



p2 Troops committed to uphold peace: China

p5 Protest against State Govt move on labour reforms

p9 Expect govt financial package in 2-3 days: Gadkari to industry

NEWS Capsule

Border sealed

NILAMBAZAR, May 11: Following spike in COVID-19 cases in Tripura, Karinganj district administration today sealed the border with the neighbouring state. Except those used in emergency services and carrying essentials, the movement of vehicles to and from Tripura has also been banned. – ANN Service

Manmohan

NEW DELHI, May 11: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is stable and his condition has improved, even as he tested negative for COVID-19, hospital sources said on Monday. Singh (87) was admitted to the AIIMS here on Sunday evening. – PTI

No salary cut

NEW DELHI, May 11: The Finance Ministry reacting to news reports, in a tweet on Monday said: "There is no proposal under consideration of Govt for any cut whatsoever in the existing salary of any category of central government employees". – PTI

UGC directive

NEW DELHI, May 11: The University Grants Commission has directed all varsities in the country to set up a cell for handling grievances of students related to examinations and other academic activities arising due to the COVID-19 pandemic. – PTI

Nirav trial

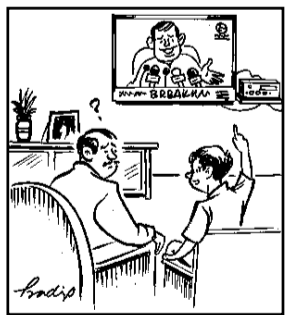
LONDON, May 11: Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, fighting extradition to India on charges over the USD 2 billion PNB fraud and money laundering case, appeared via videolink before a UK court on the first day of his five-day extradition trial on Monday. – PTI

Arnab case

NEW DELHI, May 11: The Supreme Court today extended the protection to Republic TV editor-in-chief Arnab Goswami against any coercive action and reserved its verdict on his plea seeking quashing of the FIR lodged against him by Mumbai Police. – PTI

Also see page 3

JOCOSERIOUS



Why is he not wearing a mask?

PM calls for boost to economic activities



Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal attending Prime Minister Narendra Modi's video conference with the Chief Ministers, at Janata Bhawan in Guwahati on Monday. – UB Photos

NEW DELHI, May 11: Economic activities in India are set to "gather steam", Prime Minister Narendra Modi told chief ministers on Monday, while asserting that the country will have to devise a "balanced strategy" to revive the economy and deal with COVID-19 with a sharp focus on ensuring that rural areas remain free from the pandemic.

The thrust of the video conference with all state chief ministers was to chalk out a comprehensive roadmap, with a focus on strengthening the COVID-19 containment strategy and stepping up of

Ensure COVID-free rural India

economic activities in a calibrated manner as the 54-day nationwide lockdown nears an end. India is under a lockdown since March 25 which is scheduled to end on May 17.

During the meeting, which lasted for nearly six hours, Modi and the chief ministers held extensive discussions on various aspects of the situa-

tion arising out of the pandemic and the nationwide lockdown, with the prime minister telling them that the future path for the country will be determined on the basis of the suggestions by the states.

According to official sources, Modi told the chief ministers that the biggest challenge for the country will be

to ensure that the infection does not spread to rural India following relaxation in lockdown norms which included allowing movement of migrant workers.

At the same time, he emphasised that India will have to devise and implement a "balanced strategy" to deal with the pandemic and step up the economic activities in a gradual manner.

Noting that slowly but surely, economic activities have started in several parts of the country, the prime minister said in the coming days, the process will gather steam.

SEE PAGE 6

Alert TODAY Alive TOMORROW

Record 4,213 COVID-19 cases in last 24 hours

NEW DELHI, May 11: As India registered a record jump of 4,213 COVID-19 cases in the last 24 hours, the government on Monday said some relatively large outbreaks have been noticed in particular locations and it is important to focus on containment efforts to ensure that the country does not reach the community transmission stage.

The government also said the coronavirus tracking app Aarogya Setu is secure as it has been designed keeping in mind the privacy of people and is playing a crucial role in India's fight against COVID-19.

Asked if there has been a community transmission of the disease, joint secretary in the Health Ministry Lav Agarwal at a press briefing said, "Some clusters have been found here (in the country), and in some cases in

some particular locations relatively large outbreaks has also been noticed."

"And in this context if you remember even AIIMS Director (Dr Randeep Guleria) had said that if these are not contained properly, the

Relatively large outbreaks noticed in particular areas: Centre

transmission rate would become higher. So, it is important for us now to focus on containment efforts and ensure that we do not reach the stage of community transmission," he said.

Agarwal said 4,213 COVID-19 cases and 97 deaths have been reported in last 24 hrs till Monday 8 am, taking

the total cases to 67,152 and death toll to 2,206.

As many as 20,917 COVID-19 patients have been cured till now, taking the recovery rate to 31.15 per cent. Also 1,559 patients have recovered in last 24 hours, the highest number of recoveries recorded in one day.

Ajay Sawhney, Chairman of the Empowered Group 9, which deals with Technology and Data Management, said the mobile application has been developed in order to alert people before they come in contact with infected patients and to alert the health system to take adequate steps for their help.

The Aarogya Setu mobile app, downloaded by 9.8 crore Indians, has contributed significantly in the country's fight against COVID-19, he said, adding that the app has been designed keeping in mind the privacy of people. – PTI

Morphed message on COVID-19

GUWAHATI, May 11: A doctored screenshot of Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's twitter handle, which stated that eight more COVID-19 patients were detected in the State, today created a sensation.

The message that resembled the Health Minister's tweets said eight more persons who travelled in the bus from Rajasthan in which the Cachar district patient travelled have tested positive for COVID-19. It pegged the total cases in the State at 70.

The minister denied that he tweeted the message. His account was not hacked, but someone apparently doctored a screenshot. The message was circulated widely.

SEE PAGE 6

2 more test positive in Guwahati

Five patients from Bongaigaon discharged from MMCH

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 11: Two more persons, including a patient of GMCH and a worker in a Fancy Bazar hotel, tested positive for COVID-19 today in Guwahati, taking the State tally to 64.

"One originally hails from Morigaon, while the other is from Guwahati itself," Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said in tweet.

Sources identified one as Manglu Sahani who works at a hotel in Fancy Bazar.

"Forty-five-year-old Sahani was suffering from fever since a few days, after which

he was taken to MMCH on Sunday for tests by a colleague in motorcycle," sources said, adding that Sahani had also worked at a godown at Changsari a few days back.

"He had fever and when he came for screening we took his samples and had advised home quarantine," sources at the MMCH said. He was taken to MMCH for admission at around 8 pm this evening.

The second patient is from Monoha village in Morigaon but was living in Guwahati for the last several years.

Sources said he is a patient at the neurology department of GMCH.

"The person has a paan shop at Guwahati and he was admitted at GMCH on April 24 for various other ailments," the sources said. He was also taken to MMCH for treatment this evening.

Currently, there are around 350 patients admitted at GMCH and new patients are not being admitted since the detection of COVID-19 in a doctor within the facility a couple of days back.

Tests are being conducted in all the 1,500 staff and patients and the contacts of the positive patient.

SEE PAGE 6

2 NE-bound passenger trains to leave Delhi today

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 11: With the Railway Ministry deciding to gradually resume passenger train operations, two 'Passenger Special' trains between New Delhi and the northeastern region will start running with limited number of stoppages.

Both the railway authorities and the State health department, along with local administrations here said that they will take various steps, including screening of passengers, with a view to ensuring that resumption of train operations does not lead

to spread of COVID-19.

The Dibrugarh-New Delhi-Dibrugarh (daily) passenger special will run from New Delhi with effect from May 12 and from Dibrugarh with effect from May 14. The train will have stoppages only at Mariani, Dimapur, Lumding, Guwahati, Kokrajhar, New Jalpaiguri, Katihar, Barauni, Dandapur, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction, Prayagraj and Kanpur Central stations during its journeys both ways.

On May 12, the train will start from New Delhi at 4:10 pm. It will arrive at Guwahati at 7:50 pm on May 13 and reach Dibrugarh at 7 am on May 14.

In addition, the Agartala-New Delhi-Agartala (weekly) passenger special will run from New Delhi with effect from May 18 and from Agartala with effect from May 20 with stoppages only at Badarpur, Guwahati, Kokrajhar, New Jalpaiguri, Katihar, Barauni, Patliputra, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction and Kanpur Central stations.

The fare structure of these special trains will be like regular time-tabled Rajdhani Express trains or as per the regular time-tabled trains, excluding the catering charges.

SEE PAGE 6

CM interacts with PSUs, industry bodies

State govt bid to revitalize economy

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 11: As part of State government's efforts to revitalize the industrial sector, which is hit hard by COVID-19 pandemic, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today interacted with representatives of Central and State Government PSUs, industry and tea associations at the Assam Administrative Staff College here and solicited their suggestions to arrest the economic slowdown. He also talked to several industry leaders through video conference who joined the interaction from different parts of the State and the country.

"COVID-19 has posed an extraordinary challenge to the economy. The present crisis calls for extraordinary response. The State government

is very much concerned about the loss incurred by the industries and has come up with measures to check the economic slowdown," Sonowal said during the interaction.

He said that the State government worked relentlessly during last four years to develop a favourable economic environment in the State. He further said that industries in Assam contribute 39 per cent to the State GDP and provide direct employment to approximately 4 lakh people and indirect employment to around 20 lakh people and this sector has been severely affected by the lockdown.

Stating that due to lockdown big and small tea gardens incurred loss to the tune of around Rs. 500 crores, Sonowal assured the industry leaders that continuous

efforts to revive the economy were underway.

He said in view of many foreign companies expressing their interest to migrate their base to India, he has already discussed the matter with the Prime Minister and sent letter to the Central Government to make suggestions to those companies to set up their production facilities in Assam. The Prime Minister has responded positively on the issue, he informed.

Moreover, saying that the State government has taken up steps to facilitate return of migrant workers of the State who are stranded at different places of the country, Sonowal stressed on making best use of their skills to boost the industrial sector.

SEE PAGE 6

Assam COVID-19 positive nurse alleges lack of care in Mumbai

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 11: "Although the authority concerned shifted me to another quarantine centre, after being complained through social media, I am yet to get any treatment," said Daijee Saikia, a BSC nurse from Guwahati who got infected with COVID-19 while treating other patients in Mumbai.

Daijee hails from Chand-

SEE PAGE 6

State falters in fight against arsenic, fluoride

SIVASISH THAKUR

GUWAHATI, May 11: Despite the growing incidence of arsenic and fluoride contamination and the harrowing ordeal of the sufferers, including children in large numbers, the State government has made little practical intervention all these years to address the grave health hazard.

The government's inertia is all the more disturbing because it has been able to spend a meagre Rs 50.27 crore out of the Rs 330.96 crore it had received from the Centre under its National Jal Jeevan Mission (NJJM) three years back. The fund from the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS) was earmarked for providing potable water in arsenic- and fluoride-

affected areas on priority basis.

Concerned over the State's slow progress, the DDWS has requested the government to treat the matter urgently and ensure potable water in the affected areas considering the adverse long-term impact on children exposed to contam-

Piped water still a pipe dream

nated drinking water.

Under the National Water Quality Sub-Mission (NWQSM), as reported by the State government, 483 out of total 3,726 arsenic-affected habitations and 119 out of total 155 fluoride-affected habitations have been provided with safe drinking water.

Official sources told *The Assam Tribune* that under the NJJM, every rural household was to be provided with functional household tap connection (FHTC) by 2024.

In Assam, an abysmal 2.33 per cent households have tap connection and by 2024, every household is to be provided with functional household tap connection with service level of 55 litres per capita per day.

Achieving this goal by 2024 will test the government, as it will have to provide, on an average, at least 11.32 lakh household connections every year till 2024. As on date, only 22,000 household connections have been made in the just-concluded financial year.

SEE PAGE 6

| COVID-19 STATUS | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| WORLD | |
| Confirmed cases | 4,136,056 |
| Cured/Discharged | 1,422,984 |
| Death | 283,478 |
| INDIA | |
| Confirmed cases | 67,152 |
| Cured/Discharged | 20,916 |
| Death | 2,206 |
| ASSAM | |
| Confirmed cases | 64 |
| Cured/Discharged | 39 |
| Death | 2 |
| Data as on Monday | |

NYC's subway shutdown an unthinkable departure

NEW YORK, May 11: Since the first line connected Lower Manhattan to Harlem in 1904, New York's subway has never ceased running.

There were brief blips of interruption after 9/11 and in the last decade for hurricanes and blizzards, but for more than 115 years the rumbling on the rails has kept the click-clack heartbeat of New York. A second, tunnelled city that, like the skyward metropolises above, never sleeps.

Last week, for the first time, the trains stopped running in a planned shutdown.

Between the hours of 1 am and 5 am, the subways and New York's 472 stations began closing for a nightly cleaning to disinfect trains.

It's a humbling concession for a swaggering, all-night town that, as much as any-

thing, shows how the coronavirus pandemic has seized the gears of New York, one of the world's hardest-hit cities.

Except for commuters fleeing to the suburbs, the entire concept of "last train" is anathema in New York. London, sure.

Boston, of course. Even Tokyo. But not in New York. Through the night, trains have always shuttled early-morning workers and late-night revelers.

A four-hour shutdown may not seem like a drastic change given all the transformations wrought by the pandemic. But in New York, it means a tear in the fabric of the city.

"Without the subway, New York does not work. People are saying now, 'What happens if people drive after the epidemic has passed?' Well, they can't do it.

"If all the people who wanted to drive in New York drove, you'd have to pave over Long Island to park all of the cars," says Kenneth T Jackson, a history professor at Columbia and author of *Empire City: New York Through the Centuries*.

"It's more important than the public schools. It's more important than anything."

Even at a time when New York remains on lockdown, stopping the subway for even four hours has an enormous effect.

Ridership in April was down more than 90 per cent, but the Metropolitan Transportation Authority still estimates that 11,000 had been using the trains during that overnight period. Many are essential workers and others "caregivers, custodians" can't afford not to work. — AP



Paul Budz, right, and his parents, Walter and Grace Budz, honour his grandmother in front of the family gravesite at Calvary Cemetery on Mother's Day on Sunday in New York. The cemetery had been closed due to concerns over the spread of the new coronavirus, but opened its gates for several hours on Sunday to allow families to visit the graves of loved ones. — AP/PTI

Nirav Modi's trial in PNB fraud case begins in UK

LONDON, May 11: Fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, fighting extradition to India on charges over the nearly USD 2-billion PNB fraud and money laundering case, appeared via videolink before a UK court on the first day of his five-day extradition trial on Monday, taking place in a part-remote setting due to the coronavirus lockdown.

The 49-year-old jeweller, who has been lodged at Wandsworth Prison in south-west London since his arrest in March last year, joined the proceedings via the court's common viewing platform (CVP) at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London dressed formally in a white shirt and black blazer.

The hearing got off to a delayed start as officials sorted out technical difficulties of connecting the court room to the prison.

Given the social distancing measures being followed by prisons and courts, District Judge Samuel Goozee had conceded that Modi can follow the proceedings via videolink rather than the norm of being produced in person.

"It is important that if you have any difficulty with the audio or visual of the proceedings at any time, to let us know immediately," Judge Goozee told Modi, so that he can follow the court proceedings in an open way as per the law.

A handful of legal representatives were present in the court room, as previously agreed, with witnesses set to give their evidence via videolink.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), appearing on behalf of the Indian authorities, began by laying out the basis of the Indian government's case. CPS barrister Helen Malcolm appeared via videolink to tell the court that Modi acquired "eye watering amounts of money" fraudulently from the Punjab National Bank (PNB). — PTI

Troops committed to uphold peace: China

BEIJING, May 11: China on Monday reacted guardedly to the recent clashes between the Chinese and Indian soldiers, saying its troops remained "committed to uphold peace and tranquillity" at the border areas.

Answering questions on the clashes near Naku La Pass in the Sikkim sector which resulted in injuries to both sides, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said that the most pressing issue for the world at present is the fight against the coronavirus.

"Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China and India have been staying in close communication and cooperation on prevention and control to jointly meet challenges," he said.

"Now the most pressing issue for the international community is solidarity and cooperation against COVID-19. We shouldn't allow any politicisation or stigmatisation in a bid to create more differences or confrontation," he said.

Asked whether the clashes which took place on May 5-6 anyway reflects an aggressive approach by China post the COVID-19 outbreak, Zhao said, "relevant assumption is groundless".

"As to the China-India border issue, our position is clear and consistent," he said. "Our troops there are

Sino-India border clashes

committed to uphold peace and stability.

"This serves the common interests of our two countries and two peoples. We hope India will work with China to uphold peace and tranquillity in the border regions with concrete actions," he said.

Zhao cautiously skirted any direct reference to the incident nor gave any details of the clashes.

"Chinese border troops have always been upholding peace and tranquillity along our border areas. China and India stay in close communication and coordination

concerning our border affairs with existing channels," he said.

"This year marks the 70th year of establishment of the diplomatic relations between India and China, and the two countries have joined hands to fight against COVID-19," he said.

"Under such circumstances, both

sides should work together with each other and properly manage and handle the differences and earnestly uphold peace and stability in the border region so as to create enabling conditions for our bilateral relations as well as joint fight against COVID-19," he said.

Troops of India and China were engaged in two fierce face-offs in Eastern Ladakh and near Naku La Pass in Northern Sikkim recently, leaving several soldiers on both sides injured.

In the first incident, scores of Indian and Chinese army personnel clashed

along the northern bank of the Pangong Lake in Eastern Ladakh on the late evening of May 5 and the face-off ended next morning following a dialogue between the two sides.

A number of soldiers on both sides sustained minor injuries as they exchanged punches and resorted to stone-pelting, the sources said, adding around 200 personnel were involved in the face-off. Both sides brought in additional troops following the fracas.

It was the first case of troops from both sides exchanging blows after a similar incident had taken place around the Pangong Lake in August 2017.

In a separate incident, nearly 150 Indian and Chinese military personnel were engaged in a face-off near Naku La Pass in the Sikkim sector of the Sino-India border in which at least 10 soldiers sustained injuries.

The troops of India and China were engaged in a 73-day stand-off in Doklam tri-junction in 2017, which triggered fears of a war between the two neighbours. — PTI



An injured anti-government protester is rushed to a hospital during clashes in Baghdad, Iraq on Sunday. Protesters were back on the streets three days after Mustafa al-Kadhimi was appointed as Iraq's new Prime Minister. — AP/PTI

Taliban attack on army kills 6

KABUL, May 11: The Taliban attacked an Afghan army checkpoint in eastern Laghman province, killing six soldiers and wounding five, the government said on Monday.

The insurgents claimed responsibility for the assault, which took place on Sunday night, just days after US special envoy in new talks with the Taliban in Qatar reemphasised the need for a reduction in violence. The statement from the Afghan Defence Ministry said the troops pushed back the attackers, adding that the Taliban also suffered casualties but without providing specific figures.

Last week, US special envoy Zalmay Khalilzad met with Taliban representatives in Doha, the capital of the Gulf Arab state of Qatar, where the insurgents maintain a political office. He stressed the need for a ceasefire, and after Doha, Khalilzad also visited Islamabad and New Delhi to discuss the Afghan peace process with Pakistani and Indian officials.

On Monday, four bombs, one placed under a garbage bin and the other three by the roadside, went off in northern Kabul, wounding four civilians, including a child, Afghan officials said. The roadside bombs were spaced within 10-20 metres (yards) of one another, said Kabul police spokesman Ferdous Faramarz. The wounded child is a 12-year-old girl, he said and added that the police are searching the area where the bombs struck. — AP

Nepal protests to India over road passing through Lipulekh pass

KATHMANDU, May 11: Nepal on Monday handed over a diplomatic note to the Indian envoy here to protest against the construction of a key road connecting the Lipulekh pass with Dharchula in Uttarakhand.

The 80-km new road inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday is expected to help pilgrims visiting Kailash-Mansarovar in Tibet in China as it is around 90 kms from the Lipulekh pass.

The Lipulekh pass is a far western point near Kalapani, a disputed border area between Nepal and India. Both India and Nepal claim Kalapani as an integral part of their territory — India as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district and Nepal as part of Dharchula district.

Indian Ambassador to Nepal Vinaya Mohan Kwatra met Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali at his office, according to a Foreign Ministry statement.



During the meeting, Gyawali conveyed to the Indian Ambassador the Nepal government's position on boundary issues. "The ministry has handed over a diplomatic note to Ambassador Kwatra," it said.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in New Delhi on Saturday said the road lies well within the Indian territory. "The recently-inaugurated road section in Pithoragarh district in the state of Uttarakhand lies completely within the territory of India. The road follows the pre-existing route used by the pilgrims of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. Under the present project, the same road has been made pliable for the ease and convenience of pilgrims, locals and traders," the MEA said in a statement.

The Nepal government raised objection to the construction of the road in the Lipulekh area by the government of India to connect to the Mansarovar of Tibet "unilaterally". Nepal has claimed that the territory on which the road was constructed lies within its territory.

In a statement issued on May 9, the Nepalese Foreign Ministry said that "it has learnt with regret about the inauguration by India of the Link Road connecting Lipulekh that passes through Nepalese territory."

Addressing the Parliament on Sunday, Foreign Minister Gyawali said that the Kalapani border issue will be resolved with India through diplomatic initiatives. — PTI

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CORRIGENDUM

This is for general information to all concerned that due to outbreak of Corona Virus (Covid-19) pandemic and Nationwide lockdown w.e.f. 25th March, 2020 the last date for submission of application for the post of Assistant Professor in the subject of Political Science (UR) & Economics (UR) considering our earlier advertisement published on 21.03.2020 of Suren Das College, Hajo is hereby extended upto 11 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. The details may be seen at website www.surendacollege.co.in Sd/- Dr. Hiranya Kumar Sarma Principal & Secretary Suren Das College, Hajo, Kamrup, Assam, PIN-781102

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ACHIEVEMENT



Mr. Diganta Kumar Das, HOD & Assistant Professor, History, J.N. College, Boko has been awarded the degree of Philosophy (Ph. D.) by Gauhati University for his thesis entitled "Beliefs and Practices of the Kaibarta Community of South Kamrup : A Folkloristic Study". He carried out his research work under the supervision of Dr. Mrinal Kumar Borah, former Principal, Biswanath College, Biswanath. He is the son of Mr. Sibom Ram Das and late Prafulla Bala Das, Amtola Satra (Kukurmara), Kamrup and the husband of Mrs. Doli Das. Achieve/RP/000017/1

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'Animals and physical distancing!'

