

p2 End 'tsunami of hate' over pandemic, says UN chief

p3 Over 400 stranded Indians flown back home

p8 23 arrested for not wearing masks in public places

NEWS Capsule

Permission to industries

GUWAHATI, May 8: The ASDMA today allowed all industries in the State, including tea gardens and tea manufacturing industries, to operate with full capacity including personnel, except in containment zones, subject to maintenance of social distance and hygiene as detailed in various guidelines of the health department. The head of the organisation will be held responsible for violation of any COVID-19 protocol," the ASDMA release said. - Staff Reporter

CBSE exams

NEW DELHI, May 8: Pending CBSE class 10, 12 board exams, which were postponed due to the COVID-19-induced lockdown, will now be conducted from July 1 to 15, Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank announced on Friday. - PTI

MiG-29 crash

NAWANSHAHR (Punjab), May 8: A MiG-29 multi-role fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force crashed in Chuharpur village near Jalandhar in Punjab on Friday after it developed a technical snag, officials said. The pilot of the jet ejected safely, they said. - PTI

BSF patients

NEW DELHI, May 8: Thirty more Border Security Force personnel, including two posted at its headquarters in Delhi, have tested positive for COVID-19, taking the overall infections in the force to 223, officials said on Friday. - PTI

Govt warning

GUWAHATI, May 8: Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma today warned landlords harassing medical practitioner tenants that they may be booked under non-bailable Section of law for obstruction of duty of essential services. - Staff Reporter

JOCOSERIOUS



Air pollution is down while water pollution is going up!

GMCH, BCCI closed for new patients

STAFF REPORTER

- Around 386 staff of GMCH including Superintendent placed under quarantine
- COVID-19 tests for 1,500 patients and staff of GMCH
- Three containment zone declared

GUWAHATI, May 8: The Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) and Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute (BCCI) have been closed for new patients and three areas in Guwahati were declared containment zones as the State health department went on an overdrive to trace the contacts of the four patients who tested positive for COVID-19 in the city.

Three of the patients in Guwahati - including a 16-year-old girl who died a day before - did not have any travel history, while the fourth, Debraj Acharya, had returned from Medinipur near Siliguri. Resident of Changsari, Acharya, along with two others, had reached Guwahati on May 6 and their samples taken at the Sarusajai quarantine camp. The other two have tested negative.

Around 386 staff of GMCH, including the superintendent, were put under quarantine after a PG student, Dr Litikesh VS, hailing from Andhra Pradesh tested positive for the novel coronavirus yesterday. He was on screening duty at the hospital since May 4, but Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma suspect he got infected much before as he was showing symptoms since April 27. Tests are being conducted on the hospital staff and the results are expected by tonight.

The district administration has declared his hostel area as a containment zone.

While the GMCH will be closed for new admissions for the next three days, the health department is planning



The gates of the B Borooah Cancer Institute, Guwahati being closed on Friday. - UB Photos

to rope in a private lab to conduct COVID-19 tests on 1,500 patients and staff of GMCH. "We need the results in one or two days, that is why we will do it through a private lab," the Health Minister said.

The patient who died, 16-year-old Deepika Nath is a resident of Lokhara and was suffering from leg pain and mild fever since April 27. Of late, she was staying with her grandmother at the BCCI colony and had also visited the OPD of ESI Hospital before she passed away on May 7 evening. He grandmother is an employee of BCCI.

"On the advice of the GMCH doctors, the BCCI authorities collected her samples before the last rites. Contact tracing is being done in the BCCI staff colony area and

CONTAINMENT ZONES

GMCH HOSTEL
Boundary: North - Bhangagarh-Kacharibasti Road, South - Hill Top Road, East - GMCH auditorium boundary, West - PWD(B) SDO office boundary.

BCCI STAFF COLONY
Boundary: North - Arjya Bidyapeeth College field, South - LGB Chest Hospital complex, East - fishery dept plot, West - BCCI hospital building.

AMIYO NAGAR
Boundary: North - boundary of Joypur, South - Holy Child High School, East - Piyali Phukan Nagar, West - Krishna Nagar Indradhanu Club.

one doctor, three nurses and 12 of her family members were put under quarantine," the Health Minister Sarma said. However, the Central government would decide if Deepika would be categorized as COVID-19 casualty. The BCCI staff colony has been declared as containment zone and the institute closed

for patients till May 10 as it would be sanitized during the next three days.

The fourth patient in Guwahati is a housewife, who hails from Kharguli area but was staying with her daughter at Amiyo Nagar near Chandmari. Identified as Bardoda Das, the patient complained of cough and both she

and her husband were quarantined. Her samples tested positive for COVID-19.

Pointing to the cases which did not have any travel history, the Health Minister said it appears that there is a trace of coronavirus in the city and people need to be extremely cautious.

"We have noticed violations of the lockdown guidelines. Pillion riding is going on, the number of shops open is much more than what was allowed. Children are seen on roads travelling with their parents. These need to stop. Unless it is very important, people should not come out if they want to save the State from further damage," Sarma said.

He asked people showing symptoms to immediately consult doctors.

COVID-19 cases in State reach 58

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 8: Five more persons tested positive for COVID-19 in Assam today, taking the tally to 58.

The latest patients were those travelling in the bus which arrived in Silchar on Wednesday from Ajmer.

Of the total 45 people travelling in the bus, so far 8 have tested positive for the virus, including a 9-year-old child. All the passengers have been quarantined and tests are being conducted on them.

"Thirty three tests have been negative. We have sent some samples for repeat tests and two results are awaited as there were problems in collection of swab from two passengers," Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, adding that the viral load in one of the positive patient was very high, which might be the reason for infection of so many passengers.

The Cachar district administration has declared several areas in Silchar as containment zones. However, as the passengers did not come into contact with too many people after arrival, the chances of the virus spreading from them is low. But over 150 people have been quarantined in Silchar following the detection of the new cases.

The total number of active cases in the State now stands at 23.

COVID-19 STATUS	
WORLD	
Confirmed cases	3,967,808
Cured/Discharged	1,367,337
Death	273,534
INDIA	
Confirmed cases	56,342
Cured/Discharged	16,539
Death	1,886
ASSAM	
Confirmed cases	58
Cured/Discharged	34
Death	1

Data as on Friday

16 migrant workers crushed to death by goods train

AURANGABAD, May 8: Sixteen migrant workers sleeping on rail tracks while returning to Madhya Pradesh were crushed to death by a goods train in Aurangabad district of Maharashtra on Friday, police said.

The Railways announced a comprehensive probe into the accident which took place at 5.15 am near Karmad, around 30 km from Aurangabad.

A viral video clip from the scene of the tragedy shows the bodies of migrant workers lying on the tracks and nearby with their meagre personal belongings scattered around.

District police chief Mokshada Patil told PTI that three of the four survivors had tried in vain to wake up their colleagues who had slept on the track after an overnight walk from Jalna, around 40 km from the accident spot.



Police personnel inspect the spot after a goods train ran over a group of migrant workers in Aurangabad district on Friday. - PTI

The workers, who were walking to Bhusawal from Jalna along rail tracks, were returning to their home State Madhya Pradesh, an official at the Karmad Police Station said.

They were sleeping on rail tracks due to exhaustion when they were run over by the goods train coming from Jalna, he said.

SEE PAGE 6

Assam hikes liquor tax by 25 per cent

Changes in labour laws

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 8: The Assam government today increased the excise duty on liquor which will see their prices go up by 25 cent. The move will earn the fund-starved State exchequer an additional Rs 1,000 crore.

The decision was taken by the State Cabinet today, days after increasing the taxes on fuel. The Cabinet meeting was held through video conference.

There has been 80 per cent drop in revenue collection in April due to the lock-

down. Revenue collection for the month of April fell to Rs 193 crore as compared to Rs 932 crore in the corresponding month last year. From tax on foreign liquor, the State got Rs 6 crore in April as compared to Rs 65 crore in March.

The State Cabinet also okayed some labour reforms with an idea to increase the scope of employment, which included introduction of fixed term employment.

As part of the reforms, the government increased the number of minimum

employees for implementation of Factories Act from 10 to 20 (with power) and from 20 to 40 (without power). Those factories having lesser number of employees will not require registration.

The minimum number of workers for implementation of Contract Labour Act has been increased from 20 to 50.

The shift hours during COVID-19 period for workers has been increased from 8 to 12.

SEE PAGE 6

COVID-19 recovery rate in India improves to 29 pc

SPL CORRESPONDENT

NEW DELHI, May 8: The Centre on Friday said that recovery rate of COVID-19 patients has improved in the country as at least 16,540 people have recovered till now pushing up the recovery rate to 29.36 per cent.

Briefing newsmen, a health ministry official said that 216 districts have not reported any case till date, while 42 districts have reported no fresh cases in the last 28 days and 29 districts have no fresh cases in the last 21 days.

The official said that cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in the country has climbed to 56,342, while the death toll stands at 1,886, and 37,916 people are under active medical supervision.

In the last 24 hours, 3,390 new cases have come up and 1,273 people have recovered.

According to the official,

some States have witnessed a rise in cases during the last few days and that there is a need to strengthen containment efforts to stop the rise in those States.

The Indian Railways has converted 5,231 coaches into COVID Care Centres, which will be placed at 215 identified railway stations, the official said

adding that these coaches will be used for treatment of very mild and mild COVID-19 cases. Maximum of two persons will be housed in one cabin.

He said Project PLACID - Phase-II Open-Label Randomised Controlled Trial of ICMR has received approval of COVID-19 National Ethics Committee. Under it, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will conduct trial in 21 hospitals to assess safety and efficacy of convalescent plasma.

SEE PAGE 6

Babri Masjid demolition case verdict on Aug 31

NEW DELHI, May 8: The Supreme Court on Friday extended by three months the time for completion of trial in the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition case involving BJP veterans LK Advani, MM Joshi and Uma Bharti and said that judgement should be delivered by August 31.

The top court asked Special Judge SK Yadav to control the proceedings in accordance with law so that inordinate delay that is beyond the time-frame is no longer breached.

SEE PAGE 6

CM invites companies to set up ventures in State

Power surplus of 350 MW in State

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 8: Seeking to reverse the sluggish growth of the COVID-19-hit State's economy, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal made an open invitation to companies to set up their business ventures in Assam as the State has a power surplus of 350 MW to cater to their electricity need.

Chairing a meeting to assess the impact of COVID-19 on Assam Power Distribution

Company Limited (APDCL), Assam Power Generation Corporation Limited (APGCL) and Assam Electricity Grid Corporation Limited (AEGCL) at his office in Janata Bhawan today, Sonowal said that though the State has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, the unrelenting endeavour of the government's power companies has yielded into a power surplus of 350 MW (mega watt). The Chief Minister, therefore, invited

companies to invest in Assam and set up their units to explore the business-friendly ambience including availability of energy.

Chief Minister Sonowal also hailed the role of every personnel of power department and the power companies in maintaining their high standard of professionalism and providing uninterrupted supply to the State.

SEE PAGE 6

**Wash HANDS
Ward off VIRUS**

INTERNATIONAL

Amid pandemic, the world's working poor hustle to survive



because of restrictions on movement, so they can't afford her services. Even if they could, they don't want her handling their laundry due to virus concerns.

"I haven't had a good day for the last two weeks," Andeka said.

She's been forced to send all five kids to live with relatives who are slightly better off. "I had no choice, because how do you tell a 2-year-old you have no food to give them?"

In Argentina, Rosemary P'ez Carabajal pushed a coffee cart on the streets of Argentina's capital, until the lockdown forced her to stop.

P'ez Carabajal, her blacksmith husband who's also out of work and their two children rent a single room in a two-storey brick building for the equivalent of \$119 a month. — AP

DUBAI, May 8: From Kenya to Argentina, untold millions who were already struggling to get by on the economic margins have had their lives made even harder by pandemic lockdowns, layoffs and the loss of a chance to earn from a hard day's work.

More than four out of five people in the global labour force of 3.3 billion have been hit by full or partial workplace closures, according to the International Labour Organisation, which says 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy "stand in immediate danger of having their livelihoods destroyed."

The toll for families is hunger and poverty that are either newfound or even more grinding than before. Hungering down at home to ride out the crisis isn't an option for many, because securing the next meal means hustling to find a way to sell, clean, drive or otherwise work, despite the risk.

How the world's poor get through this pandemic will help determine how quickly the global economy recovers and how much aid is needed to keep countries afloat.

In Kenya, Judith Andeka has seen tough times before.

The 33-year-old mother of five lost her husband two years ago and was left to make ends meet on just \$2.50 to \$4 a day from washing clothes in Nairobi's Kibera, one of the world's biggest slums.

But things were never as tough as they are now.

Neighbours aren't going to work

1st batch of stranded Indian students leaves for home

DHAKA, May 8: The first batch of 168 Indian students, stranded in Bangladesh due to the coronavirus-linked global travel restrictions, left for home on Friday on board a special Air India flight, officials said here.

The evacuation flight carrying the students from here will land in Srinagar directly.

More such flights are also being readied by the authorities to facilitate other Indians as part of the Prince Charles and wife Camilla Operation *Vande Bharat* — A homecoming, India's massive repatriation operation to bring home its citizens stranded abroad.

The High Commission of India launched a dedicated link on its website for the "registration for Indians wishing to return to India". High Commissioner RG Das interacted with the students at the airport as they prepared to complete the formalities to fly back home. — PTI

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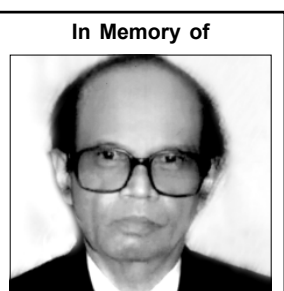
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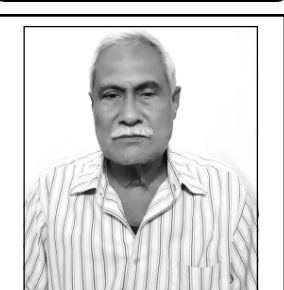
IN MEMORIAM



In Memory of
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On your 15th Death Anniversary, we fondly remember you.
Mrs. Jamini Patowary and all family Members

CD/In Memo/P/SP000024/1

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Late Nripendra Narayan Das
DOD : 25/04/20
With grief too deep to be expressed and memories too strong to be suppressed we offer our silent prayers to the Almighty for the eternal peace of your noble soul in heaven. We remember you with tearful love and respect on your Adyashraddha today on 9th May 2020
— Bereaved Family and Relatives, Maniari Tiniali, Kamrup

CD/A.Shraddha/P/SP000040/1

LOST

It is notified for the information that my Original Qualifying Examination Certificate of Main Secondary Examination of year 2007 Roll No 3121959, issued by CBSE has been actually lost. Name of candidate- Rahul Sonar, Full Address- Jyoti Nagar, Silapathar, PO & PS-Silapathar, Dist. Dhemaji (Assam), PIN- 787059, Ph: 9365701672. Lost/BL000027/1

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NOTICE is hereby given to the general public by **Moral Devcon Ltd., Moral Health & Personal Care Ltd., Moral Commotrade Ltd., Moral Infrastructures Corporation Ltd.** (collectively referred as "Companies") having office address at Royal Arcade, 565-Ka-34-2, Sneh Nagar, Alambagh, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226005 and their respective Directors namely **Arun Kumar, Ajay Kumar Sharma and Gyaneshwar Sharma**, with respect to the Non Convertible Debentures (NCD's) issued by the said Companies respectively during the period June 2010 to December 2012. As per the records maintained by these Companies all their respective Investors/NCD Holders are fully repaid.

ANY Investor/NCD holder having any outstanding claim or complaint with respect to the aforesaid NCD's issued by any of the said Companies, is/are hereby called upon to submit in writing, his/her/its claim/complaint alongwith documentary evidence(s), with the respective Companies at the aforesaid address and/or at Email: moralgroup@ic@gmail.com, Mobile No. 9076522877, within one month from the date of publication of this public notice. Investor(s)/NCD Holder(s) are advised to separately forward a copy of such claim/complaint with a superscription "Complaints/Claims in the matter of Moral Group of Companies" to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Division Chief, Enforcement Department-I (DRA-IV), SEBI Bhavan, Plot No. C-4-A, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai 400-051, Email: avinash@sebi.gov.in. This public notice is issued in compliance of the SEBI Order dated 20-3-2020, copy of which is available on the website of SEBI at www.sebi.gov.in. Dated this 9th day of May 2020

Moral Devcon Ltd.,
Moral Health & Personal Care Ltd.,
Moral Commotrade Ltd.,
Moral Infrastructures Corporation Ltd.,
Arun Kumar, Ajay Kumar Sharma,
Gyaneshwar Sharma

CD/PN/...../1

LEGAL NOTICE

GOVT. OF ASSAM
OFFICE OF THE CIRCLE
OFFICER : TINSUKIA
REVENUE CIRCLE
TINSUKIA

Misc. Case No. 3/2020-21
M/s Mahabir Pd. Sheo Kr. Estate-Petitioner -Versus-
Sri Mahadeo Jelan & 4 others

To,
1) Sri Mahadeo Jelan, S/o Sri Murlidhar Jelan,
2) Sri Murlidhar Jelan, S/o Surajmal Jelan,
3) Smt. Bhuri Devi Jelan, W/o Sri Murlidhar Jelan
4) Sri Mahabir Pd. Jelan, S/o Murlidhar Jelan
5) Sri Madan Mohan Jelan, S/o Sri Murlidhar Jelan
All R/o, Jelan Nagar, P.S. & Dist- Dibrugarh

Sub : **Summon of Misc. Case No. 3/2020-21**

WHEREAS the petitioner has filed the captioned case against you and other persons praying for the grant of order of mutation of their name in the record of rights of Tinsukia Revenue circle. You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed, and able to answer all material questions relating to the case (or who will be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions) on the day of 30th May/2020, at 11.00 a.m. to answer the claim. Further you hereby directed to file on that day the written objection of your defence and to produce on that day all relevant documents upon which you intend to rely on any other documents whether in your possession or power as evidence in support of your defence or claim, or set off or counter claim you shall enter such documents in a list to be annexed to the objection.

Take notice that default of your appearance on that day being mentioned, case will be heard in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal in this court on this 5th Day of May/2020.

Circle Officer
Tinsukia Revenue Circle

CD/LN/...../1

End 'tsunami of hate' over pandemic, says UN chief

UNITED NATIONS, May 8: UN chief Antonio Guterres has voiced concern over the "tsunami of hate and xenophobia" unleashed by the COVID-19 pandemic and appealed for an all-out effort to end hate speech globally.

Recalling that he had launched the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech last year to enhance the world body's efforts against this scourge, Guterres said on Friday that as the world combats the pandemic, "We have a duty to protect people, end stigma and prevent violence. Let's defeat hate speech, and COVID-19 together."

"COVID-19 does not care who we are, where we live, what we believe or about any other distinction. We need everyone of solidarity to tackle it together. Yet the pandemic continues to unleash a tsunami of hate and xenophobia, scapegoating and scare-mongering," the Secretary-General said in his global appeal to address and counter COVID-19-related hate speech.

The UN chief lamented that as the pandemic spread across the world, "anti-foreigner sentiment has surged online and in the streets. Anti-Semitic conspiracy theories have spread, and COVID-19-related anti-Muslim attacks have occurred."

"Migrants and refugees have been vilified as a source of the virus — and then denied access to medical treatment," he said.

He also disapproved of "contemptible memes" that have emerged suggesting that older persons, among the most vulnerable, are also the most expendable.

Journalists, whistleblowers, health professionals, aid workers and human rights defenders are being targeted simply for doing their jobs, he said.

Guterres urged that all nations must act now to "strengthen the immunity of our societies against the virus of hate," making his appeal for an all-out effort to end hate speech globally.

"I call on political leaders to show solidarity with all members of their societies and build and reinforce social cohesion," he said.

The UN chief called on educational institutions to focus on digital literacy at a time when billions of young people are online, and when extremists are seeking to prey on captive and potentially despairing audiences. He also urged the media, especially social media companies, to do much more to flag and, in line with international human rights law, remove racist, misogynist and other harmful content.

The civil society too should strengthen outreach to vulnerable people, and religious actors to serve as models of mutual respect. "And I ask everyone, everywhere, to stand up against hate, treat each other with dignity and take every opportunity to spread kindness," he said. — PTI



A Red Arrows aircraft flies over London to mark the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day on Friday. Although large-scale public events are unable to go ahead because of coronavirus restrictions, tributes are being paid by politicians and members of the royal family, as well as through a host of other events as the nation remembers those who fought and died in the Second World War. — AP/PTI

COVID-19 deaths in Italy near 30,000

ROME, May 8: The coronavirus pandemic has claimed 274 more lives in Italy in the past 24 hours, bringing the nationwide toll to 29,958, according to the latest data released by the country's Civil Protection Department.

There were 1,401 new infections over the past 24 hours, bringing the total number of infections, fatalities and recoveries to 215,858 since the pandemic began in Italy on February 21, Xinhua news agency reported on Thursday.

Of those infected, 1,311 are in intensive care (down by 22 patients compared to Wednesday) and 15,174 are hospitalised with symptoms (down by 595 patients). The number of active cases decreased by 1,904 compared to Wednesday, taking the nationwide total to 89,624, down from 91,528 a day earlier. There were also 3,031 new recoveries, bringing that total to 96,276.

During a hearing at the Social Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies (lower house), National Institute of Health (ISS) President Silvio Brusaferro told members of Parliament on Thursday that "We will have to live with (the virus) over the next several months (because) realistically it will be very difficult to obtain a vaccine before the beginning of next year." — IANS

UK marks WW-II end with tributes to thousands of Indian martyrs

LONDON, May 8: The UK on Friday observed a two-minute silence to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, which marked the end of World War II, including tributes to an estimated 87,000 Indian martyrs who fought as part of the British Army.

With 2.5 million men, the Indian Army of the Second World War during the British Raj era in the 1940s was the largest volunteer Army in history.

"Millions of people from communities across the Commonwealth and the world served in the British armed forces during the Second World War, and hundreds of thousands gave their lives serving on land, at sea, and in the air," said the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), which has launched a digital campaign calling on the public to take part in an act of virtual remembrance given the coronavirus pandemic lockdown.

It added: "Indians served in theatres of war across the world, including India and Burma; Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong; the Middle East and North Africa; Greece and Italy. They served at sea and in the air, as well as contributing to support and medical care.

"The CWGC commemorates more than 87,000 people who lost their lives while serving with Indian forces during the Second World War. The CWGC works to ensure that those who

bombing and the loss of loved ones. As the darkest days were now firmly behind them, people took to the streets to celebrate the victory.

Coronavirus restrictions have seen major VE Day commemorations and street parties cancelled, moving to more socially distant forms of celebration.

