



The Assam Tribune

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM GUWAHATI & DIBRUGARH



RN-1127/57 TECH/GH – 103/2018-2020, VOL. 82, NO. 128

www.assamtribune.com

ePaper app for The Assam Tribune

Pages 12 Price: ₹ 6.00

GUWAHATI, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

p2 Militans storm maternity clinic, kill 14 in Afghanistan

p5 Tea producers' body seeks aid from State govt

p9 Govt considering relaxation in FDI policy for real estate

NEWS Capsule

Wuhan step

BEIJING, May 12: The Chinese city where the deadly novel coronavirus emerged in December last year, has decided to test the city's entire 11 million population after new cases were reported for the first time in weeks, sparking fears of the second wave of the virus attack. – PTI

Aarogya Setu

NEW DELHI, May 12: The Indian Railways, which had on Monday "advised" the passengers availing the special trains that started operating from Tuesday to install the government's Aarogya Setu mobile application, has now made it "mandatory" to do so. – PTI

AI HQ sealed

NEW DELHI, May 12: Air India has sealed its headquarters – Airlines House – in Delhi for two days – Tuesday and Wednesday – to conduct a thorough sanitization of the building after an employee tested positive for the coronavirus, officials said today. – PTI

Arrival

GUWAHATI, May 12: Around 132 cancer patients stranded at Assam Bhavan in Mumbai reached Guwahati today in eight buses. Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said they will be quarantined at Radisson Blu Hotel here. – Staff Reporter

Pompeo talks

WASHINGTON, May 12: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo discussed with his counterparts from India, Australia, Brazil, Israel, Japan and South Korea the importance of cooperation, transparency, and accountability in combating the COVID-19. – PTI

Manmohan

NEW DELHI, May 12: Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who was admitted to the AIIMS here after suffering reaction to a new medication, was discharged today. – PTI

BSF IG

GUWAHATI, May 12: Rajesh Kumar, who served as the Inspector General at Special DG HQ (Western Command), today assumed charge as the Inspector General of Border Security Force, Frontier HQ, Guwahati. – City Correspondent

JOCOSERIOUS



We must reduce the length of the bench to ensure social distancing!

COVID recovery rate increasing: Vardhan

NEW DELHI, May 12: The doubling time of COVID-19 cases has now improved to 12.2 days from 10.9 days, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Tuesday, highlighting the need for enhanced surveillance and contact-tracing in view of migrants and expats returning home. Vardhan said the fatality rate is 3.2 per cent while the recovery rate is progressively increasing and stands at 31.74 per cent. Reviewing measures for management of COVID-19

Modi announces mega economic package

NEW DELHI, May 12: In a big push to revive the COVID-hit economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday announced massive new financial incentives on top of the previously announced packages for a combined stimulus of Rs 20 lakh crore, saying the coronavirus crisis has provided India an opportunity to become self-reliant and emerge as the best in the world. Apart from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) assistance, the government had last month announced a Rs 1.74 lakh crore to provide benefits to the poor, including cash transfers, Rs 50 lakh insurance cover and steps to ensure food security.

In a televised address to the nation, Modi also said there will be a fourth phase of the lockdown which will be very different from the earlier three phases. The third phase

Fourth phase of lockdown to be different

of the lockdown is scheduled to end on May 17.

About the financial package, the Prime Minister said it will be around 10 per cent of the GDP and "will play an important role in the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan" (self-reliant India campaign), adding that the "announcements made by the government so far, the decisions of the RBI and today's package totals to Rs 20 lakh crores".

The special economic package will have emphasis on land, labour, liquidity and laws, and will be for "our labourers, farmers, honest tax payers, MSMEs and cottage industry", Modi said.

India's self-reliance will be based on five

pillars – economy, infrastructure, technology driven system, vibrant demography and demand, he said.

The Prime Minister also hinted at big-ticket economic reforms in coming days, and said beginning Wednesday, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will announce details of the special economic package.

Modi said getting fatigued or exhausted was not an option in confronting the unprecedented challenge posed by the pandemic and India has to make sincere efforts to become a self-reliant nation by transforming the crisis into an opportunity.

Asserting that just one virus has destroyed the world, Modi said the pandemic

has provided an opportunity to India to become self-reliant and emerge as a powerful country globally in the 21st century.

"We are standing at a crucial juncture. This crisis has a message for us. It has provided us an opportunity," he said, asserting that "we have to protect ourselves and move ahead as well".

India's self-reliance addresses concerns about world's happiness, cooperation and peace, Modi said, adding medicines supplied by India have infused new hopes in the world which is fighting battle of life and death.

He said when the crisis began, not a single Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kit was made in India and today the

country was producing PPEs.

The Prime Minister's address to the nation came a day after he held a marathon six-hour meeting with chief ministers on the road ahead after May 17 when the 54-day nationwide lockdown is due to end.

There have been growing demands by industries, workers and several political leaders to withdraw the lockdown as it has been having a devastating effect on the economy and livelihoods of a large section of people.

During their interaction with Modi on Monday, several chief ministers favoured extending the lockdown while a number of others pitched for allowing economic activities to resume to provide relief to millions of poor hit by the stringent measure. – PTI



The Fancy Bazar area that was declared containment zone being sanitized, in Guwahati on Tuesday. – UB Photos

State entering decisive phase: Himanta

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 12: Asserting that the State was entering a "decisive phase" in the war against COVID-19 as the train services resume, Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today said all those who return from red zones will be put under strict facility quarantine as it would not be possible to test the samples of each and every one.

The first train from Delhi carrying 1122 passengers will reach Assam tomorrow.

According to the Health Minister, majority of the passengers of the first train – 842 – will disembark in Dibrugarh and half of them are from Arunachal and they will be provided buses by the neighbouring state.

"It is not possible to test the samples of all. The Central

government has also said tests should be conducted on only symptomatic people. The others will be put under strict facility quarantine by the DCs of the host districts," Sarma said, insisting that if the government cannot test person, it can also not allow the returnee to mingle with the society.

Strict facility quarantine for people returning on trains

The quarantine facilities are being set up at schools, colleges and other such buildings and the Minister admitted that their quality might not be at par with the standards of a middle class family.

"So, those who are returning must come with a resolve to bear this struggle during the quarantine period. The PHE department is setting up

toilet facilities and drinking water systems in the facilities," Sarma, who reviewed the preparedness with all DCs this evening, said.

Also, the houses of those returnees who will be advised home quarantine, either before or after the tests, will transform virtually into

"containment zones". "No member of the family will be able to come out of the house for fourteen days. There will be a committee in the locality to monitor it," the Health Minister said.

Once, the facilities arranged by the district administrations exhaust, arrangements to quarantine the returnees will be made at the

legislative assembly constituencies with the help of the local MLA and district authorities.

The DCs have arranged buses to transport the people from the railway stations to the quarantine facilities after screening. Highly symptomatic people will be transported in ambulances from the railway stations.

Citing the reasons for the inability to test all the returnees, Sarma said the community surveillance programme launched in the State have detected around 7782 people with fever in 10,000 villages so far.

"We will have to test the samples of all these people as per protocol," he said, adding that 15,000 villages still remain to be covered.

» SEE PAGE 6

Revenue deficit grant released to 14 states

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, May 12: The Centre on Tuesday released over Rs 6,195 crore to 14 states as the second equated monthly instalment of the post devolution revenue deficit grant. Assam was allotted Rs 631 crore.

Office of the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in a tweet said the amount will provide the states additional resources during the COVID-19 crisis.

Recommended by the 15th

Finance Commission, the grant has been released to Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil

Assam gets Rs 631 crore

Nadu, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim.

The amount released included over Rs 1, 276 crore to Kerala, Rs 952 crore to Himachal Pradesh, Rs 638

crore to Punjab, over Rs 631 crore to Assam, around Rs 418 crore to West Bengal and Rs 423 crore to Uttarakhand, official sources said.

The latest revenue deficit grant comes nearly three months after the first such grant that had been issued to the states earlier. "An equal first instalment of the grant, as recommended by the 15th Finance Commission, was issued by the Centre to the states on March 14," sources added.

» SEE PAGE 6

Arrangements ready to receive train passengers

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 12: Maligaon-headquartered Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) today said all arrangements have been put in place to receive the New Delhi-Dibrugarh Passenger Special, which will be the first passenger train to enter the State since enforcement of the nationwide lockdown.

The train departed from New Delhi this afternoon. It is scheduled to reach Guwahati at 7:50 pm tomorrow and Dibrugarh at 7 am on May 14.

A total of 1,122 passengers are travelling in the train.

"The premises of the stations, including the Guwahati railway station, are being cleaned regularly since the lockdown was imposed. We have also undertaken sanitization of the stations. Adequate security arrangements have been put in place at the Guwahati station and other places where the train

will halt," said Subhanan Chanda, Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) of NFR.

He said the standard operating procedure (SOP) of the Assam government will be applicable for passengers who de-board at various stations of the State. After entering Assam, the train will have stoppages at Kokrajhar, Guwahati, Lumding and Mariani before finally reaching Dibrugarh.

"We are basically facilitating the transportation of passengers from New Delhi and other places to stations in Assam. Once the passengers de-board at the stations, the State government will take over responsibility of the commuters. After the passengers de-board further actions will be taken as per the State government's SOP," Chanda said, adding that NFR authorities are in touch with the Assam government.

» SEE PAGE 6

Tension in Eastern Ladakh

NEW DELHI, May 12: Tension is simmering along the India-China border with troops of the two countries maintaining a close watch on each other in the Pangong Tso lake area in Eastern Ladakh, days after nearly 250 soldiers from both sides were engaged in a violent face-off that left many of them injured, sources have confirmed.

At least a couple of Chinese military helicopters were

spotted flying close to the undemarcated Sino-India border in the area after the fierce face-off on May 5 following

Face-off between India-China soldiers

which a fleet of Sukhoi-30 jets of the Indian Air Force too carried out sorties there, the sources said.

The troops on both sides held on to their respective positions and even reinforce-

ments were brought in an apprehension of further escalation in tension, the sources said when asked about the face-off.

They said tension was still prevailing in the area, though both sides agreed to disengage during a meeting of local commanders on May 6.

"The situation remains tense," said a source adding some troops are being kept by both sides in the area following the face-off. – PTI

Air India on mission mode to evacuate stranded Indians

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, May 12: At a time when India, along with the rest of the world, is fighting the coronavirus pandemic, the Air India is embarking upon one of its biggest ever rescue missions called the Vande Bharat Mission to evacuate the stranded Indians from abroad.

In the first phase of the Vande Bharat Mission, which started on May 7 and will continue till May 15, the Air India is planning to evacuate

more than 14,000 stranded Indians.

When contacted by *The Assam Tribune*, spokesman of Air India, Sameek Bhattacharya said that in the first phase of the Vande Bharat Mission, the Air India and its subsidiary Air India Express would operate 64 flights to bring back 14,800 stranded Indians from the 12 countries – the United States of America, United Kingdom, Bangladesh, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Philippines, UAE

and Malaysia. Of those 64 flights, 42 will be operated by the Air India and 24 by the Air India Express.

According to records available, 3908 stranded Indians were brought back by 23 flights. Bhattacharya said that at this time of crisis, the Air India mobilized all its resources to spread its wings to fly back the stranded Indians.

While carrying out the massive operation, all safety and hygiene protocol laid down by the Government

and the Director General of Civil Aviation were strictly adhered to. The Air India left no stone unturned to ensure the safety of the passengers and its own crew in this sensitive evacuation mission, said Bhattacharya.

He also said that all necessary PPE, hazmat suits etc were provided and in-flight services were remodeled to ensure maximum safety of the passengers and the crew.

» SEE PAGE 6

Alert TODAY Alive TOMORROW

COVID-19 STATUS

WORLD	
Confirmed cases	4,205,801
Cured/Discharged	1,470,451
Death	286,940
INDIA	
Confirmed cases	70,756
Cured/Discharged	22,454
Death	2,293
ASSAM	
Confirmed cases	63
Cured/Discharged	39
Death	2

Data as on Tuesday

Part of Fancy Bazar containment zone

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 12: The Kamrup (Metro) district administration on Tuesday declared areas near the Rajkamal Hotel in Fancy Bazar here as containment zone after a worker in the area tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday.

The worker, Mungru Sahani, and a patient of GMCH tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday, taking the State tally to 63. The State government today revised the tally from 64 to 63, citing that the COVID-19 positive ambulance driver from Mumbai, who transported four people to Jorhat, cannot be counted as an Assam case.

An order issued by the

Kamrup (Metro) deputy commissioner mentioned the containment zone's boundary as MG Road in the north, Tarun Ram Phookan Road in the south, SRCB Road in the east and MS Road in the west.

Entry and exit into the notified containment zone is barred till the area is declared safe as per guidelines. "As the Guwahati Municipal Market Complex also falls within the containment zone, the complex has been shut," the order said.

Sahani, who does not have any travel history, hails from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh and was residing at the Aloopatty area of Fancy Bazar.

» SEE PAGE 6

Militants storm maternity clinic, kill 14 in Afghanistan

KABUL, May 12: Militants stormed a maternity hospital in the western part of Kabul on Tuesday, setting off an hour-long shootout with the police and killing 14 people, including two newborn babies, their mothers and an unspecified number of nurses, Afghan officials said.

The Interior Ministry spokesman, Tareq Arian, said over 100 women and babies were evacuated from the building before it was over.

Arian said 15 others, including women, men and children were wounded in the attack. Three foreign nationals were among those safely evacuated, he said, without elaborating.

It was unclear why the maternity hospital in Dashti Barchi, a 100-bed facility, was targeted an attack Arian said was an act against humanity and a war crime.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack in Kabul, where both the Taliban and the IS frequently target Afghan military and security forces, as well as civilians. The Taliban denied they were involved.

Photos shared by the Interior Ministry during the Kabul attack show newborn babies and their mothers being carried out of the hospital by Afghan security forces.

The forces are trying to eliminate the terrorists and bring the situation under control, said Arian while the battle was ongoing.

The ministry issued a statement saying three attackers had stormed the hospital and that one was shot and killed while the other two were still resisting arrest. The first floor of the clinic was cleared but the operation was ongoing to secure the rest of the building, the statement said.

A few hours later, the ministry released another statement, saying all three attackers were dead and that the operation was

over. In the evening hours, husbands, fathers and family members of the hospital's patients gathered around the site in Dashti Barchi, desperate for news of their loved ones. A man read out the names of those who had been evacuated to other hospitals.

In the suicide bombing in the eastern Nangarhar province, the attacker targeted the funeral in Khewa district of a local pro-government militia commander and former warlord who had died of a heart attack on Monday night, said Attallah Khogyani, spokesman for the provincial Governor.

The bomber struck as mourners gathered, killing at least 21 people and wounding 55. The casualties were brought to the Nangarhar provincial hospital, said hospital spokesman Gulzada Sangar. Khogyani added that the dead included Abdullah Lala Jan, a provincial council member, while his father Noor Agha, a lawmaker, was wounded in the attack. - PTI

US to provide \$3.6-mn aid to India for COVID-19 battle

NEW DELHI, May 12: The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has committed \$3.6 million to assist India's efforts to combat the Covid-19 pandemic.

A US government statement said the initial tranche of funding will seek to further strengthen and support the Central government's efforts to increase laboratory capacity for SARS-COV-2 testing, including molecular diagnostics and serology.

The funds will also support the development of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) centers that can improve the ability of hospital networks to detect COVID-19 cases and strengthen local health systems through enhanced surveillance and monitoring systems.

The CDC will work with local partners to assist in the development of a strong public health workforce to support India's capacity to respond not only to this pandemic, but also to future threats as well, the statement said.

It will also include planning for health emergency operation centres. In addition, the statement said, the CDC India programme will provide tech-

nical assistance for the ongoing crisis emergency and risk communication efforts of the government.

Since early January, the CDC's India office has been collaborating with various government institutes to support the COVID-19 response in India.

According to the statement, the US government agencies, including the US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Centers for Disease and Control and Prevention, and the Department of Health and Human Services, have provided more than \$1.4 billion in health assistance and nearly \$2.8 billion in total assistance to India over the last 20 years. - IANS



Wuhan to test 11mn residents

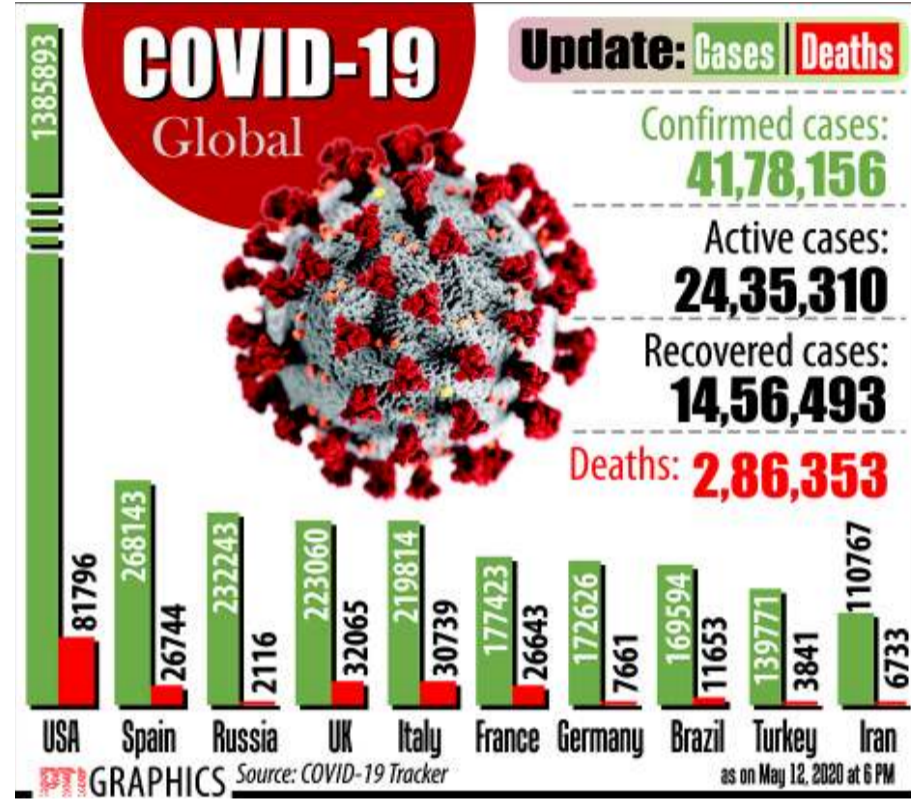
WUHAN, May 12: Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province where the COVID-19 pandemic emerged last December, was drawing up plans to test the city's entire population of 11 million people for the deadly disease, state media reported on Tuesday. According to a report by China's digital media outlet The Paper, quoting a widely circulated internal document, every district in the city has been asked to draw up a 10-day testing plan by noon on Tuesday, the BBC reported.

Each district is responsible for coming up with its own plan based on the size of their population and whether or not there is currently an active outbreak in the district.

The document, which refers to the test plan as the "10-day battle", also says that older people and densely populated communities should be prioritised when it comes to testing. However, several senior health officials quoted by the state-run Global Times newspaper indicated that testing the entire city would be unfeasible and costly.

Peng Zhiyong, director of the intensive care unit of the Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan University, instead that testing was instead likely to be targeted at medical workers, vulnerable people and those who had had close contacts with a case.

Another Wuhan University director suggested that a large percentage of the city's population - around 3-5 million - had already been tested, and it was "capable" of testing the remaining 6-8 million in a 10-days period. - IANS



Russia to end COVID-19 restrictions

MOSCOW, May 12: Russia will end its COVID-19-related restrictions nationwide from Tuesday, President Vladimir Putin said, amid a steady surge in the number of confirmed cases taking the overall tally over 221,000.

On Monday, Putin said he had signed a decree ending nationwide paid leave and called on regional heads to ease restrictions where possible, reports Xinhua news agency.

"But the fight against the pandemic is not over. Its danger persists, even in territories where the situation is relatively favourable."

He said Russia was starting to exit "gradually and very carefully" from coronavirus-related restrictions, some of which will be maintained for some territories and enterprises.

Putin asked heads of the country's regions, wherever it is possible, to give people an opportunity to leave home, go out for walks with children, and engage in individual sports. He called for sectors of the economy - including construction, industry, agriculture, communications, energy and mining - to begin the process of returning to normal starting Tuesday. Putin said such sectors do not involve direct contact with consumers. But given that the pandemic situation was uneven in such a big country, regional leaders should take flexible measures depending on the local situation, he said.

"The exit or relaxation of restrictions should take place under strict observance of all conditions and sanitary requirements that guarantee people's safety," Putin stressed.

In particular, mass events will not be allowed throughout the country, Putin said, adding that the self-isolation regime should be maintained for people over 65 and those with chronic diseases. - IANS

Pak, Iran to enhance border security

ISLAMABAD, May 12: Pakistan and Iran have decided to enhance border security measures and stop smuggling activities after six Pakistani soldiers were killed in a terror attack in the restive Balochistan province, according to an official statement.

On May 9, at least six security personnel, including an Army Major, were killed when a roadside bomb struck a patrol vehicle in southwestern Pakistan's Balochistan province, close to the border with Iran.

The banned Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa held a telephonic conversation with Iran's chief of the armed forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri on Monday.

The Pakistan Army said the two discussed matters related to border security and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The recent terrorist attack on Pakistan security forces resulting in the killing of six security personnel near Pak-Iran border also came under discussion, according to the Army. General Bajwa said that Pakistan was fencing the border with Iran but mutual cooperation was required to ensure border security and stem smuggling activity, which is also used by terrorists and narcotics traffickers for covering their movement. - PTI

Children face severe complication, death risk from COVID-19: Study

NEW YORK, May 12: Researchers, including one of Indian-origin, have revealed that children, teenagers and young adults are at greater risk for severe complications from COVID-19 and those with underlying health conditions are at even greater risk of death.

"This study provides a baseline understanding of the early disease burden of COVID-19 in paediatric patients," said study researcher Hariprem Rajasekhar from Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Paediatrics in the US.

"The findings confirm that this emerging disease was already widespread in March and that it is not universally benign among children," Rajasekhar added.

Published in the journal JAMA Pediatrics, the study followed 48 children and young adults - from newborns to 21 years old -- who were admitted to pediatric intensive care units (PICUs) in the US and Canada for COVID-19 in March and April.

More than 80 per cent had chronic underlying conditions, such as immune suppression, obesity, diabetes, seizures or chronic lung dis-

ease. Of those, 40 per cent depended on technological support due to developmental delays or genetic anomalies.

More than 20 per cent experienced failure of two or more organ systems due to COVID-19, and nearly 40 per cent required a breathing tube and ventilator.

At the end of the follow-up period, nearly 33 per cent of the children were still hospitalised due to COVID-19, with three still requiring ventilator support and one on life support.

Two of the children admitted during the three-week study period died.

The researchers said they were "cautiously encouraged" by hospital outcomes for the children studied, citing the 4.2 per cent mortality rate for PICU patients compared with published mortality rates of up to 62 per cent among adults admitted to ICUs, as well as lower incidences of respiratory failure.

