

20 Afghan civilians hurt in mosque blast

KABUL, May 4: Twenty civilians were injured in a hand grenade explosion outside a mosque in Afghanistan's Paktika province, police said on Monday.

"The incident occurred when *Ramzan* night prayers were underway in a mosque in Mohammad Hassan village, Khair Kot district at 8 pm on Sunday," a police spokesman told Xinhua news agency.

The wounded were shifted to

a district hospital and none of them suffered life-threatening injuries, the police official added.

The Taliban has denied involvement in the incident.

More than 500 civilians were killed and 760 others wounded due to the fighting in Afghanistan in the first three months of 2020, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) announced late in April. — IANS

It's humanity versus the virus: Johnson

Virtual COVID-19 global summit

LONDON, May 4: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson opened a virtual global conference on COVID-19 on Monday by calling on all countries to step up their efforts and work together on fighting the coronavirus pandemic, the "most urgent shared endeavour of our lifetimes."

The Coronavirus Global Response International Pledging Conference was co-hosted by the UK and eight other countries and organisations including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Saudi Arabia, and the European Commission.

At the conference, Johnson confirmed the UK's pledge of 388 million pounds aid funding for research into vaccines, tests and treatments "part of a larger 744 million pounds existing UK aid commitment to help end the pandemic and support the global economy. This includes 250 million pounds for the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations to develop vaccines against

coronavirus" the biggest such donation to the fund by any country.

"To win this battle, we must work together to build an impregnable shield around all our people, and that can only be achieved by developing and mass producing a vaccine," said Johnson.

"The more we pull together and share our expertise, the faster our scientists will succeed. The race to discover the vaccine to defeat this virus is not a competition between countries, but the most urgent shared endeavour of our lifetimes. It's humanity against the virus. We are in this together, and together we will prevail," he said.

The conference was updated on the progress at pace on vaccine development, with the University of Oxford and pharmaceutical major AstraZeneca announcing a partnership to support large-scale manufacture and potential distribution of a vaccine currently being

tried by the university.

The UK highlighted that tackling coronavirus globally is crucial to preventing a second wave of the virus re-emerging in Britain, which would put even further pressure on the state-funded National Health Service (NHS). It will also ensure that life-saving vaccines, treatments and diagnostic tests are available as soon as possible.

UK International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan, said: "It is only by working together that we will prevent future waves of infection and end this pandemic as quickly as possible.

"By strengthening developing countries' health systems and working to find a vaccine, the UK is playing its part in stopping the global spread of coronavirus to save lives everywhere and protect our NHS."

The conference this week will be



Boris Johnson

Singapore confirms 573 new COVID-19 cases

SINGAPORE, May 4: Singapore reported 573 new COVID-19 cases, mostly migrant workers, on Monday, taking the country's total count to 18,778, as the government extended for another week the strict restrictions imposed to stem the spread of the deadly virus.

According to the Health Ministry, only five were citizens and permanent residents (foreigners) of Singapore while the migrant workers living in dormitories continue to make up the bulk of the remaining cases.

Over the weekend, the government announced that some of the tighter restrictions put in place during Singapore's circuit breaker will continue for another week. They were to be eased as of Monday. — PTI

followed up by the UK hosting the Global Vaccine Summit on June 4, bringing together countries and organisations to follow the UK's lead in investing in the work of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. — PTI

SITUATION VACANT

Urgently required retd. Bankers/ Govt. Officials for Guwahati. Earning 45000/month. Contact : 87249-67620, 97062-26337. SV/P/AC000063/12

Required retired persons & Entrepreneurs for MNC. Earning Rs. 45,000/-. Work from home. Contact : 96781-80856. SV/P/AC000035/8

EDUCATIONAL

We are Geared for the Next Decade

CEG *Offices*

Job Ready Courses

PGDCA | DCA | WEB-PAGE SOCIAL MEDIA & MARKETING ANIMATION & GRAPHICS, iMac

Counselling for Admission from 9.00am to 5.00pm

CEG-Certified Courses now 175 H.O.: SILPUKHURI, GHY-3. 97060-79979 © 97060-79989 For Franchise © 97060-79989

CD/Edu/RL001043/1

TUITION

Highly experienced home Tutor for (XI-XII) Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics. Conception #99573-06841. Tuition/P/AC000037/29

Eduquest Home tuition for all subjects (I to XII) experienced teachers, Ph. 98640-50064, 97060-50064. Tuition/P/NP000003/1

Perfect Tutorial provides Online/ Home Tutorials @all subjects/ Boards (I-XII) M: 93653-70159. Tuition/P/SP000029/7

HIGHLY EXPERIENCED HOME TUTORS FOR (VIII-XII) PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, MATHEMATICS. CALL : 80111-98297. Tuition/P/SL000001/7

TO-LET

One 2 bed room flat at Achyut nest, Radhanagar, VIP Road, Guwahati with 2 Toilets, one balcony & 24 hours running water. Contact: 9864296367. TL/P/AC000068/1

One 2 bed room Apartment & one bed room Apartment with balcony & running water at Sorumotoria, Dispur near Srimanta Shankar Academy. Ph: 9864296367. TL/P/AC000069/1

3 BHK, AC, Geyser, Company Executive at Pub-Sarania. Call : 70020-54273. TL/P/NP000005/2

PACKERS & MOVERS

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

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 8000 PLUS INCENTIVES). CALL 6003635454 FOR MORE DETAILS. Beautician/P/AC000066/4

NURSING

Home Nursing care, Baby care, Patient care. Contact: 86388-95299, 86387-22884. Nursing/AL000001/1

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

ACHIEVEMENT



Asha Rani Borah has been awarded the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) by Gauhati University, for her thesis entitled "Studies on the effects of Genistein on endocrine pancreas in Albino rat (*Rattus albicans*)". She carried out her research work under the supervision of Dr. Kamal Choudhury, Associate Professor (Retired) and former Head of the Department, Department of Zoology, B. Borooah College, Guwahati. She received INSPIRE fellowship from the department of Science and Technology, Govt of India for her research work. Dr. Asha Rani Borah is the only daughter of Mr. Resheswar Borah and late Ganga Rani Deka of Barubari Gaon, Jorhat, Assam.

CD/Achiv/BL000015/1



Dr. Arunoday Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Animal Reproduction, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Lakhimpur College of Veterinary Science, A.A.U., Joyhing, N. Lakhimpur, has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) by Assam Agricultural University for his thesis entitled "Management of Postpartum Anaestrous and Repeat Breeding in Crossbred Cattle Through Nutritional and Therapeutic Interventions". He carried out his research work under the guidance of Dr. R. K. Biswas, Retd. Professor, College of Veterinary Science, A.A.U., Khanapara. He is son of Sri Anath Chandra Das and Smt. Dhanada Das and resident of Rupkonwar Path, New Sachal, Guwahati. Achiv/P/AP000007/1

HOUSE & FLAT

Booking going on for 2 and 3 bedroom residential flat at Jyotinagar near Kalimandir. Contact J&A Developers : 87239-77197. H&F/P/SP000014/6

Only two numbers of 2 bedroom residential flat with 60% completed available for booking at Gandhibasti, Islampur. Contact J&A Developers : 87239-77197. H&F/P/SP000015/6

Residential 2/3 BHK Flat/ Commercial space at Noonmati (Opp. Axom Jatiya Vidyalay) Ph. 98640-10641. H&F/P/SP000028/3

SANITIZER

Please book in advance to Sanitize your Office & Residential Premises. For booking please WhatsApp your contact & address details: 8135074814. Sanitizer/AC000065/8

GODOWN

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Dalia Baruah daughter of Manik Baruah here by declare before the Notary Public Margherita that my name wrongly recorded as Dhalia Baruah in my school records. So my correct name is Dalia Baruah not Dhalia Baruah. PN/BL000016/1

Leaders aim to drum up billions for virus vaccine research

BRUSSELS, May 4: An alliance of world leaders is holding a virtual summit on Monday hoping to drum up billions of dollars to fund research into a vaccine for the new coronavirus as well as develop better treatments and more efficient testing.

Governments have reported around 3.5-million infections and more than 247,000 deaths from the virus, according to a count by Johns Hopkins University. But deliberately concealed outbreaks, low testing rates and the strain on health care systems mean the true scale of the pandemic is much greater.

People in many countries across the globe, and notably in Europe this week, are cautiously returning to work, but authorities remain wary of a second wave of infections, and a vaccine is the only real silver bullet to allow something like normal life to resume.

The video-conference's aim is to gather around 4 billion euros (USD 4.37 billion) for vaccine research, some 2 billion euros for treatments and 1.5 billion (USD 1.64 billion) for testing. Officials say that amount is just the start, as much more will be needed in the months ahead to scale up production and distribution.

In a statement ahead of the meeting, the leaders of France, Germany, Italy, Norway and top European Union officials said that the money raised will be channeled mostly through recognised global health organisations. No new structure would be set up to handle the funds raised.

"If we can develop a vaccine that is produced by the world, for the whole world, this will be an unique global public good of the 21st century. Together with our partners, we commit to making it available, accessible and affordable to all," the leaders said.

Leaders from Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, Jordan, South Africa and Turkey are also due to speak, along with China's EU Ambassador. The EU had been in contact with the White House and was keen for the United States, where more than 67,000 people have died, to take part but no US official will speak at the event.

In her weekly video message, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that "anyone can fall ill with the virus and that is why we have the task of acting together worldwide. It is, therefore, not only an opportunity for joint action but I would say it is a must, and Germany is facing up to this responsibility." — AP



Commuters crowd Cadorna train station in Milan, Italy on Monday. Italy began stirring again after a two-month coronavirus shutdown, with 4.4 million Italians able to return to work and restrictions on movement eased in the first European country to lock down in a bid to stem COVID-19 infections. — AP/PTI

DHS report: China hid virus' severity to hoard supplies

WASHINGTON, May 4: US officials believe China covered up the extent of the coronavirus outbreak "and how contagious the disease is" to stock up on medical supplies needed to respond to it, intelligence documents show.

Chinese leaders "intentionally concealed the severity" of the pandemic from the world in early January, according to a four-page Department of Homeland Security intelligence report dated May 1 and obtained by The Associated Press.

The revelation comes as the Trump administration has intensified its criticism of China, with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo saying on Sunday that that country was responsible for the spread of disease and must be held accountable.

The sharper rhetoric coincides with administration critics saying the government's response to the virus was slow and inadequate. Donald Trump's political opponents have accused

him of lashing out at China, a geopolitical foe but critical US trade partner, in an attempt to deflect criticism at home.

Not classified but marked "for official use only," the DHS analysis states that, while downplaying the severity, China increased imports and decreased exports of medical supplies. It attempted to cover up doing so by "denying there were export restrictions and obfuscating and delaying provision of its trade data," the analysis states.

The report also says China held off informing the World Health Organisation that the coronavirus "was a contagion" for much of January so it could order medical supplies from abroad, and that its imports of face masks and surgical gowns and gloves increased sharply.

Those conclusions are based on the 95 per cent probability that China's changes in imports and export behaviour were not within normal range, according to the report. — AP

Martin Luther King's traffic ticket changed history's course

DECATUR, May 4: On this day 60 years ago, a black man driving a white woman was pulled over in a traffic stop that would change the course of American history.

The incident was unknown to most at the time and has been largely forgotten.

The man was Martin Luther King Jr., and his citation on May 4, 1960, led to him being sentenced, illegally, to a chain gang.

Georgia's segregationist politicians sought to silence King before he could mobilise great masses of people.

But it backfired as the mistreatment rocked the 1960 presidential race, prompting blacks to vote Democrat and help end Jim Crow laws in the Deep South.

Today, there's still a lot at stake for blacks, who are still urging presidential candidates to earn their votes while fighting against new ballot restrictions.

King's "willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice" proved to be the catalyst for change, said Maurice C Daniels, who wrote a biography of King's lawyer, *Saving the Soul of Georgia: Donald L Hollowell and the Struggle for Civil Rights*.

"Here we are in 2020 and we see there are systemic, institutionalised mechanisms, just as there were in 1960, to stall, derail and to deny citizens their franchise," Daniels said.

Alicia Garza, whose Black Futures Lab is promoting a Black Agenda 2020, sees lessons for today's activists in how King responded to the traffic stop as he challenged the powerful to provide decent jobs and affordable housing and health care for minorities.

"Yes we do need to put it all on the line, but bigger than that we need to change the rules that are rigged. I think we will have a rude awakening in November 2020 if we do not get very intentional" about Democratic priorities.

King and his wife, Coretta, hosted the writer Lillian Smith for dinner and he was driving her back to Emory University for her cancer treatments when they were pulled over in DeKalb County, just outside Atlanta.

Smith later wrote that they were stopped because the officer saw her with a black man. But King may have been tailed: The Associated Press had reported that Georgia's segregationist Governor Ernest Vandiver vowed to keep the Montgomery bus boycott leader "under surveillance at all times." — AP

Dog named Bear rescues 100 sick, hurt koalas!

Australian bushfires



MELBOURNE, May 4: Bear, a five-year-old high-energy dog tasked with finding koalas injured in Australia's devastating bushfires, has rescued 100 such marsupials in the affected areas of New South Wales and Queensland.

The Australian Koolie is a part of Queensland's University of Sunshine Coast's (USC) 'Detection Dogs for Conservation' team which has been working with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and local wildlife groups to rescue koalas living in the bushfire-ravaged areas.

Bear has been on the ground since November 2019 and has so far found 100 sick or injured koalas in the affected areas of New South Wales and Queensland, Australia's national news agency Australian Associated Press said in a report.

The USC with a help of drone mounted with a thermal camera locate the koalas in trees and then the dog is sent in to use his sense of smell to find them.

"We've worked in areas post-fire with other dogs, and they were able to smell their target odours, so it didn't surprise me that Bear could do it," said team member Romane Cristescu.

"The catastrophic landscape is really hard for us, but for Bear it's an opportunity for him to be out and play and do what he likes doing," she said.

Most of the koalas which suffered a blow during the severe bushfire conditions this summer were found near the Two Thumbs Wildlife Sanctuary in the NSW alpine region, Nerriga in the southern tablelands and Kandanga in Queensland's Gympie region, the report said. — PTI

Al Qaeda urges Indian Muslims to wage jihad against India

SANAA, May 4: Almost a year after its chief Ayman al-Zawahiri asked militants in Kashmir to step up terror attacks against India, Al Qaeda on Monday urged Indian Muslims to join the Islamist jihad.

Yemen's Al Qaeda in Arab Peninsula (AQAP), the globally-banned terrorist group, issued a statement accusing India of being part of a global war on Muslims.

The Al Qaeda statement comes days after the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Kuwait government and many Arab activists called India Islamophobic. The anti-India statements in the Arab countries were a result of Pakistani propaganda against India over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and Kashmir and also because of the widespread criticism of Tablighi Jamaat Islamic proselytisers for being a super-



Ayman al-Zawahiri

spread of the novel coronavirus infection in India.

Denouncing India's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the AQAP, which perpetrated the September 11 terror attacks in the US, alleged that the Indian government had taken several steps against Muslims.

The terror outfit, whose former chief Osama bin Laden was killed in his hideout at Abbottabad, Pakistan, by the US in a covert operation, urged Indian Muslims to "unite ranks, gather arms and wage jihad."

AQAP, primarily active in Yemen and Saudi Arabia, is considered to be the most active and dangerous Al Qaeda branch by the US government. — IANS

Ph: 97060-43680 or 70860-44611



Herbal Coolant

Roohafza was developed first by Hakim Abdul Mazid in 1907 at Hamdard Laboratories in Delhi. It was marketed as a medicine which would shield its drinker from dehydration and heat related ailments. P.S. It was first sold in used wine and beer bottles as other containers were unavailable.



APNE DESH KO JANO! /apnedeshkojano | contribution@apnedeshkojano.com
Powered by: Priya Communications

India protests Pak court's order on Gilgit-Baltistan

NEW DELHI, May 4: India has conveyed its strong protest to Pakistan over its efforts to bring "material change" to territories under its "illegal and forcible" occupation after the country's top court allowed holding of elections in Gilgit-Baltistan.

The Ministry of External Affairs said a demarche was issued to a senior Pakistani diplomat lodging a strong protest over the court ruling and clearly conveying that the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of India.

"It was further conveyed that such actions can neither hide the illegal occupation of parts of Union Territories of

Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh by Pakistan nor the grave human rights violations, exploitation and denial of freedom to the people residing in Pakistan-occupied territories for the past seven decades," it said in a statement.

In a recent ruling, the Pakistan Supreme Court allowed Islamabad to amend a 2018 administrative order to conduct general elections in the region. The Gilgit-Baltistan Order of 2018 provided for administrative changes, including authorizing the Prime Minister of Pakistan to legislate on an array of subjects.

The MEA said the government of Pakistan or its judiciary has no locus standi on territories "illegally and forcibly" occupied by it.

"It was clearly conveyed that the entire Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, including the areas of Gilgit and Baltistan, are an integral part of India by virtue of its fully legal and irrevocable accession," the MEA said.

It said India protested Islamabad's efforts to "bring material change in Pakistan occupied territories" and asked it to vacate them.

"India completely rejects such actions and continued attempts to bring material changes in Pakistan-occupied areas of the Indian territory of Jammu and Kashmir," the MEA said.

"Instead, Pakistan should immediately vacate all areas under its illegal occupation," it added. - PTI

Corona Snippets

Bengal has highest COVID-19 mortality rate: Central team

KOLKATA, May 4: West Bengal has the highest mortality rate in the country at 12.8 per cent, Inter Ministerial Central Team leader Apoorva Chandra wrote in his final observations to State Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha, before leaving for Delhi on Monday. "This extremely high mortality rate is a clear indication of low testing, weak surveillance and tracking," Chandra said in the letter. A discrepancy has been brought to the fore in the number of COVID-19 cases reported by the State in its medical bulletins and its communication with the Union government, Chandra noted in the letter. The team returned after having completed two weeks of stay in the city. - PTI

Indians stuck in Nepal want govt to facilitate their return

PITHORAGARH, May 4: Over 20 Indians stuck in Nepal due to a lockdown in both the countries have appealed to the Union government to facilitate their return home. They include tourists and those who had gone to the neighbouring country to meet their relatives before March 25, when the lockdown came into force in India, officials said. Nepalese officials have assured Indian authorities that people stuck across the border are taken care of. - PTI

Search on for 4 missing patients

AURANGABAD, May 4: A search has been mounted in Nanded district in Maharashtra to trace four people who have gone missing after testing positive for novel coronavirus, officials said on Monday. They were part of a group of 20 from the Langar Sahib, part of the renowned Takht Hazur Sahib Sachkhand Gurdwara, over 255 km from here, which had tested positive for the virus on Saturday, officials added. "Out of the 20, 16 were traced by Saturday evening. However, we are still on the lookout for the remaining four, all of whom are Nanded residents," a police official said. - PTI

Sikh body to provide free food

NEW DELHI, May 4: The Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee on Monday said it will provide free packed food to migrant workers, pilgrims and students travelling home in trains after being stranded for over a month due to the lockdown. The Sikh body will provide vegetarian food kits to all homebound passengers, sufficient for the entire travel period, its president MS Sirsa said. DSGMC volunteers will start distributing food packets to passengers at New Delhi Railway Station, Old Delhi Railway Station, Nizamuddin, Anand Vihar Railway Station on Monday, depending on the route of the train. - PTI

Judicial custody for 15 Tablighis

MUZAFFARNAGAR, May 4: Fifteen members of the Tablighi Jamaat, including Bangladesh nationals, were produced in a court here, which sent them to 14-day judicial custody, an official said on Monday. While 12 of them belonged to the neighbouring country, two were from Assam and one from UP's Moradabad. They were booked for the violation of the Foreigners Act and the Epidemic Diseases Act after they failed to tell the authorities about their stay at a mosque in Shamli's Bhesani Islampur village. - PTI

Migrants in Gujarat clash with police

SURAT, May 4: Hundreds of migrant workers seeking to return home clashed with police and pelted stones at their near a village in Gujarat's Surat district on Monday, following which the security personnel lobbed teargas shells and lathi-charged the agitated workers, an official said.

Besides, several labourers also came out on a road in Rajkot demanding that they be sent back to their hometowns, while some migrant workers got their heads tonsured in an area of Surat after being unable to go back home.

