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GUWAHATI, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

p2 England begins to ease **COVID-19 restrictions**

p5 AJYCP wants 'fake farmers' charge probed

p11 First special train from Delhi reaches State

More arrivals

GUWAHATI, May 13: Six buses from Delhi with 163 students and one bus from Chennai with 24 cancer patients and attendants arrived here today. Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma received them at the Sarusajai quarantine facility. - Staff Reporter

Package

GUWAHATI, May 13: Industries and Commerce Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary today welcomed the special focus on the MSME in the Rs 20 lakh crore 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' financial package announced by the Government of India on Tuesday. - Staff Reporter

Evicted land

KAZIRANGA, May 13: The Kaziranga National Park authority was today formally handed over the evicted land at Bandardubi and Deosur after the verification of records and data at Koliabor SDO civil office. The eviction drive was carried out in 2016 as per Guwahati High Court's order. – Correspondent

Monsoon

NEW DELHI, May 13: Monsoon is likely to reach the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago around May 16, nearly six days before its normal onset date, due to a cyclonic circulation in the Bay of Bengal, the IMD said today. – PTI

The Assam Tribune PLANET YOUNG

May 14, 2020

Anne's undying endurance by Chayanika Saikia

■ I, Me, Myself:

Aliza and the magical island

by Akshita Kashyap

Library

Neelotpal Deka ■ Book Nook, Picture

Crossword. Plus Quiz. Poems.

My Viewpoint, Little Hearts, Comics and other

JOCOSERIOUS



It's the mask effect for which I failed to recognise your voice!

15 more test positive for COVID-19 in Guwahati

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 13: In the biggest single day spike in COVID-19 cases in Assam, fifteen people – all said to be contacts of the Fancy Bazar hotel worker - tested positive for the novel coronavirus in Guwahati on Wednesday.

With this, the total number of COVID-19 cases in the State shot up to 79.

The positive patients detected today are Sunil Roy (28), Prabhat Anand (25),

Lakharo Nisab (40), Sanjeet Kumar (24), Sipu Jan Nishad (57), Sumit Kumar (22), Ajay Kumar (32), Sankar Saha (22), Subodh Kumar (49), Mukesh Singh (40), Goni Keward (60), Bindeswar Thakur (30), Prabin Kumar Rao (28), Krishna Kumar Gupta (32) and Biswanath Saha (34).

All were taken to MMCH, a designated COVID-19 hospital, where they will be admitted. Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma rushed to the MMCH to take stock of the situation.

tients to MMCH. All were coworkers of Mungru Sahani who had tested positive a day before," he said, adding that measures regarding containment, etc., would be taken immediately to ensure that the virus does not spread further.

A number of areas in Fancy Bazar, the Northeast's biggest commercial hub, are likely to be declared as containment zones by tomorrow.

The new patients were those who were kept in home isolation since the hotel worker of Fancy Bazar tested positive.

Forty-five-year-old Mungru Sahani, a worker of Rajkamal Hotel, had tested positive a day before. Sahani, who does not have travel history, hails from Azamgarh in Uttar Pradesh and was residing at the Aloopatty area of Fancy Bazar along with his coworkers. Sahani also worked at a potato godown at Changsari that has also been declared a containment zone.

>> SEE PAGE 6

Income tax returns filing date extended

NEW DELHI, May 13: In a relief to taxpayers, the government on Wednesday extended the deadline for filing of all income tax returns for 2019-20 fiscal till November 30, 2020.

Announcing a slew of relief measures for the coronavirus-hit economy, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also slashed TDS (tax deducted at source)/TCS (Tax collected at source) rates for non-salary payments to residents by 25 per cent.

"From tomorrow till March 31, 2021, the TDS/ TCS rates have been reduced by 25 per cent of the existing rate... This shall also apply to all payments for contracts, interest, rent, dividend, commission or brokerage.. all of these will be eligible for 25 per cent rate reduction.

"This reduction would re-

lease nearly Rs 50,000 crore in the hands of the people who would have otherwise paid it as TDS," Sitharaman said. Also, the Vivad Se Vish-

was scheme for direct tax dispute resolution has been extended by six months till December 31, 2020.

Sitharaman further said

the income tax department will fast track processing of pending refunds to charitable trusts, LLPs, non-corporate businesses and proprietorship firms, among others.

Also, assessments getting time-barred on September 30 have been extended till December 31, 2020 and those getting time-barred on March 31, 2021 have been extended till September 30, 2021.

She also said the income tax department has already cleared Rs 18,000 crore worth of refunds where the quantum due was up to Rs 5 lakh. – PTI

Nirmala announces package to boost economy

Rs 3 lakh cr collateral-free loans for small business

The government on Wednesday announced about Rs 6 lakh crore package comprising Rs 3 lakh crore of collateral-free loans for small businesses and a Rs 30,000 crore lifeline to non-bank and housing finance companies as part of measures to help the economy tide over disruptions caused by the coronavirus lockdown.

MSMFs

Fund of Funds

NBFC/HFC/MFIs

New definition for MSMEs

Also, it cut the tax rate on non-salary payments by 25 per cent, extended support to companies to meet statutory liability on employees' retirement fund, provided a Rs 90,000 crore bailout to cashstarved electricity distribution companies and gave construction firms up to six more months to complete the government projects.

Announcing the first set of components of the Rs 20 lakh crore COVID-19 economic stimulus package announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the measures will help "spur growth and build a very selfreliant India".

"It addresses ease of doing business, compliance, and due diligence and the intention is also to build local brands," she said.

The Rs 20 lakh crore spending, including ones previously announced and the Reserve Bank measures, is seen as a government's attempt to check the world's fifth-largest economy hurtling towards its first full-year

contraction in four decades. Sitharaman said automatic collateral-free loans of a 4year tenure with a 12-month moratorium on interest payment, will benefit 45 lakh

Another two lakh such businesses would benefit from a Rs 20,000 crore subordinate debt for stressed or loan defaulting MSMEs, she said, adding a fund of funds for MSMEs is also being created, which will infuse Rs

50,000 crore equity in units

that have growth potential.

>> SEE PAGE 6

Security personnel conducting a preparedness drill at Dibrugarh railway station on the eve of arrival of the first

passenger train amid nationwide lockdown, on Wednesday. - UB Photos

Complete dyke works by May 30: CM

COVID-19 STATUS

WORLD

INDIA

ASSAM

Data as on Wednesday

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 13: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today inspected the construction work of embankment by Water Resource Department from Morihula to Agoratoli range as a protection measure for (KNP). While surveying the work, he directed the de-

Confirmed cases

Death

Death

Death

Cured/Discharged

Confirmed cases

Cured/Discharged

Confirmed cases

Cured/Discharged

partment to complete the embankment project within May 30.

The embankment project, funded by Asian Development Bank, would cover a total length of 23.38 kms and with a width of 7.5 metres would protect the KNP from floods

> SEE PAGE 6

4,390,420

1,633,892

295,335

74,281

24,386

2,415

78

40

2

Sonowal reviews NRL projects

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 13: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has urged the management of Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) to play a proactive role in promoting agro-based economy in the State and take steps for skill development of youth of neighbouring areas.

The Chief Minister made this call during a review of the Numaligarh Refinery Expansion Project (NREP) and the Bio Refinery Plant at the NRL headquarters at Numaligarh today.

Sonowal also visited the construction sites of both the projects and took stock of physical progress of the projects.

He said in the industrial landscape of Assam, NRL is playing an important role and has generated much hope for the State's economy, especially in view of its expansion project and the biofuel plant.

"However, it is time NRL came out of its conventional area of expertise and focused on promotion of agro-economic fundamentals in the State," he said, adding that

the bamboo-based ethanol plant is a big opportunity for

the company to venture into the field of agro-economy by engaging maximum number of local people in bamboo production. He observed that the new bamboo and cane policy of the State government would sig-

nificantly help the NRL and local farmers in this regard. The Chief Minister said the NRL with its wide resources should also give a thought to strengthen the lo-

cal economy, including setting up cold storages and providing succour to the horticulturists who suffered huge loss during the lockdown.

>> SEE PAGE 6

Reduction in rates of Tax Deduction at Source, Tax Collected at Source by 25 per cent for specified non-salaried payments Extension of deadline for payment without

additional amount under "Vivad Se Vishwas" scheme extended till December 31

Highlights

for businesses, including MSMEs

to Rs 200 crore to promote MSMEs

workers for another 3 months

2.0 for liabilities of NBFCs/MFIs

majeure clause under RERA

Rs 3 lakh crore emergency working capital facility

Rs 20,000 crore subordinate debt for stressed

Rs 50,000 crore equity infusion through MSME

No global tenders for govt procurement worth up

Extension of EPF support for business, organised

Rs 30,000 crore special liquidity scheme for

Rs 45.000 crore partial credit guarantee scheme

Rs 90,000 crore liquidity injection for stressed

Relief to contractors given by providing extension

States are being advised to invoke the force

of up to 6 months to complete projects

SC seeks reply from Assam govt

Payment of wages, rations to tea garden workers NEW DELHI, May 13:

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Assam government to respond on a plea seeking direction to ensure that workers in all tea gardens are immediately paid wages and rations, inState to file its reply affidavit on the plea within 10 days and said the matter would be heard thereafter. The plea, filed by the As-

sam Sangrami Chah Sramik Sangha, said that as per information available on the

Alert TODAY Alive TOMORROW

cluding for the period of lockdown, imposed amid COVID-19 pandemic. A bench of Chief Justice SA

migrant workers.

Bobde and Justice L Nageswara Rao was hearing through video conference, a plea which has also sought a direction to the Assam government to strictly implement the March 29 directive of the Ministry of Home Affairs for payment of wages to

The apex court asked the

website of the Tea Tribes Welfare Department of the Government of Assam, there are 803 tea estates and around 10 lakh tea garden workers there.

Senior advocate Colin Gonsalves, appearing for the petitioner, told the bench that tea garden workers in Assam are suffering owing to nonpayment of wages and rations due to lockdown.

>> SEE PAGE 6



Assam Bhawan, Mumbai accomplishes mission Transfer of cancer patients to Guwahati

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, May 13: It was a Herculean task to bring back cancer patients and children who had undergone heart operation from Mumbai to Guwahati by road. But the challenging task was completed when 132 cancer patients and attendants as well as six children and their parents reached Guwahati last night and despite their ill health all of them reached safely.

The Joint Resident Commissioner of the Assam Bhawan, Mumbai, Devashis Sharma, personally accompanied the team, while, Dr Neelakshi Choudhury, a senior resident of the ENT Department

necessary medical care to the patients single handedly en route from Mumbai The Assam Tribune spoke to

of Gauhati Medical College provided all

Devashis Sharma to know the challenges faced while bringing back the cancer patients from Mumbai by road and he said that though it was a tough task, it was satisfying to bring them back safely. Giving a detailed account of the events, Sharma said that as soon as the lockdown started, all the patients in Mumbai were very tense. There were different categories of patients. The first category was those whose treatment in the Tata Memorial Hospital could not start due to the prevailing situation and they were facing an uncertain future. Most of such patients and their attendants panicked. The second category was those whose treatment was completed for the time being and they were asked to report back after three or four months and they could not return home. The third category of patients had the means to go for treatment in other hospitals in Mumbai, but the private hospitals were not agreeing to allow patients in without doing the COVID-19 test and it was not possible to get the tests done.

>> SEE PAGE 6

US senators introduce legislation to impose sanctions on China

in Congress seeking to authorise President Donald Trump ID-19 probe led by the US, its to impose sanctions on China allies or the UN affiliates such if it fails to cooperate in pro- as the World Health Organisa- international community to go viding a full accounting of the tion and has closed all operat- into the Wuhan lab to investievents leading up to the outing wet markets that have the gate. They refuse to allow inbreak of the coronavirus.

have died and over 4 million risks through the introduction started. I'm convinced China have been infected due to the of zoonotic disease into the hu-will never cooperate with a coronavirus pandemic globally. The US is the worst-hit country with more than 80,000 President would be authorised hard-hitting piece of legislation deaths and 1.4 million cases.

The COVID-19 Accountability Act, authored by Senator Lindsay Graham and cosponsored by eight others. gress, on Tuesday.

WASHINGTON, May 13: make a certification to Conplete accounting to any COV-

man population.

to impose a range of sanctions will sanction China until they such as asset freezes, travel bans, visa revocations, restricting US financial institutions from making loans or unty of China (CPC) must be held was introduced in the Senate derwriting to Chinese busi-– the upper chamber of Con-nesses and prohibiting Chinese firms from being listed on It mandates the President to American stock exchanges.

Nine influential US senators gress within 60 days that Chi- the Chinese Communist Par- ble time and lives as it began have introduced a legislation na has provided a full and comnot be here in the United States," said Graham.

reak of the coronavirus. potential to expose More than 250,000 people humans to health COVID-19 westigators to study how this outbreak serious investigation unless Without the certification, the they are made to do so. This

> tors," he said. The ruling Communist Paraccountable for the detrimental role they played in this pandemic. Their outright deception of the origin and spread of

cooperate with the investiga-

"I'm convinced that without the virus cost the world valuato spread, Senator Jim Inhofe

"The COVID-19 Accounta-"China refuses to allow the bility Act will force China to provide a full account of the events leading up to this devastating outbreak. America is strong and we will come out of this crisis, but China must be forced to face the facts and take accountability for their actions," he said. The CPC's continued suppression of the truth amidst the coronavirus outbreak cannot go unchecked, said Senator Roger Wicker.

This legislation would authorise the President to take appropriate actions against the Chinese government to ensure similar outbreaks do not happen in the future, he said. –



Jayden Hardowar, 8, greeted by neighbours and members of emergency services on his return home from hospital after beating a Kawasaki-like inflammatory disease linked to coronavirus, in New York on Tuesday. - AP/PTI

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ACHIEVEMENT



Rajashree Borgohain has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by I.I.T. Guwahati for her thesis entitled 'Development of Thermally Stable and Moisture Responsive CO₂-Selective Carboxymethyl Chitosan Base Membrane'. She carried out her research work under the supervision of Dr. Bishnupada Mandal, professor of Chemical Engineering, I.I.T. Guwahati. She is the daughter of Mr. Nareswar Borgohain and Mrs. Niru Borgohain of Nazira Lakhimi Ali and wife of Mr. Pranjal Dutta and daughter in law of Mr. Nripen Ch. Dutta and Mrs. Swarnalata Dutta of Gugamukh (Lakhimpur). Achieve/P/AP00021/1

IN MEMORIAM

Baruah (1.1.1965 to 7.5.2018), Programme Coordinator, KVK Dudhnoi, Goalpara. "Days go by, memories remain, you have gone away but your presence is felt every moment". We pray to God for eternal peace of your noble soul. Remembered & deeply missed by: Nirupama (wife), Kristi & (daughters).

In loving memory of Dr. U.K

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PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Dr. Papari Deka Choudhury, wife of Pulen Choudhury, residing at H.N.-4, Magzine, Patharquary, P.S.-Noonmati, Ghy. I have adopted my husband surname (Choudhury) after marriage and since then I am known as Papari Deka Choudhury instead of Papari Deka by away of affidavit before the Notary Public Guwahati on dated 13.05.2020 for use as a piece of documentary evidence for all purposes. PN/P/NP000022/1

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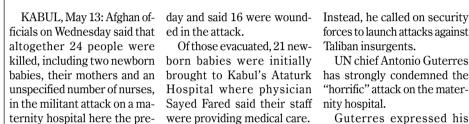
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IN MEMORIAM



Militants stormed the hospital in Dashti Barchi, a mostly Shiite neighbourhood in the western part of Kabul, on Tuesday morning, setting off an hours-long shootout with the police. As the battle raged, Afghan

security forces struggled to evacuate the facility, which is supported by the aid group Doctors Without Borders, caryoung mothers.

The Interior Ministry spokesman, Tareq Arian, initially said 16 people were killed in the attack and over 100 women and babies were evacuated from the building under fire.

press conference on Wednes-

COLOMBO, May 13: An

all-party meeting convened by

Sri Lanka's Election Commis-

sion to decide whether to hold

parliamentary polls in June re-

mained inconclusive, party

members said on Wednesday.

japaksa dissolved the Opposi-

tion-controlled Parliament on

March 2, six months ahead of

the schedule, and called a snap

election on April 25 to elect a

However, the Election

Commission in mid-April post-

poned the parliamentary polls

by nearly two months to June

20 due to the coronavirus out-

break, which has infected 889

people and claimed nine lives

The new date clashed with

meet within three months

in the island nation.

new 225-member House.

President Gotabaya Ra-

Meet on Lanka polls

remains inconclusive

attack rises to 24

Of those evacuated, 21 newborn babies were initially brought to Kabul's Ataturk Hospital where physician Sayed Fared said their staff were providing medical care. "One newborn baby had a

fractured bone and we referred that baby to the Indira Gandhi Children's Hospital," he said. The other 20 babies are hospitalised here and are in good condition and under our observation.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but both the Taliban and the Islamic State group frequently target Afghan military rying out babies and frantic and security forces in Kabul, as well as civilians. The Taliban denied their involvement. In the past, most of the attacks in Dashti Barchi were carried out by IS. In a televised speech hours

after the attack, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani announced Wahid Majroh, the Deputy that Afghan security forces Public Health Minister, gave would no longer operate in the the new death toll of 24 at a defensive posture taken in the wake of the peace agreement.

since its dissolution.

Several Opposition parties

and civil society organisations

have filed petitions in the Su-

preme Court, arguing that ac-

cording to the Constitution the

elections must be held and a

new Parliament must be sum-

moned within three months of

on Tuesday convened an all-

party meeting to decide

whether to hold parliamenta-

ry polls in June amid fears that

the coronavirus could spread

if movement curbs were lift-

ed further. However, the talks

ended without an agreement.

Though COVID-19 restric-

tions are now being eased in

the country, some argue that

the participant said.

control. – PTI

the constitutional imperative the election should be put off

that the new Parliament has to until the pandemic is under

The Elections Commission

the dissolution order.

forces to launch attacks against Taliban insurgents. UN chief Antonio Guterres

has strongly condemned the "horrific" attack on the maternity hospital. Guterres expressed his deepest sympathies to the

families of the victims and to the government and people of Afghanistan. He reiterates that attacks against civilians are unaccept-

able and that hospitals, medical facilities and personnel have special protection under the international humanitarian law. Those who carry out such crimes must be held accountable, the statement said. In a separate attack on Tues-

day, a suicide bomber targeted the funeral in Khewa district of a local pro-government militia commander and former warlord who had died of a heart attack on Monday night, killing 24 people and wounding 68. The dead included Abdullah

Lala Jan, a provincial council member, while his father Noor Agha, a lawmaker, was wounded in the attack. – AP/PTI

easing up in England on

Wednesday, with workers un-

able to work from home able

to head to work but advised

to avoid public transport and

opt for cycling, walking or

laid out by British Prime

Minister Boris Johnson in

Parliament this week, people

time outside, meet one per-

son outside of their own

household in the outdoors

and move home, as the gov-

ernment began easing some

distanced, such as golf, are

Sports that are physically

There is some divergence

lockdown measures.

are now able to spend more measures in place.

Under the step by step plan

driving as far as possible.

Death toll in Afghan hospital China claims its troops patrolling on Chinese side of LAC

BEIJING, May 13: Amid tensions between the Indian patrol along the Chinese side and Chinese soldiers at Pan- of the Line of Actual Control gong Tso lake area, China said (LAC). We urge the Indian side on Wednesday that India to work with China and refrain should refrain from taking any action to "complicate" the issue and claimed that the conditions for the development PLA troops were conducting of our bilateral relations and "normal patrol" on the Chinese side of the border.

Asked about the continued ation Army (PLA) troops ac-Indian government's plan to lure business out of China, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said both the countries were in diplomatic contact over the there are "committed to upface-off between their

clear. Chinese border troops coronavirus. "We shouldn't US, Russia, China, Britain, and tranquillity along the stigmatisation in a bid to cre- according to Trump adminisborder areas," Zhao told a ate more differences or conmedia briefing here.

England begins to ease

COVID-19 restrictions

LONDON, May 13: The in lockdown rules between reimposition of severe re-

devolved administrations of economy. "We must stay

Scotland, Wales and North- alert, control the virus, and

ern Ireland, which are keep- in doing so, save lives," John-

son said.

coronavirus lockdown began the UK government and the strictions at the cost to the

ing stricter stay-at-home

physically distanced,

such as golf, are also

The UK, meanwhile, has

moved to a stay alert system

alongside a five-level threat

level system to monitor the

spread of the disease and

keep a lid on the rate at which

The worst possible out-

also permitted now and peo- come would be a return to the rules could face criminal

and through the inevitable

the virus spreads.

Sports that are

permitted now

"China is conducting normal from taking any complicating move so as to create enabling peace and stability at the border areas," he said. "The two sides stay in dip-

tensions along the border and lomatic communication on the whether the People's Liber- relevant border issue," he said. Since the tensions began tion was anyway related to at the Pangong Tso lake area in the disagreements with the eastern Ladakh on May 5-6, China maintained steady silence over the incident. When asked about the inci-

dent on Monday, Zhao played it down saying Chinese troops hold peace and stability".

"China's position on the issue for the world at present border issue is consistent and is the fight against the deadly have been upholding peace allow any politicisation or France and Germany and Iran, frontation," he said. – PTI

Scotland's First Minister

Nicola Sturgeon, expressed

concerns about people feel-

ing forced to return to work

too soon, after Johnson said

some workplaces could ac-

tively encourage staff to re-

turn from Wednesday, as long

as they complied with new

In England, employers have

been issued with guidelines on

keeping workplaces as safe as

possible, including the use of

staggered shifts and frequent

cleaning. And those who flout

proceedings, the Health and

Safety Executive watchdog

COVID-secure guidance.