HOUSTON, May 11: Scientists say they have uncovered evidence in animals about the importance of maintaining physical distance to minimise the spread of certain microbes among individuals.

The study, published in the journal *Animal Behaviour*, observed monkeys in the wild to understand what role genetics, diet, social groupings and distance in a social network play when it comes to the microbes found inside an animal's gut.

"Social microbial transmission among monkeys can help inform us about how diseases spread," said Eva Wikberg, an assistant professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) in the US.

"This has parallels to our current situation in which we are trying to understand how social distancing during the COVID 19 pandemic and future disease outbreaks may influence disease transmission," Wikberg said. The gut microbiome refers to all the microorganisms inhabiting the digestive tract,

starting with the stomach and ending with the colon.

The researchers noted that over the past



decade the microbiome has come under more scientific focus because it's believed that an unhealthy gut microbiome can lead to obesity, impaired immune function, weakened parasite resistance and even behavioural changes.

They studied the faecal matter of 45 female colobus monkeys that congregated in eight different social groups in a small forest by the villages of Boabeng and Fiemma in Ghana. The scientists saw major differences among social groups' gut microbiomes. — PTI

COVID-19 patients can end home isolation after 17 days

NEW DELHI, May 11: Coronavirus-infected patients can end home isolation after 17 days of onset of symptoms or date of sampling and if they have no fever for 10 days without getting tested again for COVID-19, according to revised guidelines for home isolation of very mild/pre-symptomatic cases.

The revised guidelines released by the health ministry reiterated that patients, who are pre-symptomatic or have very mild symptoms, can opt for home isolation if they have the requisite self-isolation facility at their residence so as to avoid contact with other family members.

The patient should be clinically assigned as a very mild case or pre-symptomatic case by the treating medical officer and should regularly inform his health status to the district surveillance officer for further follow up by surveillance teams.

"Patient under home isolation will end home isolation after 17 days of onset of symptoms (or date of sampling, for pre-symptomatic cases) and no fever for 10 days. There is no need for testing after

the home isolation period is over," the revised guidelines stated.

This is in line with the new discharge policy for COVID-19 cases released on May 9 by the health ministry stating coronavirus-infected patients developing severe illness or having compromised immunity will

Revised guidelines

only have to test negative through RT-PCR test after resolution of symptoms before they are discharged by a hospital.

Moderate cases of COVID-19 and pre-symptomatic, mild and very mild cases need not undergo tests before being discharged after the resolution of symptoms.

Besides, the guidelines reiterated that the caregiver and all close contacts of such cases should take Hydroxychloroquine as a preventive medication according to the protocol and as prescribed by the treating medical officer.

Also, a caregiver should be available to provide care on a 24x7 basis. A communication link between the caregiver and

hospital is a prerequisite for the entire duration of home isolation.

Besides, the guidelines call for downloading the Arogya Setu App on mobile and it should remain active at all times (through Bluetooth and Wi-Fi).

Immediate medical attention must be sought if serious signs or symptoms including difficulty in breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, mental confusion, developing bluish discolorations of lips/face develop.

The patient also has to give an undertaking stating being diagnosed as a confirmed/suspect case of COVID-19, he/she has voluntarily undertaken to maintain strict self-isolation at all times for the prescribed period.

The undertaking also states that the patient is liable to be acted on under the prescribed law for any non-adherence to self-isolation protocol.

The death toll due to COVID-19 rose to 2,206 and the number of cases climbed to 67,152 on Monday, according to the Union health ministry. - PTI

Delhi airport using UV tech to fight COVID

NEW DELHI, May 11: The Delhi airport is using mobile towers, handheld torch and baggage tunnels that deploy ultraviolet (UV) rays to disinfect surfaces in order to combat coronavirus, the DIAL said on Monday.

The mobile towers are placed in properly cordoned areas of a terminal and the UV lamps inside them are used for disinfection, the Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) said in a statement.

Once an area has been disinfected, the UV power is switched off and the towers are manually relocated to other areas for a similar process, the DIAL noted.

Handheld disinfection torch is also being used to disinfect desktop, laptops and other devices, it said.

"These are germicidal lamps that produce ultraviolet light. This short-wave ultraviolet light leads to the inactivation of bacteria, viruses and

protozoa," it noted.

The DIAL has also installed UV tunnels at Terminal 3 of the Delhi airport to disinfect passengers' luggage.

"A live CCTV feed of UV scanning process mounted at baggage reclaim hall allows the passengers to see the disinfection process, in which high-intensity UV lamps are being used for on-line disinfection of their bags," it said.

Also shoe sanitiser mats have been placed at strategic places. "These mats are soaked with chemical that will disinfect the shoes of the passengers," it said.

Sensor-based taps in passenger washrooms, foot operated sanitiser dispenser, sensor-based and paddle operated drinking water fountain have been installed for contactless usage, the DIAL said.

India has been under lockdown since March 25 to stem the spread of coronavirus, which has so far infected more

than 67,000 people and killed over 2,000 in the country. All commercial passenger flight operations have been suspended for the lockdown period. - PTI



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Like Father Like Daughter

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan has been recently appointed as the holder of the office of Chief Scientist of WHO. It makes her part of the executive directorial team of the organisation. P.S. She is the daughter of M.S. Swaminathan, father of Green Revolution.



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BRO restores Razdan, Zojila Passes ahead of schedule

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, May 11: The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) opened the Zojila and Razdan Passes on the Srinagar-Leh and Bandipora-Gurez highways, respectively for traffic this year, ahead of schedule, despite the risk of COVID-19 prevailing over the world, officials said.

The 86 km-long Bandipora-Gurez road was thrown open for traffic after remaining closed for four months due to heavy snowfall at Razdan Pass, which is at 11,560 feet above sea level, on April 17, over a month before it was done in previous years, they said.

Similarly, the Srinagar-Zojila-Leh road was restored after four months of closure and opened in March, whereas it was reopened by April-end last year, the BRO officials said.

Despite heavy snowfall over these passes last year, the officials said snow clearance operations were undertaken by Project Beacon of BRO from Gagangir to Zero Point. The same was done by Project Vijayak from Drass towards Zero Point to resume traffic to Leh, earlier than scheduled.

Chief Engineer, Project Beacon, Brigadier Ravi Navet said the BRO carried out the snow clearance operation on these high passes with highest degree of synchronisation and synergy of various snow-clearing equipment in the valley.

Our snow clearance teams started the clearance operations one month in advance. They went through a harsh environment, including biting cold, bone chilling winds and above all the avalanches which were major threats to the lives of the jawans in these high altitude passes, Navet said.

Our jawans had a narrow escape at occasions while these avalanches struck on Zojilla Pass, but even that did not deter their determination, he said. - PTI

SC extends protection from coercive action to Arnab

NEW DELHI, May 11: The Supreme Court on Monday extended the protection to Republic TV Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami against any coercive action and reserved its verdict on his plea seeking quashing of the FIR lodged against him by Mumbai Police for allegedly hurting religious sentiments by making some remarks during his news show.

Besides this FIR lodged against Goswami on May 2, several complaints and multiple FIRs were earlier registered against him in various States over his alleged defamatory statements against Congress chief Sonia Gandhi in a news show on Palghar mob-lynching.

Goswami claimed in the top court that he was interrogated by Mumbai Police for over 12 hours with regard to FIR on alleged defamatory statements and one of the two investigating officers probing the case against him has tested COVID-19 positive.

A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud and MR Shah said it would pronounce the verdict later this week on Goswami's plea seeking quashing of fresh FIR as well as on the application of Maharashtra government alleging that the accused has been "browbeating" the police by "creating fear psychosis".

During the hearing, senior advocate Harish Salve, appear-

ing for Goswami, said that this case is all about a political party targeting a journalist as the complainants are members of one particular party.

He said they (political party) have a problem with the government and they want to teach this journalist a lesson as the real purpose is to stifle an unpleasant voice.

"This will have a chilling effect on freedom of press," he said, adding that press is not institutionalised but other institutions are protected and there are safeguards, wherein judges, MPs and bureaucrats are protected. "We must draw a balance between both," the bench said. - PTI

ICMR guidance for appropriate recording of COVID-19 deaths

NEW DELHI, May 11: COVID-19 would be recorded as an "underlying cause of death" when leading to pneumonia, cardiac injury and clotting in the bloodstream, among others, according to the guidance issued by ICMR for appropriate recording of deaths due to the disease in India.

Explaining the public health significance of recording the cause of death in the COVID-19 pandemic, ICMR said COVID-19 is a new disease and is a pandemic affecting all communities and countries and a robust data is needed in India to measure the public health impact of the ailment and to plan for timely health interventions.

In its guidance for appropriate recording of COVID-10 deaths in India, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said deaths with inconclusive test results, but in which coronavirus symptoms are present will be recorded as "probable COVID-19" fatalities.

Deaths in which tests are awaited with the presence of symptoms will be recorded as suspected deaths, while those

testing negative but have symptoms will be mentioned as clinically-epidemiologically diagnosed COVID-19, the guidance stated.

Its clinical presentation ranges from mild to severe, and fatality depends on the severity of the illness, associated comorbid conditions and age of patients.

"Patterns of disease and patterns of death can come from only standardised recording of clinical disease history and cause of death, and therefore epidemiological surveillance of disease and death are important.

"Robust data is needed from every district and State in India to measure the public health impact of COVID-19 and to plan for timely health interventions and protect communities.

"At the same time, other health conditions affecting populations need to be also monitored so that the health system is prepared for responding to the needs of the population," the document stated.


It lists forms where a health facility or a medical practition-

er has to mention the sequence of events leading to death, which includes the immediate cause of death, cause of death antecedent to immediate cause, underlying cause of death and the manner of death, among others.

It is likely that COVID-19 is the underlying cause of death (UCOD) that leads to pneumonia in most of the deaths due to COVID-19.


Patients may present with other pre-existing comorbid conditions such as asthma, chronic bronchitis, ischemic heart disease, cancer and diabetes mellitus. These conditions increase the risk of developing respiratory infections, and may lead to complications and severe disease in a COVID-19 positive patient.

"These conditions are not considered as underlying cause of death as they have not directly caused death due to COVID-19. Also, a patient may have many comorbid conditions but only those that have contributed to death should be recorded," the guidance document stated. - PTI



Department of Health and Family Welfare

Government of Karnataka



Shri B. S. Yediyurappa
Hon'ble Chief Minister

APPEAL

Dear stranded citizens who have registered to come to Karnataka,

We are concerned about your present condition and have taken note of your request to return to the State. **If you have registered on Seva Sindhu portal, you will be given a date of arrival at a particular entry point to the State.**

However, it is clarified that you will be compulsarily **Quarantined for 14 days** after your arrival in a facility like **Hotel / Hostel / Dormitory** etc. Only when your COVID-19 test result is negative after the mandatory quarantine you will be allowed to go home. This is being done for your safety and safety of your family members.

Help us in our fight against COVID-19.

B. S. Yediyurappa

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MESSAGE FOR TODAY

If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavor.

— ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

The Assam Tribune

Needless friction

Even as the world battles the Covid-19 pandemic and is focused on the issue, distracting incidents sadly continue to take place giving rise to great concern. The latest such India-related episode is the needless friction that had reportedly occurred between the Indian and Chinese troops at the border, first in North Sikkim and then in Eastern Ladakh. India and China have an un-demarcated 3,448-km boundary called the Line of Actual Control running all along the Himalayas, which has on many occasions proven to be a bone of contention between the two Asian rivals. After the clash near Naku La sector in Sikkim last month, a meeting of senior commanders from both sides had taken place and apparently the dispute was considered to have been resolved. However, on May 5 and 6, a flare-up again occurred in another spot on the northern bank of the Pangong Tso (lake) in Eastern Ladakh, one which was even more serious and had resulted in injury to soldiers of both the armed forces. Sporadic clashes on the India-China border have occurred before, the stand-off at Doklam a couple of years back being an example of a more serious type of fracas. But in recent times a degree of pragmatism had crept into the relations between the two nations in acknowledgement of the reality that bilateral and mutually beneficial economic and trade activity needed to be prioritized.

It may be recalled that during the official visit of Chinese Defence Minister Wei Fenghe in August, 2018, talks with the then Indian Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had resulted in a crucial decision to set up a mechanism making feasible multiple contacts at field level so that in future Doklam type episodes do not occur. Such a mechanism had been considered to be crucial given that the armies of the two countries are in a perpetual state of eyeball to eyeball face-off. Moreover, both countries have been continuously undertaking defensive constructions, improving communication infrastructure and deploying men and weaponry. In such a situation the possibility of localized hostilities with potential for bigger flare-ups is great indeed unless mutual confidence building measures, including establishment of a hotline, were implemented. No doubt it was the establishment of such a mechanism which had ensured that the skirmishes in Sikkim and Ladakh remain localized and contained. Yet, given the fact that currently China is under a great deal of international pressure because of its lack of transparency in matters concerning the Covid-19 pandemic, there is reason to suspect that creating a border fracas might be a deliberate strategy of distraction. In such a scenario the possibility of more clashes occurring at the border cannot be ruled out. It would indeed be a pity if pragmatism gives way to populism, thereby shifting the focus away from the Covid-19 tussle towards needless friction.

SHGs' contribution

The contribution of certain sectors which often remained in the back burner finally made their presence felt during the time of crisis. The economy of the country got a rude shock when the nationwide lockdown was declared on March 24. The industries came to a grinding halt and the wheels of the economy stopped rotating. The lockdown has affected almost all the sectors of the economy, be it major industrial giants, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), young startups, etc. The stock markets of India posted their worst ever losses. But amid the all pervading gloom, the self-help groups (SHGs) of Assam stood firm and in their own way have not only generated employment avenues but have also contributed to the State's economy. The SHGs of the State have amply proved that innovative ideas and hard work can work wonders even during the time of distress. The SHGs which seldom get the attention they deserve have driven home the message loud and clear that even a micro-mini sector can contribute to the economy.

To keep the Covid-19 pandemic at bay, face masks have become essential. A significant number of SHGs anticipated that the demand of masks would go up manifold and have acted accordingly to tap the business potential of making masks. Members of SHGs across villages of the State comprising mostly womenfolk have started making cotton washable masks on a large scale. Over 41 lakh masks have been made till now by 10,497 members from 4,971 SHGs across the State. To ensure that their products reach the masses, the State Government has set up 84 mask selling outlets in 31 districts. A good number of SHGs, instead of ruing over the unsold traditional *gamosas* this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic, used the piled-up stock to make three-layer cotton masks with the *gamosa* design and earned a good profit. Masks apart, all the perishable items from the SHG members like vegetables, eggs, milk, etc., have been connected with the district administration so that they can procure for supply in the areas needed. It's heartening to note that over 47 thousand SHG members have sold perishable commodities worth over Rs 5.31 crore under the Assam State Rural Livelihood Mission (ASRLM) during the lockdown. The role played by the SHGs in the State during the lockdown period is indeed commendable. They have shown the path that using the locally available resources can not only help the SHG members but also the society as a whole. The government authorities must come forward and help the SHGs with market linkages and funds so that they can carry forward with their commendable work.

At Damdai and Naisingpara, with Bru refugees

FROM FAR & NEAR

Samudra Gupta Kashyap

The road distance from Agartala to Kanchanpur is just about 175 kms. But the road condition was such that we reached only at around 2 pm despite having started at 6:30 am. It was election time in Tripura. Though the campaign was getting more intense every passing day, we chose to spend two days visiting Kanchanpur, where over 35,000 Bru refugees from Mizoram had been lodged in camps since 1997. Being voters of Mizoram, the Brus had nothing to do with the Tripura election. But then, any day, a story about displaced people gets good space in newspapers.

Naisingpara is a small place with a few roadside shops and a road junction, about 20 km from Kanchanpur, the subdivision town of North Tripura district. When we reached there after an eight-hour drive by a bad road on February 10, 2013, A Sawbunga and Bruno Msha, president and secretary respectively of the Mizoram Bru Displaced People's Forum (MBDPF), were waiting eagerly for us. I had not met them before, but was in touch over the telephone for more than a decade by now. Quickly having a cup of black tea each, we went around the place for about a couple of hours, and then sat down outside the MBDPF office to ask more questions. Meanwhile, my Kolkata-based photographer-colleague Subham Dutta got busy taking as many pictures as he could.

"That was a wintry night in 1997.

First they threatened us, but we paid no heed. Then, one night, they came in large numbers and set our villages on fire. All we could do was run through the darkness," said Chewarai Reang, then about 80, recalling the three-day foot-march from Damparengpui through the Jampui hills that brought them to Naisingpara, in Tripura. What was the reason for the violence? The Bru National Union (BNU) had in September 1997 demanded creation of a Bru Autonomous District Council, which the Young Mizo Association, Mizo Zirlai Pawl and other Mizo groups vehemently opposed.

Over 35,000 Brus fled from Mizoram in the next few weeks. Once inside Tripura, they set up camps at Naisingpara, Ashapara, Khakchangpara, Khasithaipara, Kaskaopara, Naisaopara and Hansapara, all in the Jampui foothills bordering Mizoram. They came from dozens of villages like Tuipuibari, Nathiazol, Chhiikha, Fulpuwi, Sarali, Falkawn, New Fulpuwi, to name a few – spread over Mamit, Lunglei and Kolabas districts of Mizoram. Soon a section of their youth also floated the Bru National Liberation Front (BNLF) and demanded a separate homeland inside Mizoram. The movement did not last long, and they surrendered in 2006.

Life for displaced people has always been difficult the world over, and the Brus are no exception. "People here die like cats and dogs due to epidemics every year. In 2002, nearly 3,000 died due to a

dysentery and diarrhoea outbreak," claimed Laldongliana, who keeps records for the MBDPF. Fires are also common. In March 2011, at least 25 persons including several children had died in a devastating fire in Naisingpara.

"Our biggest problem is health-care and drinking water," Laldongliana told me, lamenting that doctors are hardly available at the nearest government health centres at Dasda and Anandabazar, both about five kms away. "Now we are

"Now we are mostly left to wild herbs that our elders know. Those who can manage some money buy unprescribed medicine from a shop at Gachirampara," he added. Safe drinking water being scarce, people fall easy prey to malaria, measles, scabies, chicken pox and gastroenteritis.

mostly left to wild herbs that our elders know. Those who can manage some money buy unprescribed medicine from a shop at Gachirampara," he added. Safe drinking water being scarce, people fall easy prey to malaria, measles, scabies, chicken pox and gastroenteritis. Naisingpara got a water supply scheme after the March 2011 fire incident, but it could hardly meet the needs of about 300 families, forcing most people to collect water from the streams flowing by. "But with the household dirt flow-

ing down there, people suffer immensely after drinking that water," pointed out Stephen Lalbiakzuala, a Bru with a Mizo name, who is a teacher in one of the eight schools set up under Sarva Siksha Abhiyan mission for the refugees.

The Mizos don't recognize the Brus as an indigenous community of Mizoram. The Tribal Research and Cultural Institute in Agartala says the Brus in Mizoram and Reangs in Tripura are the same people. The second largest tribe of

Tripura with about 1.88 lakh people in 2011, the Reangs, according to the Institute website, had moved from the Shan State of upper Burma (now Myanmar) in different waves to the Chittagang Hill Tracts and then to southern Tripura, Assam and Mizoram in the 18th century. Belonging to the Indo-Mongoloid racial stock, their language – called 'Kaubru' and is broadly common to Kokborok – belongs to Tibeto-Burman family.

Earlier, in January 2011, I had travelled about 125 km outside Aizawl, to meet another group of Brus who had returned to Mizoram under a repatriation scheme launched in November 2010. From Mamit, we drove about 35 km, and then walked for about three km to reach Damdai, a village where 64 Bru families had been settled about a month before. My contact at Damdai was Surjyamon Reang, 'chairman' and founder of the Bru National Liberation Front in 1997, who had surrendered along with

200 boys in 2006. While 64 ex-militants were provided land near Damdai, the others were being settled at three other villages nearby – Tuipuibari, Dampiangpui and New Eden. About 300 more Bru families on the other hand had been resettled in some other adjoining areas till January 2011, with the Government of India providing them a plot of land, Rs 80,000 in cash, and free ration for a year.

In 2011, then Mizoram Chief Minister Lal Thanhawla was on record saying the Brus were an 'integral part' of his State, had lived peacefully with the Mizos since ages, and had adopted Mizo names and social practices too. Over 60% of them have also become Christians, he had said. But even as over 5,000 Brus had returned to Mizoram in nine rounds of repatriation since 2010, the present Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga announced that his State would take no more Brus after that. But then, keen on putting an end to the issue, the Centre finally got the Tripura and Mizoram governments and representatives of the Bru refugees to sign an agreement on January 16 this year, under which all the remaining refugees would be permanently settled in Tripura itself. Under the new arrangement, each family would be given a 40x30 square feet residential plot of land and Rs 1.5 lakh to build a house, in addition to a fixed deposit of Rs 4 lakh, and free ration and Rs 5,000 cash aid per month for two years. With the Covid-19 pandemic bringing everything to a standstill, the process however is yet to begin. Meanwhile, some groups in Tripura don't seem to be very happy. (sgkashyap@gmail.com)

Covid-19 and citizens' social responsibility

■ Nilima Bhagabati

The world at present is under the grip of Covid-19. The coronavirus emerged from central China and spread to the rest of the world very rapidly and has become the greatest threat to human survival. The coronavirus outbreak was declared as a public health emergency of world concern on January 30, 2020. This deadly virus spreads through coughing or sneezing, personal contact, mass gathering and contaminated objects. What is of great concern is that the people of all age groups have the greatest possibility to be infected if self-awareness is not created and ignorance shown against this unseen foe.

The coronavirus has become one of the greatest challenges before us. The Government of India is taking all the requisite emergency steps and precautions to ensure that our country is fully prepared to combat coronavirus. As an urgent and effective preventive measure, the Prime Minister of India announced a complete lockdown across India from March 24 midnight, 2020 initially for 21 days which was later extended till May 3 and now till May 17. The coronavirus transmits alarmingly at a very high rate and the fundamental pre-

ventive measure to keep the virus away is to be self-aware and creating awareness among the cross-sections of society. This has become utmost important at this critical time and all preventive practices have to be religiously followed.