The study noted that doctors in the New York metropolitan area are seeing what appears to be a new COVID-related syndrome in children. - IANS

SITUATION VACANT

Required Businessman, VRS, Housewife work from home digitally 50k Monthly. Contact- 8638269613. SV/P/AC000073/8

Company payroll job, S.M., Jorhat, Sibsagar, Marioni, NLP, Dibrugarh, S(16-20)K + Incentive. # 786newjob@gmail.com SV/P/AC000085/6

Require DTP Operator/Graphics Designer for a branded institute at Guwahati. Good salary. Mail resume to: guwahati.recruit@gmail.com. SV/...../1

EDUCATIONAL

Start your career as Assistant Manager (Salary Rs. 4 LPA*) in Sundaram Finance on completion of 1 yr Post Graduate Diploma course in Asset Financing. Eligibility: 50% in Graduation, Class X, XII. Age: 25 yrs. Virtual learning Classroom, paid internship, paid OJT. Batch commencing in June. Contact: 9365747674 (11 am - 7 pm). Edu/P/SP000050/1

We are Geared for the Next Decade
 Job Ready Courses
 PGDCA | DCA | WEB-PAGE SOCIAL MEDIA & MARKETING ANIMATION & GRAPHICS, iMac
 Counselling for Admission from 9.00am to 5.00pm
 CEC-Certified Courses now 175 centres
 H.O.: SILPUKHURI, GHY-3. 97060-79979 @ 97060-79989 For Franchise @ 97060-79999
 CD/Edu/RL0001043/1

TUTOR

10+ years experienced Tutor available for Mathematics/Computer Science/Informatics Practices (VIII-XII). 94357-33363. Tutor/P/AC000070/1

TUITION

100% GUARANTEED EXPERIENCED ONLINE/OFFLINE HOME TUTOR (VIII - XII) PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, MATHEMATICS. 91270-59003. Tuition/P/AC000074/8

Physics, Maths (XI, XII, Entrance), B.Sc. (Physics), batch - Adabari. Home Tuition anywhere. Online 9401538617. Tuition/P/AC000080/8

100% experienced home Tutor for (XI-XII) Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics. P.C.M. Point. 9678990167. Tuition/P/AC000037/29

TO-LET

One big room with attached kitchen/toilet at Uzan Bazar. Rent Rs. 8000/-. Dial: 9864631277. TL/P/AC000111/1

Two big room at Uzan Bazar. Rent Rs. 10000/-. Dial: 9864631277. TL/P/AC000108/1

HOUSE & FLAT

3 BHK spacious flat at Sasal. Possession by July/2020. Dial: 9678538081. H&F/P/AC000110/1

LAND & PROPERTY

1 katha 10 lessa myadi land with RCC building (G+2) sale Chenikuthi near HDFC Bank. Price: 2.95 crore. Broker excuse. Contact No: 7099277995. L&P/P/AP000018/1

1 Bigha myadi land (Lankeswar, Jalukbari) Plotting wise 11 Lakhs/Katha. #60018-25795. L&P/P/RC000001/15

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Dr. Papari Deka Choudhury, wife of Pulen Choudhury, residing at H.N.-4, Magzine, Patharqury, P.S.-Nongmati, Gh. I have adopted my husband surname (Choudhury) after marriage and since then I am known as Papari Deka Choudhury instead of Papari Deka by way of affidavit before the Notary Public Guwahati on dated 20.05.2020 for use as a piece of documentary evidence for all purposes. PN/P/AP000017/1

For pick up of Classified Advertisements from your doorstep...

IN MEMORIAM



Ahir Bhairab Borthakur 23.12.74 - 13.05.14

6 painful years have passed but your special memories are still fresh in our hearts. Be happy wherever you are.

Meera Borthakur (Ma) & Family Geetanagar, Guwahati. Ph. 98643 22687

IN MEMORIAM



Rupankar Borkatak

"Half a decade later, it still feels like yesterday when we last had the pleasure of your presence. We'll forever be grateful for all the memories with you. We love you and we'll miss you"

- SUJATA & ARUNABH

OBITUARY



KHIRA SAIKIA Born: 1932 Death: 2020

It is with deep regret that we would like to inform you all about the sudden demise of our beloved mother, Khira Saikia. She passed away on the 10th of May, 2020 at 4:25 PM leaving behind her family and well-wishers. Taking the current scenario into account, all her rituals will be performed involving limited persons. Once normalcy restores, the next course of actions will be decided and intimated accordingly.

We seek your blessings at this unfortunate hour and we pray for the eternal peace of her departed soul.

Ranjit Saikia (Son) Usha Saikia (Son-In-Law) Ranjana Hazarika (Daughter) Lt. Jawahar Prasad Hazarika (Son-In-Law)

Rekha Bora (Daughter) Satyajit Bora (Son-In-Law) Reena Baruah (Daughter) Swapnon Baruah (Son-In-Law) Ranjan Saikia (Son) Indira Saikia (Daughter-In-Law) Reema Khargharia (Daughter) Kailash Khargharia (Son-In-Law) Grandchildren.

CD/Obituary/RP000018/1

ASTROLOGY

Mata Mahakali Astrologer A to Z problem solution on phone Love affairs, Husband Wife dispute, Court case, Business enemy, Family problem, Love marriage, Real estate problem call us for immediate solution. Give a new look to your life. Call: 9636010099. Astro/P/AC000031/10

NURSING

Home Nursing Care, Baby Care. Patients Care. Contact: 8638895299, 8638722884. Nursing/P/AP000019/15

AIR CONDITION

Haier Tower AC for sale 4 ton (9 Nos.) and 5 ton (1 No.) in showroom condition. Expected non-negotiable price Rs. 30,000/- each. Contact: Leo Advertising, Guwahati. 9435107409, 8638387356, 9577048461. Air Condition/P/SP000049/1

PACKERS & MOVERS

R.D. Packers & Carriers, Household, Shifting local & National. Contact : 94353-46000, 0361-2236400. P&M/P/AC000067/15

GODOWN

2500 to 98,000 sq.ft. Industrial Shed/Warehouse, Godown at Khanapara, Beltola, Lokhra, Amingaon, Changsari, Mirza. 94354-03986. Godown/P/AC000050/30

BEAUTICIAN

URGENTLY REQUIRED EXPERIENCE FULL TIME BEAUTICIAN FOR HOME BASE FEMALE SALOON SERVICES MAKEOVER IN GUWAHATI (DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES) WHO SHOULD HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF DOING FACIAL, HAIR TREATMENT, PEDICURE & MANICURE, HAIR, MAKEUP, BLEACHING, WAXING ETC. (MINIMUM SALARY 10000 PLUS INCENTIVES). CALL 6003635454 FOR MORE DETAILS. Beautician/P/AC000107/5

HOARDING

For rent Hoarding space 40' x 20' in Bhangagarh. Contact : 99549-95356. Hoarding/P/SP000036/8

OFFICE SPACE

400/1000/1500/3000 sq.ft. Office Space for rent. No security deposit. Contact : 99549-95356, 97070-50449. OS/P/SP000035/8

SALES & PURCHASE

Used Hydraulic dental chairs, compressor, woodpecker scaler for sale. Contact: 9085458746. S&P/P/AC000109/1

OFFICE SPACE

2500 to 98,000 sq.ft. Industrial Shed/Warehouse, Godown at Khanapara, Beltola, Lokhra, Amingaon, Changsari, Mirza. 94354-03986. Godown/P/AC000050/30

Corrigendum No-01

Tender No. CE/CON/NA/BLD/2020/07/RT1 published vide Tender Notice No. CON/2020/April/02. Dated: 20-04-2020. Please read as: Closing date of Tender is rescheduled on 02-06-2020. Details are available in www.ireps.gov.in. Chief Engineer/Con-4, Maligaon Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) "SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

Corrigendum No-04

Tender No. DYCE1-MLG-MAINTAIN-20-01 published vide Tender Notice No. CON/MLG/2020/March/01. Please read as: Closing date of Tender is 26-05-2020 at 14.30 hrs. instead of 12-05-2020 at 15.00 hrs. and opening on 26-05-2020 at 15.00 hrs. instead of 12-05-2020 at 15.30 hrs. All other terms and condition remain unchanged. Dy.CE/CON-1, Maligaon Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) "SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

SOLE RIGHT ADVERTISEMENT CONTRACT

E-Tender Notice No. KY/CDO/Earn/02/R/19-20 Dated 05-05-2020. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of Work: Sole Right Advertisement Contract on Annual Rental basis for display of advertisement on Bottle crushing machines situated in Guwahati and Kamakhya station. Reserve price for 01 year: ₹216/- Earnest Money: ₹5,000/- Cost of Tender document: ₹1,000/- Date & time of closing of tender: 15:00 hrs. on 27-05-2020 & opening of tender: 15:30 hrs. on 27-05-2020. For details please visit website www.ireps.gov.in. Sr. CDO, Guwahati Northeast Frontier Railway "Serving Customers With A Smile"

Design of electrical ventilation system etc

E-Tender Notice No. DY.CEE/CON/ SCL/10/2020/JI. Dated: 08-05-2020. Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed Contractor (s)/firm(s) having valid electrical contractor and supervisor license for the following work. Tender No.: EL/CON/SCL/2019/JI. Name of work: Detailed Design of electrical ventilation system, Electrical and Mechanical system, construction supervision, 3D Monitoring at Tunnel No. 12 at Km 8566/108.63 to Km 19.39/117.371 in between Tupul - Imphal in connection with Jiribam - Imphal New BG line project. Tender value: ₹2,87,39,766.00, Earnest money: ₹2,93,700.00, Completion period: 180 days. E-tender will be closed at 14.30 hrs. on 04-06-2020 and opened at 15.30 hrs. on 04-06-2020. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in & www.nfrlyconstruction.org. Dy. CEE/CON/SCL, Maligaon Northeast Frontier Railway (Construction Organisation) "Serving Customers with a smile"

MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS/ PROTECTION WORK AT LUMDING DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. LMG/Engg/24 of 2020 (Item No. 1,2,3 & 4). E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: SN-1. Brief Description of Item: In between Lumding-J. Badarpur Jn. section-maintenance of Officers' Rest House and subordinate Rest Houses at Maibang, Mahur & HGS in Lumding Jn.-Badarpur Jn. section (for two years under the jurisdiction of DEN-III. Tender Value: ₹44,02,557.85. Earnest Money: ₹8,100/- SN-2. Brief Description of Item: Emergency Repairs/protection work of landside affected track at KM75/2.5 between station Daoulahaja-Pidhing for smooth running of traffic including other ancillary work under the jurisdiction of AEN/HGS. Tender Value: ₹3,20,300/- Cost of tender document: ₹1,000/- SN-3. Brief Description of Item: Protection work of Bridge No. 298, 299, 300 and other Minor bridges including other ancillary works related to landslide, shrinkage, slope failure, bank settlement, repairs/construction of catch water drain, RCC retaining wall, cleaning of catch water drain/Track side drains etc. in connection with maintenance of BG track under the jurisdiction of SSEEW/New Haranggaon. Tender Value: ₹2,59,94,462.72. Earnest Money: ₹2,80,000/- Cost of tender document: ₹1,000/- Date & time of closing of tender: 02-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. & opening on 03-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. SN-4. Brief Description of Item: Protection work at Km 51/9-52/1 (RHS) in between Botala Bridge approach and Tunnel no.2 (Port-I) in block section Dihakho-MPP of Lumding Jn.-Badarpur Jn. Hill section as per merited measurements suggested by GCRTIES(JV). Tender Value: ₹4,04,92,476.52. Earnest Money: ₹3,52,500/- Cost of tender document: ₹1,000/- SN-5. Brief Description of Item: Emergency Repairs/protection work of landside affected track at KM75/2.5 between station Daoulahaja-Pidhing for smooth running of traffic including other ancillary work under the jurisdiction of AEN/HGS. Tender Value: ₹3,20,300/- Cost of tender document: ₹1,000/- SN-6. Brief Description of Item: Protection work of Bridge No. 298, 299, 300 and other Minor bridges including other ancillary works related to landslide, shrinkage, slope failure, bank settlement, repairs/construction of catch water drain, RCC retaining wall, cleaning of catch water drain/Track side drains etc. in connection with maintenance of BG track under the jurisdiction of SSEEW/New Haranggaon. Tender Value: ₹2,59,94,462.72. Earnest Money: ₹2,80,000/- Cost of tender document: ₹1,000/- Date & time of closing of tender: 02-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. & opening on 03-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. SN-7. Brief Description of Item: Protection work of Bridge No. 298, 299, 300 and other Minor bridges including other ancillary works related to landslide, shrinkage, slope failure, bank settlement, repairs/construction of catch water drain, RCC retaining wall, cleaning of catch water drain/Track side drains etc. in connection with maintenance of BG track under the jurisdiction of SSEEW/New Haranggaon. Tender Value: ₹2,59,94,462.72. Earnest Money: ₹2,80,000/- Cost of tender document: ₹1,000/- Date & time of closing of tender: 02-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. & opening on 03-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. SN-8. Brief Description of Item: Protection work of Bridge No. 298, 299, 300 and other Minor bridges including other ancillary works related to landslide, shrinkage, slope failure, bank settlement, repairs/construction of catch water drain, RCC retaining wall, cleaning of catch water drain/Track side drains etc. in connection with maintenance of BG track under the jurisdiction of SSEEW/New Haranggaon. Tender Value: ₹2,59,94,462.72. Earnest Money: ₹2,80,000/- Cost of tender document: ₹1,000/- Date & time of closing of tender: 02-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. & opening on 03-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. SN-9. Brief Description of Item: Protection work of Bridge No. 298, 299, 300 and other Minor bridges including other ancillary works related to landslide, shrinkage, slope failure, bank settlement, repairs/construction of catch water drain, RCC retaining wall, cleaning of catch water drain/Track side drains etc. in connection with maintenance of BG track

'Contactless dining' centrepiece of debate on eating out in post-corona future

NEW DELHI, May 12: Browse the menu on your phone, order and settle down, your companion just about within earshot and the rest of the crowd in the restaurant unseen and possibly unheard too high on tech and low on people connect, this is perhaps what 'contactless dining' will look like in the immediate post-corona future.

The futuristic tomorrow, perhaps envisaged only in books, is here and 'contactless dining' is the centrepiece of furious debate with some restaurateurs dismissing it as a contradiction in terms, others

looking to introduce the concept and aggregators such as Zomato aggressively promoting it. As the industry ponders the uncertainties of the future where cosy dinners and large celebrations have both faded away, at least for now, contactless is the buzzword for the times contactless delivery of groceries, food and essential, and now dining too.

But contactless dining – being pushed by aggregators, including Paytm, Zomato, and Dine Out, and aimed at reassuring customers – is not practical in the dining out experi-

ence, say several restaurant owners. Anurag Katriar, president of the National Restaurant Association of India, said the sheer thought that dining can be contactless is rubbish. "It's like somebody saying, 'Can I have chilli chicken without chilli or chicken?'" Katriar told PTI.

While the process will allow customers to browse the menu, place an order and make payments, all through their phones, contact during certain elements of the dining experience, including the food being cooked, served and consumed at the restaurant table is inevitable.

Essentially what is being proposed is an ordering system wherein you don't look at a physical menu, you order your food digitally from your own phone. The idea is great, but it cannot qualify to be contactless dining. The menu is one of the hundreds of touch points consumers go through right from the time they enter the restaurant, so the idea is good but the nomenclature is absolutely a misnomer, Katriar explained. The right word could perhaps be digital ordering, he suggested.

It could also be called smart din-

ing, said Karan Tanna. Or less contact dining, added Priyank Sukhija. Tanna, founder of Ghost Kitchen, said dining is an experience and not possible without any contact. In fact, he said the so-called new concept is nothing more than a slight shift of events to the digital.

Customers can use their phones to see the menus, place an order and make payments. This will avoid contact with hard copies of menus, restaurant menu tablets and bill folders. Besides this, nothing really changes. Preparing the food and serving the food will be done

by humans, he said. Sukhija, who owns restaurant chains, agreed with him. There will always be someone who will be making your food, plating it and serving it. So you can't avoid that part of the dining process.

However, some people, like 28-year-old Shiuli Chakravorty are apprehensive and also sceptical about hygiene practices in restaurants. Getting the menu, bill, and placing orders through the phone is cool, but not a solution to the hygiene fears that people have.

"At the end of the day, they will

have to bring me my food, the cutlery, the napkins, etc. If a medicine or vaccination is out in the market, I will go out immediately. But before that, even if the government opens the lockdown, I won't be eating outside for sure," she said.

Gurgaon-based homemaker Prisha Mandavaya echoed her, saying she doesn't see herself or her family dining out anytime soon. "It is good to know that restaurants have started brainstorming on this and are coming up with innovative ways, but the risk will always be there," the 44-year-old said. – PTI

Furnish details about PPE kits: HC to BMC

MUMBAI, May 12: The Bombay High Court on Tuesday directed the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation to respond to a PIL seeking PPE kits for frontline health workers and limiting the use of hydroxychloroquine for COVID-19 treatment.

A bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice AA Sayyed directed the BMC to file an affidavit by Wednesday, detailing the number of PPE kits it had already provided, apart from other health and security measures taken to protect doctors, health workers, civic employees etc.

The court also directed the civic body to respond to all other contentions raised in the PIL, including the accessibility of screening tests for frontline workers and for the poor. The PIL was lodged by Jan Swasthya Abhiyan. – PTI

244 students flown in from US, Philippines

AHMEDABAD, May 12: Two special flights bringing a total of 244 Indian students stranded in the Philippines and United States landed here on Tuesday morning.

All these students, stuck overseas since the outbreak of coronavirus and subsequent lockdown, are from Gujarat, said an official release. While 137 students were evacuated from Manila, the capital of the Philippines, 107 were evacuated from New York. They were screened upon arrival and sent to their respective districts in buses. They will be placed in institutional quarantine for 14 days. – PTI

Home delivery of liquor in Maharashtra

MUMBAI, May 12: The Maharashtra government on Tuesday allowed home delivery of liquor to avoid crowding at shops.

However, the order, issued by the Home Department, will come into effect only after guidelines are finalised, said a senior official.

Only those who have permit for drinking can order home delivery. Liquor shops which have been allowed to reopen since May 5 will be able to take orders on phone.

The purpose was to avoid crowding at liquor stores and prevent the spread of coronavirus, the official said. – PTI

3 arrested for fake passes in Navi Mumbai

THANE, May 12: Three persons were arrested on Tuesday for allegedly forging e-passes used for travel during the COVID-19 lockdown in neighbouring Navi Mumbai, police said.

The police were probing the authenticity of some e-passes that were issued to the needy and on verifying with the District Collector, they found that the documents were fake, senior inspector Ajaykumar Landge of Panvel police station said.

Further probe led to the arrest of Maruti Rathod (21), Javed Shaikh (28) and Salim Shaikh (42) from Karanjade area in Panvel, he said.

The trio had forged e-passes for travel from Panvel to Jalna during the COVID-19 lockdown, the official said. – PTI



People with their luggage walk to board a special train for New Delhi after resumption of passenger train services by the Indian Railways in graded manner amid ongoing COVID-19 lockdown, at Mumbai Central Railway Station in Mumbai on Tuesday. – PTI

Train service provides relief to stranded people

NEW DELHI, May 12: Thousands gathered at the New Delhi Railway Station on Tuesday with mixed feelings of relief and apprehension, with many landing up hours before the scheduled train departure, as the railways resumed its services amid the COVID-19 induced lockdown.

The railways said three special AC trains left New Delhi for Dibrugarh, Bengaluru and Bilaspur. The train to Dibrugarh in Assam left at 4.45 pm, while the one leaving for Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh departed at 4 pm. The train to Bengaluru in Karnataka will leave the station at 9.15 pm.

The national transporter is taking all safety precautions like following social distancing and providing hand sanitizers to passengers to prevent the spread of the

deadly disease.

The resumption of train services has come as a big relief to many stranded in the National Capital due to the nationwide lockdown.

For 70-year-old Ram Vilas, a craftsman of gunmetal statues, the main concern is his onward journey from Patna station to his home in Madhubani in Bihar.

"I came to Delhi for a crafts fair in February. After the lockdown was imposed, I was stranded with my team at Pragati Maidan. The train ticket is a big relief, but my concern is to reach Madhubani after leaving the train at Patna," he said.

A total of 1,122 passengers were booked on the New Delhi-Dibrugarh special train. The New Delhi-Bilaspur train had 1,177 passenger reservations, railways officials said. – PTI

CISF official dies of COVID-19 in Kolkata

NEW DELHI, May 12: A CISF official in Kolkata died of coronavirus, taking the death toll due to the disease in the paramilitary forces to six with 18 fresh cases being reported on Tuesday, officials said.

The total active COVID-19 cases in the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), with the latest additions and as per data accessed by PTI, stands at 779 now.

CISF Assistant Sub Inspector Jharu Burman, 55, posted at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSEL) security unit in Kolkata, died of coronavirus on Monday, a senior official of the force said.

The GRSEL is a strategically important warship building facility on the banks of the Hooghly river that caters to the combat re-

quirements of the Navy and the Coast Guard. The CISF was deployed here in 2016 for proving an anti-terror cover to the facility.

Burman was under treatment at a Kolkata hospital since he tested positive for the disease on May 5, he said. The official was a resident of Dakshin Dinajpur district of West Bengal.

Earlier, a Central Industrial Security Force ASI posted at the Indian Museum in Kolkata and a head constable-rank official posted to guard the Mumbai international airport had died of COVID-19.

This is the sixth death due to COVID-19 in the CAPFs or paramilitary forces, under the command of the Union home ministry, with two casualties in the Border Security Force and one in the Central Reserve Police Force. – PTI

Thackeray, 8 others set to enter Council unopposed

MUMBAI, May 12: Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and eight other candidates in the fray for the May 21 polls to the Legislative Council are set to get elected to the Upper House unopposed.

Five out of the 14 nominations were either withdrawn or rejected over technical ground, leaving only nine candidates in the fray for the same number of seats, said an official from Chief Electoral Office of Maharashtra.

The Maharashtra Legislative Council election is scheduled for nine seats for which 14 nomi-

nations were received. Out of these, Dr Ajit Gopchade and Sandeep Lele of the BJP withdrew their nominations.

"Two dummy forms submitted by Kiran Pawaskar and Shivajirao Garje from the NCP were also withdrawn today," said the official.

He said the fifth nomination form was submitted by one Shehbaz Rathod, which was rejected on technical ground, leading nine candidates in the fray for as many seats.

It means, including Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, all the nine candidates will get elected

to the Upper House of the State legislature unopposed, the official said.

Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut had on Monday said any contest during the ongoing coronavirus crisis would have sent a wrong message to people. He had said an election would have been against the guidelines related to gathering and maintaining social distancing.

Shiv Sena has fielded Thackeray and Deputy Chairperson of Legislative Council Neelam Gorhe for the Upper House.

The NCP has nominated Amol

Mitkari and Shashikant Shinde, while the Congress has nominated Rajesh Rathod.

The Sena, the NCP and the Congress are constituents of the ruling coalition.

BJP nominees are Ramesh Karad, Gopichand Padalkar, Pravin Datke and Ranjitsinh Mohite-Patil.

Gorhe was one of the nine members of the Upper House whose term ended on April 24.

Except Gorhe, all the other candidates, including Thackeray, will be entering the Upper House for the first time. – PTI

Bengal replaces Health Secretary amid COVID row

KOLKATA, May 12: Amid raging controversy over alleged mishandling of the COVID-19 crisis, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday cracked the whip on Health Secretary Vivek Kumar by transferring him from the post, prompting the Opposition to claim the removal only proves "something was seriously wrong".

Narayan Swaroop Nigam, who was the Transport Secretary, has replaced Kumar, according to the government notification.

Kumar's transfer to the environment department as Secretary comes days after a war of words broke out between the State and the Central governments over the "dismal performance" of West Bengal in tackling the COVID-19 crisis.

The Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCT), which had visited Bengal for on-the-spot assessment of the COVID-19 situation, had expressed their disappointment with the functioning of the health depart-

ment headed by Kumar, who was appointed last December, replacing Sanghamitra Ghosh.

The Centre had recently rapped the State government over its COVID-19 management which it said is characterised by a very low rate of testing in proportion to the population, and a very high rate of mortality of 13.2 per cent for the State, by far the highest for any State.

According to sources, the constitution of the death audit committee on April 3 was the idea of Kumar which was in the eye of a political storm, with Opposition parties calling it a government's tool to "fudge" COVID-19 data related to the number of coronavirus deaths and infections.

In the wake of criticism, in the last week of April, the State administration tried to distance itself from the audit committee, when Banerjee, who also holds the health portfolio, said the health department decided to set up the audit panel and that she had nothing to do with it. – PTI

3-month plan needed to deal with COVID-19 crisis, says Mamata

KOLKATA, May 12: An early relief from the COVID-19 crisis is unlikely, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Tuesday, and underscored the need for a three-month plan to deal with the situation.

Banerjee also claimed that people are facing problems since the imposition of the lockdown on March 25 as the move was "poorly planned".

"Don't think we will get relief from the COVID-19 crisis any time soon. We should have a three-month short-term plan in place to tackle the situation," she said after a review meeting with State officials.

Talking about her interaction with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his video conference with Chief Ministers on Monday, Banerjee said Bengal gained nothing from the meeting and was left "empty-hand-

ed". The Centre is yet to clear the "legitimate financial dues" of the State, she claimed.

"I have raised several issues during the meeting with PM. But I must say we always return empty-handed after our meetings with PM," the Chief Minister said.

Banerjee also said areas under red zones will soon be given more relaxations. "The red zones would be further divided into three categories. Steps would also be taken to restart the 100-day work scheme in the non-containment areas," she said.

Referring to the communal clashes that broke out in Hooghly district last week, Banerjee said action will be taken. "Stern action will be taken against those involved in communal clashes amid the lockdown. No one will be spared if found guilty," she added. – PTI



Shadi Mein Jaroor Aana

Jaisalmer has the unique tradition of inviting people to weddings through wall graffiti. The image of Lord Ganesha is printed. In the case of bride's house, the girl's name is written first and then the groom's name while in the case of groom's house, its vice-versa.