Prince Charles and wife Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, led the UK's silence at 11am local time to honour servicemen and women during the war, with Queen Elizabeth II set to address the nation later on Friday evening.

The pre-recorded message from the Queen will be televised at 2100 local time, the exact moment her father, King George VI, gave a radio address 75 years ago.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson thanked the VE Day generation, saying "Our gratitude will be eternal" and called for a similar spirit of "national endeavour" to combat the war against COVID-19. — PTI

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Prince Charles and wife Camilla

DEPLOYMENT OF PATROLMEN
E-Tender Notice No. SR.DEE/GH/1 of 2020-21. Dated: 06-05-2020. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work:
Tender No. : 13-AP- II-2020. Name of work : Deployment of Patrolmen for Monsoon and cold weather patrolling in the jurisdiction of DEN/II/Alipurduar Junction.
Tender Value : ₹97,54,956.75/-; Earnest Money : ₹ 1,95,100/-; Cost of Tender document : ₹ 5,000/-; E-tender will be closed at 11.00 hrs. on 26-05-2020 and opened at 12.00 hrs. on 26-05-2020. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website www.ireps.gov.in
DRM(Works), Alipurduar JN.
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

HIRING OF VEHICLE
E-TENDER NOTICE NO. SR.DEE/GH/1 of 2020-21. Dt. 30-04-2020. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: SN. 1, Tender No.: EL/GH/822(R4). Dated: 30-04-2020. Name of work: Hiring of one AC light motor vehicle along with driver for official use of CEE/EEM/NFR for a period of 22 months.
Tender Value : ₹ 6,94,625.36; Earnest Money : ₹13,900.00. E-tender will be closed at 15.00 hrs. on 26-05-2020 and opened at 15.30 hrs. on 26-05-2020. The complete information with tender documents of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs of 26-05-2020 in website http://www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. DEE/Guwahati
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers with a smile

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT
Tender Notice No. SR.DEE/GH/2 of 2020-21 dated 04-05-2020. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: SN-1. Tender No. EL/GH/845(R-1) dated 04-05-2020. Name of work: At Guwahati-Maligaon-Kamakhya-Gosala:- Comprehensive annual maintenance contract for 1 no. 2KVA, 1 no. 3KVA, 1 no. 3.1KVA, 1 no. 3.7KVA, 3 nos. 5KVA, 1 no. 5.5KVA, 7 nos. 10KVA & 3 nos. 15KVA/UPS at Guwahati, Maligaon and Gosala for three years. Tender Value: ₹9,15,090/-; Earnest Money: ₹18,300/-; Cost of tender document: ₹2,000/-; Date & time of Closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. on 27-05-2020 & opening of Tender: 27-05-2020 at 15.30 hrs. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15.00 hrs. on 27-05-2020 in website www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. DEE, Guwahati
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile



A pregnant Indian woman who was stranded in the UAE due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on her arrival at Calicut International Airport from Dubai by a special Air India Express flight, in Kozhikode on Friday. - PTI

Over 400 stranded Indians flown back home

NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR, May 8: Over 400 stranded Indians, including medical students, were brought back home today from Bangladesh and Singapore in two Air India aircraft as part of the government's mega repatriation mission Vande Bharat.

The first flight from Singapore landed at the Delhi airport around 11.45 am with 234 passengers, senior officials said.

Within a couple of hours, the second special flight with 167 students arrived at the Srinagar airport from Dhaka.

The Indian government on Monday had announced phased repatriation from May 7 of its citizens stranded abroad. It said Air India will operate 64 flights till May 13 to bring back around 15,000 Indians stranded abroad due to the coronavirus lockdown.

India imposed a nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of coronavirus in the country, grounding all domestic and international flights since late March.

After the returnees reached IGI airport, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said all arrangements have been made for the Indians coming from other countries. "Delhi govt has made all arrangements for the Indians arriving from abroad," he tweeted.

All the arriving passengers were put

through screening and triaging to find out any infection of coronavirus.

After immigration and customs formalities, they headed towards paid quarantine facilities where they will spend 14 days, before going home.

Officials in Srinagar said the 167 medical students underwent screening at the airport before they were sent to administrative quarantine for a period of 14 days as mandated under the guidelines issued for curbing the spread of COVID-19.

Srinagar Deputy Commissioner Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary expressed his gratitude to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka for the "tremendous efforts" in getting these students home.

"Profound gratitude to Indian High Commission @ihcdhaka for tremendous efforts. More to follow. For convenience of students -- bulk tickets next," Chaudhary said in a tweet.

The High Commission of India in Bangladesh had launched a dedicated link on its website for the registration for Indians wishing to return home. High Commissioner Riva Ganguly Das interacted with the students at the airport as they prepared to complete the formalities to fly back home. "It (the flight) is carrying only students.

The students are enrolled in medical colleges in the country. We were in constant touch with them and their colleges have also taken good care of them," she said in Dhaka prior to the departure.

She further said that a total of seven flights will be operated from Dhaka.

Strict precautionary measures were taken to ensure social distancing when the Indians arrived at the IGI airport. The returnees waved, smiled and gave thumbs-up to waiting mediapersons as they were taken to quarantine facilities in buses.

"Those from Delhi will stay at 8-10 hotels that have been readied in New Delhi, South and South East Delhi as well as Aerocity, as paid quarantine facilities," said a government official.

Nearly 20 buses, including of DTC and neighbouring states of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab, were deployed at IGI airport for carrying people to the quarantine facilities.

According to the standard operating procedure of the government, for Indians arriving at IGI airport, resident commissioners and nodal officers will take care of people of their respective states regarding transport and quarantine facilities. - PTI

ICMR to study asymptomatic virus-infected people

NEW DELHI, May 8: Amid a spurt in COVID-19 cases, apex health research body ICMR has decided to conduct a study in 75 affected districts across the country to identify people who were exposed to the novel coronavirus infection and yet showed mild or no symptoms.

The study can help ascertain whether there has been community transmission of the respiratory disease in those areas or not, official sources said.

The death toll due to COVID-19 rose to 1,886 and the number of cases climbed to 56,342 today, registering an increase of 103 deaths and 3,390 cases in the last 24 hours since Thursday morning, according to Union Health Ministry data.

"As a part of the study, people from red, orange and green zones in a district will be tested for COVID-19 at random to check whether they have developed antibodies against the infection even though they remained asymptomatic or showed mild symptoms."

"The presence of antibody in them will establish that they

were infected by the virus and were able to fight it off. They did not know they had contracted the disease as they had no symptoms," an official explained.

The exercise will also help ascertain if there has been community spread of the disease, the official said. Community spread is a stage where the source of the infection cannot be traced.

Scientists at the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) aim to begin the study at the earliest.

Districts with high population and heavy inter-state movement of people will be selected for the study to represent the respective state, the sources said.

According to a study, around 80 per cent of coronavirus infected people show mild or no symptoms of the illness.

Officials said the study would have started earlier as it was planned to be conducted with the rapid antibody test kits brought from China. But after those test kits showed inaccurate results in some places, the study had to be postponed.

"The quantum of sampling

for the study is yet to be decided. The study will only make sense if it has a decent sample size," another official said.

The modality of testing is yet to be decided, but according to sources, either an ELISA antibody test, which is a kind of blood test or pool sampling with RT-PCR test could be used for the study, the official sources said.

The ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay) test kits are awaiting ICMR's validation, which is expected soon, they said.

The ELISA test is similar to rapid antibody tests as it looks for antibodies in the blood to ascertain if one has been infected with the coronavirus infection or not.

A pooled testing algorithm involves the PCR screening of a specimen pool comprising multiple individual patient specimens, followed by individual testing only if a pool screens positive.

At present, efforts are being made by the government to identify asymptomatic people through contact tracing and community surveillance. - PTI

Rahul asks Modi to devolve power, take states into confidence

NEW DELHI, May 8: Claiming that the fight against COVID-19 cannot be just from the PMO, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi today asked the Prime Minister to devolve power and make the states partner in decision-making.

Gandhi said there will be a "calamity" if the fight against coronavirus is centralised.

Addressing a press conference through video mode, he asked the government to adopt transparency in its actions to tackle coronavirus and work together with states.

His remarks came after complaints by Congress-ruled states that they were being pushed into fiscal distress in the absence of the Centre providing them resources to fight the pandemic.

Gandhi also called upon the government to immediately put money into the hands of the poor and provide a financial package to the industry to help revive the economy.

He said the lockdown is not an on/off switch, but is a transition which requires cooperation of all - Centre, states, district magistrates and the people of India.

"We need to decentralise power in dealing with the virus. If we keep this fight in PMO, we will lose. The PM must devolve power. If we centralise, there will be a calamity. PM has to trust chief ministers and chief ministers have to trust district magistrates," he said.

Gandhi also asked the government to tell the people what criteria it would use to open the lockdown or continue it post May 17 as the transition out of it is a serious challenge before the country.

He said the government needs to work on a psychological change and if it has to open lockdown, it has to convert people's fear of the disease into confidence, as it is not deadly for most of them.

Noting that the country is facing an emergency situation, the Congress leader said the idea of injecting immediately a sum of Rs 7,500 directly into the hands of poor is critical.

He also called for providing a financial package soon to protect the industry which provides jobs. "We have to protect the job creators and have to build a wall for them to protect jobs and wages of workers. We have to give them financial support," Gandhi said.

The former Congress president said the economic package is being delayed as the government feels India could be downgraded by international agencies.

"We need to start our domestic economy soon, the more time we lose, the worse impact it will have," he noted. - PTI

Rajnath inaugurates strategic road

PITHORAGARH, May 8: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh today through video-conferencing inaugurated the strategically important Ghatbagar-Lipulekh motor road that connects the last Indian post on the Indo-China border in Uttarakhand's Vyas Valley.

Singh flagged off a caravan of nine vehicles from Pithoragarh to Gunji to mark the opening of the 75.54-km road.

The caravan included four small vehicles and some loaded vehicles of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Chief Engineer of Project

Hirak, Vimal Goswami, said. "After commissioning of the road, the Kailash-Mansarovar Yatra from Lipulekh pass has become more convenient for pilgrims who can now return to India in one day after having the sacred darshan," he said.

With the inauguration of the strategically vital road, over 80-km of tough

Himalayan terrain, between the Mangti camp near Tawaghat and Gunji in the Vyas Valley, and the security posts on

the Indian side of the border, have become accessible.

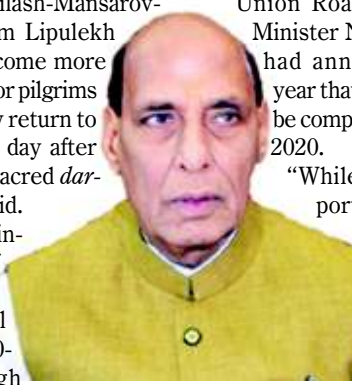
Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari had announced last year that the road will be completed by April 2020.

"While 51-km long portions beyond B u n d i were constructed much earlier, followed by a 23-km long portion from Tawaghat to Lakhapur, the most tough portion between Lakhapur to Bundi posed

challenges and took much time, BRO officer Goswami said.

The construction of the road began in 2008 and was scheduled to be completed in 2013, but it got delayed due to the tough terrain in the portion between Nazang to Bundi village.

"The 15-km long most challenging portion of the road from Nazang to Bundi was outsourced in 2015 to a private company under technical guidance of BRO engineers, which completed the portion despite all odds before the set date by the minister last year," said the BRO officer. - PTI



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee attending a birth anniversary celebration of Rabindranath Tagore at Rabindra Sadan in Kolkata, on Friday. - PTI

Death of 16 migrants on rail track is murder, claims Jaleel

AURANGABAD, May 8: Aurangabad MP Imtiaz Jaleel of All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM) on Friday termed as "murder" the death of 16 migrant workers, who were run over by a goods train in Maharashtra.

He also demanded that criminal cases be filed against the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Railway Ministry and the Maharashtra government for "ignoring the plight of thousands of stranded workers".

Sixteen migrant workers sleeping on rail tracks while returning to Madhya Pradesh were crushed to death by a

goods train in Aurangabad district today. Four other migrant workers survived the accident, which took place at 5.15 am near Karmad, around 30 kms from Aurangabad, police said.

"The death of 16 migrant workers is a case of murder," Jaleel alleged in a statement issued here.

"Criminal offences should be registered against the PMO, the Railway Ministry and the state government for ignoring the plight of thousands of stranded workers," he said.

"I had personally tweeted to the PMO, the railway ministry and Maharashtra Chief Minister

(Uddhav Thackeray) the video footages of migrants either walking or cycling all the way to their respective states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal or Jharkhand. But they were completely ignored," he said.

"The government has been a mute spectator to the sufferings of the poor, who just wanted to go back to their families," he said.

"If the government can prepare airline schedules to bring back the stranded Indians from abroad, then why can't it arrange either trains or buses to ferry its own people in the country?" the MP asked. - PTI



Sal-tea

Noon Chai also known as Gulabi Chai or Sheer Chai is a popular beverage from Kashmir. This tea is normally pink in colour and has a buttery texture. P.S. Its colour comes from adding a pinch of baking soda which is known to react with the tea to turn it crimson red.



MESSAGE FOR TODAY

In order to write about life first you must live it.
— ERNEST HEMINGWAY

The Assam Tribune

Tragic accident

In an eerie replay of the industrial disaster which took place in and around the Union Carbide plant in Bhopal in December 1984, a styrene gas leak from a multinational chemical plant in Visakhapatnam in the early hours of May 7 killed 11 persons and affected hundreds more. Reportedly, the death toll from the accident could go up since around 20 people are on ventilator support and over 300 people with health complications are undergoing treatment for lethal gas exposure. The factory in which this tragic accident occurred belongs to LG Polymers, a unit of South Korea's biggest petrochemical maker, LG Chem. The Seoul-based company's plant makes polystyrene products for use in fan blades, cosmetic containers and other plastic, and was being reopened after India began to relax a nationwide lockdown imposed on March 25 to contain the spread of Covid-19. Although the casualties in the Vizag mishap might not compare with the Union Carbide India Limited pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, which has been considered to be the world's worst industrial disaster when over half a million people were exposed to the deadly methyl isocyanide gas, yet as far as culpability is concerned, there can be little difference. It may be recalled that at least 100,000 people living near the Union Carbide plant continue even today to be victims of chronic illnesses, respiratory and kidney problems, psychological afflictions and cancer.

It may also be noted that the top management of the Bhopal tragedy was not held accountable and lesser personnel were made scapegoats. Moreover, the kind of compensation that Union Carbide had owed to the affected people was not made, despite thousands of families having been ruined. The adverse physical and psychological effects on innocent people around the Vizag plant will no doubt continue well into the future, because experts are unanimous that exposure to styrene, or vinyl benzene, for a short duration can have an acute and immediate impact on health if concentration of the toxic gas was high. Thus both the Centre and Government of Andhra Pradesh must ensure that history does not repeat itself and all powerful multinational companies cannot get away with merely paying compensation for deaths and injury, but also keep long-term adverse effects in mind. Moreover, the top management too has to be held accountable for the mishaps and exemplary punitive measures imposed on it as a lesson not merely to LG Polymers, but to other corporations across the country which deal with hazardous industrial material. As the Bhopal tragedy had earlier shown, in India human life is considered to be cheap by multinational corporate giants. While no amount of money can compensate for the misery heaped on many due to this tragic accident, if it serves to prevent future mishaps it can be construed to be a positive outcome.

Lockdown lapses

With the number of Covid-19 positive cases in the State rising to 54 – and the disturbing revelation that three of the affected had no travel history – the situation is taking a definite turn for the worse since most of the lockdown norms were eased a few days back. The emerging developments lay bare several lapses on the part of the Government, not the least being the rush to allow stranded persons from other States to enter Assam in large groups despite the inadequacy of the existing quarantine facilities. Even more shocking is the fact that the required protocols *vis-a-vis* travelling during the coronavirus epidemic and facility quarantining of all such people were not followed. The bus from Rajasthan carried 45 people – a clear violation of the number of persons that can be allowed inside a bus amid the contagion. Among the passengers was one who had visited the Ajmer Sharif congregation and it is hardly surprising now that four persons from among the bus passengers have tested positive. The fact that the passengers were sent for home quarantine only and brought to facility quarantine only after four tested positive has been a big blunder and it is likely that some of their family members might have acquired the infection too. Another ominous aspect of the latest Covid-19 positive cases in Assam concerns the vulnerability of the supposedly safe confines of hospitals. A GMCH junior doctor and a cleaning staff of B Borooah Cancer Hospital have been found positive and this can have a catastrophic fallout, given the large presence of patients, doctors, paramedics and cleaning staff in hospitals. Apparently, not all hospital inmates are provided with adequate PPEs and this has probably caused the transmission. Consequently, the GMCH – the State's biggest hospital – has been closed for new patients and two hostels have been declared as containment zones.

The easing of curbs on inter-State travel will bring in people in large numbers into the States during the next few days. We have seen how carelessness on the part of the Government has resulted in a noticeable spike in the number of Covid-19 positive cases from just one bus. The authorities now need to be extremely careful and vigilant in strictly maintaining the protocols for such travellers. Putting travellers from red zones in home quarantine will not be enough and the situation warrants every such traveller to be put in facility quarantine centres. Many such travellers could be asymptomatic as was the one from Rajasthan and hence mandatory institutional quarantine and screening for all travellers should be a must now onwards. Another imperative for streamlining the entry and quarantine process of inter-State travellers is to allow people to come in batches only – given that we do not have adequate institutional quarantine facilities. While permitting stranded persons from other States to return is a humanitarian compulsion, the process must not be allowed to ride roughshod over Covid-19 protocols, failing which the situation can worsen manifold.

Key questions on Covid-19 numbers

■ Jagdish Rattanani, T Jacob John

The Indian health management system has never been known to be good at recording numbers, with an unstated bias towards under-reporting of cases, over the years and for a range of diseases. There are indicators that this flaw continues in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. In Telangana, for example, six doctors organized as 'Doctors for Sewa' have come out in writing on how the Covid-19 deaths are not reported in the State's total tally. This is one illustration of the loose protocols on reporting Covid-19-related deaths. There have been concerns about how the Centre itself records these numbers, given that the official narrative is that the epidemic curve will now be headed downward. The weekend of April 24, the Government Empowered Committee on Medical Management predicted the end of the epidemic by May end. Further, for some unknown reason, the Government announced on Tuesday (May 5) that the Covid-19 numbers would be updated on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare website only once a day instead of twice a day. "All concerned may please note," it said, without offering any reasons. This comes alongside some carefully crafted political positioning and sometimes one-upmanship (as seen in Maharashtra and West Bengal) playing its own role in the fight against the pandemic. The Air Force display, dropping flowers on hospitals on Sunday, May 3, was an unwanted digression from the core and burning issues of the day. Such deliberate digressions have occurred

more than once previously.

An important concern that needs an open and frank discussion is the number of Covid-19 cases and the puzzle they represent. On the one hand, we have a reported death toll that is low relative to India's population. This can lead to the argument that, even if under-reported, the death toll cannot be way off the mark and that India is therefore doing well in adjusting its systems to the pandemic. We are not as bad as some of the developed nations, it might appear, for reasons we don't know or understand. Could it be some protection acquired from the universal BCG vaccination? One advantage that may play a part is that a far younger demography weathers the virus better than other nations with more senior citizens.

On the other hand, consider that India's doubling rate at this stage might appear to be faster than what was reported in Italy. The numbers tell us this simple tale. India increased its number of infections from 257 on March 24 to 34,863 on April 30 – the period from before the lockdown began to the end of the last month. This represents a doubling of seven times. Italy increased its numbers from 1,694 on March 1 to 205,463 on April 30, a doubling of about seven times.

In short, Italy had seven doubling steps in eight weeks; India had seven doubling steps in five weeks. India was under lockdown from March 25. The growth rates of the epidem-

ic in Italy and India were more or less the same but India is a bit faster. This observation would indicate that we are sitting ducks and will be swamped as the numbers rise.

Which brings us to another part of the puzzle of numbers reported in India. On May 4, the Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan noted that "Outcome ratio (recovered vs. death) for all closed cases, which indicates the clinical management status in the hospitals, has improved".

India increased its number of infections from 257 on March 24 to 34,863 on April 30 – the period from before the lockdown began to the end of the last month. This represents a doubling of seven times. Italy increased its numbers from 1,694 on March 1 to 205,463 on April 30, a doubling of about seven times. In short, Italy had seven doubling steps in eight weeks; India had seven doubling steps in five weeks.

He said the data analysed since April 17 showed that "there is an improvement in the country compared to that prior to April 17, 2020 (outcome ratio was 80:20) while as of today it is 90:10." This might indicate a significant improvement within a fortnight or so, and needs further scrutiny. What precisely has changed, if anything? We don't know.

Looked at from another perspec-

ive, the picture looks very different. According to the WHO, data for Covid-19 to date suggests that 80% of infections are mild or asymptomatic, 15% are severe infections, requiring oxygen and 5% are critical infections, requiring ventilation. These fractions of severe and critical infection would be higher than what is observed for influenza. The WHO points out that while the true mortality of Covid-19 will take some time to fully understand, data so far indicates that the crude mortality ratio (the number of reported deaths divided by the reported cases) is between 3% and 4%. India's death toll stands at 1,568 as of May 5. When counting backward, it means these patients took some three weeks to reach the stage when they passed away – say a week for the incubation, a week for the symptoms to take hold and a week in hospital as conditions worsened and death followed. So, if 1,568 is 4% of cases, the total should be 39,200 (1,568 X 25). But three weeks ago, which is April 14, we had only 11,487 reported cases, which is only 30% of 39,200. How then do the numbers add up? If the reported cases were correct, then the mortality figure for India would be alarmingly high at 14% (i.e., 1568/11487).

Clearly, there is something amiss somewhere in the way the numbers are coming through. This is alarming, not merely because the toll would be incorrectly reported but the epidemiological response will be impacted if we do not count

the correct numbers or have an open discussion on what the numbers are telling us. This is not to suggest that there is a deliberate attempt at a cover up, although biased counting cannot be ruled out either. It could be a fragile system crumbling under pressure and failing to carry reports cleanly, mixed up with a resource crunch, stress and anxiety and confusing signals from official circulars on what the hospitals should do and what they should avoid.

A simple rule would be to encourage the State governments to openly, freely, frankly report numbers. Those who report more can call for more help, more support, even more funds rather than be pulled up, stigmatized or shown in poor light, irrespective of party affiliation. Let the floodgates to honest, transparent data open up. That will help us fight the pandemic better. For example, there is a circular highlighted by 'Doctors for Sewa' of April 20, 2020 that asked doctors not to test samples from those who have died with clinical Covid-19 symptoms. They were previously not tested and died in hospital. That means those deaths will be reported under some other classification and the Covid-19 numbers will be lower, but why? The consequence will be the spread of the infection because all those that the patient came into contact with, including doctors, nurses, family members, associates will not be tested or quarantined and will not receive early alerts to seek medical advice. There has to be a clear understanding that a pandemic is no time to twiddle with numbers – let us treat the disease and let the numbers reflect the true nature of the disease. That's the best way forward.

