan

has been augmented to check

movement of people. Mean-

while, a large number of peo-

ple from both India and Ne-

pal are stranded on both sides

of the international border.

India has around 1690 kil-

ometers of international bor-

der with Nepal and about 700

kilometers with Bhutan and

guarding the borders is a

tough job as there is no phys-

ical barrier like fencing along

the borders. The Sashastra

Seema Bal (SSB) has been entrusted with the responsi-GUWAHATI, April 28: bility of guarding both the With the coronavirus outinternational borders and force has increased patrolling break becoming a major cause of concern. security along it to ensure that no one along the international borcan sneak in.

Talking to The Assam Tribune, sources in the SSB said that with the Government of India imposing a lockdown to prevent spreading of coronavirus, the security along the international borders with Nepal and Bhutan has been augmented. Only the trucks carrying essentials are being allowed through the international borders. The border outposts of the SSB are located at a distance of two to three kilometers

from each other and regular patrolling are being carried out.

Sources revealed that thousands of people on both sides of the international border with Nepal are stranded and they were kept in quarantine. Sources revealed that one group of tourists from Gujarat, who were travelling back to India from Nepal, was allowed in after they completed their quarantine period. On the other hand, Nepal police has also stepped up vigil along the international border. Forces of both the countries are working in coordinated manner.

#### >> SEE PAGE 6

### ADB approves USD 1.5 bn loan to India to fight COVID-19

NEW DELHI, April 28: The Asian Development Bank on Tuesday said it has approved USD 1.5 billion (about Rs 11,400 crore) loan to India to help fund its fight against coronavirus pandemic. The loan has been sanc-

tioned with a view to support immediate priorities such as disease containment and prevention, as well as social protection for the poor and economically vulnerable sections. It is fully committed to supporting the Indian government in its response to this unprecedented challenge, said ADB

president Masatsugu Asakawa.

>> SEE PAGE 6

### 'US doing serious probe against China'

WASHINGTON, April 28: The US is carrying out a "very serious" investigation against China, President Donald Trump has said, indicating that his administration is looking at a bigger compensation from Beijing than the USD 140 billion being sought by Germany over the coronavirus pandemic.

The deadly contagion, which originated in China in mid-November, has so far killed more than two lakh people and infected over three million globally. The largest number of them are in the US: more than 56,000 deaths and over one million infections.

Leaders of the US, the UK and Germany increasingly believe that the unfortunate

deaths of so many people and destruction of the global economy could have been avoided, if China had shown transparency and shared the information about the virus in its early phases.

Many countries have started talking about claiming compensation from China.

Trump, during the Rose Garden press meet on Monday, was asked about Germany planning to send a bill to China for Euro 130 billion (USD 140 billion) for the damages. "Would your administration look at doing the same?"

"Well, we can do something much easier than that. We have ways of doing things a lot easier than that," the President replied. - PTI

ment, of which the BPF is an ally, to extend the tenure of his council for another six months. But the Governor did not accept the request, Hagrama said on Monday. Social Welfare Minister Pramila Rani Brahma, who represents the BPF in the

Assam Assembly, convened a meeting with party MLAs at her residence here to discuss the present situation of the Bodoland.

Talking to The Assam Tribune, Brahma said the move was 'unwarranted' as it could have been possible to hold the BTC election by maintaining all medical emergency-related rules and regulations.

## Conservationists against artificial highlands in Kaziranga

#### SIVASISH THAKUR

GUWAHATI, April 28: Voicing concern over the Centre's directive to the Assam government to construct more artificial highlands in Kaziranga National Park ahead of the ensuing flood season, prominent conservation groups have urged the authorities to abandon the plan, cautioning that haphazard and unscientific construction of more highlands would cause irreparable damage to Kaziranga's floodplain ecosystem.

Instead of highlands, the conservationists said, empha-



sis should be put on grassland highland inside a floodplain ecosystem will hasten the procmanagement, restoration of wetlands, and anti-erosion ess of ecological succession and measures, besides facilitating Kaziranga will no longer reundisturbed animal movemain a habitat of rhino, swamp ment in the animal corridors deer, wild buffalo, etc. As the and the adjoining Karbi hills. floodplain ecosystem will "Creating more artificial change to a drier habitat, in the

long run it will not be suitable for these animals. Secondly, construction of additional artificial highland will drastically change the hydrology of the park. This means the flow of water, especially in the flood period, will change to a great extent, hampering the natural cleaning mechanism of the ecosystem," a joint statement by Dr Anupam Sarmah of WWF India, Dr Bibhab Talukdar of Aaranyak, Dr Rathin Barman of Wildlife Trust of India, and Kaushik Barua of Assam Elephant Foundation said.

#### >> SEE PAGE 6

## Lockdown effect: Water quality of Brahmaputra, other rivers improves

Data shows increased discharge of human waste into many rivers

#### **RITURAJ BORTHAKUR**

GUWAHATI, April 28: The water quality of the Brahmaputra and most of the State rivers has shown modest improvement during the lockdown over COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the city's Bharalu river did not reveal significant changes with the value of 'dissolved oxygen' (DO) and 'biochemical oxygen demand' (BOD) remaining the same during the lockdown and before it, according to a study conducted by the Pollution Control

River	(DO) mg/	d Oxygen	Demand	nical Oxygen . I mgl	Total Co (TC) MP	N/100ml	Fecal Co (FC) MPI	
a change	Batore	Atter	Before	After	Before	After	Before	Atter
Brahmaputra (Pandu)	10.2	10.3	1.7	1.7	1400	720	910	360
Bharelu	0-	0	38.3	38	4400 .	15000	3500	3400
Subansiri	7.4	7.5	2.3	1.8	360	720	nii	300
Pagladiya	10.6	9.2	1.4	12	2800	1400	.600	300
Digaru	8.6	8.8	1.7	1.6	2000	1100	720	360

Board, Assam (PCBA).

"The dissolved oxygen value which indicates the amount of oxygen in the water body is observed to be slightly higher during the lockdown period, except in few locations when compared with the pre-

ceding data," PCBA's senior environmental scientist Mridul Dev Adhikary told The Assam Tribune.

The value of biochemical oxygen demand was found to be marginally lower than the previous record of data, indi-

cating lesser pollution load. BOD is the amount of dissolved oxygen needed by aerobic biological organisms to break down organic material present in a given water sample.

## INTERNATIONAL —

### **Oxford scientists to expand** trials of COVID-19 vaccine

CoV-2 spike protein.

ple by the end of May.

as researchers at Oxford University have begun testing their potential vaccine against COVID-19 on a small group of human volunteers, they hope to expand the tests soon after getting positive results from the initial trial.

"Oxford University initiated trials of the COVID-19 vaccine on 23rd April 2020 and plans to vaccinate 800 volunteers in the UK over the next month," the Oxford Vaccine Group said. tering human cells and therefore prevent infection.

"If the trial is successful in the UK, then the Oxford team will approach scientists in the Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI) and will approach the Government of Kenya for permission to evaluate in Kenya," it added in an update. A vaccine candidate for COVID-19 was iden-

LONDON, April 28: Even tified by researchers from the be available by September, Oxford Vaccine Group and several months ahead of any of Oxford's Jenner Institute. the other efforts announced so The potential upcoming

far, said the report. vaccine, ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, In experiments conducted at is based on an adenovirus vacthe US National Institutes of cine vector and the SARS-Health's Rocky Mountain Laboratory in Montana last month, By vaccinating with single doses of the Oxford vac-ChAdOx1 nCoV-19, the sciencine proved effective in protists hope to make the body tecting rhesus macaque monrecognise and develop an imkeys against the virus which is mune response to the Spike responsible for the pandemic. This has raised hope that protein that will help stop the SARS-CoV-2 virus from enthe vaccine might work to protect humans as well.

However, it is too early to According to a report in say which potential vaccine will the New York Times on prove to be the most success-Monday, the scientists plan to ful in protecting people against test the vaccine in trials in-COVID-19 as it may take some volving more than 6,000 peotime for clinical trial data to become available. More than 70 And if the trials show posiresearch efforts are on currenttive results, the first few milly to develop a vaccine against lion doses of the vaccine may COVID-19. - IANS

(ICMR).

two Chinese firms.



Turkish soldiers prepare to load a military cargo plane with personal protection equipment donated by Turkey to help United States combat the novel coronavirus outbreak, in Ankara, Turkey, on Tuesday. – PTI

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**IN MEMORIAM** 

Remembering

Prof. Birendra Chandra Das 1937 - 2018

On this day of 29th April or he Punya Tithi of your 2nd Death Anniversary we fondly remember you with humble espect and seek your blessings neavenly Wherever you are, we pray to Almighty for the eternal liss of your departed soul Γhank you for everything you did for our family. You are

forever alive in our memories Smritilekha Das & Family members



### KALYANI KATAKI HAZARIKA 09.07.1965 - 10.05.2019

Today on the Punya Tithi of your 1<sup>st</sup> Death Anniversary we remember you with tears, and pray to the Almighty for eternal peace of your noble soul.

Dr. Naba Kr. Hazarika (Husband) Abhinava Hazarika (Son Abhinanda Hazarika (Daughter) Adarsha Path, Rupnagar

### COVID-19 test kits: China urges India to resolve issue

BEIJING, April 28: China on would conduct any investigation on this issue, Chinese For-Tuesday urged India to step up communication to "properly eign Ministry spokesman resolve" the issue with the Geng Shuang told a media two Chinese firms which supbriefing here that India and plied the COVID-19 antibody China are closely coordinating rapid test kits, subsequently and cooperating with each othfound faulty by the Indian er since the coronavirus out-Council of Medical Research break surfaced. "As to the specific incidents

The ICMR on Monday you mentioned, we hope the asked states and union terri-Indian side will step up comtories to stop using the test munication with the Chinese kits procured from the companies to properly solve Guangzhou Wondfo Biotech this issue. Of course, China and and Zhuhai Livzon Diagnostics India have channels of commudue to the "wide variations" nication. These are open," in their performance. India Geng said, adding that China procured around five lakh rapstands ready to share more id antibody test kits from the experience and offer assistance as per its capacity.

Asked whether China He also mentioned that the rus," Geng said. – PTI

two companies have released statements in which they said that the quick test kits they produced were approved by the China's National Medical Products Administration of China (NMPA) and met the quality standards and they have been verified by the Indian institute of virology attached to the ICMR. "China and India maintained

close communication and cooperation. China shared experience with India and donated medical supplies to it. We hope the Indian side will stick to facts and enhance communication the two sides to fight the vi-

### **COVID-19 still extremely** dangerous: WHO chief

World Health Organization's increasing trends in Africa, (WHO) Director-General Te-Eastern Europe, Latin Amerdros Adhanom Ghebreyesus ica and some Asian countries." warned that COVID-19 was

He called on countries to constill "extremely dangerous", tinue aggressive tactics against though countries were seekthe pandemic, saying "as locking to return to normal as so- downs in Europe ease with decial isolation measures have clining numbers of new cases. helped slow the spread of the we continue to urge countries

GENEVA, April 28: The ues to be concerned about the reiterated, adding that early evidence suggests that most of the world's population was still susceptible, which means epidemics can easily re-ignite.

Tedros also said that coun-

### Pentagon releases 3 **UFO videos**

NEW YORK, April 28: The US Department of Defense has released three short videos showing what appears to be unidentified flying objects.

The videos showing "unidentified aerial phenomena" the term used by the Pentagon, were taken by the US Navy pilots, one in November 2004 and the other two in January 2015.

Even before the US Department of Defense decided to authorise the release of the videos, they were circulating in the public domain after unauthorised releases in 2007 and 2017. The US Navy previously admitted that these videos circulating in the public domain

were not fakes. "After a thorough review, the department has determined that the authorised release of these unclassified videos does not reveal any sensitive capabilities or systems, and does not impinge on any subsequent investigations of military air space incursions by unidentified aerial phenomena," the US Department of Defense said in a statement on Monday.

"DOD is releasing the vidtries should have listened to eos in order to clear up any the agency after it declared a misconceptions by the public "Public Health Emergency of on whether or not the footage International Concern" on Jan- that has been circulating was

### Governor of Pakistan's Sindh tests COVID-19 positive

KARACHI, April 28 : The Governor of Pakistan's Sindh province has tested positive for the COVID-19 and was self-quarantining at his residence following the test result. "I have just been tested

COVID-19 positive," Imran Ismail said in a tweet late Monday night.

Sindh province is the worsthit in Pakistan. Of the total 13,947 cases in the country, Sindh accounts for 4,956 infections. Samples for Ismail's test have been sent to a laboratory on Sunday, which came positive on Monday night.

Talking to media, Ismail said he has informed people he met over the past couple of days, adding that he will also have his family tested for the virus.The Governor said his health was fine and there was "no need to worry". - IANS

gust 31. But the exact date of

the change was yet to be con-

firmed. The city recorded no

new coronavirus cases for a

third day in a row on Tuesday.

days there were no new infec-

tions, with the total number of

At the same briefing, Deputy

cases now at 1.037.

It was the fifth time in nine

### Hong Kong to ease quarantine restrictions

HONG KONG, April 28: tory would be extended to Au-Hong Kong will ease quarantine restrictions on travellers from mainland China, providing exemptions for school students crossing the border daily and any arrivals deemed economically important, the city's health chief said on Tuesday.

Addressing a press briefing, Secretary for Food and Health Sophia Chan said that the relaxed measures were because the city government was satisfied that the COVID-19 crisis on the mainland was largely under control, reports the (SCMP) newspaper.

Despite those adjustments, Chan also announced the extension of immigration restrictions for general visitors by one month to June 7, and that the requirement for visitors to report their health and travel his-

#### UPKEEPING WORKS

E-Tender Notice No.DBWS/NIET-01 2020-21 dated 06-04-2020. E-Tenders ar invited by the undersigned for the followin works: Name of the work: Upkeeping work of Workshop and Office Building Approximate Cost of the work:₹97.13.142 clusive GST @18%). Earnest Money 1.94.300/-. Cost of tender documen ₹5.000/-. Date & Time of closing of Tender: 04-05-2020 of 13.00 hrs. Th complete information about the tende document of above E-Tender will be availab in website www.ireps.gov.in

Chief Workshop Manage (Mechanical), Dibrugarh

Secretary for Food and Health Howard Chan said the government would consult the relevant sectors on the criteria and procedures of applying for exemptions from quarantine measures, South China Morning Post and would make an announcement as soon as possible. The city government previously said social-distancing measures, including a ban on most gatherings of more than four people, would stay in place until at least May 7, reports the SCMP newspaper. - IANS

> SUPPLY OF WELDING PORTION E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 05-ENG RNY-2020-21. E-tenders are invited by th ndersigned for the following worl Tender No.1. Brief Description of Iten Rangiya - Rangapara North Murkongselek: Supply of welding portio 52 kg) in the jurisdiction of DEN/III. Rangiya section. Tender ∕alue:₹46,87,500/-; Earnest Money 93,800/-. E-tenders will be closed 13:00 hrs. on 18-05-2020 and **Opened** a 15:00 hrs. on 18-05-2020 at office of th Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Rangiya. The complete information wit tender document of above e-tender will b available in website www.ireps.gov.in

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vited from experienced and reputed

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(Construction Organisation) "Serving Customers with a smile"

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hrough e-tendering system is invited from

sperienced and reputed Contractor(s

irm(s) for the following works:- S/N-1: E

ender No. CE/CON/N-A/MB/2020/04

RT1. Name of work: Construction of

substructure of Major Br. No. 448 (spar 8x30.5m), at Km 263/5-8 across river Ai

between station Chaprakata - Bijn

ection Éijni-Patiladaha across rive

Anas on well foundation including rive

raining works in connection with New

Bongaigaon - Agthori BG doubling projec

Approx. Value: ₹43,27,78,362.00. S/N-2

E-Tender No. CE/CON/N-A/MB/2020/05

RT1. Name of work: Construction of sub

structure of 2 Nos Major Bridges i.e. c

Major Br. No. 460 (span 4x45.7m) ove

river Bhulkadoba, at Km 283/0-2 i

Major Br. No. 467 (Span 7x45.7m) ove

river Beki, at Km. 291/0-4 in between station Sarbhog - Barpeta Road, on we

oundation including River training works n connection with New Bongaigaon

Agthori BG doubling project. Approx Value: ₹45,24,43,937.48. S/N-3; E

Tender No. CE/CON/N-A/MB/2020/06

RT1. Name of work: Construction of sub

structure of Major Br. No. 477 (Spa

3x45.7m) across river Dumurkijan, OWG

"Serving Customers with a smile"

veen station Patiladaha - Sarbhog

Major Br. No. 456 (span 2x61.0m 1x45.7m) at Km 276/0-2 in betwee

E-Tender Notice No. CON/2020/April

Northeast Frontier Railway

tion of substructure

nder will be closed at 14:30 hrs. or

Contractor(s)/firm(s) for the followin

MIS/2020/03/RT-1. Name of work

April/03; Dated: 21-04-2020. Ope

with the Chinese side to properly handle the issue and help promote cooperation between

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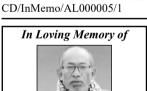
2500 to 98,000 sq. ft Industrial Shed/Warehouse, Godown at Khanapara, Beltola, Lokhra, Amingaon, Changsari, Mirza 94354-03986. Godown/P/AC006815/1

ACHIEVEMENT



Miss Anjali Devi, Assistant Professor, Kaliabor College, Nagaon, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) in Commerce by Gauhat University for her thesis entitled. "Entrepreneurship Development among Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities: A study in Sonitpur District of Assam". She carried out her research work under the guidance of Dr. Balin Hazarika, Associate Professor, Department of Commerce, Kaliabor College, Nagaon. She is the youngest daughter of Late Sonaram Nath and Sri Jyotsna Devi of Ushanagar, Tezpur, Sonitpur. Achieve/AL000006/1

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Guwahati-32 deadly disease. "The pandemic is far from



### Today, on your 10th Death

Lalmuni Devi Bhagat (Wife)

tions.



### CONSULTANCY

Consultancy/NL000025/3

payments for lost work.

tion may help relatively affluent populations limit the spread of COVID-19, but these measures can be divest-

> people around the globe currently dwelling in urban slums, where physical space is scarce, and many rely on daily wage labour for survival.

to find, isolate, test and treat all over," Xinhua new agency every contact, to ensure these

quoted Tedros as saying at a declining trends continue". virtual press conference on The virus remains "ex-Monday. "The WHO contin-

uary 30, when there were 82tened to WHO then, careful-

tremely dangerous", Tedros

cases of COVID-19 and trace cases outside China and no is more to the videos," said lv." he said. – IANS

deaths, the BBC reported. the statement, adding that the "The world should have lis- aerial phenomena observed in the videos remain characterised as "unidentified." - IANS

### Australia, NZ relax measures after success against COVID-19

CANBERRA, April 28: Australia and New Zealand, the two neighbouring countries with different strategies tivities in New Zealand were against the COVID-19 pansteps undertaken by these nademic, on Tuesday began retions from Tuesday, after havlaxing their social distancing ing recorded a significant drop measures following success in in infections, reports Efe news. checking the spread of infec-New Zealand, whose gov-

The reopening of several the battle against the novel maximum alert on March 26, beaches in Australia and the re- coronavirus, from now on will sumption of certain work ac- permit a controlled resumption of 75 per cent economic and commercial activities.

considered one of the strictest lockdowns in the world.

Some 400,000 workers re- ble to conduct their studies turned to their workplaces and from a distance, although refast food outlets filled up for strictions on social activities the first time since the New and physical distancing measernment claims to have won Zealand government declared ures remain in force. - IANS

on top-down directives.

Schools will reopen on Wednesday for students una-

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY real, or whether or not there Û

#### on works of station building etc

E-Tender Notice No. CON/2020/Apr 04; Dated: 21-04-2020. Open tende through e-tendering system is invited fror experienced and reputed Contractor(s irm(s) for the following works:- S/N-1; Tender No. CE/CON/N-A/PA/2020/02 RT1. Name of work: At station Bongaigaon, Chaprakata, Bijni Patiladaha: construction of statio building, Passenger Platform shelters Foot over Bridges, other passenge amenities, circulating area, staff guarter etc. and other ancillary works i connection with New Bongaigaon - Agtho BG doubling project. Approx. Value ₹48,25,63,164.78. S/N-2; E-Tender No CE/CON/N-A/PA/2020/03/RT1. Name o

work: At station- Sorbhog, Barpeta Road Guagacha, Sarupeta, Pathsala construction of station building, Passenge Platform shelters, Foot over Bridges, othe ssenger amenities, circulating area staff quarters etc. and other ancillar vorks in connection with New Bongaigad - Agthori BG doubling project. **Appro** Value: ₹47,95,31,358.77. All above ender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 29 05-2020 and opened at 15.30 hrs. on 29 05-2020. For Details Please vis

w.ireps.gov.in. Chief Engineer/Con/4, Maligaon Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) (Output of the serving Customers with a smile"

#### SUPPLY & MANUFACTURE WORKS AT RANGIYA DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No.: 01-ENGG-RNY 2020-21 (SL 01 to 02) dated 24-04-2020. nders are invited by the undersigned for following works: Tender No. 1. Brie Description of Item: Supply of welding said study co-author Lee Riley. ortion for the work:- (i) Rangiya Divisio Topping the list of recom-New Bongaigaon-Agthuri (SL)-CTR (P) 22.10 KM (welding portion) (total = 22.10 KM mendations is a call for governii) New Bongaigaon-Rangiya (SL ments to partner with existing TSR(P)-8.355 KM & Rangiya yard- TSR(P community leaders and NGOs 1.95 KM. Tender Value: ₹60,61,029.80 Earnest Money:₹1,21,200/-. Cost of tende to form emergency planning document: ₹5.000/-. Tender No. 2. Brie committees that can consider Description of Item: Manufacturing an the unique social, economic and supplying of 50 mm size machine crush stone ballast from Tangla/Silapather fo cultural needs of the commu-Rangiya Division for the work of (i) CTR(P nity in charting the appropriate Total = 22.10 KM. (ii) TSR(P) - 8.355 KM Rangiya yard- TSR(P)-1.95 KM. (ii response, rather than relying ncreasing sleeper Density- 21.63 KM. (iv C&W workshop: CTR(S)- 7.932 KM. ( Similarly, as many commu-TTR(P) (FS+CS+CMSC) - 25 Sets. (v nities lack easy access to TSR(P)-2.80 KM, (vii) Increasing Sleepe Density- 11.20 KM. Tender Value health care, community and ₹9.71.28,369/-, Earnest Money:₹6,35,700 informal health workers . Cost of tender document: ₹10,000/ should be deployed to moni-Date of closing of E-tender: 18-05-2020 at 13.00 hrs. & opening of Tender: 15.00 tor individuals for early symphrs. of 18-05-2020 at DRM (W) Rangiya. Fo toms and educate them about etails please visit www.ireps.gov.in

on well foundation at Km. 310/8-9 i ween station Sarupeta - Pathsala Construction of sub-structure of Major Br No. 488 (Span 2x45.7m OWG) ácros river Tihunala, on well foundation at Kn 325/8-9 in between station Pathsala - Tihu including River training works in onnection with New Bongaigaon - Agtho BG doubling project. Approx. Value ₹22,59,18,175.23. All above E-tender wi be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 19-05-2020 and opened at 15.30 hrs. on 19-05-2020 For Details Please visit <u>www.ireps.gov.in</u> Chief Engineer/Con/4, Maligad Northeast Frontier Railway DRM (W), Rang

<u>NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY</u>  $( \bigcirc )$ 

Huge impact of COVID-19 on people living in urban slums: Study

NEW YORK, April 28 : Ur- Journal of Urban Health, pro- slum dwellers particularly vul- informal economy, which will ban slums are uniquely vul- vides urgent recommenda- nerable to contracting and nerable to coronavirus (COVtions for reducing the impact ID-19) pandemic, say reof COVID-19 on people living searchers, adding that to help in poverty.

such people, governments "The political and economic should focus on providing bashocks and instability that are sic needs, including freshwahappening now and are likely ter, sanitation and providing to follow from this epidemic will likely kill more and lead to more disability in this pop-According to the study, government-enforced social isolaulation than the coronavirus itself," said study lead author Jason Corburn from the University of California-Berkeley in the US.