Hundreds of migrant workers clashed with police near Varel village on the outskirts of Surat while demanding that arrangements be made to send them back to their native places in the wake of the coronavirus-enforced lockdown, a police official said.

They threw stones at the police, following which the security personnel retaliated and lobbed teargas shells and lathi-charged the agitated workers, he said.

The labourers also damaged some vehicles parked on Surat-Kadodara road, he said.

The situation was later brought under control and security was stepped up in the area, he added.

Besides, 50 migrant labourers got their heads tonsured in Surat's Pandesara locality on Monday after being unable to leave for their native places in Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.

They claimed that two days back their buses were given permission to leave Gujarat. But, later they were stopped at Kosamba in Surat by local administration officials due to lack of "valid permission" and asked to go back. - PTI

Ensure smooth inter-State movement of cargo: Centre

NEW DELHI, May 4: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has again asked State governments and Union Territories to ensure there is no issues related to inter-State movement of cargo and asked truckers to contact its control room number if any problem arises, an official said on Monday.

Home Ministry Joint Secretary PS Srivastava said seeing increasing cases of police officials contracting COVID-19, the ministry in consultation with the Bureau of Police Research and Development has issued guidelines to protect them while working in the field.

The MHA also issued an advisory to all States, Union Territories and Central Armed Police Forces, drawing their attention to the health ministry's guidelines, she said. - PTI

Naidu holds first meeting with RS officials during lockdown

NEW DELHI, May 4: Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Monday held the first meeting with senior officials of the Secretariat since the lockdown was imposed on March 25 and discussed several issues, including the oath-taking of new members and the election of chairpersons of various standing committees.

A decision on holding meetings of the standing committees would be taken after May 17, when the third phase of the lockdown ends, according to an official statement.

During the hourlong meeting with the Secretary General and other senior officials, the Chairman discussed the oath-taking of new members elected unopposed, electing chairpersons of standing committees that have fallen vacant after retirement of members, physical distancing and safety

norms and saving resources.

He directed officials to initiate the process to fill the vacancies of chairpersons of eight such committees. These vacancies include the chairpersons of Standing Committees on Human Resource Development and Industries held by Satyanarayan Jatiya and K Keshava Rao respectively, Chairmanship of three standing committees of Rajya Sabha - on Privileges, Subordinate Legislation and Papers Laid on the Table also fell vacant on the retirement of Harivansh, the Deputy Chairman, T Subbarami Reddy and CP Thakur respectively.

Three other committees without a chairman are on Ethics, MPLADS and Provision of Computers for Members of Rajya Sabha held by Prabhat Jha, Harivansh and Tiruchi Siva, respectively.

Regarding vacancies in Ra-

ja Sabha, Naidu was informed that there were 20 vacancies.

These vacancies include 18 for which elections were deferred, one caused by the disqualification of Sharad Yadav, which is sub-judice, and another caused by the demise of Beni Prasad Verma, the statement said.

Naidu observed that in view of the extension of lockdown till May 17 and the need for undivided focus of the Executive on containing the coronavirus outbreak, a view on holding meetings of the department-related standing committees and other committees of the House will be taken later.

On oath-taking by 38 members who were elected unopposed, it was decided that the oath will be administered inside the Chamber of Rajya Sabha after the lockdown, if feasible before the next Session. - PTI



নৱ কুমাৰ দলে
মন্ত্ৰী (স্বতন্ত্ৰ), পঞ্চায়ত আৰু
গ্ৰামোন্নয়ন বিভাগ, অসম

কোভিড-১৯এ সৃষ্টি কৰা
ভয়াবহতাৰ বিৰুদ্ধে যুজকঃ
কৰ'না ভাইৰাছক প্ৰত্যাহ্বান জনাওক

অসম চৰকাৰে আৱদ্ধ এলেকা (containment zone) ৰ বাহিৰত মহাত্মা গান্ধী ৰাষ্ট্ৰীয় গ্ৰাম্য নিয়োগ নিশ্চিত আঁচনি (এমজিএনৰেগা)ত কাম কৰাৰ সুবিধা দিছে।

গতিকে এই আঁচনিত কাম কৰক আৰু জীৱিকাৰ
পৰিৱেশ সুৰক্ষিত কৰক

- যদি আপোনাৰ জব কাৰ্ড আছে, আপুনি ১০০ দিনৰ বাবে কাম কৰিব পাৰে।
- প্ৰতিদিনৰ কামৰ মজুৰি ২১০ টকা।
- আপুনি আবেদন কৰাৰ ১৫ দিনৰ ভিতৰত কাম পোৱাটো নিশ্চিত।
- ১৫ দিনৰ ভিতৰত কাম কৰা দিনসমূহৰ প্ৰাপ্য মজুৰি আপোনাৰ নিজস্ব বেংক একাউন্টত জমা হ'ব।
- যদি জব কাৰ্ড নাই, তেনেহ'লে নিজৰ গাঁও পঞ্চায়তত আবেদন কৰক।
- আপুনি আবেদন কৰাৰ ১৫ দিনৰ ভিতৰত জব কাৰ্ড পাব।
- কামৰ বাবে আবেদন কৰিবলৈ গ্ৰাম ৰোজগাৰ সহায়ক অথবা পঞ্চায়ত সচিব/ প্ৰতিনিধিৰ সৈতে যোগাযোগ কৰক।
- আপুনি যদি প্ৰধানমন্ত্ৰী আৱাস যোজনা গ্ৰামীণৰ হিতাধিকাৰী, তেনেহ'লে আপোনাৰ ঘৰটো সম্পূৰ্ণ কৰোতে ৯৫টা কৰ্মদিন এনৰেগাৰ পৰাও পাব।
- সবিশেষ জানিবলৈ পঞ্চায়ত প্ৰতিনিধি/ সচিবৰ লগত যোগাযোগ কৰক।



আপোনাক আৰ্থিক সহায় দিবলৈ হাতত লোৱা পঞ্চায়ত আৰু গ্ৰামোন্নয়ন বিভাগৰ এই প্ৰচেষ্টাত অংশগ্ৰহণ কৰক আৰু নিজৰ লগতে গাঁৱৰ উন্নয়ন সুনিশ্চিত কৰক।



অসম চৰকাৰ

পঞ্চায়ত আৰু গ্ৰামোন্নয়ন বিভাগ, অসম



১ ঘৰৰ পৰা বাহিৰ ওলোৱাৰ সময়ত আৰু কাম কৰি থাকোতে নাক আৰু মুখ মাৰু, গামোচা বা পৰিষ্কাৰ কাপোৰেৰে ঢাকি বাধিব

২ ২ গজ দূৰত থাকক

কৰমৰ্দন বা আলিঙ্গন নকৰিব

আহক
৫ সূত্ৰ
মানি কাম কৰো
জীৱিকাৰ পৰিৱেশ সুৰক্ষিত কৰো

এনে লক্ষণ দেখিলে চিকিৎসকৰ
পৰামৰ্শ লওক

৩ অতি কমেও ২০ ছেকেণ্ডৰ
বাবে চাবোন আৰু পানীৰে
সঘনাই হাত ধোৱক

২০
ছেকেণ্ড

ৰাজহুৱা ঠাইত নুথুৱাব

চকু, নাক আৰু মুখ
পৰাপক্ষত স্পৰ্শ
নকৰিব

৪ গৰম পানী খাওক

স্বাস্থ্যকৰ আৰু পুষ্তিকৰ
আহাৰ খাওক

জ্বৰ
শুকান কাঁহ
উশাহ লোৱাত কষ্ট

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things.

— ALBERT EINSTEIN

The Assam Tribune

Cautious progress

With the Centre's decision to extend the lockdown till May 17 having come with selective relaxations in the red, orange and green zones respectively, the Assam Government too has taken some cautious steps to try and restore a certain amount of economic activity. This has been made possible because of the apparent absence of community transference of the contagion in the State, and the fact that there are no red zones within it, 29 of its districts being green and 4 orange. A curfew would be in force throughout the State from 6 pm to 6 am, with pharmacies and essential services being exempted, which would help to ensure that people can venture out only during daylight hours, thereby providing an additional safety net for those enforcing the extended lockdown. Another sensible decision has been not to allow people above 65 and children below 12 to come out except for medical emergencies, these being the most vulnerable groups as mirrored in the global Covid-19 data. Even in green zones all social, political, cultural and religious gatherings have been banned, as also other places such as rural *haats* and urban markets where there might be a congregation of people rendering social distancing impossible. Use of masks has been made compulsory and spitting in public areas remains punishable. Private medical and veterinary facilities too would remain open during the permitted time period.

So far, ever since the lockdown was first imposed, only standalone shops selling essential items had been allowed to operate, but under the new schedule wherever there is a cluster of shops, one-third can remain open, with market committees deciding which shops would do so and when. Some of the more venturesome steps are allowing auto-rickshaws, cycle-rickshaw and cabs to operate with some restrictions, as also private cars and two-wheelers. In order to foster trading activities additional sale modes, such as restaurants, tea-stalls and ice-cream shops, can offer take away facilities, but are not allowed to seat customers. It is to be hoped that these and other measures, complementing the relaxations already announced by the Centre, would help society of the region make cautious progress towards normalcy without endangering public health or bringing about a spike in coronavirus cases. Much will depend on the facility with which the measures are implemented, as also hour by hour close monitoring of the situation. In such a context the news that the police in Dhubri district have detained 27 Bangladeshi nationals, who had entered the State on a tourist visa before the lockdown but had been working for a contractor in Upper Assam, is so worrisome. Such developments point to the danger besetting a State like Assam which has international borders, and makes constant vigilance imperative on the part of the Government to prevent threats coming from external sources.

Nature's fury

Amid the coronavirus-induced shutdown, the State is also having to withstand nature's fury in the form of frequent thunderstorms. The devastations caused by thunderstorms have been staggering, with some 80,000 dwelling houses destroyed and 3.2 lakh people affected in April. Eight persons have died in the storms. Questions have naturally arisen whether we are witnessing a growing fury of nature's forces in recent years due to the working of global warming and climate change. The mounting ferocity of destructive natural phenomena seems to indicate such a trend but it will need adequate scientific data and analysis to confirm that such disasters are hitting the State with greater intensity, or with greater frequency, or both. Be that as it may, the immediate task before the government authorities — already hard-pressed by the Covid-19 contagion — is to set in motion the recovery process and facilitate the unfortunate families' rehabilitation. The Government should take serious note of the storm damage and streamline the rehabilitation mechanism. As usually happens during such extreme weather conditions, among the worst hit have been dwelling houses, trees, and power supply infrastructure. The advent of spring in the region is invariably marked by thunder squalls — popularly known as Bordoisila in Assamese folklore. But this year, Bordoisila seems to have hit the region with greater ferocity and over a longer period of time.

The district administrations and the government departments and agencies concerned — including the disaster response teams — should gear themselves up to give a matching response during such crisis situations. While their primary responsibility is to act in quick time in rescue and relief operations, they also have a responsibility in disseminating the basic information on the dos and don'ts to the masses during disaster time. More often than not, the time taken for restoration of utilities such as power is painstakingly low during a storm. Even in the capital city of Guwahati, we have been witness to such a state of affairs which shows our authorities to be lacking the desired competence and professionalism. Given that disaster preparedness and management has come to be recognized as a specialized area now, this should change. The role of disaster response agencies apart, which need to be on their toes during such critical times, other departments and agencies have to maintain proper coordination with one another — something rarely witnessed in the State even though it has a high incidence of different natural disasters such as floods, quakes, storms and lightning. It is due to the realization that the destructive impact of any disaster can be mitigated to a great extent if the necessary preparedness is there, that governments across the world are renewing their emphasis on addressing disaster-related issues with dedicated response teams and overall coordination.

Assam's corona-battered economy

■ Swapnil Barua

A month and more have passed as the people of Assam have come to face a new lifestyle, more so in the urban areas than rural. They have realized that the cost of living is not much of concern as much as the cost of a lifestyle. The increased purchasing power, especially in the last 15 years, had pushed up the cost of conspicuous consumption, well beyond the basic cost of living. People have now come to realize that the add-ons to life are costing more and that reducing the standards of living, yet keeping the basic requirements, is not very costly.

But reducing standards of living has an immense impact on the economy as a whole. The restaurants have closed, the streets down fast food kiosks have disappeared, leisure travel has been forgotten, shopping trips have become memories, mall hopping, cinemas, theatres, weekend celebrations have just vanished overnight. The beauty parlours and the gyms have closed shops. The tourism sector has been mauled by CAA and Covid-19. The hardware, electrical goods, cement and steel shops have remained closed. Construction has come to a halt. All this has rendered the people working in them jobless. Similar is the case with the MSMEs, which after production and sales loss, will now not get GST and subsidy refunds. If the lockdown continues, the owners too would not be in a position to pay salaries any more, to hell with government directives. Even after the lockdown, business will be dull and all the labour force will not be taken back. A 50% job loss is for sure till the econ-

omy recovers, which will be a few months away at the earliest. Fortunately, the tea and the oil sectors have not shut down in full. Excise revenue will continue to flow in, as the two day relaxation of liquor sale had shown.

The ramifications of the fall in business have been seen in the government revenues falling alarmingly. The good thing is that the government paying full salaries will ensure that the overall business will survive, albeit in the ICU. The immediate future of the urban economy is a picture in deep red for the coming months and it'll be a surprise if it doesn't collapse in full. This will reduce one-third of our population to penury. How much of the savings of the urban population will find its way into everyday living and how much of that will sustain the economy is a nightmarish guess. The fact remains that all private enterprise, be it in production or service providing in any sector in the urban areas, are in great peril. Banks will be riddled with NPAs, insurance premiums unpaid, thereby reducing social security cover for people working in the non-government sector. How the Government will take off this 1.25 crore population is vital as the economy as a whole depends on these drivers. The state of the rural economy will also depend on the state of the urban economy. The recent experience has shown that if urban buyers fail to buy, the rural produce will rot in the fields. Taking care of the rural

economy is important, but equally important is minding the urban economy. The urban population may be lower in numbers, but contribute more to the economy.

The rural economy will not get much affected as things can't get any more worse, as they are. With 85% of the farmers being marginal, they are not economically farmers but tillers. The average land holding in Assam is shown as 7 *bighas* but is actually 3 *bighas*, which translates into an annual income of Rs 25,000

How much of the savings of the urban population will find its way into everyday living and how much of that will sustain the economy is a nightmarish guess. The fact remains that all private enterprise, be it in production or service providing in any sector in the urban areas, are in great peril.

from paddy cultivation. In this context, the free rice of 5 kg per person per month and doles under MGNREGA are vital. Assam has 60 lakh families covering 80% of our population under the Food Security Act, who get the benefit of free rice. Another 45 lakh population are not covered, but need this free rice. Hence, the Assam Government has taken up with the Central Government to increase the free rice quota. In addition to the regular quota, the Central Government has allocated an additional 5 kg rice per head to the ration card holders. The Cen-

tral Government charges Rs 3 per kg, but the Assam Government subsidises the cost and distributes it free to the beneficiaries. For the non-card holders, the Assam Government has given Rs 1000 per family as food support. Considering that the coming months are cultivating time, the continuation of the free rice to card holders and Rs 1000 grant to non-card holding BPL families is vital if starvation is to be prevented. Credit lines have to be arranged with FCI to continue supplies and defer asking for payment. It's good that free (?) seedlings will be provided for the Sali crop to the cultivators. There will also be a need for tractoring the fields for sowing, as the both the PM's grant and State Government grants for buying inputs have been consumed in food purchases by the cultivators in the lockdown period. One may recall the queues in the banks, defying social distancing, in the recent past to withdraw this money. The fish, poultry, diary, fish seed farmers will have problems of their own to restart after suffering losses. Government assistance will be sought for here. Restoring the delivery chain will also be important. The returning migrant labour from outside the State will add to the woes, as they will head back for their original homes on return. There will be more mouths to feed without incomes.

The Government is caught in-between the devil and the deep sea. It has an inescapable Rs 3600 crore monthly expenditure on salaries,

pensions and debt servicing. Maintaining the built up Covid medical facilities will cost Rs 100 crore a month. Transporting the five lakh migrant labour back home will cost Rs 250 to Rs 500 crore and will spread over two months. Their quarantine costs will be another Rs 375 crore for five lakh inmates for 15 days @Rs 500 a day. Building quarantine housing and facilities for batches of 50,000 will cost another Rs 100 crore. This itself is enough to drive the Finance Ministry crazy. Then there will be the clamour to pump in money to revive the different sectors of the economy. Sectoral demands will total to about Rs 10,000 crore.

If the economy is allowed to go into a coma, the recovery costs will be mind boggling. Therefore, it has to be kept breathing, even on ventilators. All this will raise more demands on the exchequer. All financial options available to the government, be it ways and means advance, overdraft, bonds, loans from banks, etc., have to be resorted to, to keep the economy alive. The budget has definitely to be recast, if things don't change in the coming months.

For the people of the State, the dependency on the government to solve all problems has to end. The government will no longer be the point where the buck stops. Whether the people can show this new adaptability, find out of box solutions and be innovative, will be the key to future survival. The Government too must go on a partnership mode at all levels and listen to public opinion and suggestions. Holding tight will not do nor letting loose will serve the fight for survival. Hard and exciting times are ahead, pregnant with positive possibilities. Fortune favours the brave.

Urgent need to save the fitness industry

■ Angshuman Dutta

We are all in the midst of an unprecedented crisis of a scale that no one could have envisaged. All industries and families have been affected by this pandemic and we have all made sacrifices in our own ways in this war against Covid-19.

One of the worst hit industries is the fitness industry; gyms were the first to be shut and it seems they are at the bottom of the list of openings. A major issue of the industry is that it does not have a united voice and so our voices may get buried in the chaos. Very often even the lines of the industry are blurred. Does it fall in the Service industry or should it be clubbed under the Sports Ministry? Gyms are categorized as services; but are they recognized as essential services? No. Of course, one, by no stretch of the imagination, equates it with essential services like chemists, hospitals or grocery stores. They are 'super essential', the very basics of human survival. But when you look beyond that, the fitness industry or gyms in particu-

lar should find a mention.

The fitness industry in India is a young one, run mostly by first-generation entrepreneurs and 99% of them are from the middle-class background. Most of us have invested our savings, taken secured and unsecured loans to start and run our small businesses. Our revenue sources have dried up completely, the rent and interests are accumulating every day. The majority of gyms that run across India are not corporate-driven; they are mostly family businesses run by ex-sportspersons or former coaches. So, obviously, they don't have a substantial residual income to dive into for an extended time.

The belief among the general population is that gyms are recreational or they fall in the non-essential sector. And maybe that is the reason why the PMO has put a blanket ban on it even in the green zones. One cannot be further from the truth. Gyms are not the domains of bodybuilders or Bollywood wannabes only — fitness goes way beyond that. India is the heart disease

and diabetes capital of the world, and millions of people die every year due to these two alone. If we add the figures for deaths caused due to hypertension and obesity, the numbers will shoot up drastically. Let us talk of the mortality rates due to Covid-19. The statistics are clear — fatalities occur more in cases with comorbidity issues like diabetes, heart disease and obesity. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends regular physical activity along with a balanced wholesome diet to build the immune system. In a country like India, where we have almost no open spaces in the urban areas, where does one exercise? And even if you do get some space, how will you be able to do the necessary ones safely without proper guidance.

While the pandemic is on everyone's mind, one also has to appreciate that people are also dying of other causes. And if we churn numbers, it will be heavily tilted towards 'other lifestyle diseases'. This lockdown and lack of physical activity coupled with high levels of anxiety with the uncertainty looming ahead all of us is a dangerous cocktail —

one that is making our population disease-prone and susceptible to infection and consequent fatalities.

It is time to rethink. The war with corona is going to last long. History has shown that wars are won by the most resilient and determined parties who are not afraid to think radically. The population of India is its greatest resource; the country relies on the working class. This war cannot be won with a diseased and weak population — you need it to be strong and resilient. That is possible with physical exercise.

Social distancing measures and special precautions can and should be taken in gyms in these extraordinary times. In fact, there is a better chance of complying with social distancing norms in a gym than in most places, because in gyms people obey their trainers; most gyms in India still run on the guru-shishya tradition. Depending on the size of the gym, the number of people at any given time can be restricted in a gym, say five persons at a time for gyms under 1000 sq ft area, 10 people at a time for gyms under 1500 sq ft area and so on. Sanitizing equipment, wearing disposable gloves and

using personal gym towels can go a long way in maintaining hygiene inside the gym.