(editor@thebillionpress.org)

Covid-19 and local economic development of NE

■ Moly Bora

The often-asked question of why the Northeastern States, particularly Assam, fail to attract investment while other States like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka attract big investors from among the local industrialists as well as MNCs may have a few answers. The established industries of tea, oil and coal are the basic legacies of the British era which are successful business enterprises while at the same time, other plantation industries like sugarcane, horticulture, dairy, fishery or manufacturing, etc., have not done well in an organized manner on a large scale. The only industry that has come up well is the cement industry to some extent due to the local availability of limestone.

Thus there is a need to have a hard look at the dynamics of the economies of the Northeast. The prism through which it can be viewed clearly is by understanding the local economic development. The local economic development study deals with the question of why economic development takes place within a country or within a region and not in others. The structural adjustment policies of the 1980s and 1990s brought about great economic benefits to the States of western as well as southern India while the Northeastern

States remained in isolation from such positive influences, alienating the local inhabitants to be discontent, resulting in unrest for more than three decades. In the Northeast, the markets that were expected to come up after the structural adjustment didn't happen spontaneously, the Central and the State governments tried to offset the lack of economic development by giving special government grants for infrastructure development as well as concession in the North East Industrial Policy and other such fiscal instruments. The Government grants into the region led to infrastructure being created to some extent which did not synch with the economic development required for the region while the economic and fiscal incentives for industrialization was limited to few firms and groups of people who readily took these concession but did not translate these concession for creating industrial base as in other parts of India. The government-built industrial estates were set up haphazardly without proper logistical and infrastructure support leading to their remaining defunct and not becoming economic nucleus for local economic development of the area.

Meantime, the globalization after structural readjustment in the last two decades relating to inter-

national capital flows, international labour migration and worldwide value change happened rapidly in the West and in countries like China. Nationally the foreign direct investment which is an important impetus for growth continued in those areas only while the natural flow on these investment got concentrated in the metro cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bangalore; towards the East, it was confined to Kolkata. The Northeast remained outside these investments. The inward investment in the metros increased exponentially because of favourable investment climates and these cities of India were linked to other such cities of the world, such as London, Paris, Berlin, New York, Tokyo, etc.

This brings to the question of the role of decentralization and how effective regional governments are to attract investments through the route of the Department of Economic Affairs of Government of India. The functions of the government are of three types: allocation of resources through infrastructure development, extending delivery services and empowering of people. The government also collects resources through custom duties, cess, etc., notwithstanding the fact that the Government of India has the policy of 10% of fund allocation of the various ministries. The lack

of capacity of the governments of the NE to spend the allocated funds is also responsible for lesser fund flow leading to lower levels of government investment in the region.

Now the situation regarding the dynamics of economic development will undergo a sea of change with the global crisis of Covid-19 pandemic.

The migrant labourers of Assam and the Northeast who have been working in the metros are coming back. These migrants, who are from the Northeast are mostly from the service sector, the IT sector and some of them in the construction sector, will be an opportunity as well as a challenge for the local Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to employ them. They are bringing with them the knowledge of exposure to newer technologies for government development. The government machinery in the works department as well as builders and the service sectors (when they open) should take the opportunity for their gainful employment.

As pointed out by our Prime Minister in his speech, there is an urgent requirement of self-sustaining smart cities and clusters of villages. These smart enclaves made by private investors are to be encouraged fully as the government may not have sufficient funds in the short term. The industrial park which was built for

clustering and efficient use of resources should be developed and whether these industries can be made functional by attracting appropriate investors is to be relooked and hard decisions taken on their viability or otherwise. The gains from the Investors Summit in February 2018 needs to be properly assessed and dialogues started with the industries, few of which are sure to get out of the metros and move to newer safer areas. The Government of India is working towards creating a Rs 40,000-crore corpus to provide special guarantee funding to MSMEs which in case of Assam and the Northeast falls under the informal sector. There is also a plan of Rs 1 lakh crore fund for MSMEs for the revival. The Mumbai region has already taken steps for receiving this revival package. The Chief Minister, Assam had a discussion with the leading industries and it's time to take it forward in a uniform fast-paced manner. Dialogues between government and MSMEs will have to be broad-based and continuous.

The Covid-19 virus is here to stay. How we can go ahead despite the new threat is crucial. The opportunity presenting itself for the Northeast region cannot be allowed to go waste both in encouraging MSMEs of the region and getting a share of the direct foreign investments for infrastructure development.

Letters to the EDITOR

Sir, – Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to put my views regarding the data released by the Centre for Monitoring of Indian Economy on unemployment. According to the data, 121.5 millions are without job. The data says that 91.3 million daily wage labourers were out of their jobs due to the Covid-19 crisis. Also, 18.2 million entrepreneurs are without work as there is a lack of labourers. Around 17.8 million salaried workers are also affected due to Covid-19. The report generated by CMIE had the following findings. The ongoing lockdown considered the biggest in world history has generated a jobless rate of 27.1%. Both urban and rural unemployment rates have increased. Rural unemployment has increased from 20.88% to 26.16%. To help the rural population, the Centre is strengthening MGNREGA. The wages

Unemployment scenario

under MGNREGA have been increased under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. Also, several States like Jharkhand are launching schemes to further boost such measures. Around 5.8 million farmers have returned to work after April 20, 2020. Also, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India (NAFED) were engaged in their full potential to procure the *rabi* crops. This includes rice, wheat, pulses and cotton. Yours etc., BHASKARJYOTI BHATTACHARJYA, Rangiya.

Lockdown relaxations
Sir, – A host of relaxations are made during Lockdown 3.0 with effect from May 4, 2020. However, one can make out that in Assam, and more specifically in Guwahati, people are violating the lockdown norms, and thronging to markets, roads and public places, as they were doing prior to the lockdown that started on March 24 midnight. This is unfortunate. The law enforcement agencies should step

up the vigil so that the spread of Covid-19 can be arrested effectively. Else, there is a huge possibility of quick spread of this virus in Assam. Yours etc., ASHIM BHUYAN, Nagaon.

Addiction woes

Sir, – Through the columns of your daily, I would like to highlight the issue of addiction as an increasing problem among the teenagers. Youngsters nowadays seem to fall in the trap of addiction easily which has posed a big threat to our current generation as well as to the society, leading to a number of social, psychological and health problems like anxiety, depression, memory loss, heart problems, etc., especially among the teenagers. Although, governments in various countries have taken some serious steps over the recent years but those have not shown any benefits. This may be due to the lack of consciousness among the masses, especially in the developing nations, or due to the lack of serious efforts by the authorities concerned. In India,

although the Government has put up some serious restrictions against the sale of addictive commodities, but none of them has shown any positive consequences. There are many reasons behind this, one of them being the sale of addictive commodities by shopkeepers to consumers without consulting their age. Today, addiction has become a humanitarian crisis throughout the world with millions of people losing their lives every year. If this trend of addiction continues at the same rate as it is now, then I fear this would be another pandemic that the world will have to face in times to come. Yours etc., DIBYOJYOTI BRAHMA, Cotton University.

APSC CCE Mains

Sir, – The delay in the declaration of the APSC CCE Mains 2018 results is bringing a spirit of despair among most of the aspirants in this pandemic situation. It has been eight months since we sat for the CCE Mains and 14 months in case of the AFS exam which was conducted by the

APSC as well. Being a citizen, I can understand the gravity of the present Covid crisis and the lockdown concerned. However, the subsequent delay of results of a prestigious exam as this discourages the youth who are engaged in preparation for the upcoming civil service exams. This would eventually disturb the equilibrium that should be maintained in terms of demographic dividend and the youth contributing to the urgent needs of the society at large. Moreover, such delays affect the age criteria of candidates who are above 30 to an extent which is an important prerequisite for any kind of government recruitment. Therefore, I beseech the authorities concerned to do the needful and reassure the candidates with the faith that they have firmly placed on the machinery of the present Government. Yours etc., RASPUTIN NATH, Lakhimpur.

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:
Partly cloudy sky to generally cloudy sky with one or two spells of rain/thundershower is very likely to occur. Maximum and minimum temperatures are most likely to be 35°C & 21°C respectively on Saturday.

TEMPERATURE:
Max 33.3°C
Min 19.0°C

NDRF, NGO feed starving street dogs

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 8: Rescuers of 1st Battalion of NDRF Guwahati (Assam) under supervision of Dr Tej Bahadur Singh, Deputy Commandant (Veterinary), have extended a helping hand in feeding street dogs, which are facing starvation due to the countrywide lockdown. The street dogs are completely dependent on humans for their survival.

The NDRF teams fed more than 150 street dogs at Borbari, VIP Road, Sixmile, Khanapara, Jayanagar and Beltola areas of Guwahati city in coordination with Puppy Rescue Crew Foundation India, Guwahati.

Sanitizers distributed

GUWAHATI, May 8: With the demand for hand sanitizers rising in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak, the NSS unit of city-based Girijananda Chowdhury Institute of Pharmaceutical Science has made hand sanitizers at its laboratory and distributed those among the people of Azara area.

The hand sanitizers were made as per the World Health Organisation guidelines with the help of faculty members, stated a press release.

During a programme organised at the institute on Thursday, Principal Dr Gouranga Das and other faculty members spoke about the precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus and distributed 200 bottles of hand sanitizer to the local people and the staff of the Azara Police Station.

Drug peddlers arrested

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 8: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Assam Police has arrested five persons and seized around 1,000 bottles of psychotropic substances (cough syrup) from different locations in Guwahati and Nagaon in the last 24 hours.

Police also seized two vehicles which were allegedly used to transport the banned substances. The arrested have been identified as Md Abdur Rahman, Md Iman Ali, Md Nazrul Ali, Pankaj Mishra and Jiten Dutta.

Two other accused – Pradip Talukdar and Md Ruful Khan – are absconding.



Heavy traffic at Fancy Bazar following relaxation of lockdown guidelines, in Guwahati on Friday. – UB Photos

SGBG seeks steps to stop corona spread from red zones

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 8: Expressing concern over the steady increase in the number of COVID-positive cases in the State, including Guwahati, NGO Save Guwahati Build Guwahati (SGBG) has asked the government to be extremely strict in checking the transmission of the virus from the red zones.

"The State government should not have allowed migrant workers to return to the State now. We should keep in mind that the number of cases is steadily increasing and it is a cause of concern. We have to be vigilant to reduce the number of cases. In this regard, the government

should be very strict in enforcing the law," SGBG president Krishno K Borooah told *The Assam Tribune*.

Questioning the State government's decision to let the overcrowded bus from Rajasthan enter the State and lack of specific measures to isolate the Ajmer Sharif returnees, the organisation stated that utmost care should be taken as the State has now entered a volatile situation.

Vice president of SGBG Ajoy Dutta stated that the government must take utmost precautionary steps and what happened with the Ajmer Sharif returnees must not be repeated.

"We appreciate the direction given by the Chief Minis-

ter to the district administrations to screen each and every person entering the State through Srirampur and Boxirhat (Chagolia). In this regard, the government should be very strict," he added.

The organisation pointed out that according to experts the COVID-19 curve has remained relatively flat till now because of the lockdown. However, it will take an upward swing following relaxations given by the State Government.

"As pointed out by the Director of AIIMS, the infection could reach its peak in the coming months. Therefore, we should be careful that no further transmission takes place from the red zones to

Rabindra Jayanti observed

GUWAHATI, May 8: Brihottor Guwahati Rabindra Jayanti Ujjan Samiti today observed Rabindra Jayanti here in the presence of a few members of the committee.

In the programme held at Rabindra Bhawan, the lighting of the ceremonial lamp was initiated by the working president of the committee Debashish Sengupta, while its chief patron Mrigen Sarania garlanded the statue of Rabindranath Tagore.

Earlier, the committee distributed meal among the needy at the Sukreswar Ghat and in Bishnupur area covering more than 200 people. Rajib Das, general secretary of the committee, and member Sankar Chakraborty distributed masks, sanitizers and gloves to police staff at various city police stations. The programme was supported by Jurismita Dutta, Satyajit Das, Debraj Dey, Anirudh Chakraborty and others, stated a press release.

NFR selects 20 stations for COVID care centres

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 8: The Maligaon-headquartered Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has identified 20 stations across the zone for placement of COVID care centres. "The Ministry of Railways has converted 5,231 coaches into COVID care centres. These coaches can be used in areas where the State needs to augment capacities for isolation of both suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases. The Indian Railways has kept 158 stations ready with watering and charging facilities and 58 stations with watering facility for these COVID Care centres," said Subhanan Chan-

da, Chief Public Relations Officer of NFR.

"In the NFR zone, these coaches are ready for placement at 20 stations – Guwahati, Kamakhya, Dibrugarh, New Bongaigaon, Rangia, Silchar, New Tinsukia, Rangapara North, Lumding, Mariani, Murkongselek, Agartala, Alipurduar Junction, Ambasa, Badarpur, Katihar, New Cooch Behar, New Jalpaiguri, New Alipurduar and Siliguri – as and when such requests are received. The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) regarding the use of such coaches will be strictly followed by both the Railways and the concerned State government au-

thorities," he said.

As per the MoHFW guidelines, the state governments will have to send the requisition to the Railways.

"The Railways will make the allocation of these coaches to the concerned state or Union Territory. After allocation by the Railways, the train, with a number of such coaches, shall be placed at the required station with necessary infrastructure and handed over to the District Collector or District Magistrate or any person authorised by them. Wherever the train is placed, watering, electricity, repairs, catering arrangements and security shall be taken care by the Railways," said Chanda.

Concern over Akhil Gogoi's prolonged detention

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 8: Voicing concern over the 'unfair' treatment meted out to anti-CAA activist and peasant leader Akhil Gogoi, who has been under detention in connection with a NIA case since last December, several distinguished citizens have appealed to the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court to facilitate early hearing of the case.

In a statement addressed to the Chief Justice, the citizens termed it a matter of serious concern that a person should be in jail for four months in a case where the NIA had not been able to file a chargesheet and now he is not being heard promptly.

"We understand that because of the pandemic all procedures are affected. However, delayed hearing in this case amounts to depriving a citizen of his fundamental right to liberty, merely on suspicion, because the investigating agency has not been able to file a chargesheet even in four months' time. In the interest of justice we respectfully urge the honourable Gauhati High Court to facilitate an early hearing of the case," the statement signed by Dr Hiren Gohain, Harekrishna Deka, Ajit Kumar Bhuyan, Dr Apurba Kumar Baruah, Haidar Hussain, Deben Tamuli and Prashanta Rajguru, said.

Gogoi has been under detention from December 16, 2019 in connection with NIA Case No.13/2019/NIA-GUW under Section 120B, 253A, 153B of IPC and Sections 18 and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.

Online training being imparted to librarians

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 8: The Assam College Librarians' Association (ACLA) has taken an initiative to enhance the capacity building of the college librarians of Assam through online training during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Online training was provided recently to college librarians on recent developments in the N-LIST facility of MHRD-INFLIBNET through the Zoom software, where the users can access more than 31 lakh e-books and over 6,000 e-journals.

The ICT cell team of the Association under its convener Dr Birendra Pal, librarian, Kaliabor College, is working relentlessly to impart the online training.

Dr Prasanta K Deka, librarian of the KC Das Commerce College and general secretary of ACLA, informed that the Association has purchased the licensed version of the video conferencing software Zoom.

On May 11, 2020, Yatrik Patel, scientist, INFLIBNET centre, will take an online session on college library management software (Soul 3.0 – upcoming version of the existing Soul 2.0) and 'Institutional Repository' system from 2.30 pm.

Already 90 per cent of college librarians of Assam are using the Soul software for their automated library services.

Online training will also be provided on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) by the Association. It is also going to conduct more training programmes for the college librarians on ICT initiatives of MHRD like Swayam, Swayam Prabha, National Digital Library, etc.

More sessions would be taken by eminent international experts from Sri Lanka, US, etc, on different emerging issues and challenges of library and information science.

The ICT cell of the Association has been continuously hosting different educational videos on its official YouTube channel on online e-resources, N-List facility, Google classroom, Zoom software, etc, so that the academic community may get much practical exposure to these ICT facilities.

1.25 lakh MT rice for State under PMGKAY

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 8: Around 1.25 lakh MT of rice (per month) has been allotted under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for three months from April to June for free distribution among 2.49 crore NFSA beneficiaries in the State.

The total expenditure to the tune of about Rs 1462 crore for providing free foodgrains to the people of Assam is borne by the Central government.

The Food Corporation of India, Assam region, has so far issued 1.75 lakh MT foodgrains valued at Rs 683 crore to the Assam government under this scheme up to May 7.

According to DV Prasad, CMD, FCI, 1.34 lakh MT foodgrains has also been issued to the State government under the NFSA. The total quantity of foodgrains supplied by FCI, Assam region, in the State during the lockdown period for distribution under various schemes is about 4 lakh MT. He said that the Centre is ensuring adequate availability of foodgrains not only in the State but also throughout the country to achieve the objective that it would not allow anybody, especially poor families, to suffer on account of non-availability of foodgrains.

To reach the poor migrant labourers/vulnerable groups during the lockdown, FCI is encouraging the NGOs/charitable organisations to purchase rice/wheat at Rs 22/21 per kg respectively for undertaking relief operations amongst these groups. While taking care of the needy people through regular supply of foodgrains, equal attention is also being given to protect the interests of farmers by undertaking procurement of paddy in the State during the ongoing Kharif Marketing Season 2019-20.

PRANJAL BHUYAN

GUWAHATI, May 8: Gerua-based Regional Rainfed Lowland Rice Research Station (RRLRRS) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-National Rice Research Institute (ICAR-NRRI) has recommended 10 new rice varieties for farmers of Assam.

These varieties have been found suitable for lowland rice ecology and for the climatic condition of Assam after tests and field trials.

"We have carried out tests at our centre. We have standing crops of these varieties in our own fields. The results have been very good. We have found the varieties suitable for the climate of Assam and have recommended these varieties," Dr Rupankar Bhagawati, Officer In-charge and principal scientist of RRLRRS, ICAR-NRRI, Gerua, told *The Assam Tribune* on Thursday.

These are CR Dhan 310, CR Dhan 309, CR Dhan 311 (all

high protein varieties), CR Dhan 801, CR Dhan 802 (both climate smart varieties), CR Dhan 909 (which is an aromatic high yielding variety), CR Dhan 307, CR Dhan 506, CR Dhan 601 and Chandrama (all four high yielding varieties suitable for lowland situation).

While CR Dhan 601 and Chandrama are suitable for cultivation in all seasons, the other eight varieties are basically for planting only in the kharif season.

Dr Bhagawati said that RRLRRS has some quantities of paddy seeds of these 10 varieties available with it for distribution.

"We can provide the seeds on a first-cum-first-serve basis to interested parties," he said, adding that sale of paddy seeds for kharif or *sali* rice is going on at the RRLRRS's office during working days.

Each of the ten recommended varieties has certain specific features. For example, CR Dhan 310 is the world's first

bio fortified rice variety with high protein content of 10.3 per cent and zinc content of around 20 parts per million (ppm). It was developed by cross between the popular rice variety Naveen with ARC10075 of Assam and is moderately resistant to leaf blast, brown spot, sheath rot, stem borer, leaf folder and gall midge biotype 1.

CR Dhan 909 is semi-dwarf having a strong aroma and is suitable for rice flakes and confectionary products. The yield of the new varieties ranges from 4.5-5.5 tonnes per hectare for CR Dhan 909 and 4.7-5 tonnes per hectare in case of Chandrama to 6.5-8 tonnes per hectare for CR Dhan 307.

"In addition to these ten varieties, we have another six other varieties – BINA 17, BIRRI 75, CR Dhan 508, CR Dhan 505, CR Dhan 501 and CR Dhan 500 – which are similarly suitable for lowlands and perfect for planting and harvesting in the climatic condi-

tions of Assam. However, at this moment we do not have extra seeds of those six varieties. But if we get advance orders we can develop their seeds for next year. Anybody interested can place the order now and we will be ready to deliver seeds of the other six varieties next year. If we get orders we will produce specifically for the party which requests as per the quantity and the variety they seek and they can collect it next year," Dr Bhagawati said.

RRLRRS is involved only in production of breeder seeds. "That is our mandate. We do not produce foundation seed or certified seed. That is done by the Seed Corporation, companies or others like NGOs," added Dr Bhagawati.

He added, "Advance planning and booking of suitable rice variety is the best strategy of successful agricultural production. We have kept open booking for next year's delivery till May 25."

Cancer grid project crawls as key professionals exit entity

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, May 8: The much-hyped Rs 2000-crore cancer care grid project in the State – a collaboration between the Assam government and Tata Trusts leading to the Assam Cancer Care Foundation (ACCF) – which had an April 2020 target for operationalisation, has been a nonstarter, with key names associated with the project, including the country's noted oncologist Dr Tapan Saikia, exiting the Foundation allegedly due to loss of respect and dignity.

Lack of coordination between the two entities in the collaboration, remote control from Mumbai, corporate governance issues and refusal to take into confidence local expert advice have been cited among the reasons for the work on the grid progressing at a snail's pace.

On May 21, 2018, Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had

said the three-tier network of hospitals would be operationalised in two years' time. Official sources, however, said that work on the hospitals had begun just a few months back, and the progress so far has been just a mere 20 to 30 per cent.

In the meantime, over the last few months, several top medical professionals roped in into the project have made their exit due to reasons that have shown the tie-up in poor light.

One of the key persons who left the project is Dr Saikia, who was brought in by Tata Trusts and assigned many responsibilities by the Assam government to steer the project and implement strategies to create an unparalleled model of cancer care and delivery across the State of Assam. He is one of the senior-most oncologists in the country with an experience of over 35 years in renowned apex institutions of the country, like Tata Memorial Centre

and Prince Aly Khan Hospital in Mumbai.

When contacted, Dr Saikia admitted that "the progress has been slow for a number of reasons".

"There is no clear understanding on the part of the Tata Trusts people how to go about the job. They are not taking experts in Assam into confidence. There is excellent expertise available in Assam. There are some very experienced and skilled people in Assam who have developed cancer centres in the State and elsewhere," he said, without elaborating.

Dr Saikia said the project is not taking advantage of the State employees already roped in. "They are extremely committed as opposed to scratchy commitment of the Tata Trusts advisors," Dr Saikia said, urging the State government to utilise the currently employed senior staff in the best possible way.