Minorities flourishing in India; Islamophobia allegations attempt to defame country: Naqvi

NEW DELHI, May 12: Minorities are "flourishing" in India and have been an equal partner in development without discrimination under the Modi government, Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said on Tuesday, dismissing allegations of Islamophobia as an attempt to defame the country.

The "Narendra Modi phobia club has been unable to digest the inclusive growth under the Prime Minister and is engaged in a "nefarious campaign" in India and abroad through fake propaganda alleging "intolerance, communalism and discrimination" against minorities in India, Naqvi said.

In a blog titled "Islamophobia – Bogey of Bogus Bashing Brigade", the Minority Affairs Minister argued that the 'Modi phobia club' is playing the "Islamophobia card" to harm the pluralistic fabric of India, but will not succeed.

Naqvi's remarks come days after a wave of angry reactions on Twitter by

citizens and rights activists from various Arab countries following allegations that Muslims are being blamed for spreading COVID-19 in parts of India. Also, the 57-member prominent international Muslim grouping, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, recently accused India of "Islamophobia".

India has dismissed all such allegations.

"Minorities in India are flourishing equally with all the citizens with a sense of equality, security and prosperity. Misinformation against such a gracious and tolerant country and its effective leadership is nothing but the height of ignorance and mental bankruptcy," Naqvi said.

He claimed that no riot took place in last 5 years of the Modi government and it was after "nefarious preaching" by those who were irked by this that the Delhi riots happened.

Naqvi said the women who sat on protests at Shaheen Bagh cannot be

termed "anti-nationals" but they had been "misguided by the bogus bashing brigade. This brigade pushed these women on a path which had an entry gate but no exit gate, he added.

This was a calculated conspiracy by the brigade that wants to defame and disgrace Modi and India, Naqvi said.

He also argued that for the "first time since Independence", India has forged close and strong ties with nearly all Islamic nations and countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Afghanistan, Russia, Palestine, Mauritius and the Maldives have conferred Modi with their highest civilian awards. "The United Nations has also conferred Narendra Modi with the prestigious 'Champions of the Earth Award'.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi's global acceptance and popularity doesn't need any certificate," he said. The Modi government never planned development on the basis of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians or

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Live for each second without hesitation.

— ELTON JOHN

The Assam Tribune

Broad contours

The Covid-19 pandemic has reinforced the truism that India is a federal nation where States have as equal a responsibility as the Centre in taking decisions which will impact upon the people under their jurisdiction. This was underlined by India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his fifth video conference with the Chief Ministers of the States when he requested them to share their suggestions with the Centre by May 15, which could be used to frame a broad strategy on how to deal with the 54-day lockdown when it ends on May 17. This is the correct course of action since there are nuanced specifics related to each State and what may be sauce for the goose may not be sauce for the gander. However, he did outline the broad contours of the Centre's intentions and the objectives which should determine the State's future course of action. Two of the most important components of such action, according to Modi, must be to 'devise a balanced strategy' and also to ensure that rural India remains free of infection as far as possible. The first of this is self-evident; the protracted lockdown has had a devastating effect on an economy which had been under stress even during the pre-Covid-19 phase. It has induced great suffering upon all sections of people, but especially the poverty stricken segments who lead a hand to mouth existence.

In the absence of commercial activity, a bulk of people would not be able to sustain themselves, so a gradual and staggered opening out of the economy is the need of the hour, even as the battle against the coronavirus continues. But while engaged thus, Modi has also asserted that we should constantly remember that till we find a vaccine or a drug, the biggest weapon with us to fight the virus was social distancing, and the 'Do gazkidoori' mantra must retain its relevance. Also, the rural areas of the country, where more than half the population dwells, has been relatively contagion free and every effort should be made to ensure that these remain so. This would indeed be a challenge in the coming days as lakhs of migrant workers return home and the railways resume operations. Another important point mentioned by the PM was the reality that, with the onset of monsoon, there will be a proliferation of many non-Covid-19 diseases, for which the nation must prepare and strengthen her medical and health systems as early as feasible. Another element in the broad contours outlined by Modi was the embracing of new models of teaching and learning in the education sector which too was adversely impacted. The PM also rightly emphasized that the coming days would pose numerous other challenges and the nation would need an all-encompassing approach to deal with them.

Reviving the economy

With the whole country faced with a twin and unprecedented challenge of saving lives and livelihoods, the Government understandably opted for the first by enforcing a nationwide lockdown, and then extending it by two more phases. As saving lives was the biggest priority in the wake of the global contagion, a shutdown was necessary to break the chain of transmission and restore some normalcy in the situation. The lockdown definitely had an impact in slowing down the spread, especially in some States where the government machinery worked pragmatically, but there is clearly a limit to prolonging the impasse in view of the pressing economic concerns. The contagion aside, economically speaking, the country is grappling with its greatest emergency since Independence and even the slowdown triggered by the global financial crisis in 2008-09 would pale into insignificance before the present challenge. The earlier crisis was a massive demand shock, but workers could still go to work, firms were thriving on years of strong growth, the financial system was largely sound, and government finances were healthy. The current situation has none of this benevolent ambience but yet things can improve considerably if the Government sets priorities and draws from our inherent strengths to propel the economy back into its orbit.

To overcome the crisis and restore mass livelihoods, it is imperative that every sphere of productive human activity is resumed and the entire process streamlined – but with all the necessary precautions and safeguards. Assam and the Northeast are comparatively better placed than many other States due to the still-low spread of epidemic. The resumption process of economic activity including industrial will call for better data on infection levels, as well as measures to protect workers returning to work. Many large private firms have drastically cut down on manpower by retrenching employees on a large scale even when the financial position of the firms did not quite warrant such harsh measures. This is disturbing and the Government should intervene so that unscrupulous firms are prevented from taking advantage of the situation. Reviving the State's economy will be a tough ask for the State Government in view of its inadequate fiscal resources. It, therefore, needs to prioritize what is essential and must cut down on less important expenditures. It should try to woo investors from outside to set up industrial bases here, more so because investors are fleeing the red zones. With many of the State's migrant workers back now and reluctant to go back to their workplace, the Government should devise ways to utilize their skills to boost the industrial sector. The MSME sector has suffered a lot during the pandemic and it should be revived with a stimulus package. The crisis has also presented us with an opportunity to renew our emphasis on our traditional sectors such as agriculture and allied activities, handloom and handicrafts, food processing, etc. Last but not the least, the prospects of securing commercial linkage with the neighbouring Southeast Asian countries need to be jealously pursued in the coming days.

India craves for a robust healthcare system

■ Shantanu Thakur

Some years ago, the present British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, was highly sceptical of the NHS (National Health Service) in the UK. He had said that they needed to take a hard look at it and find new ways of finding private money into the NHS. After he was nursed back to normal by the same NHS when he had caught the coronavirus recently, Johnson has, reportedly, changed his stance. He now strongly feels that the NHS should be strengthened even further.

In around 2014 or so, the former Governor of the RBI, Dr D Subbarao had visited Assam as the head of the Finance Commission. In an interaction with senior officers of the Government, he had put a question: How many of them were willing to send their children to government-run schools, and, how many of them would like to be admitted to a government hospital when they fall sick. The silent answer, he said, spoke volumes about how strong a powerhouse our country actually was in the reckoning amongst the comity of nations.

The two references above have been cited because the Covid-19 pandemic has turned out to be a great leveller affecting all and sundry and governments and people the world over are beginning to take a second look at health in the public sector. The need for a robust health service in the public sector,

especially for a country like India, assumes much significance because only a very small percentage of our population can afford expensive treatment. The emerging healthcare in the private sector of our country is relatively a recent phenomenon though it has caught on pretty fast. Most of us above 60 now would recall easily that not many years earlier, it was to the government hospitals that everybody went whenever in need of hospitalization. Quite like how most of our brilliant achievers in diverse sectors had passed out from government schools. There was full trust not only on the expertise of the doctors manning them, but also on the overall healthcare culture and protocol that prevailed. But then came a gradual turning point when the system started to lose its sheen. It may not be just a coincidence that a similar malaise affected the education network in the public sector around the same time. The reasons for the downside could be many and common to both the areas. Increasing pressure from the growing numbers in population, gradual neglect of important parameters such as maintenance of infrastructure; the lure of better facilities in the private sector, callous management of the issues affecting

the government doctors; rampant indiscipline in hospital administration; high quality machines lying idle and uncared for, paying scant attention to even basics like good hygiene; lack of facilities for housing, etc., for doctors and health workers in the rural areas, unwelcome changes in doctor-patient relationships – the list could go on. But, that by itself doesn't really help in getting us out of the quagmire. The Covid-19 pandemic and handling of its management,

The Covid-19 pandemic and handling of its management, perhaps, offer an opportunity to set quite a few things right. It has been a well-known fact that the public sector juggernaut in our country is still capable of timely, effective action in an emergency – it rises to a crisis with alacrity.

perhaps, offer an opportunity to set quite a few things right. It has been a well-known fact that the public sector juggernaut in our country is still capable of timely, effective action in an emergency – it rises to a crisis with alacrity. The majority of the workforce fighting the battle for us – the doctors, the nurses, the ambulance drivers, the paramedics – is mostly made up of public serv-

ants. This army of capable, committed health forces should be harnessed for all-time services not only during a disaster, but also in normal times. The country now is spending very little of its GDP on health care. An emerging economy like ours – though one wonders now when exactly we will re-emerge – with a vast population in need of sound healthcare but unable to afford private facilities deserves much more significant allocation than what is being given now. The present Government had introduced a scheme for some universal healthcare service in the country, but, how well this has taken off, and to what reach and extent, is not clearly visible. This matter of an inclusive healthcare service for all in the country needs serious, urgent attention. The economic recovery challenge looms large, but, the health and education services in the public sector have to be revived simultaneously. The two are, after all, complementary and not exclusive. The NHS has always been a popular system in Britain; our governmental resources may not be at the same footing, but, public welfare in such a critical sector calls out loud for more attention and a larger share of the GDP.

This is not at all an attempt to downplay the necessity of the presence of the private sector in the

health arena. They have so far done a good job and rendered great service to the nation, also during the pandemic. One is simply trying to locate a synergy of both the sectors in strengthening the massive but ailing public sector in the country. The Government could well consider devising ways and means to bring the benefits of the private sector health facilities to those who are unable to afford it through compensatory cost sharing from the public exchequer. It is not a happy scenario at all when citizens, of whatever paying capacity, are in need of care that exists, but cannot afford the same.

Those sitting over the fate of the people should realize that petty considerations, over which player the credit accrues to, should not be allowed to come in the way of formulating an all-inclusive universal healthcare system and get it cracking. The funds for such an effort are well within the resources, provided we know how to prioritize. This could be one of the best social security any government anywhere could provide to its citizens who deserve as much. More hospitals with the latest facilities, more beds, more well-cared-for doctors, nurses and paramedics along with a nationwide awareness on hygiene and health habits are what the nation expects from its government. Ours is a republic, and, as senior citizens, we would like to see the health and education in the public sector to revert to its earlier glory. The opportunity is around for those who dare.

The insidious contagion

■ Akash Deep Baruah

On May 8, 2020, the global casualty of Covid-19 pandemic stood at 2,71,725 deaths and nearly 3.95 million confirmed cases. This is a massive jump from the few cases which were initially reported during the first week of February, 2020. The pandemic was however quietly unfolding from December, 2019 onwards. During the second week of last December, Wei Guixian, a shrimp seller in Huanan Seafood Market, visited the Eleventh Hospital of Wuhan in Hubei Province of China complaining of cold and lethargy. As her symptoms worsened, she was referred to the Wuhan Union Hospital. Soon other patients with similar symptoms visited the Wuhan Union Hospital. Around the same time, Dr Li Wenliang, a 33-year-old doctor at the Wuhan Central Hospital, had alerted his fellow medics of a possible coronavirus outbreak but had to keep quiet after being admonished by the Chinese authorities. Towards the end of January, 2020, Dr Wenliang contracted Covid-19 and died a week later. Had the Chinese authorities heeded to Dr Wenliang's warning and acted promptly, perhaps the rest of the world might have been spared of the monstrosity of a problem that we are facing today.

Studies by EcoHealth Alliance, a New York-based organization, indi-

cates that SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing Covid-19 disease, might have originated from a wild bat host. The disease had spread from Wuhan to other parts of the world within a short span of a few months. Travel and tourism perhaps played a big role in facilitating the spread of the disease. Since 2012 with the economic boom in China, the Chinese have been the world's top travellers, accounting for nearly one-fifth of the world's international tourism spending. As China is also the world's top exporter with the second highest GDP in the world, the Chinese are travelling all over the world for business reasons too. The first confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Italy and the United Kingdom towards the end of January 2020 were either Chinese tourists or someone who had recently travelled to China. Though similar reports of Covid-19 cases soon began pouring in from other countries, the world at large failed to see the cataclysmic danger that lay ahead.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a global pandemic. The disease had by then spread to more than 114 countries, affecting nearly 120,000 individuals and claiming 4,291 human lives. As the number of deaths and the confirmed cases started rising alarmingly, many countries decided to impose con-

tainment measures such as quarantine and lockdown towards the end of March, 2020. Notably, the sharpest rise of deaths was observed after most countries, including India, had imposed national lockdown and containment measures. The practice of lockdown was first tried in the city of St. Louis in the United States during the 1918 Spanish flu. Curiously, the worst affected country in the world today with more 76,500 deaths didn't opt for a national lockdown.

The disease has now spread to over 212 countries, infecting millions in the process. The question arises as to how the disease had managed to spread globally without much warning. Were we lax in handling the situation or there were other silent factors at play, besides a booming Chinese economy and increasing global travel? The answer perhaps lies in the insidiousness of the SARS-CoV-2 contagion. According to epidemiologists, for any virus to successfully infect human populations on a large scale, it has to achieve a winning combination of deadliness and contagiousness. A contagion with extreme characteristics cannot spread much as the infected persons would develop symptoms very early and receive early treatment and containment measures. The Ebola virus is a deadly virus killing up to 50% of those who get sick but could claim only 11,300 lives. The symptoms of Eb-

ola virus disease are so severe that the affected persons were immediately isolated and contacts were quickly identified. Ebola therefore lacks the winning combination of deadliness and contagiousness. SARS has symptoms similar to those of Covid-19 and spreads through respiratory droplets and secondary transmission of infected surfaces. Yet it killed only 775 persons. MERS is deadlier than SARS-CoV-2 with 35% mortality but could kill only 858 persons. The MERS virus can transmit only through close contact and secondary transmission through infected surfaces has not been observed. SARS-CoV-2 can travel up to six feet and can be active on surfaces for hours. It appears that though the Covid-19 virus has a low mortality rate of around 2%, it has a higher contagious capability than other viruses. Further, as the incubation period of Covid-19 virus is more than twice than that of SARS and MERS, the contagion has twice as much time to disperse before manifesting itself through symptomatic individuals.

But then the Covid-19 virus has one sinister stealth weapon in its armoury, which the other viruses lack. And that is its ability to spread the disease through asymptomatic individuals, i.e., infected persons without any external symptoms of the disease. And this very fact made it possible for the contagion to spread far and wide through its silent carriers without setting off too

many alarm bells. This is precisely what makes Covid-19 virus a far more insidious one than the other contagions. The real danger is that the disease can manifest again in secondary waves through the asymptomatic individuals. Only random mass testing can give a real picture of the extent of the presence of the contagion in a population. South Korea had set an excellent example where they could successfully contain the disease in Daegu Province in early February through mass testing and contact tracing.

Various countries are now experimenting with a host of drugs for curing the disease. Meanwhile, a global race is on for developing a vaccine for the contagion. Experts are also talking about developing herd immunity against the disease. But achieving herd immunity against such an insidious virus shall take a long time and not before millions of human lives are lost. The real long-term solution lies only in developing an effective vaccine or a cure against the disease. Till such time, mass testing, containment and prevention are the only measures that we have for fighting the disease. As most contagions have originated from the wild, mankind needs to stop abusing nature if it really wants to avoid such pandemics in future. If Mother Nature can sustain mankind, she can turn into a bio-terrorist as well. The world has been cautioned.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, – The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in adverse effects on games and sports, but now there is an opportunity to regenerate a sporting environment in Assam because of the timely adoption of proactive measures by the State Government with active cooperation of the society. Keeping these in mind, I wish to suggest for organizing matches, may be of friendly nature in football and volleyball, two popular games, both in urban and rural areas with the adoption of physical distancing with wearing of masks, both on and off the field. This should be the responsibility of the organizers. Such events may be organized in open fields and not in stadia or under covered enclosures. It will help the players to upkeep the physical fitness in addition to relieving from mental agony. Consequently, the players will be able to adopt with the professional game, immediately after the withdrawal of restrictions for such activities. It is essential to rejuvenate the sporting environment in Assam taking advantage of the

Reviving sporting environment in Assam

relaxation of the lockdown measures. Further, games like table tennis and badminton, which are played without physical contact, can be played in indoor hall/stadium with restriction of number of players, coaches and officials at a given time. I request the Assam Olympic Association under the leadership of Lakshya Konwar, honorary secretary, to consider the proposals for phase-wise implementation under its project 'Grassroots Olympic' to revive the enthusiasm for acceleration of the sporting environment in Assam. Yours etc., Dr TAPAN DUTTA, Jorhat.

Zumba classes

Sir, – I fully endorse the views expressed by Angshuman Dutta in his article, 'Urgent need to save the fitness industry' (May 5). In addition to that I would like to highlight about Zumba and the problems being faced by the ZIN (Zumba Instructors Network) members. Zumba is a dance fitness programme and nowadays Zumba is the choice of many people around the globe, added in fitness regimes of gyms and dance studios to help keep people stress free, happy and healthy. I myself being a Zumba

instructor have been feeling the pinch since the beginning of this unavoidable lockdown. Though I have been conducting virtual classes, due to various technical difficulties, it is not always possible and also most of the clients have not been able to cope up with it compared to the regular classes. Since I am the sole earning member of my family, this continuous lockdown has made life miserable for me and my family. Zumba classes constitute a maximum of 5 to 10 participants in a class of one hour, and it will be easy to maintain social distancing as per the norms. So it is my request to the authorities concerned to support us in this time of crisis and allow the ZIN members to conduct classes at the designated centres by following the laid down guidelines. Such a step will be of immense help for us in sustaining our livelihood. Yours etc., JUMI HAZARIKA, Chandmari, Guwahati.

Lives or livelihood?

Sir, – I am astonished in the news published in various newspapers of Assam including *The Assam Tribune* on May 9, 2020 about the decision of the Assam Cabinet on the increase of

working hours of the industrial labour force to 12 hours from the lawfully established rules of eight hours. Equally disappointing is that the decision was taken seemingly without the application of judicious mind. For any man of ordinary prudence, it is not difficult to understand that the decision is being taken at the dictat of some industry tycoons completely dishonouring the interest of the labour force of the State. The interests of some industrial barons having rapport with high officials of the State Government could have made it possible to table the proposal tactfully for approval from the Cabinet to take a decision which is far more dangerous than Covid-19.

It would perhaps be more sensible for the Industries Minister of the State if he could impress upon the industrialists to engage the existing local unemployed youths in their industries or those who are arriving from other States in fear of Covid-19.

The pandemic situation arising due to the outbreak of Covid-19, I expect the Government to take effective steps to rejuvenate the State economy which is equally

important for the survival of the people while controlling the disease at the same time. Yours etc., NK MAHANTA, Lachit Nagar, Guwahati.

Tea and Covid-19

Sir, – The article written by the Assamese tea consultant Dr Siddhartha Sharma published in this daily (May 8) has opined that at this time of the novel coronavirus which affects the respiratory system, tea (*Camellia sinensis*) used as a beverage will help in improving the immune system and may assist in some way during treatment of the ailment, if more research can be carried out in this field. That tea has some medicinal value is a well-known fact. I think there is no harm if we drink four to five cups of black tea without sugar daily in addition to our normal tea, which may be with milk and sugar, till a vaccine or specific medicine is found for Covid-19. As tea is readily available and affordable, it will surely be of some help without any harmful effect. Yours etc., BIKASH BARPUIARI, Beltola, Guwahati.

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

Swine fever brings animal health issues in State to the fore

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 12: With the outbreak of the African swine fever, animal health issues, especially the pig health issue, have become a serious concern for the State as, for a large section of Assamese youths, pigery is a lucrative way of livelihood.

According to a source in the State veterinary department, till Monday more than 14,000 pigs died of swine fever and new cases have been reported from Nagaon district.

In Assam the entire piggy sector has been suffering from a number of issues or challenges right from the early days. According to the Assam Pig Breeding Policy, 2019, the pig farmers of Assam are facing six major challenges including the pig health issue.

The policy stated that there is a big gap

between the requirement and availability of feed and feed crops in Assam, particularly when it comes to pigs. This is because cultivation of maize, which is an important feed ingredient for pigs, is not popular in Assam. Because of this its cost is very high in the State and availability is not adequate.

Similarly, the indigenous varieties of pig are very poor performers in terms of body weight and prolificacy and it makes them unsuitable for profitable commercial ventures. The policy further stated that though achievable, improvement of the indigenous pigs through scientific selection as pure breeding stock is time consuming with an uncertainty factor.

Citing the issue of climate change and global warming, the policy stated that both the factors may have serious implications on the pig sector, which may manifest in the form

of heat stress, scarcity of quality and feed crops along with changes in the epidemiological pattern of vector-borne diseases.

To address the issue of climate change

Pig health has become a matter of serious concern for the State as, for a large section of Assamese youths, piggyery is a lucrative way of livelihood

and global warming, the policy suggested research on impact of climate change on pig production along with modification of feeding systems. It also emphasised the need to make efforts for better management of farm yard manure through composting and bio-gas plants under different programmes.



Knowledge gap at the level of primary producers is also a major issue, which needs to be addressed in the State's piggy sector. The policy said that most of the pig producers of the State are small and marginal farmers who have limited capacity to adopt the latest technological advancements.

Above all, the policy said, the piggy sector of Assam is handicapped by an inadequate marketing and processing infra-

structure. As a result, in most of the cases, primary producers do not get remunerative prices.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, Chairman of the Assam Livestock And Poultry Corporation (ALPCo) Manoj Saikia asserted that precaution and bio-safety measures are the ways to prevent the African swine fever in the State, as it is for the first time that the disease has been reported in the country.

Saikia also informed that ALPCo has sold around 27 tonnes of mutton, 18 tonnes of chicken and 20,800 plates of eggs during the current lockdown. Again, more than 200 local youths got employment through ALPCo's home delivery venture and retail sale. By selling various products ALPCo has earned around Rs 2,60,00,000 during the lockdown so far, Saikia added.

WEATHER GUWAHATI

LOCAL FORECAST :
Partly cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain/thundershower. Maximum and minimum temperatures are most likely to be 35°C & 21°C respectively on Wednesday.

TEMPERATURE:
Max 35.5°C
Min 22.4°C

Cong bid to bring back stranded people

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 12: The State Congress has constituted a committee to organise efforts to bring back people of Assam stranded in other states due to the lockdown.

State Congress general secretaries Pankaj Borbora and Ranjan Bora have been appointed as convenor and chairman respectively of the committee.

The development follows Congress president Sonia Gandhi's announcement that every Pradesh Congress Committee will bear the cost for the rail travel of workers stranded outside their respective states.

Legislator distributes rice among poor

GUWAHATI, May 12: West Guwahati MLA Ramendra Narayan Kalita today distributed 472 quintals of rice among 2,183 poor and needy families of Ambari Fatashil, Santipur, Lalganesh, Saokuchi, Betkuchi, Noonmati, Jyotikuchi etc.

Each family was given five kilograms of rice. The families thanked the MLA for his timely help, said a press release.

School asked to explain why it conducted exam

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 12: The Inspector of Schools of Kamrup (Metro) has sought a written explanation from Little Flower School, Hatigaon, over an examination the school conducted without any permission from the authorities amidst lockdown on Monday. Some people filed a complaint in the district administration in this regard yesterday.

Cotton students submit demand charter to CM

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 12: The Cotton University unit of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) submitted a charter of demands to the Chief Minister yesterday. The demands include reduction in rent fees for students, as many students of the university are staying as PGs and in rented rooms.

Researchers of IIT-G, Singapore institute use data science models

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 12: Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati and the Duke-NUS Medical School of Singapore have used data science models to analyse and carry out a state-wise assessment of the COVID-19 situation in India.

The data-driven assessment was carried out by Dr Palash Ghosh, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics of IIT Guwahati (IIT-G) and his PhD scholar Rik Ghosh, in collaboration with Dr Bibhas Chakraborty, Associate Professor at the Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore.

The assessment can predict the total number of infected people for different states in India in the next 30 days. Their report is based on the growth of active cases in recent times, along with the daily infection-rate (DIR) values for each state.