The industry also needs a financial stimulus, be it in terms of tax waiver, working capital loans or maintenance stipend. The most important issue is to understand that the gym owners, trainers and its support staff also have families; they also need to pay medical, house and grocery bills; they have EMIs to pay and children to feed. Very often the fitness industry goes unnoticed because it does not generate revenues like the liquor or tobacco industry. With no offence to any industry, isn't it ironic that on the one hand the Government talks about people's safety and health over the economy, but neglects the very industry that promotes it?

So, the people who are making these decisions need to open up the gyms outside the containment zones. They will not only prevent the destruction of lakhs of families dependent on the income, but they will also be saving a huge number of people from falling to the virus because of a weakened immune system.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, — Covid-19, as observed on many occasions, has exposed the inadequacy of infrastructure in the agriculture sector in Assam, along with the lack of cooperation amongst the agriculture-related departments. Now it is the harvesting time for most of the *kharif* as well as some of the *rabi* vegetables. Hence, the creation of a foolproof marketing system may be put in place following proper norms and conditions, even during the lockout period. It only requires a grassroots level planning for marketing of the agricultural produce to facilitate transportation of these products from the farmer's doorstep to the distribution point as per the consumer needs. Need-based construction of sufficient number of cold storages according to the expected quantity of agricultural produce in a particular situation is another important aspect towards improving the agriculture scenario of the State.

Nowadays, many of the enthusiastic farmers cultivate some new crops, some are also engaged in boosting up agriculture production with traditionally-cultivated crops

Agriculture sector development

satisfactorily. They only need timely support with regards to modern technology, required inputs along with effective and efficient marketing facilities.

The *Sali* crop season is nearing.

To cope with the situation, it necessitates the percolation of modern methods of cultivation, input supply to farmers, to establish an effective network of irrigation facilities. Yours etc., BHUPEN DUTTA, Bidyapur, Nalbari.

Temporary measure

Sir, — Direct human engagement is an essential component of education. The resonance and connection that a guru and a *shishya* build in a conventional way of learning in a school or a university, where they interact face to face with each other, has no replacement. Moreover, education is not only about dissemination of facts and information, it encapsulates in it the evolving of a student to make him a better human being and to be an asset for the society. It is the duty of a teacher to show the students the righteous path and morality in them the virtues of amirality, ethics and honesty. The classroom learning gives an opportunity to a student to develop qualities like leadership, mental alertness,

critical thinking and personality development. It prepares a student to face bigger challenges in life and puts in him the essential attribute of fighting spirit on faltering in any phase of his or her life. Online learning may work as a makeshift arrangement to keep the academic schedule intact during the outbreak of a dreaded disease which has compelled everyone to stay indoors. However, this temporary way of learning can benefit only those who are dexterous in using smart phones, laptops or similar modern gadgets. Digital literacy is a prerequisite for online learning. Students particularly from the suburban and the rural areas of India may find it difficult to adapt to this alternative mode of learning. The availability of flagship phones and other electronic devices is also an issue for students belonging to the deprived and poor households. Many cannot afford the data pack required for online learning. The disruption in supply of electricity adds to the woes of these students. The authorities concerned must introduce mandatory lessons on online teaching for both teachers and students so that all the stakehold-

ers become adept to this mode of learning. The Government should also provide a minimum data pack for the students who cannot afford it. Other necessary measures and initiatives must be taken to ensure that the students do not lose out on their studies during such a crisis and to eliminate the digital divide between the students as they are the future of our nation. Yours etc., SAURAV GOYAL, Guwahati.

Warm experience

Sir, — Legendary American country singer Tim McGraw (Samuel Timothy McGraw) once quoted this beautiful line on friendship — "We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take (along) a little of each other everywhere." Under the backdrop of the Covid-19 lockdown, when the entire world is generating a whole lot of catastrophic news, I am enthralled with a very unusual experience these days: lost friends, isolated for decades, some are even thousands of miles apart, settled in an entirely new world, are now making calls. All are calling just to say a hello. The same is being repeated during the last few weeks. The lockdown has really brought people closure. What an

enormous warmth of love, friendship and brotherhood! Yours etc., RANJAN DAS, Mirza.

Living with Covid-19

Sir, — The Covid-19 has taught humanity a lesson of a lifetime and how to live a life amid adversities. The people of the world are supposed to live with all the agents causing deadly diseases. These are not going to leave us alone easily in the time to come. So why should we close the door to our unwelcome visitor since it will surely come again at the earliest opportune time? How long will we isolate ourselves to avoid it? The best thing, I think, will be to train ourselves to live with it. We have to be habituated to it with some precautions. We should have to do it such a way that though it is with us, it cannot harm us. Our scientists, health experts and bureaucrats should delve deep into it together and evolve certain rigid norms for the people to follow. The Government should invest in that direction. Then the wheel of the economy can be kept running. Yours etc., HASAN AHMED, 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.



WEATHER GUWAHATI

LOCAL FORECAST:
Generally cloudy sky. Rain/thundershower is likely to occur. Maximum and minimum temperatures are most likely to be 32°C & 21°C respectively on Tuesday.

TEMPERATURE:
Max 34.9°C
Min 21.4°C

Lockdown 3.0: City back to usual self post relaxations

CITY CORRESPONDENT/
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 4: Guwahati, the gateway to the North East, on Monday got back its as-usual mood after more than a month of complete shutdown, as the government allowed a slew of relaxations marking the beginning of the third phase of the period.

With the government allowing plying of private vehicles, the city witnessed traffic congestion on many roads keeping the traffic personnel on toes. Traffic signals were also made operational on all main roads of the city.

Today, all the grocery shops, book shops and stationery shops were allowed to open without any condition. Other traders also followed the new norm – two closed shops followed by one open shop – wherever applicable.

However, the main market areas –

Fancy Bazar, GS Road, Athgaon, Ganeshguri, etc. – did not witness the usual crowd. All shopping malls and many restaurants remained closed.

With the implementation of the relaxation, the city police maintained strict security vigil across the city.

From Monday, the Assam State Transport Corporation also started plying of 100 city buses from 6.30 am to 5 pm and the entire ticketing took place through the Chalo app. A large number of people were seen waiting for the city buses at every bus stop. Only 50 per cent of passengers were allowed in the buses.

"I waited for more than an hour to take a bus at Sixmile, but could not get one. So, after walking for some time, I took a bus at Khanapara this morning. Social distancing norms were maintained inside the buses," a woman commuter from Sixmile area said.

The All Assam Motor Transport As-

sociation today announced that from Tuesday, its members will ply 100 city buses following all the government guidelines and social distancing norms. But, it said, it will suspend the service if the bus owners suffer losses after plying with 50 per cent passengers.

Meanwhile, violation of social distancing norms was reported in places after the relaxation, with people gathering in large numbers to buy items. The city traffic police fined several bikers with pillion riding during the day, as there has been a temporary restriction on pillion riding, except for women and children below 12 years.

While shops were allowed to operate till 5 pm, police at many places were seen enforcing it among violators. Police also took to announcements to enforce the night curfew, which began at 6 pm. Security personnel were seen chasing commuters who were out on the roads after 6 pm at many locations.



Passengers await their turn to board an ASTC-run city bus maintaining social distancing, during the third phase of the nationwide lockdown, in Guwahati on Monday. – UB Photos

Man found dead, two held

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 4: The police on Monday arrested two persons after a man was found dead in Fatasil-Ambari area, saying he was apparently murdered.

The deceased has been identified as Pankaj Mallik.

A police source said Mallik's friends Subrata Mandal and Rahul Das have been arrested on suspicion of the murder.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the three men were drunk last night and got into an argument, after which the incident took place. It seems Subrata Mandal and Rahul Das strangled the victim," the source added.

The body was sent for post-mortem. A case has been registered under sections 120 B/302 of the Indian Penal Code.

Blood donation camp organised

GUWAHATI, May 4: RAISED, a city-based NGO, organised a blood donation camp at the BJP office here today. Over 150 persons donated blood at the camp organised following an appeal by the GMCH for blood donation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chairman of the NGO Phaniindranath Sarma and general secretary Jayanta Deka were present at the camp. – Staff Reporter

CM calls up noted people to enquire about their wellbeing

GUWAHATI, May 4: As the State stepped into the third extended lockdown of COVID-19 with some relaxations to resume certain guided economic activities, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today made telephonic calls to several eminent personalities who are working in different fields of life in the State and enquired about their wellbeing.

The Chief Minister also took note of their contributions to different sectors of society like education, social development, tribal development, youth and women empowerment, cooperative development, maintaining harmony along the inter-state boundary, etc.

Sonowal requested them to continue their commendable works to touch the lives of the underprivileged even during the lockdown and lift their morale.

The persons whom the Chief Minister talked to are Malati Baruah, Sashi Kanta Chauthalwale, Shankar Das Kalita, Nirmalendu Dey, P Suryanarayan, Bhupesh Sharma, Purander Baruah, Khagen Saikia, Jogesh Shastri, Shri Krishna Bhide, Brahmaji Rao, Sandeep Kavishwar, Pawan Tewari, Dr Nirmal Baruah, Kulendra Kumar Bhagawati, Nirab Ghelani, Ganesh Kunde, Pradeep Kumar, Ramesh Sharma, Bipul Deka, Mrinal Laskar, Surendra Nath Kalita, Bheben Sing Basumatary and Jogeswar Goswami, an official press release issued today stated.



Warehousing body providing space for essential items

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 4: The Assam State Warehousing Corporation (ASWC) is providing storage space for essential commodities through 26 of its warehouse centres located in 18 districts during the ongoing lockdown.

"The employees of ASWC are discharging their responsibilities tirelessly in maintaining the supply chain of essential commodities as part of the battle against COVID-19. ASWC employees engaged in storage of essential commodities are working in their respective warehouse centres," said an official statement.

The ASWC has stored foodgrains of FCI in its godowns at Bongaigaon, Goalpara and Haiborgaon, and assisted in the receipt and delivery of the commodities.

Among the items being stored in its godowns include wheat, paddy, sugar, maize, salt, edible oils, poultry feed, fertilisers and chemicals, cement, school books, school bags, besides other agricultural produce. Paper reels used for printing of newspapers is also being stored in the godowns.

"The service provided by ASWC to the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd and the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation Ltd for storage, receipt and delivery of their products during this period of lockdown has been appreciated by both organisations," added the statement.

ASWC is also providing service to the district administrations in Kamrup Metro and Lakhimpur for storage and packaging of relief materials for distribution amongst beneficiaries in its warehouses.

Govt trying to resume public transportation through ASTC

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 4: Post relaxation of lockdown guidelines, the State transport department has taken initiatives to resume public transportation through the Assam State Public Transport Corporation (ASTC).

According to a statement, the department has ensured strict compliance of all the safety guidelines like social distancing to safeguard public health along with use of masks and disinfecting of the buses after each trip.

It has also deployed joint enforcement teams to monitor movement of buses and to ensure that more than 50 per cent of the seats are not occupied and that small passenger vehicles do not carry more than two passengers.

The department will also make arrangements to ensure that the people of Assam stranded in various Northeastern states can safely return to their homes. It is coordinating with the governments of all NE states in this regard.

Admin guidelines on reopening of non-essential trades

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 4:

Following a meeting chaired by Deputy Commissioner Biswajit Pegu with representatives of various market associations and trade bodies on opening of shops of non-essential commodities during the third phase of lockdown, the Kamrup (Metro) district administration on Monday announced that in any market area or lane only one third of the total shops will be allowed to open.

The minutes of the meeting recorded that one shop in such market areas shall remain open for a maximum of two days. Again, all stand-alone shops will remain open till 5 pm daily in the city and all market complexes or shopping malls along with front-facing shops will remain closed during the third phase of lockdown.

In case of private offices

located inside shopping complexes or malls, the managements can start operation after availing permission from the district administration.

The DC strictly directed the representatives of trade bodies to follow the social distancing norms and other modes of hygiene in their respective business entities. The administration will take stern action against any business entity found to be violating the norms.

DC Pegu also appealed to the owners of all market complexes and buildings to reduce the rent to some extent or to waive it for a certain period.

In another development, Pegu appealed to all medical professionals especially the doctors working in different private hospitals and nursing homes, to come forward and register their names to provide treatment at the COVID care centres and the dedicated COVID health centres.




গাহৰিপালকসকলৰ জ্ঞাতার্থে

সাম্প্রতিক সময়ত অসমৰ ছয়খন জিলা ক্ৰমে ডিব্ৰুগড়, শিৱসাগৰ, যোৰহাট, ধেমাজি, লক্ষিমপুৰ আৰু বিশ্বনাথত গাহৰিৰ এক অচিন ৰোগত বিভিন্ন বয়সৰ প্ৰায় দুহেজাৰৰো অধিক গাহৰি মৃত্যুমুখত পৰিছে। এই ক্ষেত্ৰত ৰাজ্য চৰকাৰৰ পশুপালন আৰু পশুচিকিৎসা বিভাগে বিষয়টো অতি গুৰুতৰ হিচাপে বিবেচনা কৰি ইতিমধ্যে যাবতীয় ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰিছে। ৰোগ বিধৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ আৰু সংক্ৰমণ ৰোধৰ বাবে নিম্নলিখিত নীতি-নিয়মসমূহ মানি চলিবলৈ আপোনালোকলৈ আহ্বান জনোৱা হ'ল -

- গাহৰি পামসমূহৰ জৈৱ সুৰক্ষা নিশ্চিতকৰণৰ বাবে যত্নপৰ হওঁক।
- গাহৰি পামসমূহলৈ অন্য ঠাইৰ পৰা নতুন গাহৰি আনি নোসোমাব আৰু নিজৰ পামৰ পৰা কোনো গাহৰি উলিয়াই অন্য ঠাইলৈ নপঠিয়াব।
- পালকসকলে নিজৰ নিজৰ গাহৰি পামসমূহ পৰিষ্কাৰ-পৰিচ্ছন্ন কৰি ৰাখিব।
- গাহৰিপামত কোনো কাৰণতে অচিনাকি অথবা নতুন ব্যক্তিক প্ৰবেশ কৰিবলৈ নিদিব।
- যিহেতু ৰাজ্য চৰকাৰে ইতিমধ্যে আক্ৰান্ত জিলা কেইখনত গাহৰি তথা গাহৰি মাংস বিক্ৰী কৰাটো সম্পূৰ্ণৰূপে নিষিদ্ধ কৰিছে, গতিকে পালক তথা ব্যবসায়ী সকলে সেইবোৰ এলেকাত গাহৰি বা তাৰ মাংস বেচা-কিনা নকৰিব।
- যিকোনো কাৰণত গাহৰিৰ মৃত্যু হ'লে মৃতদেহ কমেও ছয় (৬) ফুট দকৈ গাঁত খান্দি মাটিৰ তলত পুতি থব। লগতে গাঁতত যথেষ্ট পৰিমাণে ব্ৰিচিং পাউদাৰ দিব।
- মৃত গাহৰি কেতিয়াও মুকলি ঠাই, নৈ, বিল, খাল আদিত নেপেলাব।
- অসংগঠিত ৰূপত বাসস্থানৰ নাতিদূৰৈত পালন কৰা গাহৰিসমূহৰ ক্ষেত্ৰতো উল্লেখিত নিয়মসমূহ সতৰ্কতাৰে পালন কৰক।

- গাহৰিৰ যিকোনো ৰোগৰ লক্ষণ দেখা মাৰ্কেই তাৎক্ষণিকভাৱে ওচৰৰ পশুচিকিৎসালয় বা পশুস্বাস্থ্য উপ-কেন্দ্ৰৰ সৈতে যোগাযোগ কৰক।
- বৰ্তমান সময়ত ২০ দিনৰ বাবে গাহৰি জ্বৰ (Classical Swine Fever) ছিটাকৰণ সাময়িক ভাবে স্থগিত কৰা হৈছে।
- হোটেল বা বেষ্টিবেণ্টৰ পেলনীয় খাদ্যবস্তু বা অন্য উৎসৰ খাদ্য গাহৰিক নুখুৰাব।
- মৃত্যু হোৱা গাহৰিৰ শৰ, নৈ, খাল-বিল আদি জলাশয় নাইবা মুকলি ঠাইত দলিয়াই পেলালে আইনমতে দণ্ডনীয় হ'ব।
- প্ৰয়োজনীয় দিহা-পৰামৰ্শ আৰু যাবতীয় অনুসন্ধানৰ বাবে খানাপাৰাস্থিত পশু স্বাস্থ্য কেন্দ্ৰৰ নিয়ন্ত্ৰণ কক্ষৰ দূৰাভাষ নং ৯৪৩৫০৬১৬০৮/৭০০২৪৮৩৮১০ত যোগাযোগ কৰিবলৈ অনুৰোধ কৰা হ'ল।
- গাহৰি পালকসকলে গাহৰি পালনৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত যিকোনো সমস্যাৰ সন্মুখীন হ'লে ততালিকে বিভাগৰ বিনামূলীয়া দূৰাভাষ নং ১৯৬২ত যোগাযোগ কৰক।

পশুপালন আৰু পশুচিকিৎসা বিভাগ, অসমৰ দ্বাৰা জনহিতার্থে প্ৰচাৰিত

Free wellness training

GUWAHATI, May 4: For those fighting as frontline workers against the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, a free wellness training and neuro-linguistic programme (NLP) is being arranged during the entire month of May by wellness trainer and coach Ashok Sengupta on RG Baruah Road here.

The service which started on May 1, is strictly for COVID-19 fighters including doctors, nurses, paramedics, security personnel, NGO volunteers and mediapersons.

The free programme includes sessions to address issues like anxiety, anger, depression, tension, phobia, fear and stress," said Sengupta.

Willing persons from the mentioned categories can contact the NLP service providers at their office at 45-Shankar Path, opposite Ambika petrol depot or through nlpmindempowerment.in or at diafoots@gmail.com. - Staff Reporter

PPE kits donated

GUWAHATI, May 4: Bajaj Healthcare Foundation, Mumbai donated 50 PPE kits and 2,000 three-ply mask to Gauhati Lions Eye Hospital here on Sunday.

Foundation's Sunil Bajaj and Kishan Bajaj handed over the kits to the hospital. Sajjan Bajaj from Bajaj Healthcare Foundation, Mumbai earlier also helped in construction of two floors of the hospital along with lift facilities.

The Lions Club of Gauhati has also given over 5,000 dry ration packets to needy families. - City Correspondent

Saikia for CBI probe into 'anomalies'

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 4: Alleging anomalies in the selection of lists of beneficiaries for the Mukhya Mantri Krishi Sa Sajuli Yojana and corruption in implementation of the scheme, Leader of the Opposition in the Assam Legislative Assembly Debabrata Saikia has called upon the State government to conduct a CBI inquiry into the matter.

Saikia said that local panchayat representatives, the Pathar Parichalana Samitis and legislators of the Opposition parties have not been taken into confidence while preparing the lists of beneficiaries for disbursement of one-time financial assistance to 30 lakh farmers under the scheme.

He alleged that the beneficiaries' lists have been prepared by local cadres of the BJP and added that there have been several anomalies in the process.

Saikia said the previous Congress

government had also implemented a similar scheme in Assam.

"However, during our time the funds were only released after farmers submitted vouchers regarding the purchases they had made. Now there is no voucher system. The money is being transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries but there

Implementation of scheme for farmers

is no monitoring about how the funds have been spent. Even block-level Agriculture officials have been kept in the dark. It is clear that there is corruption. Complaints have come from people across the State," said Saikia, who is also Leader of the State Congress Legislature Party (CLP).

He demanded that the State government immediately go for a CBI inquiry into the case.

The Congress leader also accused the Centre and the State government of fail-

ing to formulate proper plans of action with regard to the ongoing lockdown.

"Many daily wage earners and small traders have lost their earnings. It is unfortunate that during this period the State government has not been able to put in place a system ensuring that basic needs of individuals and families are taken care of. Many NGOs and

also individuals have been extending assistance to the needy. But they cannot afford to do so for an indefinite period. There is now a real possibility that more people will fall victim to hunger and starvation in Assam than to COVID-19," Saikia said.

According to him, the government cannot wash its hands off after just providing rice to the people, whereas the Relief Manual states that lentils, edible oil, vegetables and baby food, among other things, should be pro-

vided to people in distress.