Russia opposes any new US attempts to punish Iran

UNITED NATIONS, May 13: Russia's UN ambassador said Tuesday that Moscow will oppose any attempts by the United States to extend the arms embargo on Iran and reimpose UN sanctions against the Islamic Republic.

Vassily Nebenzia's comments at a video news conference made clear that the Trump administration will have a tough time advancing any measures to impose further punishment on Iran in the UN Security Council, where Russia has veto power.

The United States circulated a draft UN resolution that would indefinitely extend the UN arms embargo on Iran, which expires in October, to a small number of council members in late April.

It would strike the expiration of the arms embargo from He said the most pressing the council resolution that endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal between six major powers the tration officials and UN diplo-

> Russia has made no secret of its desire to resume conventional weapons sales to Te-

> Nebenzia said the arms embargo is a byproduct of the nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA, and was temporary.

> "It expires in October. ... And for us that's clear. I do not see any reason why an arms embargo should be imposed on Iran," he said. - AP

PROVISION OF NEW STATION BUILDING E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 09-ENGG

indersigned for the following work render No.1. Brief Description of Item At Rangapara North: Provision of Ne station Building including shifting of ole PRS building with A.C. retiring room, 2 and upper class waiting halls. Tende /alue:₹1.62.05.706.88; Earnest Money at 13:00 hrs. on 02-06-2020 and Opene at 15:00 hrs. on 02-06-2020 at office of the Divisional Railway Manager (Works) Rangiya. The complete information wit tender document of above e-tender will be

Bryan Adams offers apology after 'bat eating' rant

LOS ANGELES, May 13: Singer Bryan Adams has apologised for his social media rant blaming wet market vendors for the coronavirus pandemic, after his post was criticised for being racist by people, including actor Simu Liu.

Adams, in his defense, said he wanted to call attention to the animal cruelty taking place in China's wet markets. In an expletive-laden Instagram

post on Sunday, the Canadian musician hit out at "some f***** bat eating" people for bringing the world to a halt with the spread of the novel virus, including the cancellation of his concerts in the UK's Royal Albert



He also urged people around the world to "go vegan".

Liu, who immigrated from China to Canada when he was five, shared a screenshot of Adams' post on Twitter, saying that such posts enable acts

of "hate and racism" on social me-

ple are advised to use face the virus being out of control

coverings while commuting. with the cost to human life,

"It is not my intention to go at or cancel anyone, but to identify posts like this that condone and enable acts of hate and racism. It runs counter to everything I love about Canada. I hope Bryan does better for the millions who look up to him like I do," he wrote in the caption, along with the hashtag #BummerOf69.

Canadian Inuit throat singer Tanya Tagaq lashed out at the Summer of '69 hitmaker.

"Bryan Adams can s*** my bat," she tweeted.

The novel virus originated in China's Wuhan in December, and some early reports suggested that wet

source of coronavirus. However, there is no confirmation about the link between COVID-19 and the Wuhan wet markets. "Apologies to any and all that took

markets in the city were the original

offence to my posting yesterday. No excuse, I just wanted to have a rant about the horrible animal cruelty in these wet-markets being the possible source of the virus, and promote veganism," he said in a new Instagram post.

"I have love for all people and my thoughts are with everyone dealing with this pandemic around the world," he wrote alongside hashtags like #covid19 #banwetmarkets #govegan. - PTI

MORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

DATA LOGGER LAYOUT E-Tender No: N-2019-20-25RT

Sr.DSTE-MLG: Dated: 11-05-2020, Ope for the following work: Name of work S&T work for provision of large Display o Data Logger (Efftronics make) Layout a SM/Indoor/Guwahati and Area Contro Guwahati. **Tender Value:** ₹15,45,372/-Earnest Money: ₹30,900/-. E-tender will be closed at 15.00 hrs. on 01-06-2020 and opened at 15.30 hrs on 01-06-2020 ocument of above e-tender will be ailable in website <u>www.ireps.gov.in</u>. NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

HIRING OF 1 (ONE)
4 WHEELER PICK UP VAN

Tender Notice No. TSK/Elect/81 Date

12-05-2020. E-Tenders are invited by t ndersigned for the following works: SN-1 lo. 4 wheeler pick up van (Similar to Diese Tata Mobile) at Dibrugarh Town to attend the reak down and to carry the HSD oil, store aterial and any other material for 1095 day years) at Tinsukia Division. (No. LV/T-14 ΓSK/795). **Tender Value:** ₹14,08,862,70 Earnest Money: ₹28,200/-. Cost of tende cument: ₹2.000/-. Date & time of closin oftender: 05-06-2020 at 13:00 hrs. & opening 05-06-2020 at 15:00 hrs. The comple formation with the tender document of above -tender will be available upto 13:00 hrs. 05-06-2020 in website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (E), Tinsuki NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

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Corona Snippets

BITM to use Ayurvedic sanitizer post-lockdown

KOLKATA, May 13: The Birla Industrial and Technological Museum (BITM) here on Wednesday inaugurated an Avurvedic sanitization tunnel in which herbal disinfectants will be sprayed on visitors and staff before they enter the premises, a spokesperson of the establishment said.

"As a person enters the tunnel, the sanitizer will be sprayed on him or her by motors for about three seconds. The visitor or staff can then enter the museum, the spokes-

The concentrated sanitization mixture contains camphor, menthol and thymol mixed in 2:1:1 ratio. Two drops of it are then mixed in a litre of water to prepare the sanitizer, he said. All the ingredients of the disinfectant are organic and have no side-effects, the spokesperson said. - PTI

Cong praises PM for 'sincere attempts' to ferry migrants

KOLKATA, May 13: Even as his party has been up in arms against Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the migrant labourers issue, Leader of the Congress party in Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has appreciated Modi's "sincere attempts" to bring back those stranded to their

Chowdhury, the five-time MP from West Bengal's Berhampore Lok Sabha seat, in a letter to the PM last night, urged him to reduce the rate of tickets, if not making it free, keeping in view the fact that these out-of-job labourers are facing severe financial crunch. "I do like to appreciate your sincere attempt of sending back stranded persons, which include migrant workers, patients and their family, students, pilgrims and tourists, to their native places by announcing 300 special trains." Chowdhury wrote in the letter.

"Please consider the reduced rates of tickets if not free travel," the former minister of state for railways wrote. - PTI

3 migrants, infant returning home killed in road accidents in UP

KANPUR/CHITRAKOOT (UP), May 13: Three migrant labourers and an infant girl were killed, while 46 others suffered injuries in two road accidents when they were returning home in Uttar Pradesh from other states during the coronavirus-induced lockdown, officials said on Wednesday.

A truck carrying a group of 54 migrant labourers and their families from Ahmedabad in Gujarat to Balrampur in Uttar Pradesh rammed into a stationary truck near Lalpur Police Post on Kanpur-Jhansi highway, killing three people and injuring 43 others.

In Chitrakoot, a migrant labourer returning home in Uttar Pradesh from Chhattisgarh on a bicycle was killed after being hit by a truck, the police said. Mohan (44), a resident of Saharanpur, was returning home along with three others on Tuesday evening when the accident took place, they said. - PTI

Borrow gold from religious bodies for COVID fight: Chavan

MUMBAI, May 13: Senior Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan on Wednesday suggested the Centre can "appropriate" gold stock of religious trusts in the country, which he said would help generate at least Rs 76 lakh crore to tide over the COVID-19 crisis.

"Govt must immediately appropriate all the gold lying with all the religious trusts in the country, worth at least \$1 trillion, according to the #WorldGoldCouncil. The gold can be borrowed through gold bonds at a low interest rate. This is an emergency.PC," Chavan tweeted.

"Gold lying with religious trusts in the country is worth Rs 76 lakh crore or one trillion dollars. If it is borrowed from these trusts at a nominal interest rate, the money can be generously spent on lower middle and poor class to increase their spending capacity," the former Chief Minister said.

Dharavi coronavirus count crosses 1,000, death toll at 40

MUMBAI, May 13: The number of coronavirus cases in Mumbai's Dharavi, considered to be the biggest slum of Asia, rose to 1,028 on Wednesday with 66 new patients being detected, said an official of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

The death toll due to the pandemic in the area rose to 40 on Tuesday from 31, but no new COVID-19-related death was reported thereafter, he said.

Dharavi recorded its coronavirus patient on April 1, 20 days after the first case of coronavirus infection was reported in Mumbai. – PTI

Delhi Police reserves extra beds at private hospitals

NEW DELHI, May 13: With more than 100 of its personnel testing positive for COVID-19 so far, the Delhi Police on Wednesday said some hospitals have reserved beds for it for any emergency admissions as many in the force are deployed at "sensitive" locations.

Among those infected, 35 police personnel have recovered from the infection and resumed their duties, officials said.

According to the police, with a rise in coronavirus cases in Delhi, difficulties are being faced in getting 'COVID-19 warriors' in the dedicated government hospitals in the city.

Delhi Police Commissioner SN Shrivastava spoke to a few private hospitals and, on his request, they have placed some beds at the disposal of the Delhi Police for emergency admissions since many police personnel are performing duties at sensitive locations including containment zones, COVID hospitals and quarantine facilities, the officials said. – PTI

Over 3 lakh migrants return to UP in 268 trains

LUCKNOW, May 13: Over three lakh migrants have returned to Uttar Pradesh in 268 special trains so far, the highest in the country, a senior official said on Wednesday.

All migrants are medically screened and given food packets before being sent to home quarantine, Additional Chief Secretary, Information, Awanish Awasthi told reporters.

Of the total 3,26,040 migrants, the maximum of 44,574 returned to Gorakhpur in 43 trains followed by Lucknow (3,3894) in 29 trains, Jaunpur (18,358) in 15 trains, Prayagraj (17,162) in 14 trains, he said. The special trains also ferried migrants to Bareilly, Pratapgarh, Gonda, Agra, Ballia, Raebareli, Varanasi, Agra and Kanpur.

Besides, the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation has brought back over 72,000 migrants to the State, the Additional Chief Secretary said. - PTI

30,000 Indians will return from abroad on 149 flights under phase 2: Puri

il Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday said that 30,000 Indians will return from 31 countries on 149 flights between May 16 and 22, the duration for the second phase of the Vande Bharat Mission.

During the first phase of the Vande Bharat Mission, Air India and its subsidiary Air India Express are scheduled to operate a total 64 flights between May 7 and May 14 to bring 14,800 Indians from 12 countries on a payment basis.

Air India and Air India Express are also operating forward domestic flights after the international flights so that passengers can reach their destinations within the country amid the coronavirus-triggered lockdown.

from 16-22 May will also include flights from Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Canada, France, Georgia, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Nigeria, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand and Ukraine," Puri tweeted.

The minister said that 8,500 Indians have already returned till Wednesday morning and more flights are under way as part of phase I of the Vande Bharat Mission.

"In the phase I of Vande Bharat we were to bring back 14,800 Indians on 64 flights. In the 2nd phase the numbers are being doubled. Around 30,000 more Indians will return from 31 countries on 149 flights," he stated.

flights under phase II, 31 would come to Kerala, 22 to Delhi, 17 to Karnataka, 16 to Telangana, 14 to Gujarat, 12 to Rajasthan, nine to Andhra Pradesh and seven to Punjab.

During phase II of the Vande Bharat Mission, six flights each would be for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, three for Odisha, two for Chandigarh, one each for Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

Apart from aerial evacuation, the Indian Navy has deployed two of its ships to repatriate Indians from abroad.

Since March 7, these two ships have repatriated approximately 1,000 Indians from Maldives as part of the Vande Bharat Mission. – PTI



TATA Air Services, later renamed as Tata Airlines was founded by J.R.D. Tata. During its initial years of its operation the pilots used railways lines below for navigation.



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camps easing hardships of migrants

PUNE, May 13: The makeshift relief camps set by the Pune district administration in association with several villages along the highways are easing hardships of the migrant labourers, who are going on foot to their native places in and outside Maharashtra, officials said.

According to officials, at least

Highway relief

39 such relief camps have been set up along the highways in the district, which lead to different places like Nashik, Ahmednagar, Satara and Solapur, which further go to different States. The migrants who are found walking on these highways are brought to the relief camps and given water, food and a place to rest before arrangement for their transportation is made, they said.

Sambhaji Langore, Project Director, District Rural Development Scheme, said 39 relief camps have been set up on key roads and highways in the district. "We have deployed buses with the help of local gram panchayats and NGOs to ferry those migrant workers, who are spotted going on foot. They are then brought to the nearest relief camp in these buses," he said.

The marriage halls along the highways have been turned into makeshift relief camps. The local gram panchayats have been given responsibilities to look after their needs, such as food, medical facilities and accommodation. Langore said that so far around 4,000 migrants have been provided help at these relief camps.

Satish Markam, 23, who was brought to a relief camp at Chandoli village in Khed tehsil on Pune-Nashik highway, along with around 20 workers on Tuesday said, "We were given masks, sanitizers. The food provided to us and accommodation arrangements were good. All of us felt relaxed at the camp after walking for a long time." - PTI

SC asks lawyers not to put on coat, long gowns

COVID-19 pandemic

Supreme Court on Wednesday came out with a formal notification asking lawyers not to wear coats and long gowns during the hearings through video conferencing till medical exigencies exist or until further orders in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

evening, hours after Chief Justice of India (CJI) SA Bobde, Supreme Court Advocatessaid such dresses should not be donned as they make it easier to catch virus. It is notified for the infor-

considering the medical advice, as a precautionary measure to contain spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) infection under the prevailing conditions, the Competent Authority is pleased to direct that the plain-white neck band during the hearings before the Su-

NEW DELHI, May 13: The preme Court of India through Virtual Court System till medical exigencies exist or until further orders, said the notification, issued by apex court Secretary General, Sanjeev S Kalgaonkar.

Besides sharing the notification on the apex court's website, it will be served to The notification came in the the secretaries of Supreme Court Bar Association and the on-Record Association to ensure compliance.

The observation of the CJI and subsequent formal notifimation of all concerned that cation assumed significance in view of the fact that the apex court has been holding courts through video conferencing only from March 25 due to the nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) and had even susadvocates may wear plain pended entry of advocates and white-shirt/white-salwar- other staff into the high secukameez/white saree, with a rity zone on the basis of their proximity cards, till further orders. – PTI

Delhi Police against Saad case transfer to NIA

NEW DELHI, May 13: The Delhi Police on Wednesday opposed a plea in the Delhi High Court seeking direction that the NIA be handed over the investigation of a case against Tablighi Jamaat leader Maulana Saad for holding a congregation in alleged violation of the orders aimed at containing the spread of coronavirus.

A bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anup Jairam Bhambhani, conducting the hearing through video conferencing, asked the petitioner to place the judgements in support of his plea to transfer the manner and argued that the investigation from Delhi Police petitioner has no locus standi Crime Branch to National In- to file the plea. - PTI

vestigation Agency (NIA).

The petition, filed by Mumbai-based lawyer Ghanshyam Upadhyay, has also sought direction to the NIA to investigate the matter in a timebound manner and the probe be monitored by the high court. It alleged that Delhi Police has failed to arrest the leader despite the lapse of considerable time.

Delhi government standing counsel (criminal) Rahul Mehra and advocate Chaitanya Gosain opposed the plea saying Delhi Police was conducting the investigation in a fair

CPCB revises idol immersion norms

the country, the Central Pollupainting idols as well. tion Control Board (CPCB) has making idols of gods and god-

The CPCB has revised its 2010 guidelines on idol immersion after taking views of stakeholders, especially emphasising use of naturally occurring clay, colours in place of synthetic paints and chemicals for colouring idols.

It said that the use of singleuse plastic and thermocol shall not be permitted at all and only eco-friendly material such as straw structure shall be used in making idols or decoration of idols/pandals/tazias in order to prevent pollution in recipient water bodies.

"Idols made up of only natural, biodegradable, eco-friendly raw material without any toxic, inorganic raw material, such as traditional virtuous clay and mud as well as free from plaster of Paris, plastic and thermocol (polystyrene) should be encouraged, allowed and promoted, and idols made up of

"Only dried flower components for making ornaments of idols and natural resins of trees may be used as a shining material for making idols attractive," the apex pollution control body said in its revised guidelines issued on Tuesday.

plaster of Paris shall be banned.

Every year, the water bodies in the country get highly polluted after idol immersion during festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi and Durga Puja as the idols are made up of inorganic and toxic material instead of traditional eco-friendly mud and clay.

The guidelines formulated by the CPCB in the past have gone largely unheeded as the water quality continued to go down after these festivals.

The revised guidelines have mersion," it said. – PTI

NEW DELHI, May 13: In a now prohibited the use of toxbid to ensure idol immersion ic and non-biodegradable in an eco-friendly manner in chemical dyes/oil paints for

"Only naturally occurring colbanned the use of plastic, ther- ours from plants (flowers, barks, mocol and plaster of Paris in stamens, leaves, roots, seeds, whole fruits), feathers of different birds, mineral or coloured rocks shall be used." it said.

> The CPCB has also directed the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in States and Union Territories to conduct water quality assessment of water bodies, preferably in tier-1 cities (having population of more than 1 lakh), at three stages i.e., pre-immersion, during immersion and post-immersion.

> "SPCBs/PCCs shall help district administration in preparing material for creating mass awareness as well as to assess innovative approaches for eco-friendly idol making by idol makers or craftsman or artisans," the CPCB said.

> It also said the concerned authorities in State governments and UT administration dealing with safety and security in coastal areas shall take care of the necessary arrangements like motor boats with security personnel/home guards with adequate safety equipment to supervise idol immersion activities during festive season.

> "As far as possible idol immersion in rivers/ponds/lakes shall be encouraged only at specific designated artificial confined tanks/ponds with liner made with well graded/highly impervious clay or eco-synthetic liner, on the banks shall be promoted.

> "A temporary artificial tank or pond with liner made with well graded/highly impervious clay or eco-synthetic liner, and having earthen bunds on the bank of the river/lake/pond shall be created for idol im-

Weekly Assignment For Creative Skill Development Among Students During Lockdown Period of COVID-19

Class wise weekly topics:

SL No	Class	Topic	Week
1	VI	Fundamental Right	1st (Within 17th May/20)
2	VI	Measures taken by Government to stop spread of COVID-19	2 nd (18 th - 24 th May/20)
3	VI	Our Culture and traditions	3 rd (25 th - 31 st May/20)
4	VI	Painting on Festivals	4 th (1 st -7 th June/20)
5	VI	Write a Poem/Story	5 th (8 th -14 th June/20)
	141	Duffer of Officer	est useus central mon
1	MI	Duties of Citizens	1st (Within 17th May/20)
2	MI	Major food crops of the state and its contribution on Economic development	2 nd (18 th - 24 th May/20)
3	MI	E-learning -advantages and difficulties	3 rd (25 th – 31 st May/20)
4	MI	Painting on Assamese Jewelry	4 th (1 st -7 th June/20)
5	VII	Write a Poem/Story	5 th (8 th -14 th June/20)
1	VIII	Use of internet and digital lifestyle	1st (Within 17th May/20)
2	VIII	Indigenous art and craft works of the state	2 nd (18 th - 24 th May/20)
3	VIII	Prepare a plan on activities to be conducted in your school after lockdown	3 rd (25 th - 31 st May/20)
4	VIII	Painting on Rural landscapes	4 th (1 st -7 th June/20)
5	VIII	Write a Poem/Story	5 th (8 th -14 th June/20)
1	IX	COVID-19 and its impact on Ecological balance	1st (Within 17th May/20)
2	IX	Consumer Right Awareness	2 nd (18 th - 24 th May/20)
3	IX	Goverance and Constitutional Development	3 rd (25 th - 31 st May/20)
4	IX	Conservation of Biodiversity	4 th (1 st -7 th June/20)
5	IX	Write a Poem/Story	5 th (8 th -14 th June/20)
1	Х	Influence of COVID -19 on Socio-Economic development	1st (Within 17th May/20)
2	Х	Good and services Tax(GST)-its meaning and importance	2 nd (18 th - 24 th May/20)
3	Х	Awareness of women's right in properity, marriage and in employment	3 rd (25 th - 31 st May/20)
4	Х	Cybercrimes	4 th (1 st -7 th June/20)
5	Х	Write a Poem/Story	5 th (8 th -14 th June/20)

Students will write on particular topic given for the week at their own home only. After lockdown students will submit the same to the head of the respective school. Teachers will check the same after opening of schools. Selected Assignments will be awarded by state. The followings parameters are to be followed in this regard:

- Students from class-VI to X will participate.
- After lockdown, every school will select any three best entries from each class and will submit to the respective CRCC. Concerned CRCC with the support of two subject teachers of Higher Secondary level will select any three best entries from each class and will submit to the respective block. Block will select total 100 best entries covering both UP and Secondary level with the support of block resource persons engaged for academic purpose/subject teachers of Higher Secondary level and will submit to the district. District will select total 200 best entries covering both UP and Secondary level with the support of DIET/Academic Council and will submit to the
- Students can write in any medium of instruction.
- 10000 selected best entries will be awarded

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020 **4** THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI

MESSAGE FOR TODAY

Do all the good you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways you can, as long as you can. - HILLARY CLINTON

The Assam Tribune

Cleverly crafted

Towards the end of last March, to combat the imminent economic downturn and hardships to populations caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced a 1.7-trillion-rupee financial package, comprising of direct cash transfers and free food, to assist the poorer segment of Indian society during a time of severe distress. Yet, it had been clear even then that the amount, equivalent to less than 1% of the nation's GDP, was not adequate for a country of 1.34 billion, at least half of whom were financially disadvantaged. Though the Reserve Bank of India too had chipped in by undertaking different measures to inject liquidity into the economy, even that was not enough. Experts had been unanimous in their opinion that greater finances were needed to be pushed into the fiscal system, for addressing the immediate concerns of the poor, and had to be complemented by long-term measures to combat the seriouseconomic downturn. Unless the economy was empowered to absorb vast financial and employment losses, mere offering of doles would not suffice, and it would be up to the Government to undertake appropriate fiscal measures to boost the Indian economy. Thus the element of unexpectedness was missing from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's latest announcement of the Rs 20 lakhcrore stimulus package to tackle the impact of coronavirus, for it had been an anticipated measure.