"They need freedom as they are no less experienced or committed than the Tata Trusts advisors. Respect is earned and loyalty is returned. We must take advantage of administrators and doctors of the State Cancer Institute (SCI) at GMCH. My feeling is that, in a much shorter time, they will be able to bring up a few very effective hospitals in Assam," he said, asserting that blaming the monsoon for the development does not hold water.

People who have left the entity say at least two to three hospitals should have come up by now.

According to the project, of the proposed 19 facilities, 12 were to be comprehensive cancer centres on the premises of government medical institutions in the State. Located at Barpeta, Dhubri, Diphu, Jorhat, Karimganj, Kokrajhar, Lakhimpur, Nagaon, Nalbari, Silchar, Tezpur, and Tin-

sukia, they would offer diagnosis and treatment of cancer cases. Another five will be adjacent to the district hospitals. Located at Darrang, Goalpara, Golaghat, Hailong, and Sivasagar, they will offer diagnostic and day care services, including chemotherapy. The Assam Medical College and Hospital (AMCH), Dibrugarh, will be upgraded to an apex cancer centre with education and public health research capabilities. The State Cancer Institute (SCI) at GMCH will be expanded to a 500-bed South Asia Research Centre, says the Tata Trusts website.

As far as progress on the ground is concerned, initiation of patient-centric services is still a far cry.

Among the big names who have exited are Dr Aarnie Purushotham, Medical Director-Tata Trusts Cancer Programme, Dr Tapan Saikia of the Board of Directors, ACCF, Elizabeth Prager, Director Strategy, CEO Vara

Prasad Annam, and palliative care experts Dr Naveen Salins, Dr Nandini Vallath and Dr Gayatri Palat, etc. Also, Dr Nirmal Hazarika, Medical Advisor of ACCF, was not given extension of contract without citing any reasons.

"What was needed in ACCF is better administration and management at the local level, which were only found on paper. The people at Mumbai office of ACCF (Alamelu Charitable Foundation, a branch of Tata Trusts) have been trying all the time to keep ACCF under remote control. Any decision made at ACCF have been rejected or just kept pending for months, or never taken to any constructive solution," Dr Hazarika said when contacted.

In Assam, there are about 55,000 cancer patients at any given point of time. For these cancer patients, there are only two centres where government collaboration is involved – one at Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute

(BBCI) and the other at the SCI at GMCH.

Under the ACCF project, construction has started in 10 sites from October 2019 but due to Covid-19 and anti-CAA protests progress is further slow. Palliative care service has started in three places (AMCH-Dibrugarh, JMCH-Jorhat and SCI-GMCH), with one doctor and two-three nurses in each location. Chemo unit was to start in AMCH in mid-March this year but due to "some hitches" it is yet to take off.

Sources said a Section-8 company by the name of Alamelu Charitable Foundation was floated by Tata Trusts to initiate and implement its Cancer Care Program. Assam Cancer Care Foundation was started also as a Section-8 company (who work towards the objective of social welfare, without any intention to get any kind of profit). The Board of ACCF is represented by three chosen members of Tata Trusts

(of which Dr Tapan Saikia was one member) and three others from the State government. Sources alleged that instructions from the two foundations were often contradictory and work-related orders that have created confusions for the staff to improve work efficiency and perform to their ability, resulting in poor execution.

The sources further alleged that there has been undue interference at microlevel execution of the planning making it difficult for ground level employees to work constructively.

"The hierarchy in the ACCF has been completely fractured due to misguidance from the top," the sources alleged, calling the attention of the government which has allegedly been a mute spectator so far to the issues plaguing the project. Notably, the head of operations of ACCF has been camping at Delhi since the lockdown.

CORRIGENDUM

In pursuance of the earlier Tender Notice vide No. NSDM-2/2020/1 dtd. 05.05.2020 and due to unavoidable reasons, the last date for submission of Tender papers alongwith related documents by the Suppliers has been extended to 18.05.2020 upto 3.00 PM in place of 12.05.2020 upto 3.00 PM.

Sd/- Sub-Divisional Officer (C),
Janasanyog/C/276/20 **North Salmara, Abhayapuri**

PRESS NOTICE/IFB

No. CS/EGTRD/SOPD(G)/2019-20/719/R/4
Retender has been invited by the Superintending Engineer, PWD, (Roads), Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Ghy-21 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites 1 (one) no. item rate Bids from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for the works. Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads),
Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Guwahati-21
Janasanyog/CF/199/20

PRESS NOTICE/IFB

No. CS/DTRD/SOPD(G)/2020-21/532/3
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/203/20

NO.NRR-1/2020/18

Extension of Notice Inviting Tender

Notice Inviting Tender was floated vide No NRR.3/2020/17 Dated 07.03.2020 for supply of GR items during flood/natural calamities/other disturbances and last date for receiving tenders was fixed on 31.03.2020 up to 2.30 PM. However due to lockdown declared on 23rd March 2020, the process for tendering was temporary suspended. Keeping all the terms & condition same with the earlier NIT, the last date for submission of the said quotation is extended up to 15th May 2020.

The quotation will be opened on 15th May 2020 at 3 PM.
Sd/- Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman,
District Disaster Management Authority, Nalbari
Janasanyog/CF/205/20

PRESS NOTICE/IFB

No. CS/WGTRD/SOPD(G)/2020-21/356/3
The Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads), Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Ghy- 21 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites 1 (one) no. item rate Bids from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for the works. Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads)
Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Guwahati- 21
Janasanyog/CF/201/20

No ASOM. 52/2019-20/46/17

CANCELLATION OF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT issued for "Cleaning of Govt. Farms/Centres/VGRs/ECCs vide No ASOM. 52/2019-20/4/80 Dated 21st August/2019 under Assam Silk Outreach Mission Society is hereby cancelled due to the ground mentioned below.

1. The component strengthening of Govt. Farms/Centres/VGRs by maintaining of existing plantation have two separate parts i.e. (a) cleaning of jungles of the existing plantation area and (b) after cleaning of jungles application of manure in the plants after making trench around the individual plants. Both are simultaneous process. But the NIT issued only for the cleaning of jungles and no NIT for procurement of manure has been floated simultaneously. Hence only cleaning of jungles of the existing plantation without application of manure to the plants does not fulfill the very purpose of the component.

Sd/- Mission Director,
Assam Silk Outreach Mission Society,
Assam, Khanapara, Guwahati-22.
Janasanyog/CF/194/20

No. CE/PMGSY/01/2019-20/PT-1/1

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads), Assam on behalf of Governor of Assam invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana II, 2019-20, Batch-I, for 121.330 km and 3 nos. of RCC bridges with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 9102.69 Lakhs (Approx) including their maintenance for five years from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam Public Works Department (Roads) or contractors registered with other State/ Central Government Departments, institutions, undertaking and Authorities.

Date of release of invitation for Bids may be seen through e-procurement.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads)
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/CF/196/20

Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education
(Language Division)
Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi - 110001
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR
PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS- 2020

Adv. No. CSU/DAVP/02/2020 Date: 09-05-2020

Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Language Division, Government of India, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi invites nominations/recommendations for Presidential Awards of "Certificate of Honour to eminent scholars in Sanskrit, Pali, Prakrit, Arabic, Persian, Classical Oriya, Classical Kannada, Classical Telugu and Classical Malayalam languages and Maharshi Badrayan Vyas Samman for young scholars in the same fields". The last date for nominations for these awards is 15th June, 2020. For more details and nominating proforma, please visit websites "www.mhrd.gov.in" under "Advertisements" or "www.sanskrit.nic.in".

Under Secretary (Sanskrit)
Language Division, MHRD.
davp 21212/11/0002/2021

16 migrant ...

(Contd from page 1)

"The labourers, working in a steel factory in Jalna, left for their home State on foot last night. They came till Karmad and slept off on the tracks as they were tired," another police official said.

Three of the four survivors were sleeping some distance away from the rail tracks, police said.

The migrant workers, rendered jobless due to the coronavirus-enforced lockdown and desperate to go to their native places, were walking along the rail tracks apparently to escape police attention.

The survivors had frantically raised alarm to alert their group members sleeping on tracks about the approaching freight train, police said.

Chilling details emerged about the tragedy as survivors recounted the events.

"A group of 20 stranded labourers started walking from Jalna. They decided to take rest and most of them lied on rail tracks. Three of them were taking rest in a nearby plain area. After some time, these three saw a goods train coming and immediately raised the alarm but it went unheard," Patil said.

"I had a word with the survivors. They started walking from Jalna and tried to reach Bhusaval on earlier night which is around 30-40 km away from the place of the accident (near Karmad near Aurangabad)," the IPS officer said.

"The three survivors, who were resting a little away, tried to wake up the people sleeping on the tracks but frantically shouting, but that provide futile as the train ran over them," the police officer said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed anguish over the death of 16 migrant workers in the train accident. He said all possible assistance is being provided.

President Ram Nath Kovind said he was saddened beyond words over the deaths of 16 migrant workers, while Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said he was deeply saddened to learn about the loss of lives in the accident. - PTI

COVID-19 recovery ...

(Contd from page 1)

Moreover, an inter-ministerial coordination committee, comprising officials of ministries of health, external affairs, home affairs, civil aviation, armed forces and Air India, has been constituted to implement the standard operating procedures for evacuation of stranded people to and from India.

Various actions have been collectively taken by the Centre and States for prevention, containment and management of COVID-19 and these are being regularly reviewed and monitored at the highest level.

Meanwhile, official spokesperson of the home ministry said that Indian Railways has run 222 Shramik Special Trains for movement of stranded persons and more than 2.5 lakh people have made use of this facility so far.

She said the process for return of Indian nationals stranded abroad through non-scheduled commercial flights and Indian Navy ships has begun from Thursday.

Assam hikes ...

(Contd from page 1)

The Cabinet also cleared the Assam Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance 2020, repeal of the Assam Agricultural Produce Marketing Act 1972, restricting the collection of cess by the board to certain areas. The State government will release the salaries of marketing board employees if required, an official note stated.



Residents wade through waist-deep water after heavy rains flooded Nagercoil in Kanyakumari district, on Friday. - PTI

NGT slaps Rs 50-cr penalty on LG Polymers India

NEW DELHI, May 8: The National Green Tribunal slapped an interim penalty of Rs 50 crore on LG Polymers India and sought response from the Centre and others today in the gas leak incident at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, saying "there appears to be a failure to comply with the said rules and other statutory provisions".

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel set up a 5-member committee to probe Thursday's gas leak incident in the chemical factory, in which 11 people were killed and 1,000 exposed, and submit a report before May 18.

"Having regard to the prima facie material regarding the extent of damage to life, public health and environment, we direct LG Polymers India Pvt Ltd to forthwith deposit an initial amount of Rs 50 crore with the District Magistrate of Vishakhapatnam, which will abide by further orders of this tribunal. The amount is being fixed having regard to the financial worth of the company

and the extent of the damage caused," the bench said.

The NGT issued notices to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, LG Polymers India, Andhra Pradesh State Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board, Vishakhapatnam District Magistrate and sought their response before May 18, the next date of hearing.

The committee comprises former AP High Court judge Justice B Seshasayana Reddy; V Rama Chandra Murthy, Former Vice Chancellor of Andhra University, Vizag; Professor Pulipati King, Head of Chemical Engineering Department, Andhra University; CPCB Member Secretary, CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Technology Director, and head of NEERI in Vizag.

The NGT directed Vishakhapatnam DM and regional office of State Pollution Control Board to provide logistic support to the committee to enable their fact-finding and reporting.

"The Chairman of CPCB may steer and facilitate the

functioning of the committee using available technology. CPCB will bear the initial cost of functioning of the committee to the extent necessary. The committee will be at liberty to take assistance of such experts, individuals and institutions as may be considered necessary," the bench said.

The committee may visit and inspect the site at the earliest and give its report before May 18 by email and the site visit may be initially conducted by members available locally in consideration with outside members online, the NGT said.

The committee has to submit its report on the sequence of events, causes of failure and persons and authorities responsible, extent of damage to life, among others.

The NGT said that styrene gas is a hazardous chemical as defined under Rule 2(e) read with Entry 583 of Schedule I to the Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 and the Rules require on-site and off-site emergency plans to ensure prevention of damage. - PTI

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CM invites ...

(Contd from page 1)

Sonowal took stock of the progress of ongoing power projects like 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydro Electric Project, 70 MW Amguri Solar Power Project, 20 MW Namrup Solar Power Project, 100 MW Namrup Replacement Power Project. He also took stock of the issues coming in the way in expeditious completion of the projects and asked the functionaries concerned to redress them. He also asked APGCL to start work on the 24 MW Borpani Middle-II SHEP, 22.5 MW Borpani Middle-I and 100 MW Bilasipara Solar Power Project at the earliest.

Taking stock of the AEGCL, Sonowal asked the company to strengthen its fundamentals to augment the load handling capacity. He also reviewed the ongoing projects of AEGCL which primarily consist of setting up of new sub stations and augmenting the existing sub-stations along with network of grid. He also asked APDCL to ensure energy security and cater to the retail electricity demand of around 58.78 lakh consumers of Assam.

Sonowal also asked the companies to sustain their professionalism and ensure uninterrupted power supply to all the consumers during the forthcoming Monsoon season also when the different parts of the State will be reeling under flood. He also asked the top functionaries of the companies to fill up the existing vacancies and create more vacancies wherever possible to make the companies consumer friendly more than ever before.

Babri Masjid ...

(Contd from page 1)

It indicated to the Special Judge to avail the facilities of video conferencing to complete recording of evidences and hearing of applications that are filed during the course of trial proceedings.

A bench of Justices RF Nariman and Surya Kant, hearing the matter through video conferencing, passed the orders on receiving a letter from the Special Judge seeking extension of time granted to him for completing the trial in the politically sensitive case.

Having taken the letter dated May 6, 2020, into consideration, we extend the period to complete evidence and deliver judgment till August 31, 2020. We are cognizant of the fact that Shri Yadav is making all efforts in order that the trial reaches a just conclusion. However, given the original time frame and the extended time frame, the effort must now be to complete the proceedings and deliver judgment latest by August 31, 2020, the bench said in its order.

On July 19 last year the top court had asked the special judge to deliver the verdict within nine months, which was to end this April. - PTI

No. CE/PMGSY/01/2019-20/PT-1/1

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads), Assam on behalf of Governor of Assam invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana II, 2019-20, Batch-I, for 121.330 km and 3 nos. of RCC bridges with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 9102.69 Lakhs (Approx), including their maintenance for five years from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam Public Works Department (Roads) or contractors registered with other State/Central Government Departments, institutions, Undertaking and Authorities.

Date of release of Invitation for Bids may be seen through e-procurement.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads)
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
Janasanyog/CF/207/20

No.CE/PMGSY/01/2019-20/PT-1/1

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads), Assam on behalf of Governor of Assam invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana II, 2019-20, Batch-I, for 121.330 km and 3 nos. of RCC bridges with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 9102.69 Lakhs (Approx.) including their maintenance for five years from approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam Public Works Department (Roads) or contractors registered with other State/Central Government Departments, institutions, Undertaking and Authorities. Date of release of Invitation for Bids may be seen through e-procurement.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads)
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
Janasanyog/CF/182/20

No. ASULMS(SMMU)/F&A-16/167/2018/3197

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Request for Proposals are invited from C&AG empanelled CA firm (Partnership/Sole Proprietorship Firm/Company) having office at Guwahati for conducting Statutory Audit of accounts of DAY-NULM implemented in the state of Assam through Municipal Boards as per terms of reference in this regard. Intending bidders may download the bid document from the website www.nulmassam.in. The last date for submission of bid documents is 1:00 PM, 22nd May 2020 at the office of the State Mission Director, Assam State Urban Livelihoods Mission society Dispur, Guwahati-6.

Sd/- State Mission Director,
Assam State Urban Livelihoods Mission Society,
Janasanyog/CF/187/20
Dispur, Guwahati-06

No. ACE/T/NIT/PT-1/96/82

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 6 (six) nos of Packages for Road Projects under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 in Jagiroad, Hojai, Lumding, Morigaon and Laharighat LACs of Assam from approved & eligible registered Contractors enlisted with APWD in the category of Class-I (A and B) amount to Rs. 13,45,63,871.00/- 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 11.05.2020 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/180/20

No- SMC/46/2020/3

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings), Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for the following work having experience of similar nature of work from APWD Registered contractors.

Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 15.05.2020 to 02.06.2020.

The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in

Name of Work	Approx. value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit	E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
"Construction of Girl's Hostel Under RUSA 2.0 Component (Equity Initiatives)" (Construction of Women's Hostel in Sivasagar College, Jyoysagar, Dist.- Sivasagar).	Rs. 221.07 Lakh	18 (Eighteen) months	Rs. 4,42,000/- (for General) Rs. 2,21,000/- (for reserved Category)	E. E., PWD, Sivasagar Building Division.	Rs. 7000/-

N.B. - Value of work may vary according to final BOQ which may be seen in the detail NIT.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building),
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
Janasanyog/C/270/20

No.LMC/02/2020/51

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

This is for information of all concerned that in reference to the Advertisement No. Janasanyog/D/445/20, Dated: 08.05.2020 (The Assam Tribune) the Sl. No. 1 of the advertisement shall read as under:

Sl. No.	Name of Post	Minimum educational qualification	Scale of Pay	Total No. of Vacant post	Category Reservation
1	Staff Nurse	B. Sc. Nursing/ GNM Course passed from any nursing school/ institution recognized by Indian Nursing Council and have registered with the Assam Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors Council	14,000-60,500+GP 6,800	201	UR-83, OBC/MOBC-54, SC-14, STP-20, STH-10, EWS-20 (PwD-8)

Further, Sl No.2 of the Advertisement for the post of Nursing Sister hereby stand cancelled.

Other parts of the original advertisement shall remain same.

Sd/- i/c Principal-cum-Chief Superintendent
Lakhimpur Medical College & Hospital, North Lakhimpur.
Janasanyog/D/469/20

No. GMC 6/2020/4

PRESS NOTICE (EOI)

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D (Building), Assam, Invites Bids from Architects/ Architectural consultants empanelled under Assam P.W.D (Building) and other reputed Architects/ Architectural consultants registered with Indian institute of Architects/ Council of Architecture and having extensive experience in the relevant field of work for the following work :

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. value of the project.
1	Consultancy Services for Construction of proposed new Medical College at Sivasagar (Charaideu) District, Assam	Rs. 500.00 Cr.
2	Consultancy Services for Construction of proposed new Medical College at Biswanath District Assam,	Rs. 500.00 Cr.
3	Consultancy Services for Construction of New Medical College attached with District/ Referral Hospital at Goalpara, Assam.	Rs. 500.00 Cr.
4	Consultancy Services for Establishment of New Medical College attached with existing District/ Referral Hospital at Karimganj, Assam.	Rs. 500.00 Cr.

The details may be seen in e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in.
The validity period of the Bid shall be 180 days from the date of submission.
The Bidders must be registered with the E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam. (website <http://assamtenders.gov.in>)
The Chief Engineer P.W.D (Building), Assam reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposal without showing any reasons what so ever.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Bldg.), Assam,
Chandmari, Guwahati-3.
Janasanyog/C/251/20

Tripura COVID-19 scene worsens as 24 more BSF jawans test positive

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, May 8: The COVID-19 pandemic scenario has worsened in Tripura with 24 more jawans of the 86th Battalion of the BSF testing positive last night. The headquarters of the 86th Battalion of the BSF shares a plot of land with the headquarters of the 138th Battalion of the border guarding force at Jawaharnagar under the Ambassa subdivision of Dhalai district.

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, in a Facebook post, confirmed the detection of 24 more COVID-19-positive cases on Thursday night.

It is suspected that there has been a transmission of the virus from infected jawans of the 138th Battalion to those of the 86th Battalion as their

respective headquarters lie in close proximity. The development has put the State on the edge as the number of COVID-19 patients in the State has shot up all of a sudden. However, there has been no outbreak of the disease among the local villagers so far.

But the possibility of community transmission cannot be ruled out in view of the sudden spike in the number of positive cases, informed sources said.

Meanwhile, the Tripura Government has declared the Kamalpur subdivision adjacent to Bangladesh as a containment zone as a COVID-19-positive BSF jawan attached to the 86th Battalion, was posted at the Dhalai BOP recently. With this, four locations within Dhalai district have been declared as

containment zones, in which public movement has been completely banned.

Official sources said that the newly-infected BSF jawans were taken to the GB Pant Hospital from Ambassa this evening.

At present, 85 BSF personnel are admitted to the COVID-19 unit of the GB Pant Hospital. One patient—a child—is being treated in the BSF Frontier Hospital at Salbagan. With the latest count, the State has so far registered 88 COVID-19-positive cases. Out of them, two have already been discharged from hospital after treatment.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Deb claimed that Tripura is well equipped to handle the situation arising out of the COVID-19 outbreak in the two BSF battalions head-

quartered at Jawaharnagar.

“The facilities which have been put in place to treat COVID-19 patients at the GB Pant Hospital are adequate. It is certain that the novel coronavirus will not disappear from the State immediately. We have to battle against it and ensure its defeat,” he said.

The Chief Minister was speaking to media persons on the sidelines of a Rabindra Jayanti programme at the Vivekananda Udyan here today.

“I have already spoken to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan and briefed them on the State’s situation in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak. They assured me of giving full support in the battle against the pandemic,” Deb added.



The deserted Ima Keithel, the mothers' market complex, during the ongoing lockdown in Imphal, on Friday. — Photo: Sobhapati Samom

War of words between MNF, Cong over COVID-19 donations

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, May 8: The ruling Mizo National Front and the Opposition Congress in Mizoram are engaged in a war of words over government employees' decision to “donate” part of their salaries to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to fight against COVID-19 in the State.

A day after a meeting of representatives of 75 service associations, chaired by State Chief Secretary Lalnunmawia Chuaungo, decided that Groups A, B and C employees would donate 10 per cent and Group D employees 5 per cent of their

basic pay to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Congress Legislature Party leader Zodiintluanga argued that the MLAs should have taken the lead in this regard.

However, when the MLAs sat for a meeting on Thursday to discuss donation of part of their salaries to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund, all the five sitting Congress MLAs were conspicuously absent. MNF, ZPM and BJP legislators took the decision to donate 30 per cent of their basic pay to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in the absence of the Congress members.

Immediately thereafter, the MNF fired a salvo at Zodiintluanga, asking him where he was, and when his fellow legislators would sit to discuss “taking the lead” as he (Zodiintluanga) had earlier suggested.

“After Zodiintluanga made an urgent appeal in the media, the Assembly Speaker immediately convened a meeting to discuss the matter. Whereas Zodiintluanga was supposed to give priority to the meeting, he and his colleagues skipped the same for something that looked less important,” the MNF said in a statement. “The one who sounded (in) so hurry to donate to the CM relief fund has turned out to be not so,” it added.