"We felt we needed a strateing for the nearly one billion gy that recognized the unique needs of the urban poor at the front," Corburn added.

According to the researchers. close living conditions and lack The report, published in the of basic sanitation make urban

disappear under lockdowns,' spreading the coronavirus. Many also have pre-existing medical conditions and lack ac-

cess to health care, putting them at high risk of dying or developing serious complications if they do get sick with the virus.

Simply staying home is rarely an option for them, as it often means giving up work and even basic necessities like food, water and sanitation. In some countries, like Kenya and South Africa, people even face govern-

ment violence for not obeying curfews and other restrictions. "In many slums, people need to walk a long distance to collect water to use at home. Most peo-

ple living in slums also have no how to avoid transmitting the choice but to participate in the disease. - IANS



### Filming the Fight

The Malayalam Film Virus was released in 2019. The film is based on the 2018 Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala. It was extensively shot around Government Medical College, Kohzikhode, the second Medical College in Kerela.

OOOO /apnedeshkojano | contribution@apnedeshkojano.com
 Powered by: Priya Communications

# NATIONAL Interest and the assamt the assamt

NEW DELHI, April 28: Delhi Lt Governor (LG) Anil Baijal on Tuesday directed all district magistrates to implement a 'microcontainment zone strategy' in their respective areas to arrest the spread of COVID-19, an official said here.

Under this plan, small clusters reporting cases of the dreaded virus will be identified and declared containment zones instead of big ones.

The move comes after several cases of the infection were reported in some COVID-19 containment zones, including in Jahangir Puri, where people were seen moving around and meeting each other on the streets despite the restrictions. At present, the authorities to block the entry and exit a points of an area where COVID-19 cases emerge and J people are not allowed to J step out of their houses. v Essential items are delivered U at the doorstep. v "It was observed that V

people in some containment zones are roaming on streets and meeting each other. "DMs have been directed to implement 'micro-

containment zone strategy', under which small clusters will be formed and declared containment zones so that there is strictly no movement of people," the official told PTI.

Earlier this month, 31 members of an extended family in north Delhi's Jahangir Puri contracted the disease despite the area being declared a containment zone.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had also appealed to people living in containment zones to not step out of their houses as it might contribute

ies to the spread of the disease and pose threat to lives.

On Tuesday, Baijal, Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain and DMs attended a video conference held by Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Harsh Vardhan to discuss measures to contain the virus.

In the meeting, talks were held on the strict implementation of standard operating procedures in non-COVID-19 hospitals in the National Capital, following cases of coronavirus infection in these facilities.

The total number of

James Warren Tea Limited The Tippuk Tea Estate of James Warren Tea Limited situated at Doomdooma circle in Assam has complied with all the Government Rules and Guidelines issued during this COVID-19 lockdown and look forward for full co-operation and support from the local garden unions and workforce to revive from this situation without any disturbance in the operations. COVID-19 cases in the National Capital crossed the 3,000-mark on Monday, with

190 fresh cases being reported during the h day. – PTI



### 819 highway projects delayed during lockdown period: Gadkari SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, April 28: At least 819 highway projects covering 30,301 km, costing about Rs 3,06,250 crore, have been delayed during the lockdown period.

A presentation made by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways showed the works being carried during the lockdown period. It was stated that 1,315 projects covering 49,238 km worth Rs 5,89,648 crore were under progress.

The ministry said State-specific issues like pending land acquisition, environment clearance have been delaying the project implementation.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday called upon all the States to take urgent action so that blockades of trucks and lorries at inter-State borders are cleared at the earliest possible ensuring smooth movement of essential goods to various parts of the country.

Speaking at the meeting of State Road Transport Ministers held via video conference, Gadkari urged the ministers to intervene in such matters and ensure resolutions through the district administrations. At the same time, he underlined following the health advisories and other guidelines like proper distance, wearing masks, use of sanitizers, both by the driver and cleaners and also at the dhabas. Gadkari further pointed out that transportation of labour to factories may be facilitated by duly following the health protocols of maintaining minimum one metre distance, wearing masks and use of sanitizers. He pointed out that providing food and shelter to labour may be ensured while fully observing the norms of social distancing and hygiene. The meeting was also attended by Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways General (Retd) VK Singh besides the Transport and PWD Ministers. The Chief Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Himachal Pradesh also attended the conference along with top officials. He urged the States to expedite land acquisition process as delays hamper the pace of development and asked them to utilise funds which are remaining unused with them to the extent of about Rs 25,000 crore. Gadkari suggested that State Transport Ministers should explore operationalising appbased two-wheeler taxis especially in rural areas which will assist farming communities with smoother movement. This will also provide new employment opportunities. The Chief Ministers and State PWD Ministers urged Gadkari to ensure that national highway projects in their Sates may be expedited. References were made to the specific projects pending in the Janasanyog/DF/63/20 States.

### 'Managing kidney disease in COVID-19 cases a challenge'

ko lano

CHENNAI, April 28: Manafter she was suspected to have contracted the virus from ease among the COVID-19

ease among the COVID-19 positive cases is emerging as an additional challenge to doctors battling the pandemic. On April 23, a 70-year-old

man died of COVID-19 at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital here after he tested positive. Hospital authorities said he had diabetes, hypertension and chronic kidney disease and was on dialysis.

Recently, an elderly womansevere COVID-19 patients andwho was admitted for kidneynot just the lungs," said Drproblems at the same hospitalSuresh Rao, Intensivist with thetested positive for coronaviruscity-based MGM Health Care.

after sne was suspected to have contracted the virus from an a doctor who was treating her. sa "Effect on the kidney is secondary to hypoxia or cytokines con released by the COVID-19. It is generally perceived that

COVID-19 types of viruses are borne from respiratory systems, but a growing body of evidence shows that the virus also attacks the kidneys either directly or mediated by excessive immune response seen in severe COVID-19 patients and not just the lungs," said Dr

Citing the reports of SARS and MERS-CoV infections, he says Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) had developed in 5 to 15 per cent cases, but about 60 to 90 per cent of those cases reported mortality.

"The preliminary reports of COVID-19 patients suggested a lower incidence (3 to 9 per cent) of AKI, but later reports indicated a higher frequency of abnormalities. A study of 59 patients with COVID-19 revealed that about two-thirds of patients developed leak of protein in urine during their stay in hospital," he said. – PTI  

 भारतीय उद्यमिता संस्थान
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 Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IIE)
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 Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (IE), an organization under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Gov.t. of India invites application for the posts of Project Lead, Project Executive (Gd.-II), Project Executive (Gd.-II), on contractual basis for a livelihood development project of tibal beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY) of IE. Desirable candidates may vist IE website: www.ieitraining.org or contact: 0381-2300840.
 WB/Tiexternal

 Shortisted candidates will be immediately called for interview.
 Last date for submission of application 12th May, 2020.
 WB/Tiexternal

[6]

- জিলা আৰু ৰাজ্যিক পৰ্যায়ত শক্তিশালী সমিতি গঠনৰ জৰিয়তে কৃষকৰ পাচলি ক্ৰয় কৰি উপভোক্তাৰ মাজত বিক্ৰী কৰাৰ কাম পূৰ্ণগতিত চলি আছে।
- ৰাজ্যৰ এখন জিলাৰ পৰা আন এখন জিলালৈ শাক-পাচলি, ফলমূল তথা অন্যান্য কৃষিজাত সামগ্ৰীৰ পৰিবহন বাধাহীনভাৱে চলি আছে।
- কনটেইনমেণ্ট জোনসমূহত কেন্দ্ৰীয় গৃহ মন্ত্ৰ্যালয় আৰু ৰাজ্যৰ স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগে জাৰি কৰা নীতি-নিৰ্দেশনা মানি শাক-পাচলি, ফলমূল তথা অন্যান্য কৃষিজাত সামগ্ৰী পৰিবহন কৰা বাহনসমূহ চলাচল কৰিবলৈ দিয়া হৈছে।
- অসম তথা উত্তৰ-পূৰ্বাঞ্চললৈ অন্যান্য সামগ্ৰীৰ সৈতে কৃষিজাত সামগ্ৰী সৰবৰাহৰ বাবে ১৯ খন কোৱিদ-১৯ পাৰ্চেল ৰেল চলাচলৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰা হৈছে।
- ৰাজ্যিক দুৰ্যোগ ব্যৱস্থাপনা সংস্থাৰ নিৰ্দেশাৱলীৰ ভিত্তিত ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত কৃষকক ক্ষতিপূৰণ আগবঢ়োৱাৰ বাবে জিলা উপায়ুক্তক ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত কৃষকৰ তালিকা প্ৰস্তুত কৰিবলৈ নিৰ্দেশ দিয়া হৈছে।
- বৰ্ণসংকৰ জাতৰ বিভিন্ন শাক-পাচলিৰ বীজ যোগান ধৰাৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰাৰ লগতে মৰাপাটৰ বীজ যোগান ধৰা হৈছে।
- কৃষকৰ সুবিধাৰ বাবে কীটনাশক, ৰাসায়নিক সাৰ, কৃষি সামগ্ৰীৰ দোকান খোলা ৰখা হৈছে।
- গুৱাহাটীৰ পামহিত কলৰ পাইকাৰী বজাৰ স্থাপনৰ ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰা হৈছে।
- লকডাউনৰ সময়চোৱাতে অসমৰ পৰা দেশৰ বিভিন্ন ৰাজ্যলৈ ফল-মূল, শাক-পাচলি, মাকৈ আদি প্ৰেৰণ কৰি থকা হৈছে।

নই হোৱা শাক-পাচলিৰ মূল্য : প্ৰায় ৪০ কোটি টকা মুঠ বিক্ৰী হোৱা শাক-পাচলিৰ মূল্য : প্ৰায় ২১০ কোটি টকা ৰাজাৰ বিভিন্ন জিলাত বিক্ৰী হোৱা শাক-পাচলিৰ মূল্য : প্ৰায় ১১৩ কোটি টকা বহিঃ ৰাজাত বিক্ৰী হোৱা শাক-পাচলিৰ মূল্য : প্ৰায় ১৭ কোটি টকা

লকডাউনৰ সময়চোৱাত ঃ

লকডাউনৰ সময়চোৱাত ঃ ২৭ এপ্ৰিল,২০২০ তাৰিখ পৰ্যন্ত মুখা মন্ত্ৰী কৃষি সা-সঁজুলি যোজনা আৰু পি এম কিষাণ আঁচনিৰ জৰিয়তে সামৰি লোৱা মুঠ হিতাধিকাৰীৰ সংখ্যা আৰু তেওঁলোকৰ বেংক একাউণ্টত জমা হোৱা ধনৰ পৰিমাণ

হিডাধিকাৰী ঃ ২২,৮৬,৯২৭ জন ধনৰ পৰিমাণ ঃ প্ৰায় ৪৭৮ কোটি টকা



কৃষি বিভাগ, অসম

স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগে জাৰি কৰা বিধি-ব্যৱস্থা আৰু সামাজিক ব্যৱধান মানি চলি কৃষি কাৰ্যত আস্থা নিয়োগ কৰক। ৰাজ্যৰ জনসাধাৰণৰ খাদ্য সুৰক্ষা নিশ্চিত কৰাৰ পৱিত্ৰ সংগ্ৰামৰ সেনানী হওঁক।

### **MESSAGE FOR TODAY**

A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.

### – JOSEPH CAMPBELL

### The Assam Tribune

### Need to specify

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his fourth interaction with the Chief Ministers of different States, had asserted that India would have to give importance to the economy even as she continues to fight Covid-19. This is in line with the recent relaxations on lockdown restrictions announced by the Centre before its scheduled lifting on May 3. Expectedly, the prolonged period of economic inactivity has subjected millions of people who lead a hand to mouth existence to immense hardships. Thus the slight easing of the restrictions announced from April 20 was designed to provide some relief to those segments of the public who do not have resources to tide over a long period without being able to carry on with their source of livelihood. According to the new directives, agricultural businesses, which include dairy, fishery, tea, coffee and rubber plantations, and shops selling farming products, would be allowed to resume activities, while public works programmes, which provide employment for daily-wage earners, could reopen. Self-employed workers like plumbers, electricians and carpenters were also allowed to resume their vocations, a step that is to provide relief to a sizable section of the working public. While all markets could open in rural and semi-rural areas and sell non-essential items also, such non-essential items could be sold in urban areas only if the shop was located at a residential area and registered as a 'standalone' shop.

However, reportedly, such easing of restrictions have not yet had desired results, primarily because the directives have been generic rather than specific, and many traders particularly in the urban sector are confused whether they are allowed to open or not. One of the primary sources of confusion is exactly what constitutes essential and non-essential items. For instance, while restaurants are mandated to remain shut, can sweetmeat shops having only take away facilities return to business? Similarly, it is all very well for a plumber or electrician to be allowed to work, but unless the hardware or electric equipment shops, which are rarely of standalone nature, are kept open, the former cannot get the material with which to continue working. Also, there is some contradiction to the exhortation of administrations for people to stay at home, which means that shops selling nonessentials, as reported in the media, cannot get sufficient number of customers to make remaining open worth the while. It has also been reported in the media that the police in many places had resorted to heavy-handed methods to effectively enforce the lockdown during the early stages, which has put a fear psychosis amongst the people, and made many traders hesitant to open up their establishments even though now they are allowed to do so. It is expected that administrations across the nation would take heed of such ground realities and put in place rectification measures so that the economy can be restarted.

### Horticultural exports

With the prolonged lockdown hitting the State's agricultural community hard, the State Government has done well to make arrangements for exporting horticultural products to other States and even beyond the national frontiers. As per official data, thousands of tons of vegetables and fruits have rotted in the fields and the trend will not diminish unless urgent interventions are made. The farmers had a torrid time during the initial phase of the shutdown and even when the sale of vegetables was allowed later on, disruption in the supply chain caused by transportation bottlenecks and labour crunch continued to bleed the farmers. The sudden stop in bulk commercial procurement of vegetables following the closure of restaurants, hotels, hostels, etc., has also impacted their sale adversely. Although belated, the interventions are coming now and the harrowed tillers will get some succour with their produce reaching the markets outside the State. The situation should also be seized as an opportunity to boost longterm export of the State's horticultural products. This will call for putting in place a robust infrastructure for exporting horticulture products abroad. The LGBI Airport had recently acquired facilities for exporting fruits and vegetables from the State to foreign countries directly, doing away with the need to send those from the Kolkata airport. With more export vistas opening up, the facilities at LGBI Airport should be further augmented to facilitate largescale export in the days ahead. Assam and the rest of the Northeast are ideally suited for horticulture but the lack of a sustained focus by the governments has hindered its growth. Indeed, there remain many unexploited areas concerning fruits, vegetables and herbs in the region and properly tapped, these can do wonders to the agrarian economy of the Northeast. The demand for fresh fruits and vegetables, especially organic produce, is huge in the western countries and through a pragmatic approach, the Northeast can make a strong inroad into the global fruit export market. It is a poor reflection on our successive governments that we have failed to put to good use our inherent advantages in such sectors. In the Darrangiri banana market of Goalpara, we have the biggest market of its kind in the whole of Asia. Hundreds of truckloads of the fruit find their way to far-off markets of not just neighbouring States but countries like Bhutan and Nepal as well on a regular basis every week. But the amenities at such an important market place are virtually non-existent. There is no proper accommodation and other amenities required for such huge congregations of traders from different places. Horticulture and food processing, which go side by side, warrant urgent attention by the local entrepreneurs. The Government can play the role of a facilitator and provide the required technological assistance and market linkage.

# Can India compete with China?

### Ananda Bhaumik

hina is a manufacturing behemoth but if India plays to its strengths, one believes, it can provide a fair amount of competition. Let us look at four companies, two each in China and India.

Shenzen MindRay Biomedical Electronics is a maker of medical devices. Its founder, 69-year-old Li Xiting, with a personal net worth of \$13 billion, is getting richer by a billion dollars a month exporting ventilators, imaging devices and patient monitors to over 100 countries around the world. As one of a handful of accredited manufacturers in China, MindRay's factories currently account for 20% of the global capacity.

Li trained as a physicist and spent two decades in academia, including a stint as a visiting scholar at the University of Paris-Sud, before co-founding MindRay in 1991.

Nanjing Liming Bio Products exports diagnostic kits for testing the presence of the coronavirus which causes Covid-19. In late January 2020, all throughout the Chinese New Year holidays, the company kept a group of scientists and technicians working round the clock and had a kit ready by early February. Strangely enough, they did not apply for accreditation in China because the process of accreditation is long and time consuming. Instead, they applied for accreditation in the European Union and within a month received the official certification – CE Accredition – which means its kits complied with health safety and environment standards set by the European regulators.

By the end of March 2020, 102 Chinese firms were granted access to the European market though most did not have the required National Medical Product Admin-

istration permission to sell in China. For instance, only 13 companies have been licensed to sell the PCR kits in China as of April 2020, with eight selling the simpler antibody version.

As a result, in March 2020 alone, China exported almost four billion masks, 37.5 million gowns and isolation suits, 16,000 ventilators and four million coronavirus testing kits. A staggering amount by any standards.

However, there is a dark side to the story. Countries including Spain, Britain and the Netherlands have reported Chinese masks and testing kits having quality issues. The Spanish newspaper *El País* reported in mid-March that the testing equipment from Shenzhen-based Bioeasy Biotechnology had a 30% detection rate compared to the stated accuracy of 80%. Bioeasy, it turned out, was not included in the approved list of suppliers offered to Spain by China's Ministry of Commerce. The sad fact is that many fly-bynight operators often armed with fake certificates and export licences are exporting unlicensed and sub-standard goods and many importers are importing them as well knowing fully well that the source may be suspect.

A second aspect of this export story is that China still depends on

The moral of the story is that India should compete where its strength lies – innovation at a lower cost – or what strategist Navi Radjou terms as frugal innovation and we the Indians call *jugaad* which roughly translates to make do with what is available.

> components that need to be sourced from outside China. On April 8, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi called his Swiss counterpart Ignazio Cassis and requested that Switzerland 'significantly step up supplies' so that Chinese ventilator manufacturers could meet global demand.

In summary, i) China has technocrats turned entrepreneurs; ii) the Chinese are very hard working; iii) China has a strict system of approvals, but iv) the Chinese still depends on components that need to be sourced from outside.

Now let's see how India is doing. On March 23, a diagnostic kit developed in record time by Punebased Indian company MyLab received approval from the Government. The kit costs a quarter of the imported kits and delivers results in about two hours compared to the six or seven hours required

for the imported kits. At the same time, the Indian newspapers carried the story of virologist Minal Bhosale, My-Lab's research and development chief, who worked till the last day of her complicated pregnancy and went to the hospital to deliver the day after she completed her project. On April 25, Indian

car maker Maruti announced that it is teaming up with AGVA to manufacture 10,000 ventilators by May. The AGVA ventilators were developed by neurosurgeon

developed by neurosurgeon Deepak Agrawal and robot scientist Diwakar Vaish and they are priced at \$2,000 whereas conventional ventilators cost over \$10,000. It is worth noting that manufacturing giant GE is supplying ventilators to the US Government at \$16,000 each.

While the Indian auto giant Ma-

hindra has also developed a mechanical ventilator costing about \$100, the AGVA model is a sophisticated model with the added advantage that the base model costs less than \$1,000 with any commonly available android smart phone acting as the interface.

Going back to the lessons learnt from the Chinese medical instrument makers which also apply to other industries, we can see that India can match them with the added advantage of original research and out-of-the-box thinking.

The moral of the story is that India should compete where its strength lies – innovation at a lower cost – or what strategist Navi Radjou terms as frugal innovation and we the Indians call *jugaad* which roughly translates to make do with what is available.

MyLab and AGVA have proven once again that the private sector can do what the scientists at the Indian Government labs from the DRDO to ISRO have shown many times over, that they are as innovative and at the cutting edge with the Mars mission as the shining example.