State-wise assessment of COVID-19 situation in India

is so because the first infection, new infection-rate, progression over time, and preventive measures taken by various state governments and the common public for each state are different. We need to address each state separately. It will enable the government/governments to utilise the limited available resources optimally," said Dr Ghosh.

The researchers label a state as severe if a non-decreasing trend in DIR values is observed over the last two weeks along

NFR stress on transporting essential medical items to NE

PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, May 12: With the entire country under the grip of the lockdown for over one-and-a-half months, the Maligaon-headquartered Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is giving additional importance to transportation and supply of essential medical and healthcare items and equipment to various states of the region.

"The Railways has played a significant role in providing its services for transportation of essential life saving drugs and medical equipment. There have been some really special cases. For example, there was a case last month when the blood sample of a patient was transported from Dibrugarh to Guwahati so that his doctor could decide on further treatment based on the blood report given by a Guwahati-based NABH-accredited laboratory," a senior NFR official told *The Assam Tribune*.

He added that the zonal railway has been able to transport more than 750 tonnes of medical and healthcare materials, including sanitizers, masks, medicines, blood sample bags, besides medical goods.

"We are making all efforts to ensure availability of essential commodities and medical equipment in this region during this crucial time. We have operated a few COVID-19 parcel special trains in some sections including Guwahati-Agartala-Guwahati, Guwahati-Dibrugarh-Guwahati, Guwahati-

hospital use and personal use, and baby foods," said the official.

Medical equipment and other health sector products have been mostly sourced from states like Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

"We have been using the parcel special trains to transport medicines and other



Mendipathar-Guwahati, Guwahati-Howrah-Guwahati and Guwahati-New Jalpaiguri-Guwahati in recent days. Medical and healthcare items and equipment have been sent from Guwahati to other places through this service," said the NFR official.

He added, "In-bound parcel express trains from other parts of the country are bringing such items, including medicines, masks, personal protection equipment (PPE), sanitizers for both

medical items and equipment. Unlike regular freight trains, the parcel service operates on a fixed timetable and the items can also be shipped in smaller quantities. Thus, unloading and transportation become easier for the parties which purchase the commodities," the official said.

NFR has transported such items for both institutional buyers as well as private traders dealing in medical and healthcare items and equipment.

PGSU against quarantine centres at colleges, varsities

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 12: The Post Graduate Students' Union (PGSU) of Gauhati University on Tuesday urged the State government not to set up quarantine centres at the colleges and universities of Assam.

The PGSU reaction came after two quarantine centres were set up on the campuses of Tezpur University and Kaziranga University. PGSU general secretary Moon Kumar Talukder said a quarantine centre will pose a serious threat to the staff and students who reside on the campus of an educational institution.

Talukder also appealed to all higher educational institutions of the State to conduct graduate and post-graduate examinations only after two months of regular classes, as a large number of students have not been able to participate in the online classes due to various reasons.

Talukder further asked the State government to issue an order to waive the hostel and PG rents of students.

Online essay contest on COVID impact

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 12: To channelise youth energy towards a productive activity, the Gauhati Commerce College is organising an online essay competition on 'Impact of COVID-19, the pandemic, on Indian industry, trade and commerce' for all students from class IX to postgraduate of any stream.

E-certificates will be given to all the participants besides attractive cash prizes of Rs 10,000, Rs 6,000 and Rs 4,000 to the top three winners. The details can be obtained from www.gauhaticommercecollege.in.

The competition is being held under the aegis of the Departments of MCom and BBA of the college. Interested students can mail their queries, if any, to gconlineevents@gmail.com.

Tea producers' body seeks aid from State govt

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 12: The COVID-induced shutdown of the tea industry for two weeks during the peak season will result in an estimated crop loss of around 70 million kilograms in Assam. The Tea Association of India, a major body of tea producers, has urged the Government of Assam to announce a relief package to help the industry tide over the crisis.

The Association has estimated a total crop loss to the tune of around 110 million kg across the country. "The shutdown at the beginning of the manufacturing season has virtually disabled the tea sector as seasonal production of the sector has ceased," it stated.

The tea producers' body has written to the Commissioner and Secretary of the State Industry and Commerce Department, seeking the government's assistance on matters related to payment of wages, provident fund, credit issues, ration, loan repayment, *et al*.

The Association has also stated that the onus of payment of full wages during the COVID-19 lockdown period may be waived as the gardens do not have the required liquidity.

"Payment of provident fund to the tea workers of all registered gardens is for three months, on the same lines as proposed by the Central government. However, as the tea industry is labour-intensive and the output per worker in terms of rupee value is less, the employment criteria of maximum 100 workers may be removed. In case of Assam, which has its own managed Provident Fund for tea workers, the deposit by the Central government shall have

to be made to Assam Tea Employees Provident Fund Organization on behalf of employers and employees," the Association stated.

It also urged the government to make a provision for issuing ration to the workers for the next six months on behalf of the management.

"The tea plantation sector would require a 25 pc increase in working capital limits up to March, 2021, to ensure that estates run smoothly and without any defaults. It may be mentioned that the State Bank of India has recently announced a 10 pc increase in cash credit limits. This needs to be done across the board," it added.

Regarding loan repayment, the organization said that the tea industry has been under acute financial stress for the last few years, which has impeded its viability. It urged the government for a one-year moratorium on all loan repayments and also interest payments to prevent most companies from defaults. It further demanded a reduction in the interest rate on all credit to tea gardens and tea companies to four per cent per annum for the season 2020. "If banks aren't willing, the government should provide the necessary assistance to the banks and declare a relief package," the memorandum stated.

It further asked the government to extend the validity of the Assam Taxation (Liquidation of Arrears Dues) Act, 2017, up to June 2020.

The Association also asked the government to allow deployment of workers for developmental work under the MGNREGA scheme within the tea estates, extend the benefits of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana to the tea gardens and a waiver in the electricity demand charge for the lockdown period.

Central relief package for poor

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 12: The Union government recently announced a relief package of Rs 1.70 lakh crore under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) for the poor to help them fight the battle against coronavirus.

As part of the said package, the Centre proposes to pay 24 per cent of the monthly wages into the EPF account for the three months—March, April and May, a

statement issued by the regional office of the Employees' Provident Fund Organization said here today.

According to the statement, the benefits will be available to establishments having up to 100 employees with 90 per cent or more such employees earning monthly wages up to Rs 15,000.

The entire employees' EPF contribution and employer's EPF and EPS contributions of the monthly wages for the three months shall

be paid directly by the Central government in the EPF account of the employees.

"The employer in relation to any eligible establishment shall disburse wages for the month to all employees of the establishment and file ECR to avail the benefit under the scheme," it said. The employer shall not deduct the employee's share of EPF contribution from the monthly wages for the months of March, April and May, the statement added.

Role of community radio highlighted

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 12: "Community Radio (CR), Citizen Band Radio (CB) and Amateur Radio (HAM) are the communication media that reach the widest audience around the world and can also be recognised as powerful communication tools and low-cost mediums to perform self-studies, research and development works, to provide non-profit local and worldwide communication experiments with electromagnetic waves."

This was stated by Taher-

uddin Ahmed, an Assam Police officer and amateur HAM radio operator based in Guwahati, while taking part in a tech talk titled 'Integration of Community Radio (CR), Citizen Band Radio (CB) and Amateur Radio (HAM) networks during Disaster' organised by Pune Hams on Sunday.

Such radios have a lot of potential to weave together a community into a stronghold and can give a boost to rural development. These can also be utilised as providers of supplementary communication for pre-disaster preparedness, relief, rescue, rehabilitation

and mitigation to the disaster control agencies during emergency, he added.

Ahmed has used the HAM radio network in the country to help people stranded in states like Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

As community radio broadcasts only the information, it is required to collect the actual information at the level of disaster-affected areas or community people. In this case HAM Radio and Citizen Band Radio are the only means for conveying the real information even in remote areas, Ahmed further said.



People stand in queue to receive food being distributed by an NGO at Athgaon, in Guwahati on Tuesday. — UB Photos

Maharashtra to release 17,000 prisoners temporarily

MUMBAI, May 12: Maharashtra has decided to release on temporary parole 17,000 of the total 35,000 inmates lodged across jails in the State to contain the spread of COVID-19, Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said on Tuesday. Of these, 5,000 undertrial inmates have already been released.

The decision comes close on the heels of 185 inmates at the Arthur Road Jail in Mumbai contracting the viral disease, Deshmukh said.

Earlier, a high-powered committee appointed by the Maharashtra government decided to temporarily release around 50 per cent of the total prisoners to decongest jails across the State in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. – PTI

No. CE/Maint/AD/127/2020/3

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer PWD (Roads), Assam, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites re-bid for Construction of work under Asom Darshan for the year 2019 – 20 amounting to Rs. 188.75 Lakh in 1 (one) package under Dhubri district in the state of Assam.

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 20.05.2020 to 03.06.2020.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads)
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/CF/247/20

No. DPU/SOPD-G/06/2020/166

Cancellation Notice

It is for general information to all concerned that the Bid vide Tender ID. 2020_KAAC_17444_1 for the work "Re-construction of road from DAV School to Agriculture Mechanical Office road via Housing Board by BM, SDBC & side drain, L=806.00 M under SOPD-G for the year 2019-20" is hereby cancelled due to technical reason. Fresh Notice will be floated for the same shortly.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B),
Diphu Circle-1, Diphu
Janasanyog/CF/273/20

No. PTDC/Redg/770/2018-19

NOTICE INVITING REGISTRATION/RENEWAL OF CONTRACTORS

The Managing Director, Assam Plains Tribes Development Corporation Ltd. invites application for registration/renewal of contractors for the year 2020-21 for execution of various works under the Corporation. The complete application form will be available in the Corporation office with effect from 18.05.2020.

Sd/- Managing Director,
Assam Plains Tribes Development Corporation Ltd.
Ganeshguri, Ghy-5
Janasanyog/CF/265/20

NOTICE

Application in prescribed form affixing non-refundable Court Fee Stamps of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & paise twenty five) only are hereby invited for Renewal of Contractors' Registration against Class-III category under Hojai P.H.E. Division for the year 2020-21 and will be received upto 12.06.2020 by the undersigned.

The Application Form may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days upto 11.06.2020. No application form will be issued after the specified date in any circumstances.

Renewal Form will be issued on payment of Rs. 200.00 (Rupees two hundred) only in form of I.P.O. duly pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer (PHE), Hojai Division, Hojai. A 50% concession is applicable for SC/ST/OBC/MOBC contractors in this regard.

Photocopy of PAN Card, GST Registration with upto-date clearance certificate, Labour Licence, Affidavit for vehicle Tax clearance, Bank Pass Book, Caste Certificate (where applicable) should be attached invariably alongwith the application.

Renewal Number shall be issued to the applicant after receipt of all documents. The Registration is subject to cancellation at any time in the event of adverse police report from the concerning authority as well as misbehaviour to the Departmental Staff.

Sd/- Executive Engineer (PHE),
Hojai Division, Hojai
Janasanyog/C/347/20

NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION

NIQ No. BOCWWB/CA-CORRESPONDENTS/02/18/1369

Sealed Quotations affixing court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 are invited by the Member Secretary, Assam Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board from Qualified Chartered Accountants - Individually or under firm (Proprietorship or Partnership); holding C&AG empanelment, with experience of more than 10 years; having average turnover in last 3 years of more than 10 lakhs; having head office at Guwahati and not debarred/sanctioned by Government/PSUs or banks. The bidders must mandatory have GST, PAN/TAN.

Data Sheet:

1	Name of Assignment	'Appointment of internal auditor cum tax & financial consultant of to be appointed for FY 2018-2019 to 2020-2021 (3 years)'
2	Mode of Assignment	Lump Sum
3	Submission Deadline	20.05.2020 at 2.00 P.M.
	Submission Address	Office of the Labour Commissioner, Gopinath Nagar, Ghy-16
4	Sealed Quotation Shall Consists of	a. Notice Inviting Quotation duly signed and sealed by the bidder. b. Financial Quote in Prescribed Format - Form-I duly signed and sealed by the Bidder affixing court fee stamp. c. Terms of Reference Duly Signed and sealed by the bidder. d. GST, PAN/TAN e. C&AG empanelment certificates and experience proof of 10 years. f. Audited statement showing Annual Turnover as per eligibility criteria. g. Any other documents to prove the eligibility. h. EMD - Rs. 10000/- ['Bankers' Cheque/D.D./F.D/B.G from recognized scheduled banks of India] i. Bid Processing Fees; Rs. 500/- ['Bankers' Cheque/D.D./F.D/B.G from recognized scheduled banks of India] In favour of Member Secretary, ABOCWWB.
5	Last date of submission of queries	15.05.2020 at bcwssam@gmail.com

Bidders are requested to collect the detailed document from the website labourcommissioner.assam.gov.in. Latest by 20.05.2020. Bidders are requested to communicate the queries latest by the date as mentioned in Data Sheet vide email at bcwssam@gmail.com. Due to current pandemic situation, visiting office is not encouraged and all communication may be done electronically except submission of quotation. The Appointed bidder shall have to execute a contract agreement. Any addendum/corrigendum if issued shall be a part of this NIQ and contract. The intender reserves the right to select any or none of the bidders without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Labour Commissioner, Assam
-cum-
Member Secretary, ABOCWWB
Janasanyog/C/341/20

This summer is unusual, say meteorologists

NEW DELHI, May 12: With no major heat waves recorded in the core zones so far and excess rainfall across the country, this summer is turning out to be unusual, say meteorologists.

Summer sets in March in the core heat wave zones of the north, central and east India, and intensifies in April and May until the first week of June, when the Monsoon winds arrive.

Apart from the northern and eastern plains, central India's Vidarbha-Marathwada region, Gujarat, and parts of southern India in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana are known as core heat wave zones, where temperatures rise above 45 degrees Celsius.

In western Rajasthan, the maximum temperature even crosses the half-century mark.

The IMD predicted above normal temperatures in core heat wave zones this summer. However, the temperature has not peaked to that level yet.

Instead, India received 25 per cent excess rainfall between March 1 and May 11, according to the India Meteorological Department.

OP Sreejith, a senior scientist with the Long Range Forecast unit of IMD in Pune, said March recorded 47 per cent more rainfall than normal and April saw 8 per cent more.

"This is not a usual phenomenon," said IMD Director-General Mrutunjay Mohapatra.

Mahesh Palawat, the vice president of private forecaster Skymet Weather, said there are usually two instances of heat waves in April.

The IMD declares a heat wave when temperatures rise 5-6 degrees Celsius above normal. If it is above 7 degrees Celsius than normal the IMD declares a severe heat wave.

Sathi Devi, head of the National Weather Forecasting Centre of the IMD, said there was one heat wave in Gujarat in April but it was not wide-

spread.

This month, temperature in parts of Rajasthan rose above 40 but a western disturbance brought rains and pulled the mercury down again.

Devi attributed the lower temperatures in the northern plains to the frequent western disturbances that brought rain and thunderstorms.

A western disturbance is a cyclonic storm originating in the Mediterranean and traversing across the central Asia.

When it comes in contact with the Himalayas, it brings rain to the plains and hills. This is a crucial phenomenon in the winters.

Devi said parts of east and south India have also been witnessing thunderstorm activities which have kept the temperatures below the normal.

May has seen two western disturbances. Another one is expected later this week.

But the temperature could rise after May 16, Skymet's Palawat cautioned. – PTI

Non-invasive ventilator for COVID-19

BENGALURU, May 12: The National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) said it has developed a non-invasive BiPAP ventilator to treat COVID-19 patients, in record 36 days.

The ventilator, named Swasth Vayu, is the culmination of efforts of a team of technocrats, medical practitioners and scientists at NAL, who worked relentlessly amid the lockdown.

The major advantage of this device is that it is simple to use without any specialized nursing, cost effective, compact and configured with majority of indigenous components, the premier aerospace lab of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) said in a release. It was ideal for treating COVID-19 patients in wards, makeshift hospitals, dispensaries and homes.

CSIR-NAL is in process of taking it forward with the regulatory authorities for approval, and dialogue has already been initiated with public and private industries as a partner for mass production. – PTI

PRESS NOTICE/IFB

No. CS/EGTRD/SOPD/2019-20/722/1 Dated: 11.05.2020

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

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads)
Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Guwahati-21
Janasanyog/CF/246/20

No. FAAMCH/TEND_DISINFECT/1576/2020/889

NOTICE

Sealed tenders affixing non-refundable Court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25/- (Rupees eight & twenty five paise) only from the reputed & experienced Manufacturer/ Authorized Stockiest/Distributors or Authorized Dealers/ Sub-Dealers are invited for supply of Colour Coded Bio Medical Waste Collection Bags, Bins & O.T. Disinfectant Items at F.A.A. Medical College Hospital, Barpeta.

The tender documents containing detailed information/terms and conditions for the purpose can be obtained from the Office of the Superintendent, from 14.05.2020 to 02.06.2020 between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with non-refundable payment of Rs. 1000/- . The tender documents are non-transferable.

The last date and time of submission of tender is 3rd June, 2020 upto 12.30 p.m. and the tender will be opened on the same day at 1.30 p.m. in presence of the intending suppliers or their authorized representatives. The tenders are to be submitted in the office of the Superintendent, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Medical College Hospital, Barpeta on all the working days during office hours.

Sd/- Superintendent
F.A.A. Medical College Hospital
Barpeta, Assam.
Janasanyog/C/374/20

Revenue deficit ... State entering...

(Contd from page 1)

The grant comes at a time when the states are facing scarcity of funds amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant will help the state governments to take preventive and mitigation measures for containment of COVID-19, including setting up quarantine facilities and testing laboratories.

Even at the video conference with the Prime Minister yesterday several chief ministers, including those belonging to the BJP-ruled states, called for additional funds to fight the menace of COVID-19. Citing emergency and poor inflow of revenue, including GST, owing to the lockdown, the states demanded more Central funds to tide over the crisis.

Post devolution revenue deficit grant is a mechanism provided by the Finance Commission for compensation of any loss incurred by the states. This grant forms the second largest chunk of Finance Commission transfers after the assistance to local rural bodies, sources said.

(Contd from page 1)

The tests burden on the State is increasing every day. Each of the seven labs in the State can conduct around 300 tests daily. So far, the number of tests conducted in the State is around 20,000 and the result backlog is 1113.

By road, so far 3597 people have entered the State since May 4 through the Srirampur and Sago-gia gates and all have been quarantined at the four regional centres set up at Kokrajhar, Guwahati, Jorhat and Silchar. However, test results of all are negative and the result of one is pending, paving the way for their home quarantine.

COVID recovery rate ...

(Contd from page 1)

According to the Health Ministry, the death toll due to COVID-19 rose to 2,293 and the positive cases climbed to 70,756, registering an increase of 87 deaths and 3,604 cases in the last 24 hours till Tuesday 8 am.

"While the doubling time in the past 14 days was 10.9, it has improved to 12.2 in the last three days," Vardhan was

quoted as saying in a statement.

Of the total active cases, as on Monday, 2.37 per cent patients are in ICU, 0.41 per cent on ventilators and 1.82 per cent on oxygen support, he said.

The Minister said the testing capacity has increased to 1 lakh tests per day with 347 government laboratories and 137 private labs.

"Cumulatively, 17,62,840 tests have been done so far for COVID-19. Whereas, 86,191 samples were tested on Monday," he said.

The Centre, states and UTs are taking cohesive efforts to combat the coronavirus and "this provides us the assurance that the country is well-prepared to face any eventuality due to COVID-19", he said. – PTI

Air India on mission ...

(Contd from page 1)

"Whenever the country is in need, the Air India has always been making its best efforts to carry out the responsibility entrusted to it and this time also the national career is acting as the extended arm of the Government to carry out the Vande Bharat exercise," the Air India spokesman said.

Even when the pandemic broke out, the Air India operated two Boeing 747 flights to evacuate Indians stranded in Wuhan, the epicenter of COVID-19 in the month of January itself. Similar rescue flights were operated to bring back stranded Indians from Japan, Milan and Rome. Flights were also operated to Rajasthan to

bring back Indians from Iran for quarantine.

Air India also operated chartered flights to fly out foreigners stranded in India during the lockdown period. These chartered flights started on March 31 when German nationals were flown to Frankfurt. The Air India also ferried 317 Israeli nationals to Tel Aviv.

Part of Fancy Bazar ...

(Contd from page 1)

He had also worked at a potato godown at Changsari that has also been declared a containment zone as five of Sahani's co-workers have shown fever-like symptoms.

"It is possible that the source of the virus could be some truck driver and it spread from the godown," Health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said. He added that ten direct contacts of Sahani have

been put in isolation and samples collected from them as well as from nineteen of his indirect contacts, including a doctor.

Samples have been also collected from 21 family members of Amarjyoti Deka (28), a patient of GMCH who tested positive for COVID-19 yesterday.

The minister said test results of only the last batch are remaining and the others have been negative for the virus.

"We hope we will be able to open GMCH for general patients from May 15," the minister said.

Meanwhile, there was panic in the Fancy Bazar area today following the COVID-19 case. The traders of the greater Fancy Bazar area closed their shops at 12 noon.

Sahani was engaged in loading and unloading of bags of potato and onion at a Fancy Bazar godown of Rajkamal Hotel.

Arrangements ready ...

(Contd from page 1)

"On arrival at their destination, the passengers will have to adhere to prevailing health protocols of the destination state. A list of passengers travelling in the train will be shared with state government for their information and for making necessary arrangements at their end," he added.

Medical screening of the passengers will be carried out by the State health department at the station platform. However, doctors of the Indian Railways will also be present to extend assistance if needed.

Asked about transportation of passengers from the Guwahati railway station to their

respective destinations, Chanda said, "That responsibility lies with the State government. Not all passengers who de-board in Guwahati may be locals of the city. Some will be travelling to places like Nagaon or Nalbari or Hajo. Whether or when or how they will be provided transportation to their respective destinations or whether they will be sent to quarantine or allowed to go home and other such things will be decided by the State government."

Meanwhile, sources in the Indian Railways said that 1,122 passengers have booked tickets in the New Delhi-Dibrugarh Passenger Special. "From New Delhi, a total of

442 passenger name records (PNRs) were generated for 1,122 passengers travelling in the New Delhi-Dibrugarh Passenger Special," said an official on condition of anonymity.

However, the exact numbers of passengers who will de-board at various stations have not been made available so far. The first outbound train from Assam, the Dibrugarh-New Delhi Passenger Special, will depart from Dibrugarh on May 14.

The Indian Railways has also made it mandatory for all the passengers availing the special trains to install the government's Aarogya Setu mobile application.

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, PWD Biswanath District Territorial Road Division, Biswanath Chariali invites bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for Road Projects in Biswanath Districts of Assam from Approved and eligible Contractor Class-I (A, B, C), II and III of Assam PWD (Roads) according to their limit of eligibilities for the following works under 5th Assam Finance Commission for the year 2019-20 with estimated costs and Nos of schemes shown against Behali LAC.

Details may be seen at the office of the undersigned during office hours from 18.05.2020.

Sl. No.	Name of LAC	No. of Schemes	Approximate value of work (Rs. in lakhs)
1	76-Behali	3 Nos	32.00
Total		3 Nos	32.00

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD
Biswanath District Territorial Road Division,
Biswanath Chariali
Janasanyog/CF/242/20

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, PWD Biswanath District Territorial Road Division, Biswanath Chariali invites bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for Road Projects in Biswanath Districts of Assam from Approved and eligible Contractor Class-I (A, B, C), II and III of Assam PWD (Roads) according to their limit of eligibilities for the following works under SOPD (G) for the year 2019-20 with estimated costs and Nos of schemes shown against Behali LAC.

Details may be seen at the office of the undersigned during office hours from 21.05.2020.

Sl. No.	Name of LAC	No of Schemes	Approximate value of work (Rs. in lakhs)
1	76-Behali	2 Nos	73.98
Total		2 Nos	73.98

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD
Biswanath District Territorial Road Division,
Biswanath Chariali
Janasanyog/CF/244/20

No. SLPRB/REC/PC/CD & HG/2018/89

NOTICE

It is for general information that the receipt of applications for the following posts was open before imposition of lockdown and a large number of candidates could not submit the on-line applications due to lockdown. Hence the last date for submission of applications is extended upto 15-06-2020. Those who have applied before imposition of lockdown need not to submit application afresh.