Meanwhile, to counter this, the Mizoram Pradesh Youth Congress Committee said in a press release that it appreciated the Assembly Speaker's prompt action to discuss MLAs' contributions and attributed this to the Congress Legislature Party leader's urgent appeal in this regard.

“The Mizoram government being so ardent about collecting funds, in the form of contribution, to the CM relief fund from government employees and MLAs is, on the other hand, a proof that chief minister Zoramthanga's claim of a pool with overflowing funds holds no water,” the Youth Congress said in the release.

Nagaland Cong ready to pay train fare of migrant workers

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, May 8: The Nagaland Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) today requested State Chief Secretary Temjen Toy to provide it a list of all needy migrant workers who are currently staying in the State and who wish to return home, and details of the train fare.

“We shall deposit the necessary amount with you directly,” NPCC president K Therie said in a letter to Toy. He hoped that the Chief Secretary would extend necessary cooperation in this regard.

The NPCC urged Toy to contact the chairman of the

Task Force for COVID-19 and NPCC general secretary Capt GK Zhimomi in this connection on the phone number, 9436002345, or e-mail at gk.zhimomi@inc.in.

Therie said that his party is also identifying such individuals on its own and reaching out to them. However, most migrant workers have applied to the SDOs or district magistrates to help facilitate their return journeys, he added.

The NPCC chief said that he wrote the letter in furtherance of Congress president Sonia Gandhi's decision on May 4 to pay for the rail fare of all needy workers and

migrant labourers wishing to return home.

“It is indeed heartbreaking that their return journey, which could have been handled with ease and grace, has been allowed to escalate to such levels due to the mercantile and apathetic attitude of the Central Government as also the Railways,” the letter said.

The NPCC said the party is committed to ensuring the payment of the train fare for all workers and migrant labourers. “It is the duty of every Indian to stand by our workers and migrant labourers, who are nation builders and the ambassadors of India's growth,” it added.

Chamling hits out at Sikkim Govt

A CORRESPONDENT

GANGTOK, May 8: Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) supremo Pawan Chamling has termed the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha Government “a total failure” in handling the novel coronavirus crisis in the State.

Sikkim does not have a testing laboratory, and lies at the bottom as far as COVID-19 tests are concerned, Chamling, former Chief Minister of the State, alleged. Truena test kits were brought in, 25 days after the clearance of the

Centre, the SDF chief said, adding that every PHC should have this testing facility.

“The Government has wasted the lockdown period, and is not taking the crisis too seriously. In fact, the approach has been very casual,” Chamling further alleged.

He pointed out that the quarantine centres for stranded Sikkimese who are being brought back, should not have been put up in the middle of residential areas or public places, but remote places. Village and urban areas which have

quarantine centres, should be designated as containment zones, Chamling maintained.

“We welcome the decision to bring back students and other residents, but there should not be any discrimination in this regard like in the recent case at Kota, where six poor students were left behind,” said the former Sikkim Chief Minister.

Only politics is being played in the name of collection of donations and distribution of relief sent by the Centre, Chamling alleged.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, May 8: The only active COVID-19 patient of Meghalaya has once again tested positive for the disease. However, he remains in a stable condition.

Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong said that the patient had tested positive after the latest test. Samples will be sent for a retest after three days as per the Health protocol, he added.

On the other hand, the total number of stranded people who have returned from

other North Eastern States stood at 2,080 till this evening. These people are being screened and some of them have been tested before being quarantined at home and in institutional facilities.

These stranded people are entering the State through four entry points located at Byrnihat in Ri-Bhoi district, Ratacheera in East Jaintia Hills district, Bajengdoba in North Garo Hills district and Tikrikilla in West Garo Hills district.

Liquor price hike: The Meghalaya Government has hiked liquor prices by 25 per

cent to generate funds for the State exchequer amid the novel coronavirus-induced crisis.

Announcing the price hike, Chief Minister Conrad Sangma said that the 25 per cent increase would be effected on the maximum retail price. “A hike of 25 per cent on the maximum retail price of liquor has been approved of by the Government effective from midnight of May 8 in order to generate additional Excise revenue to meet the unexpected financial burden and expenditure arising out of COVID-19,” he said.

The Chief Minister said that the increase was likely to generate an additional revenue between Rs 120 and Rs 130 crore. The Meghalaya Excise Department has been one of the largest revenue collectors for the State after the Mining Department.

In the last fiscal, revenue generated by the Excise Department stood at Rs 260 crore, apart from the VAT on liquor. A rush of buyers has been witnessed in the liquor shops which have been reopened in the State after relaxation of lockdown.

10 Bangladesh nationals held in Tripura

AGARTALA, May 8: Ten Bangladesh nationals were arrested from Rajnagar village near the Indo-Bangladesh border today for entering the country without any valid documents, the police said.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team raided a house in the village and arrested the 10 Bangladeshi citizens on Friday morning.

State Director General of Police Rajiv Singh said that the arrested persons revealed during interrogation that they had entered the Indian territory in search of jobs about six or seven months back.

One of the arrested Bangladesh nationals, who was identified as Md Masud Rana, told reporters that after the lockdown was announced, they could not manage to get any jobs here. So they were trying to return to their country. Meanwhile, the Public Relations Officer of the Border Security Force, Tripura Frontier, today claimed that border smuggling and infiltration had come down drastically during the lockdown period. — PTI

Relief for daily wage earners in Dimapur

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, May 8: The District Disaster Management Authority, Dimapur, in coordination with the district administration, has been distributing relief packages to cover 11,000 daily wage earners in the district as per guidelines of the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority. The first consignment of relief packages was distributed to 450 beneficiaries at Khuhuboto on May 6.

A bigger consignment was distributed on Friday, covering 1,000 beneficiaries at Niuland, 1,000 at Chumuke-

dima, 600 at Medziphema and 450 at Dhansiripar. The relief packages included 10 kg rice, 1 kg lentils, 1 kg Naga dal, half-a-litre of mustard oil, 1 kg sugar, 1 kg salt, 200 gm tea, two pieces of bathing soap, two pieces of detergent, 100 gm masala, 1 kg of onions and garlic and 100 gm

of chilli powder.

The district administration has appreciated the Western Sumi Hoho, Red Cross volunteers, Dimapur Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Naga Council Dimapur and the Food and Civil Supplies Department for helping in packaging the relief materi-

als since April 29.

Supply of vegetables to frontline workers: BoonFi, a home delivery firm based in Kohima, supplied organic vegetables to the Dimapur Deputy Commissioner's Office, Commissioner of Police Office and the Chumukedima Town Council Office on Friday for distribution among frontline workers in the district. The vegetables were brought from the hills of Japfu town in Kohima district.

The firm ferries essential items from Dimapur to Kohima and on the return journey, brings vegetables for free distribution among the frontline workers.

Meanwhile, Dimapur Additional Deputy Commissioner V Lovitoly Sema has thanked the BoonFi members for their service for the frontline workers.



Dimapur DC Anoop Khinchi (third from left) and other officials, along with the relief materials, at Holy Cross HS School in Dimapur on Friday. — Photo: Bhadra Gogoi

Grateful workers paint Arunachal school that sheltered them

ITANAGAR, May 8: As a mark of gratitude, a group of migrant workers painted, without charging a paisa, a school building in Arunachal Pradesh that sheltered them during the lockdown, an official said today.

The workers, mostly from Dhemaji and North Lakhimpur districts in neighbouring Assam, took shelter in the school in Yupia area of Papum

Pare district, and they wanted to paint the building that was their home for several days, he said.

“Within a couple of days, the school building, which was not in a good shape, was given a new look,” Papum Pare Deputy Commissioner Pige Ligu said.

Expressing her happiness, the headmistress of the up-
per primary school, Obbi Zir-

do Rumi, said the maintenance of the building was due.

“It is an unbelievable moment for the institution. I am very thankful to the workers and the district administration for their support and cooperation in this crisis period,” she said.

The migrant workers also cleaned the school premises and repaired the wooden benches, the head-

mistress said.

“We are habituated to hard work and happy to keep ourselves busy with activities in these tough times. It was our gratitude to the local administration that was taking care of us,” one of the migrant workers said.

The Deputy Commissioner said the authorities were continuously monitoring the health condition of the workers while

they painted the building.

“We ensured that social distancing protocol and health safety guidelines were followed while they were working,” Ligu pointed out.

The district administration had arranged two relief camps—one at the school and another at the UD Shopping Complex—to provide shelter to more than 145 workers during the nationwide lockdown.

Papum Pare SP Jimmy Chiram said adequate security arrangements were made for the stranded workers, and regular physical training sessions were arranged to keep them fit during their stay in the relief camps.

The administration, along with the police, also helped all migrant workers reach their respective destinations safely. — PTI

MLAs' disqualification case

Manipur Speaker's Tribunal reserves verdict

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, May 8: The Manipur Legislative Assembly Speaker's Tribunal today reserved the verdict on the disqualification of seven Congress MLAs who have been supporting the BJP-led coalition Government in the State.

The Speaker's Tribunal, which has been constituted under the 10th Schedule of the Constitution, heard the case and the preliminary objections raised by the MLAs at the Assembly premises here, sources said. The or-

der for disposal of the same has been reserved, the sources added.

It may be mentioned here that the disqualification case was filed by the opposition Congress against MLAs O Lukhloi of Wangoi, Ksh Biren of Lamlai, P Brojen of Wangjing-Tentha, S Bira of Kumbi, Ngamthang Haokip of Saitu, Ginsuanhou of Singhat and Y Surchandra of Kakching constituencies, who have been supporting the BJP Government in Manipur, after the 2017 Assembly elections.

ASSAM ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
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No. AERC. 479/2014/PL-1/23 Dated Guwahati 6th May, 2020

NOTICE

It is for information that a draft Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Payment of Fees etc.) Regulations, 2020 has been prepared and placed at the official website of the Commission “www.aerc.gov.in” in “Regulations” Page.

The date for submission of comments/objections, suggestions, if any, on the Regulations has been extended to 31-05-2020 from 06-04-2020 in view of the difficulties arising out of outbreak of Covid-19.

Further, it is for information to all concerned that Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (AERC) will hold public hearing on the said draft Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission (Payment of Fees etc.) Regulations, 2020 on 09-06-2020 at 11:00 A.M. in the Court Room of the Commission. This publication may be treated as notice for hearing of objections.

By order of the Commission

Sd/- Secretary
Assam Electricity Regulatory Commission

NEWS IN BRIEF

7 KLO militants nabbed

KOKRAJHAR, May 8: In a joint operation, Army and Kokrajhar police on Thursday night arrested seven hardcore militants of the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO) and seized a huge cache of arms and ammunition from them at Chakrasila Reserve Forest, Kokrajhar Superintendent of Police Rakesh Roshan said on Friday. The arrested cadres were identified as Lankeshwar Koch alias Lambu, a Myanmar-trained self-styled second lieutenant and area commander of lower Assam; Sukit Barman, Sanjit Barman, Mamin Ray, Biplob Barman, Panchanon Ray and Gautam Ray. Police also seized seven pistols with live ammunitions and war-like stores. — Correspondent

No ASF in Hailakandi

HAILAKANDI, May 8: No case of African Swine Fever has been reported in Hailakandi district so far, said District Veterinary Officer RA Laskar. He said though no case has been reported, the authorities are not taking any chances and have taken up a slew of measures to prevent any outbreak. A meeting of the task force headed by District Development Commissioner Vikram Dev Sarma took stock of the situation on Thursday after the death of over 2,900 pigs in different parts of Assam. Laskar said 575 pigs have been vaccinated in the past several days. The department has placed a requirement of 2,500 vaccines, and 700 have been provided. Laskar said that as there is no case of ASF in the district so far, the administration has not banned sale of pork. — Correspondent

Embankment repaired

PATACHARKUCHI, May 8: The people of Bongaon recently repaired an embankment along the Kaldia river near the Anchalik College. The villagers came out together and repaired the embankment with funds from the Bongaon Development Samiti. Earlier, Phani Pathak, state executive member of the BJP, informed the Chief Minister about the matter, and accordingly, the Barpeta Deputy Commissioner sanctioned Rs 10 lakh under MNRGA through the Tihu Dekhata Gaon Panchayat for repair of the embankment. However, the release of money is still pending and since the rainy season is approaching, the villagers themselves began repairing the embankment. — ANN Service

Food for daily-wage earners

GOSSAIGAON, May 8: The Chimanta Chetana Mancha, Gossaigaon district committee, distributed food items to 313 families living below the poverty line. The beneficiaries included rickshaw pullers, hand cart pullers, e-rickshaw drivers and labourers of areas like main market, Sitalapara, Dalgaon, Uttarpara, Padmabil, Banpara, Hasraobari, Amjhora, Ghughujhora, Padmapukhuri, Telipara, Satyapur in Gossaigaon town. Activists of the Mancha delivered the food items door to door and appealed to the people to obey the norms of the lockdown, maintain social distancing, wear masks and wash hands frequently. — ANN Service

AMSU foundation day

DOOMDOOMA, May 8: The All Moran Students' Union (AMSU) observed its 52nd foundation day at its head office at Borguri in Tinsukia on Tuesday. Due to the ongoing lockdown in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebration was brief and solemn. AMSU president Arunjoyit Moran hoisted the flag, which was followed by *swahidi tarpan* by secretary Naba Moran. A total of 52 earthen lamps were lit on the occasion. The AMSU members later distributed essential food items among 200 poor families of Borguri. — Correspondent

Academic plan lauded

KAZIRANGA, May 8: The teaching community here have supported the idea of continuing the school academic session till March 2021 and start the new session from April 2021 as envisaged by Education Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. Teachers said it will help make up the loss of classes which could not be carried out due to the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown. Manju Borthakur Pujari, retired headmistress of Kaziranga National Park High School at Kohora, and Herambo Barukial, principal of Bokakhat HS School, said it will help bring uniformity at par with other states where an academic session starts from April. Rekha Sharma, retired headmistress of Kohora ME School, and Udayan Phukan, headmaster of Kaziranga High School, said that extending the academic session till March 2021 will help students as they will be able to complete their syllabus properly. — Correspondent

Aid during Ramzan

PATACHARKUCHI, May 8: Phani Pathak, state executive member of the BJP, recently distributed food packets to villagers at Dubi Malipara village and greeted the Muslim community during the month of Ramzan. He appealed to the community to strengthen the bond of age-old unity and also appealed to them to maintain social distancing and wear masks. — ANN Service

Essential items distributed

TIHU, May 8: Dr Mringka Talukdar, president of Nalbari the BJP committee, distributed food items to 50 players of the of the Pub Nalbari Coaching Centre who belong to poor families. Food items like rice, dal, potato, onion, mustard oil, salt, etc., were distributed among the families who are facing hardship due to the third phase of the lockdown following the COVID-19 outbreak. — ANN Service

45 stranded at Simultapu

GOSSAIGAON, May 8: As many as 45 people have reached Simultapu and Srirampur on the Assam-Bengal border, including 23 from Dibrugarh and Guwahati who are residents of Bihar, and 22 from Itanagar who are residents of West Bengal. They said that when they tried to enter the neighbouring state, police pushed them back to Assam. The stranded people who work as labourers have alleged that they have not received any humanitarian aid from the Assam or West Bengal governments. Later, a contractor named Marjit Basumatary offered them food and water. — ANN Service



The 159th birth anniversary of Rabindra Nath Tagore being observed at Sishukalyan Siksha Mandir ME School under the aegis of the Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammilan, Gossaigaon branch, on Friday. — Photo: Khanindra Nath Das

'Declining quarantine cases may jump up in Darrang'

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, May 8: Even though the overall number of quarantine cases in Darrang district have registered a gradual decline over the last few days, it may jump up at any moment with the arrival of people from other States in the days to come, observed senior health officials here.

Talking to this newspaper on Thursday, Dr Nirmal Kr Beria, spokesperson of the district Health department for COVID prevention said, "Till the report compiled last evening, altogether 4163 persons

were kept under home isolation and among them 3429 have already completed the 28-day period without any symptoms. Another 39 have completed the first phase of quarantine period of 14 days leaving 734 in home isolation waiting for the completion of the quarantine period. However, this figure may jump up at any time with the entry of fresh returnees from other States."

As per statistics of the district Health department on May 6 last, the district has recorded only 19 new cases of home isolation while the cumulative figure on that day stood at 734. This figure of home

isolation has been decreasing with each passing day since May 3 last with the figures being recorded as 51, 23, 20 and 19 respectively in the last four days. Similarly, the figure of mass quarantine is stated to be even more satisfactory with only two persons being kept under mass quarantine. This figure has remained the same for the last three days.

"With ten persons being discharged from hospital on May 4 last, the figure of mass quarantine for the first time since the last one and half months has decreased to two from the overall total figure of 75, the fig-

ure remaining constant with no entry of any fresh case. However, the district is not likely to be completely free from mass quarantine cases as one of these cases is of recent inclusion following the Bongaigaon-Sarbhog connection and the other one is a mentally-ill lady from Bihar abandoned in the district by anti-social elements. Happily enough, so far both of them have tested negative", said Sujata Gogoi, epidemiologist of the district IDSP who has been associated with the quarantine process since its beginning in the third week of March.

During this time, 63 persons of the

district were suspected to have been exposed to coronavirus and subsequently 334 swab samples were sent for test till Wednesday. Among these samples, 322 have already tested negative and results of the remaining 12 are awaited till the filing of this report. Each of the ten persons related to Athgaon Kabarsthan incident were tested four times while each of the another 47 related to Nizamuddin Markaz were tested twice but all came out negative. There was a time just after the lockdown declaration when the district recorded nearly 350 new cases of home isolation and 39 samples were sent for the COVID-19 test.



Shops in North Lakhimpur opened during the lockdown on Friday, even as the shop-owners maintained a gap of two closed shops, as notified by the government. — Photo: Farhana Ahmed

23 arrested for not wearing masks in public places

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, May 8: Police have arrested 23 persons for not wearing masks or covering their faces, and registered a case of lockdown violation since Thursday.

Altogether 48 cases have been registered and 233 arrests made since the enforcement of the lockdown, Superintendent of Police Pabindra Kumar Nath said on Friday.

Nath said 13 motor vehicles have been seized for violating the lockdown since Thursday. A total of 219 vehicles – 171 two-wheelers, 15 three-wheelers and 33 four-wheelers – have been seized so far. A sum of Rs 1,85,900 has been realised by way of fines.

Besides, police arrested three persons and registered eight cases against misuse of social media and spreading rumours.

The district police chief said that security along the inter-district border has been strengthened following COVID-19 positive cases in neighbouring Cachar district.

"Following detection of COVID-19 positive cases in Cachar district, we have beefed up security along the inter-district border. Proper checking and medical screening of people coming from outside are being conducted. Also, the inter-state border with Mizoram has

been partially opened for incoming people of Assam after thorough medical screening," he added.

Movement of people and vehicles, except for emergency services and exempted categories, has been fully restricted from 6 pm to 6 am, Nath said.

Wanted criminal arrested: Kamrul Islam Barbhuiya alias Lekhoi, a mastermind of many criminal activities, including a dacoity at Katakhal in Hailakandi district, was arrested by a team of Hailakandi district police at Silchar in Cachar district on Thursday night.

Acting on a tip-off, a joint police team from Hailakandi and Cachar districts arrested the dreaded dacoit who is wanted in several cases in the three districts of Barak Valley in the past few years.

Hailakandi police was on the lookout for him after he masterminded a daring dacoity at a residence of an ex-CRPF jawan under Katakhal outpost in Hailakandi district on April 29.

A case under various sections of the IPC and Arms Act has been registered against Barbhuiya and his gang at Panchgram Police Station.

Search operations are on in many places in Cachar district, and Hailakandi SP Pabindra Kumar Nath termed the arrest as a major breakthrough for the police.

Kumar Ramendra Narayan Dev: a tribute

Kumar Ramendra Narayan Dev, one of my most dearest friends affectionately known as Timu left for his heavenly abode around 1 am April 29 at a private hospital in Guwahati. Timu was a descendant of the Koch Raj family of Mangaldai in Darrang district.

On completing his BA at St Edmunds College, Shillong, Timu got admitted for his Master's Degree in English at Gauhati University, where I met him. On completion of our courses, both of us got admitted at Gauhati University Law College, and we got our LLB degrees. We applied to the Bar Council for licenses to join the legal profession, and Timu started his practice at Mangaldai after becoming a junior to a leading criminal lawyer, late Binoy Kumar Ghosh.

Timu later joined the Assam Judicial Service and served in various courts across Assam in different capacities. He was elevated to the coveted post of District and Sessions Judge and after rendering valuable service, my friend retired in 2003 as District and Sessions Judge, Goalpara. Even after retirement, he served as Member of the Foreigners' Tribunal, Morigaon and Karimganj.

As a judge, he tried his best to render justice, as a result of which he earned a good reputation. Even today, members of the legal profession acknowledge the services rendered by Kumar Ramendra Narayan Dev.

He was soft-spoken and



people respected him for his amiable disposition. My friend left a mark in the justice delivery system and will be remembered for the innumerable judgments and orders delivered by him. In course of time, my friendship with Timu turned into a relationship, with his daughter marrying my son.

On February 19, 2020, he suffered a massive stroke and was admitted to hospital. After undergoing medical treatment for about two months, he was released and was slowly recovering at home. But again on April 29, he was admitted to a hospital, and later passed away despite all medical support. He leaves behind his wife, a daughter and a son and a granddaughter. His eldest son, who was working in Bengaluru, died in an accident in 2012.

Late Kumar Ramendra Narayan Dev, my best friend, was a man of repute and a gentleman par excellence. It will be difficult to fill up the vacuum created by his death. On the occasion of his *adyaraddha* today, we pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed soul.

— Nabin Chandra Das

Donations pour in to 'Sarathi'

ANN SERVICE

DHEMAJI, May 8: An organisation, Sarathi, was set up recently at Dhakuakhana under the aegis of the subdivisional administration in co-operation with the people of Dhakuakhana and Ghilamara to help poor families in this time of crisis.

Many individuals and organisations have extended contribution to Sarathi. The Dhakuakhana Lekhika Samaroh Samiti contributed Rs 10,000, Beenapani Foundation contributed Rs 10,000, Dhakuakhana Bar Association

Rs 10,000, ICI Skill Academy Rs 3,000 and social worker Birajranjan Boruah contributed Rs 10,000.

Social worker Kushal Gogoi gave Rs 50,000, Dhakuakhana District OBC Samiti Rs 25,000, Dhakuakhana Kendriya Rangali Bihu Sammilan Rs 25,100, Dhakuakhana Senior Citizens' Association Rs 12,000, Dhakuakhana College professor Sewak Chutia Rs 15,000, Red Cross Society Dhakuakhana unit Rs 15,000, trader Raj Sarma Rs 10,000, Dhakuakhana Girls' High School assistant teacher Nabanita Gogoi and Jamuguri

Chariali High School principal Deben Gogoi contributed Rs 5,000 to Sarathi.