It is reported in the media that no new cases of corona positive have come up in a few States in India which is a positive sign. India's first case of coronavirus pandemic was confirmed in the State of Kerala and a large number of persons were diagnosed and declared coronavirus positive. Due to a strong public health system, successful recovery was possible and now the Kerala model is being looked into around the world. In Assam, the critical virus was traced to the people who attended a conference at Nijamuddin Markaz, New Delhi. It is appreciable that the situation was addressed with the urgency it deserved on a war-footing by the Health Department, Government of Assam, with timely quarantine and medical facilities provided for the patients' recovery. But as per the statement of Health Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma, a big challenge lies ahead for those who are outside the State of Assam and who

will be coming back after the lockdown period is over. Many of them have already started returning to their home State, i.e., Assam.

The hazard of corona is not yet over. Intensive medical research is going on in universities like Oxford for anti-corona medicines and vaccines. It is difficult to predict how long we have to wait for the outcome of the research findings. Therefore, the war against Covid-19 will continue. The need at this juncture for all conscious citizens is to extend their helping hand and support to the respective society in general and the Government in particular to win the war against Covid-19. As conscious citizens, our social responsibility is paramount at this critical hour.

What is most important during this critical period is the unity or 'oneness'. The nation's call always comes first and we have to move ahead irrespective of caste, creed and religion. We must realize that we are responsible towards one another and cannot allow a tiny virus to be the threat to human survival.

As responsible citizens, whatever our professional life may be, we have to take up this social responsibility. What comes first is our own awareness about the disease so that we can make others aware about its ill ef-

fects. Our prime duty is to pass correct information to the cross-sections of people in the society. During this pandemic, we are witnessing a large number of organizations and individuals coming out and distributing food and other items to the needy whose daily wage earning has been stopped due to the lockdown. When a particular area is chosen for relief, it will be more effective if a person with knowledge and updated information disseminates about the hazards of the coronavirus, how staying home can keep them safe and healthy, why social distancing should be strictly followed and how to maintain basic hygiene and cleanliness. Such an approach will create awareness.

People of all ages can be the victim of this new coronavirus. But persons above 60 years of age are more vulnerable for attack. Generally during such critical periods, the people in the advanced age group and those staying alone have the possibility of developing panic, anxiety, loneliness with recurring fearful thoughts. Therefore, the older persons of the population need counselling during such dreadful periods which will no doubt keep their mental health stable and healthy. As conscious citizens, particularly those familiar with mental health studies, we need to contribute our share of

knowledge to the needy ones in the community through telephonic conversation off and on.

Though social media is popular in sending information and messages, yet it does not reach all the segments of the society. To reach the general masses, write-ups on simple language which are easily understandable and without high technical terms should be written with the objective to create awareness.

Since the outbreak of this pandemic, it is noticed that most of the mobile users forward or share messages without verifying the information. This practice of forwarding fake messages travels fast in the society in spreading the rumours and thereby creating undesirable panic and anxiety amongst many in the cross section society. As conscious citizens we need to be aware and stop such unauthentic messages from further spreading.

The government of a nation cannot fight against such an unseen foe alone. As citizens we need to help the country by donating as per our financial capacity to the government's relief fund so that the government can adopt urgent and needful strategies to fight the war and defeat Covid-19. As responsible citizens our duty to extend support and cooperation to the nation is imperative.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, – At this critical juncture of the corona pandemic, the adversities may be turned into opportunities by India if proper decisions are taken and planning for their execution is formalized. Most of the multinational companies had established their bases of production in Chinese territories due to some socio-economic reasons. In the prevailing situation, they are willing to leave the country and are seeking other alternatives for shifting their bases. It is due to the Chinese Government which is not providing actual information in time instead of hiding it, for which these companies are incurring heavy losses. For them India would be a viable alternative. So the Indian Government should create favourable conditions for such companies who are willing to set up bases here. It will boost the Indian economy which is facing a serious depression due to the pandemic. Yours etc., ANUP TALUKDAR, Nagarbera, Kamrup.

Turning adversities into opportunities

Responsible media

Sir, – As a responsible stakeholder of the battle against the attack of the new demon called Covid-19, the role of your esteemed daily has been proactive since the lockdown was in place. The daily has been shouldering social responsibility and continuing its efforts to make it a trusted platform of thoughts. The pragmatism in selection of topics in the editorial page is undoubtedly the outcome of the sincerity and devotion of the group as a whole. Each and every editorial and article carries some ideas that the Government should follow. The present crisis facing the world is unique. It is neither political nor religious. In a large country like India, deliberations for solutions to any problem should be on the platform of the fourth estate of democracy. We are proud that this 82-year-old premier daily of the Northeast region has been maintaining the trend and carrying out the tremendous job by publishing the needful. The articles by various authors have meticulously discussed the pros and cons of the Covid-19 episode. Many of

them have also encouraged the State Government where it was necessary making the articles balanced and this esteemed page more acceptable. Yours etc., KULENDRA NATH DEKA, Jengraimukh, Majuli.

Mental health

Sir, – It is evident that the consequences of the pandemic have taken a toll on all of us in different ways. The people are staying indoor maintaining social distance. Everyone is fighting against the pandemic in his or her own way. However, this has severely affected our mental health too. In 2017, one in every seven Indians was struggling with mental disorders of varying severity. The WHO predicted that by 2020, roughly 20% of the Indian population would suffer from various mental illnesses, and there are less than 4000 mental health professionals to cater to our needs. Our society is easily influenced by the 'what will people say' mentality, which makes it hard for mental to open up about their struggles. Mental illness is much more than being prescribed anti-depressants. The well-being of our mental

health is equally important as our physical health. Amid this pandemic situation, it is imperative that we create such an atmosphere where we pay attention and aid to those who are asking for help, instead of brushing it off as unimportant. Yours etc., SANJUKTA SARANIA, Cotton University.

NHM recruitment

Sir, – Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to draw the attention of the general masses and the authorities concerned towards the discrepancies in the recruitment process through NHM, Assam. This has reference to the interview held on August 30, 2019 for the post of Hospital Coordinator. Even after nine months have passed, the results have not been declared. This has put the candidates in an uncertain situation. Not only this, the results related to the interviews held at different times for the post of Hospital Administrator too have not been declared even after more than three years. Therefore, I call upon the authorities concerned to take necessary action. Yours etc., A CANDIDATE, Nagaon.

Physical activities

Sir, – This is with reference to the letter to the editor, 'Online classes' (AT, May 11). While I am completely on board with the author's concern regarding the few drawbacks of online classes, I beg to differ here that physical activities are not part of this mode of classes. The students can learn exercises, yoga, dance, etc., side by side with the teachers. We have also witnessed that a few teachers are delivering online tutorials on drills, indoor and outdoor games on social media platforms like YouTube. On the author's concern about social skill enhancement of students, I want to state that the students can take out their time and spend time with their friends virtually with different online interactive sessions. Of course the physical involvement will not be there as much as it happens during normal school hours but at this hour of crisis, I think we can comprise at least to such an extent. Yours etc., JLLMIL BORDOLOI, Guwahati.

Articles (within 900-1000 words) and Letters to the Editor for publication in the editorial page may be sent to the email ID: editor@assamtribune.com.



WEATHER GUWAHATI
LOCAL FORECAST:
 Partly cloudy sky to generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain/thundershowers.
 Maximum and minimum temperatures are most likely to be 31°C & 21°C respectively on Tuesday.
TEMPERATURE:
 Max 34.5°C
 Min 20.9°C



A car that was set on fire by anti-CAA protesters in the first half of December last year, remains uncleared at Banunimaidam in Guwahati, as seen on Monday. - Photo: Samarendra Sarma

GU student body demand charter

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 11: The Postgraduate Students' Union of Gauhati University (GU) on Monday submitted a charter of demands on various issues concerning every student amidst the lockdown. Among the various demands, the PG students urged the authority to conduct at least two months of formal classes before conducting the examination.

One arrested

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 11: Hatigaon police arrested one Shaddam Hussain with ten cartons of cough syrup bottles without any documents near the Global Hospital of Surgery, Hatigaon last night.

Cotton College retd teachers extend aid

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 11: The Cotton College Retired Teachers' Forum on Monday contributed Rs 1,15,000 to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The cheque was handed over to Gautam Das, PPS to the Chief Minister, by Dr Ratul Rajkhowa and Dr Gautam Sarma, general secretary and executive member of the Forum respectively, stated a press release issued here today.

Corona forces street vendors to change livelihood means

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 11: The struggle for earning their daily bread has forced street vendors of the city to change their trade and opt for something else in order to survive and support their families.

The ones who had owned tea stalls and fast food shops near Cotton University have now started selling vegetables, fruits and coconut water in the area.

There are altogether 22 shops in that area. Naren Rajbongshi, who used to sell tea near the university, is now selling fruits in partnership with one of his friends.

"The street vendors are the worst effected due to the nationwide lockdown. As the sole earning member of my family, I have arranged this to keep my family going. I have borrowed Rs 7,000 to start this business," Rajbongshi said. Rajbongshi is the president of Street Ven-

dors' Association of Assam.

"I used to earn around Rs 800 daily by selling tea and snacks; but today, I earned only Rs 300," he lamented.

Rajbongshi, however, is happy that he is earning at least something even during the lockdown, which has pushed many others to the brink of survival.

Another vendor, Munindra Barman, who used to sell fast food before the lockdown has now been selling vegetables.

"There are very few people on the road. Earning hasn't been good enough at all. But, there's no other option as well. Our shops were shut down on March 20. All our savings were gone during the subsequent period," Barman said.

The street vendors are not the only ones who have been compelled to change their livelihood means. Many others have opted for different occupations, especially vending activities, during these unprecedented testing times.

Protest against State Govt move on labour reforms

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 11: Extending their support to the call made by Trade Unions and Employee Federations, labourers working in various sectors in Assam on Monday registered their protest against the 'anti-labourer' policy of the State government.

According to a statement issued by the Assam State Committee of Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), the labourers took part in the protest programme in their respective places of work following lockdown norms. The protesting labourers displayed placards voicing their demands.

The reaction from the labourer community came following a recent decision of the State Council of Ministers to introduce fixed-term employment, increase the duty shift from eight to 12 hours during the COVID-19 period, increase the minimum number of workers for implementation of the Contract Labour Act and increase the minimum number of workers for implementation of the Factories Act.

The CITU alleged that the State government's move would affect every labourer, especially in the prevailing medical emergency situation.

All trade unions of Assam today submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister demanding immediate withdrawal

of the decision taken recently.

Meanwhile, the Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS), Assam said the decision will push a large segment of working class people towards slavery, if not deal a death blow to the poor and marginalised workers.

Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, the organisation's president Ajoy Dutta said the State Cabinet's argument that the decision would create more scope for employment is a mere eyewash, the real motive being to help the industry owners have their way in matters of contracts and working hours.

"The State Cabinet has taken a very dangerous decision completely ignoring decades of labour movement the world over. With little regard to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention and turning blind to the plight of workers in the COVID-19 triggered situation, the government has given an upper hand to the industries to adopt a 'hire and fire' approach towards workers," Dutta said.

As per the government proposal, the number of minimum employees for implementation of the Factories Act 1948 has been doubled from existing figures for various categories of factories. It needs mention that factories with fewer employees have been exempted from the norm.

The HMS argued that this will give ample scope for manipulation to the in-

dustrialists, who will cause false labour force 'break-ups' in order to derive maximum benefit from the exemption.

Coming down heavily on the introduction of fixed-term employment and increasing shift duty for workers from eight hours to 12 hours, the organisation said that appointment of fixed workers for specific works will make workers and labourers suffer.

"Already pushed to the margins due to the pandemic, the workers will now be hired on a use-and-throw basis, with their social and job security cover shrinking like never before. To top it, increasing the shift hours from eight to 12 hours is a blatant violation of the ILO convention. The government has totally violated the concept of May Day in the month of May 2020," Dutta lamented.

The HMS also condemned the change in the minimum number of workers for implementation of the Contract Labour Act from 20 to 50, asking the government to review and revoke its decision.

Meanwhile, a number of conscious citizens including Member of Parliament Ajit Kumar Bhuyan, journalist Manjit Mahanta and social worker Meera Borthakur have also opposed the government decision to increase shift hours and changes in the Contract Labour Act.

Social distancing crucial in crowded areas

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 11: The biggest challenge for the State government, in a post-lockdown scenario, will be how to maintain social distancing in high-movement and congested public places like railway stations, bus stations and market places.

The government authorities have failed to maintain open spaces in and around most such public areas, especially in bus and rail stations that are visited by thousands of commuters every day.

In the State capital Guwahati, for instance, which boasts of being the Gateway to the Northeast, a lot of encroachments have taken place

over the years, particularly with regard to mandatory roadside setbacks/margins from main structures/buildings in the high-movement and congested places like the Guwahati Railway Station and the Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) bus station at Paltan Bazar.

It has been observed that the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) and the Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) building laws have been blatantly flouted by the authorities with regard to the entry to the railway station from the Paltan Bazar side.

Similarly, the ASTC authority is also guilty in allowing people to encroach on the manda-

tory minimum 12-feet setback/ margin open area between the main public building/structure and the public road.

As a result, there is practically no open space left from the PWD entrance road to the railway station, thus making it extremely congested and vulnerable, especially during times like the present one caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

"A tourist entering or exiting the Guwahati Railways Station or the ASTC bus station from or to the Paltan Bazar side would get a feeling of being in a slum area of the city.

It is high time all encroachments are cleared as per existing GMC and GMDA building byelaws meant for the public

building and structure in order to avert a major disaster like COVID-19 from taking place," a source said, adding that GMDA, GMC, district authorities, Railways and ASTC should act now to clear all encroachments and sanitize the areas meticulously before the lockdown is over.

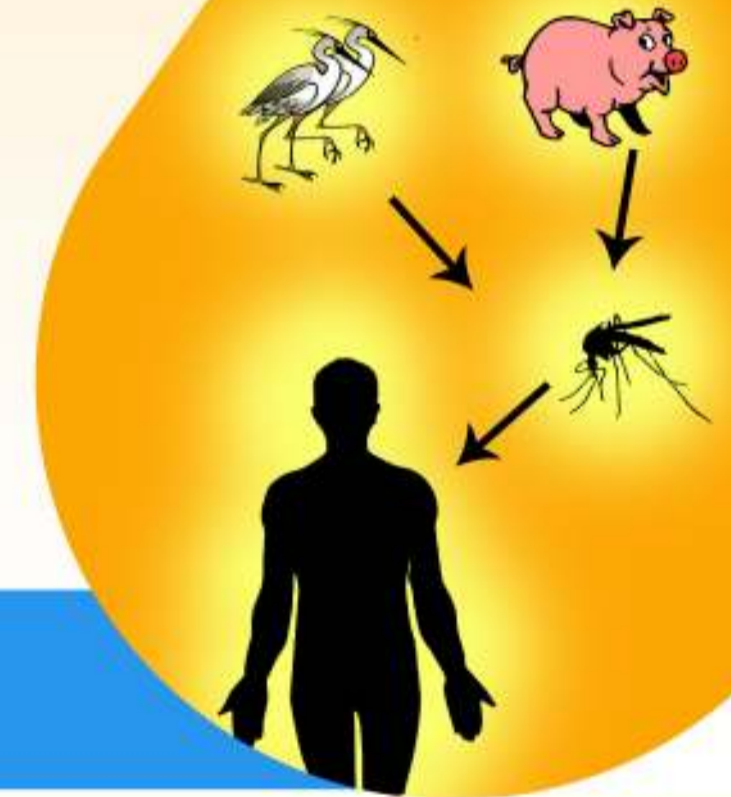
With the lockdown guidelines being relaxed to a large extent, the possibility of a sudden spurt in the movement of people in the usually crowded areas has greatly increased as well. The challenge before the authorities, therefore, is now greater than ever before, because their alacrity or lack of it will be a deciding factor in finding out which way the transmission goes in this highly crucial period.



জাপানীজ এনকেফেলাইটিছ মহৰ দ্বাৰা সংক্ৰমিত এবিধ ৰোগ

যিকোনো জ্বৰ এ.ই.ছ./জাপানীজ এনকেফেলাইটিছ হ'ব পাৰে

শীঘ্ৰে চিকিৎসা প্ৰদান কৰিলে ৰোগীৰ স্বাস্থ্যৰ অধিক অৰনতি
ৰোধ কৰিব পৰা যায়।



এই ৰোগৰ লক্ষণসমূহ

- অতিপাত জ্বৰ
- মুৰৰ বিষ
- মানসিক অস্থিৰতা
- ভ্ৰম আৰু সংজ্ঞাহীনতা
- বমি ভাব
- শৰীৰৰ কপনি



শোৰাৰ সময়ত সদায় আঁঠুৰা
ব্যৱহাৰ কৰক



ঘৰৰ ওচৰৰ পৰা গাহৰি আৰু
গাহৰিৰ গড়াল আঁতৰাই ৰাখক



সদায় দীঘল হাতৰ চোলা আৰু দীঘল
পেণ্ট পৰিধান কৰক



সদায় সন্ধ্যা ঘৰৰ বাহিৰে ভিতৰে ধোঁৱা
দিয়াৰ ব্যৱস্থা কৰক। ধোঁৱা দিয়াৰ সময়ত
দুৱাৰ খিৰিকি আধাঘণ্টা পৰ্যন্ত খুলি ৰাখক

জাপানীজ এনকেফেলাইটিছৰ লক্ষণসমূহ দেখিলে ততালিকে ওচৰৰ চিকিৎসালয়লৈ লৈ যাওক
অথবা 6913347771/2/3 নম্বৰত যোগাযোগ কৰক



Migrants wait to undergo temperature tests on their arrival at the Prayagraj Junction by a special train, in Prayagraj on Monday. - PTI

Defence ministry ready to deal with all enemies

NEW DELHI, May 11: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said his ministry is committed to destroying all the enemies of the nation, including those visible on the borders or invisible ones like the coronavirus.

Speaking at an online conference organised to mark National Technology Day, Singh also said India must become self-reliant in military manufacturing and that the government is supporting the domestic defence industry by coming out with a policy framework.

"I want to assure my countrymen that the Ministry of Defence is committed to destroying all the enemies of the nation - whether they are visible enemies on the borders or invisible enemies like the coronavirus," he said.

The National Technology Day is observed on May 11 to commemorate the nuclear tests India conducted in Pokhran on this day in 1998 that symbolised achievement of home-grown technologies in critical areas.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed more than 50 products in the last three-four months like bio-suit, sanitizer dispenser, PPE kits, etc., through its continuous efforts to contribute to the fight against COVID-19," he said.

"The indomitable spirit of our defence industry has increased the opportunity for mass production of these high-quality products in record time," Singh added.

The Defence Minister said the government has set new

targets and formulated the "right" policy framework to achieve indigenisation in defence production.

"We always have to keep in mind that there is no alternative to indigenous technology and indigenous manufacture. We will be truly self-reliant only when India succeeds in becoming a net exporter instead of a net importer of technology," he said.

At present, India is one of the top importers of military hardware globally.

According to a latest report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a leading think-tank on military spending, India's defence expenditure stood at \$71.1 billion in 2019, which is the third highest after the US and China. - PTI

New guidelines for travel on 15 special trains from May 12

NEW DELHI, May 11: The Indian Railways has issued new guidelines for travel on 15 special trains from May 12, asking passengers to carry their own food and linen and arrive at stations at least 90 minutes before departure for health screening.

It also said all passengers must wear face masks during the journey.

The Railways, which has announced to resume a limited number of passenger services after almost a 50-day hiatus due to the ongoing coronavirus lockdown, said the 15 trains to run from Tuesday will be air-conditioned and will run on full-capacity on the Rajdhani routes, from Delhi to all major cities of the country.

The Railways said it will run eight trains on May 12 - three from New Delhi terminating at Dibrugarh, Bengaluru and Bhubaneswar. And one each from Howrah, Rajendra Nagar (Patna), Bengaluru, Mumbai Central and

Ahmedabad which will all terminate at Delhi. These special trains will only have AC classes i.e., first, second and third AC. The fares will be equivalent to Rajdhani trains.

Since the trains will be operated amidst the ongoing nationwide lockdown, only passengers with confirmed e-tickets shall be allowed to enter the station.

Passengers can book tickets up to seven days in advance. However, no RAC, waiting list ticket or onboard booking by ticket checking staff will be permitted, the Railways said.

The movement of passengers as well as that of the driver of the vehicle transporting them to and from the railway station shall be allowed on the basis of the confirmed e-ticket, it said.

Online cancellation shall be permitted up to 24 hours before the scheduled departure of the train, but the cancella-

tion charge shall be 50 per cent of the fare.

The Railways said there will be special norms for air-conditioning inside the coaches and temperatures will be kept slightly higher than the usual. Maximum supply of fresh air will be ensured.

The special trains will run from New Delhi to Dibrugarh, Agartala, Howrah, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Thiruvananthapuram, Secunderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Madgaon, Mumbai Central and Jammu Tawi.

Bookings for reservation in these trains was to start at 4 pm on Monday, but the Railways pushed it to 6 pm as the IRCTC website did not open. "Special trains are being uploaded in system. Booking will start soon," the IRCTC tweeted at 4.43 pm.

Booking will be available only on the IRCTC website (www.irctc.co.in). - PTI

2 NE-bound ...

(Contd from page 1)

With concern that resumption of passenger train services could lead to spread of COVID-19 cases, authorities have announced that only passengers having confirmed journey tickets will be allowed to enter the stations.

The Railways has also made it mandatory for all passengers to wear mask and undergo thermal screening before entering stations. Only asymptomatic passengers will be allowed to board the trains.

Ticket booking of these special trains can be done only through the IRCTC website. No RAC or wait-listed tickets are allowed. Onboard ticketing by ticket checking staff is also prohibited. Catering charges will not be included in the fare. There will be no provision of catering and pre-paid meal booking.

However, IRCTC will provide limited amount of eatables and drinking water on payment basis if asked for. No linen and blankets

will be provided to any passenger.

Meanwhile, the Kamrup (Metro) district administration said that it will deploy a team of doctors and medical staff at the Guwahati railway station to screen the passengers who de-board here. Magistrates will also be present during the screening.

Similar steps are also expected to be taken at other places in Assam where these trains have stoppages and commuters will board and de-board. Around 1,000-1,200 passengers are expected in each train per journey.

It is noteworthy that passenger trains services across the country have been suspended since imposition of the nationwide lockdown.