"But needy people in Assam are not getting those things. The Centre has announced a package of Rs 1.70 lakh crore to the states. How much has Assam received? ... Lakhs of youths from Assam are stuck in other states and have received no assistance. Both the Central and the State governments have failed to act in a planned manner," said Saikia.

He alleged that many farmers and workers across various districts of Assam are facing starvation.

"The State government should provide packets of essential commodities to all the affected families. Many workers and peasants are facing food scarcity due to the lockdown. The government should set up community kitchens at various places to help such needy people and provide them cooked food while maintaining social distancing norms," said the Leader of the Opposition.

Sanitization drive, food distribution by NDRF

GUWAHATI, May 4: NDRF rescuers under supervision of Ran-dhir Singh Gill, Commandant, 1st Bn NDRF, carried out a sanitization drive at the IOCL head office at Noonmati here on Monday.

NDRF personnel also distributed food, masks and biscuits to over 800 needy people at Chakardeo and Kalitpara in Azara. Their medical team also carried out thermal screenings in the villages. Food was distributed in collaboration of Akhil Bhartiya Terapanth Yuvak Parishad, Guwahati. - Staff Reporter

NOTIFICATION

It is for general information of all Class- II registered Contractor under Guwahati (PHE) Circle, that, a database of all Class-II registered Contractors need to be prepared for taking up various works for implementing JAL JEEVAN MISSION (JJM). For preparing the database, some particular information about each of the registered contractors are required in a prescribed format. The prescribed format can be obtained from the office of the undersigned in any working day up to 28.05.2020. The filled up format along with all necessary enclosures shall be received by the office of the undersigned up to 05.06.2020.

All the Class-II registered contractors are requested to submit the information within the stipulated time frame.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (PHE)

Janasanyog/D/414/20

Guwahati Circle, Guwahati- 21

Call for action ...

(Contd from page 1)

"Several senior citizens had pointed out that Assam faced serious inflation during the Second World War and suggested that the Government will have to take effective steps to deal with price rise," he added.

As construction activities are likely to start soon, most of the prominent persons contacted by the Government suggested proper screening of the labourers to prevent spread of COVID-19 and to ensure that anyone coming from the Red Zones to work at the construction sites should be thoroughly checked. They suggested that efforts must be made to give a boost to the agriculture sector.

With the rainy season approaching, it was suggested that the Government should focus on construction of the flood control

structures on a war footing.

As there is a possibility of a large number of migrant workers of Assam returning home from other States of the country, it was suggested that the Government should try to engage them in agriculture and allied sectors, while, at the same time, they can be engaged in small scale industries. The prominent citizens advised the government to chalk out plans for the future of the students as the educational institutions are closed for a long time.

Goswami pointed out that following a meeting with economists, the Chief Minister has already formed a committee to suggest measures for revival of the economy. He said that as there was apprehension of communal disturbance, the Chief Minister held a meeting with religious leaders to deal with the situation.

Rotarians donate masks, hand sanitizers

GUWAHATI, May 4: The Rotary Club of Guwahati handed over masks and hand sanitizers to the authority of APDCL, Guwahati Electrical Circle-1 at their Ulubari office on May 2 for distribution among the employees and field staff, said a press release issued today.

Club president GN Khound in the presence of Dr BL Sharma, Dilip Das, Bimal Barua, Sanjit Saha and Untal Gohain, handed over 200 face masks and 60 bottles of hand sanitizer to Abhijit Sharma Baruah, Chief General Manager of APDCL and Prasanna Hazarika, Chief Executive Officer of Guwahati Electrical Circle-1.

The APDCL officers expressed their gratitude to Rotary Club of Guwahati for recognising APDCL's role in providing uninterrupted power supply without which emergency services at the hospitals catering to COVID-19 patients are not possible.

Later, the Rotary Club of Guwahati also handed over 200 masks and 60 bottles of hand sanitizer to Debojyoti Hazarika, Commissioner of Guwahati Municipal Corporation at his office at Panbazar for distribution among various categories of GMC workers.

Tea industry ...

(Contd from page 1)

There is a consequent loss to the exchequer by way of lesser GST and income tax collection, besides collateral loss from lesser allied activities. During these difficult times, some factories have indulged in unethical practice of manufacturing tea from poor quality leaves, which is reflected in the much higher production in their factories, as compared to the trend in the tea industry. The Tea Board of India should immediately intervene to stop such types of unethical practices which bring a bad name to the industry at large.

The coming days shall be extremely challenging for the tea industry with rising costs and rising expectations from the large workforce and small growers. The number of persons directly dependent on the estate sector is around four million, whereas three million would be dependent on the small growers and bought leaf tea factories, and another million would be dependent on the allied sectors like shops, establishments, garages, transporters, warehouses, brokers, etc.

The Government of Assam has been working tirelessly to protect the citizens from COVID-19, reaching out to the masses with last mile assistance and help, ensuring no one dies of hunger, providing support to the tea industry by waiving off the minimum demand charges on the supply of piped natural gas by the Assam Gas Company Limited and a multitude of other measures to alleviate the sufferings of the industry and its stakeholders. The Central Government has announced payment of employer and employees' share of the Provident Fund aggregating to 24 per cent for the next three months and a similar gesture on the part of Assam Tea Employees Provident Fund Scheme, shall be helpful.

The Tea Board of India is already seized of the situation, where a crop loss of 125 million kg is projected and exports may be impacted,

in the near future. The Tea Board needs to double up its efforts to promote tea as a health drink. The immunity boosting properties of tea need to be widely advertised. An area-based countrywide campaign should be launched in the print and electronic media supported by leading citizens of the said area. This shall result in increase in domestic consumption.

The world order is already undergoing a sea change and the tea industry has a golden opportunity to make the most of this change. All stakeholders in the tea industry need to wholeheartedly work at changing the mindset of all the involved persons starting from small tea growers, who need to be continuously educated to emphasise the importance of good plucking standards and sustainable practices to be followed in these changed times. This will result in a significant improvement in the quality of teas and the consequent increase in the price realisation. Higher price realisations shall provide the much needed support to the government from the increased revenue by way of GST and income tax. Better quality and sustainable production will also enable a jump in the export of teas and 'Assam Tea' shall regain its glory in the tea world.

The Tea Board of India - statutorily mandated to develop the industry - has a God sent opportunity to undertake this activity, which shall have a far reaching impact on the tea industry. It goes without saying that this would, in turn, result in prosperity percolating down to the first link in the chain of the tea industry - the small growers. With approximately 50 per cent of the total tea produced in Assam attributable to the small tea growers, this is an opportunity to pull the tea industry back from the brink of uncertainty that has been staring it in the face since the past few years, and proceed with firm resolve on the path of progress, prosperity and well-being.

Patient footfall ...

(Contd from page 1)

There was a further reduction in the number of chemotherapy cycles from 2,500 to 1,461.

"There was a massive drop of 74 per cent in the number of routine surgeries performed, but there was a significant increase in the number of emergency surgeries. The number of day-care emergencies rose by more than four times from 60 patients in the 31 working non-lockdown days to 236 patients during lockdown. The number of new admissions also increased from 983 in previous period of non-lockdown to 1,058 during the lockdown period," Dr Katakai said.

The BBICI, however, continued with all services same as before. "BBICI sees around 14,000 new patients every year and therefore, any slowdown of services for cancer diagnosis and treatment would carry a significant impact on the outcome of thousands of cancer patients," he added.

Lauding the efforts of BBICI, Kiran Handique Gogoi, a patient from North Lakhimpur said, "My words are not enough to appreciate the doctors and medical team of BBICI who are providing services during the lockdown and that has helped my early healing."

Because of the lockdown, all adjacent hotels

and other hospitality services were closed down but three guest houses inside the hospital campus, which could accommodate 105 patients and their attendants, eased the needs of the patients.

"Another advantage was residential quarters for hospital staff, including nurses, office staff, and ward attendants, which ensured that the on-duty staff do not have to depend on public transport. During the lockdown many patients were stranded at home due to closure of public transport, and hence could not come to BBICI for their routine check-up," Dr Katakai said.

"For this, 65 doctors of the institute were pressed into action for providing tele-consultation to over 5,000 cancer patients. Many patients were also connected via the institute's social networking sites and a dedicated helpline number," he added.

In view of closure of eateries in and around the hospital, arrangement was made for free distribution of lunch and dinner to all outdoor patients and attendants with the help of various NGOs.

The BBICI management lauded the health-care workers for their uninterrupted service during the period in spite of the risk of contracting COVID-19 infection.

No. ACE/T/NIT/15/Pt-II/2017-18/20
RE PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Additional Chief Engineer, P.W.D. Road Tezpur Zone, Tezpur invites bids for Road Works on behalf of Governor of Assam for 9 (nine) nos of Packages for Road Projects under SOPD (G) for the year 2019-20 in Kalaigaon, Dhemaji, Gohpur, and Dhekiajuli LACs of Assam from approved & eligible registered Contractors enlisted with APWD in the category of Class-I (A and B) amount to Rs. 20,88,40,900/- lakh (approx), including GST, LABOUR Cess etc.
Note: Value of work is approximate and may be differ in the detail bid document for which no claim will be entertained.
Details may be seen at website- www.assamtenders.gov.in from 08.05.2020. Amendment/ Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notification 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 <http://assamtenders.gov.in>
Sd/- Addl. Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads) Tezpur Zone, Tezpur.
Janasanyog/CF/89/20

Memo No.- HF/ENG/3142/15-16/5/
PRESS NOTICE
The Managing Director, Housefed, Assam, Guwahati- 6 invites item wise bids in electronic tendering system for the following works under "Housefed, Assam" from Housefed Empanelled Class- I (A), (B) & (C) contractors having experience of similar nature of work. Details of the bids may be seen at e-procurement portal website : www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in for participating in the bidding process.

Sl. No.	Name of Project	Approx. value of work	Category of contractor for submission of tender
1	Construction of 33/0.4 KV, 2500 KVA Sub-station for providing power supply to the premises of HOUSEFED Complex, Dispur, Guwahati- 6	Rs. 1,80,89,354/-	Class- I (A), (B) & I (C)

Sd/- Managing Director Housefed, Assam Dispur, Guwahati- 6
Janasanyog/CF/94/20

SHORT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION
Sealed quotations affixing Court Fee stamp (Non Refundable) worth Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paise twenty five) only are hereby invited from the intending registered contractors/ firms etc. under Water Resources Department for fixing up the rates for the Flood Drill Works under Dibrugarh Water Resources Division, Dibrugarh for the year 2020-21. The detailed NIQ, specification for works, etc. may be collected from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days up to 2.00 PM of 15.05.2020.
Last Date of Submission : 15.05.2020 upto 2.00 PM
a) Special Terms and conditions :
i. Rates are to be quoted both in words and in figures clearly against each item of work.
ii. The rate quoted will be inclusive of taxes and all demands including delivery of materials at site of work within the jurisdiction of Dibrugarh Water Resources Division, Dibrugarh as mentioned in the schedule of item. The tax will be deducted as per rates at the time of payment of bills as per existing rule in due course.
iii. No overwriting/ incomplete quotation will be accepted and will be rejected forthwith.
iv. Works may be allotted on the basis of approved quoted rate in due course of time as per requirement.
Sd/- Executive Engineer Dibrugarh Water Resources Division Dibrugarh
Janasanyog/CF/187/20

HIRING OF VEHICLE
E-Tender Notice No. TSK/Elect/80; dated: 27-04-2020. Service tender through E-Tendering System are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Brief Description of Item:** Hiring of 1 (One) Nos. 4 wheeler pick up van (Similar to Diesel Tata Mobile) at Tinsukia to attend the break down and to carry the HSD oil, store material and any other material for 1095 days (3 years) at Tinsukia division. (No. LVT-14/TSK/794). **Tender Value:** ₹14,08,862.70; **Earnest Money:** ₹28,200/- **E-tenders will be closed at 13:00 hrs. on 22-05-2020 and Opened at 15:00 hrs. on 22-05-2020.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 13.00 hrs of 22-05-2020 in website www.irps.gov.in DRM (Elect.)/Tinsukia
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "Serving Customers with a smile"

No. N & ATRD/TECH/NIT/01/2019-20/276
TIME EXTENSION NOTICE
In continuation to this office Notice No. N & ATRD/TECH/NIT/01/2019-20/4471 Dt 23.03.2020 for the works under SOPD-G for the year 2019-20 the date of submission of Tender Paper is reviewed as follows due to present pandemic situation for coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Sl. No.	APWD Stage	Start Date & Time		Expiry Date & Time	
		Date	Time	Date	Time
1	Date of Submission of Bid Document	14.05.2020			
2	Envelope 1 Opening (Technical Bid opening + Evaluation)	15.05.2020			
3	Envelope 2 Opening (Financial Bid opening + Evaluation)	18.05.2020			

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Nazira & Amguri Territorial Road Division, Nazira
Janasanyog/CF/102/20

No. CE/CC/WR/NIT/2019-20/1003/36
PRESS NOTICE FOR BID
Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Chandmari, Guwahati-3, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites Tender for the following works

Sl. No.	Name of W.R. Division	Name of The Scheme	Approx. amount in lakh (Rs.)	HOA
1.	Nalbari W.R. Division	Protection of Barmurikana area at Ch.25th Km L/B of river Pagladia from NT Road to Bijulighat Ph-II (D/S) under SOPD for the year 2019-20	149.50	SOPD-G
2.	Nalbari W.R. Division	Anti erosion measures to protect the erosion of river Tihu at Pacca under SOPD for the year 2019-20	54.99	

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

Sl. No.	Name of W.R. Division	Name of The Scheme	Approx. amount in lakh (Rs.)	HOA
1.	Karimganj W.R. Division	Immediate measures to embankment along B/B of river Longai from Patherkandi to Nilambazar Ph-I for 2018-19. Under SDRF (Restoration of Breach Like Damages at Paulpara).	139.545	SDRF
2.	Silchar W.R. Division	Anti-erosion measures to protect Singirbond area the erosion of river Borak on its L/B.	835.633	CM's Special Package

Details may be seen at website- <http://assamtenders.gov.in>
1. The interested registered Contractor/ Bidders of WRD who are experienced in the execution of works under Water Resources and possess required technical and financial strength may obtain the SBD which can be down loaded from the website <http://assamtenders.gov.in>. Amendment/Addendum to the SBD, if any, and further notifications shall appear in this website.
2. The Contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam (website <http://assamtenders.gov.in>) Contractors can download documents free of cost. Contractors have to necessarily download the bidding document from the ETS using their own ID(Digital Signature Certificate). Bid documents not procured (downloaded) through the ETS/not using the contractor's own user ID will be considered invalid and summarily rejected. Contractors submitting bids online have to submit copy of the documents of technical bid required to be submitted manually before the expiry of the sequence 'Online Bid Preparation & Submission' in the tender schedule. The last date and time for submission of the Technical Bids manually is the same as the expiry of the sequence 'Online Bid Preparation & Submission' in the tender schedule. Bid will be rejected/ cancelled if Financial Bid submitted off-line/hard copy.
3. All the interested bidders are requested to read the Bid Document carefully before submission of their bid
4. Issue of Work order is subjected to the accordance of Administrative Approval from Government.
5. For any e-tendering related queries please mail to etenderingcewr@gmail.com
Sd/- Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/CF/178/20



**WEATHER
NORTHEAST**

Forecast for NE: Rain/thunder-showers is very likely to occur at many places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura and at a few places over Arunachal Pradesh. No significant change in maximum temperatures likely over northeast India during next 2-3 days.

Warning: 1) Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. 2) Thundersquall with wind speed exceeding 60 Kmph is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. 3) Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Mizoram and Tripura.

Temperatures:

	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	33.1	20.6
Tezpur	34.0	22.8
Silchar	32.3	23.2
Dhubri	33.5	24.5
Jorhat	33.1	19.7
N/Lakhimpur	33.8	20.0
Shillong	21.3	
Cherrapunjee	22.8	14.4
Aizawl	25.3	15.7
Kohima	22.4	11.0
Pasighat	33.4	22.5
Itanagar	36.0	20.4
Imphal	28.0	19.6
Agartala	34.8	22.7

Meghalaya govt offices function normally

NEWMAI NEWS

SHILLONG, May 4: Meghalaya Government offices are making their way towards normalcy after being severely affected by the lockdown on account of the COVID-19 pandemic which has necessitated

minimalisation of the work force attending the various offices on a daily basis. It may be noted here that Meghalaya Chief Secretary MS Rao had issued an order on March 20 last directing that 50 percent of government employees are to work from home while the rest attend office every day by drafting a weekly roster duty.

With this order lapsing on Sunday, the Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Personnel AR (A) Department issued another order on Saturday informing that all the Government offices in the State shall function at 100 percent strength for group A and B officers and 33 percent strength for group C and D staff with effect from Monday, i.e., May 4.

The Additional Chief Secretary also directed the head of departments concerned to notify the roster of duty for group C and D staff. The government has also issued the protocol for government employees who are working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As per this protocol, employees should sanitise their hands before entering the office premises, they should wear a mask at all times and maintain respiratory etiquette.

They have also been directed to avoid touching their face, eyes, nose and mouth and also the railings while climbing staircases in government offices. They are also to maintain social distancing of at least 1.5 metres from each other. Lunch time has also been staggered in government offices. The employees have also been directed to download the Arogya Setu app.

Employees with cough, fever and sore throat or who have had any contact with primary COVID-19 contacts recently have been directed to undergo immediate testing.

If any employee's family member has symptoms of severe acute respiratory infection and influenza-like illness or a recent travel history, then they should not come to office and should inform the head of the department so that they may work from home.

Alarm bells ring as 12 BSF jawans test COVID-19 positive in Tripura

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, May 4: In a shocking development, 12 more BSF personnel of 138 Bn BSF based at Ambassa of Dhalai district tested COVID-19 positive last night, thus ringing alarm bells across Tripura.

Only recently, the state was declared as COVID-19 free as no such case was reported since the past 14 days, which resulted in graded relaxation during the third phase of lockdown.

Earlier, one head constable and a constable of the same battalion were diagnosed with the deadly disease and now they are undergoing treatment in GBP Hospital.

Interestingly, the district administration is still clueless about the origin of the COVID-19 outbreak. As part of precautionary measures, a three-km radius of the battalion headquarters, 138 Bn BSF has been sealed and declared as contain-

ment area.

With yesterday's development, the number of COVID-19 positive cases in the state has risen to 14, out of which 2 patients have already been released from hospital.

In a tweet, the Chief Minister appealed to the people, "Don't panic, follow the government's guidelines. We are working vigilantly for your safety."

Worried by the developments, the Chief Minister had a telephonic conversation with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and the Director General (DG) of BSF in New Delhi and sought their suggestions on how to handle the situation.

District Magistrate (DM) of Dhalai, Dr Brahmnet Kaur said all the jawans who were found COVID-19 positive were kept in the BSF campus under tight security cover.

"Trained doctors and nurses are being deployed for their treatment," she said. Altogether, 77 doctors, nurses, para-

medical staff and security guards of Kulai district hospital were sent to quarantine as they came into close contact with the first two cases of BSF personnel.

When the 12 jawans, who contacted the COVID-19 virus, were about to be taken to the District Hospital at Kulai, hundreds of people gathered on the streets today morning and raised strong objection for trying to convert the district hospital into a COVID-19 hospital.

Sensing trouble, the district administration sent all the 12 BSF personnel to the GBP hospital under tight security cover.

However, panic gripped Ambassa, district headquarters of Dhalai district over the outbreak of COVID-19.

The district administration has therefore promulgated prohibitory order in the entire district and put restrictions on the movement of people, vehicles and functioning of government offices, banks and shops.

Not wearing mask, spitting in public punishable in Mizoram

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, May 4: Not wearing mask while staying outdoors and spitting in public places in Mizoram have now become offences that invite penal action.

They have been declared as cognizable and compoundable offences as per the provisions of The Mizoram (Containment and Prevention of COVID-19) Ordinance, 2020.

The Ordinance, cleared by the State Council of Ministers on Saturday aims to contain and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the State and also seeks stringent punishment for those violating lockdown.

While not wearing mask in public places invites a fine of Rs 100, spitting in public places will be slapped a fine of Rs 300.

Failing to maintain social distancing protocol in public places invites a fine of Rs 200, while organising any social or religious event and crossing borders by exiting and/or entering the State without permission from the competent authority both invite a fine of Rs 5,000.