China has the advantage of opening up their economy a decade earlier and working purposefully towards their stated goal. India started a decade later and is still finding its way given its political structure but if more and more Indians become entrepreneurs and India take the frugal engineering route, it can get there.

# Covid-19 impact: What history tells

### Aranyak Saikia

s large parts of the world are under lockdown, the unprecedented Covid-19 crisis has thrown most economies and sectors out of gear. People are rightly worried about the economic consequences of this pandemic and many commentators feel that these will be even more severe than the actual loss of lives from the pandemic itself. They are likely to be more prolonged and would certainly disrupt multiple sectors.

However, we do not know with certainty how these disruptions are likely to pan out in the next couple of years. While we do know that they are likely to be negative, the perceived trade-off between lockdown and normal economic activity is not completely clear. That is, what would have been the outcome had lockdown measures not been imposed? Would the costs simply be restricted to the loss of lives? Or would it lead to other adverse impacts that could have been mitigated through lockdown measures? Economists are turning over pages of history to get possible answers. Take, for instance, the Bubonic plague that ravaged Europe in the

14th century. Europe lost nearly half of its working population. No doubt it led to massive upheavals on trade, commerce and industries. Yet, as a new research paper recently suggested, the reduction of the working population led to a shortage of labour. This drove up wages in the medium term. The result was that the workers had more money to save and invest. The demand for luxuries like paintings, ornaments and artefacts went up. One of the conclusions of the paper is that this rise in demand for such luxuries might have inadvertently aided the Renaissance that took its roots around the 15th century. However, it's unlikely that such a scenario will play out now. The number of deaths due to Covid-19, though very tragic and heartbreaking, is still a small fraction of the overall workforce.

Fast forwarding to the 20th cen-

al included both policy interventions as well as deaths. Many countries imposed lockdowns in response to the pandemic. That had a clear negative impact on the economy. At the same time, the deaths and the associated healthcare costs led to the loss of productivity of the workforce. A recent paper has analysed whether the lockdowns exacerbated the economic impact. It has made a comparative analysis of the cities in the US that imposed restrictive measures. It finds that "cities that intervened earlier and more aggressively do not perform worse and, if anything, grow faster after the pandemic is over. Our findings thus indicate that NPIs (nonpharmaceutical interventions) not only lower mortality; they also mitigate the adverse economic consequences of a pandemic". Nonpharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) include restrictions on movement of people and goods,

flu pandemic can give a few clues. For instance, the closure of schools for two weeks in the US was estimated to have cost 0.3% of US GDP. This was primarily due to the disruptions in transport services, local eateries in the vicinity of the schools and closure of local sports clubs. This loss was in addition to the healthcare costs of the flu pandemic.

As we have witnessed in the past few months, different economies have responded differently to the pandemic. Most countries were initially reluctant to close down their economies or to restrict the movement of people. The complacency on the part of their governments in underestimating the potential threat led to the outbreak spreading rapidly in these countries, costing lives and putting pressure on the healthcare systems. In the last few weeks, most governments have understood the potent threat posed by the virus and have gone for strict lockdown measures. India has been an exception in this regard. Correctly anticipating the likelihood of a large-scale outbreak in the country, the Indian Government was quick to impose a lockdown. We are already witnessing unprecedented scenes as a result of these lockdown measures. For the

first time in history, the US oil prices turned negative at minus (-) \$37 per barrel, as there was too much supply of oil relative to demand. In India, the large-scale movement of migrants back to their native places in response to the lockdown was a reminder to the human cost of this crisis. All of this has generated widespread uncertainty and anxiety among investors and policymakers.

What remains certain is that the debate on the magnitude and direction of the pandemic and its associated policy responses is likely to go on in the near future. The studies quoted above that look at the costs and benefits of previous lockdown measures are concentrated on the US and western economies. We do not have concurrent research for the Indian economy. Clearly, India is very different from the West both in terms of its infrastructure as well its demographics. This calls for further research into India's past respo ease outbreaks and its associated economic outcomes. How will the trade-off between the economic effects of the lockdown and the healthcare costs of the current Covid-19 pandemic play out in India? Only time will tell. But history tells us one thing: the outcome is far from unambiguous.

tury, an analysis of the Spanish flu of 1918-19 that killed more than 50 million people worldwide reveals another set of interesting conclusions. While the world economic output shrank by more than 4.3% as a result of the pandemic (this was also immediately after World War I), the reasons for this upheav-

appropriate the money out of the

closing down establishments and awareness measures. Thus, going by this paper, the current lockdown in many parts of the globe may be a necessary evil.

However, not everyone agrees. Many other researchers find that lockdowns have ripple effects that can prolong the economic stagnation. An analysis of the 2009 swine

Wildlife protection need of the hour

### Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, – I am deeply concerned to learn about the tragic death of two golden langurs, a mother and her baby, of the Kakoijana Reserve Forest in Bongaigaon district after they were hit by a four-wheeler recently. Such incidents are likely to increase significantly in near future. During the lockdown period of the last one month, we have observed behavioural changes in animals and birds. There are various reports of spotting animals in human-inhabited areas all across the country during the lockdown period. Animals have started moving in a less polluted and relaxed atmosphere. Once the lockdown will be lifted, these animals will be at off guard and they will be unable to adapt to the sudden movement of vehicles. human beings. This will lead to more accidents. So, I request all to drive very carefully to protect animals; if you spot an animal on the road up ahead, slow down or try to stop your vehicle. Animals and birds also have equal rights to stay on planet Earth. Yours etc., SUNIL JALLAN, Golaghat.

### DA freezing

Sir, – A big budget of Rs 1.70 lakh crore has been estimated to fight the Covid-19 pandemic in our country. The source of fund to

budget provision is obviously the public taxation and government savings by reduction of expenditure on various heads of account including salary and pension. The freezing of DA from January, 2020 to June, 2021 payable to the Central Government employees and pensioners would save a big sum of money to the government exchequer. The DA is against price index, i.e., inflation. The last instalment of DA declared with effect from January, 2020 was 4%. If the next instalments due on July, 2020 and January, 2021 at the present rate are added, it would be 12% approximately which costs not less than Rs 50 thousand crore. Immediately after the declaration of DA in January, 2020, the Central Government raised the excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs 3 per litre which would bring Rs 39 thousand crore to the exchequer additionally. Hence, the freezing of DA and the hike of petrol-diesel prices by Rs 3 per litre would bring nearly Rs 89 thousand crore. As we know, the hike of diesel-petrol prices increases the transportation costs, and hence they directly affect the prices of all goods including essential commodities. In such a situation, the excise duty levied on diesel-petrol at the rate of Rs 5 per litre excluding GST by the Assam Government is nothing but a hit on

the wound. Apart from the above hikes and indirect taxation, the general public are bearing the brunt of uncontrolled price rise caused by illegal traders and syndicates. Altogether the public would have to bear the burden of crores of rupees to control the pandemic. Yours etc., APURBA KUMAR GOGOI, Batahghuli, Guwahati.

#### Prepare for the worse

Sir, – Apropos the edit page interview of Amiya Sarma, noted economist (AT, April 26), Sarma appears quite optimistic about the economic situation vis-a-vis Covid-19 in India, in general, and Assam, in particular! His views are contrary to what many others are voicing, including by many experts within and outside India. However, if one had an opportunity of interacting with businesses, small traders and retailers, etc., as also the common man before the nationwide lockdown was imposed from the midnight of April 24, 2020, one would have been clear that all such entities were facing distress for quite long, especially since the demonetization days of November, 2016. Further, the economic activities had an adverse impact on vast parts of India, because of sectarian and communal violence, though Assam was a bit isolated from such an impact. However, Assam had a peculiar issue with the anti-CAA protests since midDecember, 2019, and the economic activities suffered, especially in sectors like tourism.

The sad truth is that Assam's economy is dependent on government finances, and this is quite precarious, to say the least. Even the State Finance Minister has hinted on this in clear terms. The State was compelled to raise taxes on the sale of petrol and diesel by a hefty amount to improve its revenue sources. It is good to get optimistic, but it is better that we are prepared for a worse kind of scenario, during and after the lockdown. Yours etc., D BHUTIA, RG Baruah Road, Guwahati.

### Financial crisis

Sir, – During this lockdown, difficulty has arisen everywhere in everyone's life and simultaneously we are supporting our Government as much as possible. Already our State Government is facing a financial crisis. We all know that more than 60% of the total population is dependent on agriculture but still the people are dying of hunger. In the last one month all the crops and vegetables in the fields got spoiled – in the town areas the people are not getting vegetables while in the village areas because of the poor crop in the field, the farmers are not getting a single penny. The Government should have taken the initiative to buy all the vegetables

from the farmers and then supply the same to the needy. Secondly, if the political people do not travel much from one district to another, the Government expenditure will be reduced. Yours etc., ABHIJIT DAS, Jagiroad.

### Pig deaths

Sir, – Through your esteemed daily, I would like to draw the attention of the authorities concerned regarding the sudden death of 2,000 pigs in the State. At a time when the dreaded Covid-19 infection has engulfed the world claiming the lives of nearly two lakh people, yet another suspected contagious disease has killed more than 2,000 pigs in the State. The sudden deaths of the animal have created a fear psychosis among the people of the Red Zone districts. The Morigaon district is well acquainted for inhabiting the Tiwa, Bodo and Kachari tribes in the State. They mostly are the inhabitants of the Jagiroad and Laharighat constituencies. Piggery farming is their main source of livelihoods. But they keep the animals in an unscientific condition which may lead to the disease. The authorities concerned should take necessary steps in this connection. Yours etc., PRANJAL KR SHARMA, Morigaon.

Articles (within 1000-1100 words) and Letters to the Editor for publication in the editorial page may be sent to the email ID: *editor@assamtribune.com*. WEATHER

LOCAL FORECAST :

Generally cloudy sky with

one or two spells of rain/thun-

dershower is very likely to

occur. Maximum and minimum

temperatures are most likely

to be 31°C and 22°C respec-

60-year-old

turtle dies at

Jorpukhuri

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, April 28: A

black softshell turtle aged about

60 years died at Jorpukhuri

here on Tuesday. The twin Jorpukhuri ponds located beside

the historic Ugratara Devalava

tively on Wednesday

**TEMPERATURE:** 

Max 28.5°C

Min 21.8°C

\_\_\_\_\_ *CITY*\_\_\_\_\_ 2 GMC water reservoirs in dilapidated condition

#### CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, April 28: Two water reservoirs of the Satpukhuri water plant at Nijarapar in Chandmari area are in a dilapidated condition and require urgent repair.

There are several cracks on the walls and a part of the tin roof of one reservoir and the concrete roof of another reservoir have fallen off, resulting in huge gaps.

A local resident of the area said he had informed the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) several times about the urgent need to repair the reservoirs, but no action has been initiated yet.

"Repair work was carried out four years ago. But now the tin roof has been badly damaged. The officials came here and inspected the situation, but we did not see any kind of constructive work in the last four years. The

reservoir covered with a tin roof is in poor shape," he added.

'Plastic waste and tree leaves were also found in the reservoir with a tin roof. The water is not usable at all. But there are no other options left with us but to use the water from it," another resident said. The water works wing of GMC caters to the water requirements in the city. Sources in the GMC said less than 30 per

cent of the over 15 lakh population in the city receive piped drinking water.

GMC has three water treatment plants at Panbazar, Satpukhuri and Kamakhya. Water is pumped from the Brahmaputra to these plants and after processing, the plant water is pumped to different reservoirs located at hill tops and then distributed to the consumers by 'gravity main'. Installed capacity of the Satpukhuri treatment plant is 22.50 MLD and its present running capacity is around 15 MLD.



The pathetic condition of the water reservoir with a tin roof.

Moreover, some areas in the city receive water through direct pumping. Besides these plants, there are nine deep tubewells in different locations of the city.

When contacted, GMC Superintending Engineer Manoranjan Bharali said that a tender was floated in connection with repair of the two water reser-

According to GMC voirs at Nijarapar in March, but the contrac-Superintending tor abandoned the work Engineer Manoranjan because of the emergency situation arising Bharali the two from the COVID-19 pandemic. "The recent reservoirs will be storm caused severe repaired 'this week' damage to the tin-roof reservoir. But we have

been assessing the damage and will repair these two reservoirs this week," Bharali said.

from the portal. The QR Code

were printed and pasted on the

front of the houses of the quar-

During its visit the surveil-

lance team will scan the QR

Code of the guarantined mem-

ber and fill up a simplified ques-

tionnaire about the patient's

health, like whether the pa-

tient is having fever, cough,

etc., and send the same direct-

ly to the server using the app.

The Kamrup Metro district

administration can now view

the status of each of the quar-

antined persons submitted by

the surveillance team right

successfully rolled out in Kam-

rup Metro district in collabora-

tion with the district units of

NHM and IDSP and at present

covers 2,169 people under

COVID Suraksha has been

from the dashboard.

antined people.

### RSS, AASU come to aid of poor people in Dimoria

#### CORRESPONDENT

at Uzan Bazar, are home to a large number of turtles. JORABAT, April 28: Ever According to member of the since the nationwide lockdown Ugratara Temple Committee had been announced, the Rash-Kailash Sharma, due to the locktriya Swayamsevak Sangh's Jodown, there were only four peorabat Shakha volunteers have ple at the temple when he got

the news about the turtle's death modities to the people whose around 10 am. The turtle was sources of livelihood have been buried on the temple premises stopped by the lockdown. after a discussion with conservationist Jayaditya Purkayastha. ed groceries and face masks to

Purkayastha, from conservation group Good Earth which is working to protect the turtles. said that the female turtle aged about 60 years died a natural

death on Tuesday morning. "There was no suspicion of any kind of unnatural death. The turtle had a natural death considering the age factor. The temple committee buried it as per rituals. When a series of deaths occur then there is a need for post-mortem to ascertain the real

cause," Purkayastha added. The black softshell turtle was declared 'extinct in wild' by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2002.

### Concern over pig disease outbreak

GUWAHATI, April 28: The Assam Science Society has urged the State government to ensure strict vigil on the movement of live pigs or pig meat/products in the areas located on the interstate and international boundaries of Assam in the wake of an unknown disease that has killed a sizeable number of pigs in several districts of Upper Assam over the past few days.

The Society, in a statement released here, said that such steps are needed to prevent the vet-to-be-identified pig disease from taking an epidemic form. The State government should take up the issue immediately with the governments of the neighbouring states and coun-

been distributing essential com-

The Shakha again distribut-

over 90 poor families in Jorabat, Medhikuchi and Sankardev Nagar areas under Sonapur revenue circle today. "Our Shakha has reached out

to over 500 families with kits of essential commodities right from Day One of the restrictions implemented to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Moreover, we are readying over 200 more kits to be dis-

tributed within this week," said Hridayananda Puri, Karyawa of the Iorabat Shakha of RSS. The volunteers have also been creating awareness about precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of coronavirus in various areas of Dimoria.

The Dimoria regional unit of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) has also come out to provide succour to the destitute in the form of cooked food.

With most of the shops and hotels remaining shut, the homeless are left with no means of food or even water. While several relief measures have been announced by the government, the country's poorest of the poor are left out as they have failed to depend on the food supplies provided by the government and nongovernment organisations, etc.

"As starvation looms, the only source of respite for the destitute are individuals and NGOs. So, we are doing all we can to ensure that the homeless don't go hungry during these testing times," Barasha Medhi, president of the Dimoria unit, said while maintaining that the drive will continue in the next three days in Dimoria. The student body has carried out sanitization drives in various areas, apart from providing ration to the needy families, since the day the lockdown had come into effect.

**Our Staff Reporter adds** in Guwahati: The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) received an amount of Rs 8 lakh and 5,000 pieces of face masks today from Apollo Hospital, Guwahati, under its CSR initiative.

that the masks reach the police personnel in every tive SP offices.

### Excise Minister receives 20,000 masks from Pernod Ricard STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 28: On behalf of the Assam excise department Excise Minister Parimal Suklabaidva todav received 20,000 threelavered masks from Pernod Ricard India Foundation which they have donated as

part of their CSR campaign. Applauding the initiative of the foundation, the Excise Minister has said that the department, with support from various corporate friends of 'Assam excise family', has been successful-

government and the frontline staff engaged in the fight against COVID-19. Suklabaidya has also directed officials of the State excise department to ensure

district through the respec-

### **COVID Suraksha mobile app** STAFF REPORTER ly, NIC suggested the COVID

GUWAHATI, April 28: The Kamrup (Metro) district administration has started using the COVID Suraksha mobile application to monitor activities of surveillance teams deployed in the district to look after 2,169

people under home quarantine. In the beginning of the fight against coronavirus, the district administration developed a monitoring system to keep an eye on those who were quarantined. Accordingly, surveillance teams were formed consisting of ASHA, ANM and MPW members. Each quarantined person was assigned one surveillance team. But there was no proper mechanism available with the district administration to monitor the functioning of

the surveillance teams. In such a situation, Deputy Commissioner Biswajit Pegu requested the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to provide an IT-based solution. Subsequent-

entered in the portal. On com-Suraksha app for the purpose. pletion of the registration proc-The app has already been ess, a QR Code for each quarantined person was generated

successfully implemented in Hojai district. The software has two parts - one is a web-based application portal and the other is the mobile app. The solution is simple, user-friendly and most effective.

Kamrup (M) admin using

### Monitoring activities of surveillance teams deployed to look after 2,169 people under home quarantine

A statement issued by the district administration said that as part of the initiative, officials concerned have collected details of each of the quarantined members and entered them in the portal as part of the registration process.

Similarly, details of surveillance team members were also

### home quarantine. Concern at growing cases of theft, burglary

### STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, April 28: Concerned at the growing incidents of theft and burglary in Guwahati even amid the lockdown, NGO Save Guwahati Build Guwahati (SGBG) has asked the police to keep law and order on top of their priority list.

The NGO has also urged the police to keep a watchful eve on the jail inmates released after the Supreme Court directive to decongest the jails of the country to check the spread of coronavirus.

SGBG cited two theft and burglary cases in the city's prime localities Silpukhuri and Panbazar in the last few days, adding that such incidents raise serious questions regarding police efficiency.

On Monday night, miscreants entered the premises of Addaghar at Panchavati

here and decamped with bell-metal utensils, big and small *sorai*s and cash, besides leaving the premises in a mess. House of former Union Minister and MP Renuka Debi Barkataki, Panchavati's ground floor has been developed as Addaghar, a place for meeting and recreation of senior citizens. A case has been filed at Chandmari Police Station by Minaxi Barkataki, daughter of Renuka Debi Barkataki.

In another incident, burglars broke open the doors of Dr Rupam Das's Diabetes and Footcare Centre near Nakkota Pukhuri at Panbazar and stole some cash from the pharmacy on the night of April 15. Though the owners have submitted CCTV footage of the miscreants, a positive action is still awaited.

SGBG vice president and eminent social activist Ajoy Dutta said that the police must keep a strict vigil on persons with a criminal background released recently from jails. If the anti-social elements can have their way in the heart of the city amid such strict lockdown and restrictions, the citizens cannot be sure about their safety and security. Recently, two persons having criminal background were lynched by an irate mob in Baksa. The police must keep a record of day-to-day activities of the recently released jail inmates and take action to improve the overall law-and-order scenario in Guwahati, Dutta said.

SGBG president Krishno K Borooah also underscored the need to install adequate CCTV cameras in Guwahati under the Smart City project and repair the defunct ones. "There is a serious shortage of police personnel at the lower level. The government must take action on this considering it a top priority," he added.

Sanitization being carried out at Fancy Bazar in Guwahati on Tuesday. - AT photo

### Helpline for mental health support to corona warriors

GU changes academic calendar

# ly able to support the

tries with that aim in view, it said. It also called for financial assistance to the affected pig farm-

ers, besides proper veterinary assistance to them for overcoming this adverse situation.

### Call for release of Akhil Gogoi CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, April 28: The Indigenous Forum, Assam has appealed to the State government to immediately release Krishak Mukti Sangram Samiti (KMSS) leader Akhil Gogoi.

The forum also sent a letter to the Chief Minister in this regard on Monday. In a press statement the forum said, "Many jail inmates have been released across the country in view of the deadly coronavirus. The State government had also taken initiative in this regard. We urge the government to release KMSS leader Akhil Gogoi and others who were arrested during the anti-CAA protest."

CITY CORRESPONDENT like French, Arabic, Spanish

and Russian are currently on. GUWAHATI, April 28: Global Dhara Helpline has an active Pandemic Response Forum team of over 70 psychologists from across India and 83 more (GPRF), an Assam-based NGO, has started Dhara Helpline, a are undergoing orientation and mental health helpline dedicattraining on tele-counselling. The ed to support corona warriors. counsellors work from home. Project head of Dhara Helpline

medics, paramedics and personnel involved in maintaining law Dharitri Nath said, "We decided and order. The helpline number upon a telephonic helpline, as it +91 92054 67567 is available 22 would be the most efficient counselling delivery tool when isolahours a day from 4 am to 2 am. tion protocol are in place. We are The corona warriors are working day and night away from adding more languages every their family and friends. Excesweek to Dhara Helpline and will

sive workload, stress, fear and soon be open for the general pubanxiety of the disease have taklic across India.' en a toll on mental health of a Nath added, "We are talkgreat number of these warriors. ing to governments and or-To support them, Dhara Helganisations across the world pline was launched on April 6 leading the fight against COV-ID-19 to secure their partnerin English and Assamese. Gradually, Bodo, Hindi, Marathi, ship, endorsement and sup-Khasi and Bengali speaking port for Dhara Helpline. We counsellors were added to the will continue with our efforts helpline and efforts to add of public engagement to Garo, Dimasa, Nepali, Tamil, spread awareness about the Telugu, Malayalam and Kannahelpline among the healthda and international languages care leadership in India.'

ing its academic calendar to mitigate the loss due to the medical emergency situation, the Gauhati University authority has announced that the admission process for the next session to its undergraduate (UG) degree courses will be over by July 15.

Examinations for the second, fourth and sixth semesters will be held in July. The remaining internal UG examinations will be assignment-based.