No doubt this package, equivalent to around 10% of India's GDP, is a cleverly crafted one designed to seem to be of an amount larger than it actually is, inclusive as it is of the recent amounts injected into the Indian economy by the Reserve Bank of India as well as the earlier package announced by Nirmala Sitharaman. These together would constitute almost half, or Rs10 lakh crore, which means that the Centre would have to raise an additional amount of Rs10 lakh croreto put its revival plan into action. Yet it needs to be conceded that even this lesser amount is direly required at the moment to pull the nation out of the doldrums the coronavirus has pushed her in to. Modi, whose penchant for catchy phrase formulating is well known, has coined 'Aatma Nirbhar Bharat' or self-reliant India to be the mantra by which the revival essay would be made. There is nothing new about such a coinage, for India had been attempting this objective ever since her independence, though whether the post-Covid-19 scenario would witness its realization only time would tell. With experts suggesting that the package may include measures such as payment of the wage bill of companies as an incentive to retain their employees, and also provisions for migrant labourers and the self-employed, the provisions of the package might be comprehensive, something that India at this moment direly needs.

Community surveillance

With inter-State travel restrictions relaxed and people in large batches starting to enter the State, the coming days will test the will of the Government and the efficacy of the government machinery in ensuring that the possibility of a major spread is prevented. With the resumption in train services in particular, how the Government goes about the task of facilitating institutional quarantine for all the returnees will have a definite bearing on the outcome of the battle against Covid-19. The first train from Delhi carrying 1,122 passengers reached Assam yesterday and with more trains to come in the days ahead, the onus is clearly now on the State Government to put the passengers to foolproof screening and quarantine. The resumption of train services has also coincided with the country witnessing the biggest single-day spike in cases, and unless inter-State travellers are thoroughly monitored, the situation can worsen manifold. The district administrations will have to be extra vigilant and proactive, as the passengers are going to be quarantined district-wise. This also calls for massive preparedness, especially quarantine facilities in large numbers and in conformity to standard hygienic conditions. The convenience of those undergoing quarantine must not be compromised with and putting them into haphazard, illequipped quarantine centres will be unwarranted. Similarly, the houses of the returnees advised home quarantine will have to be monitored effectively as containment zones, failing which the very purpose of the quarantine will be frustrated. While the railway services have been resumed to provide relief to those stranded outside the State, it is equally imperative that the people are brought in reasonable batches keeping in mind the quarantine capacity of the government authorities.

With indications of the beginning of a community spread in the State and with thousands of people set to enter the State from outside in the next few days, the authorities would do well to put emphasis on a community-centric approach as well to combat the menace. We will now need an extended community surveillance programme to detect people with symptoms such as fever, sore throat, cough, etc., so that they may be referred to appropriate screening immediately. The situation in the villages should also be adequately monitored as they have somewhat remained off the radar of the authorities so far. In order to be effective, critical aspects such as epidemiological, behavioural, laboratory and demographic data must be reflected in public health surveillance so that the required action can follow. While laboratory tests are playing a crucial role in deciding the fate of each Covid-19 case, the dominant approaches have centred around sample collection for testing without adequately focusing on population characteristics. This has caused a gap in the most vital people-centric knowledge regarding the disease in the Indian context. Such knowledge is essential for effective public health action and needs to be gathered through systematic public health investigations.

Corona and dwindling work space for women

Archana Datta

ur economy is in severe downturn due to the prolonged lockdowns. The World Bank has reduced India's growth to 1.5% to 2.8% in 2020-21, one of the lowest since the 1991 reforms. The unemployment rate is on the rise from 7.57% (March 20) to 23.68% (April 30), while the job losses are likely to be around 11.9 crores. All this together will drive one-third of India's 25 crore households into livelihood crises.

Now, will this pandemic with such wide-ranging socio-economic consequences thrust women into further vulnerabilities and exclusions, especially in workforce par-

Sadly, India suffers from an abysmally low female labour force participation rate (FLPR), which is also on a declining trend from 36% in 2005-06 to 23.4% in 2019. If we look at the scope of women's employment in India, most of the economically active rural women used to be in agriculture sector, but increased mechanization eventually edged them out and their participation rate dwindled from 88.1% in 1977-78 to 73.2% in 2017-18 (OXFAM 2018). In urban India, the services sector witnessed a rising trend in women's participation from 35.7% in 1977-78 to 60.7% in 2017-18. Now with restrictions in movements and social distancing, this sector has been affected the most, which thus dims women's prospect of re-entry into the sector in near future. Women already lost out in emerging industries as men got 80% of the 56 million newly-created jobs between 1968 and 2015 (ADB, 2019). In the manufacturing sector, which is facing near closure, barring a few, women have a meagre presence of 3 to 12%, mostly in low paying, casual, home-based work or in unpaid work with no safety net.

Undoubtedly, Indian women's primary identity remained as the unpaid caregivers and they spend 9.8 times more time in such work than men, while globally, it is three times more (NITI Aayog, 2017). Outside home, 83.4% of nurses and other paramedics are women, who are now facing great stress, workload and health and personal risks as India's overstretched healthcare sys-

tem fights against Covid-19. Against such a dismal backdrop comes ILO's caution that in India, 'around 40 crore informal sector workers are likely to be pushed deeper into poverty'. Reacting to such a looming scenario, senior journalist Prashant Tandon said that since 94% of Indian women being in the informal sector... either as farm labourers or as domestic helps in big cities... who remain underpaid or unpaid... with no job security... they will be the worst sufferers in the pandemic's after ef-

fects. Ratri Bannerjee, a senior banker, added that apart from job losses, women will also face physical violence... with frustrated husbands sitting idle at home.

Presently, India is in the throes of a phased reopening of certain industrial and manufacturing sectors and a green signal has been given to harvesting, marketing and sowing of new crops. But, do women stand to gain much from this partial reopening? Senior journal-

The partial reopening also makes it difficult for women to go back to work with schools being shut. Thus, for Indian women, it is the story of going back to square one, who have to struggle all over again to regain the lost space.

> ist Gargi Parsai apprehended that women will find it hard to have reaccess to gainful employment for two counts, one due to low availability of opportunities, and the other being their inability to step out either for on-farm jobs or any other work, due to increased household unpaid care work... the single and woman-headed households will suffer more.

Yes indeed! There is a huge exodus of migrant labourers from cities to villages, many among them may be reluctant to return soon in the face of uncertainties. In such a situation, there will be a glut in the rural labour market and women are likely to be less preferred for farm or farm-based work and more for home-based caregiver jobs. In cities, among women, only a few are lucky to work from home or have facilities for paid caregivers leave; rather many will undergo pay-cuts and job losses when the businesses remain suspended. The

partial reopening also makes it difficult for women to go back to work with schools being shut. Thus. for Indian women, it is the story of going back to square one, who have to struggle all over again to regain the lost space.

Nevertheless, there are some rays of hopes too. Many SHGs across the country have now sprang into action and producing masks, sanitizers, etc., to meet the shortage in the market.

Recounting her experience as a banker in rural areas, Bannerjee sounded hopeful and said that the SHGs have great potential as they run on small capital, produce low cost materials and cultivate the values of thrift... women in such groups will have some financial cushion even in this emergency. Thirty-three million Indian women in 2.2 million SHGs could recreate a new story of financial inclusion and empowerment even in a post-pandemic scenario.

Now, amidst such widespread

disruptions, the UN Secretary-General called upon nations of the world for putting women and girls at the centre of their efforts to recover from Covid-19 and urged them that any measure to protect and stimulate the economy, from cash transfers to credits and loans, must be targeted at women... social safety nets must be expanded... unpaid care work must be recognized and valued. While many agree that women will suffer disproportionately from this pandemic impact, but, surprisingly, they remain conspicuously absent in India's comprehensive and integrated response to the pandemic. There are 11 empowered groups, but none focuses on women as a vulnerable group or looks into the gendered impact of the pandemic.

The cash transfer of Rs 500 for three months to 19.86 crore women Jan Dhan account holders, free distribution of 97.8 lakh gas cylinders under the Ujjwala scheme, and free ration to 5.29 crore beneficiaries under the Garib Kalyan Yojana may help in warding off household indebtedness or hunger for a while. But, it is equally necessary that any financial stimulus package must look into women's job security, paid sick leave or child care leave, health insurance, unemployment benefits and basic social protections. Further, there is a need for long-term policy formulation to facilitate women's re-entry into gainful employment as well as their holistic development, as the pandemic leaves a deep imprint on every aspect of human lives.

African swine fever and Assam

Sangeeta Das, Pankaj Deka

fter the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIH-SAD), Bhopal, has confirmed the first African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak in the country's northeastern States of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, where the disease have killed thousands of pigs, it has placed the pig-rearers and the officials in stress. The ASF outbreaks date back to the 1900s when it was first detected in Kenya and is still endemic in the African continent. Subsequently, it was detected in several European and American countries. But it wasn't until 2018 when China experienced its first case that it was sweeping through the Asian continent and by 2019, it had spread to every region in China and into neighbouring countries Vietnam Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. ASF is not only wiping out the pig farmers but also has a knock-on impact on the agricultural economy. Presently, the ASF outbreak in this pig centric area of NE India that has more than 20 lakh pigs has threatened the pig husbandry. The day is not far, if not controlled, it may reshape the pork market in this re-

gion. With this ample warning, it is the need of the hour to understand ASF, as there is no vaccine and treatment available so far. Thus, practising biosecurity is the current best recommendation to protect our pigs. The State Government along with the veterinarians are mulling on preventive measures to manage, contain and control the spread of the disease.

African Swine Fever is a highly contagious viral disease infecting domestic and wild pigs of all ages, and causes a wide range of clinical signs, typically a haemorrhagic fever and responsible for severe economic losses with mortality rates up to 100%. It is transmitted through direct contact with infected pigs, their excretions and secretions, nasal and conjunctival discharges contaminated fomites contaminated clothing and shoes of farm personnel and feeding of contaminated kitchen wastes. The virus is highly resistant and can even survive in fresh pork and processed pork products for long time. Thus it can potentially spread the disease from one infected farm to the entire pig population of the region. The virus can also

be transmitted through arthropod vectors, particularly soft ticks of the genus Ornithodoros. However, ASF poses no risk to human health, it's not zoonotic.

The only measure to control any contagious viral disease is by implementing strict biosecurity measures. All the activities and programmes implemented should aim to reduce and avoid the risk of exposure of the farm pigs to the ASF virus. The farmers should routinely inspect the health of pig herds at least twice a day and isolate the sick pigs from the healthy herd instantaneously. They should be vigilant for any signs of disease or unexpected deaths and report to a veterinarian. As people's movement has been the most critical component of virus dissemination inside and outside the farm. a footbath filled with disinfectant (3g potassium permanganate in 10 litres of water) at the entry to farm premise is mandatory. Farm personnel should ensure that shoes, clothes and equipment are disinfected before they come in contact with the pigs. Feed and utensil used by the sick animals should not be used for feeding healthy animals. The healthy pig herds should be fed first followed

by the sick ones. The pig pens and the feeding utensils should be regularly cleaned with bleaching powder (25-50g per litre water) or caustic soda (10g per litre water). Occasionally, bleaching powder and lime can be sprayed in the farm premises. All materials (vehicles/equipment) entering or leaving a farm site must be disinfected thoroughly using formalin (6-10ml per litre water) or other commercially available disinfectants like Virkon S or B-904. All the ASF-infected and potentiallyinfected in-contact pigs must be slaughtered. The carcases must be burnt or buried (5-6 feet) deeply and the surrounding area should be covered with disinfectants.

At the present time, the purchase and sale of pigs from one farm to another farm is to be restricted and pig movement should be limited Furthermore correct nutrition with balanced feed and clean water is crucial for optimal performance and also to tussle against disease causing organisms.

Undoubtedly, it's a crucial time to move toward a comprehensive approach to biosecurity, as well as to review the existing and recently developed tools, mechanisms and practices to address unprecedented diseases like ASF. Another key factor to the success of disease prevention and control is compensation and social support to the affected farming community so that they can lend a hand in disease control programme and get back to standard at the end of the programme. Application of the zoning concept (infected, surveillance and ASF-free zones) may be helpful to prevent further spread of infection through livestock movement controls and to remove sources of infections as quickly as possible through slaughter of potentially infected pigs, safe disposal of carcasses and decontamination.

At the same time, trace back and trace forward investigations with suitable epidemiological tools should be carried out whenever an infected pig herd is found in a locality. In this regard, the joint particination and coordination of all stakeholders along the value chain at different levels like government, industrial, academia, etc., will help tackle this challenge. Now it is just an early warning, and in the absence of an effective vaccine, practising strict biosecurity is the only tool to prevent and react effectively to such emerging diseases of livestock and poultry.

Letters to the **EDITOR**

Sir, – Within a few short weeks, the global health emergency Covid-19 has fundamentally changed how the world and India will do business in future. In these days of lockdown, the business and economy have been severely hampered putting more emphasis on job security. People with existing considerations will be reluctant to leave their companies and we anticipate a much lower percentage of people open to exploring new opportunities. New opportunities will be exposed in job types such as digital analytics and data science. This will also create a demand for e-learning and remote online virtual learning space within training and professional development. Digital tools will still continue to develop and even more financial investment is being directed to it. The shift will accelerate in the next couple of months and we will witness a lot of changes in one's professional career. Yours etc., PRATITI KATYAYAN, Jorhat.

Optometrists

Sir, - Heartfelt thanks to the State Health Ministry for the steps taken against the Covid-19 pandemic. Here, I would like to

Changes in professional career

draw the attention of the Health Ministry towards the vacant posts of optometrist lying in the PHCs and civil hospitals across Assam. Due to the non-availability of optometrist in these hospitals, the common people have to pay a hefty amount for eye check-up in the private eye clinics and hospitals. This is bringing much hardship for the common man in the absence of optometry services in the government hospitals. Filling up of the posts of optometrist in all the PHCs and civil hospitals in Assam will go a long way in providing ophthalmology services to the common people. Yours etc., ARUNAV GOGOI, Demow, Sivasagar.

Post-pandemic age Sir, – This is with reference to the article, 'Is India ready to reopen?' (AT, May 11). The postpandemic age is one of uncertainty and fear. India being the largest democracy increases the smog over this future which is very foreign to us. However, I believe the answer lies not in looking forward but in looking back. Simple lifestyle habits like washing our hands and feet before entering the house or even before eating, greeting with a namaste instead of the colonial handshake, or a sattvic food intake could be beneficial for the society when done by every

citizen of our country. A form of untouchability and pardah seems to have reincarnated in our society in the mould of social distancing and the use of the mask. Yours etc. GUTIMALI GOSWAMI, North Kamrup College.

Men's mental health Sir, – Men's mental health has

become a silent crisis over the years. Men have been taught to be tough and 'be like a man' to hide their emotions; starting from their childhood, they are taught that 'Boys don't cry'. They are taught that showing emotions is a sign of weakness. This may result in mental illnesses in some individuals as they grew. According to the World Health Organization, the male suicide rate is twice that of females. In India the ratio of male to female suicides is at 4:3. Men are more likely to commit suicide due to social or economic reasons, while women are more likely to do so for emotional and personal causes. Men have grown learning how to be tough, hide their feelings and not to ask for help. A woman in distress is likely to talk to her friends, while a man is not. Men do not typically reveal weakness or vulnerability. Men are more likely to suffer alone until the pain becomes unbearable, and thus

taking action as alcohol or drug

abuse or committing suicide.

There must be awareness among men that talking about mental health is not a shameful thing and, as such, they should be influenced and motivated to talk about the issue. Yours etc., ASHUTOSH ROY, Cotton University.

Epitome of courage

Sir, – It ought to make every Assamese, especially the unemployed, underprivileged educated youth, feel proud and encouraged that a poverty-stricken Assamese girl has been able to stand up as an epitome of courage and conviction through her indomitable will power. Janmoni Gogoi, from a small village in Dibrugarh, has lately gone viral in the social media for the struggle she had started a couple of months ago to support her family. This young peddler carries heavy bags of home-grown vegetables on her bicycle and sells them in the locality. What touches one the most is her sense of obligation towards the society and her family. Such an energetic attitude of the youth does falsify the term 'slackers' often used for the people of Assam. Several persons as well as organizations have generously come forward to stand by this girl at this hour of crisis with possible aids and thus been a part of her struggle. The SP of Dibrugarh arranged a two-

wheeler motorbike for her; a social worker donated a wheelchair for her paralysed father and so on. Evidently, such acts of the kind on the part of these people will encourage many such afflicted individuals to follow her footsteps in the days to come. The magnanimity of such benevolent people of the society really deserves praise. A sound society flourishes only when its citizens are cooperative and prompt to help one another whenever needed. Yours etc., DIPEN GOGOI, Teok, Jorhat.

Washing tumblers

Sir, - Our Government has allowed tea shops to open with only takeaway option. Before the arrival of disposable plastic and paper cups, most tea shops had the practice of washing tumblers with hot water just prior to giving tea to customers. The practice has disappeared now. I request the authorities concerned to consider strict guidelines to such shops to resume washing tumblers in hot water. Further, customers can bring their own containers for takeaway purposes. Yours etc., CHANDAN KUMAR NATH, Sorbhog, Barpeta.

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.



LOCAL FORECAST:

Generally cloudy sky with rain/thundershower is very likely to occur. Maximum and minimum temperatures are most likely to be 30°C & 21°C respectively on Thursday. **TEMPERATURE:** Min 22.6° C

3-day total shutdown call at Fancy Bazar

GUWAHATI, May 13: Kamrup Chamber of Commerce president MP Jain has called for a complete 3-day shutdown (quarantine) in greater Fancy Bazar area after detection of 15 COVID-19 positive cases in the area today.

Iain mentioned TRP Road. Kedar Road, MG Road, HB Road, Chamber Road, MS Road. MM Road, SRCB Road and all roads/bye-lanes connected to these roads where the complete shutdown is to be maintained, said a press release.

Call for proper safety gear to **GMC** workers

GUWAHATI, May 13: The Assam State committee of the Mahadalit Parisangh (Rashtriya) has called upon the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) to provide proper safety equipment to all the contractual and permanent safai karmacharis in the city.

In a memorandum to the GMC Commissioner, State president of Mahadalit Parisangh (Rashtriya) Baijnath Basfore said that safai karmacharis have been carrying out their duties regularly despite the ongoing COV-ID-19 pandemic and the nationwide lockdown.

Besides proper safety equipment, the organisation also urged the GMC to conduct regular health check-up of the safai karmacharis and to facilitate their "whole body sanitization" after completion of duty daily. -Staff Reporter

Video speech contest on climate

GUWAHATI, May 13: The Climate Cell of the Assam Science Technology and Environment Council (ASTEC) is organising a video speech contest - 'Climate Talk' – for school students of the State.

A release said the participants will be divided into three groups - Group A, B and C. Group-A would include students studying between Class V and VII, Group-B from Class VIII to X and Group-C from Class XI and XII (of any stream).

For Group-A competitors, the theme is 'Understanding Weather and Climate,' while the themes for Group-B and C competitors respectively are 'Climate Change and Biodiversity," and 'Impacts of Climate Change on Agriculture.'

Interested students can send video clips either in English or Assamese. Duration of the video clips should not be more than two minutes. The clips are to be mailed to *climatecell.astec@* gmail.com, or sent to the WhatsApp number 7002057484 on or before 5 pm of May 31.

Nature breathes easy at Deepor Beel now

AJIT PATOWARY

eepor Beel, the lone Deepor Beer, and Ramsar Site wetland of the State, is now breathing normally taking advantage of the gap provided by the monthlong lockdown after decades of atrocious anthropogenic activities virtually forcing it to gasp, said Dr H Bialung, Director (Additional Charge) of the Paschim Boragaon-based Institute of Advanced Studies in Science and Technology (IASST).

Since 2016, the IASST is monitoring the health of this wetland in every season of the year, collecting samples from

vals, from the bank to the core, so as to have a measure of the physico-chemical parameters of its water and sediments. Dr Bailung said, "This

25 locations at constant inter-

time, we observed a remarkable recovery of the wetland's water quality, after nearly a month of lockdown. We started collecting water samples from designated spots during the first week of May. You cannot expect the opportunity provided by the lockdown so easily nowadays," he said.

Dr Bailung conceived the idea of this comparative water quality study.

He informed that the most



important parameter measured was the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) level and it was found to be in the range of 5.61-6.82 milligram per litre (mg/L). This indicated Deepor's dramatic regaining of its water

quality. A healthy water body

should have its DO level above 6.5 mg/L to 8.0 mg/L.

The IASST scientists engaged in this study also found that the present Deepor Beel water-related data have indicated significant improvement in its water quality concerning

two more parameters, too. The Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) of the wetland was found to be 8-42 mg/L, while its Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) was found to be 1.2-2.2mg/L. Its pH value is also recovering and it is close to the normal range of

7.68-8.63.