As per the Ordinance, avoiding or attempting to evade and leaving or escaping from quarantine/isolation facili-

ties before completion of the stipulated time will be slapped a fine of upto Rs 5,000.

It is also an offence to expose/display identity of COVID-19 positive patient and suspected persons by sharing their bio-data and/or photo in print, electronic and social media without prior permission from the competent authority. Breach of protocol will invite 3-month simple imprisonment with fine which may extend upto Rs 5,000.

COVID-19 death: In the meantime, a 73-year-old man from Vairengte town in northern Mizoram died of COVID-19 in Kolkata on Sunday night, officials here said.

H Rohmingliana, who was undergoing cancer treatment at AMRI Hospital in West Bengal's capital, along with another cancer patient from Mizoram, tested positive for the virus on May 1. They were immediately shifted to a designated hospital and put on ventilators. Rohmingliana succumbed to the disease at 7:30 pm on Sunday, the sources said.

As his body could not be brought home, it will be cremated at Kolkata as per the MHA guidelines. The deceased was scheduled to get third circle of chemotherapy at the AMRI Hospital.

24,436 lockdown violators detained in Manipur

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, May 4: Manipur Police has detained as many as 24,436 individuals and 17,351 vehicles for defying lockdown from March 25 to May 3, according to police sources.

A total amount of Rs 23,04,690 was also collected as fine during the lockdown period.

Among the districts, Thoubal district police detained the maximum number of lockdown violators and vehicles while Churachandpur district police detained maximum number of violators and vehicles among the ten hill districts of the state, the source said.

As many as 7,705 violators along with 4,918 vehicles were detained during the above period in Thoubal district alone. Thoubal is followed by Imphal West district (5,251 violators and 3,922 vehicles) and Bishnupur district (4,274 violators and 2,585 vehicles).

Similarly, altogether 1,158 violators and 859 were detained in Churachandpur district followed by Kangpokpi district with 413 violators and 335 vehicles, and Tamenglong district with 226 violators and 38 vehicles.

Thoubal police collected Rs 6,66,890 as fine while Bishnupur and Imphal West district collected Rs 4,57,190 and Rs 2,79,430 respectively. Churachandpur police collected a total of Rs 93,000 while Tamenglong and Kangpokpi collected Rs 44,400 and 19,550 respectively.



Commuters on a street in Agartala town following relaxation of lockdown norms, on Monday. — Photo: Prabir Sil.

Shillong witnesses traffic snarls as consumers shop for essentials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, May 4: The State capital today witnessed a tremendous rush with hundreds of vehicles plying on the roads, thus leading to traffic snarls at some places and people coming out to buy essentials and other items.

The district relaxed the lockdown allowing hardware, electrical and liquor stores to open along with shops selling essential commodities. A large number of people therefore thronged market places like Police Bazaar and other places.

Liquor, medical and mobile stores witnessed huge rush during the day. The vegetable and fish markets too saw a sizeable increase in the number of people visiting these places. After several weeks, a large percentage of state govern-

ment employees also joined their offices.

But what differentiated today from the rest of the lockdown period is the number of vehicles that were on the street. The district administration was quick to clarify that people would need to get a pass to ply their private vehicles on the street as the country is still under lockdown.

Moreover, since there is night curfew from 7 pm to 7 am, anyone wishing to come out during this period has to get a curfew pass from the concerned traffic authorities.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said that students and other people stranded outside the State can come in with long-term plans in mind.

He said that these people would not be allowed to make

a quick trip into the State and then return to their workplaces in different parts of the country due to the lockdown.

Sangma therefore said that those stranded outside have to make their plans accordingly. He further added that those in the North East would be brought in first, and then those outside the region.

These people would have to pay for their travel expenses for coming into the State. The CM didn't mention about the Centre's reported direction that State governments have to pay 15 per cent of the expenses of the people travelling by Railways. The Centre is paying the rest of the fare totalling 85 per cent.

Concern voiced over rush to reopen schools

CORRESPONDENT

TURA, May 4: The Association for Democracy and Empowerment (ADE) has expressed concern over the sudden move of the state's Education Department to reopen schools in the state despite the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Education Department had earlier met, wherein a decision to reopen schools from May 5 was mooted.

"This decision could destroy all our efforts to restrain this pandemic during the entire lockdown period. The idea of social distancing can never be practiced in our schools as maximum number of schools in rural areas lack enough sitting facility against the number of students," observed president of the NGO, Dalseng B Ch Momin.

Further, he added that educational institutions were not in a position to guide students to abide by social distancing norms.

"Even if it is somehow maintained during classes, what about before the start and end

of classes? Is there a proper course of action to oblige them to abide by the social distancing norm? There's none, and we know that this move will be counterproductive to the national and state exercises to regulate and eliminate COVID-19," he added.

The NGO mentioned that every state along with Meghalaya were moving people who were stranded during the lockdown from other states.

"We are facing a possible second wave of the pandemic. Reopening the educational institutions at this point could be suicidal," he pointed out, while urging the authorities to reconsider the decision.

The NGO further appealed to the authorities to strictly monitor the entry and exit points of the state border, while enforcing proper medical screening and regulate the movement of people.



Police ensure maintaining of social distancing at a vegetable market at Garikhana parking slot in Shillong, on Monday. — UB Photos

UN help sought to curb human rights abuse in Naga-inhabited parts of NE

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, May 4: The Naga Hoho today appealed to the United Nations to intervene against the alleged violation of human rights in Naga-inhabited areas in the North East region of India and north-western part of Myanmar amidst the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic.

In a letter to UN Secretary General António Guterres, Hoho president HK Zhimomi and general secretary K Elu Ndong urged him to recognise the Nagas as indigenous people under the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People.

The letter appreciated Guterres for his "timely appeal" for immediate global

ceasefire in all armed conflict areas across the world. The Hoho said it was greatly encouraged by his call to put armed conflict under lockdown and focus together on the true fight against the COVID-19 pandemic with solidarity, unity and hope.

Expressing grave concern over the rapid deterioration of the security situation in Naga-inhabited areas in the North East region of India and north-western part of Myanmar, it requested the United Nations to intervene to prevent the violation of ceasefire between the Naga armies and the Indian state.

The Hoho alleged that the Indian armed forces are indulging in most provocative, wilful, premeditated and sys-

tematic operations against the NSCM (I-M) and other Naga armed groups in the North East region of India and Myanmar with utter disregard to the enforced ceasefire ground rules.

The Hoho urged the UN Secretary General to direct the Government of India to stop its "military operations" and settle the Naga political issue by honouring the framework agreement of August 3, 2015 for an honourable and acceptable political solution.

It also said several joint military operations by the security forces of India and Myanmar are being carried out in the northwestern parts of Naga self-administered zone in Sagaing region of Myanmar bordering India.

"The innocent Naga villagers are living in constant fear and trauma due to war-like situations created by the joint military operations and the COVID-19 pandemic," the letter said.

It added that tension is growing due to deployment of a large number of armed security personnel in many of the Naga villages along the border districts of India and Myanmar.

The Hoho alleged that the Unified Command of Manipur, consisting of the Assam Rifles, Manipur Police and Indian Reserve Battalions, are moving in full combat gear to raid the camps and hideouts of the Naga armies in the border villages.

It said the women COVID-19 vigilantes intercepted and stopped many of these com-

bined forces braving cold weather and incessant rain at the risk of their lives and security as no social distancing can be maintained in such confrontations.

The Hoho said the massive deployment of armed security forces who often camp in the *jhum* fields has denied the indigenous Naga people living in the border areas the right to livelihood.

"The innocent Naga villagers are now going through the most harrowing time as they fear spread of the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic on the one hand, and harassment, physical torture and trauma unleashed by the war-like situation created by the security forces on the pretext of operation against the NSCN," it added.

POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD: ASSAM
BAMUNIMAIDAM - GUWAHATI - 781021
No. WB/LB-112/pt-III/18-19/311
Dated Guwahati, the 2nd May, 2020
SHORT QUOTATION NOTICE
Pollution Control Board Assam invites sealed quotations from the reputed Authorized Service Provider (NABL Accredited) for the calibration of few Scientific Equipment/ Instruments for NABL Accreditation of Central Laboratory, PCBA, Bamunimaidam, Guwahati-21. The list of Equipments/ instruments along with quantities may be obtained from the Board's website www.pcbassam.org. Interested and qualified Service Provider may submit their quotation to the undersigned on or before 15-06-2020.
Sd/-
Member-Secretary

POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD: ASSAM
BAMUNIMAIDAM - GUWAHATI - 781021
No. WB/LAB-284/16-17/114
Dated Guwahati, the 2nd May, 2020
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Pollution Control Board Assam invites Tender through E-Tendering in the Assam Government e-procurement website www.assamtender.gov.in from the original equipment manufacturers or Authorized dealers for supply & installation of PM 2.5 Sampler at the 22 nos. of NAMP stations located in different places of Assam. The documents containing technical specification of the item and other terms & conditions including the list of Location/Place of NAMP stations will be available in Board's website <http://www.pcbassam.org/Tender.html> on 11-05-2020.
Sd/-
Member-Secretary

भारतीय खाद्य निगम
FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
Regional Office : Assam Region, Patilbazar, Guwahati-781008
Email: srmasafo@nic.in; nic.in@nic.in; fo@nic.in

No. S&C/2081/Assam/2020 Date: 04-05-2020
NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
(PART-A)
For and on behalf of FCI, the General Manager (Region), FCI, RO, Assam Region, Guwahati invites Tenders on REGULAR BASIS at the following centers:
SI No. Tender for the Centers
1. Transport Contract Ex-Rly Siding Haibargaon to ASWC Haibargaon via weigh bridge.
2. Transport Contract Ex-Rly Siding Haibargaon to FSD Senchow via weigh bridge.
3. Transport Contract Ex-Rly Siding Haibargaon to FSD Itchali via weigh bridge.
4. Handling & Transport Contract Ex-Rly Siding Furkating to FSD Golaghat via weigh bridge including handling at Rly Siding Furkating and FSD Golaghat.
5. Transport Contract Ex-Rly Siding/ FSD Tinsukia to FSD Kharsang via Weigh Bridge at the Risk and Cost of the defaulting contractor Saraswati Informatics Pvt. Ltd. Shop No. 137/1, Railway Road, Village Daryia (U.T), Chandigarh-160101.
FOR THE UNEXPIRED PERIOD UPTO 19.09.2021.

No. S&C/2083/Assam/Ad-Hoc/2020 Date: 04.05.2020
(PART-B)
For and on behalf of FCI, the General Manager (Region), FCI, RO, Assam Region, Guwahati invites Tenders online from the EXISTING TRANSPORT CONTRACTORS of FCI only (whose work has been reported to be satisfactory) on ADHOC BASIS for a period of 6 (Six) months with FCI's right of extension for another 3 (three) months. However the Contract may be closed at any stage by FCI without assigning any reason thereof. The tender is called for the following route:
SI No. Name of the work
1. Handling & Transport Contract Ex Rly Siding Tangla to FSD Tangla via weigh bridge including handling at Rly Siding Tangla.
The detailed Tender Notice, (for both PART-A & PART-B) bid documents, terms & conditions date of submission and date of opening etc. of the tender enquiry are available at websites (1) www.foawb.nic.in and (2) <https://e-procure.gov.in/e-procure/app> as well as at FCI RO Guwahati. All corrigenda, addenda, amendments, time extension, clarification etc. to the tender will be hosted on the website and e-procure portal only and no separate notification shall be issued in the press. Prospective bidders are requested to regularly visit the website and e-portal to keep themselves updated.
Sd/-, Asstt. General Manager (Contract)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mushroom death toll now 4

SONARI, May 4: The total number of deaths after consuming poisonous mushroom in Charaideo district has risen to four in a week. After the death of three members of a family, including a 14-year-old girl, in Bhogbari village under Sapekhati Police Station on Friday, one Papu Konwar of Borhat under Sapekhati PS died at the Assam Medical College and Hospital in Dibrugarh on Monday. Six more persons from Charaideo district are in hospital after consuming poisonous mushrooms. – ANN Service

Scribes, cops feted

NALBARI, May 4: The Barbhag Block Congress Committee in Nalbari district on Sunday felicitated journalists and police officers who are working in the fight against COVID-19. The committee felicitated the frontline warriors with a *gamosa*, a mask and a pen. The felicitation programme, conducted by Block Congress Committee secretary Lakhidhar Deka, was addressed by Congress leaders Haladhar Bhuyan, Hareswar Bhuyan and Bijuli Talukdar. Local scribes including Ramen Kalita, Kishor Kumar Kalita, Ramen Talukdar, Himiyoti Bhuyan, Abdul Kader, Naren Sarma, Pradip Mahanta and Pankaj Kalita were felicitated. – Correspondent

11,240 screened

PATACHARKUCHI, May 4: So far, 11,240 people have been screened for COVID-19 at the Patacharkuchi screening camp. Up to 5 pm on Sunday, 40 people were screened at the camp before they were allowed to enter Barpeta district, an official said. – ANN Service

Relief items distributed

DOOMDOOMA, May 4: Digboi MLA Suren Phukan on Monday distributed rice among around 700 poor and needy families of Samdang area here. Prior to this, Phukan distributed essential food items among families in areas under 11 gaon panchayats and two Municipal Boards. Rupesh Gowala, general secretary of the Assam Chah Mazdoor Sangha (ACMS) in collaboration with the Raidang Tea Estate authorities distributed essential food items among 300 households living in the vicinity. The Rupai Sanmilita Samaj, a joint forum of various organisations, distributed grocery items among 170 families of Rangjan. – Correspondent

Molasses seized

DHEMAJI, May 4: In the midst of the lockdown, a vehicle loaded with molasses suspected to be used for making local liquor (*sulai*) was seized at Silapathar. The vehicle (AS-07-AC-0849) coming from Moridhal to Bormuria village was stopped at Geluwa road in Silapathar by a few local youths on May 2 over suspicion that the molasses were raw materials for making country liquor. They handed over the vehicle to Silapathar police. The molasses were said to be worth around Rs 50,000. An FIR was lodged at Silapathar Police Station by Mintu Bhuyan, one of the youths, against two persons in the vehicle, Bipul Saikia and Sujit Maheswari. – ANN Service

Top officials at Srirampur

GOSSAIGAON, May 4: Kokrajhar Deputy Commissioner Partha Protim Mazumder, IGP (BTAD) Anurag Agarwal, and SP Rakesh Roshan arrived at Srirampur on Sunday to take stock of problems faced at the Srirampur inter-state border. Many people have been coming daily on foot on the NH-31(c) here from both sides of the border to travel towards their home states. Many people have been apprehended and sent for quarantine. Asked by the media about vegetables being brought from Barobisha in Alipurduar district of West Bengal to Gossaigaon, Mazumder said some positive COVID-19 cases have been detected at Barobisha, and so vegetables from there should not be consumed. Gossaigaon SDO(C) Ansumata Basumatary, SDPO Bidyut Vikash Bora Bhuyan, SDM&HO Dr Bikash Karmakar, and Gossaigaon Revenue Circle Officer Dr Hitesh Mazumder were also present. – ANN Service

Colour-classified shops

PATACHARKUCHI, May 4: Following the relaxations in the lockdown, businessmen heaved a sigh of relief and opened their shops on Monday morning in Pathsala and Patacharkuchi towns. A huge rush of people was seen in the market areas. The Bajali subdivisional administration, Pathsala Chambers of Commerce and Bazar Committee have classified the shops according to three different colours and made a schedule for them to open after a gap of two days. – ANN Service

Food for poor people

GOSSAIGAON, May 4: The Akhil Hindivashi Vikash Parishad, Gossaigaon Anchalik Committee distributed rice, atta, dal, onion, potato, salt and soap among 35 families living below poverty line at ward No.3 of Gossaigaon town. The Parishad would also distribute food to another 35 families who were earning their livelihood by pulling hand carts, rickshaws and e-rickshaws. – ANN Service

Rs 13 lakh by Lions dist 322D

GUWAHATI, May 4: Lions District 322D district governor Praveen Agarwal along with cabinet secretary Dr Partha Sarathi Bhuyan, cabinet treasurer Malchand Agarwal, district chief advisor JK Agarwal and additional district PRO Subham Agarwal presented cheques of Rs 13 lakh to Health Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma for the fight against coronavirus, stated a press release. An amount of Rs 8,00,001, collected from various Lions Clubs of Assam, was given to the Assam Arogya Nidhi. Praveen Agarwal also contributed Rs 5,00,001 from the annual district budget to the PM Cares fund. The district governor also informed the Health Minister about various activities undertaken by Lions Club.



Officials and security personnel of the 23rd battalion of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Lalpool stationed at Amjuli in Udalguri district distributing grocery items among poor people from villages near the Indo-Bhutan border on Monday. – Photo: Rewati Raman Sapkota

Containing African Swine Fever as difficult as COVID-19: expert

CORRESPONDENT

SIVASAGAR, May 4: With the formal declaration by the government that the large-scale death of pigs in seven upper Assam districts is due to African Swine Fever originating from Xinjiang province of China which has no vaccine as yet, frustration among a section of the livestock farmers here is visible. Some others are simply waiting for fresh instructions from Khanapara where a high-level meeting of the concerned Ministry and pig farmers took place on Sunday.

The subject specialists warn that the only way to contain the virus spread is to identify the containment zones and maintain surveillance measures strictly preventing free ranging of pigs. In Sivasagar district, about 4,000 pigs have died since February though the official figures are half of that. Dr Aksharibhuti Keshori, District Veterinary Officer

of the district told media yesterday that the death rate in the African Swine fever is 100 per cent, it spreads rapidly and is as difficult as to contain as COVID-19. He added

that there is no treatment for the affected pigs, which has posed a grave threat to the 80,000 plus pig population of the district.

In the worst-hit Panidihing mouza, Gautam Barua of Nitaipukhuri Bhatgaj village told this correspondent yesterday that he has lost 53 pigs, the entire population in his farm and is clueless what to do next. Like him there are many who have lost their entire animals. According to Dipok Bora of Nitaipukhuri, 90 per cent of the pig population has perished in the swine fever and most of the deaths go unreported in the

veterinary hospitals.

Dr Jyotirmay Saharia, surgeon, Katori Veterinary dispensary said on Sunday that already 2,280 doses of vaccines had been administered

“The carcasses should not be thrown into ponds or rivers as this will help the disease spread to a larger region, and instead should be buried as quickly as possible in a deep crater with salt, urea, bleaching powder or other disinfectants.”

in 28 villages under his office against classical swine fever, but as the fever has been identified as of African origin, the vaccination programme has been stopped as it would require fresh medicines now. The only way to contain the spread of the present virus is culling or selective slaughter in the affected areas which

is also a huge social problem, he added. The Sivasagar DC Lakhindan Gogoi took prompt measures to inform the higher authority about reports of death of pigs and instructed the Veterinary department officials to visit the affected areas for controlling the situation.

In Nazira subdivision, the swine fever has not erupted in an epidemic form yet and the sub divisional veterinary officer Dr Jagdish Barman has taken proactive steps like widespread awareness meetings in the rural regions with the help of the civil administration and pamphlet distribution among pig farmers to adopt stringent preventive measures. In an awareness meeting at the Nazira GP office on May 1, Dr Barman in the presence of the Nazira SDO (Civil),

Sampreety Goswami and GP president and other members spoke in details about the precautions necessary like keeping the farms clean with use of bleaching powder, lime powder, Kohrolin or veroxide in required measure.

In the case of death of the animal, the veterinarian cautioned the farmers not to throw the carcasses into ponds or rivers as the act will help the disease spread to a larger region quickly as has already been reported from Nitaipukhuri region.

The carcasses of the dead animals should be buried as quickly as possible in at least a 6-foot-deep crater with common salt, urea, bleaching powder or other disinfectants. He also added that all precautions and preventive measures the Health department urges on the public to follow in the wake of the COVID-19 spread, are equally applicable to the swine fever outbreak also, though is not zoonotic in nature.

Outlet for face masks made by SHGs opens at Silchar



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, May 4: A face mask sale counter under the initiative of the Assam State Rural Livelihoods Campaign involving various self help groups was ceremoniously opened outside the office of the Cachar Deputy Commissioner on Sunday.