UG students whose physical laboratory-based and fieldbased activities have been hampered will be allowed to submit library or e-library-based project work for the ongoing semester. The same will be applicable to PG students also.

All PG exams will be held from August 15 and internal exams will be assignmentbased. The new PG session will commence on September 15. The decisions have been taken on the assumption that academic activities in the State will resume from June 1. – Correspondent

### Good response to Railways' SETU initiative

#### PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, April 28: The Swift and Efficient Transport of Utilities (SETU) initiative of Indian Railways, launched earlier this month, has found good response from traders and business houses in Assam and the north-eastern region seeking assistance in transportation. purchase and delivery of essential freight commodities.

"SETU was launched by a group of trainee officers who are based at the National Academy of Indian Railways in Vadodara. The main intention behind this initiative was to bridge the gap between demand and supply, especially considering the current COVID-19 pandemic and the nationwide lockdown. The lockdown has created certain

bottlenecks in transportation and communication. Using the SETU model, we are working to remove the backlog in the supply chain and facilitate our customers," a senior official of the Indian Railways told this newspaper.

He said that as part of SETU a dedicated helpline has been launched catering exclusively to the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) zone.

are forwarded to the division 'Providing real-time and upto-date information has become concerned of NFR, which checks critical during this period of lockmatters like feasibility of transdown on account of the logistical porting the requested goods, hassles faced by customers, intimetable of freight and parcel cluding traders. SETU has enatrains in a section, availability of bled customers from the states space for transportation, stopunder the jurisdiction of NFR to pages and other relevant data. call up and place their request back to the SETU team with for transporting essential and critical commodities, including the relevant information with-

foodgrains as well as health and

medical equipment. Our helrequest for the information and pline is manned by a group of accordingly, the customers are trainee officers. They also scan provided the details," said an the social media sites to find out official at the NFR. if any customer is seeking any He added that the initiative kind of assistance. They are carrying out the work round the

lutely free," said the official.

Sources said that the requests

"Our divisional officers get

in three hours of receiving the

received through the helpline

number and social media handle

has gained a lot of momentum in the NFR zone during the past week. clock and the service is abso-

"Dozens of customers have been provided assistance and we expect the numbers to go up in the coming days. It could also prove to be a useful tool even after the pandemic is controlled and the lockdown lifted, if the authorities so decide," said the official.

NFR has deployed senior officials at its Maligaon head-office here as well as across all the five divisional headquarters to help the SETU team, besides for monitoring movement of parcel and freight trains.

অসম চৰকাৰ গ বাদান্দ লোপো বাগ মূখ্যমন্ত্রী, অসম

ক'ভিড-১৯ মহামাৰী প্ৰতিৰোধৰ বাবে নিজকে উৎসৰ্গা কৰা চিকিৎসক, নাৰ্চ তথা স্বাস্থ্যসেৱাৰ সৈতে জড়িত সমূহ কৰ্মীৰ মহান আৰু দৃষ্টান্তমূলক সেৱাৰ বাবে তেওঁলোকলৈ যাচিছোঁ আন্তৰিক কৃতজ্ঞতা

ŋ

তথ্য আৰু জনসংযোগ সঞ্চালকালয়, অসমৰ দ্বাৰা প্ৰচাৰিত

### NATIONAL

Sd/- Managing Director

### SC asks Centre to consider adopting 'one nation, one ration card' scheme during lockdown

preme Court has asked the Centre to consider the feasibility of 'temporarily' adopting the 'one nation, one ration card' scheme during the ongoing coronavirus lockdown period to enable the migrant workers and economically weaker sections get subsidised foodgrain.

The Central government scheme is scheduled to be launched in June this year. A bench of Justices NV Ramana, Sanjay Kishan Kaul and BR Gavai, in an order passed on Monday said: "We di-

rect the Union of India to consider ists to get their entitlement of subsiwhether it is feasible for it to implement the said scheme at this stage or ment scheme, etc., introduced during not and take appropriate decision in the epidemic of coronavirus and nation- es to its respective citizens and voters said section. - PTI

NEW DELHI, April 28: The Su- this regard keeping in view the present wide lockdown in the State/UTs even if and denying benefits of subsidized grains/ circumstances."

The top court disposed of a plea filed by advocate Reepak Kansal, who sought the launching of the scheme, for the benefit of migrant workers, beneficiaries and citizens of other States stranded in different places due to the nationwide lockdown.

The petitioner seeks the indulgence of this court to protect and safeguard rights of migrant labourers /beneficiaries /citizens of other States/UT/ tourdized foodgrain and benefits of govern-

they are not in their respective home foods/shelter/medical facilities to the mi-State/Union Territory by way of a man- grants labourers or citizens of other damus to the concerned authorities to States/UTs due to absence of local identemporarily adopt 'One Nation One Umbrella Policy' during the epidemic or voter card even during the unpreceof corona due to absence of scheme of 'One Nation One Ration Card', the plea said. He also sought direction to authorities for ensuring migrant labourers who are at present staying in rented premises or in transit camps do not go One Nation One Ration Card and anhungry for want of local identity cards or any identity cards.

Territories have been giving preferenc- to protect the lives and health of above-

tity proof like ration card/residential proof dented nationwide lockdown due to epidemic of COVID-19.

The scheme ... announced by Central government is about to start .. June, 2020. Due to lack of scheme of other policy/circular/notification by Central government to protect the

Kansal claimed that States and Union rights of migrant labourers in regard



Constables Umesh Kumar (right) and Vipul Kumar, deputed at Kotla Mubarakpur Police Station, feed stray cattle during the nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus, in New Delhi on Monday. Umesh and Vipul contribute a part of their salary towards purchasing fodder to feed stray cows. - PTI

# Music therapy soothens nerves of COVID-19 warriors

including doctors and police per- ni', an institute set up by her. sonnel, go through exhausting work schedules stretching up to

to ease their stress levels. Music triggers most parts of the brain and reduces anxiety and modifies stress response and activates relaxation response, says city-based Anasuya Ravikanti, a professional music therapist, who has been reach-

fers music as therapy to various sic would act as a stress buster. patients at a corporate hospital port the ongoing battle against ing her services to healthcare personnel and others. professionals during the lockdown with my music sessions helping them to cope with dhi Hospital here, a designatstress," she told PTI here. holder in Medical Music Therapy from Chennai School of

HYDERABAD, April 28: As Music Therapy, she offers her laxed and stress free after the COVID-19 frontline warriors, services through 'Swarajeeva- session, enabling him to sleep

Though she charges her patients, now she is offering her 12 hours a day, many of them services free of cost to doctors are finding music therapy a tool and others involved in the battle against COVID-19, she said.

"Music is a unique human phenomenon. It is the only sensory experience that can activate all the areas of the brain at the same time, simultaneously. That is the reason why music can influence psychological ing out to needy people involved phenomena such as behaviour in the fight against coronavirus. and emotions," she said. It can Ravikanti, who holds a doc- also bring about several physiotorate in Carnatic music and of- logical changes in the body. Mu-

conducted sessions through phone for doctors from differ-"I have already reached out ent parts of the country. Dr G to several doctors and other Ravindra, Professor and Head of the Department, CT Surgery at the government Gan-A Post Graduate Diploma those who underwent a session from Ravikanti. The doctor said he felt re-

peacefully throughout the night.

"I thank the Swarajeevani management for their compassion and love for all frontliners treating COVID-19 patients," he said.

The World Federation of Music Therapy, which aims to promote the therapy throughout the globe, says that auditory sensation can be used as an intervention in medical, educational. and everyday environments with individuals, groups, families, or communities who seek to optimise their quality of life, among other developments. Music therapy was an inter-

personal process in which the "So I thought, as a respon- therapist uses music and all of here, decided to chip in to sup-sible and concerned citizen, I its facets - physical, emotional, would do a bit that I can," the mental, social, aesthetic and the deadly virus and is extend- vocalist said adding she had spiritual to help clients to improve or maintain their health, she added. Dr J Srikanth, Head of Internal Medicine at Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills, said there is evidence that music as a therapy yields positive results. ed COVID-19 facility, is among However, unlike in the West, there was not much awareness in the country on the subject, he said. – PTI

### **CSIR-CMERI** develops robotic device that can collect swab samples

KOLKATA, April 28: The CSIR-CMERI in Durgapur has developed a low-cost robotic device that can be used for collecting swab samples of people having symptoms of coronavirus, besides treating COVID-19 patients.

The 'Hospital Care Assistive Robotic Device' will be very helpful for frontline healthcare workers who are treating COV ID-19 patients, said Prof Harish Hirani, Director of CSIR-CMERI (Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute).

It will help them in delivering services while maintaining social distancing, reducing the chance of them getting infected, he said. The cost of the device is less than Rs 5 lakh and the weight is not more than 80 kg, making it easy to use and affordable for healthcare facilities, Hirani said.

The device, which has a video call facility, can also be used in providing food to the patients. The device can be naviagated through automatic and manual modes, and needs to be monitored by a nurs ing booth with a control station. "It will be able to transport food items, medicines, testing equipment, files, personal protective equipment in a comprehensive sterilised environment," Hirani said.

A spokesperson of the institute said the device can function in a range of 0.5 km and has a battery life of four hours. "The clinical trial of the device has been successful. We will be ready if healthcare facilities and governments show interest," he said. - PTI

### Security stepped up ...

(Contd from page 1)

Sources further said that as India has an open border with Nepal, some farmers cultivate lands across the border and such activities are now allowed at this moment.

Though India does not have any physical barriers along the borders with Nepal and Bhutan, sources pointed out that there are a number of natural barriers including rivers and reserved forests and national parks and movement of people through it is not possible. "We just need to keep watch on the open spaces and the vehicle routes. There are some foot tracks and a close watch is maintained on it," sources added.

SSB sources said that in case of the international border with Bhutan, substantial movement of people takes place on market days. But as the markets are closed, such movements have stopped. However, the Government has allowed movement of official vehicles of Bhutan through India, particularly Assam. Sources pointed out that the officials of Bhutan have to travel through India to reach some areas of that country and that has been allowed. "There is no risk from such movements as the officials of Bhutan have no reason to stop anywhere in India while travelling from one part of that country to another through India." sources added.



### ASSAM INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT **CORPORATION LIMITED** (A Government of Assam Undertaking)

R.G. Baruah Road, Guwahati-781 024 Ph.: 0361-2201215, 2202216. Fax: 0361-2200060

#### CIN: U75112AS1965SGC001246

E- procurement for work at Plastic Park, Gelapukhuri, District-Tinsukia, Assam

Memo No. AIDC/I&C/PP(Tsk)/Shed&WH(2nd Ph/454/2306

Re-Tenders are invited on-line through e-procurement portal of Govt. of Assam i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in from Govt. Registered Contractors of appropriate class with sound financial background fulfilling the eligibility criteria for execution of the following work at Plastic Park, Gelapukhuri, Dist.- Tinsukia, Assam

	······································							
SI. No.	Name of Work	Re-NIT No.	Estimated Value (Rs. in Lakh)					
1	Work of Construction of 5 nos of Industrial Sheds (300 Sqm each) and 2 nos Warehouses (300 Sqm each) 2nd Phase in Plastic Park, Gelapukhuri, Dist. Tinsukia, Assam	AIDC/I&C/PP(Tsk)/Shed & WH (2nd Ph/454/2304 Date: 27.04.2020	405.30					

Tender Documents can be downloaded from the official www.assamtenders.gov.in from 17:00 Hours on 29.04.2020 up to 14:00 Hours on 19.05.2020. The tender is to be submitted online through the e-procurement portal of Govt. of Assam i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in only from 17:00 Hours on 29.04.2020 upto 14:00 Hours on 19.05.2020.

For further detail, refer website www.assamtenders.gov.in

Janasanyog/CF/50/20

### No. DME/NSurgery/90/2020/5198

#### **E-TENDER INVITATION FOR E-BID (IFB)** NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

E-Tenders are invited online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in from the intending manufacturer/ Accredited Dealers for Supply & Installation of Equipment related to Neurosurgery Department for all medical College Hospital and Dental Colleges of Assam under the Health & F.W. Department, Govt. of Assam The e-Tender is Two-Bid System, to be submitted with affixed Court Fee Stamp Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight point two five paisa) only (for local bidders) or IPO of Rs. 10/- (Rupees ten) only (in case of bidders from outside of the State of Assam) in favour of "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati- 781022.

	Important dates of the e-Tender										
SI. No.	Scheduled	Star	t Date	StartTime	End Date	EndTime					
1	e-Tender Publishing	27.04	4.2020		_	-					
2	e-Tender Download	28.04	4.2020	11.00 AM	03.06.2020	12.00 Noon					
3	Pre-Bid meeting	21.0	5.2020	11.00 AM	Office of the Dir Education Assa Khanapara, Gu	,					
4	Bid Submission	22.0	5.2020	2.00 PM	03.06.2020	5.00 PM					
	Bid Opening	03.0	6.2020	03.00 PM							
1. Bri	ief Schedule										
SI No.	Description . (Name of the items)		Bid security (EMD)	Delivery Installationschedule completion period	on fees/cost e/ of bid	Eligibility					
1	Supply & Installation of Neurosurgery Department		10.00 Lakhs	25 days	Rs. 5,000/-	Manufacturer/ accredited dealer					
The d	The detailed information of Bidding documents are available online through e-procurement										

system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in only. The bidders would be required to register in the website for submission of the bids. The bidders are required to have Digital Signature (DSC) from any of the Certifying Authorities. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement may obtain the same by registering in the www.assamtenders.gov.in . The requirements to register with the e-procurement portal are available on the website indicated above. The tender fees is non refundable and payable in avour of the "Director of the Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati- 78102 at SBI Dispur (Guwahati) Branch.

### **Conservationists** ...

(Contd from page 1) Elaborating further, Dr Talukdar told The Assam Tribproblems for the wild animals, plant species on which grassland dwellers depend.

placed with unpalatable plant species in the long run. In every flood, the highlands will silt deposition in the wetlands osystem. Unscientific highstate of the vegetation/habitat composition, as the vegetation is a product of soil moisture regime, soil nutrients, seed unwelcome even outside the bank and other abiotic and biotic factors," he said.

Change of vegetation is like- tricate and inter-connected one. ly to compel the animals to stray out of the park boundary, natural floods were the only sons. This will bring more whelming power to regulate threat to the animals, especial- the Kaziranga ecosystem by ly to the rhinos. "Because of controlling wildlife populations.

this, human-animal conflict may also rise in the surrounding villages to a great extent. *une* that the water hyacinth Creation of artificial highlands would colonise the wetlands of will also change the visibility the park and trigger ecological for animals inside the park, affecting the prey-predator reincluding alteration of palatable flex in some areas of the park. Reacting to the develop-

ment, Kaziranga National Park "Change of hydrology will director P Sivakumar said that also change the plant species no new highlands were proof the park. Palatable grasses posed inside the core area and for the wildlife might be re- that the existing central road would be strengthened in view of the floods.

"Priority will be given on erode naturally, causing extra buffer and corridor areas, i.e., Bandardubi, Deosur, Panpur and water channels which and Laokhowa, while a stretch eventually will dry out. This of 32-km road inside the park will add to more damage of will be widened and elevated. Kaziranga's already fragile ec- Three more additions - seventh, eighth and ninth – will lands lead to alteration of the be enhanced with areas of 3,000 hectares," he said.

Conservationists, however, maintain that new highlands were core area of the park, as the wildlife habitat's ecology was an in-

They also pointed out that especially during the drier sea- external factor having an over-

# "More highlands in Kaziran-

ga means we are even allowing unfit wild animals to survive in natural flood and thereby disturbing the natural selection process which is popularly known as survival of the fittest," Dr Talukdar said.

The plains of Kaziranga along with the natural highlands of Karbi Anglong is a single entity and the importance of the Karbi Anglong hills should be appreciated and free movement of animals should be allowed rather than con-

structing artificial highlands.

### Sonowal ...

(Contd from page 1) Assam's devolution of Rs 24 thousand crore per year from Central Government's pool of funds sustained the economy along with nearly Rs 13 thousand crore State's own earnings and in view of financial slowdown, innovative measures must be devised to overcome this crisis, he said.

As many as 29 economists and experts of the State took part in today's interactive session and offered their suggestions for formulating revival plan of State's economy in the post COVID-19 scenario.

### Lockdown effect ...

#### (Contd from page 1)

"This variation of data reflects that due to lesser human activities the water quality of the rivers has shown slight improvement during the lockdown period. The water quality of the Brahmaputra, which was within standard norms in the last two years, also appears to have slightly improved.

The Bharalu in Guwahati continued to be a worry, as the water quality did not show any improvement. The DO and BOD remained the same, indicating that industrial and commercial wastes have negligible impact on the water quality and the main contributor of pollution is municipal sewage, the official said.

Professor Sharad Gokhale of IIT Guwahati's civil engineering department said the data compiled by the PCBA indicates that at some places, the total coliform and faecal coliform were low before the lockdown.

"During the lockdown, these counts increased a bit (although less) indicating the increase in discharge of human wastes into the rivers. For example, in Jorhat's Bhogdoi river, the earlier faecal coliform was nil and during lockdown it has increased to 300. Although not worrisome, it seems there is an increase in human waste discharge. But since the sample was collected from an intake point of a water supply project, it is not desirable," Gokhale observed.

Faecal coliform also increased at rivers like Dikhow, Burhidihing, Desang, Sessa, Towkak, etc., from nil before lockdown to over 300 during lockdown. The four parameters were tested in 77 points of different State rivers, including eleven locations along the Brahmaputra, by the PCBA's regional offices.

### ADB approves ...

(Contd from page 1)

"The quick-disbursing fund is part of a larger package of support that ADB will provide in close coordination with the government and other development partners. "We are determined to support India's COVID-19 response programmes and ensure that they provide effective support to the people of India, especially the poor and vulnerable," Asakawa said in a statement.

Meanwhile, the Finance Ministry said the loan agreement has been signed. The signatories to the loan agreement were Sameer Kumar Khare, additional secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs and Kenichi Yokoyama, country director, ADB, in India.

The CARES Programme is provided as the first support to meet the immediate requirements of the government.

The Manila-headquartered multilateral agency said its COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Programmes will contribute directly to the improvement of access to health facilities and care, as well as social protection for more than 800 million people, including families below the poverty line, farmers, health care workers, women, senior citizens, people with disabilities, low wage earners, and construction workers. - PTI

Janasanyog/C/97/20

Sd/- Director of Medical Education, Assam Sixmile, Khanapara, Ghy-22

#### No. DME/Endocrinology/91/2020/5192

#### **INVITATION FOR E-BID (IFB)** NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

E-Tenders are invited online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in from the intending manufacturer/ Accredited Dealers for Supply & Installation of Equipment related to Endocrinology Department to all Medical College Hospitals of Assam, under the Health & F.W. Department, Govt. of Assam.

The e-Tender is Two-Bid System, to be submitted with affixed Court Fee Stamp Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight point two five paisa) only (for local bidders) or IPO of Rs. 10/- (Rupees ten) only (in case of bidders from outside of the State of Assam) in favour of "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

#### Important Dates of the E-Tender

SI. No.	Scheduled	Star	t Date	e,	StartTime		End Date	EndTime			
1	e-Tender Publishing	28.0	4.2020				-	_			
2	e-Tender Download	29.0	4.2020		11.00 AM		04.06.2020	12.00 Noon			
3	Pre-Bid meeting	22.05.2020			11.00 AM	Office of the Dire Education Assar Khanapara, Guv		n, Sixmile			
4	Bid Submission	22.0	5.2020		2.00 PM		04.06.2020	5.00 PM			
	Bid Opening	04.0	6.2020	020 03.00 PM							
1. Bri	ef Schedule		·								
SI Description No. (Name of the items)		Bid security (EMD)	/	Delivery/ Installatio schedule completio period	n /	Tender fee in Rs.	Eligibility				
1	Supply & Installation of Equipment related to Endocrinology Department		5.00 Lakhs		25 days		Rs. 5,000/-	Manufacturer/ accredited dealer			

The detailed information of Bidding documents are available online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in only. The bidders would be required to register in the website for submission of the bids. The bidders are required to have Digital Signature (DSC) from any of the Certifying Authorities. Aspiring bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e-procurement may obtain the same by registering in the www.assamtenders.gov.in . The requirements to register with the e-procurement portal are available on the website indicated above. The tender fees is non refundable and payable in favour of the "Director of the Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022 at SBI Dispur (Guwahati) Branch.

> Sd/- Director of Medical Education, Assam Sixmile, Khanapara, Ghy-22

Janasanyog/C/102/20



Forecast for NE: Rain thundershower is very likely to occur at many places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Warning: Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty wind with speed (30-40) kmph is very likely to occur at isolated over Assam places Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

### Temperatures

Max	:(°С) М	in (°C)
Dibrugarh	32.5	20.4
Tezpur	28.0	22.2
Silchar	32.2	21.6
Dhubri	26.1	23.0
Jorhat	30.3	20.1
N Lakhimpur	33.6	21.6
Shillong	19.2	-
Cherrapunjee	23.2	14.8
Aizawl	23.7	15.2
Kohima	20.8	11.7
Pasighat	32.2	20.9
Itanagar	33.2	21.0
Imphal	26.2	16.0
Agartala	31.7	22.7

### Set up 2 testing laboratories in Nagaland within 10 days: HC CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, April 28: The Kohima Bench of the Gauhati High Court today directed the Nagaland Government to set up at least two COVID-19 testing laboratories in the State within 10 days. Hearing a PIL filed by one Kikrukhonuo, a resident of Midland Colony, Kohima, a two-judge bench of Justice Songkhupchung Serto and Justice S Hukato Swu also asked the State Government to make sure that the two main hospitals at Kohima and Dimapur, which have been identified for treatment of COVID-19 patients, are fully equipped and ready for functioning to meet the challenges posed by COVID-19 within two weeks.