The higher its DO, the more different species of plants and water animals a water body can support. During the past four years (2016-19), the wetland's pre-monsoon (March-April) water quality-related findings were not encouraging. Its average DO range was between 1.55–

5.11mg/L, with the minimum value found in the proximity of the industrial effluent inlet and the garbage dumping site.

Bacteria in water bodies consume oxygen if there exists any decaying organic matter. Excess organic material in a water body thus leads to its 'death' causing an oxygen-

deficient situation. On the other hand, a BOD level of 1-2 mg/L in water is considered to be very good, suggesting lesser amount of organic waste. BOD level 3-5 mg/L is considered as moderately clean. Concurrently. higher COD in water means a larger amount of oxidizable organic matter, posing a threat to the aquatic life, said Dr Bailung.

IASST research scholar Bhaswati Devi, who collected the water samples aboard a fisherman's boat, said she had a "terrific feeling" when she touched Deepor Beel's clean and cold water, while its transparent water was stunning.

Dr Arundhati Devi, Associate Professor, Environment and Eco-System Research Section, who is leading the IASST water and soil quality research, was also exuberant about these positive develop-

State Cong alleges irregularities in scheme for farmer families

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 13: Principal opposition Congress party has alleged irregularities in selection of beneficiaries' lists under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) in the State and undue interference by the ruling party in the process.

Assam Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) general secretary and senior spokesperson Apurba Kumar Bhattacharva said selection of beneficiary farmer families was done by violating the rules.

'The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed the entire global economy, including that of India and Assam, towards downturn. However, the ruling party and the government have been involved in massive corruption and irregularities in implementation of schemes even during this time of pandemic. provide income support to

The farmers of Assam have been among the most affected on account of the ongoing lockdown, even as manufacturing, tea industry and trade and comfarmers. "Under the scheme, an income support of Rs 6,000 per year is to be provided to all farmer families in three equal instalments. As per the rules,

Instead of being the PM-KISAN scheme, it has now turned into a scheme to help the BJP cadres... We want to remind Sarbananda Sonowal that he is the Chief Minister of the entire State and not just the Chief Minister of the BJP and its alliance partners. We call upon him to provide justice to all, says APCC spokesperson Apurba Kumar Bhattacharya

merce have also suffered. The agriculture department has failed to perform what was necessary to provide succour to the

farmers," Bhattacharya said. He added that the PM-KISAN scheme was launched by the Centre with an aim to

the entire work of identification of beneficiary farmer families has to be done by the agriculture department in consultation with and cooperation from the elected panchayat representa-

tives. However, in reality the

lists were compiled by the rul-

ing party and its legislators,

along with cadres of the BJP and the RSS," the senior Congress party leader said.

Bhattacharya alleged that MLAs belonging to the opposition parties were not allowed to take part in the process for compiling the lists of beneficiaries.

"Instead of being the PM-KISAN scheme, it has now turned into a scheme to help the BJP cadres... We want to remind Sarbananda Sonowal that he is the Chief Minister of the entire State and not just the Chief Minister of the BJP and its alliance partners. We call upon him to provide justice to all," the Congress party leader

PM-KISAN is a Central sector scheme with 100 per cent funding from the Government of India. The fund under the scheme is directly transferred to the bank accounts of the ben-

AJYCP wants 'fake farmers' charge probed

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 13: Criticizing the State government for its 'utter failure' to check large-scale anomalies in the agriculture sector, the Asom Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chhatra Parishad (AJYCP) has demanded a high-level probe into the allegations of fake farmers getting the benefits of Central and State government schemes meant for genuine farmers.

Alleging that the Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal's slogan of zero tolerance against corruption has vanished into thin air. the Parishad demanded identification of the fake farmers on the list of beneficiaries.

"While the condition of poor and marginalized farmers in the State is

pitiable, specially in the lockdown period, unscrupulous elements are getting the advantage of schemes through wrong means," AJYCP president Rana Pratap Barua and general secretary Palash Changmai said.

The Parishad alleged that large-scale irregularities have been reported during the distribution of tractors under the Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan "Under the scheme,

tractors with low-quality manufacturing were distributed among the beneficiaries instead of the one approved under the scheme. Also, recently, a lot of fake farmers have registered themselves in the list of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sanman Nidhi, to get the benefits of the scheme,"

the Parishad alleged. Asking the government to

ensure that the benefits of various schemes under the agriculture sector reach the farmers of the State directly, it stated that the government must think beyond political benefits in this regard. The youth body further alleged that at many places, the workers of the ruling BJP have prepared the list of beneficiaries and have forced the officers of the department concerned to approve the same.

"Such large-scale corruption and injustice to the genuine farmers cannot be accepted at any cost. The government must announce a high-level probe into the matter, or else we would be compelled to start a democratic movement against this," the Parishad members stated.

State Govt to engage voluntary mental health counsellors

MANASH PRATIM DUTTA

GUWAHATI, May 13: To address issues of mental health during the prevailing medical emergency situation, the State health and family welfare (H&FW) department will engage voluntary counsellors in every district of Assam soon.

The volunteers will work with other experts in the field in their respective places as per guidelines set by the Central government. Before engagement

they will be trained by experts.

The voluntary counsellors will include persons having master degree or other higher degree in psychology, clinical psychology, counselling psychology, psychiatric social work and social work.

To provide psychological assistance to people in

need, the H&FW department has already chalked out a standard operating procedure (SOP). Through this procedure mental health support services will be provided to the people who are directly or indirectly affected by COVID-19.

In this venture which will be carried out under the National Mental Health Programme, the department will engage psychiatrists, clinical psychologists and psychiatric social workers along with psychiatrists, clinical psychologists and psychiatric social workers from medical colleges of the State.

Anyone can avail the service through the 104 medical helpline. As per the SOP, when a call is made to the 104 helpline, the same will be forwarded to the counsellors of the respective district.

In case of inmates of quarantine facilities, isolation wards, migrant labour camps, etc., counselling will be done through video call or face-to-face by strictly adhering to safety guidelines.

In case of a client or a caller requiring psy-

chiatric consultation, the call will be forwarded to psychiatrists. If required. the person in need of help may consult the psychiatry department of the medical college in the district concerned.

Alternatively, a telemedicine consultation facility will also be available under the initiative as

per telemedicine practice guidelines of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Officials concerned will also arrange hospitalisation facility for any person having critical mental illness and rescue operation for homeless mentally ill persons.

The SOP has also suggested upgrading the existing psychiatric and psychological services of Sarathi 104 helpline by engaging more psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, psychiatric social workers and counsellors to offer uninterrupted 24x7 mental health services during the prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

Zubeen lauds govt role in COVID fight STAFF REPORTER GUWAHATI, May 13: Zubeen Garg is now enjoying

his time watching movies in his room at Hotel Radisson Blu here where he and three others are being kept in quarantine after they reached Guwahati from Mumbai yesterday.

"We all are fine. Yesterday we took rest after the tiring journey. At present none of us have any health issue and Zubeen da is busy watching movies," Siddhartha Sarma, who also accompanied Zubeen in the bus journey, said.

After a four-day bus journey, Zubeen, who was stuck in Mumbai since March, arrived here in the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. Soon after, Zubeen, his wife Garima Garg and two other associates were screened at the Sarusajai centre. They were then taken to Hotel Raddison Blu for 14-day quarantine.

Zubeen said that he would follow all the guidelines issued by the government vis-à-vis COVID-19. He had left for Guwahati on May 8. The iconic musician, who had collapsed at a function in Guwahati in February, had gone to Mumbai for advanced treatment.

Zubeen, lauding the efforts of the State Govt in its fight against COVID-19, also thanked Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for facilitating his travel back to Guwahati.

Trade entities play role in COVID fight

GUWAHATI, May 13: Like many other organisations and individuals, New Age Communications and Prasanti Tour & Travel too have been jointly doing their bit in the fight against COVID-19. According to a joint press

release issued by the two entities, their members have distributed sanitizers, face masks and food items among different sections of people in the State during the last few days. On Tuesday, they also distributed face masks and sanitizers among members of the media. The two trade entities also distributed tea and light refreshments among police personnel on duty.



Webinar on shift from campus classes to virtual classes

Training and Capacity Building (TCB), a division of Quality Control of India (QCI) New Delhi in association with National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (NABET) conducted a webinar – 'Covering the Distance from Campus Classes to Virtual Classes' with Prof SP Singh, Vice Chancellor, Royal Global University as the lead speaker along with Karan Kumar, head, IT, OP Jindal Global University and Anurag Shah, Controller of Examinations & IT, National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), on Wednesday, said a press release issued here. The webinar was moderated by Vanita Yadav, Director, NABET.

GUWAHATI, May 13:

The webinar was attended by more than 600 students, staff and faculty of different universities and schools.

Prof Singh addressing the query on understanding the nuances while adapting from campus/classroom learning to online learning, outlined the transition RGU undertook from March 17 with the ac-

tive participation and coaching by the IT team of RGU, much before any inkling of a lockdown due to COVID-19. He said the pro-active and well-exposed faculty started to undertake online classes without major glitch, as online classes or internet-backed classroom activity is a much practised norm in teaching pedagogy at RGU. Faculty and students have

been facilitated to avail the various online modes of teaching and learning and digital classrooms through RoyalNet, Zoom, WebEx, GoToMeeting Skype, Google Classroom, YouTube, etc. Online resources available on SWAYAM, E-PG Pathsala, UG/PG MOOCs, SWAYAMPRABHA and other platforms were also used, Prof Singh said.

All students of RGU were contacted by phone for feedback on online classes, syllabus completion, availability of study material and difficulties faced. Problems of students were resolved on one-to-one basis. Only very few students across remote areas of the North East where connectivity issues were not resolved, were addressed through hard copies of study material sent to them, the RGU VC informed the participants.

Some practical classes which could not be conducted online would be conducted once the university opens in June as per UGC guidelines and if Assam is still in green zone, Prof Singh said. He also spoke about the initial hiccups faced by some senior faculty above 60 years, which through intensive online training videos rid them of their inhibitions and braced them to take online classes at times with the help of young techsavvy faculty of the same Joining Prof Singh, both Ku-

mar and Shah reiterated that COVID-19 has changed the conventional norms of education and is instrumental in changing the future of classroom teaching and examinations. Secured online platforms maintaining the sanctity of education is the demand which is being addressed by IT firms across the world, they added.



Food being distributed among needy people by members of the Khalsa Centre North East at Badhagaon in Guwahati on Wednesday. - AT photo

Delhi court judge comes in contact with COVID-19 patient

court judges have gone into self quarantine at home for 14 days after one of them came in contact with a COVID-19 positive patient, a circular issued by Saket District Court has said.

According to the circular issued by District Judge Neena Bansal Krishna, the Metropolitan Magistrate posted at Tis Hazari District Court, came in contact with a coronavirus or COVID-19 positive patient on May 6, who was produced before him for recording his statement.

It said that his wife, who is the Metropolitan Magistrate at Saket District Court, informed that in view of the government guidelines on preventing the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, she has isolated herself for 14 days at her home.

The circular was forwarded to the Registrar General of the Delhi High Court for necessary action. A day after this letter was issued, District Judge Girish Kathpa-

Vegans immune to COVID-19?

There is no proof at the mo-

ment, says prominent health

expert and president of the Pub-

lic Health Foundation of India,

Even vegetarians have been

affected because this is a virus

which travels through droplet

infection and enters the body,

he said. However, people who

(Contd from page 1)

The plea, filed through advo-

wages have been paid to work-

ers for the period during which

several tea estates were under

orders were passed and de-

mands were raised by different

workers union in several tea

gardens, workers are not being

paid their wages and rations by

their employers. The workers

in the tea gardens are in dire

circumstances and facing ex-

treme poverty," the plea said.

lockdown, this situation will

No. CS/EGTRD/SOPD(G)/2019-20/718/

the undersigned during office hours.

"The earlier reports from

closure due to the lockdown.

Professor K Srinath Reddy.

NEW DELHI, May 13: Two Delhi lia issued directions to the judicial officers, ence in the courts complex. "Those judiadministrative officers and staff officials posted at Tis Hazari Courts complex, in view of the novel coronavirus pandemic.

> "Unless deputed on emergency duty during the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown, no judicial officer, administrative officer and staff official shall personally visit the courts complex. Even those who are deputed on emergency duty during the ongoing lockdown period shall work online from home, unless absolutely impossible to do so, in which case they can come personally and work from the courts complex," the circular said.

> It further directed that those who are suffering with any co-morbidity complications like diabetes, hypertension, cardiac ailments and cancer, shall immediately inform the District Judge or the respective branch in-charges in writing, so that they be not deputed on emergency duty that requires their personal pres-

Are vegetarians immune to COVID-19?

etables as part of their natural boost our innate immunity to

provide better defence against

in several major international

and national research studies.

having been trained in cardiolo-

gy and epidemiology, said facial

protection to also cover eyes,

not just mouth and nose, is most

journey without a doctor.

Reddy who has been involved

the virus, he told PTI.

BENGALURU, May 13: Are are taking a lot of fruits and vegetable to the extent we can to

diet have better innate immu-

nity, and they may be able to

fight the infection much better.

said Reddy, who formerly head-

ed the Department of Cardiolo-

gy at All India Institute of Med-

It is always better for vege-

tarians or non-vegetarians to

have a lot of fresh fruit and veg-

which has sought to ensure

implementation of earlier or-

ment of wages to tea garden

It has also sought a direc-

tion to the State to strictly

by which it had directed the

plantation owners to disburse

wages and rations to workers

It said the petitioner organisa-

tion had written a representation

on April 7 to the Labour Com-

missioner of Assam requesting

him to take appropriate action

against the employers or man-

ensure that workers immediate-

during the lockdown period.

workers in different states.

ical Sciences (AIIMS).

SC seeks ...

cate Satya Mitra, claimed that the der passed by the apex court in

organisation has found that no a matter related to timely pay-

"Despite specific government implement the April 2 order

the tea gardens suggest many agement of tea estates for violat-

starvation deaths due to non- ing government orders and to

payment of wages. With the also take appropriate steps to

further aggravate and may put ly receive wages for lockdown

many lives at stake," it claimed. period, but no concrete steps

PRESS NOTICE / IFB

The tender has been invited by the Superintending

Engineer, PWD, (Roads), Guwahati ARIASP Circle,

Ghy-21 on behalf of the Governor of Assam for 2 (two)

nos. item rate Bid from approved and eligible

Contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads)

for the work. Details may be seen at website

http://assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of

Janasanyog/CF/294/20 Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Guwahati-21

PRESS NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

Circle, Nagaon on behalf of the Governor of Assam

invites bid from Assam PWD registered contractors for

4 (four) nos. of works under SOPD(G) for the 2019-20

in Morigaon District of Assam (Jagiroad LAC)

amounting to Rs. 468.00 Lakhs (approx.). Details may

be seen at website http://assamtenders.gov.in and

also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

The Superintending Engineer, PWD, Nagaon Road

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads),

Nagaon Road Circle, Nagaon

pending contempt petition ty in this regard. – PTI

The plea has been filed in a have been taken by the authori-

cial officers, administrative officers and staff officials whose personal presence is indispensable shall ensure strict adherence to the norms of social distancing, wear mask, gloves and head gear constantly in the court complex and ensure hand hygiene by repeated soap wash or

"Those judicial officers, administrative officers and staff officials who are suffering with any symptom of COVID-19, like ever, cough or breathing difficulty, etc., or any other medical complication shall immediately inform the District Judge or the respective branch incharges in writing, so that they be not deputed on emergency duty that requires their personal presence in the courts complex," the circular said.

Another court staff posted at Saket District Courts complex has tested positive for COVID-19 on May 9, a circular issued by the court had said on Sunday. – PTI

ly talk about eyes.

"What happens is that this vi-

rus mainly enters through the

face which means the nose,

mouth or eyes. We don't usual-

When the droplets drop on

the face, it can also enter (the

body) through the eye because

eves are also connected to the

nose. The virus can enter the

eves and then also go to the

nose." he said. – PTI

Assam Bhawan ...

(Contd from page 1)

home, the State Government took a decision to bring them

back. Health Minister, Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma first decided

that the patients would be brought back by air and that is why,

COVID-19 tests were carried out and four persons were test-

ed positive. They had to be hospitalized and one was released

vesterday. As the attempt to bring them by air did not materi-

alize, the Health Minister asked the Assam Bhawan, Mumbai

to hire the best available buses to bring them to Assam. He

said that before bringing them back, all the patients and attend-

ants had to be screened before starting the journey and Dr

Choudhury, who had gone to Mumbai to do a course in Hinduja

Hospital helped out in this regard. She also readily agreed to

accompany the team as it was not possible to undertake such a

Sharma said that they started the journey at 12.10 pm on May

9 but the journey was slow as the buses had to be frequently

stopped as the patients had to go to toilets. They mostly used the

toilets of the petrol pumps and in some places, members of Rota-

ry Club made arrangements to open the toilets of the dhabas on

the road. He said that as some patients started showing signs of

some illness or other from the second day and "as per the list

given by Dr Choudhury we had carried medical equipment and

Sharma admitted that a major problem faced from the second

morning was food. "We thought that the dhabas would be open.

But we found that most of the dhabas on the highways were

closed. A member of Deepsikha Foundation, Nita Joshi came

forward to help out in that situation. She used her network in the

Jain temples, while, the Rotary Club of Mumbai Metro also

activated the Rotary Clubs all along the way and they provided

Crossing the inter-state borders was a difficult proposition

because of the long queues of vehicles. "In such cases, we

requested the police personnel manning the check gates that

we were carrying cancer patients and three to four hour wait at

the check gates would be troublesome. In all cases, the police

personnel were sympathetic towards us and helped us to cross

It may be mentioned here that the oldest patient brought

from Mumbai was 75-year-old and the youngest was only

around 18 months. Sharma carried his guitar along and wher-

ever they stopped on the way, attempt was made to keep

It may be mentioned here that after reaching Guwahati last night,

Sharma and Lakhiram Kalita, a fourth grade employee of the Assam

Rs 3 lakh cr ...

(Contd from page 1)

investment-based one to that provides for higher investments

and turnover for companies to remain as small businesses, and

Besides, an estimated Rs 1 lakh crore in dues to MSMEs by

Small and mid-sized businesses in India account for about a

government and Central PSUs will be released within 45 days.

third of gross domestic product and employ more than 11 crore

people and the package announced on Wednesday is aimed at

The Finance Minister announced a Rs 30,000 crore special

liquidity scheme for non-banking finance companies, housing

finance companies and micro-finance institutions that are find-

Further a Rs 45,000 crore partial credit guarantee scheme 2.0

was also announced for NBFCs, HFCs, and MFIs with low credit

In a relief to contractors, she announced up to six months (with-

out costs to contractor) to be provided by all Central agencies like

Railways, road transport ministry and Central public works depart-

ment to finish construction works, and goods and services con-

tracts. For electricity distribution companies, she said state-owned

Power Finance Corp (PFC) and Rural Electrification Corp (REC)

will infuse Rs 90,000 crore liquidity against receivables, subject to

15 more ...

(Contd from page 1)

from them as well as from nineteen of his indirect contacts, includ-

successive tests showed negative for the virus. The total number

of recovered patients in the State now is 39.

Sarma had indicated that the source of the virus could be some

discoms undertaking reforms such as digital payments. - PTI

rating to help them extend a loan to individuals and MSMEs.

helping them overcome coronavirus disruptions.

ing it difficult to raise money in debt markets.

avail financial and other incentives.

Also the definition of MSMEs has been changed from a pure

the moral of the patients high with songs and dances.

Bhawan, started their return journey by bus this afternoon.

the inter state borders without much hassle." Sharma said.

food and all other required items all throughout the journey.

emergency medicines and she gave required treatment."

Sharma said that as those people were desperate to return

'Political earthquake awaiting at national level'

ashtra BJP president Chan-ship should try to keep its flock drakant Patil on Wednesday said a "political earthquake" would take place at the national level once the COVID-19 situation normalises.

Predicting similar "political earthquakes" in Maharashtra,

together as several leaders will switch over to the BJP.

"I heard that a State-level Congress leader was trying to know that Khadse has been a

Name of W.R.

Dhubri W.R

Division

Department, Govt. of Assam

No. DME/Micro_patho /101 /2020/ 5573

Scheduled

e-Tender Publishing

e- Tender Download

Pre-Bid meeting

Bid Submission

Description

(Name of the Items)

Equipment related to Pathology

Supply and installation of

& Microbiology Department

Bid Opening

1. Brief Schedule

SI. No.

Janasanyog/C/383/20

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

national level, including in Maharashtra as several Congress leaders will join the BJP post

PRESS NOTICE FOR BID

Name of the Scheme

Restoration and recoupment of breached like

front development works at Chatiyalgaon)

damages of road cum bund by flooding of river

Brahmaputra at Nichinpur area under SOPD (FDR)

Rejuvenation of Kollong River (Aesthetic and river

E-TENDER

INVITATION FOR E-BID (IFB)

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

e-Tenders are invited online through e-procurement system i.e. through website **www.assamtenders.gov.i**n

from the intending manufacturer/Accredited Dealers for Supply and installation of Equipment related to

Pathology & Microbiology Department to all Medical College Hospitals of Assam, under the Health & F.W.