Silchar MP Dr Rajdeep Roy inaugurated the counter in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Barnali Sarma and other officials. “The initiative taken during the current COVID-19 situation has created a vital source of income for members of SHGs during the lockdown,” Dr Roy said.

Sarma congratulated the SHG members for coming up with an inspirational initiative in times of such a crisis.

According to data received from the DIPRO, various SHGs have produced 1,26,778 masks, out of which 61,396 were sold, bringing a revenue of Rs 11,60,008, while 7,691 masks were distributed free of cost.

Cachar Zila Parishad president Amitabh Rai and CEO Deepshikha Dey, DRDA Special Executive Officer Rasraj Das, Soumitra Dey, DPM of the Block Mission Management,

Cachar, and Assistant Commissioner Navanita Hazarika were present on the occasion.

Two medical teams at inter-state entry points: In anticipation of hundreds of people coming back home from across the country, the Cachar district administration has decided to station two medical teams at the inter-state entry points – Digarkhal, Lalapur and Jirighat – for screening of such persons.

NHM district media expert Suman Choudhury said door-to-door fever screening across urban and rural population, which was scheduled to start from May 5, has been postponed for now. The decision to postpone the services was taken following government instructions eyeing the proposed flow of home-bound persons, who also must be taken under the purview of the screening. “We have called for recruiting more MBBS doctors, nurses and cleaners who would be required to strengthen the existing medical teams,” Choudhury said.

It may be mentioned here that at present, the Cachar district health department has a strength of 183 doctors, including the Joint Director of Health Services, 424 GNM staff and around 600 ANMs.

NE's largest fish seed market reopens in Rangiya

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 4: Northeast India's largest fish seed market located on the banks of the Borolia river in Rangiya opened on Monday after being shut for one and half months due to the lockdown. Some 500 people are directly associated with the market. Fish seeds – fish fries and fingerlings – from as far as Kolkata and Bangladesh are brought for trade here.

“Farmers from other Northeastern states, including Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland buy seeds from

this market. It was closed since March 15. Today, it reopened and the District Fishery Development Officer and SDO briefed the traders on the protocol to be followed with regards to hygiene and social distancing,” an official said.

On a normal day, two to 30 trucks carry fish seeds from the market to different places of the Northeast. Each truck carries around 5 lakh fish seeds. “This is the stocking season. If seeds are not made available to the farmers, the production may dip by more than half next year,” the official said.

Around 2.43 lakh people

connected with the fishery sector of Assam have been affected by the lockdown in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the sector suffering a loss of more than Rs 160 crore so far.

Some 1,361 wholesalers, 16,748 retailers, 12,923 vendors, 1,15,677 fishers and fish workers, 408 fish seed hatchery owners and 4,799 fish seed growers have been affected across the State.

Not only has the entire fish marketing channel got dislocated, the inter-district and inter-state import-export activities of fish marketing have also got disrupted.

He is giving livelihood to more than 300 fish farmers.

“During the initial lockdown days, it was difficult, particularly for movement. Customers could not come. There was some loss as we need to supply the spawns in time and we have to take it to the farmers in less than two days,” Islam told *The Assam Tribune* over phone. Later, however, the district fishery officials and the administration helped him with the logistics and his business began to pick.

“I have 12 staff with me. They used

to take the spawns on bicycles, even up to Morigaon. We had to stop the supply to Morigaon after it was declared a red zone,” he said.

Since the lockdown began, Islam has earned more than Rs 2 lakh by selling spawns. Some 300 customer farmers are getting a net benefit of almost Rs 2.5 lakh per year from him.

Noting the success story, the fishery department is contemplating issuing him an inter-district seed carrying exporter registration so that he can sell the seeds throughout the State.

A ‘fishy’ tale!

CORRESPONDENT

UDALGURI, May 4: In an interesting incident at the 30-bed community health centre here, a villager who visited the health centre seeking medical intervention without wearing a face mask, was asked by the nurse on duty to put on one, in conformity with the official orders.

Incidentally, the villager misunderstood the word ‘mask’ for *maas* (fish) and thus hurried to the nearby daily market and came back to the health centre with a fish to meet the doctor on duty.

The mystery was solved as the villager innocently told the attending doctor that the nurse on duty had asked him to bring a *maas*.

The incident obviously created a jovial ambience in the health centre. Later, the doctor on duty gifted the villager a mask and examined his health.

CBI probe demanded

CORRESPONDENT

HAFLONG, May 4: Dilip Nunisa, president, Halali Progressive Welfare Society Haflong and former chairman, Dima Haram Daogah (DHD) has mailed a letter to the Assam Chief Minister for a CBI investigation into the killing of Santosh Hojai.

Providing the details of the case in the letter, Nunisa said that Santosh Hojai was a simple person and was running a small business.

He, on behalf of the Halali Progressive Welfare Society Haflong, an organisation of former Dima Haram Daogah (DHD) urged the Chief Minister to set up an inquiry under the CBI for an impartial investigation to find out the real culprits and provide justice to the family.

Bijit Kumar Roy: a tribute



Bijit Kumar Roy, retired Chief Engineer Assam PWD, passed away at his home in Silchar on April 23, 2020. He was 88.

My earliest memories of my father are of rough rides in old Willys jeeps on *kutchra* roads through difficult terrains of Khasi & Jaintia Hills and Mikir Hills. At the end of long days, he would come home, take off his boots and immerse his swollen feet in saline warm water. The engineering graduate from Banaras Hindu University had a reputation in constructing hill roads and mountain bridges. In 1972, we moved to Silchar where he would build a new medical college that received accreditation just in time for the first batch of graduates; later, he would complete much of the new regional engineering college (now NIT). His journey continued in other parts of Assam. He would leave his mark on major inter-State roads, early border fencing with Bangladesh and conception of major bridges in Brahmaputra Valley.

He was fiercely incorruptible and remained so till the end of his days. When he retired in 1993, he did not even own a car. He returned to a life of simplicity, tending to his plants, painting and repairing his house with his own hands and doing all sorts of housework. In life, he was an extremely caring father and grandfather. He would even want to wash and iron our clothes when we had grown up.

He passed away peacefully on April 23 with my mother by his side. The global lockdown due to COVID-19 meant that neither my sister nor I could travel to see him. Today is his *svadha*. Somewhere in these words is our goodbye to him.

– Santanu Roy

Girish Chandra Sarma

Girish Chandra Sarma, a known Sanskrit scholar and a noted priest of Bajali passed away on April 25 at his residence at Bamunkuchi at the age of 98.

Born on March 31, 1923 to late Dhaneshwar Sarma and Urvashi Devi, he completed his elementary education from his village primary school in 1928. In 1936, he lost his father and mother within six months. He completed his matriculation in 1942 from Patacharkuchi Vidyapith. Then he got involved with Vedic rituals and completed Shastri in Vyakarana and Karmakanda. He became a popular priest and joined as Sanskrit teacher in April 1966 in the newly-established Patacharkuchi Girls' High School and retired on May 31, 1983. Then after retirement, he fully devoted himself to priestly duties.

He donated a plot to establish the Bamunkuchi Sanskrit Tol in 2013. He was a hard worker and always kept an eye on the society and worked on removing superstition, especially among the youth. On his 90th birthday, a book on his life *Phool Chandan Tulashi* was released. He wrote two books namely *Sri Sri Chandī Charit* and *Lakshmi Charit* along with puja processes. He was felicitated by Patacharkuchi Sahitya Sabha during its golden jubilee celebration in October 2019 as a renowned Sanskrit scholar.

Sarma leaves behind two sons out of four, four daughters-in-law, two daughters and two sons-in-law along with grandchildren. In 2017, he lost his eldest son, veteran athlete, Golok Chandra Sarma and another son, Prof Ananta Mohan Sarma, a freelance writer. His wife also predeceased him a year back.

Today, on the day of the *adyashradha* of my father-in-law, I pray to the Almighty for eternal peace to the departed soul.

– Dr Anil Kumar Sarma

OBITUARY

Khirona Mahanta

CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, May 4: Khirona Mahanta, a pious lady, social worker and resident of Bhotmaris Satra in Dergaon, died at her residence in the early hours of Monday. She was 81. As a socially active woman, she was liked by all in the locality. Her death was widely mourned. She leaves behind three sons and daughters-in-law, and two daughters.

Amid lockdown, man earns Rs 2 lakh from fish seed

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, May 4: Beating the lockdown blues, a fish farmer managed to sell some 250 lakh spawns, earning him over Rs 2 lakh in a month's time.

Meet Aminul Islam of Tooktooki village of Nagaon, who completed nine batches of fish breeding during the lockdown and has produced 250 lakh spawns, which were sold locally at Rs 800 per lakh to fish seed growers of the district through mobile phone

booking and door-to-door supply on bicycles.

An arts graduate, Islam took to fish rearing after finding no other alternative. He started with just Rs 650 way back in 1992-93 by procuring fish seeds from a hatchery in Hojai and rearing them in a small pond. Since then, he has been fully involved in fish seed production and now his yearly income is Rs 25-30 lakh.

Today, he has a hatchery capacity of 10 million fry production per year with a total water area of 2 hectares.

Hero MotoCorp resumes operations at 3 plants

NEW DELHI, May 4: The country's largest two-wheeler maker Hero MotoCorp today said it has resumed operations across three of its manufacturing plants with actual product roll-out likely to begin from Wednesday.

The company is commencing operations in a graded manner at three of its manufacturing plants – Gurugram, Dharuhera (both in Haryana) and Haridwar (Uttarakhand), Hero MotoCorp said in a statement.

Additionally, the company's Global Parts Centre (GPC) at Neemrana in Rajasthan has also resumed operations.

The decision comes in the wake of the relaxations put in place by the government on the countrywide lockdown and the necessary permissions granted by local authorities, it added.

The manufacturing plants in Haryana and Uttarakhand will reopen from today and production at these facilities will commence from Wednesday, the two-wheeler major said.

"We are now ready to hit the ground sprinting as we commence the reopening of our facilities. The well-being of the citizens continues to be our focus and the running of our economic engines is crucial to ensure their health and prosperity," Hero MotoCorp Chairman Pawan Munjal said.

From the early onset of COVID-19, the company has been proactive in its business continuity plan and this has helped during the much-needed nationwide lockdown, he added.

"I am optimistic that business and the economy will begin the trajectory of its gradual recovery from here," Munjal stated.

The company said it has also obtained necessary permissions to reopen its other plants as well, and operations will commence once supply chain partners get requisite permits to restart.

Besides, Haryana and Uttarakhand, the company has its plants at Neemrana in Rajasthan, Halol (Gujarat) and Chittoor (Andhra Pradesh). – PTI

States see sharp erosion in April GST mop-up

NEW DELHI, May 4: The COVID-19 outbreak and nationwide lockdown is severely denting the revenue collections of States pushing them to look at possible revenue-earning measures including phased opening of liquor vendors and pan and gutka shops in the first phase of relaxations for restarting economic activity post lockdown.

Sources in the State government departments said that GST collections, one of the prime sources of revenue for the States, is seriously compromised in the month of April with several State governments reporting serious fall in collections that are

as high as 80-90 per cent in some cases.

Concerned about the steep fall, the Centre is yet to declare the GST collection numbers for April though monthly GST collection numbers for a particular month is announced on the first day of the next month. The delay, officials say, is because the government deferred filing of GSTR 3B returns for 15 days from the due date of April 20 to ease compliance burden on taxpayers during lockdown.

The worst hit seems to be States such as Delhi, West Bengal, Assam, Andhra Pradesh that are reporting

COVID-19 impact

fall in April GST collections to the tune of 90 per cent. In case of Delhi, officials have indicated that they have collected just Rs 300 crore in April against normal monthly collection of Rs 3,000 crore. Similarly, Assam seems to have collected just about Rs 200 crore as GST in April against close to Rs 1,000 crore at this point of the year.

West Bengal is also facing serious fall in tax collections as lockdown has completely stopped service sector activ-

ity while manufacturing also remains suspended. GST collections have been badly hit in hilly States that depend largely on tourism and hospitality for revenue.

"We anticipate that April GST collections may fall to a third of average monthly collections of just over Rs 1-lakh crore. The collection data could see some improvement in later dates as tax return filing dates have been extended for April," said a tax expert not willing to be named.

Due to concerns on GST, several States are looking at resuming economic activity under the permissions given by the Home Ministry on

relaxations during lockdown. In this regard, opening of liquor shops and increasing sales of petrol and diesel through increased transportation activities is being looked by States. Taxes on fuel and liquor alone provides close to 40-50 per cent of State revenue. So start of these activities would provide some relief.

Services accounts for almost 60-70 per cent of GDP while manufacturing about 25 per cent. Both the activities have been seriously hit in the lockdown pushing analysts to project India GDP growth at just 1-2 per cent in FY21. – IANS

Govt working on agro MSME policy: Gadkari

NEW DELHI, May 4: The government is working on an agro MSME policy which will focus on entrepreneurship development in rural, tribal, agricultural and forest areas for manufacturing products using local raw material, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said today.

The Minister for MSME and Road Transport and Highways was speaking during meetings held via video-conferencing with the representatives of SME Chamber of India, SME Export Promotion Council and representatives of beauty and wellness industry on impact of COVID-19 on MSMEs, according to an MSME Ministry release.

Gadkari called upon the industry to ensure that necessary preventive measures are taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The minister highlighted the need to

focus on export enhancement as well as import substitution to replace foreign imports with domestic production.

He observed that the industry should focus more on innovation, entrepreneurship, science and technology, research skill and experiences to convert knowledge into wealth. The minister recalled that the Government of Japan has offered a special package to its industries for taking out Japanese investments from China and moving elsewhere.

He opined that it is an opportunity for India which should be grabbed.

He further emphasised that work on new alignment of Delhi-Mumbai Green Express Highway has already started, and this is an opportunity for industry to make future investments in industrial clusters, logistics parks equipped with state-of-the-art technology.

Gadkari opined that there is a need to expand the horizon of industrial clusters in areas other than metro cities and urged industries for participation.

He suggested to the wellness and beauty industry to encourage use of Indian Ayurvedic products instead of imported products.

Gadkari informed that the Ministry of MSME has signed an MoU with AYUSH Ministry to promote the AYUSH sector through various schemes of Ministry of MSMEs in the areas of training, skilling, handholding and entrepreneurship development.

He also advised that members of wellness and beauty industry should register as micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) so that they could benefit from various schemes of the Ministry of MSME. – PTI

Ola, Uber resume services in Green, Orange zones

NEW DELHI, May 4: Cab-hailing platforms Ola and Uber today said they have resumed services in areas within the Orange and Green zones, and have introduced requirements like wearing of masks to ensure safety of riders and driver partners.

Both players had suspended operations after the government had announced a nationwide lockdown from March 24 to contain the spread of COVID-19 infection. After 40 days of lockdown, some relaxations have been provided in the third phase of the lockdown, including allowing cab services to operate in locations that have very few or no confirmed cases reported.

In a statement, Ola said it has resumed operations in over 100 cities across the country, adhering to the government guidelines.

It also noted that Ola Emergency – a service introduced during lockdown to ferry non-COVID-19 people to and from hospitals – will continue to operate with existing protocols across 15 cities.

Uber, in its blogpost, said it has started operating in 25 cities including Jamshepur, Kochi, Cuttack and Guwahati (Green Zone) as well as locations like Amritsar, Rohtak, Gurgaon and Visakhapatnam (Orange Zone).

"Our services remain suspended in all cities which fall under the Red zone. However, we'll continue to serve our communities in this zone with Uber Essential and UberMedic," it said. – PTI

Lockdown pulls down power consumption by 22.75% in April

NEW DELHI, May 4: Power consumption in April dipped 22.75 per cent to 85.05 billion units (BU) compared to 110.11 BU in the same month a year ago, mainly due to low demand amid the lockdown to combat COVID-19.

The government had imposed lockdown from March 25 to fight the deadly coronavirus in the country. This also resulted in lower commercial and industrial demand in April.

According to Power Ministry data, the total electricity consumption was 85.05 billion units in April this year.

The data showed that India's power consumption was 110.11 BU in the corresponding month last year.

The peak power demand met in April stood at 132.77 GW, almost one-fourth less than 176.81 GW in the same month a year earlier.

The peak power demand met is the highest energy supply during the day across the country.

Besides lower commercial and industrial demand, the relatively cool weather during April this year also played spoilsport. The temperature remained below 40 degree celsius even in the second half of the month.

The cool weather kept the power demand low despite partial easing of the lockdown from April 20. – PTI



Lineworkers install new high-tension power cables after the government permitted to resume work at construction sites during the ongoing nationwide lockdown due to COVID-19 outbreak, in New Delhi on Monday. – PTI

Manufacturing base in India

BHEL invites global OEMs to use its facilities

NEW DELHI, May 4: State-run engineering firm BHEL today said it has invited expression of interest from global original equipment manufacturing (OEM) firms to leverage its facilities as well as capabilities and to shift their production base to India amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are a large number of OEM firms who intend to shift their manufacturing base from China to other countries after the COVID-19 outbreak, said an industry expert, adding that India must leverage its capabilities to facilitate those.

"In order to further promote Make in India and support international companies for setting up manufacturing in India, BHEL has floated an expression of interest (EoI) inviting global companies to partner with

it and leverage its facilities and capabilities for setting up manufacturing base in the country," a BHEL statement said.

According to the statement, the ongoing economic disruption across the world due to COVID-19 has highlighted the dangers of manufacturing activities being concentrated in a single location and the need for diversification of supply chains and manufacturing.

This has thrown up a huge opportunity for India – one of the fastest growing economies of the world and an attractive investment destination..., it added.

BHEL has 16 manufacturing facilities spread across the country with substantial land bank and an extensive built-up industrial/commercial and residential spaces. – PTI

RBI reviews liquidity, fund flows with NBFCs, MFs

MUMBAI, May 4: The Reserve Bank of India today reviewed the liquidity and credit flow situation in the NBFC sector and assessed the position of mutual funds (MF) with respect of implantation of relief measures which it had earlier announced to mitigate the economic fallout of COVID-19 outbreak.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das held meetings with the representatives of both NBFCs and MFs in two separate sessions through video-conference.

"The Governor acknowledged the critical role that NBFCs, including MFs, play in delivering last-mile credit, and the importance of mutual funds in financial intermediation," the RBI said in a statement.

During the meeting, the RBI discussed the post-lockdown strategies with NBFCs and MFs for supply of credit, including working capital, to

MSMEs, traders and bottom-of-pyramid customers in semi-urban, rural and urban areas.

Implementation of three-month moratorium on repayment of loan instalments announced by the RBI, and strengthening grievance redressal mechanisms were also discussed.

The RBI Governor also checked with NBFCs and MFs about their liquidity position, especially after introducing various schemes for the sectors. The concern is whether banks and financial institutions have begun lending to NBFCs which got hit after failure of a few entities last year.

With MFs, the RBI also revised the functioning of the bond markets and took stock of their plans for the way forward, especially in the context of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund shutting down six of its funds due to credit issues. – IANS

Most firms across industries keep salary hike budgets unchanged amid pandemic: Survey

NEW DELHI, May 4: With the unprecedented situation arising out of COVID-19 pandemic, companies across the world have re-evaluated their HR practices, and while 50 per cent organisations across industries are keeping their salary hike budgets unchanged, 36 per cent have opted for a decline, says a survey.

In its India's COVID-19 HR Practices Survey Report, KPMG said around 70 per cent of the organisations across levels have reported no change in the planned impact on fixed pay at the non-man-

agement and junior management levels. In a bid to sustain these tough times, a few organisations are implementing hiring freezes and wage freezes, while others are introducing remote working alternatives, revisiting employee engagement initiatives and additional financial assistance.

The survey titled Cutting through Crisis' noted that 50 per cent of the companies have deferred or suspended their promotion schedule.

Moreover, a downward trend in promotions numbers across all job levels was ob-

served wherein 33 per cent of organisations admitted to having reduced it.

However, most organisations in IT/ITES, life sciences/pharma and retail sector have refrained from any downwards trend in overall promotion cycle, the survey noted.

However, if the COVID-19 situation persists, around 22 per cent of the organisations may defer, freeze or suspend incentive payouts to support their overall finances.

While 50 per cent organisations across industries are keeping their salary increment

budgets unchanged, around 36 per cent organisations have opted for decreasing the salary increment budgets, it said.