The court also asked the State Government to make every effort to establish other laboratories at strategic places to facilitate free testing. It directed the State Government to provide sufficient PPE kits to all persons involved in the treatment of COVID-19 patients or the care of persons in quarantine centres. The PPE kits should be of stand-

## ——— North East **Rapid antibody tests** suspended in Tripura

#### CORRESPONDENT

stop the rapid antibody tests AGARTALA, April 28: undertaken in three areas. Rapid antibody tests, which The ICMR has called for colwere launched in Tripura last lection and return of all kits week to check containment meant for the antibody tests level of novel coronavirus, as they appear faulty. were abruptly suspended on Monday, official sources conretary, however, said that the

ICMR has asked the State to

The Additional Chief Sec-

firmed here. State has been doing well as far as COVID-19 tests are The decision to halt the rapid antibody tests was taken concerned. "There have been following an advisory from 247 tests till Monday, while the ICMR, New Delhi, 50 tests were conducted toagainst use of the kits availaday. Fortunately, all the tests ble for this purpose, said have been found negative so Tripura Additional Chief Secfar expect two cases. The retary SK Rakesh here today. State is ahead in conducting While briefing media per-COVID-19 tests at the nasons on the latest situation in tional level. The State's average COVID tests stood at Tripura, Rakesh said that the

1,051 per million population, while the national average is 42 per million till Monday," Rakesh said.

The Additional Chief Secretary said the State has done well in the battle against COVID-19 during the lockdown period. "Now, it is the time to restore normal economic activities though the threat is not yet over," he said, adding that the State has been marked as a green zone, which merits lockdown relaxation. "We are looking at how things unfold after May 3, the last day of the second phase of lockdown," he said. "Those who are stuck out-

side the State in the face of

Nagaland CM for resuming economic activities



Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio addressing a meeting in Dimapur on Tuesday. – Photo: Correspondent

### CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, April 28: Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio today said businesses, construction works and agricultural activities should be allowed to resume to revive the economy.

Addressing officials of the Dimapur district administration, police, medical department and members of the **Dimapur Special Committee** on COVID-19 at the conference hall of the Dimapur Commissioner of Police here, Rio said although Nagaland does not have many factories and industries, trade and construction works should resume. He said with the monsoon

approaching fast, road construction and other related works need to be carried out and agricultural activities should be undertaken as per directive of the Central Government.

Stating that 70 per cent of the Nagaland population comprises farmers, Rio said, "When farmers do not sow, there will be no harvest." He said all construction materi-

Meghalaya to defer salaries of

ministers, Govt employees

als are transported to Nagaland from other States, and then to other parts of the State from Dimapur. In this regard, the Chief Minister advised the administration and the police to formulate a policy on how to function to the convenience and betterment of all.

Rio appreciated the citizens of Dimapur, the district administration, police, medical fraternity, members of the special committee on COVID-19, NGOs, churches, various departments and others for working hard in containing the pandemic. Rio said the first phase of the lockdown was successful, and that the second phase is due to expire on May 3 with partial relaxation, particularly in the green zones. "We need to educate the public on following the guidelines of social

the ongoing lockdown, are

welcome to return to the

State on consent. If they want

to return home, the State

Government will ensure

they get permission from the

State in which they have got

stranded. But the State Gov-

ernment will not provide the

transportation cost to them,'

the Additional Chief Secre-

According to Rakesh, in

the second phase of the lock-

down, inter-State movement

has been permitted. Alto-

gether 167 persons have al-

ready returned and over

3,000 people are still stuck

in different States due to the

tary said.

lockdown.

distancing," he stressed. The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction over the marked improvement in the Dimapur COVID-19 hospital as compared to its status during his last visit on April 3. "A lot of good things have happened," he observed.

### Deb convenes all-party meet today CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA. April 28: Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has convened an all-party meeting here tomorrow to discuss the situation arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic and find ways to win the battle against the disease.

No fatality due to coronavirus infection has occurred in the State so far. Needy people have also received help during the ongoing lockdown.

Now as the State gears up to resume economic activities, the Chief Minister has decided to meet heads of all political parties to brief them on the steps taken to check the virus pandemic.

Education Minister Ratan Lal Nath told media persons that the Chief Minister wants to meet leaders of all political parties tomorrow to discuss the situation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. "The Government will brief them on the steps taken to contain the outbreak of the disease. It will also entertain suggestions from the political parties," he said.

### Manipur's 1st COVID-19 patient tests negative again CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, April 28: Manipur's first COVID-19 patient, who was discharged from hospital two weeks back, has tested negative for the fourth time. With this, the patient is said to be free from surveillance as per protocol, official sources said.

On Monday, three samples, including one belonging to the first COVID-19 patient, were tested at the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences (JNIMS) Hospital and all the samples were found negative, the sources pointed out.

The first COVID-19 patient had tested positive on March 24. The 23-year-old woman who had returned from the UK, underwent treatment at the JNIMS Hospital and was discharged from there on April 12. Subsequently, she stayed at home quarantine for 14 days.

Even though the patient

### **PRESS NOTICE/IFB**

### No. CS/DTRD/SOPD(G)/2019-20/529/3

The Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads), Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Ghy- 21 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites 1 (one) no. item rate Bids from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for the works. Details may be seen at website http://assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads) Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Guwahati-21 Janasanyog/CF/46/20

#### No. CE/DEV/TB/199/2019-20/12 SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer PWD (ROADS), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids on behalf of the Governor of Assam for 1 (One) no of Package for Road and Bridge Projects under Signature Project of SOPD-G (State Priority Scheme) for the year 2019-20 in 38-Goalpara West Legislative Assembly Constituencies of Assam, amounting to Rs. 10.00 Crs (approx) from approved & eligible Contractors enlisted with APWD. Details may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in from 06.05.2020. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Schemes are being sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders. Note :- N.I.T Value is inclusive of GST, Labour cess etc. Sd/- Chief Engineer PWD (Roads),

Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3. Janasanyog/CF/42/20

### No. CE/DEV/TB/504/2019-20/10

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer P.W.D (ROADS), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids on behalf of the Governor of Assam for 1 (One) no of Package for Road and Bridge Projects under SOPD-G for the year 2019-20 in 38 - Goalpara West Legislative Assembly Constituencies of Assam, amounting to Rs. 12.47 Crs (approx) from approved & eligible Contractors enlisted with APWD.

Details may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in from 06.05.2020 Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/ bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in

Schemes are being sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders. Note :- N.I.T Value is inclusive of GST, Labour cess etc Sd/- Chief Engineer PWD (Roads),

Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 Janasanvog/CF/44/20

### No. CE/DEV/TB/504/2019-20/11

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER The Chief Engineer PWD (ROADS), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids on behalf of the Governor of Assam for 1 (One) no of Package for Road and Bridge Projects under SOPD-G for the year 2019-20 in Jaleswar Legislative Assembly Constituencies of

Assam, amounting to Rs. 6.93 Crs (approx) from

ard quality as prescribed by the appropriate authority, the bench said.

The Government was also asked to make all efforts to make ICU facilities available at all places identified for treatment of COVID-19 patients and increase the number of ventilators.

The court further asked the State Government to make ambulance available to COVID-19 patients at the earliest, if not already made available, and also make available transportation facilities to all persons who are on duty in view of the restrictions imposed by the Government and the public.

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

is facing a fund crunch due to

the closed economy in the coun-

try owing to the ongoing lock-

down. There has been lesser

devolution of taxes by Rs 76 crore from the Central Gov-

The decision is to defer the sal-SHILLONG, April 28: The aries and once the fiscal condi-Meghalaya Government today tion improves, the deduction announced that it would defer "would be paid back".

ernment in the current month.

the payment of salaries for As per a government order, April – ranging from 25 to 50 the Chief Minister and all his per cent of Cabinet ministers Cabinet colleagues will reand across different categories ceive 50 per cent less salaries (gross salaries) for April. Simof government employees. Officials said the decision has ilarly, for All India Service ofbeen taken as the Government ficers, the gross salaries will

> be deferred by 50 per cent. Officers in categories A and B will receive 35 per cent deferred gross salary, while category C employees will have a deferment of 25 per cent in

gross salary. Salaries of category D employees will, however, remain unchanged.

The deferment will also apply to employees in institutions receiving grants-in-aid from the State Government. However, Group C employees in the Municipal Board will not face any deferment. There will, however, be no deferment in payment of pensions.

The notification said that the decision was taken as there is uncertainty due to the pandemic and it is not clear whether the Central Government would release the State's share

"The tax devolution from Government of Indian for April 2020 was Rs 76 crore less than the budget estimates. There is every likelihood that the size of the devolution in the coming months could be reduced," the notification said. It stated that there is the

need for the State to manage its finances more carefully and to keep adequate funds for dealing with any health- or relief-related emergency, and so the Government has taken the

decision to defer payment of

salaries.

has tested negative for the fourth time, she has been advised to use masks and follow social distancing norms, the sources said.

On the other hand, the State's second COVID-19 patient is currently under surveillance after being discharged from the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital after recovery on April 21. The 53-year-old male patient who had attended a religious conference in New Delhi in March, had tested positive on April 2.

approved & eligible Contractors enlisted with APWD.

Details may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in from 06.05.2020. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/ bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Schemes are being sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders. Note :- N.I.T Value is inclusive of GST, Labour cess etc. Sd/- Chief Engineer PWD (Roads),

Janasanyog/CF/40/20 Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

No. GDI\_TECH\_E-TENDER\_2018-19\_164\_22

invites bids for the following work:

Wall under SOPD during the year 2019-20. Amount = Rs. 844.40 Lakh (Approx.) as follows:

### Mizos thank Tamil drivers who ferry coffin to State

#### CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, April 28: Two ambulance drivers from Tamil Nadu received thunderous applause as they drove into the Mizoram capital today, travelling thousands of kilometres carrying the coffin of a Mizo youth.

Vivian Lalremsanga, a 28year-old youth from Model Veng here, died of heart attack in Chennai on April 23. He was a private company employee.

As there was a problem in burying his body in Chennai, it had to be transported to Aizawl. It was at this critical juncture that these two drivers, Jeyantjiran and Chinnathambi, offered their valuable service.

Late Vivian's friend, Rafael AVL Malchhanhima, also



accompanied the two drivers from Chennai. They departed from the Tamil Nadu capital, which is more than 3,000 kilometres from Aizawl, and reached Mizoram this morning. They safely brought the

coffin to Vivian's family, after which it was accorded a decent burial by a few relatives and friends in deference to social distancing norms.

On their way from Chennai to Aizawl, the trio were welcomed in small ceremo-

nies by the Mizo community in Kolkata, Siliguri, Guwahati and villages along the national highway in Mizoram.

On behalf of the Mizoram Government, Minister Dr K Beichhuau handed Rs 2,000 to each driver, in addi-

tion to the ambulance cost, and traditional M as a token of ap Other organisa presented the t with mementos recognition of th service.

Meanwhile, Cl ter Zoramthanga social media ac Twitter and Ins shower praises drivers. "3000 plus mil

ship and strug dampen the spir the tragic earthly Vivian Lalremsa friend AVL Mal

and Jeyantjiran and Chinnathambi," he said in Twitter. The Chief Minister also

posted a video of people clapping hands as the ambulance drove on to the streets of Aizawl.

Mizo clothes,	Group	Name of Work	Approximate	EI	MD	Cost of	Time of
appreciation. sations also two drivers	No.		Value (In Rs.)	2% for General (In Rs.)	1% for SC/ST/OBC /MOBC (In Rs.)	BID (0.02%) (In Rs.)	Comple- tion
s and cash in heir selfless Chief Minis- ga took to his	1	Construction of Central Laboratory, Auditorium and Guest House at Koinadhora with Boundary Wall under SOPD during the year 2019-20.	8,44,40,000/-	16,88,800/-	8,44,400/-	20,000/-	365 Days
ccounts like istagram to s on the two	1. Quo con	Terms and conditions: bted bid value beyond the ambit of 1 sidered for award of contract. ails works & amount may vary fro	,		anctioned estim	ated rate s	shall not be
iles of hard- ggles won't rit of resting	ass 4. The	e undersigned/accepting authority igning any reason thereof. e undersigned/accepting authority is quisite EMD/Bid Security in the form	not bound to ac	cept lowest	Fender Rate.		
ly remains of sanga by his alchhanhima	Guv Details	ionalized Bank of India duly pled wahati-07 to be submitted along wi may be seen in the website http://	th Tender docum	ents. <b>jov.in</b> and al	so in the offic	e of the u	ndersigned

Janasanyog/CF/54/20

during office hours from 29.04.2020. Amendment/Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of Irrigation Department, Assam website http://assamtenders.gov.in

PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER Executive Engineer, Guwahati Division, Irrigation, Guwahati-7 on behalf of Governor of Assam

Construction of Central Laboratory, Auditorium and Guest House at Koinadhora with Boundary

Sd/-	-	Executive	Engineer
Guwaha	it	Division	Irrigation
		Gi	uwahati-07

Guwahati to Manipur.

"This came after other con-

signments of vegetables and

fruits were sent to various

States, including Arunachal

Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizo-

ram, West Bengal, Tripura,

Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar

Pradesh. The Directorates of

Agriculture and Horticulture

as well as the Agricultural Mar-

keting Board are coordinating

the effort to remove the logis-

tical problems and streamline

the marketing channels. Dur-

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

Historic PS building damaged



PATACHARKUCHI, April 28: The old building of Patacharkuchi police station constructed during British rule that stood as a symbol of history was damaged in a storm recently. The roof sheets were damaged when a big tree uprooted in the storm fell on it. No one was injured in the incident that took place in the evening. The building was constructed by the British in 1908. When a new building near the old building was constructed, the old building was repaired and preserved. - ANN Service

### Country liquor seized

DHEMAJI, April 28: In a joint operation conducted by the Dhemaji Police and the Excise department, a huge quantity of countrymade liquor (chulai) was seized from Moridhal and Silapathar. The team first raided at four households at Moridhal area where from it recovered some quantity of *chula* along with some apparatus used in making it. The team was led by Dhemaji DSP Naba Bora, District Excise Superintendent Shukla Chandra Goswami and Excise Inspector of Jonai Budheswar Mili. - ANN Service

### 100% school fee waived

RAHA, April 28 : Raha Adarsha Sishu Bikash Kendra, a private Assamese medium high school here has decided to waive 100 % fees free for the month of April, Chayanika Deka, headmistress of the school informed the media here. The decision was taken in line with the State Education minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma's call to private schools to waive 50% of their monthly fees for the month of April to give relief to parents. – ANN Service

### Handmade guns recovered

GOSSAIGAON, April 28: Three handmade guns, considerable number of arrows and other weapons generally used by hunters, along with three bicycles were recov ered when forest officials raided Paldabari area of the Central Range of Kachugaon Forest Division on April 26 night Getting a tip-off about the presence of hunters in the area, the forest officials raided the area but could not nat anyone. - ANN Service

### Two NSCN (R) ultras arrested

SILCHAR, April 28: Cachar Police in association with the 37 Assam Rifles C Coy conducted a raid and arrested two active cadres of NSCN (R) along with weapons. According to police sources, SDPO Lakhipur Anurag Sarma along with OC Jirighat police station and jawans of the Assam Riffles jointly carried out the operation at Ramgaizang and Chamtila (Karuluang) areas since Sunday midnight and all through Monday and nabbed two active cadres of NSCN (R). The two cadres have been identified as David Jeme (20) of Dima Hasao and Insalung (37) from Tamenglong district, Manipur and Second Lieutenant of NSCN (R). One .22 pistol and ammunition along with five detonators and cords were recovered from their possession. - Staff Correspondent

### One drowns at Belsor

TIHU, April 28: One Nitish Deka (14), a student of Class IX of Belsor HS School of village Billeswar (Chandpara) under Belsor Police Station drowned on April 26 in his own pond when he was taking bath at about 2 pm. - ANN Service

### Sanitisers distributed

DHUBRI, April 28: Simanta Chetana Manch, Dhubri on Monday distributed sanitisers among officials, health workers and journalists in the entire Dhubri town. - Correspondent

### Donation to fight COVID-19

DIBRUGARH, April 28: The Centre for Studies in Physical Education and Sports of Dibrugarh University made a contribution of Rs 94,669 to the Assam Arogya Nidhi. The Centre made the donation after raising contributions from the teachers and students, both present and alumni. The donation was hand over to the Deputy Commissioner, a press released stated. – Correspondent

# \_\_\_\_\_ *State* \_\_\_\_\_ Tinsukia district piggery owners jittery over ban on selling pork

### CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, April 28: A sense of panic has gripped the piggery owners not only in Tinsukia district, but also across the State after the government Committee of the Veterinary Department banned selling of pork in the six neighbouring districts of Tinsukia, namely Dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji and Biswanath due to the sudden upsurge in pig deaths.

In Tinsukia district, no major outbreak of epizootic diseases has been reported in the piggery sector, except sporadic cases of classical swine fever-like disease syndrome from some villages, namely Baliani of Saikhowa Block, Bhitor Powai of Margherita Block and Harijan Basti of Tinsukia etc., claimed Dr Debananda Gogoi, District Veterinary Officer of Tinsukia.

Talking to this correspondent, Dr Gogoi said, "Treatment-cum-ring vaccination has been carried out in the affected

been vaccinated in the vulnerable areas, another 1,700 doses are ready for contingency immunisation."

'The District Disaster Management is ready to move anywhere within the district as and when necessary. The district has 18 veterinary dispensaries and 28 subcentres with a staff of 18 Veterinary Officers and 40 field staff along with Grade-IV employees," Gogoi added.

The District Veterinary Officer further stated that there was no scarcity of animal feed in the district due to the ongoing lockdown in the wake of the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic.

Further, the Veterinary Department has been extending support from door to door like vending of livestock commodities by strictly following the COVID-19 guidelines.

It may be mentioned here that around

areas. While 1,500 piglets have already 25 to 30 quintals of pork are being sold in Tinsukia district alone on a regular basis and is a major source of sustenance for the rural masses.

> The ban imposed on the sale of piggery products in the neighbouring districts will also adversely affect the pig farmers of Tinsukia district not only during the ongoing lockdown period, but also during the post lockdown period as well.

> Expressing doubts over the latest development, a pig farmer of the district, who was unwilling to be named, said if the cause of large-scale pig deaths was established as being of foreign origin, as reported in a section of the Press, and the government decision to take drastic action, including mass culling of pigs, has proved to be a curse for the economy of the State by facilitating the big players from outside the State like Punjab and Karnataka to capture the lucrative piggery market in Assam, as had happened in Nagaland.



People from outside the district queuing up before undergoing health check-up prior to boarding outgoing buses arranged by the Lakhimpur district administration during the ongoing lockdown, on Tuesday. - Photo: Farhana Ahmed

### **AAI Silchar** extends support STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, April 28: The Airport Authority of India (AAI) here extended financial assistance to Cachar Police, Silchar Civic Board and Silchar Press Club in their bid to fight against the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic.

In separate meetings, AAI Silchar airport director Pradip Kumar Gorai, OSD Arnab Kumar Das and other officials donated cheques worth Rs 30.000 each to the respective establishments and wished that the humble contribution as a part of their Corporate Social Responsibility will help to meet the requirements to combat the ongoing crisis. Later, talking to The Assam Tribune, Gorai said, "as a part of our CSR, we have disbursed a total of Rs 90,000 for the three important wings of the society. Earlier, we handed over a cheque worth Rs 8 lakh to Assam Aarogya Nidhi through Cachar Deputy Commissioner. Further, we are ensuring that no one around the vicinity of the airport remains hungry during the lockdown and we have proposed to distribute 8 MT of rice among the residents living near the airport along with face covers for safety."

### Drive against lockdown violators carried out in Jorhat

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, April 28: Heavy rush of people and a large number of vehicles were seen throughout the busy AT Road and its adjoining areas here since today morning resembling a picture of near normalcy.

Apart from people coming out in large numbers on foot, bicycles, four-wheelers, two-wheelers, movement of goods transportation vehicles, rickshaws and handcarts were seen on the AT Road and its nearby areas.

Grocery shops, pharmacies and

by policemen were seen enforcing lockdown here.

Checking of vehicles and imposing fines and other penal action on unauthorised vehicles, sending back people found to be coming out of their homes without any valid reason, closing down unauthorised shops were carried out by the administration officials and police personnel.

Food provided: Meanwhile, as part of the drive by Jorhat unit of the NGO named 'Feeding India' to provide food, volunteers of the organisation served food to daily wage earners, homeless people and

### Vegetables worth Rs 210 cr sold in last one month

### PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, April 28: Notwithstanding the logistical and supply constraints which emerged due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the nationwide lockdown, farmers of Assam have been able to sell vegetables and fruits worth a total of Rs 210 crore in the domestic markets during the last one month.

Official sources told The Assam Tribune today that the Agriculture Department,

the Horticul-

ture Directo-

rate and the

Assam State

Agricultural

Marketing

Board are co-

ordinating ef-

forts with the

respective dis-

trict adminis-

trations to fa-

cilitate pro-

curement,

transport and

sale of vegetables and fruits.

"Since the start of the lock-

ing the initial days of the lock-A control room has been set up at lated to transthe Directorate of Agriculture here to help the farmers address problems faced due to the lockdown and it is manned by senior the source. officials.

keting the crops had emerged. With passage of time the problems are being sorted out," added He added that a control

down, many

problems re-

portation, pur-

chase and mar-

room has been set up at the Directorate of Agriculture here to help the farmers address problems faced due to the lockdown and it is manned by senior officials.

Meanwhile, the Pamohi wholesale market in Guwahati has reported sale of Rs 3.25 crore worth of vegetables so far during the lockdown period, said Debeswar Bora, Chief Executive Officer of Assam State Agricultural Marketing Board. "The total quantity of veg-

Yesterday, three metric tonne (MT) of vegetables were sent by trucks from

### New initiative proves effective in limiting gatherings before CSPs in Darrang

### CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, April 28: The prevailing long queues of women in front of banks and the bank- authorised CSP (Customers Service Point ) defying social distancing norms of COV-ID-19 prevention are no more being witnessed since the last couple of days in Darrang district.