The E-Tender is Two-Bid System, to be submitted with affixed Court Fee Stamp Rs.8.25 (Rupees eight point two

five paisa) only (for local bidders) or IPO of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only (in case of bidders from outside of the

Important dates of the e-Tender

Start Time

11.00 AM

11.00 AM

2.00 P.M

4.00 PM

Delivery

Installatio

schedule

Completion

period

State of Assam) in favour of "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

Start Date

15-05-2020

16-05-2020

02-06-2020

02-06-2020

15-06 -2020

MUMBAI, May 13: Mahar- he said the Congress leader- firebrand leader of the party is trying to lure Khadse) will for several years. There will personally see the political be a political earthquake at the earthquake. The State Congress leadership should try to keep its flock together. We are going to make a big dent to our lure (senior BJP leader) the COVID-19 crisis," Patil Opposition. The BJP would Eknath Khadse. He should told a Marathi news channel. emerge stronger in the com-"The Congress leader (who ing months," Patil said. – PTI

> Approx. amount in

lakh (Rs.)

Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati- 3

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department

End Date

15-06 -2020

15-06 -2020

Office of the Director of Medical

Education Assam, Sixmile

Sd/- Director of Medical Education, Assam

Sixmile, Khanapara, Ghy-22

eligibility

Khanapara, Guwahati

HOA

FDR

SOPD-

ODS

End Time

12.00 Noor

2.00 PM

Eligibility

Manufacture

Mamallapuram grappling with gloom

MAMALLAPURAM (TN), May 13: The transition from euphoria to gloom, in a matter of a few months is just hard to here like master artisans and

The empty beachfronts and deserted world heritage monument site sans tourists offers a peek into the harrowing

here last October, more and more tourists, especially foreigners, descended here, an

When hoteliers like him were hoping to further build on the feel good factor and increase business, the lockdown

Guest workers from States the chain of the workforce at Mamallapuram which is dotted with a string of hotels both

Complete ...

(Contd from page 1) During the visit, Water Re-Prasad Tasa, MLAs Mrinal

Later talking to the newsmen, the Chief Minister informed that even though emstarted on time due to COVernment had started the construction work of embankments so that all these by May 30. In view of the immonth of June, the State government was taking all steps to complete the embankment construction works within

He also said that the State top priority to safeguard the son, he was taking firsthand embankment construction works.

Sonowal said concentrating on developing skilled manpower that could be a strong force to catapult industrial growth in the State should also portance of the NRL.

formed the Chief Minister that the Rs 22,594 crore expansion project that will enhance the refinery's capacity from 3 MMTPA to 9 MMTPA would be completed in 48 months. Moreover, consultancy job has been awarded and 200 acres land taken on lease at Paradip port in Odisha for laying a crude oil pipeline connecting

times being endured by them.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping's summit ancient sea port town.

"Occupancy rate spiked and we saw about 25 per cent increase in business immediately after the high level summit and further growth prospects were really promising," says Mamallapuram Hotels Association president N

source Minister Keshab Mahanta, Agriculture Minister Atul Bora, MP Kamakhya Saikia and Bimal Bora, DC and SP Golaghat, SDO(C) Bokakhat accompanied the Chief Minister along with top officials of Water Resource

this month.

government was according wild animals of Kaziranga during floods and for that reaaccount of the progress of

(Contd from page 1) constitute a core area of im-

Baruah further said that the bio refinery plant which is being executed with a project cost of Rs 1,750 crore will use 5 lakh MT bamboo per annum as raw material and produce 49,000 MT ethanol per annum as main product. The plant is scheduled to be commissioned by December 2021.

believe for a host of people

kicked in.

like Jharkhand are a key link in star rated and others besides restaurants. - PTI

Department.

bankment work could not be ID-19 lockdown, State Govprojects could be completed pending floods from the

Sonowal ...

NRL MD SK Baruah in-Numaligarh.

truck driver and it spread from the godown. Ten direct contacts of Sahani were put in isolation a day before and samples collected ing a doctor. Sahani had also visited the Rapicure lab at Fancy Bazar for an X-ray and the facility has been sealed. Meanwhile, another COVID-19 patient has been discharged from MMCH today after

No. CE/CC/WR/NIT/2019-20/1003/37 Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department, Chandmari, Guwahati- 3, on behalf of Governor of Assam invites Re-Tender for the following works SI.

Janardanam.

No. DME/Neurology /100 /2020/ 5579

Janasanyog/C/402/20

Description

Janasanyog/C/404/20

Janasanyog/C/394/20

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

The detailed information of Bidding documents are available online through e-procurement system i.e. through

website www.assamtenders.gov.in only. The bidders would be required to register in the website for submission

of the bids. The bidders are required to have Digital Signature (DSC) from any of the Certifying Authorities. Aspiring

bidders who have not obtained the user ID and password for participating in e- procurement may obtain the same

by registering in the www.assamtenders.gov.in. The requirements to register with the e-procurement portal are

available on the website indicated above. The tender fees is non refundable and payable in favour of the "Director

of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022, at SBI-Dispur (Guwahati) Branch.

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

The e-Tender is Two-Bid System, to be submitted with affixed Court Fee Stamp Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight point two five paisa) only (for local bidders) or IPO of Rs. 10/- (Rupees Ten) only (in case of bidders from outside of

	Important dates of the e-Tender						
SI. No.	Scheduled	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time		
1.	e- Tender Publishing	15-05-2020		-	-		
2.	e- Tender Download	16-05-2020	11.00 AM	16-06 -2020	12.00 Noon		
3.	Pre-Bid meeting	03-06-2020	11.00 AM	Office of the Director of Medical Education Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati.			
4.	Bid Submission	04-06-2020	2.00 P.M.	16-06 -2020	2.00 PM		
	Bid Opening	16-06 -2020	4.00 PM				
1. Brief	Schedule		•				

(Name of the items) installation security fees / cost document in Rs. Supply & Installation of Equipment 3.00 Lakhs | 25 days. Rs. 5.000/-Manufacturer/ related to Neurology Department. The detailed information of Bidding documents are available online through e-procurement system i.e.

Bid

Delivery/

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

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

Tender

No. EE-G/Bamboo Mission/743/2019/145/46-50

Re-E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE / Re-INVITATION FOR BID (Re-IFB)

The office of the Executive Engineer, Industries & Commerce Deptt, Industrial Estate Bamunimaidam, Guwahati-21, re-invites Bid from Contractors (up to date) under Industries & Commerce Department, Assam registered as Class-III & above for the following work ON TWO BID SYSTEM through e-procurement in the portal www.assamtenders.gov.in.

	Gr.	Name of work	Estimated	Earnes	st Money/	Cost of	Period of
П	No.		Cost	Bid S	ecurity	Tender	Completion
			(in Rs.)	General	Reserved	Document	
				category	Category	(in Rs.)	
				(in Rs.)	(in Rs.)		
	1.	Creation of office					
		chamber for Bamboo	24,63,934/-	49.300/-	24,650/-	750/-	60 days
		Mission officer on 4th					
		floor at Udyog Bhawan					
		Bamunimaidam Assam					

The contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering system (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam (Website: http/assamtenders.gov.in). The details of bids can be viewed in the portal www.assamtenders.gov.in from 14.05.2020 to 26.05.2020.

Contractors/ Bidders can download document free of cost. Contractors/ Bidders have to upload the bidding document using their own ID (Digital Signature Certificate). Bid document not uploaded using the contractor's own user ID will be considered invalid and summarily rejected. Contractors submitting bid online have to submit copy of the documents of Technical Bid manually along with Bid Security & Cost of bid document before the expiry of the sequence 'Online Bid Submission' date and time as mentioned in the tender schedule. Bid will be rejected/ cancelled if Financial Bid submitted off line/ hard copy.

Online bid preparation and last date and time of manual submission of hard copy of cost of Bid Document, Bid Security separately as mentioned above & self signed documents uploaded along with copy of Bid Document from 10.00 hours of 18.05.2020 to 14.00 hours of 26.05.2020. Date & time of opening of Technical Bid is at 15.00 hours of 26.05.2020. The bid will be available through the link http/assamtenders.gov.in from 10.00 hours of 14/05/2020 to 14.00 hours of 26.05.2020

Those, Bidder who has already submitted hard copy of bid document need not necessary to submit their hard copy again. They are requested only to up-load their soft copy again.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Industries & Commerce Deptt. Assam, Guwahati-21

Dibrugarh Road Circle, Janasanyog/CF/282/20 Dibrugarh

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PWD Janasanvog/CF/292/20

No. SE/NRC/TB/NIT/44/2019-20/50

No. DRC-XIII/16/98/NIT/DIB/239

PRESS NOTICE INVITING FRESH TENDER Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Dibrugarh Road Circle, Dibrugarh on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bid from the approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for Construction/Re-Construction of Roads under SOPD-G for the Year 2019-20 for 48 (forty eight) Nos of road works in Dibrugarh District of Assam under Dibrugarh Lahowal, Tingkhong and Moran LAC under Dibrugarh. Lahowal, Moran & Tingkhong Territorial Road Division Dibrugarh amounting to Rs. 4605.076 Lakhs (Approx) as detailed in the Table. Details may be seen at websitehttps://assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

The earlier Press NIT issued vide T.O. No. DRC-XIII/16/ 98/NIT/DIB/235 Dated: 17.03.2020 & DNIT No. DRC-XIII/16/ 98/NIT/DIB/236 Dated: 17.03.2020 is hereby cancelled due to Nation wide Lockdown keeping in view of outbreak of Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19).

SI. No.	Name of LAC	Nos of work	Total Cost (Rs. in lakh)		
1	Dibrugarh LAC	11	782.676		
2	Lahowal LAC	15	1479.191		
3	Tingkhong LAC	9	1014.440		
4.	Moran LAC	13	1328.770		
		Total cost	4605.076		
	Sd/- Superintending Engineer PWD				



NORTHEAST

Forecast for North Eastern States: Rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at mos places over Arunachal Pradesh Assam and Meghalaya and at many places over Nagaland Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Warning: Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty wind with speed (40-50) kmph is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Thundersquall with wind speed exceeding 60 kmph is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya. Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura Temperatures:

	-	
N	lax (°C)	Min (°C
Dibrugarh	27.4	19.2
Tezpur	27.6	20.5
Silchar	27.6	21.4
Dhubri	33.5	25.4
Jorhat	26.2	21.5
N Lakhimpur	27.1	20.6
Shillong	23.0	_
Cherrapunjee	20.9	16.3
Aizawl	31.2	19.8
Kohima	26.2	15.0
Pasighat	28.2	19.9
Itanagar	27.2	20.2
Imphal	25.2	19.1
Agartala	33.4	27.0

Returnees reach Nagaland

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, May 13: People belonging to Nagaland, who were stranded in other parts of the North East, have reached the State in two groups. The first batch of 11 people reached the Agri Expo site here by bus on Tuesday evening, while the second batch comprising 20 people arrived here in four buses from Jorhat, Mariani and Titabor in neighbouring Assam today.

After their arrival at the reception centre at the Agri Expo, the first batch of returnees belonging to the Jain community filled up forms and underwent screening in the medical facility centre at the site. They were provided dinner after completion of the formalities.

These returnees have been quarantined at the Jain Bhavan in Marwari Patti, which was approved of by the district administration and the medical department as it fulfils all criteria.

After going through the necessary protocols, the second batch was also sent to other quarantine centres here. Altogether 23 quarantine centres have been set up in Dimapur district so far.

Agriculture Production Commissioner Kikheto

Sema, who is the Dimapur incharge for COVID-19 related activities, along with Dimapur Deputy Commissioner Anoop Kinchi, Commissioner of Police Rothihu Tetseo, Principal Director, Health and Family Welfare, Vizolie Z Soukhrie, and officials of the medical department visited the Agri Expo site this morning to oversee the logistics for receiving the returnees.

Sema lauded the Jain community and other non-Nagas for taking responsibility for stranded people of their community. He said the Dimapur district would receive all the returnees from the State at the initial stages, and sought cooperation of all civil organisations in this regard.

New rules for stranded:

The Nagaland Government is working on a new standard operating procedure for State returnees from other parts of the country. In a release, Nagaland Chief Secretary Temien Toy said that the State Government had been making detailed plans to bring in people of the State, who are stranded outside in a "staggered manner" keeping in view the limited quarantine infrastructure and other resources. However, the Centre's May 11 announcement



Returnees from other North Eastern States standing in a queue for necessary formalities at the Agri Expo site in Dimapur on Tuesday evening. - Photo: Correspondent

on introduction and resumption of special train services from Delhi and other major cities has thrown these plans out of gear, he added.

Toy said that under these circumstances, the State Government has decided to give first priority to stranded senior citizens and patients, distressed persons and those facing difficulties for repatriation to the State.

The Government has also decided to give Rs 10,000 to those citizens who opt to stay where they are at present outside the State.

Toy pointed out that systems have also been put in place to check fraudulent claims. He said several civil societies, tribal Hohos and NGOs have appealed to citizens stranded or staying outside not to return at this junc-

ture unless it is unavoidable. The State Government appreciated these appeals in view of the fact that the States which are bringing in stranded people from affected parts of the country, have seen an increase

in COVID-19 positive cases. "This is therefore a matter of great concern and a challenge for Nagaland which has fortunately remained COV-ID-19 free so far," Toy added.

Stranded Meghalaya residents to return from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SHILLONG, May 13: As one of the two COVID-19 patients in Meghalaya today tested negative after 24 hours, he has been declared as fully recovered. With just one active COVID-19 case left in the State now, Meghalaya is gearing up to take in stranded citizens of the State, arriving from outside. A batch of such people will enter the State on May 15.

The State Government today stated that 3,970 people stranded all across the North East and some from outside the region, have already come in and put under home quarantine. Those stranded in Tamil Nadu will board a train from Chennai and reach the State on May 15.

"About 1,000 people from the State will board a train in Chennai this evening and reach the State on May 15," Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong said after a Cabinet meeting.

The minister stated that the State Government would ferry these people from the Gu-

wahati Railway Station, and

that all necessary arrange-

ments for their safe transpor-

tation have been made. The next batch of 225 people will arrive from Gujarat and Rajasthan in trains. The third train will bring in people from Bengaluru. "About 1,500 people will come from Bengaluru. They will board a train on May 16 and reach the State

on May 18," Tynsong said. On their arrival, the returnees will be screened at the four entry points across the State bordering Assam.

Tynsong said that till now 2,539 samples have been tested and 2,526 have tested negative. Eleven patients have recovered and one person has died.

First train carrying stranded people arrive in Tripura

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, May 13: A special train carrying 1,160 stranded people of Tripura working in Karnataka, today reached the Agartala Railway Station around 4 pm amid tight security arrangements.

Soon after the train arrived at the platform, security personnel cordoned off the area and passengers were asked to proceed one after another to health desks by following social distancing rules. These passengers had boarded the train at Bengaluru on Sunday evening.

All the passengers were screened through thermal scanners inside the railway station and those who were found asymptomatic, were sent to home quarantine for 17 days, while those showing symptoms were sent to facility quarantine centres.

It took around three-and-ahalf hours to check all the passengers who came in the train. The train was later sanitized before it left the station. The entire process was carried out under the supervision of the District Magistrate of West

IMPHAL, May 13: Resi-

dents of a village in Senapati

district of Manipur have set up

at least 80 huts that will func-

tion as quarantine centres to

accommodate natives who are

slated to come from various

parts of the country during the

lockdown, an official said today.

about 112 km from here,

have built these huts having

basic amenities for those

coming from outside the

village authority was ac-

claimed by Chief Minister N

Biren Singh. Taking to Twit-

ter, the Chief Minister said,

"My salute, Tungjoy Village

The initiative taken by the

State in the next few days.

People of Tungjoy village,

Tripura, Dr Sandeep Mahatme, and SP, GRP, Pinkati Samanta.

"I am happy as first batch of stranded persons returned to state safely. They are now undergoing proper screening as per health protocols. With blessings of Mata Tripurasundari, all stranded people will be brought back soon," Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said in a Facebook post.

Altogether 12,782 persons of the State have been stranded in different parts of Karnataka. They have registered their names to return home. As many as 37,721 persons, who are stuck in 11 States due to the ongoing lockdown, have registered their names on the State Government-run online portal till date. A total of 8,129 people are stranded in Tamil Nadu, 6,174 in West Bengal, 1,470 in Assam, 1,382 in Telangana 1 400 in Maharashtra and 801 in Delhi.

Another batch of 1,400 stranded people staying in Bengaluru will leave for Tripura by another special train on May 15 or 16 and 1,400 people who are stuck in Maharashtra, are scheduled to take the homeward journey on the same dates.

Authority has set up 80 huts

for quarantine of their villag-

ers who are going to come

one person and is "fitted with

a bed, separate toilet, gas ta-

ble, electricity with charging

socket," he said Water will

also be supplied to those who

will be quarantined in these

huts, Singh said. Essential

commodities have also been

ister said the State Govern-

ment is leaving no stone un-

turned to bring back people

stuck in various parts of the

country due to the ongoing

Meanwhile, the Chief Min-

stocked in the huts.

lockdown. – PTI

Each hut can accommodate

from outside the state."

Manipur returnees arrive from Chennai



CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, May 13: A special train carrying 1,140 stranded people of Manipur which started from Chennai, arrived at the Jiribam Railway Station this afternoon. The train had left the Chennai Railway Station on Sunday evening.

Soon after their arrival, screening of the returnees was conducted in a districtwise manner, sources said. Those who completed the screening procedure were allowed to proceed to their respective districts.

State Chief Secretary Dr J Suresh Babu, who is overseeing the situation on the ground along with other senior officials, told reporters at Jiribam that a special train carrying stranded people of

Manipur would leave Punjab tomorrow. It will be followed by another train from Bengaluru on May 15.

"We are bringing ed people from other parts of the country. So kindly register on the government website, www.tengbang.in, and the websites of the originating States," Dr Babu said.

Around 34,000 out of the 45,000 stranded people of the State who have registered their names on the government website, have expressed their desire to return to the State, according to official sources.

Meanwhile, the State Health Department has issued a standard operating procedure for quarantining returnees. A medical team from Jiribam district will screen those who arrive by

train, stated a press release. "The stranded persons

returning by road are sent to the district screening centre after medical screening at the Mao gate/Jiribam gate," it added. With the continuous arriv-

al of stranded people, the testing rate of samples has increased in Manipur. The average testing rate of samples has risen to a three-digit figure in Manipur since Saturday. On Wednesday, a total of 176 persons were tested for COVID-19 and all of them were found negative.

So far, 2,07,966 persons were screened at various screening centres, including the Mao and Jiribam gates. As many as 765 persons are at quarantine centres and 1,754 have already completed their quarantine as on May 13.

Arunachal Govt arranges transport for returnees from rly stations

ITANAGAR, May 13: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu said his Government has made arrangements for transportation of returnees who will reach Assam by special trains from New Delhi from Wednesday onwards.

All the passengers arriving from outside the State will have to go for a mandatory institutional quarantine for 14 days, a senior State Government official said.

The returnees – mostly students and patients stranded outside due to the lockdown - will be brought from the Guwahati and Dibrugarh railway stations in Assam to Arunachal Pradesh by bus and the passengers will have to pay for the journey, he said.

However, the cost of their onward journey from the border check gates to their respective districts will be borne by the State Government.

"Please take note of the arrangements at the Guwahati and Dibrugarh railway station for compliance of all concerned with effect from 13th May and 14th May respectively," Khandu tweeted. – PTI

Sikkim sends migrant workers to home State

GANGTOK, May 13: As many as 16 migrant workers were sent to their native State of Jharkhand from Yangang on Tuesday. The workers, who hail from Deoghar and Giridih districts of Jharkhand, were working at the under-construction site of the Sikkim University at Yangang.

These workers were taken to the Rangpo check-post, from where they proceeded to their respective districts in a bus provided by their home State, Jharkhand. - A Correspondent

ASSAM ELECTRICITY GRID CORPORATION LIMITED NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Deputy General Manager, Tezpur T&T Circle, AEGCL, Tezpur tes sealed offers (A single stage Four envelope procedure) in prescribed and financial capabilities for the following work.

"Empanelment of party/firm/contractor for a period of 2 (Two) years with provision to extend by 1 (One) year for works related to various O&M works in Grid Sub Stations of AEGCL under Texpur T&T Circle

Cost of Tender Papers: Rs. 1000.00

Date of Issue of tender papers	All working days wef 13/05/2020 to 02/06/2020
Time of availability of tender papers	10:00hrs. to 15:00hrs.
Last date of submission of tender papers (offline)	14:00Hrs. of 03/06/2020
Techno-Commercial Bid opening date and time	11:00Hrs. of 04/06/2020
The Intending bidders are to purchase the to to the Dy. General Manager, Tezpur T&T Circle T time mentioned above.	

For detail, please visit AEGCL's official website www.segcl.co.ir Sd/-, Deputy General Manager, Tezpur T&T Circle



ASSAM GRAMIN VIKASH BANK

Head Office : G.S. Road, Bhangagarh, Guwahati- 781005, Assam Website: www.agvbank.co.in. Email: agvbank@vahoo.co.in Phone: 0361-2466953/995783638/9435405270

PREMISES REQUIRED

Assam Gramin Vikash Bank is looking for a suitable premises measuring around 2000-2500 sq.ft. carpet area for opening its new office/ branch, at Tezpur, Assam on lease basis, with facilities like adequate power supply, 24×7 water supply along with parking space. Premises offered should have all clearance certificates from statutory bodies

Interested owner of such premises in the desired locality may send their offers in the prescribed format available on Bank's website www.agvbank.co.in or the same may be obtained from our Tezpur Branch during the office hours. The complete offer should reach the undersigned on or before 30.05.2020 at the above address.

Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers at its sole discretion without assigning any reasons thereof.

Further, no brokerage will be paid by the bank. Note: In case of any corrigendum issued on the above

advertisement, it will be published only on Bank's website.