The Railway Ministry started operating Shramik Special trains since May 1 but so far no such train has come to or left from Assam, even as two Shramik Special trains are expected to reach Tripura and Manipur on May 13 or May 14 from south India.

Assam COVID-19 ...

(Contd from page 1)

She had also complained about severe pain in her body due to which she could not stand or walk properly. She has been also suffering from fever for two days. Explaining the pathetic condition of the quarantine centre, she alleged that the health department used to keep both male and female patients in the same place that had dirty and unhygienic beds and toilets.

Her Facebook live video got wide coverage in local media and later Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma talked to her over phone.

"The minister assured me of taking steps for my treatment as per his capacity. Later, I was shifted to another quarantine centre set

up on the premises of a college, but here also I have been facing the same issues. Even the toilet facility is not adequate here. Apart from such problems, no doctor is yet to come for my treatment," she told *The Assam Tribune* over phone this evening.

She informed that though at present she has no fever she is still suffering from severe body ache. As medicine, she is using paracetamol tablets available with her. She also alleged that she was not getting "proper food from the Maharashtra government".

According to Daijee, several staff of her hospital got infected with COVID-19 while attending to patients.

PM calls for ...

(Contd from page 1)

The interaction comes in the midst of growing demands by States, industries, workers and several political leaders to withdraw the lockdown from non-COVID areas as it has adversely impacted the economy and livelihoods of a large section of people. According to a Delhi government official, during the interaction, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said barring containment zones, economic activities should be allowed to resume in the national capital.

"During the interaction, the Chief Minister said economic activities should be allowed to resume in Delhi, except in COVID-19 containment zones," a source told PTI.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh pitched for the extension of the coronavirus lockdown, but demanded a carefully crafted exit strategy, including fiscal support to States.

In view of the increasing number of coronavirus cases, continuation of the lockdown was needed, Singh said, adding the decision on designating red, orange/yellow and green zones should be left to the States, which are more cognizant of the ground realities.

The exit strategy should consider and focus on fiscal and economic empowerment of the States, the Punjab Chief Minister said.

In the conference, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami came out against the resumption of flight and passenger train services till May 31, citing increase in the number of coronavirus cases. Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray urged Modi to show "specific and concrete direction" on the lockdown, a State government official said.

During the interaction, Modi also appreciated the role played by the States in the fight against the pandemic, and said the entire world is of the view that India has been able to successfully protect itself from the pandemic, according to official sources. - PTI

Morphed ...

(Contd from page 1)

"I have noted with deep concern an altered/morphed screenshot of my tweet - where the numbers have been changed. I have asked Assam Police to file an FIR and investigate," Sarma said. The minister also clarified that the news doing the rounds in a section of media about new categorisation of some districts, even Guwahati, was also speculative. "No information has come from the Government of India about new categorisation today," he said.

State falters ...

(Contd from page 1)

As an immediate measure, the State government has been asked to take steps to provide safe drinking water in all affected habitations and conduct health check-ups in schools in convergence with the education and health departments to identify children at risk and take necessary steps.

"The programme focuses on service delivery at household level, i.e., water supply on regular basis in adequate quantity and of prescribed quality. Every public institution, viz. gram panchayat buildings, schools, anganwadi and health centres, etc., are also to be provided with tap water connection. JJM is a decentralised, demand-driven, community-managed programme where every gram panchayat and/or its sub-committee, i.e., village water and sanitation committee (VWSC)/paani samiti/user group, etc., is to plan, implement, manage, operate and maintain their in-village water supply infrastructure," sources said.

The participatory approach is expected to instill a sense of ownership among the local community, creating in the process an environment of trust and bringing in transparency, besides leading to better implementation and long-term operation and maintenance of water supply systems.

"It would also develop responsible and responsive leadership at village level to manage an essential service like water supply," sources added. The project envisages every village is to prepare a village action plan (VAP) which involves plan for water resource management, water supply and grey water treat-

ment and reuse.

"The State has to firm up village, block and district-wise timelines or plans for 100 per cent functional household tap connection. While planning, priority is to be given to water quality affected areas, water-scarce villages, villages coming under Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna and Aspirational Districts programme. NGOs, voluntary organisations, women self-help groups, etc., are to be empanelled as implementation support agencies (ISAs) to mobilise and handhold the local community in implementing JJM," sources said.

Earlier this year, NJJM had received a grievance from a resident of Guwahati and it was reported that a primary school of Kamrup district had no access to piped water supply and children were consuming groundwater with high fluoride content. It was also found that urine samples of 14 children showed excessive content of fluoride confirming dental fluorosis in them and possibly skeletal fluorosis too.

Fluorosis is a painful disease caused due to lack of potable drinking water and lack of adequate nutrition. Excessive fluoride intake causes paraplegia, arthritis and other diseases. It also affects human intelligence, especially in children who are most susceptible to early fluoride toxicity.

As there is no treatment for severe cases of fluorosis, efforts can only be made towards reducing disability. However, the disease is easily preventable if diagnosed early and steps are taken to prevent intake of excess fluoride through the provision of safe drinking water, adequate nutrition, etc.

CM interacts ...

(Contd from page 1)

Taking part in the interaction, Industry and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said that steps are afoot to leverage industrial growth in the State, as a result of which favourable industrial environment has developed in Assam today. He said that initiatives like the Act East Policy Affairs Department and Assam Skill Development Mission have helped to develop better commercial linkages with the South East Asian countries. He also observed that steps taken for improvement of waterway would give a major push to economic activities in the State.

2 more test ...

(Contd from page 1)

"The samples were sent to ICMR-Lahowal, AMCH, Barpeta and even Delhi for tests. It will take some time before we get all the results," the sources said. Many doctors and nurses have been quarantined. Even if their results come negative, the direct contacts will have to stay under quarantine for some time and another test will be conducted after some days.

Meanwhile, five COVID-19 patients of Bongaigaon, who were admitted at the MMCH, were discharged today. Total discharged patients are 39 now.

So far, 64 positive cases have been detected in Assam, while active cases are 22, as one person - an ambulance driver - who had tested positive here had left for Bihar.

(With inputs from Morigaon Correspondent)

No. CE/Maint/A.D/404/2019/17

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer PWD (Roads), Assam, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bids amounting to **Rs. 820.42 Lakh (approx.)** for improvement/Construction of roads under SOPD (G). Asom Darshan for the year 2020-21 for 2 (Two) nos packages in the district of Dhubri. Details may be seen in the website assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned in the "Maintenance Cell" during office hours from **13.05.2020 to 01.06.2020**.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads)
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog/CF/217/20

No. Commn-272/2020-21/1873

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Dispur Territorial Road Division, Guwahati-21 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids from the approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) or contractors registered with other States/Central Government department, Institutions etc. for 45 (forty five) Nos. of works under SOPD (G) for the financial year 2019-20 under Dispur LAC, Kamrup (M) district of Assam amounting to Rs. 1513.48 Lakh (Approx.). Details may be seen in the office of the undersigned, during hours of 11.00 AM to 4.15 PM from on 13.05.2020. The tender documents can be purchased on 15.05.2020 from the Technical Branch, office of the undersigned during office hours by submitting cost of bid document in the form of Demand draft/Banker's Cheque of a scheduled commercial bank drawn in favour of Empowered Officer, Assam State Road Board, Assam, A/C No. 10566991479 and payable at Guwahati for amount as specified in the Detailed N.I.T.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWRD
Dispur Territorial Road Division,
Guwahati-21

Janasanyog/CF/226/20

No. DIB/DLMT/SOPD(G)/NIT/111/2019-20/5

PRESS NOTICE INVITING FRESH TENDER

Executive Engineer PWD, Dibrugarh, Lahowal, Moran and Tingkhong Territorial Road Division, Dibrugarh on behalf of Governor of Assam invites fresh bids from the approved and eligible contractor registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for Construction/Re-construction of roads/culverts under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 for 46 (forty six) Nos. of road works in Dibrugarh District of Assam amounting to Rs.1458.987 Lakhs (Approx.), as detailed in the Table. Details may be seen at the office of the undersigned from 14.05.2020 during office hours. The earlier Press NIT issued vide T.O. No. DIB/DLMT/SOPD(G)/NIT/111/2019-20/1 Dtd.04.3.2020 and No. DIB/DLMT/SOPD(G)/NIT/111/2019-20/3 Dtd.20.3.2020 is hereby cancelled due to Nationwide Lock down keeping in view of outbreak of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19).

| Sl.No. | Name of LAC | Nos of work | Total Cost (Rs in lakh) |
|------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Dibrugarh LAC | 28 | 902.730 |
| 2 | Lahowal LAC | 9 | 288.667 |
| 3 | Moran LAC | 7 | 219.040 |
| 4 | Tingkhong, LAC | 2 | 54.55 |
| Total cost | | | Rs.1458.987 lakhs |

Janasanyog/CF/213/20

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWRD,
Dibrugarh Lahowal, Moran &
Tingkhong Territorial Road Division, Dibrugarh.

No. CS/T/B/05/2020/2

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings), Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for the following works under P.W.D. (Bldg.), Assam from registered contractors having requisite experience in similar nature of work. Details may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in. Name of work: Modernization/Upgradation of Assam Engineering College at Jalukbari, Guwahati-13 (Phase-I) under the TEJASVI NAVADHITAMASTU EDU-INFRA FUNDS (TNEIF)

| Sl. No. | Package No. | Name of Work | Approx. Value of Work (Rs. in lakh) | Time of completion | Bid Security | Bid Security to be drawn in favour of | Cost of Bid (Rs.) |
|---------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Gr-V | Modernization of works of Mechanical Engg. Deptt (new RCC 2 (two) storied Bldg.) | 223.41849 | 12 (twelve) months | 2% of NIT value (for General) and 1% of NIT value (for reserved Category) | E.E.PWD. Guwahati Building Division-II, Dispur, Ghy-6 | Rs. 7500.00 |
| 2 | Gr-VI | Proposed 3 (three) storied RCC Girl's Hostel Building of AEC, Guwahati/ Modernization of Existing Auditorium/ Indoor Stadium at AEC, Guwahati | 361.07444 | do | do | do | Rs. 12000.00 |
| 3 | Gr-VII | Proposed Auditorium Building of AEC, Guwahati | 503.58780 | do | do | do | Rs. 12500.00 |
| 4 | Gr-VIII | Library Building at AEC, Guwahati | 265.84522 | do | do | do | Rs. 9000.00 |

Note :- 1. NIT value may be changed during uploading of tender in the website, which may be seen in Detailed NIT of the bid document.
2. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building),
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog/C/327/20

No. CE/REC.7/2020/19

PRESS NOTICE

In cancellation of the earlier Press Notice invited vide no CE/REC.7/2020/7 Dtd.27.02.2020 the Chief Engineer, PWD (Building), Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites fresh bids for the following works with a validity of 180 (one hundred eighty) days from the date of opening of the tender from registered PWD Contractor/Firm/ Pvt. Limited Co. under Class-I (A). Details may be seen in the portal assamtenders.gov.in.

The Bidders must be registered with the E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. (Website: <http://assamtenders.gov.in>) All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Document. The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Document.

| Sl. No. | Package No. | Name of Work | Approx. Value of Work (in Rs) | Time of completion | Bid Security (2% for General, and 1% for Reserved category) | Bid Security to be drawn in favour of | Cost of Bid (Rs.) |
|---------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Pkg-1 | Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at Bilasipara in Dhubri, District) | Rs.13,58,77,619/- | 24 (Twenty four) Months | Rs.27,17,553/- for General, and Rs.13,58,776/- for Reserved Category | Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Dhubri Building Division, Dhubri. | 12,500/- |
| 2 | Pkg-2 | Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at Tihu in Nalbari District) | Rs.13,58,77,619/- | 24 (Twenty four) Months | Rs.27,17,553/- for General, and Rs.13,58,776/- for Reserved category | Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Nalbari Building Division, Nalbari. | 12,500/- |
| 3 | Pkg-3 | Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at Rangia in Kamrup (R) District) | Rs.13,58,77,619/- | 24 (Twenty four) Months | Rs.27,17,553/- for General, and Rs.13,58,776/- for Reserved category | Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Guwahati Building Division-II, Guwahati. | 12,500/- |
| 4 | Pkg-4 | Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at Raha in Nagaon District) | Rs.13,58,77,619/- | 24 (Twenty four) Months | Rs.27,17,553/- for General, and Rs.13,58,776/- for Reserved category | Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Nagaon Building Division, Nagaon. | 12,500/- |
| 5 | Pkg-5 | Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at Diphu in Karbi Anglong District) | Rs.13,58,77,619/- | 24 (Twenty four) Months | Rs.27,17,553/- for General, and Rs.13,58,776/- for Reserved category | Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Diphu Building Division, Diphu | 12,500/- |
| 6 | Pkg-6 | Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at Jorhat in Jorhat District) | Rs.13,58,77,619/- | 24 (Twenty four) Months | Rs.27,17,553/- for General, and Rs.13,58,776/- for Reserved category | Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Jorhat Building Division, Jorhat | 12,500/- |
| 7 | Pkg-7 | Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at Melengiyal in Dibrugarh District) | Rs.13,58,77,619/- | 24 (Twenty four) Months | Rs.27,17,553/- for General, and Rs.13,58,776/- for Reserved category | Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Dibrugarh Building Division, Dibrugarh | 12,500/- |
| 8 | Pkg-8 | Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at Tezpur in Sonitpur District) | Rs.13,58,77,619/- | 24 (Twenty four) Months | Rs.27,17,553/- for General, and Rs.13,58,776/- for Reserved category | Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Tezpur Building Division, Tezpur | 12,500/- |
| 9 | Pkg-9 | Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at Silchar in Cachar District) | Rs.13,58,77,619/- | 24 (Twenty four) Months | Rs.27,17,553/- for General, and Rs.13,58,776/- for Reserved category | Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Silchar Building Division, Silchar | 12,500/- |
| 10 | Pkg-10 | Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at North Lakhimpur in Lakhimpur District) | Rs.13,58,77,619/- | 24 (Twenty four) Months | Rs.27,17,553/- for General, and Rs.13,58,776/- for Reserved category | Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Lakhimpur Building Division, N.Lakhimpur | 12,500/- |

• The pin point location of the Proposed Law College will be indicated in the Detailed NIT as per allotment of land by respective civil authorities.
• Final work Order will be issued after receipt of Administrative Approval/Sanction from the concerned authority.

Janasanyog/C/313/20

Sd/- Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building), Assam
Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Mizoram seeks Centre's help to bring back stranded citizens

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, May 11: Mizoram Health Minister Dr R Lalthangliana said he has asked the Centre for help in bringing back stranded Mizoram residents from foreign countries.

During a video conference with Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan on Saturday, Lalthangliana informed him that there are more than 500 Mizoram residents who are stranded abroad.

"Not a single Mizoram resident has been included among the 15,000 stranded Indians brought home by the Indian government," Lalthangliana informed Vardhan and asked for his help. The Union Minister assured Lalthangliana of all possible assistance, an official statement said.

According to official sources, 300 stranded residents have reported to Mizoram government, most of them working in cruise ships and being stuck in the sea. The rest are students, workers and those who visited relatives.

So far, about 1,200 Mizoram residents have returned from different states in India.

Over 1,700 people fined: The Mizoram administration has started implementing the recently-approved 'Con-

tainment and Prevention of COVID-19 Ordinance 2020' and pulled up 1,715 violators under the new statutory order.

It may be mentioned here that the Mizoram Cabinet had approved an ordinance known as 'Containment and Prevention of Covid-19 Ordinance 2020' a few days ago so that the State Government takes stringent measures to curb further spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. As per the development, anyone violating the lockdown in Mizoram will be meted out "exemplary punishment".

Last month, stray incidents were reported in Mizoram in connection with lockdown violation.

According to Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) LH Shanliana, a total of 1,715 people were fined for violating guidelines and rules ever since the ordinance came into effect, i.e., from May 4. The Police department collected over Rs 4 lakh as fine from violators of the ordinance.

The police officer then said that people not wearing masks in public places formed the major chunk of violators of the ordinance. The state capital Aizawl witnessed the highest number of violators of the ordinance while Lunglei district recorded the second highest number of violators.

The new ordinance of the Mizoram government says that any individual who "exposes the identity of COVID-19 patients in print, electronic or on social media without the prior permission from the competent authorities will be punished with imprisonment of 3 months or with a fine up to Rs 5,000 or both". It further says that Rs 5,000 fine will be imposed on people "who cross border or enter the state, or organizing social or religious events without permission or escaping from quarantine facility".

A fine of Rs 300 will also be imposed on people who spit in public, Rs 200 for failing to maintain social distancing protocol and Rs 100 for failing to wear mask in public places. The ordinance also seeks to punish anyone who fails to comply with any other instruction or guideline issued by the Centre or State government of Mizoram, including lockdown guidelines issued from time to time with fine amounting to Rs 1,000.

Those avoiding or attempting to evade quarantine will be fined Rs 3,000.

A fine of Rs 500 will be slapped against those who fail to comply with instructions or guidelines and endangering the safety of others while staying at designation quarantine facilities.

Khundu, IMA for ramping up COVID-19 testing capacity



CORRESPONDENT

ITANAGAR, May 11: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khundu today held a meeting with the Arunachal Chapter of Indian Medical Association (IMA) to discuss on evolving better strategies to fight the novel coronavirus pandemic in the State.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister discussed with IMA members on procuring diagnostic machines such as TrueNat machines to enable carrying out faster and effective ways of

COVID-19 testing.

The meeting recommended rapid antibody tests as the main tool for mass screening and surveillance as inter-state travellers are bound to increase in the coming days. It was felt that use of cheaper, cost-effective and quick rapid antibody test facility should be installed in districts since it involves less manpower.

The meeting also pitched for a robust health policy in the State that would give more teeth in the fight against the virus and for better health

services, observing that the pandemic has exposed 'many loopholes' in the health system.

It also proposed forming a separate cadre for the health sector for improved health environment.

The meeting further observed that home quarantine is not being properly adhered to and called for compulsory 14 days quarantine in Govt or paid quarantine facilities.

It was reiterated that even after testing negative for the virus, the inter-state returnees must strictly follow the quarantine protocols.

Additional activities permitted in WGH

TURA, May 11: In pursuance of a fresh order issued by the Political Department of Meghalaya, the District Magistrate has issued an order under Section 144 Cr PC with partial modification, permitting additional activities with immediate effect from 6:00 AM of May 11, which shall remain in force till 12:00 PM of May 17.

As per the order, all shops except tea stalls, restaurants, dhabas will be open in rural areas by following social distancing norms strictly from 8:00 AM to 4 PM, while in Tura town all stand alone shops may be opened, including stationary, auto spare parts and authorised car wash units, except main market areas from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Except Tura main bazaar, super markets, tea shops, dhabas and restaurants to remain closed and hawkers not allowed on crowded junctions and main roads.

Operation of all forms of public transport will be increased to 50% and all vehicles to operate at 50% alternate seating arrangements while autorickshaws on odd/even basis to continue.

Private transport will be permitted to operate within the district to the extent of 50% and will ply on odd/even basis from 9:00 AM to 5 PM. Odd Registration Number Odd day and Even Registration Number Even Day. Four-wheelers will carry only two persons, besides the driver, and for two-wheeler, pillion rider not allowed. Wearing of mask is mandatory and social distancing should be maintained by all. As usual, the timing for curfew in the entire district of West Garo Hills will be from 7:00 PM to 6:00 AM every day, while Sunday will be closed. - Correspondent

Spl train carrying 1,140 stranded people leaves Chennai for Manipur

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, May 11: A special train carrying 1,140 people from Manipur, who were stranded in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) in view of the nationwide lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, left for their home state, sources said.

This non-stop train which left Chennai on Sunday evening is expected to arrive at Jiribam, which is Manipur's only railway station, 220 km west of Imphal on or before Wednesday (May 13), according to official sources.

On May 9, the state consultative committee for COVID-19 had decided 14 days compulsory quarantine

for the train returnees at government and community quarantine centres after their arrival in the state.

For this, the state authority is taking up preparation works by sending 50 buses from Imphal to pick up the returnees while authorities of Jiribam district where the rail head is located, is setting up 10 separate screening counters with 8 temporary toilets, sources said.

In case the train arrives late in the evening, the screening may be done inside the coaches and the passengers shall stay in the train overnight till arrangements are made for bus movement early in the morning, according to a stand-

ard operating procedure (SOP) issued by the government to facilitate smooth transport and screening of stranded people of the State.

The SOP also asked all the stranded persons to compulsorily register their names in the state government website (www.tengbang.in) as well as at the web portals of respective state governments where they are presently located.

Since the trains are run on non-stop mode from station of origin to station of destination, the first priority would be given to locations where the number of stranded people is sufficient to run a train. Only medically fit persons would be allowed to travel, said the SOP.

Meanwhile, Manipur COVID-19 common control room in Imphal has urged persons who visited these institutes during the last 21 days for medical or other reasons are requested to contact the COVID-19 common control room helpline number 1800 345 3818 without fail.

Informing this in a press note on Sunday evening, Additional Director and spokesperson Dr Khoirom Sasheekumar Mangang of the Health Department said that a post-graduate student of Guwahati Medical College and a relative of a staff of Dr B Barooah Cancer Institute in Guwahati were found COVID-19 positive on May 7.

Manipur tries to ensure smooth transit of stranded people

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, May 11: The Manipur government has come out with a standard operating procedure (SOP) to facilitate smooth transport and screening of stranded people of the State by special trains.

All stranded persons should compulsorily register their names in the state government website (www.tengbang.in) as well as at the web portals of respective state governments where they are presently stationed, said state Chief Secretary in an office memorandum issued here on May 10. Since the trains are run on non-stop mode from station of origin to station

of destination, the first priority would be given to locations where the number of stranded people is sufficient to run a train. Only medically fit persons would be allowed to travel.

Anyone having symptoms or suspected to be infected from the containment zone would not be allowed to board the train, said the SOP. Although food packets and water would be provided by the originating State/Railways, it would be better if all the passengers make arrangements for adequate food and water for themselves as the train will not stop in any railway station.

Although the journey is non-stop from place of origin to Jiribam, it may stop at

certain stations for operational purpose though the passengers cannot get down from the train.

On reaching Jiribam Railway Station in Manipur, which is located 222 kms west of Imphal, the passengers should proceed to designated counters for enabling screening in a systematic way and no crowding would be allowed.