Visits of this correspondent to a few such CSPs to know the cause of this visible change in assembling of beneficiaries of the PM Jan Dhan ac-

while explaining the new initiative said, "Earlier Jan Dhan Account women beneficiaries had to wait in very long queues to withdraw money from their bank accounts. Many complaints regarding violation of social distancing norms were being received. Seeking a respite from the prevailing situation, we have appointed two government employees for every CSP to maintain a waiting register and issue tokens specifying the approximate time of service."

"Now during the Ramzan month with the weather turning hot, bene-

down and till yesterday, vegetables and fruits worth Rs 210 crore, which were produced by local farmers, have been sold in the domestic market. While Rs 113 crore worth vegetables and fruits were sold within Assam, products worth Rs 97 crore have been sent to other States of India. In addi-

tion, there has been some export of certain horticulture items to overseas markets as well," said a senior official.

etables sold in Pamohi till yesterday is 16,237 quintals," said Bora.

### **Rice allotment** for tea estates CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, April 28: Workers of 14 tea estates of Hailakandi district will be allotted rice under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) for April. The Food, Civil Supplies and Corporate Affairs authorities informed that 1,378 quintals of rice for April have been allotted for distribution among the tea garden workers of 14 tea estates in the district.

Blue dyed SK oil under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) from April to June has been allotted for both urban and rural areas. 1,28,830 litres of the blue dyed oil used for cooking and illumination purpose would be distributed among the beneficiaries through a network of fair price shops and through 7,086 hawkers. One litre will be allotted by fair price shops while 0.550 litre through hawkers to each beneficiary.

Nearly 611 kg of fish has been sold from different distribution points for door-to-door delivery through 35 retailers covering 715 families as on Wednesday. 850 metric tonnes of vegetables have been delivered at the doorsteps of the people through 439 hawkers across the district.

### Arati Hazarika: a tribute

My sister Arati Hazarika passed away at her Bora Service residence in Guwahati on April 19 at the age of 79.

Arati baideo was a lady endowed with qualities that very few women possessed. An extremely versatile

lady, she was always busy with something, particularly with her penchant for writing books for children. She indeed wrote a number of such books for the children and on subjects of gen-

eral nature. Incidentally, I was trapped in between with a demand to translate them into English. Since I was main-

taining indifferent health, I could not complete them during her lifetime.

On this day of her adyashraddha, I pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to her departed soul and also strength of mind to her family members

to bear the personal loss with

fortitude

- BK Bhattacharjee

### OBITUARY Rajani Kanta Sarma ANN SERVICE



social worker, ex-president of Kaithalkuchi Barowari Durga Puja Committee, and a resident of Jowardi (Kaithalkuchi) passed away this morning due to oldage ailments. He was 94.

He was the president of Kaithalkuch Barowari Durga Puja Committee, president of Kaithalkuch Bazar Committee and closely associated with several organisations of greater Kaithalkuchi area. He leaves behind his wife, one son, five daughters and a host of grandchildren and relatives.

other shops were permitted to be opened by the district administration and the wholesale market too remained open. A few other shops too were reportedly open.

It seemed that the State Government's decision taken in yesterday's Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at Dispur to give certain relaxations in rural areas may have been misunderstood by the people.

In the afternoon, the district administration officials accompanied other poor people severely hit by the lockdown at several areas of Jorhat town since Sunday.

The food was served near the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital gate with some patients and their attendants, security staff and paramedics too accepting the same.

Food was also distributed among the poor and needy people at the Inter-State Bus Terminus here, an office-bearer of Feeding India informed. He said the drive will continue till May 3.

count holders, has revealed the introduction of a new initiative by the district administration where beneficiaries are issued paper tokens in advance and given an alert call a few minutes before their scheduled time of arrival. The administration has already engaged two government officials against each CSP across the district to ensure hassle-free service to women customers at this time of the ongoing Ramzan month.

On being contacted over phone, Deputy Commissioner, Ghanshyam Dass

ficiaries especially from the Muslim community need not wait in queue. Instead they visit the CSPs when their turn comes and withdraw money. If someone fails to appear within 15 minutes of the scheduled time, the government employee calls the beneficiary", Dass maintained.

Renu Saharia and Pratap Das, two teachers whom this correspondent met while visiting the CSPs said that they are in the service since April 22 last whereas beneficiaries are responding to their calls well.

## Gross anomalies in distribution of relief material in Goalpara alleged

#### CORRESPONDENT

GOALPARA, April 28: At a time when the government is trying to ensure that no poor people are compelled to go to bed hungry during the unprecedented crisis due to the nationwide lockdown as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, a large number of needy people living within the town's municipal area have alleged that there has been gross irregularities and misappropriation while distributing relief material by the ward members or their representatives in most of the 19 wards under Goalpara Municipal Board (GMB).

Official sources said that relief material was sanctioned for a total of 28,000 poor, needy and vulnerable people out of a list of 35,000 submitted by the Goalpara Municipal Board (GMB) for all its 19 wards.

Sources informed that relief material was distributed among the beneficiaries for three days during the first stage and for another four days during the second stage as per the Assam Relief Manual. The relief package to each beneficiary included rice (adult) 600 gms, rice (minor) 400 gms, dal 100 gms, mustard oil 30 ml

was given to each beneficiary by taking the average family size to be 4.5 persons and sanctioned under ASD-MA to 26,000 needy people under

the municipal area. Talking to this correspondent, Sankar Das (name changed), who lives in the Chandaria Pathar area of Ward No. 14 said that he received a packet containing 1 kg rice and around 100 gms of dal for his

This is just a partial picture, but it shows the extent of misap-

relief distribution system under the municipal areas.

While noted social worker Sailen Das remarked that although pilferage of relief material is not new, but such misappropriation of foodgrains meant

and salt 30 gms. Recently, 5 kg rice for the poor, that too at this critical less foodgrain as relief than was actulack of proper supervision during the relief distribution process by the con-



A meagre amount of relief material which was distributed among a four-member vulnerable family in Chandaria Pathar area under Ward No. 14 in Goalpara town. -Photo: Roop Choudhury

scrupulous people propriation taking place in the entire to misappropriate a large amount of relief material meant for the poor and needy people who work in the informal sector and are struggling to manage two square meals a day.

municipal

entire relief distri-

bution system,

which has encour-

aged a section of un-

and

He also alleged that in most cases the beneficiaries had received much relief material at this difficult hour.

juncture, reveals the extent of moral ally allotted to them officially. Das indegradation of a section of people and formed that already a magisterial enquiry is being conducted into alleged irregularities in distribution of relief material in Municipal Ward No. 16.

> He further demanded that the government should take all rigorous steps so that such irregularities are checked immediately.

While SMSS general secretary Azidul Islam said that the poor and the destitute are looking up to the government for extensive relief in order to survive this lockdown crisis, the alleged irregularities by a section of public representatives at the helm of affairs both at the municipal and panchayat level have made it difficult for the needy and jobless people to get the requisite amount of relief material allotted to them.

Islam also informed that many impoverished families residing in Ward No. 11 have allegedly received relief in between 3 to 5 kgs of rice only till date.

Further, he urged the government to institute an enquiry and to take punitive measures against such kinds of irregularities and misappropriation of

four-member family. Upon complaining, he received around 5 kg of rice in the evening just two days back.

### UPEE vs Dollar (76.18) 24 76.18 28 22 23

Inverted Scale

### CAPSULE

GRAPHICS.

### **Axis Bank Q4** net loss at Rs 1,388 cr

NEW DELHI, April 28: Axis Bank today reported a standalone net loss of Bs 1.387.78 crore for the March quarter of 2019-20 as provisioning for bad loans and contingencies soared. The private sector lender had reported a net profit of Rs 1,505.06 crore in the same quarter of the previous financial year. Income during the latest quarter stood at Rs 20,219.57 crore. It was Rs 18,324.31 crore in the year-ago period, Axis Bank said in a regulatory filing. Provisions for bad loans and contingencies in the fourth quarter of the last fiscal were at Rs 7.730.02 crore. In the year-ago quarter the provisions stood at Rs 2,711.43 crore. - PTI

### **RBI employees**

MUMBAI, April 28: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) today said its employees have decided to contribute salarv of one or more days totalling Rs 7.30 crore towards the PM-CARES Fund. To help people affected by any kind of emergency or distress situation like the one posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the government has set up a public charitable trust named PM-CARES Fund to receive contributions from various sources, the central bank said in a statement. "Responding to the call to support this noble cause, the employees of the **Reserve Bank have** decided to contribute one or more days salary to the PM-CARÉS Fund," the RBI said. – PTI

### Coca-Cola aid

NEW DELHI, April 28: Beverages major Coca-Cola today said it has committed an initial Rs 100 crore to help the healthcare system and

#### NEW DELHI, April 28: Outstanding loans amounting to Rs 68,607 crore of top 50 wilful bank loan defaulters in the country including firms of Mehul Choksi and Vijay

Patanjali, with Rs 2,212 crore and Zoom Developers Pvt Ltd with Rs 2,012 crore are the other companies in the list.

Mallva's Kingfisher Airlines figures in the list at number 9, with an outstanding of Rs 1,943

crore written off loans.

India and Nakshatra Brands

ac is the fourth in the list. He and his son Rahul Kothari were arrested by the CBI for bank loan default.

In the last Parliament session, Rahul Gandhi had asked the government to provide a

### **GTAC** reduces 'waiting time' to aid tea sellers

GUWAHATI, April 28: In a bid to cooperate with the stakeholders of the cashstrapped tea industry in the wake of the ongoing lockdown, the auction centre here has decided to reduce "waiting time for sellers" to sell their produce and help them cut operational cost, an

Details of tender can be seen or www.mizoramtenders.gov.in & Corrigendum No-02

published vide Tender Notice No. CON. 2020/Jan/02; Dated: 03-01-2020. Please

read as: Closing date of Tender reschedule on 19-05-2020. Details a available in www.ireps.gov.in.

Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) "SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

Corrigendum No-03

07 published vide Tender Notice No

CON/2020/Feb/09; Dated: 28-02-2020

Please read as: Opening date of Tende

s reschedule on 12-05-2020. Details ar

(Construction Organization)

E-Tender Notice No. CON/2020/A

02; Dated: 20-04-2020. Open tende

experienced and reputed Contractor(s

firm(s) for the following works:- E-Tende No. CE/CON/N-A/BLD/2020/07/RT-1

Name of work: Dismantling of various

obstructions/utility from Nalbari to Agtho

and Construction of the same, to enabl

EPC from section Nalbari to Agthor

Construction of Rest House at Amingac

etc. Approx. Value: ₹20,06,07,743.17. E

tender will be closed at 14:30 hrs. on 26

05-2020 and opened at 15.30 hrs. on 26

05-2020. For Details Please vis

"Serving Customers with a smile

Chief Engineer/Con/

Northeast Frontier Railway

(Construction Organisation

vww.ireps.gov.in.

hrough e-tendering system

ig of variou ions/Utility

is invited fro

ilable in www.ireps.gov.in. Chief Engineer/Con-3, Maliga Northeast Frontier Railway

Tender No. CE/CON/A-G/EMB/2020/

Tender No. CE/CON/D-K/EMB/2020/ & CE/CON/D-K/EMB/2020/02

Chief Engineer/Con-VI, Maligao

### LOCKDOWN

Tea production loss estimated at 110 mn kg: TAI GUWAHATI, April 28: The Tea Association of India (TAI) today said it has estimated a production loss of 110 million kg due to the ongoing lockdown imposed to check the coronavirus outbreak.

Though tea gardens in Assam and West Bengal have recently been allowed to resume operations with limited workforce and in strict adherence to health safety norms during the lockdown, planters had to undertake skiffing activities before restarting plucking of leaves, TAI President Raj Bansal said.

"Although gardens commenced operations in Assam with 50 per cent of workmen and 25 per cent in West Bengal, the gardens had to skiff in order to maintain proper plucking table. This has led to loss in manufactured tea," he said. A production "loss to the

tune of 110 million kg" is projected by the association, Bansal said, adding that the lockdown, which was enforced at a time when the industry was gearing up to begin a new season, has also led to liquidity crunch.

The TAI has submitted presentations to the Centre and the respective State governments seeking a financial package, he said. - PTI

**GOVERNMENT OF** MIZORAM OFFICE OF THE **ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF: POWER & ELECTRICITY** DEPARTMENT MIZORAM : AIZAWL No.T-15016/1/2020-EC(P)/W/39 Dated Aizawl, the 27th April 2020 SHORT NOTICE INVITING

TENDER The Engineer-in-Chief, Power & Electricity Department on behalf of the Governor of Mizcram invites Online Tender for Selection of Developers fo Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 500 kWp Grid connected Rooftop SPV Power Plants including Five Years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) in different locations for Residential Sector in the state of Mizoram.

NIT No.: 1 of 2020-2021 : 500 kWp Grid connected Rooftop SPV Power Plants E-Tender document availability at site Date 28.04.2020

Name of Work: Selection of Developers for Design, Manufacture, Testing, Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 500 kWp Grid connected Rooftop SPV Power Plants including Five Years Comprehensive Maintenance Contract (CMC) in different locations for Residential Sector in the state of Mizoram.

downloaded from the websites

ting DGPS/Total station su E-Tender Notice No. DY.CE/CON DMV/2020/Mar/02; Dated: 20-03-2020 pen tender through e-Tendering system invited from experienced and repute ntractor(s)/firm(s) for the fo ork:- Tender No. DY.CE/CON-3/D-K Sur/02. Name of work: Conductin GPS/Total station survey, checking/fixir of centreline on ground with reference arious GCP during work execution drological survey & fixing of referen pillars at various locations in phase III i etween Stations Pherima & Zubza connection with the construction of nev BG Railway line from Dhansiri to Zubza Approx. Value: ₹2.59.22.954.92. E-tende will closed at 14.30 hrs. on 21-05-2020 and opened at 15.30 hrs on 21-05-2020 For Details Please visit <u>www.ireps.gov.ir</u> Dy.CE/CON/DMV/I Northeast Frontier Railway

(Construction Organisation (OUNSITUATION OF STATE

### DIBRUGARH WORKSHOP

E-Tender Notice No.: DBWS/ELECT HB Enhancement dated 25-04-2020. nders are invited by the undersigned for th blowing works: Tender No. EL/1/DB/W/1 HB Enhancement/2019-20/55. Name of ork: At Dibrugarh workshop- "Electrica ortion of work for Enhancement o nfrastructure for increasing period erhauling capacity from 06 to 12 LHE baches". Tender Value: ₹1,90,54,799 nclusive GST @12%). Earnest Money 2,45,300/-. Cost of tender documen 5.000/-. Date & Time of closing o ender: 22-05-2020 of 15.00 hrs. & opening f Tender: 15.30 hrs. of 22-05-2020. TI mplete information about the tende ocument of above E-Tender will be availabl pto 15.00 hrs. of 22-05-2020 in website ww

eps.gov.in Chief Workshop Manage (Electrical), Dibrugar NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Dated: 28th April'2020



No. NRHM/CH/SNCU/2015-16/102

### EXTENSION NOTICE

The Bid process for the work "Installation of 2 nos I.P Camera along with accessories at SNCU 1) Karimgang 2) Nalbari 3) Udalguri and 4) Darrang under NHM, Assam issued vide No. NRHM/CH/SNCU/2015-16/100 Dated: Guwahati the 21st March' 2020 and extension vide No. NRHM/CH/SNCU/2015-16/101 Dated: Guwahati the 28th April'2020 is further extended as follows:

1. Last Date of issuing of Bid documents till 5/5/2020 upto 17 Hrs 2. Submission of Bid 6/5/2020 (end date) at 14:00 hrs. (end time). 3. Opening of Bid: 6/5/2020 at 15:30 hrs

All other terms and conditions will remain same

Sd/-**Mission Director, NHM, Assam** 

#### No. SSUHS/190/2019/2077 ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are invited for the posts of Registrar, Registrar (Academic), Controller of Examinations and Finance & Accounts Officer of Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences from candidates who are Indian nationals and fulfil the eligibility criteria as provided in the detailed advertisement available in the University website www.ssuhs.in. The term of the posts shall be for a period of 5 (five) years. The filled in application form along with a Demand Draft of Rs. 1000/- (Rupees one thousand) only, as non-refundable application fee drawn in favour of "Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences" payable at SBI, GMC Branch, Guwahati should reach to the Member Secretary, Selection Committee, Srimanta Sankaradeva University of Health Sciences, 2nd Floor, Gauhati Medical College Building, Narakasur Hilltop, Bhangagarh, Guwahati-781032, Assam on or before 45 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. Those in employment must submit a No Objection Certificate from the present employer

Candidates selected for interview will have to appear

Srimanta Sankaradeva University of

before the Selection Committee at their own cost, when



Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in fight against COVID-19 and their operational plans post-lockdown through a video-conference with the CMDs of DPSUs as well as DG, Ordnance Factories & Chairman, OFB, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Secretary (Defence Production) Raj Kumar is also seen. - PIB

Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh reviewing contribution of defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) and

### Over Rs 68,600-cr worth loans written off: RBI's RTI reply Choksi, Mallya firms in wilful defaulters' list

promote electronics manufacitoring spread of fake news on turing through pro-investsocial media platforms and that ment initiatives, in a bid to tap companies have informed the a "great opportunity" that government of the progress they have made in removing Prasad, who interacted contents that were aimed at with State IT ministers inflaming passion and placing through video-conference in roadblocks in India's fight against COVID-19. the backdrop of the coronavi-He cautioned that any inrus pandemic, told reporters later that eased connectivity

oped and will be launched soon.

Electronics and IT further said

his ministry is constantly mon-

The Union Minister for

action by companies to clamp down on fake news would be met with consequences at the Centre and State levels, as well as police action. The minister said products

Prasad said States have been highly appreciative of the Aarocoming from any country, gva Setu app and he assured particularly China, should be subject to stringent security them that a similar solution for audit and verification. feature phones is being devel-

NEW DELHI, April 28:

Union Minister Ravi Shankar

Prasad today urged State IT

ministers to move swiftly and

norms to facilitate work-

from-home, which were to

end on April 30, have now

been extended till July 31.

now beckons India.

"One thing is clear... we are not against any country, we are only pro-India, we are committed to India and will take measures to create opportunities for India. As regards security initiatives are concerned... any product coming from any country, particularly China, we expect proper security audit and verification," he said.

**Big opportunity beckons India, move** 

swiftly to tap it: Prasad to States

**Electronics manufacturing** 

 $\_$  Business & Economy  $\_$ 

Summing up his interaction with the State IT ministers to discuss challenges and roadmap in the backdrop of coronavirus pandemic, Prasad said it has been decided that the IT Ministry along with NIC will come out, in 3-4 days' time, with an app that will facilitate sharing of best practices.

"I took on board the suggestion that we must have a strategic group assisting our

system, State governments (their) IT ministers and some of the best minds of IT profession... so that in this type of challenge and opportunity, we can leverage with fresh ideas. I have also relaxed norms for working from home, it was to end on April 30, I have extended it to July 31...," he said.

The minister also underlined the government's commitment to promote electronics manufacturing in a big way. "A great opportunity beck-

ons India, and we already have policies in place. This is India's opportunity, where Centre and State governments should move together. I have urged State IT ministers that they should also undertake pro-investment initiatives,' he said.- PTI

communities combat the coronavirus pandemic. The relief programmes initiated by Coca-Cola in India aim at benefitting and positively impacting over 10 lakh lives across the country, the company said in a statement. Coca-Cola said its financial contribution will be utilised for activation of over 50 locations across 10 States in partnership with its bottlers to support the hydration needs of the underserved communities during the lockdown period. - PTI





written off till September 30, 2019, the Reserve Bank of India said in a RTI reply. Absconding diamantaire

Mallya have been technically

Choksi's company Gitanjali Gems tops the list of these defaulters with a whopping amount of Rs 5,492 crore, according to the list. This is followed by REI Agro with Rs 4.314 crore and Winsome Diamonds with Rs 4,076 crore. Rotomac Global Pvt Ltd has funded advances of Rs 2,850

jhunwala brothers is already crore which have been techniunder the scanner of ED. The cally written off and Kudos CBI and ED are also probing Chemie Ltd with Rs 2,326 alleged fraud by the owners of Winsome Diamonds. crore, Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd, now owned by Ramdev's

list of top 50 bank loan decrore which has been technically written off by the banks. faulters in the country, lead-Forever Precious Jewellery ing to sharp exchanges and and Diamonds Pvt Ltd has uproar in the Lok Sabha. loans of Rs 1,962 crore writ-

"The information on top 50 ten off while Deccan Chroniwilful defaulters and their sum cle Holdings Ltd has Rs 1,915 of funded amount outstanding and amount technically/pru-Choksi's other firms Gili dentially written off as on September 30, 2019, reported in also have loans of Rs 1,447 and CRILC by banks, is provid-Rs 1,109 crore respectively ed," the RBI said in its writwritten off. REI Agro of Jhunten response dated April 24. In his application, RTI activist Saket Gokhale had sought the list of defaulters as on February 16, but the RBI said the requested information is not available. - PTI

medium-sized enterprises,'

said Nadia Hewett, Blockchain

and Digital Currency Project

learn from the current pandem-

ic and this toolkit is a starting

point for improving long-term

pandemic preparedness and

accelerating an economic recov-

ery led by public-private coop-

eration," Hewett added. – PTI

"There are many lessons to

Lead, WEF, USA.

official said on Monday.

The Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) will reduce the sale time to 17 days from the present 19-21 days adopted in all the auctioning houses, he said.

"The reduced waiting time for sellers will be offered for the next two sales at the auction centre," Guwahati Tea Auction Buyers' Association (GTABA) Secretary Dinesh Bihani said.

The producers need not to wait for usual 19-21 days to sell their crops and can save cost for warehousing, he said.

The GTAC has also taken a step for new sellers, who wanted to offer their tea at the centre but could not submit requisite documents due to lockdown, he said.