Date: 13.05.2020 Place : Guwahati



RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

EMPANELMENT OF VENDORS

Reserve Bank of India, Guwahati invites application for

empanelment of vendors for undertaking the following works

- 1. Printing of non-security forms and registers Stationery items & Rubber Stamps supply
- 3. Computer consumable items supply Interested Firms / Vendors / Suppliers may apply in the

prescribed form which can be obtained from the Reserve Bank of India, Human Resource Management Department, (CRDS), 1st Floor, Panbazar, Station Road, Guwahati – 781 001 during office hours within 7 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. The same can also be downloaded from our website https://www.rbi.org.in/ under "Tenders". Application form duly filled in with necessary particulars and documents enclosed in a sealed cover superscripted "Application for Empanelment Printing and Supply of Stationery & Rubber stamp and Computer Consumables" addressed to The Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India, Guwahati - 781001 on or before June 04, 2020 upto 3.00 p.m. may be dropped in the box available on the 4th Floor, Reserve Bank of India,

Regional Director Date: 14.05.2020 For North Eastern States



NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM

Station Road, Panbazar, Guwahati - 781 001.

No. NHM-31013(11)/48/2018-HRD-NHM/2658

Date: 13/05/2020

NOTICE FOR WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR THE POSITION OF MEDICAL OFFICER (MBBS) UNDER NHM, ASSAN

Walk-in-interview will be held on 16/05/2020 from 11 A.M onwards at the State Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-22 for engagement on Contractual Basis for the following position under NHM, Assam, No TA/DA will be paid for attending the interview.

SI	Name of the Position	Requisite Qualification & Experience	No. of Position	Remuneration per month
1	Medical Officer (MBBS)	 MBBS Degree from a recognized Medical College and Registered with Assam Medical Council/ Medical Council of India Age: Up to 60 years as on 1st April 2020 	100 nos.	Rs. 50,000/-
he	candidates shall bring all	original testimonials for verification along with a s	et of self-att	ested photocopies

of the testimonials to appear the walk-in-interview.

Candidates who are already working under NHM, Assam shall not apply and will not be considered for selection. Any such candidate if detected later on, their selection will be cancelled and contract will be terminated immediately. The candidates shall visit NHM official website for details.

Mission Director, NHM, Assam

169 stranded Sikkim residents return to State GANGTOK, May 13: A tothat 106 people came through

Manipur villagers build 80

huts as quarantine centres

tal of 169 people, stranded in various parts of the country due to the ongoing lockdown, have returned to Sikkim, taking the total number of returnees to 1,122, an official said today.

They were brought in State-run buses from Siliguri in neighbouring West Bengal on Tuesday, he said, adding the Rangpo check post and 66 through the Melli entry point.

These people were screened by Health Department officials before being sent to quarantine centres, he said.

A total of 6,922 stranded people have registered themselves with the Government's portal to return home. – PTI

cation today declared results of the HSLC that witnessed a marginal increase in the pass percentage at 68.33, compared to last year's 67.93. There are 19 candidates, including 12 girls and seven boys, in the State merit list. Altogether 18,036 candi-

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, May 13: The Mi-

zoram Board of School Edu-

dates, including 9,614 girls and 8,422 boys, appeared in the Class X examinations, out of whom 12,324 emerged successful. Boys performed slightly better than girls by securing a pass percentage of 69.91 against the girls' 66.94. As many as 5,552 candidates have failed and 160 students have qualified for compart-

mental examinations. St Paul's Higher Secondary School in Aizawl produced the

largest number of students in the merit list. Eight students in the merit list are from the Roman Catholic-run school. The other schools that ap-

Mizoram Class X exams declared

peared in the merit list are St Joseph's HS School, Aizawl; Home Missions School, Aizawl: Radiant Heart, Thingsulthliah; Mount Carmel School, Aizawl; Sacred Heart, Lunglei; Ephraim High School, Aizawl, Marian High School, Serchhip and Bethel Mission School, Champhai.

The first three rankers – Lalhlimpuii, Simon Lalremsiama and Singokhai Chozah are from St Joseph HS School, Aizawl. The 2nd, 5th, 8th, 9th and 10th position holders are from St Paul's HS School. While 851 candidates at-

the second division and 4,094

in the third division.

tained distinction, 2,863 passed in the first division, 4,516 in

tom with 59.01 as the pass percentage. Deficit schools are on top with 92.63 pass percentage. Private schools registered a 72.71 pass percentage. Government-run schools and lumpsum schools registered 63.06 and 67.70 pass percentages respectively. Deficit, government-aided and lumpsum schools are those financed by the Government and managed by private boards. In 2012, the matriculation

Aided schools are at the bot-

examinations recorded a pass percentage of 72.27 - the highest since the establishment of the Mizoram Board of School Education. The percentage declined to 58.68 in 2013, and again increased to 67.51 in 2014, to 68.30 in 2015, to 71.17 in 2016, and to 72.17 in 2017. This further rose to 76.65 in 2018 and declined to 67.93 in 2019.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Community surveillance



A medical team conducting community surveillance in rural areas of Bongaigaon district on Tuesday. - Photo: Teiesh

BONGAIGAON, May 13: Bongaigaon district health department is conducting door-to-door community surveillance in rural areas in the district to detect unreported Influenza-like-Illness (ILI), Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI), malaria, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and other minor flu-like symptoms. The surveillance, which kicked off on May 7, has already covered 5,83,864 people of 456 villages in the district. Twenty-seven people were found to have with fever and one with ILI. The sample of the person detected with ILI has been collected as a suspected COVID-19 case and he has been put under home quarantine.—Correspondent

Newly-wed couple donate

SIVASAGAR, May 13: Debasish Mahanta of Sivasagar Seujpur and Runudevi Sarmah of Chaygaon tied the nuptial bond on April 8. On April 10, they were to organise the reception party but as the lockdown barred all social gatherings, they decided to donate the spare money to the government to be used to the fight COVID-19. Debasish on Monday handed over a cheque of Rs 50,000 to the Deputy Commissioner Sivasagar, Lakhinandan Gogoi to be sent to the Assam Arogya Nidhi. Debasish, son of educationist Nilamoni Mahanta and Dr Arundhati Mahanta, displayed an exemplary gesture of social responsibility which was highly appreciated by the people of Sivasagar. - Correspondent

Masks, sanitizers donated

SIVASAGAR, May 13: Rotary Club of Sibsagar donated more than 2000 face masks and hand sanitizers to health workers, police and traffic personnel, cleanliness workers of Sivasagar Municipality, mediapersons as well as among other strata of people of the district in the past few days. It has also established hand washing stations for commom public at strategic locations of Sivasagar town. - Correspondent

Facility quarantine centres

SILCHAR, May 13: As the State gears up to receive its people who would return via trains from various parts of the country, Karimganj district administration has made arrangements to keep them in the facility quarantine centres. Talking to The Assam Tribune on Tuesday, Karimganj DC Anbamuthan MP said, "since the trains would reach every week, the passengers would be picked up from Badarpur. We have identified 14 spots which would serve as facility quarantine and people belonging to respective circles and constituencies would be kept accordingly."- Staff Correspondent

Relief distributed

TIHU, May 13: Dr Mahidhar Pathak, a renowned person of Jalkhana Bhathuakhana village, but now a resident of Guwahati, distributed food items and masks among 100 poor families, under the aegis of Jalkhana Bhathuakhana Gaon Unnavan Samittee. The meeting was attended by Kanteswar Kalita, president, village development committee, Digamber Kalita, secretary of the committee and Dimbeswar Kalita, Prahlad Haloi, Ajit Haloi and Ujyal Dutta, all social workers. - ANN Service

Gutkha syndicate busted

SIVASAGAR, May 13: Acting on media reports, the Re enue Circle officer, Moran on May 9 raided different areas of the town and confiscated a huge stock of gutkha and other spurious and harmful substances like 'Rajanigandha', 'Kamlapasand' etc., worth over Rs 40 lakh from two godowns owned by Sontosh Shah and Sanjay Shah. Earlier, the Sivasagar police also confiscated such substances worth over Rs 8 lakh from near Sivasagar PS recently which led to the main stockist in Moran. - Correspondent

Food packets distributed

MORIGAON, May 13: 'Rural Organisation for Agriculture Development (ROAD), an NGO, launched a massive relief and sanitisation operation in several villages in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic. A team led by Nekibur Rahman Hazarika, secretary of ROAD distributed food packets among 375 families under Lahorighat revenue circle on Monday, Hazarika informed that so far his organisation had distributed food packets among the poor farmers, labourers and disabled persons in Nagaon and Morigaon districts. -

Relief given

GUWAHATI, May 13: The Bishnupriya Manipuri Development Committee Basistha, a civil society body, headed by Bimal Krishna Sinha and Sahadey Sinha as the president and general secretary respectively, organised a relief drive to support more than 140 families residing in different areas of Basistha and Jorabat localities in the month of April, a press release stated.

AASU urges Jorhat admin to review decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, May 13: The Jorhat district unit of AASU has urged the district administration to reconsider the decision to use 10 hotels in the town here as paid quarantine centres for people returning home from outside the State to upper Assam districts since last Friday.

It may be mentioned here that a zonal screening centre at Kakodunga on the western outskirts here near Jorhat-Golaghat border has

Debabrat Saikia

hails PM's package

with caution

CORRESPONDENT

SIVASAGAR, May13: Lead-

er of the Opposition in the State

Assembly, Debabrat Saikia

while welcoming the Prime

Minister's Rs 20 lakh crore eco-

nomic revival package during

the fourth phase of the lock-

down, said that it will depend

largely on the implementation

part and it is too early now to

make a comment now. In a vid-

eo message sent to this corre-

spondent, he said that the eco-

nomic measures undertaken by

the Modi government during

the earlier phases benefited only

about 75 per cent of the 80

crore poor people. He added

that the Dhan Jan Yojana and

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan

Yojana could benefit only about

50 per cent needy people. "The

government must ensure food

security first and then come oth-

CORRESPONDENT

NALBARI, May 13: The

Assam Tourism Development

Corporation (ATDC) has de-

cided to introduce an inter-dis-

trict tourism plan in the State

in a bid to encourage the local

youths. The ongoing lockdown

has made a huge impact on the

tourism sector, and, therefore,

the ATDC has come forward

with a new move of helping

Addressing a press confer-

ence at Nalbari, the chairman

of the ATDC, Jayanta Malla

Baruah informed that the 'Pu-

nya Dham' scheme would be

implemented within the state

this year, which is likely to at-

tract more tourists. In this

context, the Chairman re-

department has incurred a lakh families.

the unemployed youths.

State to introduce

new inter-district

tourism scheme

Chairman of the Assam Tourism Development Corporation

huge loss due to the impact of

earns revenue to the tune of

Rs 4,000 crore annually, but

considering the prevailing sit-

uation, our revenue is likely to

dip nearly 30 per cent, which is

a major loss as far as tourism

industry is concerned. We are

trying to mitigate the loss suf-

fered by the industry," he

claimed. Baruah, who is also a

senior BJP leader of the State,

claimed that there is a conspir-

acy hatched by a section of peo-

ple to defame the Prime Min-

ister's Kisan Sanman Nidhi

scheme. "We are trying to find

out the culprits involved in this

Meanwhile, the Nalbari dis-

trict BJP committee has dis-

regard," he added.

vealed that the State Tourism tributed food items among 2.5

"The tourism department

novel corona virus.

Jayanta Malla Baruah addressing a press conference at Nalbari

er things," he said.

been set up to screen people coming from outside the State to six districts of upper Assam.

After screening people and collection of swabs they are accommodated at a transit camp opened at an educational institute till results of COV-ID-19 test were out or shifted to paid quarantines in 10 hotels in the town.

Expressing serious concern over allowing returnees coming from outside Assam, especially from areas mostly-affected by the novel coro-

Quarantine centres in hotels

navirus, the organising secretary of AASU central committee, Jul Khound and assistant secretary of Jorhat district unit of AASU Bijoy Shankar Bordoloi respectively urged the district administration to reconsider the decision of allowing paid quarantine in hotels in the town as most of the hotels were in residential and thickly-populated localities.

They said there was apprehension of transmission of the dreaded disease if a person quarantined in hotel tested

positive.

Both the students' body leaders pointed out that hotels were not only in market areas but in residential areas

Moreover, if a person in a hotel is tested positive then a large area may have to be declared a containment zone as done in Guwahati and in other districts of the State where people tested positive

for COVID-19, the duo observed.

Bordoloi said that several AASU office-bearers had met a few senior officials of the district administration in this regard and urged for re-

consideration of the decision. 40 stranded people sent back to West Bengal: Forty people of Murshidabad district of West Bengal who were stranded in Majuli due to lockdown on Tuesday were sent back to their home district in two buses ar-

ranged by the Majuli district

administration

A Majuli district administration official informed that the 40 people involved in small businesses who came to the Brahmaputra island prior to lockdown period after conducting health checkup left the island in two buses with 20 each in a bus.

The official said that the Majuli district administration had provided essential food and other relief materials to the stranded people of neighbouring State during the lockdown period.

OBITUARY

Rahila Khatoon GUWAHATI, May 13: Rahi-



of the then Cachar district and a resident of Shillong, passed away on May 5 due to oldage ailments. She was 92.

She got married in her teens to Kutub Ali Laskar. who was the Registrar of the IGP's Office, Assam, and moved over to Shillong, the then capital of Assam.

She was very friendly in her disposition and could relate stories of the British officers and their whims in the pre-Independence days during her conversations with people. A mother, who brought up her children with utmost care and attention, was a role model for her contemporaries in the society.

She leaves behind two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives.

Piyush Sarma

ush Sarma, former student leader and a social

Juluki village of

Sarma served as secretary

He leaves behind his wife, a son, a daughter and a host

Ghana Kanta Konwar



west Dhemaji area and an inhabitant of Bordalapa village here, died on Tuesday morning at his

He was closely associated with various social and cultural activities in the village as well as in the greater area. He was

for about 10 years since 1976. A noted exponent of flute (banhi) and buffalo horn pipe (pepa) during Bihu functions, he was a pious person who was highly sought after for reading

He leaves behind his wife, one son and daughter-in-law, two daughters and several

AC Bhattacharya

NALBARI, May 13: Atul Chandra Bhattacharya, a so-

cality, Bhattacharya was born in 1947 at Koirara village. He started his career with the Water Resources Development Department in 1971.

a son and a daughter.

Major crackdown on illegal saw mills in Darrang district

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, May 13: The Darrang district administration has launched a massive crackdown on illegal saw mills scattered in various remote areas. These saw mills are run by a section of traders under the nose of forest staff of North Kamrup Forest Division, Rangiya.

A joint team of civil and police administration led by Executive Magistrate Navadeep Changmai and officer incharge of Panbari Police Outpost Nipon Baruah raided three sites – two at Barjhar and the other at Bherbheribill and evicted the saw mills. During the operation, the team also seized sets of machinery, generators, blades, a large number of logs and sawn timber planks among others.



Illegal saw mills being evicted by the Darrang district administration. - Photo: Mayukh Goswami

ported by the staff of the Man- asked the Beat Officer to ini- days to come. galdai Forest Beat Office.

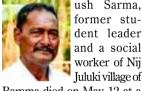
The operation, which lasted for several hours also managed to catch hold of several mai, while narrating the en- rang district to keep the enpersons, including one Abdul tire operation. He asserted tire operation secret in order Hai of Barijhar, kingpin of the that more such operations to get the desired results.

The entire operation was sup- illegal rackets. "I have already would be carried out in the tiate legal action against the persons involved in the uneest official in the rank of Prinlawful activities," said Chang- cipal Secretary asked the Dar-

It is learnt that a senior for-

He also criticised Rajya Sab-

GUWAHATI, May 13: Piv-



Barama died on May 12 at a city nursing home. He was 59.

of Barama Anchalik Students' Union during the Assam Movement. Later, he joined the Irrigation Department of Assam. He was also a football player.

ANN SERVICE

residence due to old-aged ailments. He was 82.

the president of Bordalapa Village Defence Party (VDP)

aloud the Kirtan, Dasham and Bhagawat melodiously.

grandchildren.

CORRESPONDENT

cial worker and former employee of the Water Resources Development Department died at his residence of Koirara village in Nalbari district on May 9. He was 73. A popular *purohit* of the lo-

He leaves behind his wife,

Sanitisation of pig-cages at Silapathar ANN SERVICE ing committee has been con- ness camps among the pig-rear- healthy pigs through the con-

DHEMAJI, May 13: African Swine Fever (ASF) has severely affected the agri-based scheduled tribes families living in the villages of the greater Silapathar area.

As reported, nearly half-alakh pigs at different villages in Silapathar and its surrounding areas have died of African Swine Fever within a couple of weeks.

In such circumstances, Mising Autonomous Council lages including Amguri, Bali, (MAC) and several Mising organisations have taken steps to save the few pigs alive in the villages through sanitisation of the pig-cages of the affected

stituted in every of badly-affect- ers of different villages in the tact of water. Instead, they ed 17 gaon panchyats in the area area that day by maintaining comprising 32 workers in a bid social distancing. to help in preventing the spread African Swine Fever

economic foundation of the of African Swine Fever in the ness camps advised the pigregion which started its saniti- rearers to keep their pigs only

sation drive on Monday last. A large number of pig-cages of several hundred families of Upar Bhangi Diya, Majgaon and Chumani village in Namani Sissi Tangani GP and 6 vil-Dambok, Rupahi, Rajapul and Balukaguri of Madhya Sissi Tangani GP were sanitised on

On the other hand, the workers of the sanitising commit- casses of pigs into ponds or riv-In this connection, a sanitistees organised several awareers as it may infect other. Swine Fever.

The workers in the aware-

in the pig-cages or sheds and

not to keep them open. They also asked them to keep the pigcages always clean by using bleaching powder or lime powder and warned them that the only way to contain the virus spread is to maintain surveillance measures strictly preventing free ranging of the pigs. The pig-rearers were also ad-

vised not to throw off the car-

were instructed to bury the carcasses as quickly as possible in at least a 6-foot deep crater with salt, urea, bleaching powder or other disinfectants.

The awareness camp organised at Kulajan Primary School was attended by executive members of Mising Autonomous Council Johan Doley, Jaggeswar Kutum and Pratap Tawe and TMPK general secretary Tilak Doley along with two veterinarians Dr Ghana Kanta Doley and Dr Manoi Thakuria, who spoke in details about the origins, spread and the necessary precautionary measures to be adopted by the pig-rearers to check African

State BJP to write to PM CORRESPONDENT "But at the same time, one involved in the anomalies.

must admit that there have

BARPETA, May 13: Disappointed with large-scale anomalies in the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, the Bharatiya Janata Party. State unit will write to the Prime Minister to draw his attention. This was disclosed by State BJP President, Ranjit Dass here.

Addressing a press conference, Dass said that the ongoing anomalies in the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi is clearly due to the failure in the system.

been large-scale anomalies in ha MP Ajit Kumar Bhuyan and the selection process, as re- MLA Abdur Rashid Mandal sult of which genuine benefici- for their comments on the aries have been deprived," the COVID-19 pandemic. "Both BJP president claimed. Reply- the leaders are trying to taring to a question on funds de- nish the image of the BJP by posited in the accounts of the making some irresponsible BJP workers, Dass said that comments. They should rethis is a ploy to tarnish the frain from making such comimage of the BJP-led govern- ments at this critical juncture," ment of the State. He also as- Dass said. The State BJP pres-

sured the people that the State ident also appealed to the peogovernment would initiate ple to follow the lockdown stern action against the officials strictly for their safety.

Udalguri admin seeks help to accommodate homecoming people

CORRESPONDENT

KALAIGAON, May 13: A high-level meeting was held at the conference hall of the Deputy Commissioner, Udalguri yesterday to discuss latest situation, especially on the issue of arrival of nearly 15,000 people in the district from other states of the country.

The meeting was presided

My dear Khuri, Utpala

Barua, wife of Late Tara Pras-

ad Barua, passed away on the

night of May 4 last due to a

prolonged illness, which she

battled courageously, patient-

Khuri was 17-years-old

when she married my Khu-

ra and entered the portals of

the extended Barua family of

Uzanbazar. After the birth of

her two children, determined

as she was, she continued

with her education and grad-

Khuri was indeed a versa-

tile lady, competent in activi-

ties both inside and outside

the household. In the early

years of her life in Shillong,

where my uncle was posted

for a considerable period of

time, she engaged herself in

a lot of social activities and won

several accolades for her un-

tiring and sincere work. She

had a flair for literary pursuits

as well. She was very well

versed in Bengali language

and literature and could re-

cite Tagore's verses with ease

and perfection. I have also

witnessed, as a young girl,

uated with flying colours.

ly and with forbearance.

over by Prakash Ranjan Ghar- due to the limited availability of

phalia, Deputy Commissioner, beds, it would be difficult for the Udalguri and was attended by administration to accommodate Rihon Daimari, Minister, PHE. Representatives of various students and religious organisathe occasion, the DC said that to support the people.

quested all the clubs, NGOs and various organisations of the viltions were also present in the meeting. He requested the peolages to arrange food and lodgple to give suggestions so as to ing of the people. Ripul Das, arrange accommodation for SP, Udalguri suggested formtheir quarantine. Speaking on ing of village-level committees

Khuri taking part in cultural

activities and plays staged by

our renowned family organi-

sation 'Sunder Seva Sangha',

the name being given by none

other than Jyotiprasad Agar-

On the personal front, she

was an epitome of perfection.

er and whenever needed.

always open to many guests

and family members whom

she looked after with

warmth and affection. A gour-

besides Indian dishes, Chi-

wala.

Utpala Barua: a tribute nese and continental with

perfection.

such a large number of people.