The Ghilamara Senior Citizens' Association donated Rs 5,000, Dhakuakhana Mahila Samiti contributed Rs 5,000, Guna Hazaria Rs 10,000, professor Amiya Kumar Das Rs 3,000 and Mahesh Sarma, Diganta Gogoi and Purnananda Dutta donated Rs 5,000 each.

Debajit Phukan, CRCC Hemanta Boruah and social worker Bipul Bora and Rajib Boruah and Ghilamara Trade Union contributed Rs 1,000 each, while Tapan Dutta offered Rs 2,001 to Sarathi.

Only takeaway, home delivery from Jorhat dist eateries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, May 8: The Jorhat district administration has allowed restaurants, sweet shops and bakeries to open and operate takeaway and home delivery services on a daily basis during the ongoing third phase of the lockdown. However, the administration imposed certain conditions on the three types of food shops to operate.

An order by the Jorhat District Magistrate on Thursday (May 7) stated that restaurants, sweet shops and bakeries will only be allowed to operate takeaway and home delivery services.

The shops will operate with a bare minimum staff of up to 50 per cent of the total number of employees from 10 am to 5 pm. Shopkeepers will have to ensure strict compliance of social distancing and proper hygiene practices of handwashing and sanitising frequently among staff members and customers.

Wearing of masks and handgloves by the shopkeepers and staff is compulsory and spitting is strictly prohibited. If the administration finds any violation of the restrictions, then the licences of such shops will be cancelled immediately.

Massive protest against killing at Harangajao



CORRESPONDENT

HAFLONG, May 8: Protesting against the killing of Santosh Hojai and demanding the arrest of DSP (HQ) Surya Kant Morang, members of various organisations and the public of Harangajao staged a massive protest on Friday and demanded a CBI inquiry.

Hundreds of people took part in the demonstration at

the Harangajao auto-stand and shouted slogans like "Police hai hai", "We want CBI inquiry".

On April 24, Santosh Hojai was kidnapped from his house at Harangajao. On April 30, his body was found along NH-27, around 100 km from his home, at Lailing under Langting Police Station in Dima Hasao district.

Jayanta Hojai, wife of Santosh Hojai, along with some

neighbours, rushed to the Harangajao PS to lodge an FIR. The officer-in-charge of the Harangajao PS allegedly refused to accept her complaint, stating that her husband would return by night. On the next day, when she again tried to lodge a complaint, the officer-in-charge allegedly again refused. When she moved the Gauhati High Court on April 26, then her written complaint was accepted.

The Civil Organization of Dima Hasao District, Assam, has urged the suspension of the officer-in-charge and demanded a compensation of Rs 1 crore for the family.

The protesters also burnt the effigy of DSP Morang, whom they accused to be involved in the killing.

Concern over deplorable condition of NH-8

ANN SERVICE

NILAMBAZAR, May 8: Since the onset of pre-monsoon rains, the condition of the NH-8 has further worsened. The residents of Karimganj district are extremely upset over the pathetic condition of the Assam-Tripura Road (National Highway-8) from Kanaibazar (Ashimganj) to Mundamala near Patherkandi and South Karimganj LAC.

National Highway-44 whose new number is NH-8 has been assigned as the National Highway which goes from Ratacherra in Meghalaya upto Agartala in Tripura through the Cachar and Hailakandi districts. The road is vital for Tripura and Barak Valley.

The road under reference is mostly used by the residents of Tripura and Karimganj to reach Guwahati and other districts of Assam and Meghalaya. Though the entire road from Puumara to Ashimganj is in a sorry state, but the condition of the stretch from Batoiya to Moina covering a length of 26 km is simply beyond imagination.

The entire road is akin to a dirt track which is dotted by crater-sized water-filled ditches. Some of the ditches are so large that small vehicles find it extremely difficult to negotiate. As a result, traffic jams are frequent on the road, besides occasional mechanical breakdowns.



The truck drivers carrying essential items have to face serious problem due to the deplorable road conditions.

"Though the government has been harping on 'parivartan', but in practice no action has been forthcoming," Prabir Bhattacharjee, a senior resident of Karimganj lamented.

The Executive Engineer Karimganj NH Division BK Nath while on a visit to Ashimganj on the NH-8 along with the SDO, was confronted by the local people

who staged a demonstration and shouted slogans, demanding early repairing of the Kanaibazar-Ashimganj stretch of the road.

It may be mentioned that a few years back, an Orissa-based construction company ARSS started renovation work on the said road, but due to political interference and continuous agitation the company failed to complete the task at hand. Not surprisingly, they completed only 33 per cent work. In this connection, a case is sub judice in Gauhati High Court.

Pradhan hints at new gas policy

NEW DELHI, May 8: With current pricing formula making natural gas production economically unviable, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Friday hinted at bringing in a new gas policy as well as launching a gas exchange very soon as part of reforms to promote greater use of environment-friendly fuel in the world's third-largest energy-consuming nation.

Pradhan also said that India favours reasonable prices that give some space to the producer countries. "We have to have a reasonable price. India is a major consumer. But at this jun-

ture, India's viewpoint is the price should be reasonable and responsible. Very low prices are not the answer. Reasonable prices are the answer," he said.

Speaking in the latest edition of the CERAWEEK Conversations series, he said, "Oil prices should give some space to the producer countries. It should be profitable for them; it should be viable for them." The transcript of his address was provided by the organiser, IHS Markit.

His views come days after international oil prices plunged to USD 18.10 a barrel, its lowest since November 2001. Rates have since rebounded

to around USD 30 per barrel. On longer-term energy policy priorities following national lockdowns, he said, "We are moving towards a new gas policy, a new tariff policy. We are planning for a gas exchange very soon and we will be liberalising our distribution mechanisms."

Natural gas prices in India have fallen to their lowest in more than a decade, leading to producers like ONGC incurring losses in businesses. Prices of natural gas – that is used to produce fertilisers, generate electricity and gets converted into CNG for use in automobiles and piped natural gas for household cook-

ing – were from April 1 cut to USD 2.39 per million British thermal unit – a rate about 37 per cent lower than the cost of production.

Pradhan did not elaborate on the policy reforms planned.

The BJP-led government had in October 2014 evolved a new pricing formula using rates prevalent in gas surplus nations like the US, Canada and Russia to determine the price in a net importing country. Prices using this formula are calculated semi-annually.

He had in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on March 20, 2017, had stated that the cost of production of natural gas in the

prolific Krishna Godavari basin is in the range of USD 4.99 -7.30 per mmBtu. The same for other basins is in the range of USD 3.80 -6.59 per mmBtu, he had said.

"We are very much focussed, after relaxing this lockdown, on the job of implementing the city gas distribution network expansion. It will give two things. One, it will create a long-term futuristic energy infrastructure in the majority of the country. Two, at this juncture we need more job opportunities, more employment generation and this is a perfect plan for our gas expansion story," he said. – PTI

Samsung resumes limited operations

NEW DELHI, May 8: South Korean electronics giant Samsung has resumed limited manufacturing operations at its Noida plant and will scale up the production gradually, a company official said on Friday.

The Uttar Pradesh government has permitted limited manufacturing operations, which according to industry players is 25-30 per cent of a plant's capacity, in the state.

We have received requisite permissions to restart production at our Noida factory.

On Thursday, the factory has started limited operations, which will be scaled up over a period of time," Samsung Southwest Asia, head for corporate communications Partha Ghosh said in response to a PTI query. Samsung claims to have the world's largest mobile factory in Noida. Assault

Mobile phone factories located in UP account for more than 60 per cent of the total devices produced in the country.

The UP government has asked companies to follow standard operating procedures to ensure health safety of employees and hygiene

at their premises to check the spread of coronavirus.

"Employee safety and well-being remain our absolute priority. We have ensured that all hygiene and social distancing measures are maintained at the premises, as per government guidelines, Ghosh said.

The state government has given permission to various companies, including Samsung, to start operations with a maximum of 3,000 employees in a manufacturing unit.

According to industry players, most of the companies have started operations with lesser employees and will gradually deploy the permitted strength once the housekeeping arrangements are complete.

The government has allowed sale of non-essential products, including mobile devices, in the orange and green zones to support the manufacturing cycle.

Samsung announced phased reopening of its exclusive brand stores Samsung Smart Cafes and Samsung Smart Plazas across the country starting this week in compliance with norms that are effective from May 4. – PTI



CAPSULE

Cain pact

NEW DELHI, May 8: Privately-held real estate investment firm Cain International has signed an agreement with the Oberoi Group for the operation of 23 serviced residences in Mayfair in London. – PTI

India Cements

CHENNAI, May 8: Cement manufacturer India Cements on Friday said it has resumed partial operations at its facilities and in grinding units which remained shut following the COVID-19 induced lockdown. – PTI

Adani Gas

NEW DELHI, May 8: Adani Gas Ltd on Friday reported a 61 per cent rise in standalone net profit to Rs 122 crore for fourth quarter ended March 31. The company had posted a net profit of Rs 76 crore in the year-ago period. – PTI

Caspian Debt

NEW DELHI, May 8: Caspian Debt on Friday said it has received an investment of USD 20 million (over Rs 150 crore) by US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) as long-term debt. – PTI

Biocon

NEW DELHI, May 8: Biotechnology major Biocon on Friday said it has received the establishment inspection report (EIR) from the US health regulator for its facility at Bengaluru. – PTI

Tata Motors withdraws plan to raise Rs 1,000 cr

MUMBAI, May 8: Tata Motors announced the withdrawal of its plan to issue non-convertible debentures (NCD) of up to Rs 1,000 crore on a private placement basis due to tight money market conditions. In a regulatory filing, the company said that it continues to have sufficient liquidity and would consider issuance of NCDs at appropriate time and under normalised market conditions with necessary approvals.

"The company has decided to withdraw the issue for private placement of unsecured NCDs in view of the higher cost expectations from the market participants due to the tight money market conditions," the company said.

Interestingly, the development comes just two days after the company's board-constituted committee approved the offer for subscription on a private placement basis up to 10,000 rated, listed, unsecured, redeemable NCDs of face value Rs 10 lakh each at par aggregating up to Rs 1,000 crore in three tranches, of Rs 500 crore, Rs 300 crore and Rs 200 crore.

On April 28, the company had announced to issue NCDs worth Rs 1,000 crore to raise liquidity. – IANS



Stranded trucks during the lockdown in Kolkata on Friday. – PTI

CII urges govt to provide stimulus package to save economy

NEW DELHI, May 8: With the battle against coronavirus looking long-drawn while the lockdown continues to severely cripple the economy, industry body CII has urged the government to immediately announce a stimulus package of Rs 15 lakh crore focusing on support to the poor and the industry, especially MSMEs.

"With economic activities being restricted for over 50 days now, the negative impact on the economy is expected to be even more significant than what we had earlier anticipated. This needs to be offset by a large fiscal stimulus so that jobs and livelihoods are protected. CII

recommends the government to announce an immediate stimulus package of at Rs 15 lakh crore, which translates into 7.5 per cent of GDP," Vikram Kirloskar, President, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), said.

The government imposed a lockdown to arrest the spread of the contagion but it has come at a huge economic cost. By the time the third phase of the lockdown ends, the country would have lost almost two months of output.

Giving the breakdown of its demand for a Rs 15 lakh crore stimulus, CII has said that this should include cash transfers amounting to Rs 2 lakh crore to JAM account holders, in

addition to the Rs 1.7 lakh stimulus already announced. "A key fall out of this economic slowdown would be the human cost in terms of loss of jobs and livelihoods, which need urgent government intervention," said Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII.

It should be ensured that the migrant labourers are kept within the purview of the proposed cash transfers, he added.

Further, in order to provide enterprises the immediate support to pay salaries to its workers and avoid any job losses, CII has suggested a provision of Rs 2 lakh crore for additional working capital

limits to be provided by banks, equivalent to April-June wage bill of the borrowers, backed by a Government guarantee, at 4-5 per cent interest.

To support the estimated 63 million MSMEs which have been battered by the pandemic, CII has suggested a credit protection scheme for MSMEs whereby 60-70 per cent of the loan should be guaranteed by the government, i.e. if the borrower defaults, the government should repay the bank up to the amount it has guaranteed, so the risk to the lender is limited. This will encourage the banks to lend to the ailing sector so that their working capital needs are met. – IANS

ATM industry seeks lower GST rate

NEW DELHI, May 8: The ATM industry has pitched for a stimulus package along with several relaxations, including lowering of the GST rate, saying the current lockdown due to the coronavirus infection has hit transactions and posed severe challenges.

In a letter to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Confederation of ATM Industry (CATMI) mentioned that it has been recognised by the government as a crucial player to further the financial inclusion.

The COVID-19 situation has caused a sharp decline in the ATM transactions and has posed severe business challenges to the ATM industry,

the CATMI stated. "Specifically, in the battle against COVID-19 pandemic, we form a critical link in the distribution of the vital sustenance subsidies (direct benefit transfer) which the Government of India under your leadership has been kindly extending to the financially disadvantaged sections of the society," CATMI said in the letter.

It has urged the government for an increase in ATM interchange rates, citing recommendations by a committee submitted to the Reserve Bank in December 2019. A bank pays ATM interchange charges for transactions done by its card cus-

tomers at other bank ATMs.

CATMI said it is leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to keep ATMs up and running, the economic slowdown due to coronavirus pandemic has worsened the financial issues the industry has been facing over the last five years because of increasing cost on operations and compliances.

"The ATM industry today badly needs a stimulus package to keep afloat and augment the banking system in the country and we seek your kind support on the same," the body said.

Seeking for an urgent intervention by the finance ministry, CATMI said meas-

ures such as bringing down GST rates from the current 18 per cent to 12 per cent, increase in contract terms by public sector banks for two years to recover costs as well as compensation to brown label ATMs (BLA) with an average transaction of last six months post-COVID may help the industry to a great extent as there has been a huge drop in transaction volumes post the pandemic.

CATMI has also asked for incentives to deploy cash dispensers/cash recyclers for ATM operators to increase penetration in line with the RBI scheme of incentives for banks. – PTI

KVIC turnover touches nearly Rs 90k crore

NEW DELHI, May 8: The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has announced that its turnover for 2019-20 reached Rs 88,887 crore, "which no FMCG company can match", powered by the appeal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This is the biggest success story of KVIC ever scripted, it said.

"The last five years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has seen the widest acceptance of "brand Khadi" in India", it added.

"The total Khadi and village industries turnover in the year 2019-20, has reached whopping Rs 88,887

crore, which no FMCG company can match", KVIC said.

While the production of Khadi, the most eco-friendly product of sustainable development, has more than doubled in the last five years, since 2015-16; the sale of khadi has gone up by nearly three times during the same period.

Similarly, the village industry (VI) sector has also seen a phenomenal growth in the Modi era with production and sale going up by nearly 100% in the last five years.

Looking at the performance in the last one year, the turnover of Khadi registered a growth of 31% from Rs 3,215.13 crore in 2018-19, to Rs 4,211.26 crore in 2019-20.

The turnover of Village Industries products reached to Rs 84,675.39 crore in 2019-20, registering a growth of over 19% from the previous year, i.e. 2018-19, which was at Rs 71,077 crore.

Khadi's unprecedented growth during the Modi era can also be gauged by the fact that Khadi production since 2015-16, has grown at the average of 19.45% per annum which was merely 6.25% during the previous government from 2004 to 2014.

Similarly, Khadi's sales grew exponentially during the Modi government at the annual rate of 27.6% which remained as low as 6.65% from 2004-2014. – IANS

'Caring for your workforce more essential than ever'

NEW DELHI, May 8: With COVID-19 dramatically changing the way people live and work, it is now more important for managers to lead their workforce with compassion and care than ever, said a report from Accenture.

As people find themselves in an unfamiliar, fast moving global environment, "Responsible Leadership" has taken on an even deeper meaning, it said.

The report titled "Human Resilience: What your people

need to know" highlights what workers need from leaders in three basic areas: physical, mental and relational.

"These needs apply at all times, but they are magnified in crisis. Leaders who rise to the challenge will help their people develop human resilience – the ability to adapt and engage through difficult times," said the study.

In terms of physical needs, people require help feeling they are empowered to do what is necessary to keep themselves and their families

safe and well.

"Each organisation will have its own nuances. In a company with people mainly in physical locations, concerns might include no-contact service and wearing protective equipment," said the study.

The insights shared in the report are based on the Accenture workforce research spanning over 15,600 global workers in 10 countries and 15 industries.

"Everyone might be worried about employment and a paycheck during the crisis.

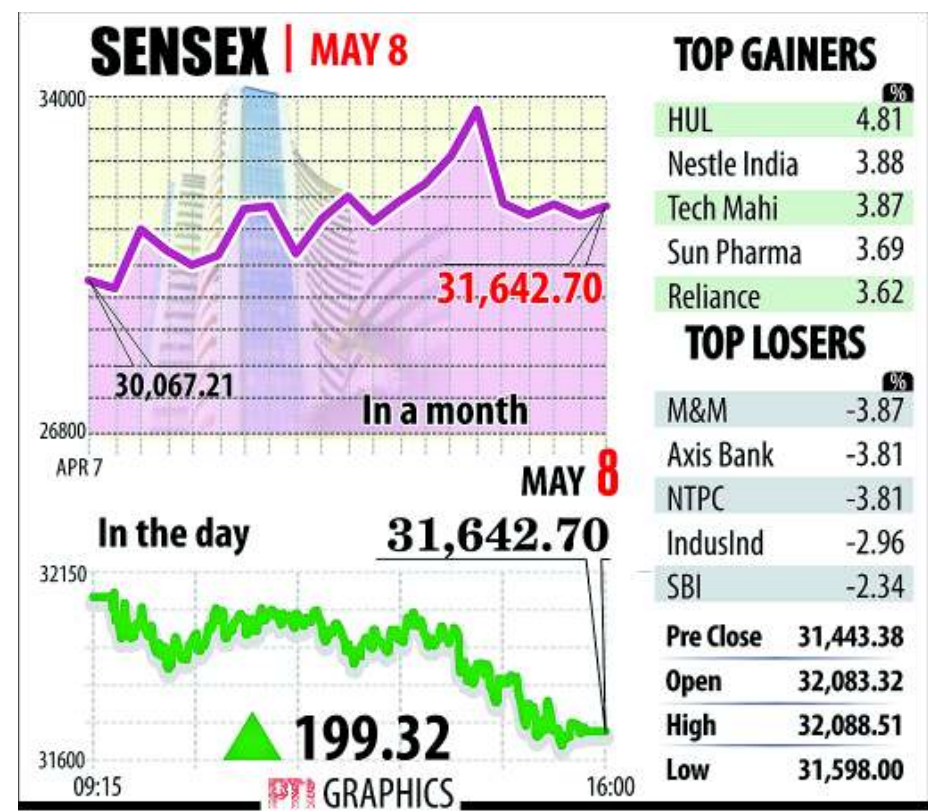
Asking early and often what people need or are concerned about will help your leadership team to determine your best actions," said the report.

In terms of mental health issues, the research pointed out that amid the changing working conditions due to COVID-19, consecutive hours of uninterrupted work may not be feasible as many people deal with disrupted elder care and childcare, difficulties securing essential supplies at home, and poten-

tial healthcare issues.

"Managers have to evolve work rules for more flexibility, based on emotional intelligence and people's individual needs. Educating managers on this sooner rather than later can help empower their teams to adapt," said the report.

With regard to the relationship needs of workers, leaders should strive to provide them with a sense of connection and of belonging to something bigger than themselves. – IANS





Corona shadow on pregnancy

Why people are less likely to conceive during the pandemic

Over 80 per cent of people are not planning to conceive during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, perhaps putting to rest suggestions that the lockdown could lead to a rise in birth numbers, say researchers.

The main reasons that led people to this decision included worries related to future economic difficulties (58 per cent) and any potential consequences on pregnancy (58 per cent) due to the disease.

Looking at parenthood desires during the on-going pandemic crisis in Italy, a team of experts, led by the University of Florence, carried out 1,482 online interviews.

Their results, published in the *Journal of Psychosomatic Obstetrics and Gynecology*, show that some 1,214 (81.9 per cent) did not intend to conceive during the pandemic crisis.

Moreover, of the 268 participants who were planning to have a child before the pandemic, over one-third (37.3 per cent) then abandoned the intention. The questionnaire, carried out in the third week of the lockdown in Italy, surveyed 944 women (63.7 per cent) and 538 men (36.3 per cent) aged between 18-46 years, and in a stable heterosexual relationship for at least twelve months.

"In our study sample, the majority of partici-

pants gave significantly higher total scores to their mental wellbeing before the pandemic, while lowest scores were reported in the answers referred to the COVID-19 period," said study author Elisabetta Micelli.

"We aimed to evaluate if pandemic-related concerns and worries are affecting the desire for parenthood in couples who were already planning to have a child or if quarantine is encouraging reproductive desire," Micelli added.

The researchers found that the main reasons that led people to not wanting to conceive included worries related to future economic difficulties and consequences on pregnancy.

Nevertheless, despite most people not wanting to conceive during the pandemic, 60 per cent of the 268 correspondents already planning to conceive have carried on in their quest - with the experts suggesting that the fear of infertility potentially occurring in the future, outweighs the worries of the consequences of COVID-19 infection. Additionally, some 140 (11.5 per cent) people, in fact, revealed a new desire for parenthood during the quarantine. Specifically, the wish was mainly expressed by women. The study also measured people's reported levels of sexual activity.

(Source: IANS)

Kids

GN

12:00 Ogy And The Cockroaches
13:00 Bandbudh Aur Budbak Roll No. 21
16:00 Bandbudh Aur Budbak Ogy And The Cockroaches
17:00 Ogy And The Cockroaches Roll No. 21
19:00 Bandbudh Aur Budbak
21:00 Ogy And The Cockroaches
23:30 The Tom & Jerry Shows

100%

12:30 Chhota Bheem Kung Fu...
13:00 Chhota Bheem

100%

15:00 Chhota Bheem Kung Fu...
15:30 Chhota Bheem Grizzy And The Lemmings
16:30 Chhota Bheem Grizzy And The Lemmings
17:30 Chhota Bheem Chhota Bheem Neeli Pahadi
20:00 Chhota Bheem Grizzy And The Lem...
22:00 Mr. Bean
23:00 M.A.D.
23:30 Grizzy And The Lem...