"For these sellers, GTAC has given them an opportunity to sell tea at the centre with provisional licences," Bihani said.

by the Kamrup (Metro) dissmaller players who may not trict authorities to restart ophave access to the resources erations in a limited manner required to unlock the value of after April 20 to conduct eblockchain technology. For this auctions of the crop during reason, the toolkit can level the ongoing lockdown. the playing field for small and

With the Central government permitting opening of tea gardens with certain conditions during the lockdown imposed to check the coronavirus outbreak, different district administrations in the tea-growing areas of Brahmaputra valley in north and Barak valley in south Assam have allowed plucking of leaves. - PTI

www.power.mizoram.gov.in, The Engineer-in-Chief, P & ED reserves the right to reject any or all tender without assigning any reason thereof. (LALDUHZUALA SAILO) Engineer-in-Chief Power & Electricity Department IPR No. 6

Janasanyog/D/338/20 NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION



No. NHM-39011/1/2019-Nursing-NHM/68

Dated Ghy the 25th April'2020

Sd/-Vice Chancellor.

**Health Sciences** 

#### **NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)**

ASSAM

along with the application.

called for.

The Office of the Mission Director, National Health Mission, Assam invites bid for the works under NHM in single bid system (in F2 form)affixing court fee stamp of Rs.8.25 (Rupees Eight and Twenty Five Paisa) only for the works as detailed below:-

Name of the Work With District	Value of Work (In Rs.)	Bid Security (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (from the date of issue of work order)
Repair and Renovation of Regional College of Nurs- ing in Kamrup Metro District under NHM Assam	Rs 1 38 298 00	2% for General Category & 1% for SC/ST Category	1000.00	1 Month

1. Eligibility Criteria:-

(a). Registered APWD (Bldg) Class I-A,B,C/Class-II& /Class-III/CPWD Contractors /Reputed Construction Company/Agency/registered under Govt./ Public sector undertaking. (b).Contractor must have satisfactory completed:-

i) Four similar works, each of value not less than 25% of the estimated cost put on tender OR. ii) Three similar works, each of value not less than 40% of the estimated cost put on tender OR iii) Two similar works, each of value not less than 50% of the estimated cost put- on tender OR iv) One similar works of value not less than 80% of the estimated cost, all amounts rounded off to a convenient full figure, in the last 5 years ending on the last day of the month previous to the one in which the tenders are invited.

(c).Contractor must have achieved average annual turn-over of at least 30% of estimated cost during last3 years ending 31st March of the previous Financial Year.

(d).The Contractor having PAN Card/GST Registration/Labour License/registration under EPF & MP Act, 1952 etc. are eligible to participate in the bid process.

(e). The intended bidders are asked to verify the site for the work prior to quoting their rates

2. Cost of tender document should be drawn in favour of State Health Society, Assam, payable atGuwahati in the Form of Pay Order/Demand Draft.

3. Bid security with a validity of 225 (i.e. 180+45) days should be in the form of FDR/CDR/TDR and drawn in favour of The State Health Society, Assam, payable at Guwahati.

4. Date of receipt of application along with cost of tender document and copies of documents as per eligibility criteria mentioned at SI.1 (a), (b) & (c) to issue Bid Document:- 29-04-2020 to 05-05-2020 during working hours

5. Date for issuing of Bid Document: -29-04-2020 to 05-05-2020 up to 17- 00 hrs.

- 6. Date and time of submission of Bid:-29-04-2020 to 06-05-2020 up to 14-00 hrs.
- a). The bids will be opened on 06-05-2020 at 15.30 hrs. of the same day.

b). In case, if any Bandh /Holiday falls in any sequence, the sequence will be held in the next working day. c). Interested Bidder may contact the Office of the Mission Director for location of work and any other details of the project/ Bid during working hours.

> Sd/-**Mission Director, NHM, Assam**

### Blockchain can tackle supply chain failures, boost economic recovery: WEF

Vikram Kothari's Rotom-

NEW DELHI/GENEVA, April 28: Blockchain technology can help tackle supply chain failures exposed by the COV-ID-19 pandemic and also boost the economic recovery process, the World Economic Fo-

rum (WEF) said today.

ployment toolkit' to help organisations improve future pandemic preparedness and

at helping leaders maximise the benefits and minimise the risks of the technology.

"The pressure created by the

trade systems highlights an urgent need for global cooper-

Releasing a 'blockchain de-

accelerate an economic rebound post COVID-19, Geneva-based WEF said it is aimed

The WEF, which describes itself as an international organisation for public-private partnership, said crises such as the coronavirus pandemic dramatically increase pressure on governments and businesses to maintain resilient supply chains.

COVID-19 outbreak on global

ation to maintain and strengthen the resilience of international supply chains," it said. tions and technology and sup-Resilience in supply chains ply chain experts. "The blockchain deployment depends on trust, transparency and integrity, which can be toolkit is essential for design-

improved through responsible deployment of blockchain technologies that offer a "shared truth", the WEF said.

It further said the current pandemic underscores the need for businesses and governments to improve the integrity and provenance of pharmaceutical products and medical supplies, as well as food, goods and industrial and consumer products.

The WEF said the first-ofits-kind toolkit is culmination of more than a year of efforts to capture best practices from blockchain deployment across industries and has drawn on global expertise of more than 100

stakeholders, including governments, companies, start-ups, academic institutions, civil society, international organisa-

This facility is only availa-

ble for those who are registered with the Calcutta Tea Auction Centre, he said. ing solutions that work for a The GTAC was permitted multitude of actors, including

# Leisure & Lifestyle =

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020





'Indoor workouts up 40% in India as people stay home'

Indoor activities such as floor climbing, yoga, and indoor cardio workouts showed an overall increase of 38.5 per cent in the same period

India witnessed a 40 per cent increase in indoor workouts in Lthe first quarter this year and the trend only firmed up with lockdown and social distancing in March, a new report said on Tuesday.

The report from US-based wearable major Garmin said the activity count for outdoor activities had an overall drop of 15.5 per cent, with activity count for golf, hiking trail running and running decreasing by 87.6 per cent, 34.9 per cent, 29.2 per cent and 18.8 per cent, respectively, in the country.

In comparison, indoor activities such as floor climbing, yoga, and indoor cardio workouts showed an overall increase of 38.5 per cent in the same period. With travel and activity

restrictions implemented from March this year, overall outdoor activity count from January 20 till April 21 was dropped by 71.2 per

cent while indoor activity count increased by 40.2 per cent in the

same period, the report said. According to the company that collected data of over 2,00,000 from its registered database, their smartwatches enable users to track physiological data, providing daily insights to their health status.

Garmin India has identified five key health indicators to enable its users to track and manage their health profile.

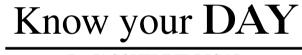
The five health indicators are heart rate, respiratory rate, blood oxygen saturation, sleep monitoring and stress monitoring.

Users should refer to data from their smartwatch with the five health indicators to identify any changes rather than depending solely on own assumptions to determine their own health status, the company said. (Source: IANS)









### By JACQUELINE BIGAR

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, April 29, 2020:

You are very conscious of the image you project in the world, and now your image changes - for the better. Super dependable, many count on you, and this year you get a respite and are able to be more spontaneous. There are ample opportunities to add to your income. If single, you decide to stay that way. If attached, your bond grows even closer. TAURUS gets you like no one else

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★ Reflect and take time to rest, and all will be well. Real estate transactions can be confusing, so make sure to go over the fine print. The long-term picture might be brighter than it seems at first glance. Tonight: Do not push yourself too hard.



"THIS IS WHY YOU SHOULDN'T ORDER IN FRENCH



### LOCKHORNS







#### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

 $\star \star \star$  Study and communication bring valuable information your way. Be creative and adventurous in meeting transportation needs. You will solve problems well and be able to recognize the good in companions. Tonight: Charitable acts to worthwhile causes bring rewards.

#### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★ Financial planning will be in your thoughts. Conversations revolve around work, spending power and earning potential. Take advantage of new options or follow through on a suggestion made by a loved one. Do not be overcome by impatience or anger. Tonight: Relax.

#### CANCER (June 21-July 22)

 $\star \star \star \star$  You are highly motivated and can accomplish a lot today. Use humor to cope with forceful people. Steady effort and patience eventually lead to success. Do not rely on quick solutions. Tonight: News might bring a different viewpoint to the fore.

#### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Today brings a need for peace and privacy. You will suddenly enjoy being alone more than usual. A dream or meditation session helps you become your own best friend and to accept experiences from your past philosophically. Tonight: Early bedtime.

#### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$  Interest in old hobbies and group affiliations grows. A change of heart on many levels is in progress. The health and wealth of those you are closest to will improve. Friendships are entering a more nurturing phase for you. Tonight: Network and communicate online.

#### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$  Your image and reputation take on new polish. There is a hint of myth and legend, a larger-than-life quality around you. Enjoy meetings, but keep a sense of balance and perspective. Do not neglect details. Do keep promises. Tonight: Celebrate yourself.

#### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

 $\star\star\star\star\star$  Magical workings for growth and personal expansion should culminate in great success. Make the most of the extra attention and faith that others have expressed in you. The positive and negative potentials or passions of every kind are evident today. Tonight: Journey in your mind.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Money may be tied up in investments or earmarked for bills.  $\boldsymbol{\lambda}$ Good or bad, financial matters aren't quite as they seem. A friendly greeting from a loved one who has passed over greets you today. Tonight: Wonder on the marvelous.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

\*\*\*\* Relationships are in a state of flux today. You will officiate attract others. Cultivate new social and business contacts. Be tolerant attract others. Cultivate new social will prove the specially important to listen to what children are and patient with partners. It is especially important to listen to what children are saying right now. Tonight: A dinner with loved ones.

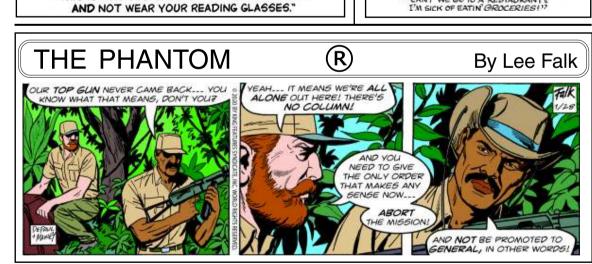
#### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★ Today's moon impacts health conditions in the lives of those near you. Try to avoid contact with those who suffer from a contagious illness. If caring for those who are sick, take frequent breaks so the stress does not wear you down. Tonight: Early bedtime.

#### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

 $\star \star \star \star \star$  A loved one treasures a treat or unusual gift you created. - Artistic skills peak now. You will express yourself effectively. Today allows you to indulge this talent and to make plans for a future odyssey. Tonight: Postpone decisions about financial matters until next week.

Thought for the day You can get help from teachers, but you are going to have to learn a lot by yourself, sitting alone in a room - DR SEUSS







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35						36						
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#### SOLUTION TO TRIBUNE CROSSWORD - 6880

#### 33 Ism, 34 Fix.

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve

he jumbles to make proper words and mo

Caribou, 22 RCA, 23 Day, 24 Relief, 25 Jests, 26 Wager, 27 Oboes, Dawns, 12 DDT, 13 Leu, 15 Era, 16 Roe, 18 RNA, 19 Dub, 21 Down: 1 Air, 2 Gob, 3 Bathing, 4 Avatar, 5 Abhor, 6 Karma, 7 Lei, 30 Sag, 31 Obi, 32 Briet, 35 Sires, 36 Flummox.

Delhi, 14 Arrears, 17 Trudge, 20 Scared, 25 Jawbone, 28 Ready, 29

Across: 1 Algebra, 5 Asked, 8 Rabat, 9 Ash, 10 Raw, 11 Hut, 12

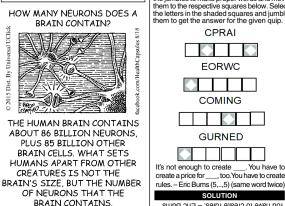
#### **HEALTH CAPSULES®** JUMBLED WORDS

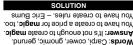
#### by Bron Smith

HOW MANY NEURONS DOES A

Health Capsules is not intended

to be of a diagnostic nature.





Police personnel keeping vigil in a fish market during the nationwide lockdown, at Mirza on Tuesday. – UB Photos

### 2 killed in road mishap at Dhemaji ANN SERVICE

DHEMAJI, April 28: Amidst the ongoing lockdown, two youths were killed in a road accident at Chengeli Pather village under Dhemaji PS, three kilometres away from Dhemaji town on NH-15 yesterday evening.

According to reports, the accident took place when a Yamaha bike (AS-22-A-7465) proceeding from Dhemaji side collided head on with a TATA Tiago four-wheeler vehicle at Chengeli Pather portion.

In the accident, Sagarmoni Kalita, son of Binoy Kalita, professor of Dhemaji Commerce College and a resident of Dhemaji Bharali Chuck, and Samiran Sonowal, son of Bhrigu Sonowal, an employee of Dhemaji College and an inhabitant of Dhemaji DI Colony, died on the spot.

On the other hand, the driver of the vehicle Bipul Sarker, who is the panchayat secretary of Batgharia Gaon Panchavat sustained serious injuries and was admitted to the Assam Medical College & Hospital, Dibrugarh, in a critical codition.

### **Priests facing** hardships CORRESPONDENT

GAURIPUR, April 28: The

### 34 quarantined at Silchar **Civil Hospital released**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Surveillance Officer Dr Ajit SILCHAR, April 28: As Bhattacharjee and Superin-

many as 34 persons, who had Ashutosh Barman. a travel history to COVID-19 affected locations and were quarantined contingent, quarantined at the Silchar Civil Hospital for the past 28 days, Deputy Speaker said, "All the have been given a warm sendquarantined people are now off by the Government on fit to go back home. They have been brought here and Tuesday.

In a meeting organised by the Cachar district administration at the AMSA House of the hospital, the quarantined lot from different parts of Cachar district were felicitated with gifts and hand sanitizer kits by Deputy Speaker Aminul Haque Laskar in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Barnali Sarma, ADC Lolita Ronpeople." pipi, Joint Director of Health

Services Dr SJ Das, District nali Sarma wished the people saving that even after going back home, they must practise social tendent of the hospital Dr distancing for the greater interest of the society.

Addressing the outgoing Meanwhile, District Media Expert Suman Choudhury informed that out of the 34 persons who have travel histories, some of them had been brought because of kept under utmost medical atcoming into contact with COVID-19 positive patients tention and care. Even though some of them had exof the district as well. They were discharged after obtainhibited dissent after being brought here, they have reing requisite approval from alised the larger interest bethe State-level committee hind the decision. We are hapheaded by the Director of py that our doctors and para-Medical Education, Assam, medical team have taken clinhe added. Further, Choudical care of the quarantined hury informed that 56 persons have been kept on home Deputy Commissioner Barquarantine on Tuesday.

#### COVID-19 deceased of the northeastern region have been released from institutional quarantine after completion of 24 days quarantine period on Tuesday morning. Disclosing this, Joint Di-

STATE

rector of Health Services Dr Ramesh Chandra Dwivedy said all the five family members of the COVID-19 victim have been discharged from institutional quarantine this morning after their swab results tested negative for the third time.

Family members of

1st COVID-19

victim released

CORRESPONDENT

Dr Dwivedy said all the formalities were observed before they were discharged and they would now be put under home quarantine till May 6. "Necessary instructions have been given to them to follow the home quarantine rules and regulations," he added.

Officials of district administration, health functionaries and police personnel clapped as the family members, including children, walked out of the institutional quarantine on way to their home.

### Magisterial probe ordered CORRESPONDENT

HAFLONG, April 28: Dima Hasao deputy commissioner Amitabh Rajkhowa has ordered a magisterial enquiry into the suicide of a labourer at Altaf Tilla near Lower Haflong within the Haflong municipal area. The deputy commissioner has also asked to submit the en-

### days. **Free masks** distributed CORRESPONDENT

quiry report within three

DOOMDOOMA, April 28: Altogether 16 women Self Help Groups namely, Saneki, Basundhara, Darpana, Senehi, Arohon, Basanti, Shanti, Subha Laxmi, Anjali, Sathi . Kanaklata, Patanjali, Deepjyoti, Suprabhat, Upasana and Asha of Doomdooma Municipal Board area under Assam State Urban Livelihood Mission in collaboration with Doomdooma branch of Elora Vigyan Mancha distributed around 400 masks among police personnel of Doomdooma PS, the members of Doomdooma Press Club, the officers and

### **Anomalies detected in Central** scheme in Nalbari, probe ordered

### CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, April 28: Strong resentment has been prevailing HAILAKANDI, April 28: among a cross-section of peo-Family members of the first ple in Nalbari district over the nepotism and corrupt practices in the selection of PM Kisan Sanman Nidhi beneficiaries.

The Union government under this scheme deposited Rs 2,000, the first instalment of the yearly grant of Rs 6,000, to the bank account of the farmers to compensate for the loss of their produce during the lockdown. However, gross anomalies

have come to light in the selection of needy farmers.

The local BJP leaders, panchayat representatives and a anomalies. section of corrupt officials from the Agriculture department selected some beneficiaries for this scheme.

The names of wives of government salary holders and panchayat representatives AASU today submitted a memwere also found in the beneficiary list. Meanwhile, Nalbari deputy

Dev Choudhury, following the the guilty persons.

complaints received from various quarters, today ordered a magisterial inquiry into the

The probe committee headed by Krishna Baruah, the district development commissionfrom the non-farming sector er, has been asked to submit the report within 15 days.

It may be mentioned here that the Ghograpar anchalik unit of orandum to Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal through the Nalbari deputy commissioner, commissioner Bharat Bhusan demanding stern action against

### **Relief given in Dibrugarh villages**

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT chayat in Tinsukia district.

DIBRUGARH, April 28: Seva Kendra, a non-profit organisation here, distributed relief materials among 230 households affected by lockdown in Singibil and Medela villages under Lezai Gaon Panchayat in Dibrugarh district and six villages under Gutibari Gaon Pan-

Mask sale

outlet opened at

Biswanath

CORRESPONDENT

BISWANATH CHARIALI,

April 28: A mask sale outlet to

be run by self-help groups was

opened today under the aegis of

Assam State Rural Livelihoods

Campaign, Biswanath district in the premises of the Biswanath

District Deputy Commission-

er's office by Tripurendra Pator,

CEO of Biswanath Zila Parishad.

Additional Deputy Commission-

ers Parvej Amin and Manoran-

jan Payeng were also present

made mask is 'Assamese Max'.

According to Habibullah Ahmed,

District Planning Director,

Biswanath district, there are

about 5000 self help groups un-

der the development blocks in

the district and all the members

of the groups make such masks

and Assam State Rural Liveli-

hoods Campaign, ASMM in

Biswanath District, is trying hard

to inspire all those who have cho-

Papri Saikia Devi, Chumi Bora

Das and Dipali Kurmi, on behalf

of the self-help groups, were also

present at the centre. According

sen the path of self-reliance.

The brand name of this locally

on the occasion.

Seva Kendra is the social wing of the Catholic Diocese of Dibrugarh. The relief materials consisted of rice, dal,

soyabean and mustard oil. Earlier, Seva Kendra had also donated over 250 packets consisting of hand wash, washing rainfall at Gorajan and Hildubi soaps and bathing soaps to the villages under Titabor subdidistrict administration for dis-

tribution among the needy. The Catholic Diocese of Dibrugarh, the head office of Catholic Church in upper Assam, also distributed relief materials among 300 households affected by recent thunderstorm accompanied by heavy vision in Jorhat district.

#### Short NIT No. 17 No. GED/NIT-NIQ/M & R/17

Sealed tenders in prescribed form to be eventually drawn up in A.P.W.D. F-2 form affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight & twenty Five paise) only are hereby invited from the registered contractor of W.R. Depts. for the vear 2019-20 for the following schemes. The tender will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00PM of 08.05.2020 and will be opened on the same day

will be opened on the same day.								
SI. No.	Name Of Work	Tender Amount						
1	M & R to protection of Tatimara area from the erosion of River Brahmaputra for the year 2019-20.	Rs. 15,00,000.00						
2	M & R to protection of Hatisila area under Chandrapur area from the erosion of River Brahmaputra for the year 2019-20.	Rs. 25,00,000.00						
3	M & R to F/E along Left Bank of river Kallong at 18.50th Km for the year 2019-20.	Rs. 25,00,000.00						
4	M & R to F/E along Left Bank of river Kallong at 19.00th Km for the year 2019-20.	Rs. 23,00,000.00						
Detail NIT, specification, terms & conditions for the work may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working day up to 1.00 PM of 08.04.2020. Sd/- Executive Engineer Guwahati East W.R. Division								
Janas	Janasanyog/C/118/20 Guwahati-08							

### Short NIT No. 18

No. GED/NIT-NIQ/M & R/18 Sealed tenders in prescribed form to be eventually drawn up in A.P.W.D. F-2 form affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 ( Rupees Eight & twenty Five paise ) only are hereby nvited from the registered contractor of W.R. Depts. for the year 2019-20 for the following schemes. The tender will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00PM of 08.05.2020 and will be opened on the same day.

to them, the price of masks made	will b	e opened on the same day.					
of cotton cloth and cotton-blend- ed cloth has been fixed at Rs 25	SI. No.	Name Of Work	Tender Amount				
to Rs 30 in addition to the masks made from <i>gamusa</i> in the sales outlet. About 5000 such masks have recently been released for	1	M & R to clearing and desilting of local drain near Amingaon Check post area to minimize artificial flood problem for 2019-20	Rs. 18,00,000.00				
sale. It is to be noted that this mask outlet located within the premises of the office may be	2	M & R to recoupment of B/dyke from Lenga to Dirgheswari Hill for the year 2019-20	Rs. 18,00,000.00				
helpful for the public who go there to seek prior permission at different times during the on-	3	M & R to recoupment of Flood wall near Majgaon Ferryghat of river Brahmaputra for the year 2019-20.	Rs. 15,12,000.00				
going lockdown. It is important to note that in order to prevent the spread of	4	M & R to recoupment of Rangmahal bund of North Guwahati for the year 2019-20.	Rs.24,00,000.00				
the virus, demand for masks has grown significantly and, there- fore, most of the people and women have recently taken the	Detail NIT, specification, terms & conditions for the work r be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours all working day up to 1.00PM of 08.04.2020.						
path of self-sufficiency by mak-			ast W.R. Division				
ing and selling masks.	Janas	sanyog/C/121/20	Guwahati- 08				

### Ethnic clash victims facing starvation-like situation

### ANN Service

GOSSAIGAON, April 28: The victims of the Bodo-Adivasi ethnic clashes of 1996-98, residing in several villages of Barobadha Forest range are now passing their days locked up in their homes facing a starvation-like situation, in the lect wild potatoes, arums and

wake of the nationwide lockdown due to the coronavirus. It may be mentioned that

tion-like situation.