Family members or friends are not allowed to go to Jiribam to receive the incoming passengers or at the quarantine centres, the SOP said. The passengers should board buses in district-wise manner so that the buses can go directly to the district-level quarantine centres.

Muslim Council appeal to members

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, May 11: The Muslim Council of Dimapur today issued an advisory to all stranded Muslims not to return to Nagaland for at least two months or till such time the government declares the post COVID-19 pandemic situation as normal.

It also said that the proposed quarantine centre to be set up by the community, in collaboration with the administration, stands cancelled for now, according to a release issued by the working president of the

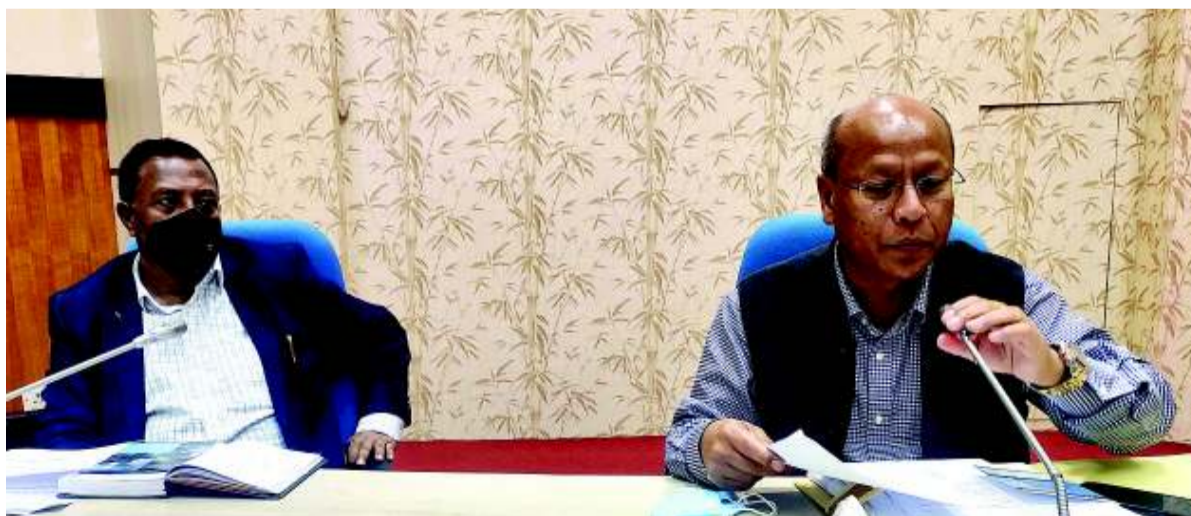
Muslim Council of Dimapur, Ahidur Rahman.

The Council arrived at the decision after holding consultation with the community elders, Dimapur masjid committees and Kohima Jame Masjid Committee on the situation that might arise after the arrival of the stranded Muslims in Dimapur and Kohima from Assam and other parts of the country.

"This decision has been taken collectively by the Muslim community in the greater interest of the community and for the safety and wellbeing of

all citizens of Nagaland. Let us all join together to keep Nagaland safe without the deadly coronavirus," it said.

The Council quoted an Islamic *hadith* about a pandemic that took place more than 1,400 years ago by Prophet Mohammed, "When you hear that a land has been affected by plague, do not enter it, and if the plague breaks out in a place while you are in it, do not leave the place." It appealed to all to abide by this rule in order to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.



Megalha Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong informing mediapersons that all stranded citizens from outside the northeastern State will be treated as coming from Red Zone and be tested with rapid test kits at the entry point of the state. Health Minister AL Hek also attended the Press briefing in Shillong, on Monday. - UB Photos

Bid to keep paddy fields green even during lean season

NEWMAI NEWS

IMPHAL, May 11: The Manipur government is determined to make the Loktak Lift Irrigation (LLI) project functional so that the paddy fields remain green even during the lean season.

The functioning of the said irrigation project would make double and

triple cropping farming system easier in various areas of the State.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh observed as above on Monday.

In order to achieve the objective, Chief Minister N Biren Singh along with Manipur Water Resources Minister Letpao Haokip inspected the Loktak Lift Irrigation (LLI) project

located at Ningthoukhong in Bishnupur district on Monday.

N Biren Singh stated that "considering the impact of the current nationwide lockdown on our economy, the State government has decided to focus primarily on the agricultural and horticultural sectors."

He added that the priority of the government

is to make Manipur a self-sustaining State in regard to food production. He also mentioned that a high-level task force has lately been constituted in this regard.

According to the Chief Minister, after due pressure by the State government, Central government agencies like NABARD etc., provided a sum of around Rs 47 crore for

revival of the Loktak Lift Irrigation project.

The Chief Minister reiterated that the government is committed to fulfil all the promises that had been made to the people of the State. The Loktak Lift Irrigation (LLI) scheme is now functional after 14-15 years, he added.

Meanwhile, Minister for Water Resources Letpao

Haokip said that good irrigation system is a must to become self-sufficient in food production. He informed that the remaining six pumps of the Loktak Lift Irrigation project will become functional soon.

With an objective to provide irrigation to various parts of the State, the Loktak Lift Irrigation scheme was inaugurated in 1981.

POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD: ASSAM
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 No. WB/G-1548/19-20/62
 Dated Guwahati, the 11th May, 2020

NOTICE

In the wake of Chemical/Gas leakages in Vizag, all the industries in Assam are requested to follow the precautions while resuming the industries. For more details of the guidelines issued by the Board please visit Board's website (www.pcbassam.org)
 Sd/- Member Secretary

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER

M/s ASSAM GAS COMPANY LIMITED invites e-tenders through M/s VCS Quality Services Pvt. Ltd., Noida on e-procurement system of Govt. of Assam from eligible bidders for AGCL's N-G-N Gas Pipeline project in Assam for:

- "SCADA system" (Tender No. AGCL/BD/PMC-GHT/PL/SCADA/2019/20 dt. 09/04/2020)
- "HDD and Associated works" (Tender No. AGCL/BD/PMC-GHT/HDD/2019/10 dt. 09/04/2020)
- "Terminal Station Works" (Tender No. AGCL/BD/PMC-GHT/SECH/2019/135 dt. 13/04/2020)
- "Supply of Control & Check Valves" (Tender No. AGCL/BD/PMC-GHT/CV/2019/10 dt. 08/04/2020)

Please visit www.assamtenders.gov.in for details.
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NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

EOI No. : MDI/APDCL/PRO/04/2020/PI-I/06 Dated: 11-05-2020
 Expression of interest, with validity up to 2 (two) years, accompanied by requisite details, order executing details, user's performance certificate etc. are invited for Empanelment of Advertising Agency for APDCL/AEGCL/APGCL by the undersigned for the following items:

| EOI No. | Item | Last date of submission of EOI |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| MDI/APDCL/PRO/04/2020/PI-I/06 Dated: 11-05-2020 | Empanelment of Advertising Agency for APDCL/AEGCL/APGCL | 14:00 hrs on 22-05-2020 |

The complete details can be downloaded from our official website www.apdcl.org. The undersigned reserves the right to reject any/all EOI's without assigning any reason thereof, and to accept any EOI and part of EOI which is advantageous to APDCL and to award the contract to one party or split up the contract amongst different bidders.
KEY dates: • EOI download start date: 12-05-2020, 14:00 Hrs.
 • Last date of EOI Submission: 22-05-2020, 14:00 Hrs.
 For details, Please visit www.apdcl.org.

Chief General Manager (CR), APDCL
 4th Floor, Bijules Bhawan, Guwahati-781001

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Social activist Daljit Singh and his son Sanpreet Singh, along with social activist Binud Harlalka handing over 5,000 masks to Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi at Raj Bhavan recently.

Sepoy Mutiny anniversary

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, May 11: A mass blood donation camp was organised in North Lakhimpur Civil Hospital on Sunday to commemorate the martyrs on the occasion of the 163rd anniversary of India's First War of Independence of 1857 or the Sepoy Mutiny. The camp, organised by the National Medicos Organization, Assam in active association with Sewa Bharati Purbanchal, was inaugurated by Lakhimpur Deputy Commissioner Dr Jeevan B, who also donated blood. A total 104 volunteers donated blood at the camp. — Correspondent

Phat Bihu observed

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, May 11: The famed Phat Bihu of Dhakuakhana was observed with tokenism amidst the lockdown. On Sunday, the Phat Bihu was observed only by hoisting its flag and *smriti tarpan* by the organisers observing social distancing. Phat Bihu Samiti president Pradeep Chamuah hoisted the flag at the historic Mohghuli Chapori on the banks of the Charikodiya river in Dhakuakhana, while *smriti tarpan* was conducted by Dhakuakhana SDO Arindam Baruah. — Correspondent

Bhattadev varsity results

PATACHARKUCHI, May 11: The results of BA, BSc and BCom (First Semester) examinations held in December 2019 under Bhattadev University, Bajali were declared on Monday. Of the total 889 candidates, 422 passed this first ever undergraduate examination conducted by the university which was recently established by upgrading Bajali College at Pathsala. The Controller of Examinations said students can obtain their results along with their internet copy of marksheets from the university website. — ANN Service

Drugs seized, woman held

HAILAKANDI, May 11: Acting on a tip-off, Hailakandi police conducted a search at Narainpur Part-III village on Sunday evening and recovered 9 gram of drugs and Rs 44,673 in cash along with two mobile handsets. Police found the drugs and other items in the possession of Sufia Begum Choudhury (30), wife of Kahiruddin Choudhury, and arrested her. Superintendent of Police Pabindra Kumar Nath said a case has been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. — Correspondent

Surveillance programme

DOOMDOOMA, May 11: To strengthen the surveillance system by enhancing testing capacity to break the chain of transmission of COVID-19, a house-to-house survey, named Assam Community Surveillance Program (ACSP), for the identification of all Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) and Influenza Like Illness (ILI), Japanese Encephalitis, dengue, malaria and all types of fever, has been launched across Tinsukia district. The programme was launched on Thursday in the district. Health screening teams have covered 23 villages, with a population of 12,214 people, five tea gardens covering 968 people, and 12 urban wards with a population of 4,860. This survey will continue up to June 7, 2020. — Correspondent

Tiger carcass found

KAZIRANGA, May 11: The carcass of a female Royal Bengal tiger was found in an area under Bhalukajan anti-poaching camp in the western range of Bagori under Kaziranga National Park on Sunday, said KNP Director P Shiva Kumar. The tiger may have died a few days back. The post-mortem was done by Dr Pranjit Basumatary from the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) under the Wildlife Trust of India, Borjuri in Kaziranga. The probable cause of death was infighting. — Correspondent

Ganja, cash seized

SILCHAR, May 11: Based on secret information, Cachar police conducted a raid at a residence at Dudhpatil part IV and seized 54 kg ganja and Rs 7.11 lakh in cash. Additional SP (Hq) Jagdish Das said the raid was conducted at the residence of Premabati Singha (50). The accused was apprehended and brought to Silchar Police Station for interrogation. A case has been registered under the NDPS Act. In another incident, a dacoit identified as Maibul Hoque alias Khontai of Baghmara area in the district has been arrested, the Additional SP informed. — Staff Correspondent

Food for daily-wage earners

GOSSAIGAON, May 11: The Gossaigaon branch of the Assam Satra Mahasabha, Srimanta Shankardev Sakha Satra, distributed food items among 20 families of Gossaigaon town who were facing financial hardship due to the lockdown. The food items were distributed door to door. — ANN Service

3 in facility quarantine

DERGAON, May 11: Three persons were sent to facility quarantine at Swahid Kushal Konwar Civil Hospital (SKKCH) in Golaghat after they arrived at Dergaon from outside Assam. Dhiraj Bora (30) and Bimala Bora of Da-dhara Doyangia Gaon under Missamara were sent to SKKCH on Sunday. They had stayed at Assam House at Mumbai. Similarly, Kirton Chandak (21), a resident of Dergaon ward no. 7 who also came from outside the State was sent to SKKCH for quarantine. Both their houses were sealed, and their family members warned not to come out of their houses for 14 days. — Correspondent

Cannabis seized from car

MANGALDAI, May 11: A huge quantity of cannabis was seized from a car following an accident on Sunday at Puniya near here. Police seized nearly 100 kg of cannabis from inside the Santro car (AS-01-E-2286). Police said the car, going in the direction of Guwahati from Mangaldai, collided with a stationary mini-truck (AS-25-CC-2799) at Puniya on the NH-15. During investigation, it has been found that the car was used with a fake number plate over the original number plate with illegible registration numbers. — Correspondent

Revolutionary artiste, Bishnu Rabha aide Gokul Pathak no more

CORRESPONDENT

BARPETA, May 11: The Bishnu Prasad Rabha era in Assam has ended. Gokul Pathak, a staunch supporter and aide of Rabha, and a revolutionary artiste, scholar, writer, compiler of the history of Barpeta Satra, and recipient of the Bishnu Rabha Award, died at a nursing home in Barpeta on Sunday night following old-age ailments at the age of 94.

Born in a poor family at Sapna village in Barnagar under erstwhile Kamrup district in 1926, Pathak lost his mother at birth and father during his student life. The orphaned Pathak was brought up by an aunt. He learnt singing, reading of scriptures and playing folk instruments from his father.

When he shifted to Barpeta, he was attracted to Vaishnavite culture and later became a scholar of Vaishnavite literature, and on the cultural and religious ideology of Srimanta Sankaradeva.

Pathak was attracted to Communist ideology during his student life and formed a Leftist party while studying at Madhab Choudhury College, Barpeta, in association with fellow students. He met the revolutionary Bishnu Prasad Rabha dur-

ing this time and joined the Revolutionary Communist Party of India. He was also associated with revolutionary artiste Brajanath Sarma during his early years, and was instrumental in setting ablaze the airport at Barnagar on August 26, 1942.

His life was deeply influenced by the Communist trio of Rabha, Sarma and Hemanga Biswas. When Bishnu Rabha uttered "Ye azadi jhutha hain" on India's independence on August 15, 1947, Pathak hoisted a black flag at Sarbhog with this slogan and faced the ire of the government. He opposed the consumption and sale of alcohol and submitted a memorandum to the Assam government in Shillong, demanding declaration of Barpeta subdivision as a dry area.

After independence, he left the RCPI and joined the Socialist Party under Hem Baruah and Hareswar Goswami. He desisted from active politics but dedicated himself to social reform. He was imprisoned in 1968 on charges of involvement with Lachit Sena and was kept under house arrest for one month in Barpeta.

Though he was associated with social reform, he concentrated more on culture and literature. He published several books and journals,



including a magazine *Rupantar* in 1961 which continued till 1966. In 1968, he established a publication organisation Amar Desh and published a news journal with the same title for 22 years till 1990.

A prolific writer, Pathak wrote more than 30 books on several subjects such as history, drama, poetry, songs, essays and biography. His editorials in *Rupantar* and *Amar Desh* and speeches deserve preservation for posterity.

He lived a very simple life due to his selfless nature. Though he lived in abject penury, he never compromised on his ideology. Even when a

Deputy Commissioner asked him what could he do for him, Pathak spoke of the improvement of a Satra.

When state BJP president Ranjeet Kumar Dass met Pathak in hospital on May 9 and asked him about his wishes, he asked for a reprint of *Barpeta Satrar Buranji*. Das assured that 2,000 copies of this valuable book would be reprinted.

Pathak also participated in the Baithaki at Barpeta where he enchanted the audience with melodious songs.

His works were recognised by the government though at a later stage, and he received both artiste and literary pensions. When the government introduced the Bishnu Rabha Award in 2017, it was conferred on him in the first instance. Though the people of Barpeta have been demanding Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for him, it did not materialise.

As the news of his death spread, there was gloom in the entire district. Deputy Commissioner Munitra Sarma was among the first to visit the hospital where he addressed the media regarding the funeral arrangements.

On Monday morning, Pathak's mortal remains were moved throughout the town for people to

pay their last respects.

The body was first taken to the Barpeta Press Club with which he was associated since its inception. The press club kept its flag at half mast as a mark of respect. The body was later kept at the municipality playground, as a sea of humanity gathered to take a last look.

Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Barpeta MLA Gunindranath Das, AASU chief advisor Dr Samujjal Kumar Bhattacharya, vice president Pradip Das, AASU Barpeta district committee president Krishnakanta Pathak, academican Arjun Das, AFC vice chairman Anil Kumar Das, AIDC vice chairman Jitu Talukdar paid their last respects.

He was cremated at the Sankar Madhab College campus on Monday afternoon, according to his last will, with full State honours amidst a huge gathering.

Security personnel fired three rounds as a mark of respect to the departed soul before Pathak's body was consigned to flames by his son Dipak Pathak. Veteran writer Akshay Kumar Mishra recited a poem written by Pathak at the cremation ground. Director of Cultural Affairs Bishnu Bora, and ADC Pulak Patgiri also attended the funeral.

Wedding party creates panic

CORRESPONDENT

BARPETA, May 11: Amidst the COVID-19 threat, a wedding was performed on May 8 at Gomura under Sarthebari Police Station in Barpeta district, which has created panic in the area.

According to information, the wedding ceremony was performed in the village with more than 100 guests. According to reports, among the attendees was a couple from Guwahati, known to be a close relative of a COVID-19 infected person in Guwahati. However, no one from the locality has been tested or quarantined so far.

The number of home quarantined people in Barpeta district has gone up to 223. Of them, 81 completed 14 to 27 days of quarantine period. A total of 2,293 persons have been let off from quarantine following a medical examination on completion of 28 days.

An official said there are 26 quarantined persons at Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College Hospital and 16 have completed 14-27 days. Four persons from Pathsala were quarantined in the hospital on May 8.

No food shortage, claims Goalpara district admin

CORRESPONDENT

GOALPARA, May 11: The Goalpara district administration has taken all measures so that there is no shortage of food and essential items during the lockdown period.

A DIPRO release stated that there were 1,98,454 families in the district as per the 2011 Census and 2,05,052 families applied for NRC. As many as 1,78,416 card holders received 42,616.05 quintals of rice (35 kg per family) under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) of National Food Security Act (NSFA). An additional 5 kg rice per member was distributed among the targeted families under priority households, totalling 40,107 quintals. Besides 1,784.16 quintals of masur dal was also distributed free of cost in April 2020.

During the current month, the regular quota of rice, 42,598 quintals, was distributed among the card holders while distribution of the additional quota of 40,107.35 quintals of rice is going on. Further, a total of 1,600

food packets contributed by various organisations and NGOs were distributed among needy people by the district administration.

The release mentioned that foodgrains allotted under the mid-day meal scheme, were distributed among the students even though the schools are closed.

Also included are 57,275 children (0-3) years and 46,360 children (3-6) years and 23,119 lactating mothers under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme where rice, dal, *suji*, sugar etc., were distributed among the beneficiaries.

The release stated that 1,834 non-NFSA families under the Goalpara Municipal Board, 16,741 families under Goalpara Zilla Parishad and 524 families under the Lakhimpur Town Committee received Rs 1,000 each from the government.

Additionally, 79,517 farmers were covered under the PM Kisan Yojana and 7,669 received Rs 25,000 each as the first instalment under the Mukhya Mantri Krishi Sajuli Yojana.

ULFA cadre held with explosives

ANN SERVICE

DULIAJAN, May 11: One suspected ULFA (Independent) cadre Podum Gogoi (36), son of late Bhugram Gogoi of Ghuguloni Ahom Gaon under Khowang was nabbed by the personnel of 9 Raj Rifle battalion on May 9 from a place near Tingrai under Duliajan PS.

Five detonators, 450 grams of class II explosives were recovered from him. A case (202/20) under ES Act 1908 R/W Sec 10/13 UAP Act 1908 has been registered.

Heroin seized, 3 held

ANN SERVICE

DULIAJAN, May 11: Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by DSP Kula Pradip Bhat-tacharjee arrested three drug peddlers on Saturday from Lalpagurighat of Namrup and recovered 6 grams of heroin, worth Rs 2 lakh from their possession. The three drug peddlers Ritupon Gogoi of Goriabam Gaon, Namrup, Kamal Handique of Tengakhat and Vivek Singh of Nagadolong, Namrup were sent to Dibrugarh jail on Sunday.

Steps taken against unhygienic fish sale

CORRESPONDENT

SIVASAGAR, May 11: Sivasagar Deputy Commissioner Lakhinandan Gogoi has constituted Revenue Circle-wise teams for taking precautionary measures in view of the unhygienic sale of fish in markets and by unauthorised roadside vendors who sell fish in the open or on the footpaths.

Four teams – one for Sivasagar, Amguri, Demow and Nazira – have been set up. The Additional Deputy Commissioner (Fishery), Sivasagar will be the overall in-charge of the supervisory teams. The teams of the respective Revenue Circles will visit all recognised fish markets to ensure that fish are preserved in hygienic condition so that it does not have any adverse impact on the health of consumers.

Protest against veterinary doctor: The Satra Mukti Sangram Samity and the Tai Ahom Satra Santha

took out an agitational programme against a veterinary doctor, Dr Indu Bora of Borahibari Veterinary Hospital, following allegations that she administered tape worm vaccine instead of African Swine Fever vaccine to over 1,000 pigs, and two of them died afterwards. The pig owners are now demanding compensation for the loss of the pigs and action against the doctor.

Rotary Club donates masks, sanitizers: As a gesture of gratitude to frontline workers in the fight against COVID-19, the Rotary Club of Sivasagar donated more than 2,000 masks and sanitizers to health workers, police and traffic personnel, sanitation workers, mediapersons and common people across Sivasagar district in the past few days. The Rotary Club of Sivasagar has also set up hand-washing stations for common people at strategic locations in Sivasagar town.

Minister helps out 90-year-old widow's family

CORRESPONDENT

RANGIYA, May 11: Minister of State for Irrigation and Rangiya MLA Bhabesh Kalita has extended his helping hand to 90-year-old widow Radhika Das, and her two differently-abled daughters, Pamila Das (55) and Dharmi Das (45) at Dholkuchi village near Rangiya.

The Minister arranged some financial assistance and essential food items, including rice, dal, mustard oil, etc., for the family, which has been facing immense hardship due to the lockdown, and has not received any aid under any government welfare scheme.