Minister Rihon Daimari re-

After my Khura's retirement, they settled down in their beautiful house at Narikalbari. Henceforth, Khuri would devote her time to attending to her husband and looking after her house and beautiful garden which she tended with so much love and care.

Later in life, she was overcome with illness and with the death of her husband three years ago, her health deteriorated further. Even when sick and bedridden, Khuri would not let any guest depart before being served a trayful of home made sweets and sa-

affable and gracious lady. To me, she was a mother figure, lovable, understanding and a guardian angel at every stage of my life. To her two children, whom she brought up so well, and their wonderful spouses, Khuri's death would be irreparable. Her loved ones will miss her effervescent presence.

vouries with tea. She was a very intelligent,

Warm, energetic and friendly, she was always there to lend a helping hand wherev-She was a perfect hostess and her home in Shillong was met cook, she would turn out

– Mani Goswami

_____ Business & Economy ____

CAPSULE

Pharma cos ink pact for remdesivir

NEW DELHI, May 13: Four pharma firms -Cipla, Jubilant Life Sciences, Hetero and Mylan - have entered into non-exclusive licensing agreements with drug major Gilead Sciences Inc for manufacturing and distribution of remdesivir, a potential therapy for COVID-19. The medicine has been issued an **Emergency Use** Authorisation (EUA) by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat COVID-19 patients. "Gilead has signed non-exclusive voluntary licensing agreements with five generic pharmaceutical manufacturers based in India and Pakistan to further expand supply of remdesivir," Gilead said in a statement. – PTI

ACMA hails govt measures

NEW DELHI, May 13: Auto components manufacturers' body ACMA today welcomed the measures announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, saying it will give a boost to MSME sector, which has been under severe stress due to the lockdown. The **Automotive Component** Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA) also reiterated its long-pending demand of uniform GST rate of 18 per cent on all vehicles and auto components. - PTI

VW safety initiatives

NEW DELHI, May 13: Auto-maker Volkswagen India today said it has introduced a comprehensive programme to implement safety and sanitisation standards across its facilities amid coronavirus pandemic. Under the

#VWellnessIndia programme, company's 137 sales and 116 service stations will be covered across the country, Volkswagen India said in a statement. - PTI

Drones may be used to oversee adherence: Tea Board

Social distancing norms in gardens

KOLKATA, May 13: The Tea Board today issued a standard operating procedure for activities in the gardens in the wake of the lockdown, asking planters to deploy drone cameras to oversee adherence of social distancing norms during plucking and other field operations.

The Board, in its guidelines, asked planters to ensure that the health condition of workers and staff deployed in the fields must be monitored, and they should be given hand gloves, face masks, protective uniforms, sanitizers along with water for washing hands

Regarding deployment of migrant workers, the Tea Board stated that they should be properly screened before engaging them in various activities.

The previous nature of work, travel history and general health condition of the migrant labourers should be shared with the respective district authorities, it said in a statement.

Any staff or worker engaged in the field should be physically fit to take up the work and in case of any COVID-19 symptom noticed among the workers, the same should be reported to the local health authorities immediately, the guidelines stated.

The West Bengal government has allowed deployment of 50 per cent workforce in the tea gardens during the lockdown, while planters in Assam have been given permission to engage 100 per cent labour force. - PTI

Discoms to get Rs 90,000-cr liquidity support to clear dues

NEW DELHI, May 13: In a bid to save the financially stressed discoms from further crisis, the Central government today announced a Rs 90,000-crore liquidity injection plan that would allow these entities to clear their dues towards power generation companies.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said that the liquidity window for discoms was essential as their revenue has plummeted and they are in the midst of unprecedented cash-flow problem accentuated by demand reduction during the current lockdown.

Under the plan unveiled by the Finance Minister, power sector financiers PFC

NEW DELHI, May 13: Fi-

nance Minister Nirmala Sith-

araman today announced re-

duction of statutory provident

fund contribution by both em-

ployers and employees to 10

per cent of basic wages from

the existing 12 per cent for

The decision has been tak-

en to facilitate more take-

home salary for employees

and give relief to employers

in payment of PF dues, re-

sulting in a liquidity ease of

The decision, which will

NEW DELHI, May 13: In a

relief to real estate develop-

ers, Finance Minister Nirma-

la Sitharaman today said that

the deadline for completion of

projects will be extended by

up to six months, treating the

coronavirus outbreak as an

event of 'force majeure' un-

The Ministry of Housing

and Urban Affairs will issue

an advisory to real estate reg-

ulators of all States and Union

Territories, to treat COVID-

der the realty law RERA.

Rs 6,750 crore.

the next three months.

and REC will infuse liquidity of Rs 90,000 crore to discoms against receivables. Loans will be extended against State guarantees for exclusive purpose of discharging liabilities of discoms to gencos.

Discoms' dues towards gencos have risen to Rs 94,000 crore and this was making operations unsustainable as unpaid power producers were looking to stop power supplies to States. As with earlier power sec-

tor reform initiatives, the loans will be given to discoms against specific activities and reforms - digital payments facility by discoms for consumers, liquidation of outstanding dues of State governments,

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Agriculture Minister Atul Bora and Rajya Sabha MP Kamakhya Prasad Tasa interact

Employees, employers'

contribution to PF cut to 10%

Move to inject Rs 6,750-cr liquidity

Govt extends deadline for

realty projects by 6 months

KY) for three months till Au-

gust, where the government

would contribute entire 24

per cent of PF contributions

till August, giving relief to

3.67 lakh employers and

The government had im-

posed lockdown on March 25

to fight the deadly COVID-19.

Garib Kalyan Package (PMG-

KP), payment of 12 per cent

of employer and 12 per cent

deadline for completion of

projects should be extended

by at least six months as con-

struction work came to a halt

Announcing the decision,

Sitharaman said the Ministry

of Housing and Urban Affairs

will advise States and their

regulatory authorities to "treat

COVID-19 as an event of force

The regulators can extend

the registration and comple-

tion date suo moto by six

majeure under RERA".

due to lockdown.

Under the Pradhan Mantri

72.22 lakh employees.

with NRL employees during a visit to the refinery complex at Numaligarh on Wednesday. – UB Photos

have an impact on 4.3 crore

employees and 6.5 lakh em-

ployers reeling under liquid-

ity crunch due to COVID-19

lockdown, will be applicable

on all the establishments cov-

ered under the Employees'

Provident Fund Organisation

Besides, the Finance Min-

ister also announced the ex-

tension of another scheme

under the Pradhan Mantri

Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMG-

19 as an act of god so that

'force majeure' clauses under

RERA can be invoked for pro-

viding relief to builders in

The relief will be given to all

the registered projects under

the Real Estate (Regulation and

Development) Act, called

RERA, expiring on or after

March 25, the date from which

national lockdown to control

coronavirus came into effect.

The real estate industry

has been demanding that the

completion of projects.

plan to reduce financial and operational losses.

To make the exercise beneficial even to power consumers, it has been decided that central public sector generation companies shall give rebate to discoms on clearance of their dues, which shall be passed on to the final consumers (industries) by way of rebate of power tariff.

The COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdown has squeezed power demand sharply in the months of March and April and the fall has been such sharp that demand for full year 2020-21 is set to report 1 per cent decline, first time in almost

Not only this, with expectation that the lockdown may continue in large parts of the country for some more time, the discoms are set to return to yesteryears situation of adding losses after losses every year making their operations unviable. Extension would also impact demand further.

According to an analysis done by rating agency Moody's unit ICRA, expected losses at State-run electricity distribution utilities (discoms) would rise twothirds to Rs 50,000 crore in FY21 with an addition of Rs 20,000 crore in book-level losses in current year itself.

Discoms have already been reeling under low demand

employee contributions were

In a presentation on such

steps, Sitharaman said, "This

was provided earlier for sal-

ary months of March, April

and May 2020. This support

will be extended by another

three months to salary

months of June, July and Au-

benefit will provide a liquid-

ity relief of Rs 2,500 crore

to 3.67 lakh establishments

and for 72.22 lakh employ-

months for all registered

projects expiring on or after

March 25 without individual

further extension of three

The regulators should is-

sue fresh project registration

certificates automatically

with revised timelines. The

timelines to comply other

statutory compliances under

the RERA, should be ex-

tended accordingly. – PTI

The authorities can give

applications, she said.

months if needed.

The extension of the

gust 2020."

made into EPF accounts.

conditions for some time and this has impacted their revenue and ability to service payment dues to generators. Accordingly, the debt-laden discoms' overdue payment to electricity generators had risen to Rs 94,000 crore now, more than 50 per cent higher compared with the same period last year.

What has added to problems of discoms is that the lockdown has resulted in consumption decline from the high tariff-paying industrial and commercial consumers (tariff almost twice that for households) and the likely delays in cash collections from other consumer segments. - IANS

NEW DELHI, May 13: Finance Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey today said the clear picture regarding GST collections for April would emerge only by June 30 – the deadline by which businesses with up to Rs 5-crore turnover can file returns without any late fee and interest.

The government had in March extended the deadline to file GST returns for taxpayers with turnover of over Rs 5 crore by 15 days till May 5 from the due date of April 20 without payment of any late fee and interest. However, a reduced rate of 9 per cent interest will be levied if the return is filed

to be released on May 1.

"So after giving these extensions, a clear picture about the revenue collection we will get only by June 30. That's why we have not yet released the figure. People who are able to file returns have paid GST and rest have time till June 30. It is only after June 30 that we will have a clear idea of the

GST collection remained above the key Rs 1-lakh crore mark for seven months out of 12. The collection stood at Rs 97,597 crore in March.

The real impact of the corolockdown last month. - PTI

For taxpayers with turnover up to Rs 5 crore, there would be no interest and late fee would be waived if filed within the stipulated deadline set in June. Conventionally, the government releases GST revenue mop-up numbers on the basis of collections in a particular month. Hence. the collection in April was due

In the 2019-20 fiscal, the

navirus lockdown on GST revenue will be reflected in the revenue collections of May (for business activity in April) as the country was under complete

Clear picture of April GST mop-up to come by June-end: **Finance Secy**

after May 5 till June 30.

To a query on why the April GST number has not been released, Pandey said, "You know that the GST filing dates have been extended. If it will be extended, we have said June, people who have turnover of more than Rs 5 crore they also got more time."

revenue collected," he said.

At 10% of GDP, Modi's Atma-nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan ranks among biggest in world NEW DELHI, May 13: the amount of Rs 20-lakh crore The US has committed the

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pledge of a total spending of Rs 20-lakh crore to weather the fallout of coronavirus pandemic is among the largest economic stimulus packages announced by nations around the world.

Modi's Atma-nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan or Self-reliant India Mission is about 10 per cent of India's GDP in 2019-20 and would rank behind Japan, the US, Sweden, Australia and Germany.

But unlike the most relief packages announced globally, is not entirely in new spending and includes Rs 1.7-lakh crore package the government had announced in March as well as the steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) such as liquidity-enhancing measures

and interest rate cuts. With global lockdowns imposed to check spread of COVID-19 causing economic turmoil that is touted to be worst since the 1930s, nations around the world have announced what came to be known as 'coronavirus stim-

ulus packages'.

largest rescue package by any country in pure dollar terms of \$2.7 trillion but as percentage of GDP it trails behind Japan, according to data compiled by economist Ceyhun Elgin in the COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Index (CESI).

Japan has announced a package equivalent to 21.1 per cent of its GDP. It has outlined \$1.1-trillion recovery package and plans for further spending. The US measures work out at an estimat-

ed 13 per cent of GDP. It is followed by Sweden with a stimulus equal to 12 per cent of its GDP and Australia (10.8 per cent). Germany has announced a spending of around \$815 billion, equal to 10.7 per cent of its GDP.

Italy, which endured devastating coronavirus outbreak, has announced an Euro 750-billion (around \$815-billion) package.

India's Rs 20-lakh crore package equals to \$265 billion, all of which is not government spending as in case of the US where entire \$2.7 trillion is the money that the Trump administration will

spend and does not include what the Federal Reserve might have done.

The United Kingdom came out with a 100-billionpound package of immediate fiscal spending (and 330 billion pound of deferred payments like tax breaks and loan guarantees).

India's stimulus value in dollar terms is higher than the GDP of 149 countries such as Vietnam, Portugal, Greece, New Zealand and Romania. It almost equals Pakistan's annual GDP of \$284 billion. - PTI

PM's stimulus package visionary: Industry leaders

BENGALURU, May 13: Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his leadership in combating the coronavirus battle, industry captains in the manufacturing and services sectors today termed his Rs 20-lakh crore stimulus package visionary.

"The Prime Minister's economic stimulus package is visionary, as it will bring relief to several stressed sectors and industries," said Venu Srinivasan, Chairman of leading motorbike-maker TVS Motor Company, in a statement here.

Welcoming the initiative, Srinivasan, however, said the federal government must prioritise micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and facilitate a direct benefit transfer to employees in unorganised and small-scale sectors.

"The government should ensure credit backstop for the MSMEs so that they do not go into cash crunch when the stimulus propels demand, which is key to drive the market as much as it is

essential to infuse confidence in the economy for the people to come out and buy," asserted Srinivasan.

Echoing Srinivasan, leading diversified engineering firm Greaves Cotton's Chief Executive Nagesh Basavanhalli said the special package would revive the COVID-battered economy as it focuses on 'Make in India' for achieving self-reliance and hard-selling products in domestic and overseas markets.

On Modi's new mantra of 'Vocal for Local', the regional social media platform ShareChat's Public Policy Director Berges Malu said there was no place better than India to be vocal about local, as this century would be India's, with dominance in the global digital economy.

"PM's call to make #AtmanirbharBharat will play a major role in achieving selfreliance in all spheres of life, including the economy in the post-COVID times," said Malu in a statement here. - IANS

CORRIGENDUM

This is for information of all concerned that the payment option of Earnest Money Deposit and Tender Fee against SHORT NIT No. 2 of 2020-21 (Group-A & Group-B), called by the undersigned vide this office Memo No. CEI (MECH) 3/2020/04 dated Guwahati the 08th May' 2020 and published in local newspapers and **@ assamtenders.gov.in** on 11th May 2020 is to be read as online only in place of both offline & online. So, all bidders are requested to go only for online deposit of Tender Document Fee and EMD.

Sd/- Additional Chief Engineer (Mech) Irrigation Department, Assam Janasanyog/C/380/20 Chandmari. Guwahati-3

(A Govt. of Assam Undertaking)

No. AWC.ENGG.467/2017/NABARD/WIF/31 **EXTENSION NOTICE**

Assam State Warehousing Corporation

This is for information of all concerned that due to outbreak of Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic and nationwide lockdown w.e.f. 25th March, 2020, the date for Submission of Bid (both online & off line) for "Construction of Multi Commodity 5000 MT Cold Storage project under WIF of NABARD at Pachim Boragaon" vide Tender ID 2020_CD_17215_2 & Tender reference No:- AWC.ENGG.467/ 2017/NABARD/WIF are hereby extended from 18th May, 2020 to 12th June, 2020 (Friday). The details may be seen at website http://assamtenders.gov.in

Sd/- Managing Director

No. SE/NRC/TB/NIT/44/2019-20/52

Janasanyog/CF/277/20

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Superintending Engineer, PWD, Nagaon Road Circle, Nagaon on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from Assam PWD registered contractors for 13 (Thirteen) nos. of works under SOPD(G) for the 2019-20 under Kaliabor LAC in Nagaon District amounting to Rs. 1149.87 Lakhs (approx.). Details may be seen at website http:// assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Janasanyog/CF/290/20

No. DRC-XIII/16/98/NIT/DIB/243

PRESS NOTICE INVITING RE-TENDER

Superintending Engineer PWD Dibrugarh Road Circle, Dibrugarh on behalf of Governor of Assam invites re-bid from the approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for Construction of Roads under SOPD(ODS) for the Year 2019-20 for 1 (one) No of road works in Dibrugarh District of Assam under Tingkhong LAC amounting to Rs. 99.54 Lakhs (Approx). Details may be seen at websitehttps://assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PWD Dibrugarh Road Circle, Janasanyog/CF/286/20 Dibrugarh

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PWD

Nagaon Road Circle, Nagaon

No. DRC-XIII/16/98/NIT/DIB/24

Name of LAC

Janasanyog/CF/284/20

PRESS NOTICE INVITING FRESH TENDER

Superintending Engineer P.W.D. Dibrugarh Road Circle Dibrugarh on behalf of Governor of Assam invites bid from the approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for Construction/Re-Construction of Roads under SOPD-G for the Year 2019-20 for 34 (thirty four) Nos of road works in Dibrugarh District of Assam under Chabua, Duliajan, and Naharkatia LAC under Chabua, Duliajan & Naharkatia Territorial Road Division, Duliajan amounting to Rs. 4085.58 Lakhs (Approx). Details may be seen at websitehttps://assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

The earlier Press NIT issued vide T.O. No. DRC-XIII/16/98/ NIT/DIB/237 Dated: 19.03.2020 & DNIT No. DRC-XIII/16/98/ NIT/DIB/238 Dated: 19.03.2020 is here by cancelled due to National wide Lock down keeping in view of outbreak of Novel Corona Virus (Covid-19). **TABLE**

Nos of work	Total Cost (Rs. in lakh
12	1291.17

lo.			(Rs. in lakh
	Duliajan LAC	12	1291.17
	Chabua LAC	11	1318.95
	Naharkatia LAC	11	1475.46
		Total cost	4085.58
	641	Companiesta maliera	Engineer DWD

Sd/- Superintending Engineer PWD Dibrugarh Road Circle,

vies

UTY MOVIES

M*VIES

13:00 There's Something Abou

Mary 15:00 Ant-Man And The Wasp

The Maze Runne

Shockwave: Cou To Disaster

14:30 Young Detective Dee:

17:00 Lake Placid: The Final

Chapter 19:00 Night At The Museum:

Battle Of The

Smithsonian 21:00 Quarantine 2: Terminal 23:00 Oceans Rising

Rise Of The Sea Dragor

23:30 Wagt Hamara Hai

17:30 Commando

19:00 Alita: Battle Angel

= Leisure & Lifestyle ====



Acupuncture for indigestion

Acupuncture may be safe, effective for easing postprandial distress syndrome

esearchers have found that a 4-week course of acupuncture increased selfreported relief and improvement of symptoms for patients with a subtype of indigestion known as postprandial distress syndrome (PDS).

The findings, published in the journal Annals of Internal Medicine, from a randomised clinical trial, revealed that the effects of acupuncture persisted through the 12-week follow-up without symptom relapse or rebound.

PDS, a condition characterised by bothersome early fullness after eating and upper abdominal bloating, places a substantial burden on the health care system because of its high prevalence in a relatively young patient population and the chronic relapsing nature of its symptoms. The condition is reported to have a great neg-

ative effect on health-related quality of life, which makes finding an effective treatment impera-Previous studies on acupuncture have been

limited by the small number of participants and poor study quality.

Researchers from the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine randomly assigned 278 Chi-

nese patients with PDS to 12 sessions of acupuncture or sham acupuncture over 4 weeks.

Sham acupuncture is used as a control in scientific studies that test the efficacy of acupuncture in the treatment of various illness or disor-The research team then compared the pro-

portion of patients in each group who reported 'extreme improvement' or 'improvement' in their stomach symptoms as well as the proportion of patients who experienced complete resolution of their symptoms.

They found that a significantly higher proportion of patients in the acupuncture group experienced overall improvement or elimination of their symptoms than in the sham acupuncture group.

The improvement was sustained for at least 12 weeks after the final acupuncture treatment and there were no serious adverse events among the study patients.

"Future research on the long-term effect of acupuncture that incorporates objective outcomes and daily measurement of symptoms is warranted," the researchers noted.

(Source: IANS)



S A E

12:00 Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah 17:00 My Name Ijj Lakkhan 17:30 Badi Dooooor Se Aaye Hai 18:00 Office Office

13:00 Bandbudh Aur Budbal 18:30 Partners Trouble Ho Gayi 19:00 Tera Kya Hoga Alia 19:30 Tenali Rama

15:00 Roll No. 21 16:00 Bandbudh Aur Budbak 17:00 Oggy And The Cockr... 20:00 Baalveer Returns 20:30 Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah 19:00 Roll No. 21

21:00 Oggy And The Cockr.. 23:30 The Tom & Jerry Shows Pago

12:00 Oggy And The

12:30 Super Bheem 13:00 Chhota Bheem 16:30 Grizzy And The

18:30 Chhota Bheem Movie Cb And Hanuma 19:30 Chhota Bhe



23:00 M.A.D. 23:30 Grizzy And The Lem

WILD

12:00 Dead Or Alive 13:00 Wild Families 14:00 The World's Most Famous

15:00 Savage Kingdom 15:30 Ultimate Animals

16:00 Super Predators 17:00 India's Jungle Heroes

18:00 World's Weirdest 19:00 Real Wild Battles

19:30 World Wild Web

21:00 Africa's Hunters

22:30 Monkey Thieves

22:00 India's Jungle Heroes

23:00 Dangerous Encounter

HISTORY

Forged In Fire

Storage Wars

15:00 OMG! Yeh Mera India

12:30 Ancient Aliens 13:30 Pawn Stars

16:00 Forged In Fire

16:30 Counting Cars 17:00 Storage Wars

17:30 Shipping Wars

18:00 Modern Marvels

21:00 Forged In Fire

21:30 Pawn Stars

19:00 Secrets Of The Super

20:00 OMG! Yeh Mera India

14:00

20:00 City Of Ants

21:00 Sajan Re Jhoot Mat Bolo 21:30 Saat Phero Ki Hera Pherie 22:00 Jijaji Chhat Per Hain

Chashmah 23:30 Jijaji Chhat Per Hain

rishteu 12:00 Kitchen Champion

13:00 Thapki Pyar Ki 14:00 Mohe Rang Do Laal 15:00 Madhubala - Ek Ishq Ek

18:00 Kasam Tere Pyaar K

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

CHANNEL

12:00 Snakes in The City

20:00 Out There With Jack 21:00 Primal Survivor

22:30 Primal Survivor

12:30 Wild Frank

23:00 Extreme Rescues

22:00 Monster Croc Wrangler

PLANET

13:00 Animals Unleashed

13:30 Animal Planet Exclusive

14:30 How Do Animals Do That?