### Usually, they earn their livelilice have turned up to feed

hood by daily labour and by prothem a morsel. Their small curing firewood. Now, as the children are also in dire need nation is under lockdown since of nutritious food. March 24, these people are Talking to a group of scribes,

cooped up inside their thatched these people reiterated that houses and are facing a starvathey are permanent residents of Assam. But due to non-availability of reliable documents, They are now forced to colthey have failed to obtain ration cards. For the last 20-22 leaves from the forests for consumption. They used to years, they have been residing procure firewood for selling at in these villages facing great since the 1996-98 ethnic conflict, the Gossaigaon market, but troubles. They have even been these 232 displaced Adivasi fam- the lockdown has put a stop to deprived of free rice and cash ilies have been living in forest it. The police also does not al- aid of Rs 500. To solve their

community of priests, whose only profession is priesthood, has been facing hardships since the time of nationwide est Range of Dhubri Forest Dilockdown.

As the religious rituals and pujas have been stopped, priests like Alokesh Sharma, Jayanta Sharma, Pitendu Chakraborty, Sailen Sharma, Ramen Bujarbarua, Apu Chakraborty, Debendra Nath Sharma, Dipak Kumar Sharma have to sit idle in their residences without having any income.

However, nobody seems to be interested about their proactive measures taken by the plight as almost all people of Hindu community are struggling for their own livelihood. Moreover, most members of to the poorer section of the society.

villages like Dhaspas, Alupara, low these people to carry fire-Motorjhora, Borobadha and Santipara under Borobadha Forvision. Their present population is 1178. These people have no ration cards nor have they got cial workers, teachers of edu-

No one, from the government machinery, NGOs, student organisations, political parties, individuals, industrialists, so-

misery, a qualified Santhal wood by *thela*s or on bicycles. youth of the locality, Laxmi Kanta Marandi, has come forward. He has been constantly communicating with the SDO (C), Gossaigaon in this regard, but the civil administration has any government assistance. cational institutions or the po- not yet taken any action so far.

> the employees of Doomdooma Revenue Circle office and Doomdooma Municipal Board office free of cost on Monday as a token of appreciation for providing services to the people of Doomdooma circle during the ongoing lockdown in wake of

tional Deputy Commissioner of Tinsukia district through an order issued on April 25, accorded permission to open the book stalls of the district on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday every week from 9 am to 12 pm for making available textbooks to the students only by following the COVID-19 protocols, stated a press release issued by the DIPRO, Tinsukia.

OBITUARY

### Lily Goswami CORRESPONDENT

SIVASAGAR, April 28: Social worker and a pious member of Hindu Dharma Namghar Samaj, Lily Goswami, died at her Amolapatty residence here on April 23 following a brief illness. She was 71 and leaves behind two daughters and a son.

It is important to note that order to prevent the spread the virus, demand for masks grown significantly and, the fore, most of the people women have recently taken path of self-sufficiency by m ing and selling masks.

No. CE/CC/WR/NIT/2019-20/1003/35

#### **PRESS NOTICE FOR BID**

Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Chandmari, Guwahati- 3, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites Re-Tender for the following works

	SI. No.	Name of W.R. Division	Name of the Scheme	Approx. amount in Lakh (Rs.)	НОА					
	1	Nagaon W.R. Division	Immediate measures to restoration of damage section of Brahmaputra Dyke from Silghat to Dhing at Nalkata area under SDRF for 2019-20	219.999	SDRF					
	2	Hailakandi W.R. Division	Reconstruction of breach like damage dyke along L/B of river Katakhal from Sahabadpur to Mohammadpur including protection measures.	1212.345	SOPD- FDR					
	Details may be seen at website http://www.tendeve.new.in									

Details may be seen at website http/assamtenders.gov.in

- The interested registered Contractor/ Bidders of WRD who are experienced in the execution of works under Water Resources and possess required Technical and financial strength may obtain the SBD which can be downloaded from the website http/assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment/ Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website.
- The contractor/ Bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam (website http/assamtenders.gov.in) Contractors can download documents free of cost. Contractors have to necessarily download the bidding document from the ETS using their own ID (Digital Signature Certiricate). Bid documents not procured (downloaded) through the ETS/ not using the contractor's own user ID will be considered invalid and summarily rejected. Contractors submitting bids online have to submit copy of the documents of technical bid required to be submitted manually before the expiry of the sequence "Online Bid Preparation & Submission" in the tender schedule. The last date and time for submission of the Technical Bids manually is the same as the expiry of the sequence "online Bid preparation & Submission" in the tender schedule. Bid will be rejected/ cancelled if financial Bid submitted off-line/ hard copy.
- All the interested bidders are requested to read the Bid Document carefully before submission of their bid.
- Issue of work order is subjected to the accordance of Administrative Approval from Government.
- Sd/- Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department

Janasanyog/C/114/20

### 5. For any e-tendering related quarries please mail to etenderingcewrd@gmail.com.

Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati- 3

Sonitpur BJP members felicitating journalists for their exemplary duty during the lockdown period, at Tezpur on Monday. – UB photos

SIVASAGAR, April 28: There is no COVID-19 confirmed case in undivided Sivasagar district so far due to the

district administration, dedicated medical fraternity and also the common people.

CORRESPONDENT

Altogether 2,968 people the priest community belong have been quarantined in six quarantine centres in the district and out of which 2,565

day home quarantine. Further, 234 persons have been kept in guarantine centre and four of them have been sent back to their homes when found negative.

No COVID-19 patient in Sivasagar dist so far

have completed their 14-day

quarantine period while 403

are now undergoing 28-day

quarantine period. A total of

A total of 1,884 persons are still under observation in the pital in a remarkably short pedistrict. Swab samples of 226

387 people are now under 14green zone, has been on maximum alert against the pandemic. It may be mentioned here that Sivasagar Deputy Commissioner Lakhinandan Gogoi is instrumental in developing the Sivasagar COVID-19 hos-

riod of time.

persons were found negative,

said Dr Udayaditya Rajkonwar,

senior health officer, Sivasagar.

Sivasagar district, put in the

COVID-19 pandemic. The masks were prepared with gamusa by members of these women SHGs. Book stalls: The Addi-

### 

# I have spoken to Prithvi about life on and off the pitch: Sachin

NEW DELHI, April 28: He has been a model sportsman all his life and it was hardly a surprise when Sachin Tendulkar became a guide to the young Prithvi Shaw, helping him deal with life on 22 yards and off it during a rough patch.

The 20-year-old Shaw had a sensational Test debut as the second youngest Test centurion from India before an ankle injury and a failed dope test kept him out for 16 months.

Some disciplinary issues have also been talked about quite often in Indian cricket circles for some time now.

It was at this point that Tendulkar came into the picture and mentored Shaw as he negotiated a very precarious phase of life during which nascent careers can go southbound.

"Yes, it's true. I have had a number of interactions over



am happy to help him. I

spoke to him about cricket

PTI during an interaction.

However, Tendulkar was

not comfortable when asked

what exactly was discussed

during his multiple sessions

memories. full of the same

love that you have shown him.

ful to you for making this man

SO HAPPY, he never walked

After spells with Preston

North End and Manchester

City, Robinson featured in the

1983 FA Cup final for Bright-

on, before moving to Anfield.

He was part of the Liver-

pool squad that captured the

league, League Cup and Eu-

"We're deeply saddened

"The thoughts of every-

ropean Cup treble in 1984.

by the passing of former play-

er Michael Robinson, aged

body at Liverpool Football

Club are with Michael's fam-

ily and friends at this sad time.

After Liverpool he joined

After retiring in 1989 he

remained in Spain to become

one of the country's most dis-

tinguished football pundits.

According to Spanish daily

El Pais, Robinson "revolu-

tionised the way football was

Queens Park Rangers, before

ending his career with Span-

Rest in peace, Michael."

ish side Osasuna.

analysed". - AFP

61," Liverpool tweeted.

alone. Thank you."

"We will be eternally grate-

I have had a number of interactions over the years with **2** Prithvi. He is a very talented player and I am happy to help him. -Tendulkar

the years with Prithvi. He is with Shaw. a very talented player and I

"I believe if a youngster has approached me and sought guidance, there should be an element of confidentiality attached to it, at least from my side. So, I would not like to tell you what the discussions were," the iconic batsman said.

and also about life beyond cricket field," Tendulkar told

But Shaw of late, has been

very vocal about the guidance he got from the senior Mumbaikar.

"That's fine. If Prithvi wants to speak about it, it's his choice.'

Tendulkar said that he has always been open to guiding youngsters who would seek him out individually.

And there are a number of others, with whom he speaks on a one-on-one basis apart from Shaw.

"I have spoken and guided a lot of youngsters at an individual level. I have maintained that if anyone feels that I can be of any help in guiding them about their game, I am always open to the idea," the maestro said.

Not only Shaw, even India captain Virat Kohli sought Tendulkar's suggestions as recently as the Pink Ball Test against Bangladesh in November last year. – PTI

# FIFA's Infantino suspected of intervening to stop probe: report

LAUSANNE, April 28: FIFA president Gianni Infantino is suspected of having intervened with Switzerland's attorney general to try to get an investigation dropped, a Swiss newspaper alleged.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) launched an investigation in early 2016, shortly after Infantino was elected president of world football's governing body, about his awarding of a television rights contract to an offshore company in his previous role as UEFA's legal affairs director.

According to the Tribune de Geneve newspaper, Infantino was "worried" about this investigation and wrote to his childhood friend, Rinaldo Arnold, who had become a senior prosecutor in Switzerland's Haut-Valais region where they grew up.

"I will try to explain to the OAG that it is in my interests that everything should be cleared up as soon as possible, that it be clearly stated that I have nothing to do with this matter," he wrote in an email cited by the newspaper.

Arnold, who had helped to set up a first meeting between Infantino and At-

torney General Michael Lauber, replied: "What is important is the meeting in two weeks' time. If you like, I can come with you again.'

The meeting took place on April 22, 2016, the newspaper said, adding that what happened during it remains "a mystery", and the OAG "refuses to speak about it".

The OAG declined to comment on the Tribune de Geneve article when contacted by AFP.

FIFA said later on Monday "the email

referred to in the article was obviously obtained by hacking, which is an illegal and criminal act."

"Not only Mr Infantino had no reason to lie in that email, the email never said Mr Infantino wanted to 'clear his name'," FIFA added.

The Zurich-based federation has always indicated that the meetings between Infantino and the OAG were intended to show that FIFA was "ready to engage with the Swiss justice system".

In November 2017, "after a third informal meeting" between Infantino and Lauber, the OAG closed the investigation into the contract signed by Infantino at UEFA, European football's governing body.

The Tribune de Geneve also indicated that between July and September 2016, there were more than 20 calls between Swiss prosecutors and FIFA lawyers.

"Prosecutors have apparently helped FIFA formulate its requests" as a plaintiff so that they could be "accepted by the OAG" - an attitude which "seems incompatible with the OAG's duty of impartiality", the daily said. - AFP

### Former Liverpool striker Robinson dies at 61



MADRID, April 28: Liverpool's former Republic of Ireland striker Michael Robinson, who became a wellknown commentator in Spain, has died aged 61, his family announced on Tuesday.

Robinson, who settled in Spain after his retirement and had an extensive media career, succumbed to cancer first diagnosed in 2018. He passed away at his home in Marbella.

"With tremendous sadness we inform you of Michael's death," his family announced on Twitter. "It leaves us with a great

emptiness, but also countless

### **Should the Premier League** season be cancelled?

LONDON, April 28: Will Liverpool get the chance to end their long wait for the Premier League title or will there forever

be an asterisk against a season that remains unfinished due to coronavirus? Premier League stakeholders are meet-

ing on Friday to discuss the way forward, with widespread speculation over a potential June 8 restart. With the Dutch Eredivisie already called

off and the Belgian season in the balance, there have been calls for the English topflight to draw a line

under the season. But the clubs remain committed to ending the 2019/20 campaign and there are

compelling financial and legal ramifications to playing the remaining 92 games.

Since the Premier League was suspended on March 13, English clubs have endured a torrid time, with controversies over pay cuts and players breaking socialdistancing rules tarnishing the brand.

Getting the focus back on football would be a welcome boost for the league, as well as fans who would embrace the diversion offered by the return of matches.

European football's governing body UEFA last week said completing seasons remained the "ideal scenario".

If that is not possible, leagues were urged

to find ways of restarting "with a different format", which could mean play-offs in some cases.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has reportedly been briefed on a potential plan for fixtures to be played behind closed doors.

And in a sign that Premier League teams are gearing up for a potential return to action, Arsenal, Tottenham, West Ham and Brighton have allowed players to return to individual training.

"I believe the Premier League can fin-

ish," Wolves winger Diogo Jota told

BBC Sport. "Although some leagues can end

League as one of the leagues to watch so it

He believes the English top tier will be played to a finish to avoid costly court

problematic in the Premier League. If you bring in the same model (as the Nether-

### Argentine soccer season declared over

**BUENOS AIRES, April** 28: The Argentine football association will put an end to the 2019-20 season which has been interrupted since mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic, its president Claudio Tapia said.

"We are going to end the tournaments so we can designate the teams qualified for continental competitions next year," Tapia told a local news channel. The Argentine FA also said there will be no relegation this season or next due to the disruption caused by the health crisis.

Gimnasia, the club coached by Diego Maradona, will remain in the top division as a result. Relegation is calculated by a complicated system of points taken over a threeyear period.

Boca Juniors won the league championship with a 1-0 victory over Gimnasia on the final day at the start of March. - AFP

### Coronavirus halts Anfield redevelopment

LONDON, April 28: Liverpool have halted their planned

### Laxman conducts online session for Bengal batters

Arun Lal, cricket operations manager Joydeep Mukherjee, and state U-23 coach Sourasish Lahiri.

Bengal opener Raman, who frittered away a bright start last season, was given lessons on how to deal with failures and ways to regain confidence.

"We talked about our last season. What was my mindset through the season. A session with lot to learn from and how to prepare the mindset during ups and downs of the season," Raman said in a statement issued by the Cricket Association of Bengal.

Raman started the season with successive hundreds. against Kerala and Andhra, but eventually aggregated 406

runs at 25.37 from 10 outings. Laxman talked about how to control the mind in order to avoid playing loose shots, importance of batting in the first one hour of play on bowling friendly pitches. – PTI

### You are worse than corona, Gayle says to Sarwan

JAMAICA, April 28: Flamboyant West Indies opener Chris Gayle has called his

KOLKATA, April 28:

Former India player VVS

Laxman on Tuesday conduct-

ed his first online session for

batsmen of Ranji Trophy run-

ners-up, Bengal, and to start

with, he focused only on the

During his two separate

45-minute sessions with Ab-

hishek Raman and Kazi Jun-

aid Saifi, Laxman also had in

attendance Bengal coach

mental aspect.



now," Gayle said in a video

uploaded on his YouTube

Tallawahs, you have a big part

to play because you and the

owner are like this (very

close). You were the one at my

last birthday party here in Ja-

maica, giving big speech about

"What transpired with the

channel.

right away, others can start sooner. I know almost eve-

is major that we can finish the season."

who were spared relegation, former Newcastle and Crystal Palace boss Alan Pardew has a unique perspective on the issue.

battles.

lands) you will end up with huge court cases," Pardew told the Daily Mail. - AFP

eague

rv country in the world has the Premier

As manager of Dutch club Den Haag,

"The TV rights situation is much more

Premier

### ECB chiefs to meet regarding fate of Hundred

LONDON, April 28: England cricket chief Tom Harrison says the controversial Hundred has become "even more important" due to the economic damage from coronavirus ahead of a meeting that will decide the fate of the new competition.

Last week, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) further delayed the start of the 2020 season until July 1 at the earliest but said the inaugural Hundred would be on the agenda this Wednesday.

The new 100-balls-perside format, to be played by eight franchises rather than uation impacts the Hundred, English cricket's established 18 first-class counties, is meant to start in July. ECB officials have long in-

sisted it will attract a new audience vital to safeguarding cricket's future, with some matches set to be broadcast live on terrestrial television.

But public health restrictions, the problems of bringing in overseas stars and the issue of launch costs at a time of economic crisis mean a

delay appears inevitable. "We'll look at how the sit-

which was envisaged as being a tournament that enabled us to widen the audience for the game," said Harrison.

"With an in-stadia environment, with international players, it's going to be very, very difficult.'

Many voices within English cricket have been opposed to the Hundred from the outset, arguing there is no space for a new format in an already congested calendar.

They say many of the ECB's aims could be achieved with better support for the existing Twenty20 Blast. But Harrison, one of the key movers behind the competition, said current conditions made it more important than ever.

"If anything this crisis and the implications, long-term or medium-term, mean the case for the Hundred is even more important," he said.

"So I don't think this in any way dilutes the case for the Hundred, it absolutely accelerates it and makes it something cricket needs to get behind." Even before the pandemic,

the ECB had itself forecast the

Hundred would make a loss in its first five seasons.

Costs in the first year, including the 1.3 million pounds (\$1.6 million) paid to each county, were estimated at 58 million pounds, against an income of 51 million pounds.

Not playing the Hundred could potentially save the ECB millions at a time when it has launched a 61 million pounds virus aid package for the domestic game.

But Harrison is convinced it will make money in the long run – and help preserve the existing county set-up. – AFP

redevelopment of a stand at Anfield for a year in response to the coronavirus crisis. The Premier League leaders said on Monday the pan-

demic had seen them call a halt to work on the Anfield Road stand that will increase the capacity of the ground to 61,000.

Liverpool had hoped to have the work finished in 2022 but the project won't now be completed until 2023 at the earliest.

"We have experienced a number of delays to the planned project as a direct result of the COVID-19 lockdown," Liverpool chief operating officer Andy Hughes told the club's website. - AFP

former team-mate Ramnaresh Sarwan "worse than coronavirus", accusing the Guyanese of plotting his exit from Caribbean Premier League outfit Jamaica Tallawahs.

The big-hitting Gayle, who has since moved to St. Lucia Zouks, blamed Sarwan for an alleged fallout with Tallawahs franchise, which did not retain him for the 2020 season after playing for them as a marquee player last year.

The opener claimed that Sarwan was behind his ouster as the former middle-order batsman wanted to take control of the franchise.

"Sarwan, you are worse Sarwan is the assistant coach than the coronavirus right of Jamaica Tallawahs. - PTI

how far we have come."

# 'Next year's Olympics will be cancelled if pandemic not over'

TOKYO, April 28: The postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympics will have to be cancelled if the coronavirus pandemic isn't brought under control by next year, the organising committee's president warned, ruling out further delays.

The comments, in an interview with a Japanese sports daily published on Tuesday, come as medical experts doubted whether the pandemic can be sufficiently contained by next year to hold an event drawing participants and spectators from around the world.

The pandemic has already forced a year-long delay of the Games, which are now scheduled to open on July 23, 2021.

But Tokyo 2020 president Yoshiro Mori was categorical when asked by the Nikkan Sports daily whether the Games could be delayed until 2022 if the pandemic remains a threat next year, replying: "No." "In that case, it's cancelled," Mori said.

Mori noted the Games had been cancelled previously only during wartime, and compared the battle against coronavirus to "fighting an invisible enemy".

If the virus is successfully contained, "we'll hold the Olympics in peace next summer", he added.

"Mankind is betting on it." Masa Takaya, a Tokyo 2020 spokesman, declined to comment on a possible cancellation of the Games and told reporters that Mori's remarks were based on "the chairman's own thoughts".

But the comments will add to growing questions about the postponement, decided



Tokyo 2020 chief Yoshiro Mori said there is no prospect of delaying the Olympics to 2022.

last month after heavy preswarned it would be "exceedsure on the organisers and ingly difficult" to hold the the International Olympic Games next year if a vaccine Committee from athletes has not been found. and sports federations.

"I would not say that they On Tuesday, the head of should not be held, but it Japan Medical Association would be exceedingly difficult," Yoshitake Yokokura told reporters.

And last week a Japanese medical expert who has criticised the country's response to the coronavirus warned that he was "very pessimistic" that the postponed Olympics can be held in 2021.

"To be honest with you I don't think the Olympics is likely to be held next year," said Kentaro Iwata, a professor of infectious diseases at Kobe University.

"Japan might be able to control this disease by next summer, I wish we could, but I don't think that would happen everywhere on Earth, so in this regard I'm very pessimistic about holding the Olympic

Games next summer," he said. But Tokyo 2020 spokesman Takava countered that even medical experts said it was too

early to make a judgement on such a possibility.

Japanese officials and the IOC have said the Games will be a chance to celebrate victory over the virus, with some suggestions that the pandemic fight could even be incorporated into the opening ceremony.

Postponing the Games is an enormous logistical and financial challenge, with the final pricetag for the delay still unclear. In the interview, Mori said organisers were considering holding joint opening and closing ceremonies for the Olympics and the Paralympics in an effort to cut costs.

Under the plan, the Paralympics would join the Olympic opening ceremony on July 23, and the Olympic closing ceremony would be integrated into the Paralympics closing event in September. - AFP



Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. Fil the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3 x 3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any

or	n of last problem												
	7	2	4	9	6	1	3	5	8				
	3	5	8	4	2	7	6	9	1				
	6	1	9	5	8	3	7	2	4				
	9	8	3	2	1	5	4	6	7				
	2	4	6	7	9	8	5	1	3				
	5	7	1	6	3	4	2	8	9				
	1	9	5	3	7	6	8	4	2				
	8	6	7	1	4	2	9	3	5				
	4	3	2	8	5	9	1	7	6				

Editor: Prafulla Govinda Baruah