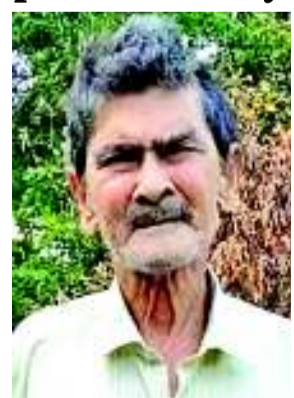
Noted journalist SC Barthakur passes away

GUWAHATI, May 11: Suresh Chandra Barthakur, a teacher and a senior journalist passed away at his Amlalabari residence of Halem mouza in Biswanath district on Sunday morning. He was 80.

The founder president of the All Assam Journalists' Union, Barthakur had his primary education at Halem and after passing graduation and getting a BT degree, he worked as a teacher at Swahid Mukunda Kakati Upper Primary School.

He started working as a journalist for many newspapers including *The Assam Tribune*, *Dainik Assam*, *The Sentinel*, *The North East Times*, *Ajir Assam*, *Mahajati* newspapers.

Barthakur also wrote some books including *Mahajati Jilingani*, *Rachna Manjuri*, *Suadhinata Andolonot Chaiduaror Bhumika* etc. After retiring in 1996, Bar-



thakur became the president of the Assam Union of Working Journalists (AUWJ) and the founder president of the All Assam Journalists' Union (AAJU). He was also closely associated with many local socio-cultural organisations. He leaves behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and many relatives.

His demise was condoleed by many people including Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and various bodies.

Centralised throat swab sample collection centre at ISBT Silchar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, May 11: A day after taking charge, Cachar Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli visited the Inter State Bus Terminus (ISBT) at Ramnagar here to take stock of the arrangements for screening of passengers and allied activities regarding COVID-19.

The Deputy Commissioner, adhering to the government decision to arrange a centralised throat swab sample collection centre, chose the ISBT, instead of sending passengers coming from other states to the Silchar Medical College and Hospital.

Jalli visited the ISBT and took stock of the proceedings there. She interacted with police officials and asked health officials to conduct screenings by strictly adhering to social distancing norms.

Besides screening of passengers from other states, swab samples shall be collected at the ISBT instead of sending the passengers to SMCH, which will consume plenty of time and need resources like the 108 emergency ambulances. After collection of samples by laboratory technicians with full PPE kits, the passengers would be sent to institutional quarantine centres, an official said.

Out of 2,659 persons kept in quarantine across Cachar district, 2,551 are under home quarantine while others including doctors, nurses and paramedical staff are being kept in various designated institutional quarantine centres. The Deputy Commissioner also vis-



Cachar Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli interacting with health officials during her visit to the ISBT in Silchar. — Photo: Arindam Gupta

ited Silchar Civil Hospital along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Sumit Sattawan and other officials. She visited the Health Control Room at the hospital and took stock of the response system process. She also visited the hospital campus along with the Superintendent and reviewed the quarantine and isolation facilities.

Dr SJ Das, Joint Director of Health Services; Dr Ajit Bhattacharjee, District Surveillance Officer (DSO) under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), and Rahul Ghose, DPM accompanied Jalli.

Death of Mizoram-returned man at SMCH: Following the death of a 16-year-old girl in Guwahati who was later

found COVID-19 positive, the death of a person from Silcoorie area here at the SMCH has triggered great curiosity in Cachar.

SMCH vice principal Dr Bhaskar Gupta said the person, identified as Rajesh Sonar, aged around 35 years and a resident of Silcoorie, died at the hospital on May 9 after suffering from kidney and jaundice complications.

According to sources, Sonar had returned from Mizoram on May 5 and was taken to SMCH on May 7 after his health deteriorated. Dr Gupta said swab samples of the deceased person have been collected for COVID-19 test and his body will be handed over to his family after the results are available.

CAPSULE

VW launches BS-VI Polo, Vento

NEW DELHI, May 11: Volkswagen Passenger Cars India today launched BS-VI-compliant limited 'TSI Edition' of its Polo and Vento models priced at Rs 7.89 lakh and Rs 10.99 lakh, respectively. The limited edition is powered by a 1-litre petrol engine mated to a new six-speed manual transmission, generates peak power of 110 PS and provides a fuel efficiency of 18.24 kmpl on Polo and 17.69 kmpl on Vento (as per Automotive Research Association of India), the company said in a statement. - PTI

SBI General net up

MUMBAI, May 11: SBI General Insurance today reported a 23 per cent jump in its net profit to Rs 412 crore for the fiscal ended March 31, 2020. It had reported a profit after tax of Rs 334 crore in the previous financial year. The company's underwriting profit declined by 23 per cent to Rs 61 crore as against Rs 79 crore reported in FY19. Its gross written premium (GWP) stood at Rs 6,840 crore in FY20 compared to Rs 4,717 crore in the previous fiscal. - PTI

Bajaj dealerships

NEW DELHI, May 11: Bajaj Auto today said that it has commenced reopening of dealerships and service centres in various parts of the country from May 4. The company said the commencement of facilities is as per the various guidelines by the Central and State governments with the dealerships taking permission from the respective local authorities. "All the touch points are following mandated protocols to ensure the safety of customers and dealer staff," a company statement said. - PTI

IDBI Federal Life

MUMBAI, May 11: Private life insurer IDBI Federal Life Insurance today reported a net profit of Rs 148 crore in 2019-20 against Rs 133 crore in 2018-19. The company's total premium declined by 4.65 per cent to Rs 1,843 crore in 2019-20 from Rs 1,933 crore in 2018-19. Renewal premium grew by 14 per cent to Rs 1,282 crore as against Rs 1,126 crore in 2018-19. - PTI

Expect govt financial package in 2-3 days: Gadkari to industry

NEW DELHI, May 11: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari today said he expects the Centre to unveil a financial package in two-three days, observing that the situation "was very bad" despite the three-month moratorium on loan repayments announced by the RBI.

The Minister for MSME, and Road Transport and Highways said the government stands with the

industry but it also needs to understand the government's limitations.

"We are trying our level best on how we can protect everybody," Gadkari said, adding that while Japan and the US governments have announced mega packages, their economies are bigger than India's.

As part of measures to alleviate hardships faced by people, the Reserve Bank, on March 27, announced a



slew of steps, including a three-month moratorium on loan repayments.

Interacting with the industry of Telangana via video-conference, the minister said he has also suggested the Finance Ministry to explore a mechanism through which income tax and GST refund payments can be immediately transferred to the bank account of the individual concerned.

Gadkari said he has shared recommendations arising out of his interactions related to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and the industry with the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister.

The minister said "within 2-3 days somewhere" he was "expecting a package from the government".

"We are waiting for that", he added. - PTI

Payment of wages by MSMEs

Govt mulls credit guarantee scheme for loans

NEW DELHI, May 11: As part of a stimulus package for the coronavirus-hit economy, the government is working on a credit guarantee scheme to enable banks to provide additional 10-15 per cent working capital to MSMEs for payment of wages, sources said.

Currently, banks are offering an extra line of credit of 10 per cent based on working capital limits, which the government intends to increase further.

Since units are closed due to lockdown and there has been no operation for the past two months, most micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) do not have money for paying wages and financial assistance for them is under consideration of the government, the sources said.

One of the proposals under considera-

tion is to provide 10-15 per cent additional line of credit by banks over the working capital limit of the MSME sector, which is the largest employer in the country after agriculture.

This loan, especially for wage payment, will be backed by a proposed credit guarantee fund so that lenders' money is secured in case of default by any borrower, the sources added.

The MSME sector contributes over 28 per cent of the GDP and more than 40 per cent of exports, while creating employment for about 11 crore people.

Public sector banks have sanctioned loans worth Rs 42,000 crore to the MSME sector and corporates since the start of the lockdown under the COVID-19 Emergency Credit Facility to provide liquidity for survival.

With the lockdown coming into effect from March 25, state-owned banks opened COVID-19 Emergency Credit Facility under which 10 per cent top-up loan is given over their working capital limit, subject to a maximum of Rs 200 crore.

Till now, the banks have sanctioned Rs 27,426 crore worth loans to MSMEs, as per data collated by the government.

In addition, corporates with deep pockets have availed Rs 14,735-crore loans. In terms of numbers, about 10 lakh MSMEs and 6,428 corporates have availed the benefit so far.

At the same time, many MSMEs and corporates have also availed the three-month moratorium offered by banks as per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines. - PTI

No hike in lease rent of SEZ units for 2020-21: Commerce Ministry

NEW DELHI, May 11: The Commerce Ministry today said lease rent for units in the government-owned special economic zones (SEZs) will not be increased for 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a move which will provide relief to these facilities.

It also said that payment of lease rent for the first quarter is deferred up to July 31 for all SEZ units and the deferment would not invite any interest.

The ministry said that after consulting the proposal with Department of Expenditure, these relief measures were decided for SEZ units on account of COVID-19 outbreak.

There will be "no increase in lease rent of the SEZ units for 2020-21," it said.

Further, it asked development commissioners (DCs) of other SEZs to advise SEZ developers of State governments and privately-owned zones to consider similar relief measures.

"DCs are requested to advise developers of State government/private SEZs to consider similar relief measures in their zones," it added.

There are seven government-owned SEZs which are located in Kandla, Chennai, Falta, Cochin, Noida, Santacruz and Visakhapatnam.

All the zones are under the supervision of a development commissioner. - PTI



SS Shastri, MD of Assam Co-operative Apex Bank, handing over a cheque of Rs 10 lakh to State Health Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma as the lender's contribution towards the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, in Guwahati on Monday.

India will be risking economic hara-kiri, if lockdown extended: Mahindra

NEW DELHI, May 11: Leading industrialist Anand Mahindra today said that if lockdown is extended for much longer duration than the country will be "risking economic hara-kiri".

The Mahindra Group Chairman said that while the lockdown has been able to save lakhs of lives, its further extension could lead to severe difficulties for weaker sections of the society.

"The number of new cases has risen, despite flattening the previous few days. With higher testing, a continuing rise is inevitable given the low absolute number of cases rel-

ative to our population & the rest of the world. We shouldn't expect a swift flattening of the curve," Mahindra said in a tweet.

But this doesn't mean the lockdown hasn't helped, he added.

"India's avoided lakhs of potential deaths in its collective fight. India's death rate per million is currently 1.4 compared to the global average at 35 & the US at 228. We've also bought time to enhance medical infrastructure," Mahindra noted.

But if the lockdown is extended for much longer, the country will be risking eco-

nomic hara-kiri, he tweeted.

"A functioning & growing economy is like an immune system for livelihoods. A lockdown weakens that immune system and most hurts the impoverished in our society," he said.

Mahindra said that the country's goal should be to continue preventing avoidable deaths.

The country needs to rapidly build field hospitals equipped with oxygen lines, deploy widespread testing and tracing, he tweeted.

Besides, the focus should be on containment not through zones but at sub-pin code levels, he added. - PTI

Renault reopens select dealerships, service centres

NEW DELHI, May 11: French auto major Renault today said it has reopened its corporate office, select dealerships and service centres in India after relaxation of guidelines for the COVID-19-induced lockdown by the government.

Renault India has opened more than 194 showrooms and workshops in line with the new safety protocols and the remaining touchpoints will be opened in a phase-wise manner based on permissions from the local authorities, the company said in a statement.

The company said it has introduced several safety and hy-

giene measures as it prepares to "welcome back customers" across all its touchpoints.

Commenting on the reopening, Renault India Operations Country CEO & Managing Director Venkatram Mamillapalle said globally, Renault is gradually resuming business operations country by country.

"In India, we have started the business operations in a phased manner. We have a long-term commitment here and India plays an important role in the strategic operations of Groupe Renault. Customer safety and satisfaction is our main objective and is one of the driving forces behind everything we do," he said.

As the lockdown is gradually being lifted and business is slowly resuming, Mamillapalle said, "Our primary focus is on ensuring that we safeguard our customers, by introducing rigorous safety and hygiene practices across all touchpoints."

At the same time, he said, "Health, safety and well-being of all Renault employees, dealers and other stakeholders, their families and the community at large is of utmost importance, and we have taken necessary actions on all these fronts as well."

Renault India dealerships have ensured special care to sanitize their facilities and test-drive of cars. - PTI

Media, entertainment sector revenue could take 16% hit in FY21: CRISIL

NEW DELHI, May 11: The media and entertainment sector is expected to witness 16 per cent decline in revenue for FY21, due to fall in advertisement and subscription income in the wake of coronavirus-induced lockdown, rating agency CRISIL said.

The industry would take a hit of around 18 per cent in revenue from advertisement that accounts for nearly 45 per cent of total income, while the subscription earning that contributes 55 per cent will be relatively resilient with a likely decline of 14 per cent, CRISIL said in a report.

Overall, the industry is expected to have a turnover of around Rs 1.3-lakh crore this fiscal, it added.

"The ongoing economic slowdown, made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic, is set to curtail Indian media and entertainment industry's revenue by 16 per cent or Rs 25,000 crore to Rs 1.3-lakh

crore this fiscal," it said. In FY20, the media and entertainment industry is expected to have a revenue of Rs 1.55-lakh crore with a CAGR growth of 9 per cent, while in FY19, it had reported almost 10 per cent growth to Rs 1.42-lakh crore.

"The sharp drop in revenues will impair the debt metrics of the industry, while balance sheet strength and time to recovery will determine the overall impact on credit profiles," the rating agency said in a statement.

While advertisement revenue, which correlates strongly with economic growth, will take a hit as India's GDP growth huddles towards a multi-decade low this fiscal owing to the extended lockdown to contain the pandemic, it said, adding that "weak economic conditions had kept advertisement revenue muted even last fiscal".

"The overall revenue loss of Rs 25,000

crore for the industry will translate to significantly lower profits for companies despite cost-cutting measures," it added.

The analysis is based on 78 media and entertainment companies rated by CRISIL, it added. "Overall ad revenue will plummet 18 per cent this fiscal, with the impact varying across segments. In digital, it will continue to grow but at a slower pace. All the traditional segments - television (TV), print, radio, out-of-home media, and films, in the order of impact from low to high, will see a significant decline," CRISIL Ratings Senior Director Sachin Gupta said.

TV, print and digital are the top three segments in terms of advertisement revenue. Newspapers have faced distribution challenges in certain areas leading to a temporary blip in the circulation revenue. But a sharp fall in box office collections will curtail subscription revenue, it added. - PTI

FM's meet with PSB CEOs deferred

NEW DELHI, May 11: The review meeting of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with CEOs of public sector banks (PSBs) scheduled for today has been postponed.

According to sources, the meeting has been deferred and the new date will be informed shortly.

The meeting, to be held via video-conferencing, was to discuss various issues, including credit offtake, as part of efforts to prop up the economy hit by the COVID-19 crisis.

The agenda also included taking stock of interest rate transmission to borrowers by banks and progress on moratorium on loan repayments. - PTI

No. CE/CW/04/2020-21/
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Adtl. Chief Engineer (Planning), P.W.D. (Roads), Assam on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for one work under SOPD (G) for the year 2019-20 in Kamrup (Metro) district of Assam. Details may be seen at website-assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of the undersigned in the "City Works Cell", from 13.05.2020 during office hours.
Sd/- Adtl. Chief Engineer (Planning), PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/CF/234/20

No. CE/Maint/A.D./404/2019/19
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Chief Engineer PWD (Roads), Assam, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bids amounting to Rs.274.22 Lakh (approx.) for Improvement / Construction of roads under SOPD (G), Asom Darshan for the year 2020-21 for 02 (two) nos. of packages in the district of Nalbari. Details may be seen in the website assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned in the "Maintenance Cell" during office hours from 13.05.2020 to 01.06.2020.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads) Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
Janasanyog/CF/219/20

No. CE/Maint/A.D./404/2019/14
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Chief Engineer PWD(Roads), Assam, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bids amounting to Rs.1451.73 Lakh (approx.) for Improvement / Construction of roads under SOPD (G), Asom Darshan for the year 2020-21 in 06 (Six) nos. of packages in the district of Morigaon. Details may be seen in the website assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned in the "Maintenance Cell" during office hours from 13.05.2020 to 01.06.2020.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads) Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
Janasanyog/CF/211/20

No. GRC/NIT/510/2018-19/
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Superintending Engineer PWD (Roads), Guwahati Road Circle, Guwahati-01 on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bids online from approved and eligible registered contractors of APWRD for 13 (Thirteen) nos of work "Improvement and Construction of Roads under SOPD (G) for the year 2019-20", amounting to Rs. 857.144 Lakh (Approx.) (including 12% GST + 1% LWC). Details may be seen in the website <http://assamtenders.gov.in>. and also at the office of the undersigned from 14.05.2020 to 19.05.2020 during office hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer PWD (Roads), Guwahati Road Circle, Guwahati-01
Janasanyog/CF/228/20

ASSAM SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY
(A Government of Assam State University constituted by "Assam Science and Technology University Act, 2009")
Notice Inviting for Vendor Empanelment valid up to 31st March, 2021
Assam Science and Technology University, Guwahati invites applications for "Vendor Empanelment" in prescribed format from the bonafide and reputed vendors/distributors/suppliers with the necessary registration of the firm under appropriate authority for supply of item to Assam Science and Technology University, Guwahati. Experience in similar line of activity will be preferred. This empanelment will be valid up to 31st March, 2021.
The applications Pro-forma with detailed guidelines, terms and conditions may be downloaded from the University website www.astu.ac.in Last date for receiving applications: within 16th June, 2020.
Sd/- Registrar, Assam Science and Technology University, Guwahati.
Janasanyog/CF/223/20

No. DRC-XIII/16/98/NIT/TSK/133
PRESS NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER
Superintending Engineer PWD Dibrugarh Road Circle, Dibrugarh on behalf of Governor of Assam invites re-bid from the approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for Construction/Improvement of Road under SOPD-G for the year 2019-20 for 10 (ten) Nos of road works in Tinsukia District of Assam under Digboi & Margherita Territorial Road Division, Margherita amounting to Rs. 936.947 Lakhs (Approx). Details may be seen at website <https://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned from 14.05.2020 during office hours.
Table

| Sl. No. | Name of LAC | Nos. of work | Total Cost (Rs. in Lakh) |
|---------|----------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Digboi LAC | 9 | 779.279 |
| 2 | Margherita LAC | 1 | 157.668 |

Total Cost= Rs. 936.947 Lakhs
Sd/- Superintending Engineer PWD Dibrugarh Road Circle, Dibrugarh
Janasanyog/CF/240/20

অসম লোকসেবা আয়োগ
ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022
No. 18PSC/CON/Exam-27/2018-2019
CORRIGENDUM
In continuation of this office earlier notification no. 17PSC/CON/Exam-27/2018-2019 dated 08.05.2020, it is for the information of all concerned that the roll numbers 102269, 102250, 107342 and 111347 appeared wrongly in the said notification due to inadvertent typing/printing mistake. It is hereby notified that the following candidates bearing Roll numbers 102263, 112250, 107341 and 111897 are declared to have qualified for the interview (viva-voce) for the post of Assam Finance Service (in the cadre of Finance & Accounts Officer/Treasury Officer) in place of Roll numbers 102269, 102250, 107342 and 111347 respectively. Inconvenience caused is hereby regretted.
Sd/- Principal Controller of Examinations, Assam Public Service Commission, Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22
Janasanyog/D/497/20

Good News ... Good News ... Good News ...
SUPERFAST SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN NEW DELHI AND DIBRUGARH
It has been decided to run Superfast Special Train 02424/02423 between New Delhi and Dibrugarh (daily) as per details given below.

| ARR. | DEP. | STATION | ARR. | DEP. |
|-------|-------|---------------------|-------|-------|
| --- | 16.45 | New Delhi | 10.15 | --- |
| 21.30 | 21.35 | Kanpur Ctrl | 05.00 | 05.05 |
| 23.35 | 23.37 | Prayagraj Jn. | 03.30 | 03.32 |
| 01.45 | 01.55 | Pt DD Upadhayaya Jn | 00.30 | 00.40 |
| 04.40 | 04.45 | Danapur | 22.20 | 22.25 |
| 07.15 | 07.20 | Barauni Jn. | 20.10 | 20.15 |
| 10.20 | 10.45 | Katihar Jn. | 16.45 | 17.10 |
| 13.25 | 13.35 | New Jalpaiguri Jn | 13.35 | 13.45 |
| 17.00 | 17.02 | Kokrajhar | 10.20 | 10.25 |
| 20.15 | 20.35 | Guwahati | 07.13 | 07.33 |
| 23.50 | 23.55 | Lumding Jn. | 03.57 | 04.02 |
| 01.28 | 01.35 | Dimapur | 02.41 | 02.48 |
| 03.35 | 03.40 | Mariani Jn. | 00.35 | 00.40 |
| 07.00 | --- | Dibrugarh | --- | 21.10 |

Composition: Ac First Class (One), AC-2 Tier (Five), AC-3 Tier (Eleven), AC Hot Buffet Car (One), Brake Luggage cum Generator Car (Two)= 20 Coaches.
Tickets are available in www.irctc.co.in only
General Manager (Operations)
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY



COVID-19 vs men

An enzyme in men makes them more vulnerable to COVID-19, says a study

After several studies revealed that men are more vulnerable to COVID-19 infection, evidence from a new larger research of several thousand patients shows that men have higher concentrations of angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) in their blood than women, a molecule that enables the novel coronavirus to infect healthy cells in men. This may help to explain why men are more vulnerable to COVID-19 than women, according to the researchers.

The study, published in the *European Heart Journal*, also found that heart failure patients taking drugs targeting the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system (RAAS), such as angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors or angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs), did not have higher concentrations of ACE2 in their blood. "Our findings do not support the discontinuation of these drugs in COVID-19 patients as has been suggested by earlier reports," said study co-author Adriaan Voors from the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

Some recent research suggested that RAAS inhibitors might increase concentrations of ACE2 in plasma — the liquid part of blood — thereby increasing the risk of COVID-19 for cardiovascular patients taking these drugs. The current study indicates that this is not the case, although it looked only at ACE2 concentrations in plasma, not in tissues such as lung tissue.

"ACE2 is a receptor on the surface of cells. It binds to the coronavirus and allows it to enter and infect healthy cells after it has been modified by another protein on the surface of the cell, called TMPRSS2," Voors said. "High levels of ACE2 are present in the lungs and, therefore, it is thought

to play a crucial role in the progression of lung disorders related to COVID-19," he added.

For the findings, the researchers measured ACE2 concentrations in blood samples taken from two groups of heart failure patients from 11 European countries. There were 1,485 men and 537 women in the first group, the index cohort, which was designed to test the researchers' hypotheses and research questions. Then the researchers validated their findings in the second group of 1,123 men and 575 women, the validation cohort.