Entertainment

SONY SAB

12:00 Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah
17:00 My Name Iji Lakkhan
17:30 Badi Doooor Se Aaye hai

100%

18:00 Office Office
18:30 Partners Trouble Ho Gayi Double
19:00 Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah...
19:30 Tanali Rama
20:00 Baalveer Returns
20:30 Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah...
21:00 Sajjan Fe Jhoot Mat Bolo
21:30 Saat Phero Ki Hera Pherie
22:00 Jijaji Chhat Per Hair
23:00 Office Office
23:00 Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah...
23:30 Jijaji Chhat Per Hair

rishtey

12:00 Kitchen Champion
13:00 Thapki Pyar Ki
14:00 Kasam Tere Pyaar Ki

Entertainment

16:00 Sasural Simar Ka
19:00 Madhubala - Ek Ishq Ek Junoon
20:00 Sasural Simar Ka
22:00 Kasam Tere Pyaar Ki

STAR PLUS

12:30 Mahabharat
13:00 Yeh Rishita Kya Kehlata hai
14:30 Diya Aur Baati Hum

STAR NIFT

12:00 Savdhaan India - F.I.R.
13:00 Savdhaan India - Naya Adhyay
14:00 Savdhaan India : India Fights Back

100%

16:00 Saath Nibhaana Saathiya
17:30 Mann Ki Awaaz...Pratigya
18:30 Radhakrishn
19:30 Ramayan
20:30 Mahabharat
22:00 Devon Ka Dev Mahadev
23:00 Ramayan

colors

14:00 Mahabharat
16:30 Jai Shri Krishna
18:00 Balka Yachhu
19:00 Mahabharat

100%

12:30 Spyder
15:00 Pavitra Rishita
17:00 Brahmakshas
18:00 Paramavator Shri Krishna
18:30 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Lil Champs
20:00 Qubool Hai

Entertainment

21:30 Dance India Dance
23:00 Kehne Ko Humsafar Hai
23:30 Zee Cine Awards 2019

STAR PLUS

12:30 Mahabharat
13:00 Yeh Rishita Kya Kehlata hai
14:30 Diya Aur Baati Hum

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20:00 Qubool Hai

Movies

MOVIES

14:00 Action Cuts
14:30 Runaway Bride
16:30 Commando
18:30 Fantastic Four: Rise...
20:00 Ice Age: Continental Drift
21:30 Armour Of God

MOVIES

12:00 Pirates Of The Caribbean: On Stranger...
14:30 Supreme Khiladi
17:30 The Wolverine
19:30 Fantastic Four: Rise Of...
21:00 Anaconda 3: Offspring
23:00 Night At The Museum...

UTV MOVIES

12:00 Arundhati Ek Anokhi...
14:30 Tum Se Achha Kaun Hai
17:30 Makkhi
20:00 Main Hoon Surya...
23:30 The Ghazi Attack

MOVIES

12:00 Godzilla (2014)
16:00 Godzilla (2014)

HBO

12:00 Hotel For Dogs
14:00 Edge Of Tomorrow
16:00 Godzilla (2014)
18:00 She's Out Of My League
19:30 Journey To The Center Of The Earth
21:00 Annabelle
22:30 Carriers

MOVIES

13:00 Batman Forever
15:00 Mousehunt
16:30 Beneath
18:30 Pain & Gain
19:30 Win A Date With Tad Hamilton!
21:00 Event Horizon
22:30 Batman

Movies

MOVIES

12:30 DJ
15:00 Sivaji: The Boss
18:00 The Mummy
20:00 Kabir Singh
23:30 Mar Mitenge 2

MOVIES

12:00 Total Dhamaal
14:30 Taqdeer
17:00 Kaala Karikaalan
20:00 Chup Chup Ke
23:30 Hungama

UTV MOVIES

12:30 Makkhi
17:30 Makkhi

MOVIES

12:00 The Real Tiger
15:00 Paapi Devataa
17:30 Police Police
18:30 Ajay
22:30 Gaddaar

MOVIES

12:30 Coolie
15:30 Karz
18:30 The Power Of 3 Jai Luv Kush
21:00 Bengal Tiger
23:30 Daring Policowala

MOVIES

12:00 The Real Tiger
15:00 Paapi Devataa
17:30 Police Police
18:30 Ajay
22:30 Gaddaar

MOVIES

12:00 Countdown To UFC 249
13:00 NBA 2019/20 Hls
14:00 FA Cup Classics
15:00 TNA Greatest Matches 2015
17:00 Dream Team
17:30 Olympic On The Records
18:00 NBA 2019/20 Hls
19:00 Inside The Octagon 249
19:30 UFC Fight Flashback 20
20:00 FA Cup Classics
21:00 Dream Team
21:30 Best Of UEFA Champ...
22:00 Inside The Octagon 249
22:30 UFC Fight Flashback
23:00 Dream Team

Infotainment

ANIMAL PLANET

12:00 Wild Frank
13:00 Animals Unleashed
13:30 Animal Planet Exclusives
14:00 Amazing Animal Families

100%

14:30 How Do Animals Do That?
15:00 Nature's Strangest...
15:30 The Cute Ones
16:00 Mahayudh
17:00 Attenborough's Wild...
17:30 Animals Unleashed
18:00 Bizarre Beasts
19:00 Animal Planet Exclusives
20:00 Nature's Strangest My
20:30 The Lost Kingdom
21:00 River Monsters
22:00 Wild Frank
23:00 Mahayudh

NAT GEO WILD

12:00 Manta Mystery
13:00 Wild Families
14:00 Secrets Of Wild India
14:30 Monkey Thieves
15:00 Survival Of The Fittest
16:00 Animal Fight Club
17:00 India's Jungle Heroes
17:30 Monkey Thieves
18:00 Wild Hunters
19:00 Real Wild Battles
20:00 Survival Of The Fittest
20:30 World's Wierdest
21:00 Born In Africa
22:00 India's Jungle Heroes
23:00 Animals Gone Wild
23:30 Dangerous Encounters

Infotainment

HISTORY TV 18

12:00 Forged In Fire
12:30 Ancient Aliens
13:30 Pawn Stars
14:00 Storage Wars
14:30 Secrets Of The Super...
15:00 OMG! Yeh Mera India
16:00 Knife Or Death
16:30 Crazy Wheels
17:00 Storage War
17:30 Shipping Wars
18:00 Monster Motor Challenge
19:00 Food Tech
20:00 Meenakshi Amman...
21:00 Knife Or Death
22:00 Pawn Stars
22:30 Storage Wars
23:00 The Curse Of Oak Island

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

12:00 Snakes in the City
13:00 Monster Croc Wrangler
13:30 Primal Survivor

100%

14:00 Running Wild With Bear...
14:30 Outback Wrecking
15:00 Out There With Jack...
16:00 Primal Survivor
16:30 Monster Croc Wrangler
17:00 Dirty Rotten Survival
17:30 Do Or Die
18:30 World's Most Extreme
19:00 Snakes in the City
20:00 Monster Croc Wrangler
21:00 Primal Survivor
22:00 Running Wild With Bear...
22:30 Monster Croc Wrangler
23:00 Witness To Disaster

Regional

NEWS LIVE

07:00 Breakfast Live
08:00 Live at 8
09:00 Good morning Assam
10:00 Assamese news
11:30 Kotha Bara (F)
12:00 Mid Day Live
13:00 Assamese Telefilm
14:30 Afternoon Prime
17:30 Guwahati Bisesh
18:00 Guwahati Live
18:30 Breaking @ 6:30
19:00 Assamese Prime Time
20:00 Discussion Show
21:00 Super Prime Time
22:00 Live at 10
22:30 Noix Guwahati
23:00 Noix Batori

18

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

100%

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

100%

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

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Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Saturday, May 9, 2020:

Fearless and fair in protecting the underdog, you have a year in which you can obtain your ideals. Your well-developed business acumen guarantees you personal and financial success. If single, you will seek out an individual who cares as much as you do, and you will succeed. If attached, you must learn to get off the soapbox at times and devote more energy to the beautiful life you have created together. CAPRICORN wants you to conserve your resources.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ An invitation you have received, from a distant family member or a romantic love interest, may finally take place after July. It's something to hope for and look forward to - when invitations and good news again come your way. Tonight: Celebrate your future.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Information is revealed concerning the feelings and plans of another. You will become aware of what you are about to outgrow, both personally and professionally. A well-educated and well-traveled new friend can be a source of happiness. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Romantic happiness is very likely to come along today. Always be careful to compliment those you love and admire. You tend to show concern and affection by offering to solve problems for those you love. Tonight: Listen carefully to what a child must tell you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Animal companions might require some loving attention and perhaps a checkup with the vet. On a personal level, be aware of health habits and resolve to overcome any factors that might undermine your wellness. Tonight: Others insist upon taking the initiative. Let them.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Today enables you to understand children well. Listen carefully to loved ones, and a new rapport will develop. Friendships can move to a deeper level. Others will offer you the emotional support you need. Tonight: A new strength and confidence grows.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Home and heritage can feel a little restrictive today. Your tastes and priorities are not like those of your relatives. Flexibility and patience help. A neighbor becomes a better friend. A home repair might be needed. Tonight: Read between the lines.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ It is a day to listen carefully. A casual remark or a short, informal note can contain valuable information. Others have definite plans and suggestions. Try to be cooperative. Patience on your part averts a confrontation. Tonight: Teamwork holds the key to success for now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Changing to accommodate shifting economic demands in the world around you is important if you are to be successful. Be receptive to the idea of developing a new job skill or accepting a transfer. Tonight: Listen to someone you see every day for a suggestion.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You will have had enough by today. Your assertiveness will intensify. Much can be accomplished, although you will be surrounded by some controversy. Celebrate the changes you want to make in your life. Tonight: Do exactly as you want, and how you want.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Today is perfect for soul-searching and self-analysis. You will feel the need to keep secrets. Discretion is an issue. It will be easier to express yourself when the new week begins. But for now, give plenty of time to yourself in silence. Tonight: Early bedtime.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Friends are very concerned and kind to you today. A conversation inspires you creatively. An artistic or well-mannered companion adds a note of genuine culture and harmony to your life. Plan a jaunt with a loved one. Tonight: Catch up with a social group.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your life path is about to enter a whole new phase. Be receptive to growth. You're due for added recognition in the weeks ahead. Just double-check directions, appointments and information for accuracy. Tonight: Draw up a list of your important goals.

Thought for the day
Listen to the desires of your children. Encourage them and then give them the autonomy to make their own decision.
- DENIS WAITLEY

LOCKHORNS

THE PHANTOM

THE PHANTOM

By Lee Falk

BLONDIE

By Lee Falk

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

Tribune CROSSWORD - 6889

1	2	3	4	5	6
7					
10	11	12	13		
14			15		16
		17	18		19
		21		22	
23			24		25
26		27	28		29
		32		33	31
34					
				35	
36					

Across

4 Six-line stanza (6)
7 Immediately after this (8)
8 Summits, top points (6)
10 Wall or bemoan (5)
13 Enfold (4)
14 Republic in W Africa (4)
15 Hard to hold (4)
16 Hostelry (3)
17 Annoyed (4)
19 Irish Gaelic (4)
21 Famous mountain range and pass in India (9)
23 Dispatch (4)
24 Formerly (4)
26 Male child (3)

Down

1 Medieval oboe (5)
2 Lag behind (5)
3 Enormous (4)
4 Growl (5)
5 Ooze (4)
6 Everlasting to bards (6)
9 Cheque writers (? (6)
11 Solo of "Star Wars" (3)
12 Month after Adar (5)
13 Friday night to Sunday (7)
15 Long period (3)
16 Any distinctive doctrine or practice (3)
18 Establish by law (6)
20 Ranked (5)
21 Lock opener (3)
22 Mine yield (3)
23 Dipped in liquid (6)
25 Pounds per sq inch (3)
28 Connection, link (5)
30 Besmirch (5)
31 Aesthetic (5)
32 Footnote word (4)
33 A burning liquid (4)

SOLUTION TO TRIBUNE CROSSWORD - 6889

Across: 4. Jester, 7. Heronspur, 8. Apexes, 10. Whine, 13. Wrap, 14. Mail, 15. Ealy, 16. Sep, 17. Sore, 19. Fcse, 21. Karakoram, 23. Snd, 24. Est, 26. Boy, 27. Armt, 29. Esse, 32. Vied, 33. Admit, 34. Ether, 32. Vied, 33. Admit.

Down: 1. Shamay, 2. Trail, 3. Huger, 4. Snaul, 5. Etern, 6. Oedim, 9. Sphnx, 35. Uitimate, 36. Adress.

HEALTH CAPSULES®
by Bron Smith

WILL GARGLING WITH HYDROGEN PEROXIDE HARM MY TEETH?

HYDROGEN PEROXIDE SHOULD BE AVOIDED AS A MOUTHWASH BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO THE INTERIOR DENTAL PULP OF THE TOOTH. A 2013 STUDY REVEALED THAT EVEN LOW CONCENTRATIONS OF HYDROGEN PEROXIDE TRIGGER MOLECULAR MECHANISMS THAT CAUSE PROGRAMMED DEATH OF PULP CELLS.

Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.

JUMBLED WORDS
Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

LLTOR
EHYLO
EIKLNU
AEPRC

Each - lives by its mysterious life. - Wassily Kandinsky (6)

SOLUTION
Answers: Each colour lives by its mysterious life - Wassily Kandinsky

Man from Lanka tests COVID-19 positive in Dubai

A CORRESPONDENT

NAGAON, May 8: Amidst the heightened COVID-19 fear across the globe, a man from Fultoli village under Lanka police station in Hojai district reportedly tested COVID-19 positive in Dubai and was stable at a hospital there.

According to sources, the man named Nazmul Haque Laskar, who has been working in Dubai for the last couple of years, had already contacted his family members over telephone and ensured his COVID-19 infection.

As per information given by family members of the COVID-19 patient, Nazmul was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Dubai and is now stable.

The family members also informed that Nazmul had visited them at his native village in the first half of February last and, thereafter, he went back to Dubai.

Drug peddler arrested, cough syrup seized

A CORRESPONDENT

NAGAON, May 8: In a joint search operation by a team of CID from Guwahati and the local Morikolung police, one drug peddler, who is a resident of Morikolung Charikhuti area, was arrested along with a huge amount of banned cough syrup bottles this morning.

The arrested peddler has been identified as Nekib Ahmed. Police recovered a huge amount of banned cough syrup from his house.

Subsequently, based on his statement, the police and CID team again jointly raided the house of one Jakir Hussain situated in the same area and recovered more than 537 bottles of banned cough syrup from his possession. However, Hussain managed to escape.

Sources said the CID sleuths have brought Nekib Ahmed to its Guwahati-based headquarters for further interrogation.

Huge quantity of PDS rice seized

CORRESPONDENT

BARPETA, May 8: A huge quantity of rice meant for public distribution system (PDS) and a rice-laden truck were seized during a raid by the officials from the Anti Corruption Cell in association with the police at Kahibari near here today.

According to available information, a joint team led by Pinaki Prasad Mishra and Pratim Gogoi, both inspectors of Anti Corruption Cell, DSP Samiran Baishya and Barpeta circle officer Nabajit Pathak conducted the raid in a warehouse at Kahibari and found 840 bags of rice meant for PDS stored illegally there. The warehouse was sealed following the raid.

The team also seized a rice-laden truck there, bearing registration no. AS 01 GC 3136. Apart from rice bags, a scooter was also seized from the truck.



Disinfectants being sprayed at a street in Gohpur, on Friday. — UB Photos

Cachar admin on edge after detection of more COVID-19 cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, May 8: Three more persons who returned from Ajmer have tested COVID-19 positive in Cachar district. While this was confirmed by a tweet from Health Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma at 3.45 pm today, Silchar MP Dr Rajdeep Roy said the district is gearing up to put in place as many as 6,000 beds for quarantine, if the situation gets worse in the next few days.

So far, the Silchar Medical College and Hospital have six COVID-19 positive patients undergoing treatment and the

newly detected positive patients have taken the tally to nine positive patients in the district, he added.

"We are taking measures to put in place 2,000 beds for institutional quarantine immediately and up to 6,000 beds for facility quarantine if cases blow up in the district. We are also contemplating that the district is likely to be taken in the Orange zone bracket. However, there is nothing to panic," Dr Roy told mediapersons here.

Suman Choudhury, district media expert, NHM, said 14 members from the families of four positive contacts, who are

from Pechador Ramnagar area in the district, have been taken to the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya quarantine centre and the three new positive patients, who shared the same bus from Ajmer with the person from Sonitpur district, will be shifted to the COVID-19 ward at Silchar Medical College and Hospital by tonight.

"From the contact tracing history of the positive patients, over 180 persons have been listed for quarantine," Choudhury added.

Keerthi Jalli to join as new Cachar DC: In an order from the Department of Personnel, Government of As-

sam, issued on Friday, Keerthi Jalli, IAS, the Deputy Commissioner of Hailakandi, has been transferred and posted as the new Deputy Commissioner of Cachar district.

Jalli who joined as Hailakandi Deputy Commissioner in January 2019 will replace the outgoing Cachar Deputy Commissioner Barnali Sarma, ACS who has been transferred and posted as the director, Employment and Craftsmen Training.

Megha Nidhi Dahal, IAS, who has been rendering duties as staff officer to the Chief Secretary, will join as the new Deputy Commissioner of Hailakandi, the order said.

Ensure Visakhapatnam like mishaps don't take place in State, govt urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, May 8: Following the chemical leak tragedy at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh, which claimed several lives and caused illness several others, apprehension among the people around Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited (BCPL) site at Lepetkata here is obvious as it houses a major petrochemical complex.

Given the critical nature of the industry, All Assam Students' Union (AASU) has asked the government and the concerned industry authorities to ensure that Visakhapatnam like mishaps do not take place here. Referring to both chemical and gas-based industries in the State, AASU general secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi has asked authorities concerned to ensure that precautionary measures are in place to prevent any untoward incident.

"Negligence and lackadaisical attitude must not become a factor for calamity. The authorities must do continuous monitoring of the plants and seek to improvise the machineries time to time. They must frequently conduct survey of all vulnerable areas and ensure maintenance and safety standards. The authorities must also review its strength and preparedness to neutralize any contingency. How far emergency response teams are

trained, updated and equipped also needs continuous review so that all sorts of apprehensions among the people surrounding the industries are dispelled," said Lurinjyoti Gogoi. While referring to Assam Petrochemicals Limited (APL) and the Brahmaputra Valley Fertilizer Corporation (BVFCL), the AASU leader also asked the government to ensure that the plants do not outlive its utilities and that they are revamped timely.

Assam students in Andhra, Telangana urge govt to bring them back home

CORRESPONDENT

UDALGURI, May 8: Students from Assam, who are studying pharmacy and paramedical courses in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, have appealed to the Assam government for help in bringing them back to their homes.

According to information available, a total of 183 students of Darrang, Udalguri, Sonitpur and Baksa districts of Assam are stranded in these two South Indian States.

The students said that they were stuck in their college hostels. Apart from facing food shortage, they said they

have also run out of cash.

Sunita Daimari, a student of Udalguri district of Assam, said: "I am pursuing nursing course here at St Ann's School of Nursing in Warangal district of Telangana, where there are 96 students of Assam and we are struck here and are desperate to go home. Please allow us to go to Assam. We appeal to Assam Health and Finance Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma to help us by facilitating our travel and we are ready to pay for our travel expenses."

Another student, Rwmwi Daimari said, "We have been informed by various sources that

the Central government is mulling to take us back home via special trains but we are yet to receive any official communication. So we request the Assam government to adopt similar measures like they took for the students of Kota, Rajasthan."

Another Monisha Boro, echoing the woes of students, said that she hoped that the Assam government would surely help them.

It is to be noted that the Ministry of Home Affairs had also issued an order allowing the movement of migrant workers, tourists, students and other persons stranded at different places, by special trains.

The order said that the Ministry of Railways will designate nodal officers to coordinate with the respective States and the UTs for movement of these trains. "The Ministry of Railways will issue detailed guidelines for sale of tickets, and for social distancing and other safety measures to be observed at train stations, train platforms and within the trains," the order stated.

On the other hand, the worried parents of the students too hoped that both the Union and State governments would be instrumental in getting their children back to their homes in this critical situation.

Thermal screening under way in Karimganj district

ANN SERVICE

NILAMBAZAR, May 8: The district administration has deputed 59 medical teams to conduct door-to-door thermal screening of people and create awareness on COVID-19 outbreak in Karimganj.

Deputy Commissioner Ambamuthan MP informed reporters that under a pilot project, the administration with the help of Health department has decided to conduct thermal screening in villages.

"The medical teams will screen all members of every family and check their body temperature. They will also maintain a list of the travel history of people to trace their contacts. If anyone is found symptomatic, he or she will be tested for COVID-19," he added.

"Each medical team consists of one ASHA worker and one ANM staff member, besides doctors. ASHA and ANM workers have already been given training and medical kits have been provided to them," Ambamuthan informed.

"There are 237 sub-centres under Health department. All the panchayat members have requested to cooperate with the medical teams in their respective jurisdictions," the DC added.

Meanwhile, Karimganj MP Kripanath Mallah has handed over 20 thermal screening test machines and Axis Bank, Karimganj branch donated 10 machines to the Deputy Commissioner in a meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's conference hall on Monday.

Condensate oil worth Rs 8.5 lakh seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, May 8: Acting on a tip off, a police team led by Additional Superintendent of Police Padmanabh Baruah today raided the house of one Jadu Borah of Senchowra Pukhuri under Khowang PS and recovered about 15,000 litres of condensate oil worth around Rs 8.5 lakh in the black market. One XUV vehicle and one DI van besides two electric motors were also seized from his possession, police informed.

One trampled to death by domestic elephant

CORRESPONDENT

NORTH LAKHIMPUR, May 8: A person was trampled to death by a domesticated elephant in Bogenadi in Lakhimpur district on Wednesday. The tragic incident took place on NH-15 near the Padumoni Forest camp under Palthalipam Forest Beat of Lakhimpur district which falls under Bogenadi Police Station.

The victim has been identified as Manoranjan Pegu (35) of Paken village under Gohpur Police Station of Biswanath district. Pegu was stuck with his domesticated elephant inside Arunachal Pradesh in Dullungmukh during the lockdown and was returning home along with a group on that day. The group consisted of two domesticated elephant and suddenly one of them turned violent and trampled Pegu to death. The charging elephant then entered the nearby jungle with the

mahout on its back, where it was later chained after a long struggle. The officials from the Palthalipam Forest Beat reached the spot along with police from the Bogenadi Police Station and Chawul Dhowa Police Outpost and sent the victim's body for post-mortem to North Lakhimpur.

The inter-State boundary area in Lakhimpur district with Arunachal Pradesh stretching from Dullung-Kakoi-Zoiling-Ronga-Bogolee-Durnag to Sesa is an elephant corridor where man-elephant conflicts take place in regular intervals often leading to tragedies.