Sl. No.	Name of recruitment	No. of Posts	Date of Advertisement
1	Platoon Commander under Directorate of Civil Defence & Home Guard	35	19-03-2020
2	Recruitment of 170 posts of Jr. Asstt. in Assam Police (District Level)	170	21-03-2020
	Recruitment of 19 posts of Stenographer in Assam Police (District Level)	19	
	Recruitment of 15 posts of Jr. Asstt. in Assam Police (Directorate Level)	15	
3	Asstt. Deputy Controller Civil Defence(Jr.) under DGCD & CGHG	06	17-03-2020
	Civil Defence Demonstrator, Wireless Operator/ PBX Operator under DGCD CGHG	28	

Sd/- Chairman
State Level Police Recruitment Board, Assam.
Rehabari, Guwahati.
Janasanyog/D/523/20

RE-TENDER NOTICE

O.O. No. 45

Sealed tender affixing Court Fee Stamp worth of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only are invited from the intending Govt. registered contractors / Firms for implementation of 3rd year maintenance of 5 ha block plantation at Sola R.F. of following work under CAMPA scheme during 2020-21. The tender will be received from 12/05/2020 upto 3.00 P.M. (IST) on 26/05/2020 and opened on the same date at 3.30 PM. in presence of the tenderers or their authorized representative at the office of the Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Sivasagar. If due to certain unavoidable circumstances, the tender paper will be received and opened on the next working day upto the stipulated time.

Details particulars of the work may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours and tender paper may be obtained from the office of the undersigned on any working days upto 26/05/2020. On payment of Rs.500.00 (Rupees Five Hundred) only in the form of Banker Cheque / Demand Draft payable at Divisional Forest Officer, Social Forestry Division, Sivasagar which is not refundable.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost of the work (in Rs.)	Location	Earnest money	Time of completion of work
1	Vacancy filling including soil working carriage of stamps / polypot seedling.	85,313.00	Sola R.F.	2% for General and 1% for Reserved category	As per departmental calendar
2	1st weeding				
3	2nd weeding.(part)				
4	Cattle watching, upkeepment of plantation, mulching and fire protection works				

The acceptance of the tenders and the issue of work order is subject to release of fund by the Govt. of Assam / Competent authority without hereby incurring any liabilities to the affected tenderers any obligation to inform the affected tenderer of the grounds.

Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division, Sivasagar
Janasanyog/C/367/20



WEATHER NORTHEAST
Forecast for NE: Rain/thunderstorm is very likely to occur at many places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya and at a few places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

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

Temperatures:

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	30.7	23.0
Tezpur	35.0	23.4
Silchar	36.3	23.8
Dhubri	33.6	25.2
Jorhat	32.0	22.4
N Lakhimpur	32.6	23.4
Shillong	24.1	-
Cherrapunjee	25.6	17.0
Aizawl	30.2	18.7
Kohima	23.7	15.8
Pasighat	29.3	20.6
Itanagar	34.7	22.6
Imphal	32.8	19.5
Agartala	37.0	25.4

Two more BSF personnel test COVID-19 positive in Tripura

AGARTALA, May 12: In a respite after ten consecutive days of multiple cases, only two BSF officials on Monday tested positive for coronavirus, taking the total number of positive cases among the paramilitary troopers and their kin in Tripura to 150, Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said.

Deb, in a tweet, said: "In a massive COVID-19 test among 750 civilian and BSF in Dhalai District today (Monday), two Border Security Force officials were found COVID-19 positive. All patients (undergoing treatment at the hospitals in Agartala) are responding well to the treatment. With the blessings of Mata

Tripurasundari soon our state will be Corona free."

According to the Tripura Health officials, the two fresh cases were found in the BSF's 86th Battalion headquartered at Ambassa, the district headquarters of Dhalai, 82 km north of Agartala.

The Chief Minister said that no civilian living near the BSF Battalion headquarters was found positive yet.

According to State Health officials, the 150 positive cases included 124 BSF personnel, including officers, of the two battalions (86th and 138th) and 25 family members - 14 children, 11 women and a civilian mess worker. The headquarters

of both 86th and 138th Battalions at Ambassa were earlier declared a Red Zone by the Union Health Ministry after the BSF jawans and their family members tested positive.

The Health officials said that most of the infected persons were brought to Agartala and are now undergoing treatment at the State-run Govind Ballabh Pant Medical College and Hospital, a dedicated COVID-19 hospital.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Sanjay Kumar Rakesh said that the swab samples of most suspected jawans of the 86th and 138th Battalions have already been tested. - IANS

Despite testing negative, neighbours boycott Tripura man

AGARTALA, May 12: A 37-year-old man was not allowed to enter his home by the neighbours even as he tested negative for the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), forcing him to go to a quarantine centre set up by the Health authority in Tripura.

Gobinda Debnath spent over Rs 30,000 to hire a car in Assam, and then it took him three days to reach Tripura, and finally his residence at Joynagar on the outskirts of State capital Agartala.

Debnath, who works at a mechanical workshop in Agartala, recently went to Assam to accompany his father to Guwahati. For him, a fresh struggle began when he was about to enter his home at Joynagar on Sunday night.

"Over 5,000 people, mostly intoxicated, prevented Debnath from entering his home. Police officers and health officials tried to pacify Debnath's neighbours but they became more agitated and also tried to

harass us," West Tripura District Health Officer Sangeeta Chakraborty said.

She told this news agency: "We have tried to tell the people for several hours late Sunday night that Debnath has tested COVID-19 negative, but the locals remained unconvincing. With no other alternative, we took Debnath to the institutional quarantine centre in SIPARD (State Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development complex on the outskirts of the city) late Sunday night."

"By gathering in large numbers to prevent Debnath from entering his home, the crowd, who live in a small housing complex and nearby, did not maintain social distancing," the Health official said.

Sensing the hostile situation, Debnath's wife Mampi Debnath, a pregnant woman, also asked her husband to go to the quarantine centre. The couple has also a teenage daughter.

"As everyone asked me to go away, and prevented me

from entering my house even though I am a corona-free person, what can I say or do?" said a dejected Debnath at the quarantine centre on Monday.

Debnath lives with his three-member family and in-laws in a small flat allotted to his mother-in-law, Bhanu Das, under a government housing scheme for people living below the poverty line.

Following the standard practice, the authorities have tested Debnath's samples near Churaibari, a Tripura-Assam inter-State border point after he entered Tripura from Assam last week.

After testing negative, he was escorted by the police to his residential complex in Joynagar on Sunday night.

Debnath's case sheds light on the insensitivity and stigma associated with coronavirus. Faced with similar cases of prejudice and social boycott, the State administration has been struggling to sensitise people. - IANS

Minor boy killed in road mishap

ITANAGAR, May 12: A minor boy was killed and three others were injured when the vehicle they were travelling in, skidded off the road and fell down into a deep gorge near Sagalee in Papum Pare district today, the police said.

The 12-year-old boy identified as Nani Byoda died on the spot and his parents and younger sister sustained injuries when their car (AR-04 4447) fell into a 60-metre gorge at Meb village, stated the Officer-in-charge of the Sagalee Police Station, Inspector Kime Kimmo.

The boy's father, Nani Tada, mother Nani Yakang and sister Nani Sunka (8) were being evacuated to the RK Mission Hospital in Itanagar, the OC said. The accident occurred around 7.30 am when Nani Tada and his family were proceeding towards Rupa in West Kameng district from Itanagar. Tada is a UDC under the PWD. - Correspondent

Arrested Sikkim research scholar released on bail

GANGTOK, May 12: Research scholar of Sikkim University and student leader Lalit Pokhrel Sharma, who was arrested for a post on Facebook, was released on bail today after spending two days in police custody.

Sharma's arrest had earlier enraged several sections of people in Sikkim. The Sikkim Progressive Youth Forum had vehemently condemned the arrest. "We believe the arrest of an individual for his Facebook post is a violation of the fundamental rights of citizens," the group said.

An FIR was filed against Sharma for his alleged Facebook post on the condition of a quarantine centre. The research scholar had called for better facilities for quarantined people in the post, which is still available on his Facebook account.

Earlier, the Bhaichung Bhutia-led Hamro Sikkim Party (HSP) had also condemned the arrest.

"If the new Government uses undemocratic measures to suppress the right to free speech, the HSP will oppose it. We demand all charges against Sharma be dropped," said Biraj Adhikari, spokesperson of the party. - A Correspondent



Needy villagers receiving food items during a distribution programme at Umkiang village in East Jaintia Hills district of Meghalaya on Tuesday. - UB Photos

Nagaland disburses Rs 7.57-crore aid to stranded residents

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, May 12: The Nagaland Government has so far disbursed a total of Rs 7.57 crore as financial assistance to 19,464 people of the State stranded outside, by transferring the amounts to their respective bank accounts. Out of these citizens, 14,357 are working people, 4,933 are students and 175 are patients, Principal Secretary (Home) Abhijit Sinha said during his briefing on COVID-19 situation in the State today.

Sinha said it was mandatory for the stranded people, who are returning to the State, to register themselves

on the COVID-19 Nagaland-Visitors app available for Android users. As for iOS users or others, they can contact the toll-free helpline number, 1800-345-0019, for technical support, he added.

The Principal Secretary said that altogether 882 samples were sent for testing from the state till 4 pm on Tuesday. The results of 872 samples have been received and all have tested negative, he added. The results of the remaining ten samples are awaited. Besides, 11 samples were also tested through TrueNat machines and all tested negative, he added.

Sinha said 6,532 people

were screened on Tuesday, while 86 persons are under facility quarantine in the State. He asked everyone to follow proper hand hygiene and maintain social distancing at all places.

Joint Secretary Hiazu Meru, in his report on law and order and facilitation of essential goods and services during the lockdown, said there was no shortage in the supply of essential goods in the State. He pointed out that shops dealing in essential goods, foodgrains, groceries, milk and medicines are open in all districts of the State.

The report said there is no restriction on the move-

ment of providers of essential services like electricity, telecom facilities, medical facilities, etc., and personnel and workers engaged in manufacturing units, and commercial vehicles for distribution of essential commodities and e-commerce. It added that suitable arrangements for providing food and shelter to affected migrant workers are being made.

According to the report, there are four active relief camps where 64 migrant workers are housed. In four active food camps, more than 350 daily wagers and needy persons are being provided food and dry rations.

Meghalaya COVID-19 patient tests negative

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, May 12: A COVID-19 patient of Meghalaya tested negative today. However, the samples of the patient will be retested after 24 hours for further confirmation.

"The 11th patient, who has been coming out positive in the last two tests conducted, was tested again and the result is negative. We will have to conduct another test after 24 hours for the final outcome," Chief Minister Conrad Sangma tweeted.

There are two active COVID-19 cases at the moment, including the one who tested negative today.

Meanwhile, after a six-hour marathon video conference with the Prime Minister and other Chief Ministers on Monday evening, Sangma said that "a lot of freedom and flexibility" has been given to States to decide on the relaxation.

He said that States have to decide on restarting economic activities and also on the containment zones. Sangma added that general restrictions on the use of public transport like trains, buses and flights would remain throughout the country.

Sangma told the Prime Minister that economic planning and support to the States should be accorded priority by the Central Government.

The Meghalaya Chief Minister said that all States are facing financial issues and therefore, the Centre's intervention is the need of the hour. He also mentioned the Economic Task Force that the State has formed to boost the State's economy during the lockdown period.

Sangma further said that all States must be allowed to initiate their own plans. The Chief Minister was also of the view that inter-State movement should be minimized for the time being to stop the spread of the virus.

On the other hand, the State Government has launched an economic survey for businesses, entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals. The objective of the survey is to generate data on the disruption caused to businesses due to the pandemic.

The State Government has asked businesses, entrepreneurs and self-employed individuals to register for the survey through the online portal, meghalayaonline.gov.in/covid.

Extend lockdown: Mizoram CM to PM

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, May 12: Mizoram will complete a 62-day lockdown on May 17, but Chief Minister Zoramthanga is in favour of its extension as a precautionary measure.

Though Mizoram falls under the Green Zone as of now, the Chief Minister, during the video conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi late on Monday evening, said it was necessary to extend the lockdown as Mizoram is surrounded by countries and States where the number of COVID-19 cases is still high.

Zoramthanga also attributed the State's virus-free status to the discipline of its people and the combined efforts of the church, NGOs and administration. "With the help of the church, NGOs and the State Government, we have managed to contain COVID-19 and are determined to do so in future," the Chief Minister said.

Zoramthanga pointed out that crucial days are ahead as thousands of stranded citizens are coming home from various States and Union Territories. He urged the Prime Minister to arrange special trains to bring home stranded Mizoram citizens and ensure that the trains carry them up to the Bairabi Railway Station in north Mizoram.

Tripura Cabinet moves Gov to appoint council Administrator

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, May 12: Ending all speculation on the fate of the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), the State Cabinet today decided to approach Governor Ramesh Bais to appoint an Administrator to run the autonomous council after May 17.

The tenure of the current council is scheduled to end on May 17. The State Election Commission had conducted a revision of the electoral rolls in February and also published the final rolls.

Shortly before the coronavirus-induced lockdown, the State poll panel postponed the council election process following an advisory from the State Government.

"Since election is not possible in the TTAADC by May 17 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council of Ministers today decided to request the Governor to appoint an Administrator for the tribal council. This will be communicated to the Raj Bhavan shortly," said State Law Minister Ratan Lal Nath here today.

The CPI(M), which has an absolute majority in the TTAADC, has been ruling the tribal council since 2005.

ASSAM POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LIMITED
A fully customer centric company

e-Procurement Notice
(National Competitive Tender using Two-Envelope e-Procurement Process without Pre-qualification)

The Government of India has applied for financing from the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) towards the cost of Assam Distribution System Enhancement and Loss Reduction Project and intends to apply a part of the proceeds to make payment under the contract for the following works:

Construction of new 33/11kV substation with construction of new 33kV Terminal Bay construction of 33kV & 11kV lines for Distribution System Enhancement and Loss Reduction in Mangaldoi Electrical Circle on turnkey basis in LOT I: Mangaldoi Part-I, LOT II: Mangaldoi Part-II, LOT III: Mangaldoi Part-III for Assam Distribution System Enhancement and Loss Reduction.

The Chief Project Manager, PIU, APDCL, hereby invites online tenders from eligible Contractors.

Interested Tenderers may submit tender online at www.assamtenders.gov.in or before 15-06-2020.

Detailed Invitation for Tender and Tender Documents are available at www.assamtenders.gov.in and at "AIIB Projects" button of www.apdcl.org

The tenderer downloading the documents may kindly inform the undersigned at apdcl.piu.aiib@gmail.com for our record.

Sd/- Chief Project Manager, PIU, APDCL

Please pay your energy bill on time and help us to serve you better!

POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD: ASSAM
BAMUNIMADAM : GUWAHATI - 781021

NOTICE
No. WB/G-1496/18-19/283 Dated Guwahati, the 12th May, 2020

On account of the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) which has severely affected the state causing death of thousands of pigs, therefore, considering the circumstances arisen thereof, the Pollution Control Board Assam in accordance with the Section 24 and section 33(A) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 hereby directs all the affected livestock (piggery) owners and concerned local authorities including village panchayats and municipal bodies not to dispose off the carcasses of the dead livestock (pigs) into any river, stream, lake or any other waterbody thereby polluting the same and adversely affecting the natural environment.

Sd/-
Member-Secretary (i/c)

SPECIAL TRAIN BETWEEN AGARTALA AND NEW DELHI

It has been decided to run one Special Train No. 02501/02502 between Agartala and New Delhi (Weekly) as per details given below:

Train No. 02501 from Agartala (on Mondays) with effect from 18-05-2020			Train No. 02502 from New Delhi (on Wednesdays) with effect from 20-05-2020			
DAY	ARR	DEP	STATIONS	ARR	DEP	DAY
Monday	23.40	19.00	Agartala	13.30	---	Friday
	07.38	00.05	Badarpur	08.00	08.25	
	07.38	07.53	Guwahati	00.30	00.45	
Tuesday	11.00	11.02	Kokrajhar	21.33	21.35	Thursday
	14.00	14.10	New Jalpaiguri	18.05	18.15	
	17.05	17.30	Katihar	14.30	14.55	
	20.00	20.10	Barauni	10.15	10.25	
	22.50	23.00	Patliputra	07.55	08.05	
Wednesday	02.20	02.30	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya	04.33	04.43	Wednesday
	06.25	06.30	Kanpur Central	00.29	00.34	
	11.20	---	New Delhi	---	19.50	

COMPOSITION: AC-First Class (one), AC-2 tier (four), AC-3 tier (ten), Pantry Car (one) and Brake, Luggage trolley Generator car (two) = 18 coaches.

Tickets are available in www.irctc.co.in only

General Manager (Operations)
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE"

Jiribam dist admin gears up to receive train returnees



A fleet of buses meant to ferry Manipur returnees, parked at the Jiribam Higher Secondary School on Tuesday. - Photo: Correspondent

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, May 12: Prior to the

arrival of a special train carrying 1,140 stranded people of the State from Chennai to the Jiribam Rail-

way Station in Manipur, the Jiribam district administration has taken a lot of precautionary measures. The special train had already left Chennai in the evening on May 10.

The State's only rail head is located at Jiribam, situated about 220 km west of Imphal. The special train is expected to arrive on May 13.

The Deputy Commissioner of Jiribam district, in an order issued on Tuesday, said, "...large number of passengers will be getting down from the train and buses are arranged to pick up the passengers from the railway platform."

Markets will remain closed from 10 am on May 13 to 11 am on May

14, the order added.

The order further stated that vehicular movement would be restricted and only those with valid curfew passes or engaged in essential services or in the management of the railway platform and bus parking area on the higher secondary school ground, would be allowed movement.

Meanwhile, 50 buses which were sent to ferry passengers from Jiribam to Imphal, reached Jiribam town after they were flagged off here on Monday, sources said. The State Transport Department is providing about 150 buses for transporting those returning home by train.

Earlier, the State Government

had already issued a standard operating procedure to facilitate transport and screening of the stranded people on their arrival at Jiribam.

On Tuesday, the State Health Department clarified that community quarantine and/or institutional quarantine would be adopted for the returnees.

A sum of Rs 12.36 lakh has already been sanctioned from the Chief Minister's COVID-19 relief fund to bear the train fare of the returnees, at the rate of Rs 1,030 per passenger for 1,200 passengers. The State is also planning to receive other special trains carrying stranded people from Punjab and Karnataka.

NEWS IN BRIEF



A health worker taking nasal swabs from a person for COVID-19 sample collection at Bakaliaghat, on Tuesday. — UB Photos

Minister distributes food packets

KALIABOR, May 12: Keshab Mahanta, MLA, Kaliabor and Water Resource and IT Minister along with a group of AGP workers distributed food item packets containing, two kg atta, one kg potato, one litre mustard oil, one kg dal and one packet of salt to every resident in and around Kaliabor on Monday. He also distributed food packets among 550 residents of Dalgaon under Kaliabor subdivision. — ANN Service

Swine fever awareness

NAGAON, May 12: A sensitisation programme was organised on how to get rid of the ongoing African swine fever across the State, at the Nagaon Harijan colony on Sunday last. During the programme, experts from the district's animal and husbandry department trained several pig farmers and also advised them to keep their farms clean. Local MLA Rupak Sarma, ADC Jayanta Bora and Dr Praveen Ch Das, the district veterinary officer as well as other veterinary experts graced the occasion. The MLA also distributed masks and hand sanitizers among the people. — ANN Service

CRPF distributes sanitation items

GOSSAIGAON, May 12: The 129 Bn of CRPF has been distributing various items to needy villagers including food items during the ongoing lockdown to combat the dreaded coronavirus. This time they distributed hygiene and sanitation items to 300 people of Kashipara and Haribhita villages on Monday. The chief guest of the distribution programme, Ajay Dwivedi, second-in-command, urged the villagers to be careful in maintaining social distancing. — ANN Service

Boy killed

DIPHU, May 12: An eight-year-old boy died recently when part of an under-construction building collapsed under the pressure of blustery winds at Sarbe Kro village located within Dolamara police station's jurisdiction. According to the parents of the deceased boy, an incomplete brick wall collapsed and the victim was trapped underneath the rubble. The dead body was found after 10 hours of search by villagers. — Correspondent

Silchar medicine store closed for flouting lockdown norms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, May 12: Additional Deputy Commissioner Sumit Sattawan said on Monday that based on evidential proof of violation of lockdown-associated norms by not wearing of face masks by the staff of a local medicine store, the administration has closed the shop as a punitive measure till the present phase of lockdown ends. "The administration will take a tough stance against those vendors or shopkeepers who are found to violate the lockdown norms," the ADC maintained.

Medicine stores, as a part of medical system are essential service providers during this crisis hour. But if people of the medicine store violate norms by not wearing face masks while dealing with customers at the store, and do not understand the seriousness of the situation, how do we expect others to comprehend the condition.

Earlier, another shop was shut down for violating lockdown norms, he added.

On the other hand, following the new Government guidelines on COVID-19, the Cachar district administration and Health department has made it compulsory for screening and throat swab sample test for each passenger

belonging to southern Assam districts and coming back home from places outside the North East.

Suman Choudhury, District Media Expert of NHM informed the media on Monday that those who are entering the region through the inter-state border at Digarkhal, Lalapur and Jirighat are being taken to ISBT for collection of their throat swab samples for conducting the COVID-19 test.

"Barring the existing ten COVID-19 positive cases (all Ajmer-returned passengers) from Cachar and one case from Karimganj, there have been no new positive cases detected during the past two days. Passengers from places outside the North East who reached the district during the past two days have undergone throat swab sample test, and thankfully, all of them have been found to be negative.

In the meantime, a district-level committee has been formed for discharging the passengers who have tested COVID-19 negative. The process, it may be mentioned, has already been initiated.

"We urge the people not to panic and shun fake information of any kind related to COVID-19 and cooperate with the Government agencies," Choudhury said.

Sualkuchi silk industry facing severe challenges

ANN SERVICE

SUALKUCHI, May 12: The Sualkuchi silk industry which flourishes without government patronage has suffered huge losses during the ongoing lockdown imposed in the country since March 24 last.

The people of the village, whose principal avenue of livelihood is handloom, have been facing hardship for maintenance of their looms due to closing down of business establishments. All the yarn depots, trade centres, cooperative societies are shut. Production and marketing has been paralysed. It is estimated that out of the total 6300 looms in the village, hardly 200 or 300 looms of rich entrepreneurs are working. The situation has worsened as the people could not sell their finished

products which were stocked to reap the harvest during Bohag Bihu. The weavers, master-weavers, small entrepreneurs, small traders, hawkers are short of working capital to maintain the looms. If such atmosphere continues the survival of common people of the village will be a burning problem in the coming off season period from June to August.

Speaking to the correspondent, Harekrishna Biashya, an entrepreneur who supplies raw materials for 60 looms to 25 families investing Rs 30 lakh and purchases the finished product from them at market price, said that his present stock of clothes is worth Rs 25 lakh and if the present diminishing market due to outbreak of coronavirus continues, he will not be able to run those

It is estimated that out of the total 6300 looms in the village, hardly 200 or 300 looms of the rich entrepreneurs are working. The situation has worsened as the people could not sell their finished products which were stocked to reap the harvest during Bohag Bihu.

looms from June. Another skilled master weaver as well as entrepreneur Hiralal Ka-

lita does business with foreign tourists who visit Sualkuchi from October to April every year and he makes healthy profit. But this time no foreign tourists came to Sualkuchi because of the anti-CAA movement in Assam. Moreover due to complete lockdown, Kalita could not sell the products of his loom since March 15 last and has been hit by shortage of capital. He said if the situation continues, production of his handloom factory will be stopped in the last week of this month.

Khanin Moral, Bhriju Ram Das, Lahkar Das, Dimbeswar Kalita etc., whose only way of livelihood is weaving said that they are facing financial distress because of disruption of marketing and production of clothes since the imposition of

the lockdown. Gakul Das, an employee of a cooperative society and also an entrepreneur who is the owner of 4 looms with four hired weavers said he would close his factory next month due to financial problems.

Regarding the nightmarish scenario of Sualkuchi, Sarbananda Kalita, president of Sulakuchi Tat Santha, the lone weavers association afflicted to CITU, said the lockdown has affected 20,000 people including weavers, reelers, winders, designers, dyers and other helpers who are directly involved in the handloom industry in Sualkuchi and will lose their jobs. To overcome the distress of the weavers and entrepreneurs, special packages from the government end is the need of the hour, he said.



Nurses celebrating International Nurses' Day at a hospital, amid the ongoing COVID-19 nationwide lockdown at Sonari in Charaideo district, on Tuesday. — UB Photos

FIR filed for anomalies in PM kisan scheme

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, May 12: The Nalbari district Congress Committee today filed an FIR at Nalbari Police Station against the corrupt practice of the Agriculture Department in the selection of PM Kisan Sanman Nidhi beneficiaries.