The research team assessed the number of clinical factors that could play a role in ACE2 concentrations, including the use of ACE inhibitors, a history of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and coronary artery by-pass graft.

They found that male sex was the strongest predictor of elevated ACE2 concentrations. ACE2 is found not only in the lungs, but also the heart, kidneys and the tissues lining blood vessels, and there are particularly high levels in the testes.

The researchers speculate that its regulation in the testes might partially explain higher ACE2 concentrations in men, and why men are more vulnerable to COVID-19.

Last month, the study, published in the journal *Frontiers in Public Health*, found that men are more than twice as likely to die from the disease as compared to women.

Another study from the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* showed that males over 50 with non-communicable chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and coronary heart disease are at greater risk of death from coronavirus.

(Source: IANS)

Kids
CN
12:00 Ogy And The Cock...
13:00 Bandubh Aur Budbak
15:00 Roll No. 21
16:00 Bandubh Aur Budbak
BANUBH BUBBAK
17:00 Ogy And The Cock...
19:00 Roll No. 21
20:30 Bandubh Aur Budbak
21:00 Ogy And The Cock...
23:30 The Tom & Jerry Show
Pogo
12:00 Chhota Bheem Aur...
12:30 Chhota Bheem Kung Fu...
13:00 Chhota Bheem
15:30 Chhota Bheem Kung Fu...
16:00 Chhota Bheem
16:30 Grizzy And The Lemm...
17:30 Chhota Bheem
18:30 Chhota Bheem Aur...
19:30 Chhota Bheem
21:00 Grizzy And The Lemm...
22:00 Mr. Bean: The Animated...
23:30 M.A.D.
23:30 Grizzy And The Lemm...

Entertainment
StarPlus
12:15 Mahabharat
13:00 Yeh Rishita Kya Kehlata Hai
14:30 Diya Aur Baati Hum
16:00 Saath Nibhaana Saathiya
17:30 Mann Ki Awaaz...Pratiya
18:30 Siya Ke Ram
Colors
18:30 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Li Champs
20:00 Qubool Hai
21:30 Dance India Dance
23:00 Kehna Ko Humsafar Hai
23:30 Gold Awards 2019
Genius Junior
18:15 Getting Smart
19:55 Cyril: Viva Magic
20:00 American Ninja Warrior
21:45 Genius Junior
22:30 Wolves At The Door
23:30 American Ninja Warrior
&tv
12:00 Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hain!
15:00 Laal Ishq
19:00 Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hain!
20:00 Ek Mahanayak Dr BR...
21:00 Happu Ki Ullan Pathan
22:00 Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hain!
rishtey
12:00 Kichen Champion
13:00 Thapki Pyar Ki
14:00 Choti Saradaam
16:00 Sasural Simar Ka
16:00 Choti Saradaam
18:00 Sasural Simar Ka
22:00 Kasam Tere Pyaar Ki
23:30 Sasural Simar Ka
AXN
12:00 Constantine
12:55 Gossip Girl
13:35 Genius Junior
14:15 American Ninja Warrior
15:15 Gossip Girl

Entertainment
Colors
12:00 Khatra Khatra Khatra
22:10 Dance Deewane
23:00 Khatra Khatra Khatra
Zcafé
12:00 Venom
14:00 Love Island UK
15:00 Ultraviolet
17:00 A Dogs Way Home
19:05 Will Grace
21:00 BattleBots
22:00 The Good Fight
23:00 The Late Late Show...

Entertainment
HBO
11:15 Bumblebee
13:10 Captain America: The First Avenger
15:10 Rampage
16:50 She's Out Of My League
18:30 Aquaman
21:00 The Intern
23:10 The Tuxedo
MOVIES
11:15 Finding Nemo
13:00 Cars 2
14:45 Nine Months
16:45 Baby's Day Out
18:25 Dragonball: Evolution
19:50 Brick Mansions
21:40 John Wick: Chapter 3 - Parabellum
23:30 Ong Bak 3

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Entertainment
NAT GEO WILD
12:10 Lion Kingdom
12:35 World's Weirdest
13:10 Wild Families
14:10 The Jungle King
14:40 Monkey Thieves
15:00 Survival Of The Fittest
15:40 The New Sperm Whale
16:50 The Trials Of The Wild
17:00 Secrets Of Wild India
17:50 India's Jungle Heroes
18:40 Man V. Animal
19:00 Real Wild Battles
19:40 Survival Of The Fittest
20:00 Ultimate Animals
21:00 Africa's Deadliest
21:40 Secrets Of Wild India
22:45 Trials Of The Wild
23:00 Dangerous Encounters
23:45 Wild Sex
HISTORY
12:00 Forged In Fire
12:40 Ancient Aliens
13:25 Pawn Stars
13:45 Storage Wars
14:15 Food Tech
15:05 OMG! Yeh Mera India
15:55 Forged In Fire
16:45 Counting Cars
17:10 Storage Wars
17:30 Shipping Wars
18:00 Modern Marvels-Mega...
19:00 Idiot TV
19:30 Pawn Stars
20:00 Meenakshi Amman 8...
21:00 Forged In Fire
22:00 Pawn Stars
23:00 Storage Wars
23:00 Forged In Fire
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL
12:05 Snakes In The City
12:50 Primal Survivor

Entertainment
Animal Planet
12:20 Wild Frank
13:00 Animals Unleashed
13:40 Animal Planet Exclusives
14:05 River Monsters
14:50 How Do Animals Do That?
15:15 Brave In The Wild
15:45 The Cute Ones
16:00 Mahayudh
16:55 World's Wildest Continents
17:40 Animals Unleashed
18:05 Bizarre Beasts
19:00 Animal Planet Exclusives
20:00 Nature's Strangest
20:30 The Lion Kingdom
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20:30 The Lion Kingdom
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22:00 Wild Frank
23:00 Mahayudh

Regional
NEWS LIVE
11:00 Assamese news
11:30 Assamese news
12:00 Mid Day Live
12:00 Assamese Favourite film
13:00 Discussion Show (R)
17:30 Guwahati Blesh
20:00 Porjokbetkhyon
18:30 Breaking @ 6:30
19:00 Assamese Prime Time
20:00 Discussion Show (R)
21:00 Kotha Barta
22:00 Live at 10
22:30 Noxo Guwahati
23:00 Noxo Batoni
NEWS 18
14:00 Bivolyr Headline
16:00 Abell Khabar
16:30 Superfast Prime Time100
17:00 City18
18:00 Prime Time18
19:00 Dintur Shironam
20:00 Porjokbetkhyon
21:30 Aparadh Nama
22:00 North East Scan
22:30 Noxo Xironam
raing
16:00 Upasona
17:00 Devotional Slot
17:30 B2B Music
18:00 North East Diva GF
20:00 Rang Blockbuster
23:00 B2B Music
SIX
11:00 Tital Cup ODI
18:30 Vivo IPL Hls

Regional
SIX
11:00 Tital Cup ODI
18:30 Vivo IPL Hls
SIX
11:00 Tital Cup ODI
18:30 Vivo IPL Hls
SIX
11:00 Tital Cup ODI
18:30 Vivo IPL Hls
SIX
11:00 Tital Cup ODI
18:30 Vivo IPL Hls
SIX
11:00 Tital Cup ODI
18:30 Vivo IPL Hls

Entertainment
STAR MOVIES
23:30 Ong Bak 3
UTVMOVIES
12:00 Sargam
14:45 Saajan Chale Sasural
17:45 Bhoot Uncle
19:50 Tezaab
UTVMOVIES
10:30 Riddick
13:00 Arctic Blast
15:00 Dashing Jigarwala 2
18:10 Dragon Blade
20:55 The Shallows
22:40 Spider-Man 3
ZEE CINEMA
20:55 The Real Tevar
Z
12:00 Tejaswini
15:30 China Gate
18:10 Bhishma
22:15 Saaya
Z
11:10 Jigarwala No. 1
13:40 Phir Hera Pheri
16:50 Lingaa
19:45 Saathi
23:20 Vardi
Z
12:20 Bharat
15:30 Super Taxi
18:00 Footob
20:55 The Real Tevar
ZEE CINEMA
20:55 The Real Tevar

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR
HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, May 12, 2020:
Talented, ironic you may try to save the world this year and end by saving those most important to you. Your career will experience a lift and finances will not be a problem. If single, you are too devoted to your mission to search very hard for a mate but will enjoy some dating. If attached, you are very admired by your partner but may break through to a greater closeness this year. LEO gives a lot of affection.
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) ★★★★★ It's a day to network online. Politics or work with a prestigious organization will be worthwhile. Friends inspire you to develop worthwhile goals. Avoid challenging others; an aggressive tactic on your part right now could backfire. Tonight: Check in on an elderly colleague.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★ You will be extremely busy with the daily job grind. Do not let volatile circumstances make you ill. It is likely that you will only be around such energies, not in the middle of them, and most likely not the cause of them. Tonight: Relax.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Today brings a revelation in which the future flashes before you in some form or another. This causes you to rethink your values and life beliefs. You see that past sacrifices will definitely prove to be worth the effort in the future. Tonight: Time travel.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ Mentally turning off life's problems is difficult but not impossible. Instead of worrying about things you cannot control and spending time imagining the worst, find time to relax with a good book or do some creative writing. Tonight: Get extra rest.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ The actions of others will energize you in a positive way, meaning that you should be able to find the cooperation necessary to ensure successful summer plans. Relate to others on a one-on-one basis for best results. Tonight: Intimate date night.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★ Do not let those famous Virgo nerves get the best of you. Impatience is rife, but count to 10 before you bite off all of your fingernails. All, including computer software, should soon be running smoothly and efficiently again. Tonight: Organize your desk.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★ Actions now will lead to something big later. Do not let doubts discourage you. Children may drive you a little crazy, but the shouting matches soon subside. Your energy is high after mid-day. Tonight: Check in on an elderly relative who just wants to talk.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Today creates a climate of ease and acceptance. Love trends are wonderful. There could be an age difference with someone to whom you develop an attachment. Spend time in the healing rays of the sun. Tonight: Listen to a friend's qualms about personal matter.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★ It is difficult keeping things harmonious amongst your friends today. But a solution is right around the corner. A neighbor might save the day. Do not be surprised if you suddenly feel drained of energy. Tonight: Allow your hardworking self some time off to dream.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★ If you have been ensnared in a cycle of spending, you may be forced to cut back now. It is possible that a potential money-making opportunity has been temporarily put on hold. Do not despair. Patience is the keyword for today. Tonight: Early night's sleep.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★ Today, you will become more motivated and assertive. Due to your original ideas, controversy will tend to surround you. Focus on constructive outlets for your energy. Water sports and dance can be therapeutic. Tonight: A child or loved one has strong feelings to share.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ Your thoughts turn toward security issues. Fulfilling your responsibilities leads to true happiness today. Focus on gaining a deeper understanding of yourself, including your limitations. With your tendency to daydream, you could misinterpret important details. Tonight: In your own private Idaho.

Thought for the day
We should not give up and we should not allow the problem to defeat us.
- APJ ABDUL KALAM

LOCKHORNS
"LEROY'S THE ONLY PERSON I KNOW WHO GETS ROAD RAGE ON A STATIONARY BIKE."

THE PHANTOM
By Lee Falk

BLONDIE
TOOTSIE AND I DECIDED TO ATTEND SUSIE'S BIRTHDAY PARTY AFTER ALL!
ISN'T SUSIE THE ONE WHO SAYS YOU AND TOOTSIE DON'T KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN?
YES, AND HER PARTIES ARE LEGENDARY FOR BEING DULL!
SO WE FIGURE IF WE REALLY ENJOY OURSELVES, IT WILL DRIVE HER CRAZY!

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE
I WANT TO SUE THE DUKE!
BUT YOU HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF RAIDING HIS CASTLE!
WHY WOULD YOU BE SUING HIM?
HE WROTE AND SOLD A BOOK ABOUT MY RAIDS. I WANT HALF!

Tribune CROSSWORD - 6891
Grid with numbers and crossword puzzle structure.

Across:
3 Narrative poems (5)
8 Tiny openings (5)
10 Land measures (5)
11 Fancy marble (3)
12 Ringo of the Beatles (5)
13 Mull over (3,4)
15 Strange and weird (5)
18 Express publicity (3)
19 Gemstones (6)
21 Pilot (7)
22 Old word for fever (4)
23 Mafia boss (4)
24 Infectious disease of cattle (7)
26 City in Greece
(6) extent (7)
14 Latin trio (3)
16 Take it easy (5)
17 Prevent legally (5)
19 Riding breeches (7)
20 South American capital (2,3)
21 Anything, archaically or poetically speaking (5)
23 Most secretive (7)
24 Response (6)
25 Tear, rend or shred (3)
27 General meaning (5)
28 Alleviated (5)
30 Informs (5)
32 Side of door frame (4)
33 Hot drink (3)

SOLUTION TO TRIBUNE CROSSWORD - 6891
Tenor, 28 Eased, 30 Tels, 32 Jamb, 33 Tea.
20 La Paz, 21 Strang, 22 Athens, 23 Aviator, 22 Starr, 13
Part, 18 Ray, 17 Estora, 19 Jodhpur, 7
Down: Motor, 2 New Wave, 4 Film, 5 Carer, 6 Screw, 7
34 Wear, 35 Earl, 36 Palm, 38 Dubs.
Capo, 24 Anthrax, 26 Athens, 29 Fig, 31 Zeltis, 32 Jupiter, 23
Toy with, 15 Eerie, 18 Pora, 19 Awaiz, 21 Aviator, 22 Starr, 13

HEALTH CAPSULES®
by Bron Smith
WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF EXERCISE I SHOULD DO TO STAY HEART-HEALTHY?
I eat a bowl of ice cream while I walk.
THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION RECOMMENDS AT LEAST 30 MINUTES OF MODERATE-INTENSITY AEROBIC ACTIVITY AT LEAST 5 DAYS PER WEEK TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY HEART. ALTERNATIVE: AT LEAST 25 MINUTES OF MORE VIGOROUS ACTIVITY 3 DAYS A WEEK.
Health Capsules is not intended to be a diagnostic nature.

JUMBLED WORDS
Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.
PYAEE
HTIOS
EGONTT
OOWCPX
I've decided that the key to happiness is low _____.
Laura Moncur (12)
Mnour
Mnour
Mnour
I've decided that the key to happiness is low expectations. - Laura Moncur
SOLUTION
Answer: Pyaee, htios, gothen, cpwomx

TU develops aerosol box for health workers

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, May 11: In order to help health workers and medical staff fighting against COVID-19, Tezpur University has developed a low-cost, relatively light weight aerosol box for them. The boxes have been fabricated manually at the central workshop facility of the university.

The approximate cost for each box is Rs 1,000 only. The boxes have been given free to the hospitals currently dealing with the COVID-19 patients in the State and elsewhere. The university has already dispatched first batch of boxes to Tezpur Medical College and Hospitals (TMCH) and Tomo Riba Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (TRIIMS), Naharlagun, in Arunachal Pradesh.

Prof Pabitra Nath of Department of Physics in Tezpur University has taken the initiative to develop the aerosol boxes. Other members of the team include Khargeswar Rangpi, Dhruva Deka, Palash Rabha, Sasthendra Kumar Nath, Bhaskar Baruah, Ratan Boruah and Dipak Gogoi of the university. Prof Manabendra Mandal and Dr Nima D Namsa from Molecular Biology and Biotechnology Department of the university have extended their support by providing chemicals for sanitization.

It is worth mentioning that the university has already provided 3D and manually printed face shields to TMCH, Gauhati Medical College, Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute, Goalpara Civil Hospital, Bongaigaon Civil Hospital, Tezpur Mission Hospital, etc. The employees of the University have voluntarily donated one day's salary to PM CARE Fund.

Masks, hand sanitizers distributed

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, May 11: The Rotary Club of Hailakandi distributed masks and hand sanitizers to the employees of the District Information and Public Relations (DIPRO) here on Monday.

Chairman, Youth Services of Rotary Club, Biva Bhushan Chakraborty handed over the masks and hand sanitizers to DIPRO, Sabir Nishat and the employees of the office. He was accompanied by vice president, Rotary Club of Hailakandi, Shankar Choudhury. Nishat thanked Rotary Club of Hailakandi for the laudable initiative and said such a step would help to keep novel coronavirus away. The organisation distributed the protective items to mediapersons, health workers, police personnel, DC and SP establishments, Fire and Emergency Services, DDMA and other government offices, besides poor and needy persons who do not have the means to buy masks. Altogether 250 hand sanitizers and 1,200 masks would be distributed.

10,000 migrants per dist to return home by train in next 45 days: Himanta

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, May 11: State Health, Finance and Education minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today stated that an estimated 10,000 migrants per district will be arriving by train in the next 45 days after trains start running from May 12 onwards.

The said estimated figure was apart from those who would be returning by vehicles or ambulances.

Speaking to newsmen after inaugurating the 50-bed ICU at the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital here today, Sarma said that quarantining such a huge number of migrants in their home districts would be the 'greatest challenge' for the government in the coming days.

"There will be about 1200 persons per train and the exact numbers of migrants heading to various places across Assam is likely to be known by tomorrow," the Minister he said.

For upper Assam, Sarma said that the train would stop at Dibrugarh railway station and screening and testing would be done at Dibrugarh following which they would be forwarded to their home districts.

People coming to Jorhat too would first reach Dibrugarh and be screened before

sending them back to Jorhat. Similarly the same procedure will be followed for migrants returning to other districts of Upper Assam.

"We are planning to take the help of the civil society in ensuring people coming from outside the State remain in full quarantine and local committees would be formed to keep a close watch on them," Sarma said.

Explaining on how the civil society could help in making the quarantining of people coming from outside a successful exercise, the Minister said that if someone returned home then a group of people, specially neighbours would ensure that the whole family of the migrant become a containment zone and that they would be fed by the village for 14 days.

"They (people who will keep a watch) would drop the food at regular intervals at the gate of the house (where the quarantined people will reside) everyday and keep a close watch to ensure no one of the family, including the migrant, came out and mixed with others in the village or the locality," the Minister informed.

He further said that in case the numbers were large, then hotels, educational institutes, etc., would be kept in readiness for quarantining the persons returning home from outside Assam.

Sarma said that the help of MLAs would be taken to set up washrooms and toilets in large numbers. He further said that if a person developed symptoms or turned critical, he would be sent to the zonal centres for treatment.

Sarma also chided those people who were referring to the migrants as imported fish from outside the State by saying these were our "own people who had migrated to other parts of India for doing jobs or other reasons and now wished to return home."

"We are bound to take them back as Assam is their home and this is the policy made by the Central Government as the States in which they were working cannot take on the additional burden of looking after migrants as well as people of their own States who have hence returned," the Minister observed.

Sarma had earlier visited the COVID-19 screening facility at Kakodanga on the outskirts here near Jorhat-Golaghat border and the Kaziranga University, where a quarantine facility had been set up for persons returning from other parts of India.

He also announced that another 40-bed ICU would be set up in JMCH. He was accompanied by Minister of state for Health Pijush Hazarika.

Spotted deer killed at Dhakuakhana

CORRESPONDENT

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, May 11: A wild spotted deer was killed by miscreants at Dhakuakhana in Lakhimpur district on Monday as it entered human settlements amid the ongoing lockdown.

The incident took place at Medhi Suti under East Dhakuakhana Gaon Panchayat when a group of people attacked a spotted deer that was seen roaming openly in that area.

The severely injured deer was rescued by another group of villagers and they informed the Police and Forest departments. But the deer succumbed to the injuries before the arrival of the Forest personnel.

The Officer-in-Charge of Dhakuakhana Police Station, Divendra Brahma, and the officer of the Dhakuakhana Sub-Forest Beat, Umakanta Bhalari, arrived at Medhi Suti village and brought the carcass to the forest office. It was buried after conducting a post-mortem.

It may be mentioned here that after the announcement of the nationwide lockdown, many wild animals have started visiting nearby villages in Dhakuakhana-Ghilamora region since March-end this year.

Earlier too, a deer died soon after it was rescued from some attackers in Dhakuakhana.

Recently, at Dhenukhona-Hiloidari village in Ghilamora, another spotted deer was found near the area. Later, the forest department rescued the deer.

Illegal drugs seized, 4 held in Dhubri

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, May 11: In a raid at Jhagrarpur Part-I (Jyoti Nagar) area under Dhubri Police Station on Sunday night, police seized banned drugs in huge numbers and arrested four persons in this regard.

Police seized 26 bottles of illegal cough syrup, 70 Nitrazepam-plus tablet along with 80 Pyeevon-plus capsules and registered a case with Dhubri Police Station under NDPS Act.

Police arrested Anup Sarkar and Prasenjit Joardar of RK Mission Road in Dhubri and two women, Jubi Khatun, originally from Kakripara Part-I, Mankachar, and Tasiran Bibi of Bidyardabri Part-IV, Golakganj.

Police also said that the accused persons violated the protocol of 'Containment Zone' in connection with COVID-19 pandemic. During preliminary interrogation, the accused revealed that they were running the illegal business in the locality for a long time.

12 persons put in isolation wards at Nagaon

A CORRESPONDENT

NAGAON, May 11: The medical surveillance teams of the district have put around 12 persons in isolation wards set up at various hospitals in the district on Monday with suspected symptoms of COVID-19.

According to sources, out of 12 persons, seven are from Kamrup Kochuwa and Rajagaon areas, three from Juria Dagaon area and one from Haiborgaon in the town while one person is from Bihar.

It is worth mentioning here that more than 5,350 persons have been put under home quarantine and more than 125 persons were kept in isolation wards set up at various hospitals in the district.

Girl wins hearts in Dibrugarh selling vegetables



Personnel of Dibrugarh Police giving away a TVS Moped to Janmoni Gogoi, on Monday— Photo: Dibrugarh Staff Correspondent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, May 11: A college drop-out girl moving around all alone in a bicycle to sell vegetables to support her family, is perhaps a rare sight at least in the State.

The girl identified as Janmoni Gogoi of Jamirah Sapakati Ghogora village near here has attracted attention after she was noticed selling home-grown vegetables in the surroundings to support her family. Janmoni has been into vegetable selling since past couple of months. The COVID-19 induced lockdown had almost

shattered the economically backward family but with partial relaxation, she has continued with her job. Her mother told *The Assam Tribune* that her daughter was compelled to sell vegetables as father is practically paralyzed and is unable to walk since past several years.