On March 11 this year, a teenage girl was trampled to death in Zoiling Tea Estate on Assam-Arunachal boundary in Lakhimpur. This elephant corridor zone has been badly affected by unplanned and unauthorized human settlements, plantations of encroached forest lands and other illegal activities

since a long period of time.

It may be recalled that rural areas of Lakhimpur district bordering Arunachal Pradesh have been severely hit by movement of wild elephants since last week of April. A lone wild jumbo has been creating panic among the villagers near Harmutty under Bogolee Reserve Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary and was first seen visiting residential areas. After that, the same jumbo was seen in Rajgarh area in Shimaluguri, which had reportedly come down from the Sesa hills from Arunachal Pradesh. Interestingly, the wild elephant was roaming around the area because of the presence of a domesticated female elephant and her calf. Though the wild jumbo was pushed back by the forest personnel from Lakhimpur towards the hills of Arunachal Pradesh, it came back soon for the domestic elephant roaming in the villages of Madhupur, Shankarpur, Ram-

pur and Bisabari. On April 28, the wild jumbo was pushed towards the hills in Letekujan area from Nojpur village in Shimaluguri after an 11-hour operation conducted jointly by the police and Forest department. However, the wild jumbo returned to the domestic one on the very next day and damaged a tractor used for carrying food to the domestic mother-calf duo by their mahout.

Earlier on April 25, a large herd of wild elephants crossed the village of Bhitripam-Nepali in Phulbari in Nowboicha and moved to Bogolee Reserve Forest. The area, earmarked as an elephant corridor, has not been properly maintained by the district Forest department as alleged by some local villagers. Therefore, the crossing of more than 100 wild elephants through the village created panic among the people as houses were destroyed by them on earlier occasions.

No. SBM(U)218/2020/91

Re-Tender Notice

In reference with earlier Notice on e-bidding no SBM(U)218/2020/08 Dated: 27.04.2020 for "Supply & Delivery of Cloth Masks, Hand Gloves, Manual Spraying Machines and Water proof Full Jackets with Trousers & Caps through Assam Govt. e-procurement portal <http://assamtenders.gov.in>" stand cancelled and Re-Tendered inviting from eligible bidders.

Detail of Tender document may be seen in the Assam Govt. e-procurement portal <http://assamtenders.gov.in>

Sd/- Mission Director,
Swachh Bharat Mission (U), Assam
Dispur, Guwahati-6

Janasanyog/CF/191/20

No. CE/Maint/A.D./404/2019/14

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Chief Engineer PWD(Roads), Assam, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bids amounting to Rs.1451.73 Lakh (approx.) for Improvement / Construction of roads under SOPD (G), Asom Darshan for the year 2020-21 in 06 (Six) nos. of packages in the district of Morigaon. Details may be seen in the website assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned in the "Maintenance Cell" during office hours from 13.05.2020 to 01.06.2020.

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

Janasanyog/CF/185/20

No.CE/REC/35/2017/Pt./11

PRESS NOTICE

It is for general information to all concerned that the bid invited earlier vide Press Notice No.CE/REC/35/2017/Pt./9 Dtd. 16.03.2020 is hereby cancelled and fresh Bid is invited on behalf of the Governor of Assam with Bid Price Rs. 8,85,85,896.00 for the work "Construction of 3rd & 4th floor in the New RCC Judicial Court Building under Construction at Silchar, Cachar" with a validity period of 180 (one hundred eighty) days from the date of opening of the tender from registered PWD Contractor/Firm/Pvt. Limited Company of Class-I(A) category.

Details of the bids and Detail Notice Inviting Bid may be seen in the P.W.D. portal assamtenders.gov.in

The Bidders must be registered with the E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam.

All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents. The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Documents.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Bldg.)
Assam, Guwahati-3.

Janasanyog/C/255/20

No. CE/REC/09/2020/5

PRESS NOTICE

It is for general information to all concerned that the bid invited earlier vide Press Notice No. CE/REC/09/2020/3 Dtd. 03.03.2020 is hereby cancelled and fresh bid is invited on behalf of the Governor of Assam with Bid Price Rs. 2,12,34,021.00 for the work, "Chief Minister Special Cell for Women & Children (ICPS) for the financial year 2018-19" with a validity of 180 (one hundred eighty) days from the date of opening of the tender from registered PWD Contractor/Firm/Pvt. Limited Company of Class-I (A & B) category.

Details of the bids and Detail Notice Inviting Bid may be seen in the P.W.D. portal assamtenders.gov.in.

The Bidders must be registered with the E-tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam.

All terms and conditions will be as per the Bidding Documents.

The Press Notice will be a part of the Bidding Documents.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, PWD (Bldg.)
Assam, Guwahati-3.

Janasanyog/C/263/20

SHORT TENDER NOTICE

Seal Quotation affixing Non refundable court fee Stamps of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight & twenty five paise) only are hereby invited from the intending Firms/Wholesalers/Suppliers of North Salmara Sub-Division for supply of items in connection with relief works for the year 2020-21 under North Salmara Sub-Division. The rate should be quoted against each item inclusive of all Taxes. The interested parties may submit quotation will be received in the office of the undersigned on 12.05.2020 up to 3.00 PM which will be opened on the same day at 3.30 PM in presence of the Tenders.

The sample of each items should be produced by the bidders during the opening time of Tenders. The undersigned is not bound to accept the lowest rates and right to accept or reject any Tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Details of GR items, terms and condition may be obtained from the office of the undersigned .

Sd/- Sub-Divisional Officer(C)
North Salmara Abhayapuri.

Janasanyog/C/281/20

অসম লোকসেৱা আয়োগ
ASSAM PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022

No. 17PSC/CON/Exam-27/2018-2019 Dated Guwahati, the 8th May, 2020

NOTIFICATION

The Assam Public Service Commission hereby declares today, the 8th May, 2020, the result of the Written Examination for the post of **Assam Finance Service (in the cadre of Finance & Accounts Officer/Treasury Officer) (Class-I Grade-III)** which was conducted by the Commission w.e.f. 20.01.2019 & 27.01.2019. Candidates bearing the following Roll Numbers are declared to have qualified for the interview (Viva-Voce). The date of interview (Viva-Voce) will be notified separately.

Serially, in order of Roll Numbers only (horizontally):

100129	100240	100563	100673	100895	101040	101799
101872	102142	102250	102269	102360	102362	102452
102531	102740	102751	102782	102808	102818	102831
102958	103014	103088	103098	103171	103223	103248
103302	103404	103418	103489	103882	103883	103917
103947	104000	104009	104041	104048	104050	104052
104089	104107	104116	104122	104159	104195	104268
104272	104350	104353	104363	104384	104397	104428
104454	104455	104470	104767	104934	104939	105127
105209	105383	105440	105514	105869	105880	105914
105954	105980	106123	106152	106177	106216	106235
106237	106251	106299	106321	106322	106347	106350
106668	106905	106986	107035	107067	107073	107118
107265	107342	107346	107372	107381	107385	107453
107568	107581	107633	107637	107715	107734	107750
107796	107887	108250	108289	108340	108455	108563
108626	108645	108710	108754	109336	109536	109667
109689	109781	109808	109932	109954	109979	110020
110476	110543	110659	110663	110717	110766	110779
110829	110932	111158	111182	111230	111347	111559
111696	111869	111875	111890	111955	112150	112247
112254	112308	112495	112529			

N.B.: The Commission will not be responsible for any typing/printing mistakes.

Sd/- Principal Controller of Examinations,
Assam Public Service Commission,
Jawaharnagar, Khanapara, Guwahati-22

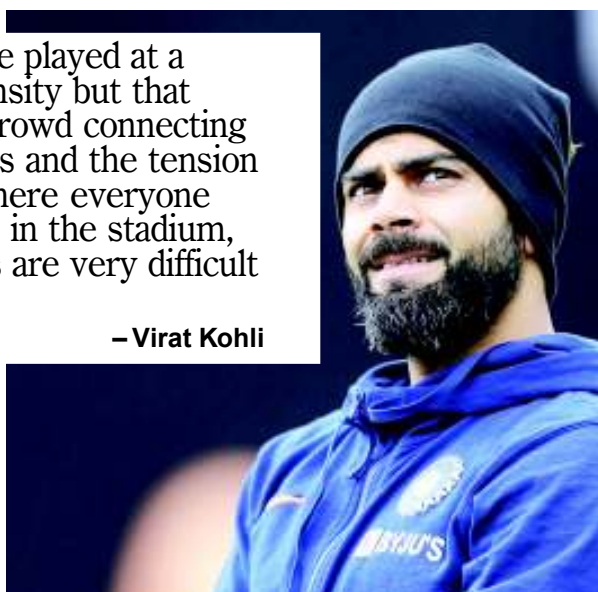
Janasanyog/D/480/20

'Sports without fans possible but magic will be missing'

NEW DELHI, May 8: India skipper Virat Kohli believes cricket in empty stadiums is a real possibility in a post COVID-19 world and though it is unlikely to have a bearing on the intensity of players, he feels the magic would certainly go missing. Cricket boards across the globe are exploring the option of resuming the sport in empty stadiums. There is speculation that fans could be kept away from stadiums in a bid to salvage the T20 World Cup in Australia, which is currently under threat due to the global health crisis. "It's quite a possible situation, it might happen, I honestly don't know how everyone is going to take that because we all are used to playing in front of so many passionate fans," Kohli said in Star Sports' show 'Cricket Connected'.

I know it will be played at a very good intensity but that feeling of the crowd connecting with the players and the tension of the game where everyone goes through it in the stadium, those emotions are very difficult to recreate.

— Virat Kohli



"I know it will be played at a very good intensity but that feeling of the crowd connecting with the players and the tension of the game where everyone goes through it in the stadium, those emotions are very difficult to recreate," he added.

Kohli said the many moments which are created because of the passion brought in by fans, would be missing. "Things will still go on, but

I doubt that one will feel that magic happening inside because of the atmosphere that was created.

"We will play sports how it is supposed to be played, but those magical moments

will be difficult to come by," he said.

Cricketers such as Ben Stokes, Jason Roy, Jos Buttler and Pat Cummins have backed the idea of playing behind closed doors. — PTI

BCCI to form panel to run Delhi cricket

NEW DELHI, May 8: Without a president and its secretary in jail, the controversy and corruption-ridden Delhi and Districts Cricket Association (DDCA) is set to be directly governed by the BCCI through an ad-hoc committee. The BCCI has already stopped DDCA's annual grant and there has been a discussion to put an ad-hoc body in place during a tele-conference between Apex Council members a couple of days back. "There are endless complaints of corruption at all levels as far as DDCA is concerned. Most of the Apex Council members feel that till a proper set up can be put in place, an Ad-hoc body should be put in place," a senior BCCI official told PTI on conditions of anonymity. The DDCA is already without a president since senior journalist Rajat Sharma resigned while general secretary Vinod Tihara is in a Meerut jail for alleged violation of the

Customs Act. Most of the DDCA's Apex Council members have been suspended by state body's Ombudsman for their alleged involvement in financial impropriety with regards to some renovation work. Apart from these allegations, there have been allegations of compromising merit in selection matters from age group to Ranji team. "There is no president at the moment and a secretary who is in jail and he can't come back and take over the administration even if he gets bail. Just like we did in Rajasthan, we can form a body that looks after cricketing as well as administrative matters," the senior official said. Asked whether the appointment of an ad-hoc committee can happen only after the lockdown ends, another senior Apex Council member said: "You never know, it could happen even before the lockdown ends." — PTI

PL yet to have 'green light': Minister

LONDON, May 8: Britain's Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden warned on Friday that the Premier League does not yet have the "green light" to resume but restated the government's hope that the season can be completed. Premier League clubs are

But those at risk of relegation argue that the integrity of the competition would be compromised by the neutral-venue plan. Brighton chief executive Paul Barber is opposed to the idea, with the Seagulls hovering two points above the drop



due to meet on Monday to discuss the latest plans for "Project Restart" — a day after an expected minor easing of coronavirus lockdown measures. Clubs are understood to have been told that the use of a limited number of neutral venues is the only way to complete the campaign, to limit the strain on essential services and discourage gatherings of supporters near stadiums.

zone. Brighton were scheduled to play five of their remaining nine games at home. Despite extensive contingency planning, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Oliver Dowden warned the Premier League was yet to get the go-ahead, with testing and player welfare major hurdles. "They've not been given the green light," Dowden told BBC Radio on Friday. — AFP

South African cricketer Nqweni tests positive for COVID-19

JOHANNESBURG, May 8: Solo Nqweni, a South African first-class cricketer who has been battling multiple health issues, has tested positive for coronavirus.

The 25-year-old all-rounder is also being treated for Guillain-Barre Syndrome — a condition in which the immune system attacks the nerves. He is currently in Aberdeen, Scotland and shared the news of him contracting COVID-19 on Twitter.

Nqweni is the third cricketer known to have contracted the disease after Pakistan's Zafar Sarfraz and Scotland's Majid Haq. "So last year I got GBS, and have been battling this disease for the past 10 months and I'm only half way through my recovery. I got TB, my liver failed and my kidney failed. Now today I tested positive for coronavirus. I don't understand why all of this is happening to me," Nqweni tweeted.

This diagnosis is the latest in a long line of health issues for Nqweni, who spent four weeks in an induced coma last year. — AFP

Son Heung-min earns military accolade

SEOUL, May 8: Tottenham Hotspur striker Son Heung-min was named one of the top five recruits in his unit as he finished three weeks of compulsory military training in South Korea on Friday.

South Korea's marine corps posted pictures of Son wielding an M-16 assault rifle and saluting on their Facebook page as he completed his stint at a boot camp.

All able-bodied South Korean men are obliged to serve in the military for nearly two years, making up the bulk of Seoul's 600,000-strong forces — who face off against North Korea's army of 1.3 million.

But Son — the top Asian goalscorer in Premier League history, and the Asian Football Confederation's reigning international player of the year — was in the South Korean team that earned an exemption by winning gold at the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia.



In this handout image provided by Republic of Korea Marine Corps' official Facebook page, Tottenham Hotspur forward Son Heung-min salutes during the completion ceremony at a Marine Corps boot camp in Seogwipo, Jeju, South Korea.

The Spurs star broke down in tears of joy after the 2-1 extra-time win over Japan, which meant he could fulfil his obligations with just three weeks' basic training and around 500 hours of community service.

In April he reported to a marines camp on the island of Jeju for the basic training, which involved lengthy hikes, as well as tear-gas training and rifle practice.

He was judged among the five best recruits out of 157 on his course, a spokesperson for the Republic of Korea Marine Corps told AFP. "Son did exceptionally well in all areas of training, including military ethics and security education," he added. Likes poured in for the Facebook pictures, with fans posting messages of congratulation. — AFP

S Korean football kicks off with new audience, safety measures

SEOUL, May 8: South Korean football will reach new international TV audiences as it leads the way by restarting after the coronavirus on Friday, but there will be no crowds or wild goal celebrations — and even talking is discouraged.

With most leagues worldwide sidelined by the pandemic, the K-League is the first competition of any standing to come back to life, watched by sport-starved fans in a swathe of foreign countries.

It will provide the first glimpse of post-virus football, with teams under orders to stick to stringent safety guidelines to prevent any contagion.

Players have been told to avoid excessive goal celebrations, handshakes, close talking and blowing their noses, while the stadiums will be devoid of spectators.

But with fans around the world long deprived of live sport, the K-League has signed rights deals with broadcasters in nearly 20 countries including Germany, Switzerland and Australia who will be showing games live. The K-League, whose start was delayed two months by the pandemic, will

also be livestreamed on YouTube and Twitter with English graphics and commentary. Last year rights were sold to only six countries, all of them in Asia.

"Because we had limited exposure to international fans, it is true that the K-League was largely unknown globally despite its competitiveness," said league spokesman Lee Jong-kwon.

"2020 will be the first year the league will be recognised and assessed on a global level."

Defending champions Jeonbuk Motors — managed by Jose Mourinho's former assistant Jose Morais — face Cup-holders Suwon Bluewings in the season-opener in Jeonju, a host city for the 2002 World Cup.

The K-League's progress will be watched closely by other leagues including the giants of Europe, where Germany's Bundesliga is the only competition so far to set a date to return, on May 16.

Players and coaching staff will have their temperatures checked before each game and anyone at 37.5 C (99.5 F) or more will be isolated and tested. — AFP

Chinese Super League could kick off without foreign stars

SHANGHAI, May 8: The coronavirus-delayed Chinese Super League could kick off next month but without some leading foreign stars including Paulinho and Marko Arnautovic, the country's football president has warned.

The CSL became one of the first sporting victims of the pandemic in January when its February 22 start date was indefinitely postponed.

It could now begin in late June but might have to do so with numerous foreign coaches and players missing because of temporary restrictions on entering the country, Chinese Football Association president Chen Xuyuan said. "This is truly a dilemma because as we know, one third of the foreign players and even some coaches haven't come back yet," Chen told state broadcaster CCTV. — AFP

Bhaker gets electronic target installed at home

NEW DELHI, May 8: Pistol ace Manu Bhaker has got a new electronic target installed at the makeshift shooting range at her home in Haryana in place of an archaic manual machine that was breaking down frequently and hampering her Olympics preparation. The old machine was causing her "immense irritation". Delighted by the reboot in her training, the teenaged star has got down to preparing with renewed vigour, sure in her mind that the Olympics will take place next year despite the uncertainty in the world of sports due to the COVID-19 pandemic. "I have recently got the machine installed at my home and this will be surely more bene-



ficial in my training," Bhaker told PTI from her home at Gorla village.

Her father set up the range after she showed exceptional skills in the precision sport. Bhaker thanked the Sports

Authority of India (SAI) and Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ), the organisation that manages her, for promptly getting the machine — an avant-garde target — delivered at her home despite the nationwide lock-

down enforced to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I was facing a lot of issues with the old machine as it was manual. The thread would come off and often it would break down on and off. Now it's very different with the new machine," the 18-year-old Bhaker said.

"Since I feel there is unlikely to be any outdoor action and competitions for another three-four months, I thought it will be useful to get this installed at this point of time."

A medalist at ISSF World Cup, Commonwealth Games and the Youth Olympics, Bhaker was primed for success at sport's grandest and biggest stage in Tokyo which was to happen this year. — PTI

Arjuna awardee's death condoled

GUWAHATI, May 8: The president of the Assam Power Lifting Association Kailash Sarma and secretary Kishore Baruah, on behalf of the organisation condoled the death of Subrata Dutta who was the only power lifter of India to be conferred with the prestigious Arjuna Award.

Dutta, apart from being an eminent powerlifter of the country with national and Asian gold medal, was also the secretary general of the Asian Powerlifting Federation and Indian Powerlifting Federation.

Dutta breathed his last at his Jamshepur residence yesterday after a massive heart attack. He was 79.

MUMBAI, May 8: India will not win the Test series in Australia later this year if they fail to dismiss seasoned run-machines Steve Smith and David Warner early, the great Ian Chappell said on Friday.

Should the much-anticipated series goes ahead as scheduled with the COVID-19 pandemic being brought under control in the best case scenario, the duo's presence will put the hosts at an advantage, according to the former Australian captain.

"I am certainly looking forward to it (the India-Australia series). It will be a very interesting one. India will come with the confidence of having won last time they toured Australia," Chappell said on the 'Sony Ten Pit Stop' show.

The 76-year-old added, "It will be a bit harder this time (for India) with Smith and Warner in the Australian side. But India are well equipped to handle Australian conditions."



Ian Chappell

Under Virat Kohli, India created history when they earned their maiden Test series triumph Down Under in 2018-19, after trying for seven decades. However, at that time, Australia did not have the serv-

ices of the swashbuckling batting duo of Warner and Smith, who were serving bans for ball-tampering.

"Australia are pretty hard to beat at home and particularly with the attack that they have got at the moment, it is a very, very strong attack.

"The batting last time India were here wasn't so good. If India can keep getting Warner and Smith out cheaply, then India could win. If they don't get Warner and Smith cheaply, Australia will win," said Chappell.

Chappell heaped praise on current India skipper Virat Kohli, saying he is the best at the moment when it comes to playing all the three formats, reiterating a point he made recently. — PTI



Ibrahimovic keeps busy in Sweden, fuelling talk he will stay

STOCKHOLM, May 8: AC Milan was on Friday awaiting the belated return of Zlatan Ibrahimovic from a protracted and productive coronavirus exile in Sweden that has fuelled speculation in his native country that their biggest star was coming home for good.

While most of his AC Milan team-mates have had to sit idle because of the pandemic, Ibrahimovic was busy training in Sweden with players at Hammarby, a first-division club which he part owns.

Unlike much of the rest of Europe, where containment has limited or prevented athletes training, in Sweden restrictions to contain COVID-19 have

been more flexible. The start of the Swedish league, scheduled for April 4 has been postponed, but training has continued as long as players avoid close contact, unlike Italy where individual training only resumed this week.

On Tuesday, only Ibrahimovic and Ivory Coast striker Franck Kessie were absent at the Milanello centre for medical tests AC Milan had asked players to take, according to *La Gazzetta dello Sport*.

But on Friday morning, the same newspaper reported that the Swede was expected later in the day. In Sweden, reports on Ibrahimovic's immediate intentions are contradictory.

There have been reports that he was waiting for a clearer picture of how training and Serie A will resume. On the other hand, some media say he is poised to leave for Italy, where Serie A hopes to resume in June.

"If we start on May 4, I will return on May 3. If we start on May 9, I will arrive on May 8," the player was quoted by Swedish public television as saying in April.

The Italian government has not yet agreed to a plan for clubs to resume group training on May 18 and this week, Italian sports minister Vincenzo Spadafora warned that it was "impossible to set a definite date" for Serie A to restart.

In Stockholm, life has been

almost normal for the former Swedish international, who returned home with his family after the break in the Italian championship.

"If you look at Zlatan it's obvious that he gets completely different possibilities to stay in shape compared to the Serie A players that are still in Italy," Martin Petersson, a football journalist with privately-owned TV4, told AFP.

His presence has fuelled the idea that the pandemic will precipitate Ibrahimovic's return to the Swedish league, where it all began for him 20 years ago in Malmö.

Ibrahimovic's contract, signed with Milan in December after a two-year stint in the USA with LA Galaxy, ex-

pires at the end of the season.

In Swedish football, many believe the pony-tailed giant will return to his homeland.

"It feels like Hammarby as an option in the future isn't completely out of the picture," said Petersson.

"He's still missing one trophy, apart from Champions League, and that's the one given to the champions of Sweden. Maybe that's tempting for him?"

In an interview with Dplay, an online video service, Ibrahimovic said earlier in the spring that he had "a contract with Milan (and would wait and see) how it ends.

"I said: 'I want to play football for as long as I can, you never know what might happen.'" — AFP

SU DO KU

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

Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. Fill the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

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