The general secretary of the Congress Committee Dibyajyoti Haloi filed the case. He asked the district administration to bring the district agriculture officer under the probe's purview. The administration has already set up a committee in this regard.

Two arrested for disobeying 'quarantine rule'

CORRESPONDENT

DHEMAJI, May 12: Two persons have been arrested by the police on charges of violation of quarantine rule in Jonai circle in Dhemaji district on Sunday.

Police said that two brothers namely Bikash Borah (25) and Dipankar Borah (20) of Lachit Nagar under Jonai Police station were set for home quarantine as they had recently returned to their home from other districts.

Police said the duo disobeyed quarantine rules and were roaming freely, challenging the local administration.

They also obstructed and applied force to deter an executive magistrate from discharging his duties in this regard.

Jonai Police following the Health department's report arrested them from their residence on Sunday and remanded them to judicial custody. A case (no. 41/2020) under sections- 269/270/188/353/34 IPC has been registered in Jonai PS against the duo.

According to information available, the accused after being arrested, filed a bail petition through an advocate for their release, but the Sub divisional Judicial Magistrate of Jonai after hearing both

sides finally rejected their bail petition and forwarded them to Dhemaji District Jail on Sunday.

The Judicial Magistrate in the order directed the district administration for quarantining the accused persons with proper vigilance and medical checkup in a separate accommodation in the district jail. Thus, Dhemaji district administration has been ordered to make necessary arrangements for 14-day quarantining (till 24-5-2020) for the two duo accused and also to produce them before the court after the end of the period.

Body of AAU Prof found hanging in office chamber

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, May 12: The body of Professor Abhijit Sarma of the Agronomy Department of Assam Agricultural University here at Borbheta was found hanging in his office room this morning.

An AAU source stated that Sarma, who was in his fifties, was reportedly spotted hanging by the watchman from outside the window, following which he informed the authorities.

A police official said that as per information collected during preliminary investigation, Sarma who resided in the old campus of AAU, came to office early at about 8 am reportedly telling his family members he had to attend classes.

Sarma's suicide note was recovered from the spot, the official said. Stating that the case was under investigation, the police official declined to reveal the contents of the letter.

The official however, said the word "being deceived" was mentioned in the note and when asked if there were any grievances mentioned against any person or authorities, the official said no name was mentioned.

Sarma is credited with having published a few books on his subject.

The body was subsequently sent for post mortem. Sharma, who originally hails from Amguri in Sivasagar district, is survived by his wife and two daughters.

Free rice distributed at Chapar

CORRESPONDENT

GAURIPUR, May 12: Ashok Kumar Singhi, MLA, Bilasipara East constituency distributed 22.50 kg free rice each to among 89 people not having BPL cards at a function held recently on the premises of Chapar Municipality Office.

The function was attended by Bivina Choudhury, Executive Officer, Debajit Barkalita, president, Chapar BJP Mandal, Pradip Kumar Nag, Bapi Guha, Dhruva Ray, Bijoy Sankar Das and a few others. It may be mentioned here that altogether 632 persons

were selected from the eight wards of the municipality. They will also be provided free rice within a week.

Social distancing was strictly maintained at the time of distribution of rice to the beneficiaries and 142.20 quintals of rice has already been stocked for distribution. The beneficiaries expressed gratitude to their the MLA for his kind gesture during the time of 3rd phase of lockdown. Earlier, the MLA felicitated the corona workers including doctors, pharmacists, nurses and sweepers of Salkocha SHC by presenting them sweets and *gamosa*.

CITU, AASAA oppose State Govt move on labour reforms

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, May 12: Responding to a call by the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), the Tinsukia district committee of the organisation registered its protest against the recent 'anti-labour' policy of the State government, on Monday.

The labourers along with CITU leaders took part in a protest programme in their respective work places and also in front of their residences across the district by following protocols associated with the lockdown. The protesters displayed

placards and voiced their demands.

Advocate Tarini Deka, who is a member of the Tinsukia district committee of CITU and president of Tinsukia district committee of Shilpa Shramik Union told this correspondent that the State government's move would affect every labourer of the State.

He said the State government's justification that increasing shift duty from 8 to 12 hours daily during the COVID-19 pandemic would create more scope for employment is in fact a mere eye-wash. The real motive behind this is to help the capitalists have their way in matters of working hours.

On the other hand, the Tinsukia district committee of All Adivasi Students' Association, Assam (AASAA) also opposed the State government's decision on labour reforms.

In a press statement, the president of Tinsukia district committee of AASAA Raja Kujur and vice-president Suresh Bhumij came down heavily on the State government for introducing fixed-term employment and increasing the duty shift period of the labourers from 8 to 12 hours and said that these decisions would make the workers and labourers suffer.

The Adivasi student leaders said

while taking the decision of increasing the shift duty time from 8 to 12 hours, the State Cabinet completely ignored the labour movement the world over.

With little regard to the International Labour Organisation's convention, besides turning a deaf ear to the plight of the labourers during the current COVID-19 triggered situation, the government has given upper hand to the industries majors, especially the multinationals to adopt an anti-labour attitude towards the workers.

They demanded the State government to withdraw the said decision immediately.

OBITUARY

Labanya Talukdar



GUWAHATI, May 12: Labanya Talukdar, wife of Late BN Talukdar, died on May 11.

A resident of Silpukhuri area, she was born on November 18, 1935 to Lakhiram Das and Sarabala Das. She retired as the headmistress of Laitemukrah Assamese Girls' High School, Shillong. A pious lady, she was the secretary of Silpukhuri Mahila Sangha. She leaves behind her four sons, grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Local jobless youths find livelihood through sale of local dairy, vegetable products

SHAMBHU BORO

TEZPUR, May 12: Turning the maxim 'where there's a will there is a way' into a reality, local educated unemployed youths in Tezpur town like Pritam Borah, Putul Borah, Biplab Saikia, Toni Das, Hemanta Sharma, Ramesh Deka, Ishanku Barthakur, Angsuman Borah, Rudraksya Bibhusan Sharma, Achyut Sharmah, Pranti Sharmah Baruah, Dibyajyoti Bhuyan, Jitu Mahanta and Keshab Nath have been able to set an example of work culture finding their way of livelihood through marketing of local dairy and vegetable products in Tezpur town.

The youths are busy meeting the needs of pure dairy products under the initiative of a local sociocultural organisation 'Prayas' during the ongoing lockdown. It is to be mentioned here that 'Prayas' since its inception has been working to help the needy find ways to sur-

vive with dignity.

Pritam Borah, one of the men behind the organisation told this correspondent, that empowerment and self-determination of the local indigenous people, enabling them to solve their socioeconomic problems like eradication of poverty, illiteracy and unemployment is Prayas's main mission and vision. The hardworking team has already set up sale points at Chanmari, Parbati Nagar, Vartak, Barahalia, Don Bosco, Baan Theatre, Ketekibari, Patia-chuburi and Mahabhairab Bazaar to sell their produce. The organic products of 'Kanakya', a multi-cropping farm initiated by Chatia MLA, Padma Hazarika on the banks of Bharali river in Jamuguri area like vegetables, dairy products including milk, curd, cream etc., and fish and mustard oil are transported to Tezpur town to meet the peoples' needs through Prayas.

Pritam Borah, a staunch believer of

work culture mentioned that from the sales during the lockdown, they got a sizeable turnover, which helped their mem-

bers during the crisis caused following the lockdown. Expressing his gratitude to Chatia MLA Padma Hazarika for his noble initiative to show them the right way of livelihood, Pritam also mentioned that at a time when jobless unemployed youths go out of the State, seeking certain innovative acts they can earn good income at their homes itself. He also mentioned that besides working in the line of motivating local youths towards

work culture, their NGO also gives special focus on primary health care, family planning and family welfare, comprehen-

sive rural development, preservation of environment, giving education to the disadvantaged sections of the society, relief and rehabilitation of the flood and other

natural calamity-affected people, woman empowerment, cultural enrichment etc.

"As part of cultural activities of 'Prayas', we have already staged a play *Ochin Kathor Thura* many times in our area to showcase how we the local people are blackmailed or cheated by other influential forces hurting our dignity and identity," he said. Another hard working Assamese youth Putul Baruah who has been earning his livelihood by laundry work since 1998 setting an example of work culture among the youths has also set up a new outlet of Kanakya farm's produce under the initiative of Parayas at Chanmari. He said, "If we have a positive mind we have

enough income sources here in our own land. A question always haunts me as to why our youths go outside only for a salary of Rs 5,000 to 10,000 per month. Our naturally fertile agricultural lands are left unused. If we work properly, our fertile lands will yield good products. But at many times it is seen that our lands are inadvertently sold to big industrialists or businessmen, instead of going for agricultural activities due to which we the indigenous people are becoming landless."

Moreover, social worker Dr Birendra Kr Nath, journalist Pankaj Baruah, Debraj Sharma, Hemanta Kr Sarmah, Debraj Sharma, Dr Sanjay Kr. Deka among others who are also connected with the NGO are of the opinion that our local educated youths should get involved in farm activities through which besides earning income, the economy and work culture of the region would be restored.



CAPSULE

Honda Cars resumes operations

NEW DELHI, May 12: Honda Cars India Ltd (HCL) today said 155 company dealer outlets have resumed operations across the country after getting necessary approvals from the local authorities. The auto-maker, which sells models like City and Amaze, said the outlets have started opening in a phased manner after significant easing of restrictions on economic activities by the government last week. — PTI

Nestle Q1 net up

NEW DELHI, May 12: FMCG major Nestle India Ltd today reported a 13.54 per cent rise in its net profit at Rs 525.43 crore for the first quarter ended March 2020. The company, which follows January-December as its financial year, had posted a net profit of Rs 462.74 crore in the same period a year ago. Its net sales went up 10.84 per cent to Rs 3,305.78 crore during the quarter under review, from Rs 2,982.39 crore in the corresponding three months of the last fiscal. — PTI

Havells Q4 net down

NEW DELHI, May 12: Consumer electrical goods maker Havells India Ltd today reported a 10.69 per cent fall in its consolidated net profit to Rs 177.73 crore for the fourth quarter ended March 31. The company had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 199.01 crore in the January-March quarter a year ago, Havells said in a regulatory filing. — PTI

Govt considering relaxation in FDI policy for real estate

NEW DELHI, May 12: The Ministry of Commerce and Industry is considering relaxation in the foreign direct investment (FDI) policy for the real estate sector, including 100 per cent FDI in completed RERA-registered projects with over 100 apartments, sources said.

According to market experts, this — to allow FDI for completed apartments with occupancy certificates — has been a long-standing demand. The consideration by the government for further relaxation comes in the midst of the coronavirus crisis, lack of business and the resultant liquidity crisis.

This will allow real estate players to monetise their completed projects so that focus could be diverted to completion of pending housing projects that are

stuck largely due to shortage of funds. Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Guruprasad Mohapatra said that there are always some policy considerations going on regarding several sectors, but refused to comment on the proposed changes for real estate.

Among other proposals before the government is that 100 per cent FDI should also be permitted for completed warehouses, people in the know of developments said. Though FDI is permitted in warehouses, their are restrictions on bringing foreign money on running projects.

In fact, an overhaul of the FDI policy is on cards and the DPIIT is expected to come out with various changes soon. While the government is looking to

liberalise the FDI regime in real estate sector further, it is still not included to open overseas investment in 'real estate business'. The restrictions on FDI in real estate entities are expected to continue for some more time.

As per the Centre's Consolidated FDI Policy which came into effect in August 2017, 'real estate business' means dealing in land and immovable property with a view to earning profit there.

Shobhit Agarwal, MD & CEO of Anarock Capital said: "In FDI, the main task has been to allow FDI in fully built-up OC (occupancy certificate)-ready apartments so that developers can liquidate their holdings and put cash back into circulation. Pre-COVID-19, this proposal had found little traction with the government. Now,

however, the government may revisit this proposal."

He noted that there is a lot of available inventory and demand may remain subdued because of the economic implications of the coronavirus pandemic and viewing this, the proposal can have tremendous advantages which will ripple across the economy.

Samir Jasuja, Founder & MD of PropEquity, however, was of the view that the approval for 100 per cent FDI in ready-to-move-in RERA-registered projects would have a limited impact as the number of completed projects is very low in the country in comparison to the under-construction projects. "It may have some impact on the ready-to-move-in luxury segment but that too is a very small market," Jasuja said. — IANS



Employees at Lava mobile phone manufacturing unit resume operations after 40 days of closure due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown, in Noida on Tuesday. — PTI

Frozen, chilled food items FSSAI asks States to lift curbs on transportation, sale

NEW DELHI, May 12: Food regulator FSSAI today asked States to remove restrictions, if any, imposed on transportation, storage and sale of frozen foods or food served cold fearing the spread of coronavirus pandemic.

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has been reiterating ever since the outbreak of this disease that there is currently no evidence that food is a likely source or route of transmission of the coronavirus disease. "There is a need to counter myths and misinformation.

Several instances have been brought to the notice of the Authority where products such as frozen food, food served cold/chilled, etc., were selectively not allowed to be transported, stored or sold, ostensibly on the notion that they could promote the spread of COVID-19," FSSAI said in a statement.

The FSSAI has communicated to States/UTs giving instructions to review any such restriction imposed and rescind those not consistent with the guidance issued by the regulator. — PTI

Loan sanctions jumped to Rs 5.95 cr in just over 2 months, says FM

NEW DELHI, May 12: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said the public sector banks (PSB) sanctioned Rs 5.95 crore in just over two months, between March 1 and May 8, to over 46.74 lakh accounts. The borrowers for the sanctioned loans include MSMEs, retailers, farmers and corporate sectors.

She had earlier said that higher bank sanctions is indicative that the Indian economy is poised to recover from the recent crisis brought upon by the coronavirus pandemic.

"PSBs sanctioned loans worth Rs 5.95-lakh crore for more than 46.74 lakh accounts

from the MSME, retail, agriculture & corporate sectors between March 1 and May 8, 2020," the tweet from Nirmala Sitharaman's office said.

"Total financing worth Rs 1.18-lakh crore was provided to NBFCs," it added.

Besides loan sanctions to various industrial sectors, government is also ensuring that the current coronavirus outbreak does not result in liquidity crisis for businesses.

In this regard, almost all eligible borrowers for emergency credit lines and working capital have been contacted by banks and sanctioned over Rs 60,000 crore in credit that had more

than doubled in just four days.

"Between March 20 and May 8, public sector banks contacted 97 per cent of borrowers eligible for emergency credit lines & working capital enhancements and sanctioned loans worth Rs 65,879 crore, up from the Rs 26,500 crore sanctioned as of May 4," said another tweet from the office of the FM.

The government is ensuring that present coronavirus pandemic is prevented from making a serious dent on the Indian economy. It wants that investments should not be stopped and banks should ensure that all eligible borrowers get sufficient funds. — IANS

Glenmark starts phase-3 clinical trials on Favipiravir

NEW DELHI, May 12: Glenmark Pharmaceuticals said today that it has initiated phase three clinical trials on antiviral Favipiravir for COVID-19 patients in India.

COVID-19 patients from over 10 leading government and private hospitals in India are being enrolled for the study.

The trial completion and study results are expected by July-August this year.

Glenmark was the first pharmaceutical company in India to be given an approval by the regulator to conduct phase-3 clinical

trials in India on Favipiravir antiviral tablets for COVID-19 patients.

Favipiravir is a generic version of Avigan of Fujifilm Toyama Chemical Co Ltd, Japan, a subsidiary of Fujifilm Corporation.

COVID-19 patients

Glenmark has successfully developed the API and the formulations for the product through its in-house R&D team.

Favipiravir has demonstrated activity against influenza viruses and has been approved in Japan for

the treatment of novel influenza virus infections.

Commenting on the development, Monika Tandon, Vice President & Head, Clinical Development, Global Specialty/ Branded Portfolio, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd., said, "Several health and medical experts, both in and outside of Glenmark are eager to see the effect that Favipiravir has on COVID-19 cases. We believe the study results will be significant as there is currently no effective treatment for the virus." — IANS

the treatment of novel influenza virus infections. Commenting on the development, Monika Tandon, Vice President & Head, Clinical Development, Global Specialty/ Branded Portfolio, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Ltd., said, "Several health and medical experts, both in and outside of Glenmark are eager to see the effect that Favipiravir has on COVID-19 cases. We believe the study results will be significant as there is currently no effective treatment for the virus." — IANS

Non-payment of fees, rebates Educational institutes may land in critical care, says FICCI Arise

NEW DELHI, May 12: FICCI Arise, a collegium of stakeholders aimed at promoting quality education, has welcomed the Supreme Court decision to not allow a college fee rebate during lockdown, saying non-payment of fee can land educational institutes in "critical care" and affect the livelihood of many.

The Supreme Court recently disposed of a petition of students from private colleges seeking a fee rebate in the wake of the coronavirus lockdown which has led to job losses and salary cuts of many parents.

The court asked the petitioners' advocate how the colleges will run if they failed to receive fees and from where will the colleges give salary to their employees.

"We welcome the logical decision by the apex court to ensure college fees to be paid for the lockdown period. We look forward to similar decisions for the aided and unaided schools of the country that are already in critical care during these COVID times. Educational institutions play a very important role in the society as they equip future generations with knowledge and wisdom," FICCI Arise Chairman Manoj Jain said.

"It is extremely critical to keep their people base and infrastructure intact enabling them to serve students in the same way when they return to schools and colleges. There are over 3.03 lakh unaided private schools in the country. At a very basic estimate of the direct employment, these schools offer employment to over 3 crore people comprising teaching, non-teaching and support staff. This translates into livelihood to 12-15 crore citizens of the country," Jain added.

"Education is one of the top 5 employment providers in the country. With the closure of schools on account of COVID-19, many institutions across the country have moved to online teaching using both synchronous and asynchronous modes of instruction.

"Faculty and teachers have had to spend much more time than usual to plan, learn, adapt and deliver online classes. They have risen to the call of their duty in these unprecedented times..." Jain said. — PTI

NHM/DHS/GLT/DPMU 20-21/272

NOTICE

The communication/advertisement No Janasanyog/DF/123/20 Dated 07th May 2020 published in Assam Tribune and Asomiya Pratidin calling for contractual employment of cleaners for COVID-19 Hospital, Golaghat is kept in abeyance until further notice due to unavoidable circumstances.

Sd/- Joint Director of Health Services cum member secretary DHS.

Janasanyog/D/516/20

CORRIGENDUM No. 02 TO IFB No. 93 & 94 of 2019-20

This is for information to all concerned that the last date and time of submission of Bid for IFB No. 93 & 94 of 2019-20 invited vide this office Memo No. PHE-8/MM/2014-15 (Vol-II)/T-136-41 dated 08.04.2020 and PHE-8/MM/2014-15 (Vol-II)/T-130-35 dated 08.04.2020 is hereby further extended upto 16:00 Hours of 26.05.2020 and the same shall be opened at 15:00 Hours of 27.05.2020 for facilitating wide participation from eligible intending bidders. All other terms & conditions will remain same.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (PHE) Water, Assam Hengrabari, Guwahati-36

Janasanyog/C/364/20

No. DPU/SOPD-G/06/2020/180

PRESS NOTICE INVITING REBID

The Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B), Diphu Circle-1, Diphu on behalf of Governor of Assam invites Item Rate Bid amounting to Rs. 1,32,11,430.00 (approx.) for Improvement/Construction of roads under SOPD-G for the year 2019-20 of 19-Diphu (ST) LAC in the district of Karbi Anglong. Details may be seen in the website www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 12.05.2020 to 15.05.2020. The contractors with registration for the year 2019-20 may participate in the bidding process.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, P.W.D (R&B) Diphu Circle-1, Diphu

Janasanyog/CF/275/20

No. S&KTRD/TB-5/NIT/SOPD/2019-20/146

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER (RE TENDER)

It is general information to all concerned that the bid invited earlier vide Press NIT No. S&KTRD/TB-5/NIT/SOPD/2019-20/149 Date-11.03.2020 is hereby cancelled and fresh bid is invited by Executive Engineer PWD, Sipajhar & Kalaigaon Territorial Road Division on behalf of Governor of Assam from PWD approved contractor for "Construction/Repair of roads/building under SOPD(G) for the Financial year 2019-20 for Darrang District of Assam" amounting to Rs. 285.713 Lakh (Approx). Details may be seen at the office of the undersigned from 14.05.2020 to 20.05.2020 during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer PWD (Roads), Sipajhar & Kalaigaon Territorial Road Division

Janasanyog/CF/271/20

NOTICE

It is for general information of all Class-II registered contractor under Nalbari (PHE) Circle that a database of all Class-II registered contractors is need to be prepared for taking up various works for implementing JAL JEEVAN MISSION (JJM). For preparing the said database, some particular information about the interested registered contractors are required in prescribed format. The prescribed format can be obtained from the office of the concerned Executive Engineer (PHE), under Nalbari Circle in any working days with effect from 16.05.2020 upto 29.05.2020.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (PHE) Nalbari Circle, Nalbari

Janasanyog/C/370/20

No. CE/DEV/TB/504/2019-20/19

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for 2 (two) nos of Packages for Roads and Bridge projects under SOPD-G for the year 2019-20 in Jalukbari LAC of Assam from approved & eligible Contractors enlisted with APWD amounting to Rs. 13.31 Crs (approx) including GST, Labour Cess etc.

Details may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in from 15.05.2020. Amendment/ Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

The earlier press notice invited vide No. CE/DEV/TB/504/2019-20/01 dated 17.02.2020 is hereby cancelled due to lockdown for COVID-19 pandemic.

Note : NIT Value is inclusive of GST, Labour Cess etc.

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

Janasanyog/CF/263/20

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for 36 (thirty six) nos of Packages for Roads and Bridge projects under SOPD-G for the year 2019-20 in Baithalangso, Batadrava, Dhakuakhana, Dhekiajuli, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Diphu, Haflong, Howrahgah, Katigorah, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Margherita, Morigaon, Nagaon, Raha, Sadiya, Sonai, Thowra, Udhohard LACs of Assam from approved & eligible Contractors enlisted with APWD amounting to Rs. 144.00 Crs (approx) including GST, Labour Cess etc.

Details may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in from 15.05.2020. Amendment/ Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.

The earlier press notice invited vide No. CE/DEV/TB/504/2019-20/01 dated 17.02.2020 is hereby cancelled due to lockdown for COVID-19 pandemic.

Note:- N.I.T Value is inclusive of GST, Labour cess etc.

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

Janasanyog/CF/261/20

No. CE/DEV/TB/188/2019-20/7

RE-BID PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Re-Bid on behalf of Governor of Assam for the following Package for Roads and Bridge projects under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 in Kamrup(R) district of Assam from approved & eligible contractors enlisted with APWD amounting to Rs. 1513.27 Lakhs (approx) including GST, Labour cess etc.

Details may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in. Amendment/ Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in. The last date of submission of Tender with all enclosures on 29.05.2020 upto 14.00 hrs.

Name of work : Strengthening & widening of Old N.T. Road (Upto four lane) from NH- 31 to Baralia River including construction of road side drain cum Footpath etc. under SOPD-G for the year 2019-20 (Ch. 0.00m to Ch. 1220.00 m) under North Kamrup Territorial Road Division.

The earlier Re-bid press notice invited vide No. CE/DEV/TB/188/2019-20/5 Dated 20.03.2020 is hereby cancelled due to lockdown for COVID-19 Pandemic.

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

Janasanyog/CF/259/20

CEOs must invest in automation but with empathy in corona times: Report

NEW DELHI, May 12: As CEOs the world over realise the importance of investments in automation that can remove some risk of dependence on humans and adapt without intervention to demand fluctuations in such uncertain times, they should automate but with empathy, says a new report.

In the long run, the march of automation across the enterprise is inexorable. While this trend is consistent with earlier recessions and recoveries, modern intelligent automation technologies increasingly encroach on cognitive areas of human labour and interaction.

The superiority of humans in the human-machine collaboration equation, according to the report titled "The COVID-19 Crisis Will Accelerate Enterprise Automation Plans".

"Workers and leaders will require new skills, behaviours and mindsets. The spectre of a jobless recovery is real, and the human impact of the crisis on the workforce will continue into recovery," said Leslie Joseph, Principal Analyst with Forrester.

"Avoid the temptation to automate roughshod; instead, approach automation with empathy and trust and invest in increasing your firm's robotics quotient," he added.

Automation is a hedge against white swans. Organisations often

make tradeoffs favouring short-term outcomes over long-term resilience.

In the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis, CEOs will demand that their business leaders strategically focus on risk mitigation and recovery from global "white swan" events.

Digital labour does not fall ill and can perform repeatable tasks from anywhere with equal efficiency.