Touched by her plight and encouraged by her work culture, Dibrugarh Police today gifted her one TVS Moped. The two wheeler arranged by local SP, Sreejith T was handed over to Janmoni by DSP Pallavi Mazumdar. After her plight went viral in the social media and a few other media outlets recently, sev-

eral people and institutions while sympathizing with her have expressed their support to the family. Social worker Niranjan Bagaria donated one wheelchair for the ailing father while Tai Ahom Yuba Parishad from the district led by its general secretary Dipankar Duarah handed over Rs 5000 in cash to the family. Similarly DSK College has also expressed to offer her free education to the girl, according to the college Principal, Sashikanta Saikia.

It needs to be mentioned that stashed with varieties of vegetables in bags and a basket, Janmoni used to carry them on her

bicycle and then peddle several kilometers to look for potential buyers. While talking to *The Assam Tribune*, she said: "I am confident of carrying more vegetables now with the Moped. It will also not be tiresome like cycling. I hope to bring more income for my family."

Janmoni dropped out after completing her higher secondary from Government Girls' Higher Secondary School, Dibrugarh. On her further studies, she said that since she has not undergone studies for two years now and considering the situation in her family, she will need some time to think over it.

Awareness drive on COVID-19 organised at Doomdooma



Members of the Doomdooma Press Club taking part in the awareness drive, on Monday.— Photo: Abhijit Khatanari

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, May 11: In the wake of extensive violation of lockdown by a sec-

tion of people and traders in Doomdooma circle, Doomdooma Press Club (DPC) in consultation with the local police administration

launched an extensive awareness campaign on COVID-19 at Doomdooma town, Rupbon and Rupai Siding area of Doomdooma Revenue Circle

on Monday. During this awareness campaign, the members of the club under the leadership of club president Arjun Baruah and secretary Manoj Dutta urged the people and the traders to follow the lockdown rules laid down by the district administration and also to follow the COVID-19 protocol through loudspeaker.

The DPC members also illustrated the catastrophic consequences of the situation if the community transmission of the virus begins. They also urged people to wear masks, wash their hands frequently and not to venture out of their residences without any concrete reason.

"For the greater interest of the society from now onwards the members of our club will strictly keep vigilance against those who vio-

late the norms of lockdown and COVID-19 protocol and will urge the police to initiate legal action against them," informed Arjun Baruah, the president of Doomdooma Press Club.

In the awareness campaign, DPC members Anuj Kalita, Dinesh Goyal, Abhijit Khatanari, Deben Deka, Rajesh Kumar Prasad, Manoj Baruah, Brahmadeo Rajak, Kuladhar Barman, Manoj Kumar Ojha, Sujit Deb, Ajoy Thakur and several others participated.

Meanwhile, the Joint Director of Health Services of Tinsukia district on Monday through a press release has made it clear that no COVID-19 positive case has been detected in the whole of Tinsukia district.

The Health officer also urged people not to panic and not to believe in hoax calls.

PRESS NOTICE/IFB

No. CS/DTRD/SOPD(G)/2019-20/524/R/5
Re-tender has been invited by the Superintendent 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/- Superintendent Engineer, PWD (Roads),
Guwahati ARIASP Circle,
Guwahati-21

Janasanyog/CF/232/20

CANCELLATION NOTICE

The Short NIT No. 01 Group-A & Group-B of 2020-21, dated Guwahati the 04th May 2020 called by the Additional Chief Engineer (Mechanical) Irrigation Department, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 vide this office Memo No. CEI (MECH) 3.2020/02 dated Guwahati the 04th May 2020 is hereby cancelled due to some unavoidable administrative reasons.

Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer (Mech)
Irrigation Department, Assam
Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

Janasanyog/CF/301/20

No. CE/Maint/A.D/404/2019/15

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer PWD (Roads), Assam, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bids amounting to **Rs. 373.05 Lakh (approx.)** for improvement/Construction of roads under SOPD (G), Asom Darshan for the year 2020-21 for 2 (Two) nos packages in the district of Dima Hasao. Details may be seen in the website assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned in the "Maintenance Cell" during office hours from **13.05.2020 to 01.06.2020**.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads)
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog/CF/215/20

No. TB.66/PWD/DTRD/SDRF/PT-I/2019-20/....

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer PWD, Dhakuakhana Territorial Road Division, Ghilamora (Earlier PWD Lakhimpur State Road Division, Ghilamora) on behalf of the Governor of Assam invite item rates bids in two separate envelopes from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD or Contractors registered with other State/ Central Government Department for 3 (three) Nos. work amounting to Rs. 33,00,000.00 (Approximate) schemes under SDRF for the year 2019-20.

Details may be seen at the office of the undersigned between 10.00 AM to 3.00 PM from 08.05.2020 to 13.05.2020. The tender documents can be purchased from 14.05.2020 to 16.05.2020 from the office of the undersigned during office hours by submitting cost of bid documents along with application accompanied by payment in the form of Demand Draft/ Bankers Cheque of a schedule commercial Bank Draft in favour of Empowered officer, Assam State Road Board Assam and payable at Guwahati for amount as specified in the detailed NIT.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD
Dhakuakhana Territorial Road Division
Ghilamora

Janasanyog/CF/238/20

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER - 2 of 2020-21

The Additional Chief Engineer (Mechanical), Irrigation Department, Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 on behalf of Governor of Assam invites online bids from Class-I registered contractor/firm of Irrigation Department, Assam for the following works of Malancha Kalubari E.L.I.S under SOPD for the year 2019-20:

Group-A: Boring and Installation of 1 (one) No. of D.T.W & installation of 20 H.P Submersible Pump Set, etc. for Malancha Kalubari E.L.I.S. under SOPD for the year 2019-20 under Guwahati Mechanical Division (Irrigation), Guwahati in the district of Kamrup in the state of Assam amounting to Rs. 16,56,000.00 (Rupees sixteen lakh & fifty six thousand) only in 1 (one) package.

Group-B: Fabrication & Installation of 2 (two) pairs of M.S. Pontoon including installation & commissioning of 10 H.P vertical submersible pump set, painting, anchoring, supply & laying of canvas pipes, etc. for Malancha Kalubari E.L.I.S. under SOPD for the year 2019-20 under Guwahati Mechanical Division (Irrigation), Guwahati in the district of Kamrup in the state of Assam amounting to Rs. 8,61,000.00 (Rupees eight lakh & sixty one thousand) only in 1 (one) package.

Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 16-00 Hours of 11.05.2020 & upto 14-00 Hours of 18.05.2020.

All the above works must be completed as per direction of the Department and as per sites and specifications provided by the Department.

Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer (Mech)
Irrigation Department, Assam,
Chandmari, Guwahati-3.

Janasanyog/CF/308/20

No. EAA/SIU/125/2018/Pt.-IV/15

NOTICE

In pursuance of the Govt. letter vide No. PMA.160/2018/391 Dated 06/05/2020 and in continuation of Directorate of Elementary Education, Assam Advertisement-A and Advertisement-B for recruitment of 5515 Nos. of regular vacant post of teachers in LP School and 4120 Nos. of regular vacant post of teachers in UP School vide No. EAA/SIU/125/2018/22 Dated 11/03/2018 and EAA/SIU/125/2018/31 Dated 11/03/2018 and subsequent Addendum 1 & 2 published vide No. EAA/SIU/125/2018/133 Dated 29/10/2018 and No. EAA/SIU/125/2018/ 177, Corrigendum 1 published vide No. EAA/SIU/125/2018/188 Dated 10/01/2019, Notice Vide No. EAA/SIU/125/2018/260 Dated 08/03/2020, Notice Vide No. EAA/SIU/125/2018/376 Dated 23/01/2020, Notice Vide No. EAA/SIU/125/2018/383 Dated 30/01/2020, Notice Vide No. EAA/SIU/125/2018/418 Dated 27/02/2020, Notice Vide No. EAA/SIU/125/2018/439 Dated 17/03/2020 and Notice Vide No. EAA/SIU/125/2018/441 Dated 17/03/2020; the Online Application System will be opened for modifying the following criteria in respect of the Candidates who have already applied for the recruitment to the post of regular teacher of LP and UP Schools under the DEE, Assam:

- The Candidates who have already applied for recruitment to the post of regular teacher of LP and UP Schools under the DEE, Assam against the Advertisement-A & Advertisement-B and all subsequent Addendum/s, Corrigendum and Notice/s are allowed to upload the Betterment Marks achieved in Educational and Professional Qualifications, i.e. HSSLC, Degree, D. El. Ed. and B. Ed. as per existing norms.

- The Candidates will be able to login in the official website of DEE, Assam i.e. <https://dee.assam.gov.in> by providing their credentials mentioned in the Acknowledgement Receipt.

The website will be open from the Midnight of 14th May, 2020 to the Midnight of 21st May, 2020.

This Notice is issued on the strength of the Govt. letter No. PMA.160/2018/391 Dated 06/05/2020 and as per the legal opinion received in respect of the various court cases on the recruitment process pursuant to the Advertisement-A & Advertisement-B mentioned above.

All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

Sd/- Director, Elementary Education, Assam
Janasanyog/D/505/20
Kahilpara, Guwahati-19

Gambhir wants BCCI to play statesman

MUMBAI, May 11: Former India opener Gautam Gambhir feels the BCCI should behave like a statesman amid the current crisis and he would have a lot more respect for the richest cricket body if the national team tours Australia later this year.

Gambhir was reacting to BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal's statement that if required, the Indian team could go into quarantine upon their arrival Down Under for the scheduled tour in the Australian summer.

However, the need for two weeks quarantine will only arise if the preceding T20 World Cup doesn't take place in Australia.

"Good on BCCI, fabulous. Good on them. This is a very, very positive sign, because I think they are looking at a far bigger picture, that it will change the mood of the entire country as well."

"It is not only about winning series in Australia, which is very, very important. But it will change the mood of both the



the richest board and probably the most powerful board in the world, so they need to look at a bigger picture as well and that is what probably they have done.

"If India look to tour Australia, I have got a lot of respect then for BCCI," added the southpaw.

The 38-year-old Gambhir, who played 58 Tests and 147 ODIs, also took a jibe at world body ICC on the recent Test rankings, where Australia dethroned India to be the number one side. India slipped to the third spot.

"No, I am not surprised, because I don't believe in all these rankings, points system, probably the worst was the points system what was there in World Test Championship, you get same points if you win a Test match away from home, that's ridiculous," said Gambhir, who is known for his straight talk.

Questioning Australia's rise to the top, Gambhir said the team was particularly pathetic in subcontinent conditions. - PTI

countries as well, not only India, but probably for Australia as well," Gambhir said on Star Sports show 'Cricket Connected'.

India are scheduled to play four Tests Down Under and if the tour doesn't take place, Cricket Australia could lose as much as 300 million Australian dollars.

"And then you have got to be statesman as well, when BCCI, they are probably

Division threatens PL's chances of comeback

LONDON, May 11: Warring Premier League clubs will meet on Monday with tensions mounting over the divisive 'Project Restart' plan to finish the season amid the coronavirus crisis.

Premier League chiefs hope to return to action in June, but that goal could be scuppered by an internal battle between clubs fiercely protecting their own interests.

The Premier League delayed their latest meeting until after British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's address to the nation on Sunday.

But, for those clubs and players concerned about the rush to

return, Johnson's admission that the virus transmission rate is still too high to significantly ease Britain's lockdown until at least June 1 was hardly reassuring.

Johnson offered no details about the Premier League's short-term future and indicated that, while the general population will be allowed to play sports from Wednesday, they must do so only with those in their own households.

And the growing unease about the Premier League's desire to finish their remaining 92 fixtures only increased on Sunday when Brighton admitted a third player in their squad had contracted the virus. - AFP

Cricketer's death condoled



GUWAHATI, May 11: Assam Cricket Association (ACA) president Romen Dutta and secretary Devajit Saikia, on behalf of the State cricket body condoled the demise of former cricketer Dr Ananda Chandra Sarma who left for his heavenly abode on May 9 at his Tezpur residence. He was 90.

Dr Sarma represented Assam in Ranji Trophy against Orissa in the 1955-56 season. He also had a good touch in the game of football and was a popular footballer of the State.

An well known eye specialist, Dr Sarma was also awarded the honorary membership of Red Cross Society and received special letter of appreciation from the President of India for his contribution during the 1962 Chinese aggression, stated an ACA release.

Spanish league has 5 positive tests, hopes to resume from June 12

MADRID, May 11: The Spanish league is not changing its plan to resume competing after five players from clubs in the first and second divisions tested positive for COVID-19, with president Javier Tebas saying he hopes it can restart on June 12.

Tebas said if everything continues to go according to plan in Spain, he expects the league to resume a month from now - depending on decisions by local authorities regarding the coronavirus pandemic.

We would like to start on June 12, but it will depend on a lot of things, Tebas said in an interview late on Sunday with league broadcaster Movistar.

"If we all continue to comply with the health safety measures, I don't think we will

have any problems."

The league confirmed the positive tests on Sunday but said it was not going to alter the practice protocol that got underway last week. Players from most clubs began individual training sessions on Friday after nearly two months of confinement because of the pandemic.

The league said it will continue to apply the back-to-training protocol that was approved by government authorities to guarantee the maximum safety of all players, coaches and club employees.

Tebas noted the very low number of positive cases and said it will be virtually impossible for contagion to happen during games because everyone involved would have been

Pique 'pessimistic' over Davis Cup finals

MADRID, May 11: Barcelona football star Gerard Pique said he was "pessimistic" that the Davis Cup Finals, which his company finances, would be held in Madrid this year.

Pique's Kosmos investment group has a 25-year deal worth \$3 billion with the International Tennis Federation.

However, he believes that the November 23-29 finals in the Spanish capital could fall victim to the coronavirus.

"There is a lot of uncertainty, we try to be aware of what the government says regarding sports and to whether we can put spectators inside the Caja Magica," Pique told Movistar television.

"I would say I am a bit pessimistic, because a Davis Cup without fans is difficult." - AFP

SU DO KU

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Solution of last problem

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Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. Fill 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.

১৫ মে' সংখ্যাৰ বিশেষ আকৰ্ষণ

জাতিৰ সেৱাত উদ্বিগ্ন ৬৫ বছৰ...
অসম বাণী

পৰিষদৰ সকলোৰে বাবে

এই সংখ্যাত আছে—

- বহিঃৰাজ্যত কৰ্মৰত লাখ লাখ লোক অসমলৈ উভতি আহিছে বা অহাৰ বাবে সাজু হৈছে। এই লোকসকল পুনৰ ঘূৰি যোৱাৰ পৰিস্থিতি কেতিয়া আহিব? ইয়াত কি কৰিব তেওঁলোকে? এনে পৰিস্থিতিত সৃষ্টি হ'ব পৰা সজাৰ্য্য দুৰ্ভিক্ষ গ্ৰাসৰ পৰা ৰক্ষা কৰিব পৰা যাবনে— বিশিষ্ট লেখক অনন্ত কলিতাৰ বিশ্লেষণ।
- দৰমহাৰ ধনৰ উৎস বন্ধ : জটিলতাত অসম ৰাজ্যিক পৰিবহণ নিগম, কৃষি বিপণন পৰিষদ— অসম বাণীৰ প্ৰতিবেদন।
- জ্যেষ্ঠ সাংবাদিক হাইদৰ হুছেইনৰ কলমত দেশৰ সমসাময়িক পৰিস্থিতিৰ অৱলোকন।
- দিলীপ চন্দনৰ সম্পাদকীয় কলমৰ ভাবনা।
- ৰাজধানী মেলত অহা গৰম গৰম ভাপ ওলাই থকা খবৰবোৰ।
- বিশিষ্ট গদ্যশিল্পী মদন শৰ্মাৰ সমসাময়িকত ক'ব'না সময় : প্ৰতীকী কাম আৰু বাস্তৱতা।
- চিৰস্তম্ভ চৰিত্ৰ, সনাতন সত্য : মৃত্যু— যুক্তিবাদী লেখক ৰিপুঞ্জয় গগৈৰ চিন্তা।
- সাম্প্ৰদায়িক উত্থাৰ বহিঃপ্ৰকাশ আৰু নাৰীৰ মৰ্যাদাৰ প্ৰতি অৱমাননা।
- দেশত বন্যপ্ৰাণী বৃদ্ধি : উত্তৰ-পূবত হ্ৰাস।
- নিবনুৱা সংস্থাপনৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত চৰকাৰৰ নীতি কেনে হোৱা উচিত সম্পৰ্কীয় সমীক্ষণত মত প্ৰকাশ কৰিছে লুৰীণজ্যোতি গগৈ, ৰাণা প্ৰতাপ বৰুৱা, ব্ৰজেন মহন্ত, দিগন্ত কোঁৱৰ, লাইচন ইংলেঙকে ধৰি বহুজনে—
- মুছলমান সমাজত উদয়োন্মুখ নৱপ্ৰজন্ম।
- জনপ্ৰিয় শিতান মুকলি চ'ৰাত ভিন্ন বিষয়ৰ মনোপ্ৰাণী লেখা।
- দেশ-বিদেশৰ বা-বাতৰি, বিজ্ঞান-অৰ্থনীতিৰ ইটো-সিটো, কলা-সংস্কৃতি-ক্ৰীড়া জগতৰ খবৰ।
- আইদেউসকলৰ বাবে বিশেষ কেইপৃষ্ঠাৰ আকৰ্ষণ আছেই।

লগতে লিখিছে— ডঃ হৰিচৰণ দাস, জয়শ্ৰী বৰা, ৰাজু বৰুৱা, বঞ্জিত হাজৰিকা, জিতেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ চৌধুৰী, অৰুণলোচন দাস, জয়ন্ত কুমাৰ শৰ্মা, উৎপল ভাগৱতী, আলতাণ হুছেইন আহমেদ, অমৃত কুমাৰ ঠাকুৰ, কুমুদ তালুকদাৰ, দীপাংকৰ কৌশিক, সুদক্ষিণা ভূঞা, প্ৰাঞ্জল ৰাজগুৰু, চন্দনজ্যোতি বৰাকে ধৰি বহুজনে।

গাহৰিপালকসকল সজাগ তথা সচেতন হওঁক

সাম্প্ৰতিক সময়ত অসমৰ কেইবাখনো জিলাত 'আফ্ৰিকান গাহৰি জ্বৰ'ৰ প্ৰাদুৰ্ভাৱৰ ফলত বহু সংখ্যক গাহৰি মৃত্যুমুখত পৰিছে। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত অসমৰ পশুপালন আৰু পশু চিকিৎসা বিভাগে বিষয়টো অতি গুৰুতৰ হিচাপে বিবেচনা কৰি ইতিমধ্যে যাবতীয় ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে। ৰোগ বিধৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ আৰু সংক্ৰমণ ৰোধৰ বাবে নিম্নলিখিত নীতি-নিয়মসমূহ মানি চলিবলৈ আপোনালোকক আহ্বান জনোৱা হ'ল -

- গাহৰি পামসমূহৰ জৈব সুৰক্ষা নিশ্চিত কৰক।
- গাহৰি পামসমূহলৈ অন্য ঠাইৰ পৰা নতুন গাহৰি আনি নসুসুৱাব আৰু নিজৰ পামৰ পৰা কোনো গাহৰি অন্য ঠাইলৈ নপঠিয়াব।
- গাহৰি পালকসকলে নিজৰ গাহৰিবোৰ মুকলিত চৰিবলৈ নিদিব।
- নিজৰ নিজৰ গাহৰি পামসমূহ পৰিষ্কাৰ-পৰিচ্ছন্ন কৰি ৰাখিব।
- গাহৰিপামত কোনো কাৰণতে অচিনাকি অথবা নতুন ব্যক্তিক প্ৰবেশ কৰিবলৈ নিদিব।
- ইতিমধ্যে আক্ৰান্ত জিলা কেইখনত গাহৰি বা মাংস বিক্ৰী কৰাটো সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে নিষিদ্ধ কৰা হৈছে।
- যিকোনো কাৰণত গাহৰিৰ মৃত্যু হ'লে মৃতদেহ কমমও ছয় (৬) ফুট দ'কৈ গাঁত খান্দি মাটিৰ তলত পুতি থব। লগতে গাঁতত যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে ব্ৰিচিং পাউদাৰ দিব।
- অসংগঠিত কপত বাসস্থানৰ ওচৰত পালন কৰা গাহৰিসমূহৰ ক্ষেত্ৰতো উল্লেখিত নিয়মসমূহ প্ৰযোজ্য হ'ব।
- গাহৰিৰ যিকোনো ৰোগৰ লক্ষণ দেখা মাৰ্চেই তাৎক্ষণিকভাৱে ওচৰৰ পশুচিকিৎসালয় বা পশুস্বাস্থ্য উপ-কেন্দ্ৰৰ সৈতে যোগাযোগ কৰক।
- বৰ্তমান সময়ত ২০ দিনৰ বাবে গাহৰি জ্বৰ (Classical Swine Fever) ছিটাকৰণ সাময়িক ভাবে স্থগিত ৰখা হৈছে।
- হোটেল বা বেষ্ট্ৰেণ্টৰ পেলনীয়া খাদ্যবস্তু (মাংস মিহলি) বা অন্য উৎসৰ খাদ্য গাহৰিক নুখুৱাব।
- মৃত্যু হোৱা গাহৰিৰ শৰ, নৈ, খাল-বিল আদি জলাশয় নাইবা মুকলি ঠাইত দলিয়াই পেলালে আইনমতে দণ্ডনীয় হ'ব।
- প্ৰয়োজনীয় দিহা-পৰামৰ্শ আৰু যাবতীয় অনুসন্ধানৰ বাবে খানাপাৰাস্থিত পশু স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্ৰৰ কেন্দ্ৰীয় নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কক্ষৰ দূৰভাষ নং ৯৪৩৫০৬১৬০৮ আৰু ৭০০২৪৮০৮১০ত যোগাযোগ কৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰা হ'ল।
- গাহৰি পালকসকলে যিকোনো সমস্যাৰ সন্মুখীন হ'লে ততালিকে বিভাগৰ বিনামূলীয়া দূৰভাষ নং ১৯৬২ত যোগাযোগ কৰক।

পশুপালন আৰু পশুচিকিৎসা বিভাগ, অসমৰ দ্বাৰা জনহিতাৰ্থে প্ৰচাৰিত