"Organisations are navigating an unprecedented and challenging time and are collectively at a level-playing ground as none had an upper hand of being better prepared or equipped to deal with the crisis," said Vishalli Dongre, Partner and Head, People and Change, KPMG in India.

With most organisations now moving to a more liquid and flexible way of working, there is a need for strategies

and new operating models for business continuity and workforce management, Dongre said.

"Organisations need strategies for reimagining work and workforce landscape, new operating and governance models, evolving cultures and talent priorities, new roles and capabilities, new ways of measuring performance, and enabling areas such as transformative policy frameworks, strong technology infrastructure, employee well-being and an effective leadership," Dongre added. – PTI

PRESS NOTICE/ IFB

No. CS/DTRD/SOPD(G)/2019-20/526/2
The Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads), Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Ghy- 21 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites 1 (one) no. item rate Bid 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/98/20

No. HSFW/Esstt/Steno Typist/20/2020/1227

NOTICE

This is for general information that the final list of selected candidates for the Posts of Steno Typist/ Stenographer, Laboratory Technician and Refrigerator Mechanic under the establishment of Directorate of Health Services(FW), Assam is available on official website www.dhsfw.assam.gov.in from 04-05-2020.

Sd/- Director of Health Services(FW), Assam
Swasthya Bhawan, Hengrabari, Guwahati-36.

Janasanyog/DF/99/20

No. CE/Maint/A.D/404/2019/2

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer PWD (Roads), Assam on behalf of Governor of Assam re-invites bids amounting to Rs. 2320.50 Lakh (Approx) for Improvement/ Construction of roads under SOPD (G), Assam Darshan for the year 2020-21 in 16 (Sixteen) nos. of packages in the districts of Mazuli & Sivasagar. 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 08.05.2020 to 28.05.2020

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

Janasanyog/CF/96/20

No. TRC/TB/NIFE&IT/SOPD(G)/25/2019-20/69-76

PRESS NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

The Superintending Engineer, P.W.D., Tezpur Road Circle, Tezpur invites Bids on behalf of Governor of Assam from approved & eligible Contractors Class-I (A, B & C) of Assam PWD (Roads) for 1 (One) Number of work in Sonitpur District Amounting to Rs. 161.31 Lakhs under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20.

Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also in the office of the undersigned in the Technical Branch from 14.05.2020 during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, P.W.D.,
Tezpur Road Circle, Tezpur.

Janasanyog/CF/87/20

TENDER NOTICE

No. KDM.,75/2020/01- Sealed quotation affixing Court Fee Stamps worth Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and twenty five paise) only are hereby invited from the registered firms / Supplier for supply of relief materials to the Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, Amingaon as and when required for flood relief and other disaster during the year 2020. Security money of Rs. 10,000/- (Ten thousand) only will have to be deposited in the form of Bank Draft in favour of Deputy Commissioner, Kamrup, Amingaon, along with the quotation by the tenderers. The quotation will be received up to 3.00pm on 12/05/2020 and opened on 12.05.2020 at 3.30pm in presence of quotationer / his authorized representatives at Conference Hall DC's Office, Kamrup, Amingaon.

Details of tender notice including list of relief material may be seen at the undersigned office.

Sd/- Deputy Commissioner,
Kamrup, Amingaon
(Disaster Management Branch).

Janasanyog/CF/82/20

NOTICE

In continuation of this office advertisement published in the News Paper bearing No. Janasanyog/D/11527/19 (The Assam Tribune), Janasanyog/D/11529/19 (Dainik Janambhumi) & Janasanyog/D/11531/19 (Niyamiya Barta) Dtd 18.03.2020 respectively which was issued inviting application form for the post of "Junior Assistant" in the office of the Chief Electrical Inspector-cum-Adviser, Assam at Guwahati under Inspectorate of Electricity, Assam, it is for information to all concerned that the last date of receipt of application form is hereby extended upto 26.05.2020 instead of 07.04.2020 due to outbreak of pandemic COVID-19.

Other terms and conditions of the earlier advertisement mentioned above will remain the same.

Sd/- Chief Electrical Inspector-cum-Adviser
Govt. of Assam

Janasanyog/D/417/20

TIME TABLE OF KISSAN COVID PARCEL EXPRESS TRAIN ON 7TH MAY, 2020 (GUWAHATI TO SECUNDERABAD JN.) & BACK ON 10TH MAY, 2020

In order to ensure transportation of agricultural products & essential goods between Northeast Region and other parts of the country, Northeast Frontier Railway will operate one time tabled Kissan Covid Parcel Express Train on 7th May, 2020 from Guwahati & back from Secunderabad Jn. on 10.05.2020 amidst National lockdown. The train will originate from Guwahati with stoppages at Rangiya, Barpeta Road, New Bongaigaon, New Alipurduar, New Coochbehar, New Jalpaiguri, Kishanganj, Malda Town, Howrah, Bhubaneswar & Vijayawada Jn. in enroute. The duration of stoppage will be 15 minutes for loading and unloading of Parcel packages at each halt. The composition of the train will be 3 VPs + 1 SLR.

-Tentative train timings-

Date of run	Tentative Time	Day	Station	Tentative Time	Day	Date of run
07-05-2020	DEP- 10:00	1	Guwahati	ARR- 09:00	3	10-05-2020
	DEP- 14:00	1	New Jalpaiguri	DEP- 23:40	2	
	DEP- 06:35	2	Howrah	DEP- 12:15	2	
	DEP- 13:25	2	Bhubaneswar	DEP- 03:40	2	
	DEP- 03:25	2	Vijayawada Jn	DEP- 13:30	1	
	ARR- 10:30	3	Secunderabad	DEP- 07:20	1	

The live run of this train can be monitored @ <http://www.indianrailways.gov.in/>
SPACE IS LIMITED. SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED ON FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS

The interested traders, farmer(s), Agri-Horticulture Producer including Govt. agencies may contact 24x7 Railways Helpline No. 138.
Chief Commercial Manager/FM

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile



Workers in Shalmari tea estate in Dibrugarh district hold placards demanding full wages and rations for casual as well as permanent workers as per directive of the government, on Monday. - UB Photos

8 gamblers held, cash seized
ANN SERVICE

DULIAJAN, May 4: On the last day of the second phase of national lockdown, a shameful incident of gambling was registered at Duliajan Police Station. The incident came to light after a team of Duliajan Police led by Officer-in-Charge Inspector Rupjyoti Dutta, arrested 8 gamblers from 1 no. Mahmari village of Duliajan yesterday. Police has seized cash worth Rs 58, 265 from the house of Jagat Sonowal, a resident of Duliajan's Mahmari village, at whose house the gamblers had assembled. Adding more twist to the incident, the police team seized 160 litres of illegal condensate oil from the house of Jagat Sonowal.

According to police, following a reliable information, Duliajan PS OC Rupjyoti Dutta along with his team, raided the house of Jagat Sonowal after 9 pm yesterday. Police arrested Jagat Sonowal, Khanindra Dutta, Bhupen Rajkhowa, Rajen Tamuly, Manoj Tamuly, Dhon Baruah, Jiten Tamuly and Ratul Rajkhowa from the gambling spot.

While Khanindra Dutta and Bhupen Rajkhowa were granted bail at the police station, the other six gamblers have been sent to Dibrugarh court today. Duliajan Police has filed a case under Section 13/14 of Assam Game and Betting Act of 1970 against the eight gamblers. A separate case under Section 379 r/w sec 3(2)(e) of PDPP Act of IPC was registered against Jagat Sonowal for possession of illegal condensate oil.

One-third of shops allowed to operate in Udalguri
CORRESPONDENT

UDALGURI, May 4: The Udalguri district administration today decided to allow only one-third shops to do business during the third phase of nationwide lockdown, which got under way from today.

The decision to this effect was taken in an emergent meeting chaired by Prakash Ranjan Garphaliya, Deputy Commissioner of Udalguri district in the presence of Rihon Daimari, State PHE minister and in-charge of Udalguri and Baksa districts, other government officials and representatives from business fraternity from Udalguri, Rowta, Mazbat areas of the district.

The meeting resolved that the government guidelines in relaxations would be strictly maintained and the market complexes would remain closed as before while the business activities and movement of public would be restricted from 6 pm till 6 am everyday. However, essential services like medical, water and milk supply would not be halted during the period.

Panic grips Lakhimpur dist as widespead death of pigs continues
CORRESPONDENT

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, May 4: Panic gripped people in Lakhimpur district as the African Swine Fever (ASF) has been detected in pigs, both in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh amid the nationwide lockdown.

The confirmation of ASF in pigs of these two neighbouring States has been made by the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) in Bhopal where samples from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh were sent after widespread death of these animals last week. Lakhimpur is one of the six districts in Assam from where samples were sent to NIHSAD, Bhopal. The Papum-Pare is also one of the districts in Arunachal Pradesh, which shares the inter-State boundary with Lakhimpur, from where similar samples were sent to the Bhopal laboratory.

The confirmation of ASF in pigs of Assam created a panic situation among pig farmers and traders across Lakhimpur district as already there have been reports of widespread death of the animals during the last couple of days. In Lohit avulsion stream of the Brahmaputra, now a course of the Subsansiri separating Majuli from Lakhimpur, carcasses of pigs have been stuck in large numbers on hyacinths and on the posts of the wooden bridge since last week.

The local villagers alleged that dead pigs might have been thrown into the river in the upstream areas. The villagers have been trying hard to clear the hyacinth from the river to let the carcasses pass. Nine posts of the wooden bridge, which are being used by vehicles to cross the stream after crossing the Dhumaguri

ferry ghat near Bihpuria, have also been pulled out to allow the carcasses to flow past.

In Dhakuakhana subdivision of Lakhimpur district, a large number of pigs have been dying in recent days affecting the livelihood of many rural families. The worst-affected areas are Matmora, Harhi-Gobindapur, Dangdhora and Dhakuakhana as well as neighbouring Ghilamora. On Monday, pig carcasses were seen floating on Charikodiya river - the cultural identity of Dhakuakhana. Similar scenes were also seen in Dangdhora river in the subdivision.

It is a matter of great concern for the people of Lakhimpur district as many rivers that flow through it originate from Arunachal Pradesh. The district shares 108.8 kilometres of inter-State boundary with the neighbouring State.

The fear arising from the confirmation of ASF in pigs in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh is now creating panic among the villagers who were engaged in clearing the river from the carcasses. However, veterinary experts said that ASF does not transmit from animals to humans. But the matter of concern is that unlike Classical Swine Fever (CSF), there is still no vaccine for ASF.

According to the World Organisation for Animal Health, ASF is a severe epizootic viral disease affecting both domestic and wild pigs. It can spread by live or dead pigs and pork. Transmission can also occur via contaminated feed and objects such as shoes, clothes, vehicles, knives and other equipment.

The ASF was first detected in Kenya in 1909, which spread across Europe and America in the 1960s and 80s.

28 pig carcasses recovered by KNP authority
CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, May 4: As many as 28 carcasses of pigs were recovered by Kaziranga National Park (KNP) authority till Monday. The carcasses of pigs, died due to suspected swine fever in the upstream areas of Brahmaputra, were thrown into the river.

The Forest personnel under Biswanath Wildlife Division (BWD), Biswanath Chariali recovered altogether 28 carcasses from different locations under the division during the period from April 30 to May 3. The carcasses being a threat to the animals of KNP, specially wild boars, were disposed of with salt and lime.

The Forest personnel under the active supervision of the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of BWD Mukut Das

recovered the carcasses from Baahbari (5), Bogoriati (3) under Biswanath Revenue Circle, Bhumuraguri (1) (Tezpur circle), Kotual Buroimukh (8) (Gohpur circle), Bholakata Chapori Bhujmari (3), Kote Tapu (1), Kote Chapori (5) (Biswanath circle) and Pohubali Pahutapu (2) (Helem circle).

The DFO later lodged and FIR at River Police Organisation, Biswanath Ghat against such illegal deeds on Sunday. Police registered a case (No. 3/2020) and investigation is going on. The DFO Mukut Das told this correspondent that the carcasses might harm the wildlife of KNP.

"We have strengthen our eastern boundary to recover more carcasses to protect the wildlife of the park," he said. "We have also organised

several awareness programmes as a joint venture with State Veterinary department where we have also succeeded as the villagers buried their pigs in the areas of the upstream of Brahmaputra," the DFO said.

The villagers of the areas like Raonamukh under Gohpur subdivision in Biswanath Chariali district in the northern part of Assam buried their pigs on a large-scale.

The KNP director P Sivakumar said that every step has been taken to create awareness among the masses not to throw carcasses of pigs into rivers.

The president of frontline organisation working for environment conservation AASHRAY Biren Ch Saikia urged the owner of pig farms to be more cautious in this crisis period.



People buying vegetables being sold in a horse cart during the third phase of nationwide lockdown, at Howraghat on Monday. - UB Photos

Dibrugarh mediapersons test negative for COVID-19
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, May 4: In a relief to a section of reporters here, all 31 print and electronic media reporters who underwent COVID-19 test here yesterday have tested negative.

Dr Naba Jyoti Gogoi, Joint Director of Health told newsmen that the results of all mediapersons are negative. "It is good news for all of us that all the COVID-19 tests undertaken here yesterday have come out negative. People were in a panicky situation as four cancer patients had come from Mumbai (one of the highly COVID-19 affected cities in the country). The results of the four cancer patients who have been kept in quarantine in Tinsukia as also all the mediapersons who underwent the test yesterday have been found negative," informed Dr Gogoi.

It needs to be mentioned here that the COVID-19 test were conducted on a few mediapersons working in the field as per the directive of the State government after 53 journalists in Mumbai tested positive for novel coronavirus recently.

Body of newborn found
A CORRESPONDENT

NAGAON, May 4: After being informed by eyewitnesses, Haiborgaon police recovered the body of newborn baby from Horhoriayan near Difalu village, on the outskirts of the town this morning.

The body of the newborn baby was lying under a road bridge constructed over the Horhoriayan stream on the newly-renovated road when it was recovered by the police.

According to sources, it was suspected that the baby might have been thrown from the bridge when it was alive.

Meanwhile, Haiborgaon police sent the body of the new born for post-mortem.

Curfew imposed in Dhubri dist
CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, May 4: The Deputy Commissioner of Dhubri vide order no. DMJ 31/2013/429 dated May 4, 2020 impose prohibitory order (curfew) restricting movement of people/vehicle on roads, village paths, thoroughfares and other public places from 6 pm to 6 am of the next day in the entire Dhubri district.

The order also stated that it is a precautionary measure in view of outbreak of coronavirus and it is necessary to prohibit movement of people outside their homes so that any loss of human lives and property due to spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) could be prevented.

However, the order also stated that members of the police and other central paramilitary forces/magistrates and other govt officers on duty for maintenance of law and order, doctors/nurses and other medical staff, person engaged in COVID-19 preventive arrangements are exempted from the purview of the above order. Further, this order shall also not apply in case of vehicles using the national highway.

Meanwhile, all vehicle permits issued earlier allowing them to ply their vehicles during day hours are also not allowed to ply during the curfew period.

Bokakhat admin draws plan to tackle ASF
CORRESPONDENT

KAZIRANGA, May 4: Leaving no stone unturned, the Bokakhat subdivision administration (Civil) has drawn out a massive action plan to ensure that the area remains free from any African Swine Fever (ASF) infection.

Speaking to this correspondent, the Bokakhat Subdivision Officer (Civil), Vivek Shyam said that he was personally monitoring the situation in the subdivision to check or inhibit the occurrence of any African Swine Fever infection.

The SDO said that already three teams of veterinary doctors and supporting staff have been formed to ensure that there is no infection or any transmission of the fever in the subdivision, adding that there were more than 30,000 domestic pig population in Bokakhat subdivision itself.

He added that already order was being issued to ensure that every household (who rear pigs) should keep their pigs at its shed and outside grazing has been completely banned. Shyam informed that necessary blood samples have been collected from domestic pigs by a team of experts from Guwahati, which was then sent for further testing and analysis.

Dr Naveen Pandey, Deputy Director of The Corbett Foundation, said that in the absence of immunisation, there was a need of good

effort to stop any mixing of domestic animals (pigs) with wild boars in the fringe villages of Kaziranga National Park, adding that African Swine Fever virus can survive in a wide range of PH and does not get easily damaged.

He said that The Corbett Foundation has been reaching out to every village through phone calls and SMSes and advised the people for identification and isolation of diseased pigs and burial of the carcasses. He said that it was very important that carcasses of pigs should not be thrown in wetlands or rivers as it may infect other healthy pigs through the contact of water, which is already infected with African Swine Fever virus.

Dr Biswajit Boruah, veterinary officer at Kohora, said that he along with Dr Pranita Konwar have been organising awareness meetings in and around Kaziranga, especially in Borbeel Mising Gaon, Lakhurakhonia Gaon, Dumjan, Kohora, Chepenakubuwa etc., and advising the people to remain careful as their villages are close to Kaziranga National Park. He said that people have been informed that once any pig gets infected with African Swine Fever, then mortality rate is almost 100 per cent. They had been asked to keep infected pig isolated completely.

There is no such vaccine to control African Swine Fever. The villagers were advised to keep the pigs at their shed itself and maintain proper cleaning with potassium or bleaching powder.

No. DME/95/2020/5398

ADVERTISEMENT

Online Applications are invited for the following Grade-III (Non-Technical) posts as shown below under the establishment of the Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent Lakhimpur Medical College & Hospital, North Lakhimpur which will be available at the Official website of Directorate of Medical Education, Assam (www.dme.assam.gov.in) from 12.05.2020 to 27.05.2020 till midnight.

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Minimum Educational qualification	Scale of pay	Total No. of vacant post	Category Reservation
1	Accountant	B.Com with 1 years Diploma/Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP-7,400	2	UR-1 OBC/MOBC-1
2	Account Assistant	Degree in any discipline with 1 year Diploma/Certificate in Computer Applications	14000-60,500+ GP-6,200	4	UR-3 OBC/MOBC-1
3	Cashier	B.Com with 1 year Diploma /Certificate in Computer Applications	14000-60,500+ GP-7,400	1	UR-1
4	Lower Division Assistant/ Computer Operator -Cum-Clerk /DTP Operator	Degree in any discipline with 1 year Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP-5,600	15	UR-5 OBC/MOBC-1 SC-1, STP-2 STH-1, EWS-1, PwD-1
5	Stenographer	Degree in any discipline with Diploma in Stenography from ITI and 1 year Diploma/Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP-6,200	2	UR-1 OBC/MOBC-1
6	Driver	HSLC or equivalent passed along with valid Medium Motor Vehicle License (Transport) issued by Competant Authority	14000-60,500+ GP-5,600	3	UR-2 OBC/MOBC-1
7	Store Keeper -Cum-Clerk- Cum-Computer Operator	Degree in any discipline with 1 year Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP-5,600	21	UR-8 OBC/MOBC-6 SC-1, STP-2 STH-1, EWS-2 PwD-1
8	Record Keeper -Cum-Clerk- Computer Operator	Degree in any discipline with 1 year Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP-5,600	1	UR-1
9	Record Clerk	Degree in any discipline with 1 year Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP-5,600	7	UR-4 OBC/MOBC-2 STP-1
10	Statistician	The candidate must be M.Sc. in Statistics from a recognized University with good Computer knowledge. Candidate must have bio-statistical data analysis experience	22000-87,000+ GP-9,100	1	UR-1
11	Coding Clerk	Degree in any discipline with 1 year Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP-5,600	4	UR-3 OBC/MOBC-1
12	Library Assistant	Degree in any Discipline with 1 year Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP-5,600	4	UR-3 OBC/MOBC-1
13	Computer Operator	Degree in any Discipline with 1 year Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP-6,200	1	UR-1
14	Receptionist- Cum-Clerk	Degree in any Discipline with 1 year Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP-5,600	2	UR-1 OBC/MOBC-1
15	Librarian	Degree in Library Science from a recognized University with 1 year Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP-8,700	1	UR-1
16	Deputy Librarian	Degree/Diploma in Library Science from a recognized University with 1 year Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP-7,400	1	UR-1
17	Social Worker	Degree in Social Work from recognized Institute	14000-60,500+ GP-6200	3	UR-2 OBC/MOBC-1
18	Medical Record Officer	Degree in any discipline with Diploma/ Certificate in Medical Record Technician Course	14000-60,500+ GP 8,700	1	UR-1
19	Documentalist	Degree in any discipline with 1 year Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP 5,600	1	UR-1
20	Store Keeper- cum Record Clerk	Degree in any discipline with 1 year Diploma/ Certificate in Computer Application	14000-60,500+ GP 5,600	4	UR-3 OBC/MOBC-1

Reservation : Reservation of posts for woman candidate will be as per prevailing Govt. rules.