In some circumstances, humans are riskier than robots; automobile manufacturing plants are shutting down not because of issues with robotic manufacturing lines but out of concern for the humans who work alongside them.

"However, firms will struggle with technical, structural, cultural,

and business process change as they retool to make broader use of a digital workforce," the report added.

"Companies and leaders will need to retool the way they bring technology, culture, and organisational design to support the long-term management of an automation-fuelled, adaptive workforce.

As the world emerges from the grip of the pandemic, business leaders in sectors including manufacturing and retail will look to bring their supply chains closer to key markets.

"This will cause a move away from just-in-time supply and toward greater global diversification and technology-enabled demand responsiveness using big data, AI, and cloud technol-

ogies," according to the report.

This crisis is already forcing CEOs to expand the canvas of business risk to include unforeseen global events such as COVID-19. After the storm, risk and resiliency will emerge as key.

"The coronavirus crisis is already a defining event for business and society. Most firms currently have survival and sustenance on their mind. However, as the crisis recedes, expect the pattern of investments along the recovery path to follow past trends," Joseph noted.

Business and technology leaders will continue to invest in emerging intelligent automation technologies to increase the resilience and adaptiveness of the business, he added. — IANS



Avatar 2

James Cameron's much-awaited release unaffected by COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a massive reshuffle in Hollywood release dates but filmmaker James Cameron is still confident that his much-awaited "Avatar 2" will release as planned.

"Avatar 2" is currently slated for a release on December 17, 2021.

"I want to get back to work on 'Avatar', which right now we're not allowed to do under state emergency laws or rules. So it's all on hold right now," Cameron said, speaking to Empire for the new Celebration Of Cinema issue.

The filmmaker shared that he was scheduled to take the filming to New Zealand before the lockdown.

"We were about to shoot down in New Zealand, so that got pushed. We're trying to get back to it as quick as we can," he said.

However, the filmmaker hopes to keep up with the pace of shooting and finish the movie as planned.

"On the bright side, New Zealand seems to have been very effective in controlling the virus and their goal is not mitigation, but

eradication, which they believe that they can do with aggressive contact tracing and testing," he said, adding: "so there's a very good chance that our shoot might be delayed a couple of months, but we can still do it. So that's good news."

During the lockdown as well, the work on the film is on - thanks to advanced technology. "We've got everybody - everybody at Weta Digital and Lightstorm - working from home to the extent that is possible. But my work is on the stage doing the virtual cameras and so on, so I can do a bit of editing, but it's not great for me," he said.

It is being believed that "Avatar 2" takes place 12 years after the events of the first movie. It follows Jake Sully (Sam Worthington) as he roams the planet of Pandora with the new family he has with Neytiri (Zoe Saldana).

The first part was a huge success, becoming the highest-grossing movie of all time when it released in 2009. Its worldwide record was broken last year by "Avengers: Endgame".

(Source: IANS)

Kids

GN
12:00 Ogy And The Cockroaches Roll No. 21
15:00 Ogy And The Cockroaches Roll No. 21
19:00 Ogy And The Cock...
21:00 Es Cool, Scooby-Doo
22:00 Courage The Coward
23:30 The Tom & Jerry Show

PaGo
12:00 Chhota Bheem
12:30 Chhota Bheem Movie - In Rise Of Kirmada
14:00 Chhota Bheem
16:30 Grizzy And The Lemmings
17:30 Chhota Bheem
18:00 Chhota Bheem Chapat
18:30 Taarak Mehta Ka Ootah Chashmah And Krishna Vs Zimbara
20:00 Super Bheem
21:00 Grizzy And The Lem...
22:00 Mr. Bean
23:00 M.A.D.
23:30 Grizzy And The Lem...

Entertainment

SONY SAB
12:00 Taarak Mehta Ka Ootah Chashmah
18:30 Partners Trouble Ho Gayi Double
19:00 Tera Kya Hoga Alia
19:30 Tenali Rama

Colors
12:00 Kundali Bhagya
13:00 Tujhe Hai Raabta
14:00 Kasamh Se
15:00 Choti Bahu
16:00 Pavitra Rishta
17:00 Brahmaraakshas
18:00 Kunkum Bhagya

rishtey
12:00 Swaragini
13:00 Udaan

StarPlus
12:00 Bidaai
13:00 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai
14:00 Mere Angne Mein
15:00 Diya Aur Baati Hum
16:00 Saath Nibhaana Saathiya

Entertainment

18:00 Kasam Tere Pyaar Ki
19:00 Swaragini
20:00 Sasural Simar Ka
22:00 Udaan
23:00 Sasural Simar Ka

Colors
13:00 Jaani Dushman - Ek Anokhi Kahani
15:30 Khatri Khatri Khatri
16:00 Mahakali Anhi Hi Aarambh Hai
17:00 Ram Siya Ke Luv Kush
18:00 Vidya
19:00 Choti Saradaani

StarPlus
20:00 Shakti Astitva Ke Ehsaas Ki
21:00 Barrister Babu
22:00 Bigg Boss
23:00 Khatri Khatri Khatri

Entertainment

17:00 Mann Ki Awaaz... Pratiya
18:00 Pyar Ka Dard Hai Meetha Meetha Pyara Pyara
19:00 Siya Ke Ram

Colors
19:30 RadhaKrishn
20:00 Mahabharat
21:00 Maharaj Ki Jai Ho
21:30 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai
22:00 Yeh Rishtey Hai Pyar Ke
23:00 Qayamat Ki Raat

Movies

UTV MOVIES
11:45 Bade Miyan Chote Miyan
14:05 Vijaypath
16:45 Kabali
19:55 Gabbar is Back
22:45 Akira

UTV ACTION
11:55 Jim Button & Luke the Engine Driver
14:10 The Real Don Returns
16:50 Journey to the West Conquering the Demons
19:00 Eruption: La
20:55 Men in Black 3
23:00 Predators

Movies
11:25 The Nutcracker and the Four Realms
13:00 Frozen
14:35 Conan the Barbarian
16:45 Deadpool
18:30 Home Alone 2: Lost in New York
20:40 The Transporter
22:10 Iron Man 2

HBO
11:30 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1
14:00 I Am Legend
15:30 Cloverfield
16:45 Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen
19:20 Dora and the Lost City of Gold
21:00 Pokemon Detective Pikachu
22:45 Batman Begins

STAR MOVIES
22:10 Iron Man 2

STAR GOLD
17:30 Gharwali Baharwali

Infotainment

NAT GEO WILD
12:00 Deadly Instincts
13:00 Wild Families
14:00 Cave Cross Of Gabon
15:00 Survival Of The Fittest
16:00 Animal Fight Club

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL
12:00 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
13:00 Monster Fish
14:00 Primal Survivor
15:00 Snakes In The City
16:00 Running Wild With Bear Grylls
17:00 Rescued
18:00 Brain Games
18:30 Science Of Stupid
19:00 World's Most Extreme
20:00 50 Days 50 Stories
21:00 Primal Survivor
22:00 Running Wild With Bear...
23:00 Airport Security Madrid

HISTORY TV
12:00 Forged In Fire
12:30 Ancient Aliens
13:30 Pawn Stars
14:00 Storage Wars
14:30 Food Tech
15:00 OMG! Yeh Mera India
16:00 Forged In Fire
16:30 Counting Cars
17:00 Storage Wars
17:30 Shipping Wars
18:00 Modern Marvels
18:30 Idiot TV
19:30 Pawn Stars
20:00 OMG! Yeh Mera India
21:00 Forged In Fire
22:00 Pawn Stars
22:30 Storage Wars
23:00 Forged In Fire

ANIMAL PLANET
12:00 Wildest Survival
13:00 Animals Unleashed
14:00 Animal Planet Exclusives
14:30 Just Animals
14:30 Nature's Strangest
15:00 Meet The Peng
15:30 Coyote Peterson
16:00 How Do Animals Do
16:30 The Cuts Ones
17:00 World's Wildest
18:00 Bizarre Beasts
19:00 Animal Planet Exclusives

Regional

NEWS LIVE
07:00 Breakfast Live
08:00 Live at 8
09:00 Good morning Assam
10:00 Assamese news
11:00 Katha Bara (R)
12:00 Mid Day Live
13:00 Assamese Telefilm
14:30 Afternoon Prime
15:00 Guwahati Bises
16:00 Guwahati Live
18:30 Breaking @ 6:30
19:00 Assamese Prime Time
20:00 Discussion Show
21:00 Super Prime Time
22:00 Live at 10
23:00 Noix Guwahati
23:00 Noix Batori

NEWS 18
07:45 Pratham Xongbad
14:00 Blyolr Headline
16:00 Abeler Khabar
16:30 Superfast Prime Time 100
17:00 City 18
18:00 Prime Time 18
19:00 Dintur Shironam
20:00 Porjyobekhyon
21:30 Aparadh Nama
22:00 North East Scan
22:30 Noix Xironam

raing
17:00 Xopun
17:30 Barala Kai
18:30 Xopunor Aasutia Rang
20:00 Jonaki Kareng
20:30 Xopun
21:00 Oi Khapla
21:30 Bah Amarawati Bah
22:00 Borola Kai

Regional

08:30 Devotional Music
08:45 Swachh Bharat Batori
09:50 Batori
10:50 Vigyan Prasara
15:30 Classical Music
16:00 Abeler Batori
16:05 Akholor Juti
16:30 Chiphung
17:00 Nimishote Batori
17:02 DD Kisan TV Serial in Hindi
18:05 Krishni Darshan
18:00 Dharabahik
18:30 Batori
18:45 NE News

SPORTS
11:00 Ind vs Aus ODI
18:30 Vivo IPL Hls
19:00 Cricket Legends
19:30 Ind vs Aus ODI Hls
20:00 Vivo IPL Hls
20:30 IPL Hls
21:00 Cricket Legends
21:30 Ind vs Aus ODI Hls
22:00 Vivo IPL Hls
23:00 IPL Hls
23:30 Ind vs Aus ODI Hls
23:30 Football United Special

11:00 Ind vs Aus ODI

Regional

08:30 Devotional Music
08:45 Swachh Bharat Batori
09:50 Batori
10:50 Vigyan Prasara
15:30 Classical Music
16:00 Abeler Batori
16:05 Akholor Juti
16:30 Chiphung
17:00 Nimishote Batori
17:02 DD Kisan TV Serial in Hindi
18:05 Krishni Darshan
18:00 Dharabahik
18:30 Batori
18:45 NE News

SPORTS
11:00 Ind vs Aus ODI
18:30 Vivo IPL Hls
19:00 Cricket Legends
19:30 Ind vs Aus ODI Hls
20:00 Vivo IPL Hls
20:30 IPL Hls
21:00 Cricket Legends
21:30 Ind vs Aus ODI Hls
22:00 Vivo IPL Hls
23:00 IPL Hls
23:30 Ind vs Aus ODI Hls
23:30 Football United Special

11:00 Ind vs Aus ODI

Regional

10:20 Mar Milenge 2
13:00 Son of Salyamurthy
15:50 Poster Boys
18:25 Dangerous Khiladi 4
20:55 Nela Ticket

STAR GOLD
17:30 Gharwali Baharwali

SPORTS
11:00 Ind vs Aus ODI
18:30 Vivo IPL Hls
19:00 Cricket Legends
19:30 Ind vs Aus ODI Hls
20:00 Vivo IPL Hls
20:30 IPL Hls
21:00 Cricket Legends
21:30 Ind vs Aus ODI Hls
22:00 Vivo IPL Hls
23:00 IPL Hls
23:30 Ind vs Aus ODI Hls
23:30 Football United Special

11:00 Ind vs Aus ODI

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Wednesday, May 13, 2020:
Playful you does better than most of your compatriots this year, and with apparent ease. Gradual, steady effort on your part brings financial rewards, too. If single, make certain you enjoy the company of the friends of a companion who is winning your heart. It will run hot, then cold, this year. If attached, there will be volatility, with sparkles and surprises. Never a dull moment, you two run the course. LIBRA loves the calm moments as well.

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)
★★★★ Today finds your charisma and popularity at a peak. Involvement with groups and organizations is worth pursuing. Make resolutions and decide on goals. Focus on the future. Determine your priorities. Tonight: Favours are unexpectedly returned. You will be wise in your selection of long-term goals.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Economic and social conditions have drastically affected your profession. There is a strong awareness of how your destiny interconnects. Today, you will attract a great deal of attention. Tonight: A bit of work on your image will be worth the effort many times over.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You will be inventive, communicate well and can initiate improvements in your work. Your willingness to experiment impresses the right people. Share scientific and metaphysical concepts. Tonight: Capitalize on valuable contacts and return calls, emails and social messages promptly.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ There is temporary confusion, but after a little time passes a mystery is solved. Think over speculative financial decisions. Leave insurance policies as they are and do not borrow money today. Also, avoid controversy and be discreet with confidential information. Tonight: Relax.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Ethics and legal matters are a focus. You will be repelled by any people or situations that are not entirely above board. You evaluate how useful relationships are and will intensify those that are most significant. Tonight: An intimate dinner with your most loved ones.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ There is a more progressive daily routine today, and you can have good luck if searching for a job. You use time with the utmost efficiency. There can be a new psychic rapport with pets. Tonight: Check in on an elderly family member.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Emails and calls pour in from old friends and relatives who have been out of touch. Try not to get too distracted from really important tasks though. It is easy to let pleasure and love come before work today. Tonight: You receive very tempting invitations.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Observative attitudes grow strong today. You feel comfortable if you have the sanction of traditions or the permission of authority figures. Put business before pleasure, and you will find peaceful contentment. Relationships among relatives improve. Tonight: Thinking about real estate transactions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Today brings emails and calls from old friends or neighbors. You are brought up to date on juicy gossip as well as career leads. Double-check information received, as there could be colorful exaggerations to sift through. Tonight: You inspire a child with confidence.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Today, appreciation of your possessions is heightened. You can add to a collection or find a treasure online. Browsing through antique shops is an appealing pastime. If you need a new garment or piece of jewelry, you can locate the perfect item now. Tonight: Celebrate.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Today brings excitement. You will be jolted out of a rut and reminded not to cling to the past. Stay flexible and alert. Your need for action can make you a little impatient with others. Transmute anger into positive remedies. Tonight: Defer to another.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Today begins on a soft, dreamy note. It is time to reflect, regroup and learn from the past. You gain insight into the reasons behind old disappointments. The situation with a loved one takes a turn for the better. Tonight: Catch up with family.

Thought for the day
If you don't give education to people, it is easy to manipulate them.
-PELE

LOCKHORNS

"THERE'S AIRLINE, HOSPITAL, ARMY, PRISON, AND THEN THERE'S LORETTAS COOKING."

By Lee Falk

"NICE TANTRUM, I GIVE IT ABOUT AN R."

THE PHANTOM

"IF HE FIRES, HIS LIFE IS OVER. MAYBE MINE, TOO."

"BUT I WILL GET THE SHOT OFF..."

By Lee Falk

"ASK ME AGAIN, PHANTOM! HERE AND NOW!"

"I WON'T DISAPPOINT YOU..."

BLONDIE

"NOW SERVING NUMBER TWENTY-ONE!"

"BINGO!"

"SORRY, I JUST CAME FROM MY CHURCH BINGO TOURNAMENT"

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

"TIME TO THROW MORE LOGS ON THE FIRE!"

"AWW, YOU'RE BEING ATTENTIVE!"

"YEAH, THE BUTTER WAS GETTING TOO COLD TO SPREAD!"

Tribune CROSSWORD - 6892

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		9					
10						11	
13	14					15	16
17						18	
20	21					22	23
24						25	
27						28	
30						31	

SOLUTION TO TRIBUNE CROSSWORD - 6892

Across: 1 Thump, 6 Jargon, 9 Yridish, 11 Spurn, 12 Sower, 13 Alley, 13 Beach, 15 Pow, 17 Enid, 18 Stealy, 19 Esms, 20 Cheesy, 23 Dream Teams, 23 Cool, 24 Has, 25 UHest, 26 Husks, 27 Enui, 28 Akron, 29 Erasing, 30 Aside, 31 Yigit.

Down: 1 Hesper, 3 Myrad, 4 Pn, 5 Aadle, 6 Assals, 7 Aoy, 8 Ocelt, 12 Asspy, 13 Beach, 15 Pokes, 16 Wwayt, 18 Sbags, 19 Esque, 21 Hants, 22 Glnko, 23 Assot, 25 Ukase, 26 Hned, 28 Any.

Across: 1 Heavy blow (5)
6 Composer
9 European
10 Reject (5)
11 Seed scatterer
12 Alleviate (5)
13 For a reason
15 A heavy blow or a loud, explosive noise (3)
17 Children books author Blyton (4)
18 Icy and rainy and hence slippery (6)
19 Gains (5)

20 Like cheddar or brie (6)
22 Billy or Nanny (4)
24 Owns (3)
25 Most unsightly vernacular (7)
26 Chaffs (5)
27 Ho-hum feeling
28 Rubber hub (5)
29 Rubbing out (7)
30 Privately, apart (5)
31 Some one in his teens (5)

Down: 2 Occur (6)
3 Numberless (6)
4 ___ drop silence (3)
5 Muddle (5)
6 Attacks (7)
7 Sailor's shout (4)

8 Large feline (6)
12 Check the ore (5)
13 Park seat (5)
14 Quotes (5)
15 Blot tea (5)
16 Thomas ___ : English poet believed to be lover of Anne Boleyn? (5)
18 Hitches (5)
19 A title of courtesy (7)
21 Frequent or visits as a ghost (6)
22 Maidenhair tree (6)
23 Classify (6)
25 Edict of the czar (5)
26 Tinted (4)
28 One or other (3)

HEALTH CAPSULES®

by Bron Smith

DOES THE HEART STOP BEATING DURING A HEART ATTACK?

It's probably JUST HEARTBURN!

THE HEART USUALLY CONTINUES TO BEAT DURING A HEART ATTACK, BUT ITS FUNCTION IS IMPAIRED, WHICH REDUCES BLOOD SUPPLY TO THE HEART, RESULTING IN DAMAGE TO THE HEART MUSCLE. WHEN THE HEART STOPS BEATING, IT IS CALLED "CARDIAC ARREST."

Health Capsules is not intended to be of 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.

GMNAE
HORNS
ACTUBD
EEPRSW

Nothing travels faster than the speed of light with the possible exception of... which obeys its own special laws. - Douglas Adams (3,4)

SOLUTION
HEART - Douglas Adams
HEARTS - which obeys its own special laws of physics
ANSWER: Nothing travels faster than the speed of light with the possible exception of... which obeys its own special laws. - Douglas Adams (3,4)

Dibrugarh ready to receive train passengers

RON DUARAH

DIBRUGARH, May 12: All passengers arriving by the special trains will be subjected to quarantine for 14 or 28 days, as decided by doctors. The special train from New Delhi carrying around 1200 passengers is expected to arrive here on Thursday morning, and the local authorities here are coordinating with the Railways for post detrainment health checks and putting the passengers to either camp or home quarantine, depending on the individual health condition of the person.

The Dibrugarh-New Delhi special trains will run daily from Thursday onwards, with stoppages in Assam being at Mariani, Dimapur (Naga-

land), Lumding, Guwahati and Kokrajhar. From here, the train will depart from the Banipur station (code: DBRG), and will ply on the Moran-Sivasagar alignment, before joining the main line at Simaluguri. The inaugural train has departed from New Delhi today at 4 pm. The train is basically the Rajdhani Express rake. Passengers have been asked to carry their own linen, and to buy their food from the in-train pantry car, called the 'Hot Buffet' coach. As it is a Rajdhani Express train, the fully air-conditioned rake has First AC, Two Tier AC and Three Tier AC class for passengers. The fare does not include food and water.

To be on the safe side, the coach

attendants have been instructed to keep the internal coach temperatures "slightly on the higher side" to avoid and flu trigger. This means in-coach temperatures in the 27 to 30 degree Celsius range. The passengers have also been asked to have the Arogya app installed and activated on their mobile phones.

The preparations at Dibrugarh are that detrainment passengers of the Dibrugarh district will be directed to their respective Revenue Circle windows for check up and quarantine assistance. The district has seven revenue circles and Dibrugarh city comprises the Dibrugarh East and Dibrugarh West revenue circles. For passengers of other districts, they would be directed to specially

set up district-wise help desks. For passengers from neighbouring States, there will be a separate help desk. There will be quarantine camps for every revenue circle of the Dibrugarh district and district/state wise camps for others. Proper sanitization and cleaning of the arriving trains (and the departing trains then onwards) have also been worked out by the railway administration.

To avoid unnecessary crowding of the Dibrugarh (Banipur) railway station, the district administration here will enforce prohibitory orders under Section 144 CrP around a 200 metre periphery of the vast station complex. However, it is unclear how long this restriction will be main-

tained as approaches to several residential areas fall in this area, and prolonged restrictions will hugely inconvenience citizens.

Local officials including the DC, SP and their subordinates today reviewed the preparations to receive the passengers, as per the COVID-19 protocol. It is expected that after the first day's anxieties, the exercises would get streamlined as the days progress. The local authorities today also had discussions with hotel, guest house and lodge owners here to use their premises as quarantine facilities. The owners have assured the administration of their full cooperation and to offer their places as and when any need arises.



Civics workers spraying disinfectants in a North Lakhimpur municipality area, on Tuesday. - UB Photos

CM takes stock of flood preparedness at Kaziranga

CORRESPONDENT

KAZIRANGA, May 12: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today chaired a high-level meeting in Kohora here over the preparedness of the park authority of Kaziranga and adjoining districts to deal with the upcoming monsoon floods in the Kaziranga National Park.

Sonowal while addressing mediapersons at Kohora, said he had outlined the strategy and asked the Deputy Commissioners, Superintendent of Police and Divisional Forest officers of Golaghat, Karbi Anglong, Nagaon, Sonitpur and Biswanath districts to remain on complete alert to check any illegal activities of anti-social elements during the flood time in Kaziranga.

Chief Minister Sonowal said, "Kaziranga is the pride of Assam because of the one-horned rhino and we all should all put a combined effort to ensure that our forest resources are protected and conserved properly."

He said care must be taken for the safety of our wildlife species in forest areas. He said since the day the BJP government came to power, drastic measures have been adopted for the protection of wild animals of Assam including those of Kaziranga National Park like the rhino, besides other wildlife.

Sonowal said since flood season in Kaziranga will start soon, so deliberations over the issue of protection and safety of wild animals have been taking place. The DCs, SPs and DFOs of five adjoining districts have been asked to adopt combined efforts so that no further poaching takes place. State Forest Minister Parimal Suklabaidhya, Agriculture and Veterinary Minister Atul Bora and Water Resources Minister Keshab Mahanta also attended the meet.

Sophisticated arms have been given to forest personnel to fight against poachers and 18 mechanised boats were also given, added Sonowal. He said some appointments in veterinary sector would be made to ensure that wild animals of Kaziranga and other forests in the State get due treatment during flood time.

He thanked the fringe villages and media for their active role in checking poaching activities to a great extent in the State.

He asked for cooperation from the people of the State, MLAs and MPs to play an active role while checking the activities of people who would be reaching the State coming from outside Assam by trains. He said quarantine facilities have been arranged at different places in association with the Health department and the district administration.

When this correspondent wanted to know about stranded Assamese people abroad who wanted to return home, Sonowal said that those people can contact the State government for any kind of assistance.

NGO reaches out to stranded migrant workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, May 12: SEWA, a local NGO here, in collaboration with Mercy Corps India has been reaching out to the distressed migrant workers stranded in the district with relief materials.

The non-governmental organization with support from Mercy Corps India has been providing food items and hygiene materials besides also providing psycho-social counselling to the stranded workers. It needs to be mentioned here that several people from the central part of India come to Assam in search of livelihood.

The organization took up the initiative on receiving an appeal from Jharkhand State government to extend necessary help to the stranded migrant workers of their State, who are presently stranded in Assam, a release stated. They provided food items and hygiene materials to the stranded migrant workers in

Tengakhat, Ghoramora, Chabua, Lahoal and Dibrugarh urban within the district. Some 56 stranded migrant workers from Jharkhand and West Bengal so far have benefited from the relief drive.

As the nationwide lockdown has been extended to May 17 to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the stranded migrant workers continue to bear the brunt the most. The NGO has observed that the migrant workers are gripped with acute distress, hunger and homesick minds. To handle the crisis of the migrant workers in the district, SEWA further plans to initiate more relief works in collaboration with Mercy Corps India, the release added.

Apart from these initiatives under the SEWA COVID-19 Response programme, SEWA in collaboration with 'Save the Children' is also distributing masks free for children, tea garden workers and providing technical support to the small tea growers to cope with the crisis arising due to the lockdown.

Man held with drugs at Bokajan

CORRESPONDENT

DIPHU, May 12: The police on Monday held a man with brown sugar at the heart of Bokajan town.

According to police sources, the man has been identified as Dhiraj Chingphou, a resident of Balipathar, who was coming from Dimapur on a motorbike.

Police seized around 9.70 gm of brown sugar from his possession. The brown sugar was concealed in the helmet he was wearing.

13 arrested for child marriage

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, May 12: Police on Monday night arrested 13 persons - 7 from the groom's family and 6 from the bride's family - for their alleged involvement in child marriage.

Police informed that 12 persons hailing from Alamganj Part 9 village under Gauripur PS and one from Koimari under Golokganj PS went to the bride's home at the same village for marrying a minor girl with Sofiya Mondal (25 years) from the same village. The entire event was organised secretly.

Meanwhile, police reached on time and arrested 13 persons in this connection, including the groom and registered a case under Sections 9 and 10 of the Prevention of Child Marriage Act, 2006 with the Gauripur PS.

On Tuesday, the arrested persons were forwarded to the court for judicial proceedings.

VK NRL Hospital adopts noble initiative to reach out to people

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 12: In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, Vivekananda Kendra NRL Hospital has been performing a key role in serving the rural population surrounding Numaligarh Refinery and other remote villages of Golaghat district by conducting Mobile Medical Camps (MMCs), thereby bringing healthcare to the doorsteps of the needy.

The two MMC units of the hospital had resumed their services from April 27 after lockdown restrictions were relaxed, maintaining stringent protective measures such as social distancing, regular sani-

tization and use of face masks and PPEs as per government guidelines. While one MMC unit is deployed in a nearby village, the other unit visits Numaligarh Refinery Marketing Terminal for COVID-19 screening of truck drivers and attendants, limiting daily registrations to 40 patients to avoid crowding.

"Villages covered till now include Ponka, Bishnupur Sewipur, Rongbong-I, Rongbong-IV, Bormahari Pathar, Rangchali and Parghat-II. Any person found with high fever or other COVID-19 symptoms is immediately directed to a government hospital for further testing," an NRL

spokesperson said.

MMCs are a noble initiative adopted by VK NRL Hospital in the year 1998 with the support of NRL. It initially began with a skeletal set-up of a doctor, a nurse and nursing attendant who visited nearby rural areas and provided free medicine and advice based on clinical examination. Twelve such centers within a 5-km radius covered a rural population of 25,000. Over the years, the MMCs have grown manifold, organizing on an average of six camps a week covering 60 villages within a radius of 10 kilometres of the refinery and treating 50,000-plus patients in a year.

Fake beneficiaries of Central scheme detected in Bongaigaon

CORRESPONDENT

BONGAIGAON, May 12: A large number of genuine farmers in Bongaigaon district have been deprived of the benefits under Prime Minister Kishan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISHAN) scheme as a section of close relatives of gaon panchayat/zila parishad members and political leaders allegedly took the benefits of the scheme.

The scheme provides Rs 6,000 to a farmer in three instalments in a year to meet small agri expenses. "We cannot say who had prepared the list of beneficiaries (farmers) of the scheme and on what basis, names of unknown persons were included in the list," said Makhon Ghosh, president of Dhaligaon Gaon Panchayat in Bongaigaon district. "We are going to submit a letter to the Deputy Commissioner, seeking proper probe into the anomalies as we have received complaints from the people from our panchayat area," Ghosh

said. In another complaint to the Deputy Commissioner from the Dhaligaon Kheti Pothar Porichalona Samiti, it has been alleged that Zila Parishad member Ranju Singha and Dhaligaon panchayat member Parboti Ray had enlisted the names of their family members as beneficiaries of the scheme. So, the farmers' group demanded a probe into the scam and punishment to those who are involved in it.

"Of the 71 beneficiaries in the Dhaligaon panchayat area, 75 per cent are fake farmers," claimed Samiti's secretary Gokul Medhi. Last year in February, the government had instructed the officers concerned to submit the names of farmers within a short time. Using political power, party leaders and panchayat members had included the names of their relatives and party supporters in the lists of beneficiaries, instead of genuine farmers and for which the officials of the Agriculture department have to suffer, Medhi added.

International Nurses Day observed at Kakopothar

DOOMDOOMA, May 12: Along with the rest of the world, International Nurses Day was observed at Kakopothar here on Tuesday. On this occasion, the nurses of Kakopothar Public Health Centre (KPHC) lit earthen lamps and offered floral tributes to the portrait of Florence Nightingale. Later, the nurses distributed masks among the staff and the customers of Central Bank of India, Kakopothar branch. As a mark of gratitude for their dedicated service in this critical situation, the nurses of the PHC were felicitated with a *gamusa* each by the Greater Kakopothar Journalists' Association (GKJA). - Correspondent



Wearing a face mask, a street vendor selling bamboo and cane products, at Dhakuakhana on Tuesday. - UB Photos

No. CE/CW/05/2020-21/
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Chief Engineer, 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 (metropolitan) 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 14.05.2020 during office hours.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/CF/267/20

No. CE/CW/03/2020-21/
PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Chief Engineer, 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 2 (two) works under SOPD (G) for the year 2019-20 in Kamrup (Metropolitan) 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 14.05.2020 during office hours.
Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/CF/269/20

No. CE/DEV/ TB/696/2019-20/4
PRESS NOTICE
The Chief Engineer PWD (ROADS), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for 1 (one) no of Package for Roads and Bridge projects under SOPD-G for the year 2019-20 in Cachar District of Assam from approved & eligible Contractors enlisted with APWD amounting to Rs. 2313.74 lakhs (approx) including GST Labour cess etc.
Details may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in from 15.05.2020. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.
Schemes are being sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.
Name of Road:- Improvement of Silchar Kalain Road within Silchar, Borkhola & Katgorah constituency under SOPD-G for 2019-20(L=19.242 Km).
The earlier press notice invited vide No. CE/DEV/TB/696/2019-20/1 Dated 18.03.2020 is hereby cancelled due to lockdown for COVID Pandemic.
Sd/- Chief Engineer PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
Janasanyog/CF/257/20

No. CE/DEV/TB/579/2019-20/5
PRESS NOTICE
The Chief Engineer P.W.D (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids online on behalf of Governor of Assam for the following works under CIDF for the year 2019-20 for Dibrugarh District from approved & eligible Contractors amounting to Rs.1500.00 lakhs (approx) including GST & other Tax etc.
Details may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in, from 15-05-2020 and also at the office of the undersigned (Development Branch), Chandmari, Ghy-03. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.
Name of Works:- i) Improvement and widening of AMC to Convo Road, Phase-II (From Ch.0.0 m to Ch.1410.00m) at Dibrugarh Town under CIDF for 2019-20 and ii) Construction of Road side Drain cum Footpath including Saucer Drain and paved shoulder of RKB Road (From Thana Chariali to Boga Baba Majhar) under CIDF in Dibrugarh, Lahowal, Moran & Tingkhong Territorial Road Division Dibrugarh in Three groups (Length- Group-I + Group- II + Group- III =2481.50 M) at Dibrugarh-Town under CIDF for 2019-20.
The earlier press notice invited vide No. CE/DEV/TB/579/2019-20/4 Dated 04/03/2020 is hereby cancelled due to lockdown for COVID Pandemic.
Sd/- Chief Engineer PWD (Roads) Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
Janasanyog/CF/255/20

No. CE/DEV/TB/691/2019-20/5
PRESS NOTICE
The Chief Engineer P.W.D (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids online on behalf of Governor of Assam the following works under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 for Barpeta & Cachar District from approved & eligible contractors amounting to Rs.1970.43671 lakhs (approx) including GST & other Tax etc. Details may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in, from 15.05.2020 and also at the office of the undersigned (Development Branch), Chandmari, Ghy-03. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering system (ETS) of PWD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.
Name of Works:- i) Construction of two lane ROB in between Barpeta Road Railway station and Sarupeta Station (Additional estimate for utility shifting in Barpeta Bashbari Road) ii) Construction of balance Drain on Silchar Kumbhigram Road (From Gossapur Point of Mahasadak to Kumbhigram Airport) and iii) Construction of Retaining wall, Road-1 Furnishing Traffic Signs, Marking and other road Appurtenances including plantation on Silchar Kumbhigram Road from Gossapur Point of Mahasadak to Kumbhigram Airport) under SOPD-G for 2019-20.
The earlier press notice invited vide No. CE/DEV/TB/691/2019-20/4 Dated 20/03/2020 is hereby cancelled due to lockdown for COVID Pandemic.
Sd/- Chief Engineer PWD (Roads) Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
Janasanyog/CF/253/20

No. CE/DEV/TB/163/2019-20/11
PRESS NOTICE
The Chief Engineer P.W.D (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids on behalf of Governor of Assam for 1 (one) no of Package for Road project under SOPD-G for the year 2019-20 in Cachar District of Assam from approved & eligible Contractors enlisted with APWD amounting to Rs. 53,40.62 Lakhs. (approx) including GST , Labour cess etc.
Details may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in from 15-05-2020. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.
Schemes are being sanctioned by the competent authority. In the event of non-sanction of the schemes, the bids may be cancelled and no claim what so ever on this account shall be entertained from the bidders.
Name of Work: Improvement of Road from Silchar Town to Assam University upto Irongrama Bazar (Silchar Hailakandi Road),(Ch.0.0 Km to Ch.18.50 Km), Improvement with DBM & BC Drain cum Footpath & RCC Open drain under SOPD-G for 2019-20.
The earlier press notice invited vide No. CE/DEV/TB/163/2019-20/8 Dated 18.03.2020 is hereby cancelled due to lockdown for COVID Pandemic.
Sd/- Chief Engineer PWD (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/CF/249/20

No. CE/DEV/TB/580/2019-20/7
PRESS NOTICE
The Chief Engineer P.W.D (Roads), Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3 invites Bids online on behalf of Governor of Assam for the followings works under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 for Sonitpur District from approved & eligible Contractors amounting to Rs. 4658.55 lakhs (approx) including GST & other Tax etc. Details may be seen at website www.assamtenders.gov.in, from 15.05.2020 and also at the office of the undersigned (Development Branch), Chandmari, Ghy-03. Amendment /Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website and /also at the office of the undersigned during office hours. The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of PWD, Assam website www.assamtenders.gov.in.
Name of Works: i) Construction of RCC Cover drain on both side of B.R. Dutta Road under SOPD(G) for 2019-20. ii) Improvement & widening of Khanamukh to Napam via Mansiri Road (Ch.0.0 Km to Ch.12.50 Km) under SOPD-G for the year 2019-20. iii) Improvement & Widening of NH-15 at Bamungula to Mansiri under SOPD-G for 2019-20 .
The earlier press notice invited vide No. CE/DEV/TB/580/2019-20/4 Dated 21.03.2020 is hereby cancelled due to lockdown for COVID Pandemic.
Sd/- Chief Engineer PWD (Roads) Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/CF/251/20

German fans warned ahead of Bundesliga restart

BERLIN, May 12: The Bundesliga returns on Saturday in empty stadiums, but German fans are being warned to stay away and authorities have warned matches could be halted if too many supporters gather outside the grounds.

German football will be blazing a trail among Europe's top leagues by resuming two months after it was halted by the spread of coronavirus, but its strategy is fraught with risks.

In a football-mad country which boasts the highest average attendances in the world, will supporters banished from stadiums be able to stay away? In Saxony, where third-placed RB Leipzig will host mid-table Freiburg on Saturday afternoon, the state's Interior Minister Roland Woeller has issued a clear threat.

"Fans must not use matches behind closed doors as an excuse to gather in front of the stadiums or elsewhere," he said.

"This could lead to matches being stopped." His concerns are justified.

Several hundred fans gathered in Moenchengladbach when the hosts beat Cologne 2-1 on March 11 – the only previous German league game played behind locked doors, just days before the shutdown.

Eintracht Frankfurt have ap-



Bayern Munich players during a training session at FC Bayern Campus in Munich, Germany. Bayern Munich will face 1. FC Union Berlin on May 17 when the Bundesliga will resume after the forced break due to the ongoing coronavirus crisis.

pealed to their supporters before they resume their season against Gladbach on Saturday.

"We've talked a lot with our fans and said: 'listen guys, don't show up at the stadium'," Frankfurt's sports director Fredi Bobic told ESPN.

Under German league rules put in place to resume the season, the home side is responsible for ensuring fans do not try to approach the stadium to support their team from a distance.

After weeks of meticulous planning and mass testing of

players and backroom staff, it would be a nightmare for the Bundesliga if the fans were to derail the fragile recovery attempt.

Christian Seifert, CEO of the Bundesliga, does not expect fans to play into the hands of critics who fear they will mass outside grounds despite large public events being banned in Germany.

Seifert accused the critics predicting that football fans would fail to respect the pleas for restraint of making

"sweeping statements".

"I don't believe that the fan scene and the fan organisations will do their critics... the favour of behaving in exactly the way" that those doomsayers fear, he said.

The Bundesliga boss said all the talks he had held on the issue "do not give any indication" that supporters will gather.

Broadcaster Sky has agreed to show some of Saturday's matches on a free-to-air channel, allaying fears that fans will gather in bars or

public places which have a subscription for the pay-per-view service.

However, Seifert says while they are taking every reasonable step to discourage fans from meeting up, "the DFL's responsibility ends at a certain point".

The centrepiece of Saturday's return to action is Borussia Dortmund at home to Schalke in the Ruhr derby, a match which would usually draw a crowd of 82,000 to Signal Iduna Park. – AFP

Premier League gets green light for re-start

LONDON, May 12: Premier League clubs received a boost to their hopes of completing the season as the government published a "roadmap" that could see the return of elite sport in England from June 1.

As the 20 English top-flight clubs met for further talks on "Project Restart", ministers announced plans to ease the coronavirus lockdown.

Under step two of that process, which cannot begin any earlier than June 1, sporting events would be allowed "to take place behind closed doors for broadcast, while avoiding the risk of large-scale social contact".

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said he believed the return of sport on TV would "provide a much-needed boost to national morale."

Supporters face a long wait to be allowed to attend

matches, though, with the latest guidelines recognising a return to sport in front of a crowd "may only be fully possible significantly later depending on the reduction in numbers of infections".

Premier League clubs had been planning for a return to



action no earlier than the week beginning June 8.

Before the resumption of matches can be considered, protocols need to be agreed on how to return to group training safely and on how the Premier League would deal with positive tests.

Brighton confirmed on Sunday that a third member of their squad had tested positive.

Cases have also been found in squads in Germany, where the Bundesliga is due to restart this weekend, as well as Italy, Spain and Portugal in recent days.

"We have protocols created and reviewed, we have a testing company appointed, but the important consultation with players and managers is the next step," said Premier League CEO Richard Masters.

"No decisions will be made until after we have talked to players and managers and those meetings are scheduled for later this week."

Players have voiced their concerns at the prospect of being rushed back into training and, eventually, into playing a contact sport at a time when the rest of the public remain encouraged to abide by social-distancing guidelines. – AFP

Women's ODI and men's U-19 WC qualifiers postponed

DUBAI, May 12: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday postponed the qualifying events for the 2021 Women's World Cup and the 2022 men's Under-19 showpiece in July owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The women's event, from July 3-19 in Sri Lanka, was to feature 10 teams – the hosts, Bangladesh, Ireland, Netherlands, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, United States, West Indies, and Zimbabwe. Three out of these could have qualified for the World Cup in New Zealand next year.

"...after consultation with members and with the relevant government and public health authorities, the decision has been taken to postpone the qualifier to the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021 and the start of the qualification pathway to the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2022," an ICC press release stated.

The start of the journey to the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2022 was scheduled to begin with the European Regional Qualifier in Denmark between July 24 and 30.

The ICC will consult participating members to figure when these events can be staged.

ICC Head of Events, Chris Tetley said: "In light of the continuing travel restrictions, global health concerns and government and public health authority advice we have decided to postpone two further upcoming qualifying events due to the COVID-19 pandemic."

"The Women's Cricket World Cup Qualifier and the Europe qualifier to the U19 Cricket World Cup 2022 have both been impacted."

Well-being of players is paramount, said Tetley.

"Our priority during this difficult period is to protect the well-being of players, coaches, officials, fans and the whole cricket community and we will take well-informed, responsible decisions..." – PTI

Balbir Singh Sr suffers cardiac arrest

NEW DELHI, May 12: Hockey legend Balbir Singh Sr on Tuesday suffered a cardiac arrest and his condition remains critical, his grandson Kabir said in a medical update.

The 96-year-old, a triple Olympic gold medallist, was hospitalised in Mohali on May 8.

"Nanaji was admitted on Friday, 8th May in a very serious multi-organ affected state. His condition had improved slightly but was and is still critical now."

"Doctors will be continuously assessing his condition

over the next 24-48 hours, before any further statements about his condition are issued. He continues to be on ventilator assistance," said Kabir.

In January last year, Balbir Sr was discharged from PGI after spending 108 days in the hospital, where he underwent treatment for bronchial pneumonia.

One of the country's tallest athletes, Balbir Sr became the only Indian among 16 legends chosen by the International Olympic Committee across the modern Olympic history. – PTI

Ex int'l TT player Manmeet Singh dies

GUWAHATI, May 12: Former international table tennis player Manmeet Singh Walia passed away at Montreal in Canada yesterday at the age of 58.

The national champion from Delhi in the year 1989 and finalist from 1981 to 1985 was a household name in the table tennis circuit during 1980s. After retiring from the sport, Manmeet shifted to Canada.

He represented the Indian team in several Asian and world level championships during 1980s.

Arjuna awardee and national champion Monalisa Baruah Mehta consoled the untimely demise. She termed the deceased player as a perfect sportsman who helped the co-players in every aspect.

Noted Assam paddler Arunjyoti Baruah, who along with Manmeet represented India in several international tournaments, recalled Manmeet's contribution to Indian TT. "Manmeet was a class player and contributed a lot to the national team."

The Assam Table Tennis



Association (ATTA) president Mriganka Barman, secretary Tridib Duvarah, Manmeet's contemporary players from Assam including Gautam Hazarika, Carlew Roy, Modalasa Hazarika, among others on behalf of the ATTA consoled the death of the former national champion. They prayed to the almighty for the eternal peace of his soul.

Leading TT player of the country Kamlesh Mehta said, "He was a terrific player. We shared some amazing moments on and off the table. I think he is gone too soon, just like the way he retired too early." – Sports Reporter

FIFA U-17 Women's WC rescheduled

NEW DELHI, May 12: The postponed FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in India was on Tuesday rescheduled to next year from February 17 to March 7 after the world body made a "thorough assessment" of the situation arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The tournament was originally scheduled to be held from November 2 to 21 this year but was postponed last month due to the coronavirus outbreak, which brought global sports activities to a grinding halt.

FIFA announced that the tournament will keep its original eligibility criteria and allow "players born on or after January 1, 2003 and on or before December 31, 2005" to compete.

"Following a thorough assessment of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent recommendations made by the FIFA-Confederations COVID-19 Working Group, the Bureau of the FIFA Council has taken the decision to confirm the proposed new tournament dates, subject to further monitoring," the FIFA said in a statement.

The tournament will be held at five venues in the country – Kolkata, Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Ahmedabad and Navi Mumbai – and competed among 16 teams, with hosts India being automatic qualifiers in what will be the country's maiden appearance in the U-17 Women's World Cup.

Promptly reacting to the development, Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju assured full cooperation and support to the tournament.

"I assure full cooperation and support to make it a grand success," Rijiju tweeted.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel, under whose leadership the country successfully hosted the men's U-17 World Cup in 2017, promised an encore.

"Delighted to share the new dates for the U17WWC, which will now be held between Feb 17 to Mar 7, 2021. I would like to thank all our stakeholders for their continuous support over this period. AIFF & LOC remain committed to delivering a historic tournament," Patel tweeted.

The Local Organising Committee (LOC) welcomed the decision and assured full preparedness.

"The dates were confirmed after taking into account the time needed to complete the UEFA, CONCACAF, CAF, OFC, and CONMEBOL qualification tournaments as well as the best possible conditions in the country to host a successful FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup," the LOC said.

Before the tournament was postponed, the only qualifying event that could be held was for Asia from which Japan and North Korea made the cut. – PTI

Vettel to leave Ferrari after 2020 season

PARIS, May 12: Four-time Formula One world champion Sebastian Vettel on Tuesday said he would leave Ferrari at the end of the season, saying there was no "common desire" to work together any more.

No replacement was named for Vettel, who dominated F1 with Red Bull before switching to the Italian marque in 2015. He said his departure was a "joint decision".

"My relationship with Scuderia Ferrari will finish at the end of 2020," the 32-year-old German said in a statement from Ferrari.

"In order to get the best possible results in this sport, it's vital for all parties to work in perfect harmony."

"The team and I have re-



alised that there is no longer a common desire to stay together beyond the end of this season."

Vettel, who has won 14 races with Ferrari, said financial considerations did not play any role in his decision.

He said he would "reflect

on what really matters when it comes to my future."

Vettel's departure will spark intense speculation about his replacement, with Mercedes' reigning world champion Lewis Hamilton among the drivers previously linked with Ferrari. – AFP

CSK says no point in Indians only IPL

NEW DELHI, May 12: Chennai Super Kings have rejected the idea of an IPL with only Indian players in the near future, differing with Rajasthan Royals, the franchise which is kept on the option given the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The IPL, which is indefinitely postponed, can be held in the September-October window if the scheduled T20 World Cup in Australia doesn't take place.

"CSK is not keen to do an IPL with only Indian players. That way it would be playing another Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (domestic T20 competition). The franchise has not been in touch with the BCCI of late as the situation is worsening," a CSK source told PTI on conditions of anonymity.

"Let's hope we can have the IPL later this year," he added.

CSK are three-time IPL champions, making them the second most successful team

in the event's history after Mumbai Indians, who have won the tournament four times.

The BCCI is also very keen to stage the IPL and if it doesn't happen, the world's richest board would be in financial trouble like Cricket Australia.

"The board will take a revenue hit of Rs 4000 crore if it doesn't happen. The board will be in a big problem," BCCI treasurer Arun Dhumal told PTI earlier this week. – PTI

Gambhir, Irfan recall instances when Dhoni lost his temper

MUMBAI, May 12: Mahendra Singh Dhoni has hardly lost his temper during his decade and a half long illustrious career but there have been a few exceptions when 'Captain Cool' has let it rip, recall his former India teammates Gautam Gambhir and Irfan Pathan.

Recently, India spinner Kuldeep Yadav had revealed that he was mortally scared when Dhoni, by his own admission, had lost his cool for the first time in 20 years.

And the left-arm chinaman bowler was at the receiving end when he did not adhere to Dhoni's instructions while

bowling during an ODI against Sri Lanka in 2017.

The 38-year-old Gambhir, who played 58 Tests and 147 ODIs for India, revealed that on couple of occasions he saw the veteran wicket-keeper batsman lose his cool.

"People say that they have never seen him (Dhoni) lose his cool, but I have on a couple of times. It was during the 2007 World Cup and in other World Cups, when we haven't done well," Gambhir said on Star Sports show 'Cricket Connected'.

But in the same vein Gambhir also said that Dhoni was a human and was bound to



react as well.

"He's human and he's bound to react as well. It's absolutely fair enough to do that. Even at CSK, if there's a misfield or if someone has dropped a catch," added Gambhir.

Gambhir, who was often known to lose his cool, said that Dhoni was cooler than him.

"Yes, he's cool, he's probably much cooler than the rest of the other captains. Much cooler than me for sure," said Gambhir, who also played under Dhoni.

The 35-year-old Pathan, who also played with Dhoni, recalled an instance from

2006-07 when the Jharkhand

dasher lost his temper during warm-up and reported late for practise.

"It was in 2006-07. During the warm-up, we had a game where the right-handed batsman would bat with the left-hand and vice-versa. After we finished the warm-up, we used to get into our practise."

"So, during the warm-ups, there were 2 teams. Once MS Dhoni was given out which he didn't think he was. He threw his bat and made a dash to the dressing room and came late for the practise. So, he does get angry," said Pathan. – PTI

SU DO KU

6		4	9			7
4						3
		2	8	1	9	
3	9		4	7		2
			3	6		
1	5	9		8		6
		4	1	3	6	
8						5
2		7	4			1

Solution of last problem

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.

5	8	3	7	9	6	4	2	1
7	4	9	3	2	1	5	6	8
6	1	2	4	8	5	9	3	7
9	3	7	6	5	4	8	1	2
4	2	5	1	3	8	7	9	6
1	6	8	9	7	2	3	5	4
3	5	1	8	6	7	2	4	9
2	7	4	5	1	9	6	8	3
8	9	6	2	4	3	1	7	5