Age : Candidate should not be less than 18 years and not above 38 years as on 01.01.2020. The upper age limit for different reserved categories is relaxable as per existing Govt. Rules.

Terms & Conditions:

- Interested candidates shall have to fill up the online application form available at the official website of Director of Medical Education, Assam (www.dme.assam.gov.in). Candidate shall have to choose the posts he/ she wants to apply during online submission of the application. There will be single application form for all the posts he/ she wants to apply.
- The following documents in original will have to be produced at the time of document verification if called for and photocopies of all certificates etc. are to be submitted :
 - 2 (two) copies of passport size colour photograph which is uploaded during filling up of online application form submission.
 - Admit Card of HSLC or equivalent or birth certificate for age proof.
 - All marks sheets and pass certificates
 - Caste certificate (where applicable)
 - Person with Disability (Divyang) Certificate
 - Permanent residence certificate
 - Employment Exchange Registration Certificate.
 - Economically Weaker Section (EWS) Category Certificate in proper format.
- Details of selection procedure will be published in due course of time.
- Candidates are required to visit the website www.dme.assam.gov.in regularly for any update.

Sd/- Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent (i/c)
Lakhimpur Medical College & Hospital, North Lakhimpur

Janasanyog/D/417/20

Would be devastating if India don't tour Australia: Labuschagne

SYDNEY, May 4: Top Australian batsman Marnus Labuschagne on Monday said he and his team would be "pretty devastated" if India don't make the trip Down Under for a Test and limited-overs series later this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

India's tour of Australia will begin with a T20 tri-series in October and is scheduled to end with a four-match Test series in December. The speculation on the tour is because of the travel restrictions currently in place and the uncertainty surrounding how long it would take to control the pandemic.

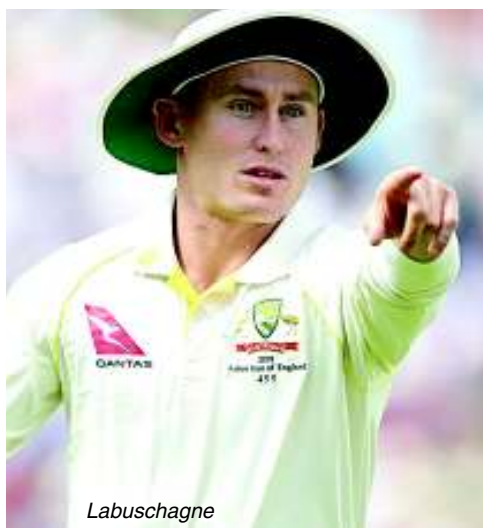
Replying to a query on the tour in an online press conference, Labuschagne said, "Well it would mean that we are not playing cricket which is pretty devastating for myself, the rest of the team and for the country."

In between, there is the T20 World Cup, scheduled for an October 18 start, but the mega event's future is also shrouded in uncertainty due to the global crisis.

Australia has reported significant drop in positive cases with parts of the country relaxing lockdown rules.

Just over 6,800 people have tested positive for the virus with less than 100 deaths in the country so far. Labuschagne lauded Australia's healthcare system and its response to the crisis so far.

"Australia has done very well with the quaran-



Labuschagne

tine and isolation, so we've been able to get our number down relatively quickly. With a limited amount of deaths and our healthcare system has been so good during this time," he said.

Labuschagne, currently placed at No. 3 in ICC Test rankings after a brilliant year, hoped that Australia's control over the pandemic would be enough to ensure that India tour without any hassles.

"Hopefully because of all that good work we can

actually get India over here in 3-4 months or 4-5 months," he said.

"Everything is changing so quickly so it's really hard to put my finger on how everything's going to pan out. Hopefully it does pan out well but if it doesn't it will be very disappointing."

In the meantime, the 25-year-old, who has enjoyed a breakout year in Tests and ODIs, is working on sharpening his skills during this forced break.

"The way things have unfolded has been awesome. For me it's been about, one, taking it all in and being really happy and proud of that," Labuschagne said reflecting on the past year.

"But also then looking at, 'Right, how I can get better?', and looking at different parts of your game on and off the field that you can work on to make sure you're continually getting better," he added.

"For me it's just about improving and make sure, once this isolation is done, I'm ready and prepared to take it on and try and go another level up."

Labuschagne feels he needs to work on batting longer in ODIs.

"There's heaps to improve on, that's for sure. Personally in one-day cricket an area I want to continue to get better at is that later stages in the innings," he said.

The fast-rising cricketer said he would also be aiming to become a better bowler. - PTI

Makes sense to postpone World T20: Jason Roy

LONDON, May 4: Feeling like a kid again, England batsman Jason Roy can't wait to get back on the cricket field but says it would make sense to postpone the T20 World Cup in October-November if teams don't get enough time to prepare for the mega event.

All cricketing activities have come to a halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the future of T20 World Cup in Australia is also in doubt.

"If players aren't able to prepare in the right way and are not able to get over to Australia, then it makes sense to postpone it," Roy was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

"But if it goes ahead, it's our job to play cricket - and if we're told we have three weeks to prepare to go and play in the World T20, all the boys will be putting the yards in to make sure we're ready for that."

"I think all the boys are on edge, waiting for the call saying, 'Right, we have a month

turnaround or a six-week turnaround. Get in the nets and go hit some balls.' I think the boys will be as ready as they can be," said the 29-year-old opener.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) too has suspended activities until July 1. While Roy is eager to be playing again, he said safety is paramount.

"I've got a huge amount of trust in the ECB. I think they will look into every single ave-

nue of all the positives, all the negatives. So, I guess I would trust in what they say, probably have a chat with Morgs (Morgan) and see where his head's at and go with that."

"I don't think I'll have too many questions, especially when it got to the stage of 'Right, we're going to play', because there will be a lot of people in those meetings discussing whether it's the right thing to do or not." - PTI



If players aren't able to prepare in the right way and are not able to get over to Australia, then it makes sense to postpone it.

- Jason Roy

'Boxing will play vital role in making India top-10 at Olympics'

NEW DELHI, May 4: During a highly motivating and encouraging online video interactive session with India's elite boxers, country's Sports Minister Kiren Rijju acknowledged efforts by the athletes and said boxing will play a vital role in making India sporting powerhouse and top-10 nation in the medals tally at Olympic Games.

Rijju also heaped praises on the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) and its President Ajay Singh for their efforts to keep the boxers engaged with on-line coaching sessions despite COVID-19 pandemic in the country. The online video conference was attended by around 140 elite Indian pugilists along with coaches and officials.

Indian boxers have already secured a record nine qualification quotas at Tokyo Olympics and will be fighting for four more places in the upcoming qualification tournaments.

Rijju also informed that the government is planning to allow elite athletes to resume their training at the earliest in order to keep them ready for future competitions. "I have discussions with my officers. We are planning out a way to start functioning as soon as possible. I thought first of all we should allow practice for the players who have qualified for the Olympics and who will be participating in the qualifiers or important championships. We can't open all the coaching centres, so we will allow

only for elite athletes. Junior camps have to wait for some time as safety will be priority," he concluded.

The initiative, which was done for the first time, received a great response and also motivated boxers and the officials. "I would like to thank our Sports Minister for taking time out from his busy schedule to talk to the boxers. It was quite motivating and morale boosting for everyone. We are all one Team India and we are proud that you are captain of this team. You keep interacting with us like this, we will make you proud," BFI president Ajay Singh said.

The minister further interacted with the boxers to know their situation during the lockdown and training sched-

ules. "Whatever we have achieved today, credit goes to the coaches, federation and the government. It's really impressive and motivating to interact with you Sir (Rijju). If we keep getting support from the government, we will definitely win Olympic medals, World Championship medals," Asian Games gold medalist Vikas Krishnan said.

All the top elite boxers, including Mary Kom, Amit Panghal, Pooja Rani, Simranjeet Kaur, Lovlina Borgohain, Satish Kumar, Manish Kaushik, participated in an interaction along with High Performance Director Santiago Nieva, foreign coach Raffaele Bergamasco, head coaches and support staff. - Agencies

Should've got a second chance, says Asif

NEW DELHI, May 4: Tainted former Pakistan pacer Mohammad Asif says he wasn't the first nor would be the last to have indulged in spot-fixing and should have been treated better by his country's cricket board, which gave "everyone a second chance" except for him.

Asif was banned for seven years for his role in the 2010 spot-fixing scandal during Pakistan's tour of England, where he bowled deliberate no balls for money. He also served jail time in the UK after being found guilty along with Mohammad Amir and Salman Butt.

Asif said he should have got a second chance like many others, whom he did not name.

"Everyone makes mistakes and I did too. Players had been indulging in fixing before me and even after me. But those before me are working with

PCB and there are few after me still playing," Asif told ESPNcricinfo.

"Everyone was given a second chance and there are few who never got the same treatment (as me). PCB never tried to save me regard-



less of the fact that I am the kind of bowler who was highly regarded by everyone in the world.

"But anyway I'm not sit-

ting around brooding about the past or hung up on it."

Asif said he takes pride in the performances he dished out in his limited career.

"However much I played in my career, I made it count, *duniya hila ke rakh di thi* (I shook up the world). That is more important for me to think about. Even today, so many years later, the best batsmen in the world still remember me and they talk about me."

"Just think how big the impact was that I had on the world. So this is what makes me proud - that there is a reason KP, AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla talk highly about me. That is what makes me happy."

The 37-year-old, who also failed a dope test in 2006 and served a one-year suspension for it, admitted that he "should have behaved better off the field". - PTI

Online chess coaching

GUWAHATI, May 4: Assam Chess Club, an unit of Akshayam is providing free online classes and tournaments for its students throughout the lockdown period.

The organisation is also continuously developing its resources and investing in capacity building and is now ready to operate fully online and provide chess learning and playing experience to the students. Assam Chess Club in order to maintain social distancing will from now operate only on online mode and will not reopen its offline chess learning centres until total normalcy is restored.

The club has roped in reputed grandmasters, international masters and experienced coaches from across the world as guest coaches and hopes to provide a stable platform for the budding and upcoming chess talents of the region, stated a press release.

Lloris wants PL title settled on the pitch

PARIS, May 4: Hugo Lloris believes that ending the English Premier League season without declaring Liverpool champions would be "cruel", but the Tottenham captain wants the final table decided on the field.

The goalkeeper is following the English social isolation rules at home with his family in London, helping his two oldest daughters with their homework while trying to stay fit in case the season restarts.

"We're in a situation where everyone wants to finish and get the verdict from the pitch," Lloris told French sports daily *LEquipe*.

"It would be terrible if it all ended like that with nine or 10 games to go in the Premier League."

"We're coming into the most exciting, beautiful time of the season. Nobody wants

it to end like this." Liverpool lead the table by 25 points.

"It would be cruel for Liverpool with the lead they have. They're practically champions. There would be a taste of the unfinished business."

The France captain says that resuming the Premier League without fans will be strange.

"It'll be weird wherever it happens. Football is not a closed-door sport," he said. "Without spectators, it's not the same sport. That's not how I see football."

"We're here to bond, to share our emotions. We all want full stadiums, with atmosphere, fans, colour and song. But you have to take the context into consideration. Everyone has to find the right compromise between health, which is above all else, and the need to finish this season," he added. - AFP

SU DO KU

		3	6						
	9		5		3				
3	4				6	5			
2	8		7	4			5		
9		6		2			8		
5	3						2		
	2		3			9			
		8		1					

Solution of last problem

6	3	5	8	1	7	9	2	4	
1	9	2	4	5	3	7	8	6	
8	4	7	2	9	6	3	1	5	
4	5	3	9	2	1	6	7	8	
2	1	6	7	4	8	5	9	3	
7	8	9	6	3	5	1	4	2	
9	2	1	3	6	4	8	5	7	
5	6	8	1	7	2	4	3	9	
3	7	4	5	8	9	2	6	1	

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.

৮ মে' সংখ্যার বিশেষ আকর্ষণ

জাতিব সেরাত উর্জিত ৬৫ বছর...

অসম বাণী

পৰিষালৰ সকলোৰে বাবে

এই সংখ্যাত আছে—

- ক'ৰ'নাৰ গহীনাৰে ন্যায়াধিকৰণে চিনাক্ত কৰা বিদেশীক মুকলি কৰিলে কোনে? কোনে সংঘটিত কৰিলে এই গুৰুতৰ অপৰাধ?— অসম বাণীৰ তথ্যসমৃদ্ধ প্রতিবেদন।
- ক'ৰ'না মহামাৰীয়ে বিধ্বস্ত কৰা অসমৰ অৰ্থনীতি পুনৰুদ্ধানৰ সম্ভাৱনীয়তা সম্পৰ্কত মত পোষণ কৰিছে জ্যোতিপ্ৰসাদ শইকীয়া, ডঃ অৰবী কুমাৰ ভাগৱতী, ডঃ ভগৱৎ প্ৰাণ দুৱৰা, পলাশ চাংমাই, আদিত্য খাখলাৰী, দ্বীপেন বড়া, বাহুল ছেইনকে আদি কৰি আন কেইবাগৰাকীয়েও।
- জ্যেষ্ঠ সাংবাদিক হাইদৰ ছেইনৰ কলমত সমসাময়িক বিষয়ৰ চৰ্চা।
- দিলীপ চন্দনৰ সম্পাদকীয় কলমৰ ভাবনা।
- তৃতীয় পৰ্যায়ৰ লকডাউনৰ সময়ত ৰাজধানী মেইলত অহা ৰসে ভৰি থকা খবৰবোৰ।
- বিশিষ্ট গদ্যশিল্পী পোলেণ বৰকটকীৰ চিত্ৰাৰ লেখিত 'অকল্পনীয় সংকটত সমগ্ৰ বিশ্ব' আৰু ৰেজাল কবিমৰ লেখা— ক'ৰ'নাঃ সাম্প্ৰদায়িকতা আৰু শিক্ষাৰ সংকট।
- অলস সময়ৰ সুপ্ৰয়োগ সম্পৰ্কত লেখা বিশিষ্ট লেখিকা ডঃ কৰবী ডেকা হাজৰিকাৰ।
- ডেউৰী মানে কি? ডেউৰীৰ সিপাৰে কি আছে— জানিবলৈ পঢ়ক পংকজ গোবিন্দ মেধিৰ মহীপাঠ।
- ৰোগ প্ৰতিৰোধ সংগ্ৰামত মানুহৰ বিজয়।
- মাতৃ দিবসৰ চিত্ৰ।
- দেশ-বিদেশৰ বা-বাতৰি, বিজ্ঞান-অৰ্থনীতিৰ ইটো-সিটো, কলা-সংস্কৃতি-ক্ৰীড়া জগতৰ খবৰ।
- আইদেউসকলৰ বাবে বিশেষ কেইপৃষ্ঠাৰ আৰ্হি আছে।
- লগতে লিখিছে— ডঃ খৰ্গেশ্বৰ ভূঞা, জিতেন্দ্ৰ কুমাৰ চৌধুৰী, অৰুণলোচন দাস, কমল দত্ত, উৎপল কুমাৰ ভাগৱতী, দীপাংকৰ কৌশিক, কুমুদ তালুকদাৰ, দীপাঞ্জলি ভট্টাচাৰ্য, মালা মহন্ত ভূঞা, এছ কে প্ৰিয়াংকা, নিতুমণি দাস শৰ্মা আদিয়ে।

Mushtaq Ahmed advises Chahal to use crease more

NEW DELHI, May 4: Yuzvendra Chahal is among the best leg-spinners in international cricket right now but he can be more effective with better use of the crease, says former Pakistan spinner Mushtaq Ahmed.

Ahmed picked Chahal, Australia's Adam Zampa and Pakistan's Shadab Khan among the top leg-spinners in white-ball cricket.

"Chahal has been impressive. He is definitely among the top leg-spinners in the world. And I feel he would be more effective if he uses the crease a lot more," Ahmed told PTI.

Ahmed, who has coached all around the world and is currently a consultant for his native team, said India's ability to take wickets in the middle-overs in the limited overs format through Chahal and Kuldeep Yadav has been a game-changer for them.

Both the wrist-spinners were brought into India's limited overs set-up following the 2017 Champions Trophy. Though, of late, both Chahal and Kuldeep haven't been playing together.



"He (Chahal) can go wide of the crease at times. You got to be smart enough to understand pitches. If it is a flat pitch, you can bowl stump to stump," said Ahmed, one of the best leg-spinners Pakistan has produced.

can go wide of the crease because you can trouble even the best of batsmen with that angle. That way your googly also doesn't turn as much as the batsman expects and you end up taking a wicket."

Chahal has taken 91 wickets in 52 ODIs at 25.83 and 55 wickets in 42 T20s at 24.34. He is not a huge turner of the ball but uses his variations very effectively.

Ahmed also feels the likes of Chahal and Kuldeep have benefited immensely from former captain MS Dhoni's advice from behind the stumps.

"You have got to be one step ahead of the batsman. You should know your field position as per the batsman's strength. I always say attack with fielders not with the ball. If you understand that theory, you will always be successful," the 49-year-old, who played 52 Tests and 144 ODIs, said. - PTI

La Liga ready to begin testing players ahead of training

MADRID, May 4: Professional soccer players in Spain will be tested this week so they can start training again for the first time in nearly two months.

Basic training has been allowed to resume in Spain on Monday after the government eased some of the lockdown measures that had been in place since mid-March because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Spanish league players are expected to get back on the field later in the week after they are tested for COVID-19 and after the clubs' training facilities are properly prepared and disinfected. The facilities will have to be in-

spected to make sure they comply to the cleaning protocols established by local authorities.

All players, coaches and club employees who are going to be involved in the initial training phase will have to be tested two days before the individual practices can begin.

The tests will reportedly begin as early as Tuesday, and the league wants them to be conducted daily after the individual training sessions begin. The league wants a period of training of about a month before it can resume with matches in empty stadiums sometime in June. There is no set date yet for the league's resumption. - AP

ওম শান্তি :

হিমাংশু পাঠক

জন্ম : 5 এপ্ৰিল, 1933 চন
মৃত্যু : 25 এপ্ৰিল, 2020 চন

মোৰ/আমাৰ পৰম আৰাধ্য স্বামী/পিতৃ বৰপেটাৰ যশস্বী শিক্ষক স্বৰ্গগত হিমাংশু পাঠকক আজি ৫ মে', ২০২০ তাৰিখে তেখেতৰ আদ্যশ্ৰাদ্ধ দিনটোত পৰম শ্ৰদ্ধাৰে সঁৱৰিছো। আমাৰ দুখৰ এই সময়ছোৱাত তেখেতৰ মিসকল আত্মীয়-স্বজন/ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰী/গুণমুগ্ধই কাৰিকৰভাৱে অথবা দুৰভাষৰ মাধ্যমেৰে তেখেতৰ প্ৰতি শ্ৰদ্ধাঞ্জলি নিবেদন কৰি আমাৰ দুখৰ সমভাগী হ'ল তেওঁলোকক আমি কৃতজ্ঞতা জনাইছো। লগতে জনাওঁ যে দেশৰ সাম্প্ৰতিক তলাবন্ধৰ পৰিপ্ৰেক্ষিতত তেখেতৰ স্মৃতিচাৰণ আৰু অন্যান্য স্বীতিগত সামাজিক অনুষ্ঠান পৰৱৰ্তী সময়ত চৰকাৰী নিৰ্দেশনা অনুসৰি সামাজিক পৰিস্থিতি অনুকূল হ'লে অনুষ্ঠিত কৰাৰ সিদ্ধান্ত লোৱা হৈছে আৰু এই বিষয়ে যথা সময়ত আটাইকে অৱগত কৰা হ'ব।

পৰিয়ালৰ হৈ
শ্ৰীমতী প্ৰমদা পাঠক (পত্নী)
শ্ৰী প্ৰাঞ্জল পাঠক (পুত্ৰ)
শ্ৰী কঞ্জলোচন পাঠক (পুত্ৰ)
নিজ বাসস্থান
গান্ধীনগৰ, বৰপেটা
দূৰভাষ : 9435024988, 9706180992