15:00 Jewels Of The Natural.

15:30 The Cute Ones 16:00 Mahayudh 17:00 Attenborough's Wild...

17:30 Animals Unleashed

19:00 Animal Planet Exclusive 20:00 Jewels Of The Natural...

18:00 Bizarre Beasts

20:30 The Lion Kingdom

21:00 River Monsters

23:00 Mahayudh 23:30 The Cute Ones

22:00 Wild Frank

13:30 Primal Survivor

13:00 Monster Croc Wrangler

14:00 Running Wild With Bear

ment

Regional LIVE

Entertainment

19:00 Madhubala - Ek Ishq Ek

23:00 Udaan

12:00 Mahabharat

18:30 RadhaKrishn 19:30 Ramavan

15:00 Ramavan

13:00 Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai

20:30 Mahabharat 22:30 Devon Ke Dev Mahadev

12:00 Ek Vivaah Aisa Bhi

15:00 Pavitra Rishta

Champs 20:00 Qubool Hai 21:30 Dance India Dance

18:00 Paramavatar Shri Krishna 18:30 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Lil

23:00 Kehne Ko Humsafar Hain

colors

16:00 Mahabharat

17:30 Jai Shri Krishna 18:00 Balika Vadhu 19:00 Mahabharat 20:30 Jai Shri Krishna

Extinction 14:00 Love Island UK

Detective 17:00 Grown Ups 2

22:00 The Good Fight

07:45 Pratham Xongbad 14:00 Biyolir Headline

16:30 Superfast Prime Time 100

17:02 DD Kisan TV Serial in Hindi 17:30 Krishi Darshan

08:30 Devotional Music 08:45 Swachh Bharat Bator

08.50 Batori 15:00 Vigyan Prasar 15:30 Classical Music

16:30 Chiphung 17:00 Nimishote Bator

16:00 Abelir Batori

16:05 Akholor Jut

18:00 Dharabahik

16:00 Abelir Khabar

17:00 City18 18:00 Prime Time18 19:00 Dintur Shironam

20:00 Porjyobekhyon

21:30 Aparadh Nama 22:00 North East Scar

22:30 Noixo Xironam

19:00 Seinfeld

21:00 BattleBots

Zcafé

23:30 Zee Cine Awards 2018

07:00 Breakfast Live 08:00 Live at 8 10:00 Assamese news 11:30 Kotha Barta (R)

12:00 Mid Day Live 13:00 Assamese Telefilm

Grylls 15:00 Monster Croc Wrangler 15:30 Out There With Jack... 14:30 Afternoon Prime 17:30 Guwahati Bisesh 16:00 Primal Survivor 17:00 Dirty Rotten Survival 18:00 World's Most Extreme 18:00 Guwahati Live 18:30 Guwanati Live
18:30 Breaking @ 6:30
19:00 Assamesse Prime
20:00 Discussion Show
21:00 Super Prime Time
22:30 Live at 10
22:30 Noixo Guwahati
23:00 Noixo Batori 18:30 The Indestructibles 19:00 Snakes in The City

> raing 1700 Xopun 1730 Barala Kai 1830 Xopunor Aasutia Rang

23:00 Noixo Batori

2000 Jonaki Kareng Xopun Oi Khapla Bah Amarawati Bah 2200 Borola Kai

20:00 IPL 2015 HLs 19:00 Legends 2018

19:30 Cricket Connected 20:00 IPL 2015 HLs 20:30 Cricket Connected 21:00 Legends 2018 21:30 Cricket Connected 22:00 ICC Cricket World Cup HLs

22:30 Cricket Connected 23:00 Football United Special PONTS 18:30 Vivo IPL 2018 HLs

13:00 India's Finest 13:30 Best Of Mzansi Super Leag

14:30 Great Centuries 14:30 Best Of Abu Dhabi T10 15:00 Australian Open Classid 15:30 India's Golden Moments 16:00 The Blue Revolution 17:00 Homage

20:30 Cricket Connected 21:00 Legends 2018 21:30 Cricket Connected 20:00 Best Of Abu Dhabi T10 22:00 ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 20:30 The Blue Revolution 22:30 Cricket Connected 21:30 Homage 22:00 India's Finest

12:30 Homage

12:00 Formula E's Top 10 Moments 12:30 WWE BlockBus 15:00 WWE BlockBusters

SONY

23:00 Great Centuries

18:00 WWE BlockBusters
19:00 The Olympics
19:30 Formula E's Top 10 Moments
20:00 WWE Specials
22:30 Wrestlemania Greatest...
12:00 Australlan Open Classics...
12:30 Best Of UEFA Champions...
13:00 NBA 2019/20 HLs
14:00 FA Cup Classics
14:30 Best Of UEL 2019/20
15:00 Impact Greatest Matches... 18:00 Men In Blue Victorious 22:30 Best Of Mzansi Super Leag

15:00 Impact Greatest Matches.17:00 Australian Open Classics. 17:30 Dream Teams 18:00 NBA 2019/20 HLs

20:00 FA Cup 2018/19 20:30 UCL 2019/20 22:00 UFC Main Event

12 Sharp projection

13 American coins

18 Italian composer

15 Seat (5)

(5)

(3)

19 Implore (3)

20 Some promos

21 Like a boor (7)

22 Longing, desire

23 Foward dash (6)

24 The Three Wise

ransom (6)

Men (4)

25 Abduct for

Know your **DAY**

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Thursday, May 14, 2020: You are so ahead of the rest of us that perfectionist you may have already

predicted this year. You will find success and will escape any financial difficulties with ease. If single, you search for a mate who respects and understands you, and this is a challenge, but you persevere. Friendship can be a catalyst for love this year. If attached, allow your partner to express their individuality for deeper intimacy. PISCES wants the greatest intimacy possible 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)

 $\star\star\star\star$ It is easy to move forward today. New acquaintances enliven your social circle, but use discretion if someone seems a little too complex or controversial. It is a good time to seek an opinion or request advice. Tonight: A casual conversation can be very significant.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) *** The urge to get started on important work burns within you

today, and you feel pressure to take action. Humor and patience will help. List your priorities and stick to a reasonable schedule if you feel temporarily overwhelmed. Tonight: Projects seem to be unfolding simultaneously. GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

*** Your sense of freedom and adventure is heightened. You

experiment with a new type of job or acquire new technology to update the familiar working atmosphere. It is a wonderful day to study something new. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

** Someone could be reckless Tonight: Catch up with friends in a different country. ★★ Someone could be reckless with resources. Keep control of your

own finances. If it is difficult to release anger, a study of past lives restores your perspective. Maintaining a calm perspective is best. Tonight: Spiritual and well educated companions uplift you. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ Be cautious about following the advice of others verbatim. One who means well is apt to be mistaken. A telepathic exchange occurs.

be easier to understand what is best. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ***

★★★ The relationship between stress, your psyche, the wholesomeness of your employment conditions and your physical health will

providing a deeper glimpse into the heart and mind of a partner. Tonight: It will

be very apparent. Today brings new insight. Make a record of a memory linked

to health conditions. Tonight: It will prove to be very significant. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) $\star\star\star\star$ A new form of creative expression becomes very important to you. Purchase an attractive journal and matching pen to record ideas.

They are likely to be too good to let fall by the wayside. Artistic endeavors of

all kinds flourish. Tonight: Get playful. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) **** Home improvements can be planned. Experiment with bold, bright colors. Children have much to teach you and can be a catalyst

for change. You are host to visitors in your home for the first time in a while. Tonight: A meeting opens new doors. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★ You will be juggling several projects and appointments simulta-

neously. This promises a variety of important emails and phone calls. Confirm plans with others to avoid confusion, and much will be accomplished. Tonight: You might not be sure of the next move. Ask questions. Get feedback. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

It is a wonderful day to boost earning power through experi-

menting with a creative idea. Devotion to your career will promise deep satisfaction. A professional associate becomes a closer friend. Tonight: A partner decides to upset the status quo. Insist upon balance and justice AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

**** You can expect one of the most beneficial and memorable days ever. Your sphere of opportunity is about to increase. Your creative ideas and charming persona will open many doors. A bit of a financial windfall turns up as well. Tonight: As you like it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

 $\star\star\star\star$ You will feel the need to withdraw and reflect. The healing power of love and forgiveness will be very apparent today. People you were disappointed in before are growing and moving on. Old resentments will melt away. Tonight: Take more time to release stress.

Thought for the day

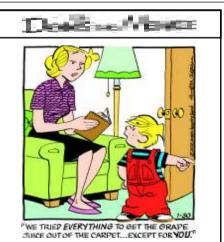
without self-interests. This is a bitter truth.

There is some self-interest behind every friendship. There is no friendship - CHANAKYA

LOCKHORNS

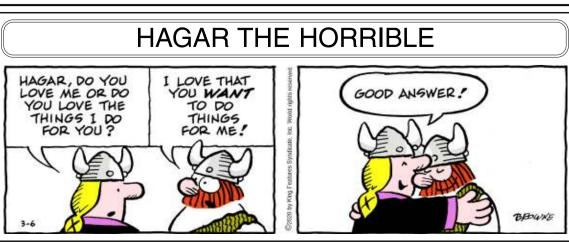


REGARDING THE LAST QUARTER ... THAT'S WHAT WE'RE DOWN TO."



R THE PHANTOM By Lee Falk NOT ONLY WILL I NOT OFFER YOU A SECOND CHANCE AT ESCAPING A I WANT YOU TO KNOW I'VE TURNED BACK A COMPANY OF RHODIAN SOLDIERS... WHATEVER HEY WERE.

BLONDIE A ROUGH 1/ WELL, THE BAD IT AUTOCORRECTED MY MESSAGE AND THE GOOD NEWS? DAY, DEAR? NEWS IS ... I SENT TO SAY HE PROMISED TO WRITE ME A REALLY SPIRITED THE BOSS A TEXT HERE, MESSAGE RECOMMENDATION YOU USING VOICE TO TEXT COOT







30 Mars, for one (6)

31 Sewing case (4)

design in low

heavily, like a

heavy load

resistance (6)

Very drunk (6)

Basic provisions

Chewed the

scenery (6)

Furnace (4)

against a

32 Moulded a

relief (8)

33 Pull along

Across Adorn (6)

Intrusive (8) Loud laugh (4) 10 Greek sea-god 11 Commandeer

14 Hardly any (3) 16 Watering holes

17 Roman poet

19 Cannabis (5) 21 Guides (5) 22 Hindu ascetics

23 City on the Irtysh (4) 26 Au revoir, goodbye (5)

28 Genetic material (3) 29 Behemoths (6)

5 King with the

(2-2)

Stereo system

golden touch (5) Emits smoke (5)

26 Awry (5) 27 Metrical feet (5)

28 Smell a suspect or surmise

9 Impress greatly treachery? (3) 30 Marries (4)

lambi, 28 Rat, 30 Weds.

21 Loutish, 22 Yen, 23 Onrush, 24 Magi, 25 Kidnap, 26 Agley, 27 Hi-fi, 9 Wow, 12 Jag, 13 Cents, 15 Chair, 18 Verdi, 19 Beg, 20 Ads, Down: 1 Blotto, 2 Emoted, 3 Kiln, 4 Rations, 5 Midas, 6 Reeks, 8

SOLUTION TO TRIBUNE CROSSWORD - 6893

26 Adieu, 28 Rna, 29 Giants, 30 Wargod, 31 Etui, 32 Embossed, 33 Few, 16 Oases, 17 Ovid, 19 Bhang, 21 Leads, 22 Yogis, 23 Omsk, Across: 1 Bedeck, 7 Invasive, 8 Howl, 10 Triton, 11 Hijack, 14

HEALTH CAPSULES® by Bron Smith DOES HEART DISEASE KILL

MORE MEN THAN WOMEN?



EARLIER THAN WOMEN, BUT AFTER THEY HAVE PASSED MENOPAUSE, WOMEN CATCH UP TO THE MEN. IN 2010, MORE WOMEN DIED OF HEART WOMEN: 400 332 DEATHS. MEN: 387,318 DEATHS.

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

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and mo

JUMBLED WORDS

VOILE

RULTY ABELCM COOWPX

is one of the great problems in environmental design. - Christopher Alexander (10)

SOLUTION Answer: Complexity is one of the great

Nords: Olive, truly, becalm, cowpox.

17:30 Mars Attacks! 19:30 Timeline 21:00 Hotel For Dogs

12:00 Puss In Boots

17:00 Eagle Eye

13:30 Ready Player One 15:30 Journey To The Center Of The Earth

23:00 Crazy Rich Asians

12:30 After The Sunset 14:00 Miss Congeniality 2 Armed and Fabulous

16:00 Blade

23:00 Aeon Flux

12:00 Rowdy Rajkumar 2

22:30 Ek Aur Ek Gyarah

14:00 Hulchul 17:00 F2 - Fun and Frustration 20:00 Golman Again 23:00 Luka Chuppi 14:30 Krrish

18:00 Dear Comrade 21:00 Heart Attack 2 23:30 Mummy



15:30 A Flying Jat 18:00 Players

17:30 Australian Open Classics. 18:00 WWE BlockBusters

19:00 UFC Main Even

First spl train from Delhi reaches State

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 13: After a long gap of over a month and a half, the first passenger train, New Delhi-Dibrugarh Passenger Special, arrived in the State today carrying several hundred people.

Meanwhile, the first Shramik Special train, specifically run to cater to the needs of the stranded people, left Chennai this evening for Guwahati and will reach the city on May 15.

The New Delhi-Dibrugarh Passenger Special, which had departed from New Delhi yesterday, arrived at Kokrajhar at around 7 pm. After halting at Kokrajhar for two minutes, the super fast train continued its journey and arrived at the Guwahati railway station later in the evening.

Around 90 passengers got off the train at Guwahati, while 29 disembarked at Kokrajhar.

An official source told *The Assam Tribune* that passengers on board the train hail from Darrang, Kamrup, Nal-

bari, Goalpara, Morigaon, Udalguri, Sonitpur, Baksa, Barpeta and Kamrup (Metro) districts.

"All the passengers were taken to the Sarusajai stadium for COVID-19 screening under the supervision of Kamrup (Metro) district administration. Once the screening is done, they will be sent to their home districts where they will be quarantined. The passengers belonging to Kamrup (Metro) district will be quarantine at the Sarusajai stadium and hotels in the city," the source stated.

After a brief halt at Guwahati, the train left for Dibrugarh, where it is scheduled to reach at 7 am tomorrow.

There are 20 coaches in the train, including power van and brake van.

"We have made adequate arrangements at the Guwahati railway station as well as the other stations of Assam where the train will halt. All those who board or de-board from the train will have to adhere to social distancing norms. Circles have been drawn at the floor of the platform number one at the

Guwahati station to ensure that people stand in queues while de-boarding from the train and proceeding towards the health screening camp which has been set up. Similar measures have been taken at the other stations as well," said Nripen Bhattacharya, Public Relations Officer of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR).

Medical staff from the State Health department, all fitted with PPE kits, were positioned at the station for conducting screening of passengers at the Guwahati station. Only one exit point was kept open. With passenger train services sus-

pended since the imposition of the nationwide lockdown, those who managed to book tickets for the New Delhi-Dibrugarh Passenger Special expressed happiness on being able to make the journey on the first train to reach the State in over a month and

"I had gone to Patna in March with my brother, who had to get some treatment at hospital there. Howev-

Anomalies alleged in PM-KISAN scheme in Dhemaji dist

DHEMAJI, May 13: The actheir loyal supporters, estableaders, government servants, partment has entered the

tual and needy farmers of Dhe- lished businessmen and fair established businessmen were names of about 96,000 benefi-

maji district including members price agents, who are not conincluded in the list," said KMSS ciaries, out of which around

names of a large number of ies of the scheme and on what ture Officer (DAO) Tiranga ruling party members and basis names of political party Bharatiya Bora said that his de-

Dhemaji district secretary Ab-

hijeet Pait, while informing that

they are going to submit a com-

plaint before the Chief Minis-

6,000 to a farmer in three in-

stalments in a year to meet

Meanwhile, the State's Ag-

riculture Minister has ordered

rectification of the approved

PM-KISAN beneficiary lists

and also warned the fake farm-

ers to repay the money gained

under the scheme to the gov-

Dhemaji District Agricul-

ernment exchequer.

small agriculture expenses.

The scheme provides Rs

ter's Vigilance Cell.

er, we got stuck there due to imposition of the lockdown. I am glad that we are finally able to return," said Ratul Borah of Lakhimpur district.

Borah and his brother boarded the **reviewed** train at Barauni Junction and have booked themselves for journey up to

Another passenger, Bikash Das of Sonari had gone to Darbhanga in Bihar for some work in March where he got stranded due to the lockdown.

"I am really happy to be able to come back and I am fortunate that I was able to get a ticket in this train," said Das, who is travelling alone. He also boarded the train at Barauni Junction and is travelling till Dibrugarh.

Meanwhile, another New Delhi-Dibrugarh Passenger Special train left from New Delhi today.

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

Preparedness for receiving train passengers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, May 13: State Labour and Tea Tribes Welfare Minister Sanjay Kishan today undertook a review of the preparedness for receiving train passengers as per COVID-19 health protocol at Dibrugarh railway station in Banipur.

The Minister was accompanied by local MLA Prasanta Phukan and local officials of district. They visited the facilities set up at the station campus for screening of the passengers.

Kishan was briefed by the Deputy Commissioner as to how passengers would be screened and sent to their respective districts including the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

He also informed about the plans of sending Dibrugarh passengers to quarantine facility centres in their respective revenue circles after screening.

The Minister was also told about various facilities put in place in the quarantine centres in the districts.

Kishan was told that the names of passengers on a district-wise list will be collected after they come out of the train. All detraining passengers will be screened for body temperature.

No. DRC-XIII/16/98/NIT/TSK/140

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Superintending Engineer PWD Dibrugarh Road Circle, Dibrugarh on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bid from the approved and eligible contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for Construction/ Improvement of Roads under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 for 11 (eleven) Nos of road works in Tinsukia District of Assam under Tinsukia, Doom Dooma & Sadiya Territorial Road Division, Tinsukia in Tinsukia LAC amounting to Rs. 1350.18 Lakhs (Approx). Details may be seen at websitehttps://assamtenders.gov.in and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PWD Dibrugarh Road Circle, Dibrugarh

Janasanyog/CF/288/20

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Form of Tender Agreement are hereby invited from the registered Class-I, Class-II and Class-III Contractors of Irrigation Department, Assam vide Administrative Approved No to the Government of Assam. Irrigation Department, Assam, Dispur, Guwahati-06 for the lowing works and will be received upto 2.00 P.M. on 02.06.2019 and will be opened a 3.00 P.M. in the same place and date by the undersigned or officers authorized to open in presence of the intending tenderers or their authorised agent who wish to be present.

day of the office hours will be the date of receiving and opening of the Tenders Name of work: Restoration of breached canal embankment of B5M Canal from chainage

Approximate Value: Rs. 7.72.200.00 (Rupees seven lakh seventy-two thousand two hundre

foresaid o cash upto 3.00 P.M. on **29.05.2019**.

Tender paper must be filled up addressing to all points/terms specified with tenderm, otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the entire te

ithout assigning any reason thereof. The undersigned is not bound to accept the lowest or highest tender rate

Dhansiri Project Division (Irrigation), Canal No. II, Udalguri is to be submitted alor

Tenders quoted rate below the earmarked profit margin for contractors kept in the

Payment of the bill will be made on availability of fund. Quantity and Amount may be varied subject to T.S. acc

The chargeable Head of Account: 2701-80-001-2558-000-17-05-SOPD-FDR-V-GA

Medium IrrigationGeneral-Direction and Administrative-

Cancal No. II, Udalgur

No. MDTRD/180

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer, PWD Majuli District Territorial Road Division, Garmur, Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids for the following packages of road works under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 for Majuli LAC from approved and eligible contractors of APWRD. The bids should be delivered to this office on or before 14.00 hours of 10.06.2020. Detail may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 22.05.2020 to 03.06.2020. Tender papers will be sold from 02.06.2020 to 03.06.2020

SI. No.	Name of works	Approx. value of works (in Rs.)	Cost of Tender Papers (in Rs.)	Bid Security 2% (two) percent
1	2	3	4	5
1	Improvement of Bongaon to Dhowasala Road under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 (L=0.300km), Majuli LAC, (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/01)	Rs. 28,19,000.00	Rs. 560.00	Rs. 56,380.00
2	Construction of Moharlehuk to Balijan road (Ch. 6000.00 m to Ch. 6140.00 M), L=140.00m under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20, Majuli LAC, (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/02)	Rs. 11,66,500.00	Rs. 230.00	Rs. 23,330.00
3	Improvement of Bokora Chandarchuk Road under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20, L=0.210Km Majuli LAC (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/03)	Rs. 22,75,000.00	Rs. 450.00	Rs. 45.500.00
4	Re-Const. of Garamur Satra App. Road under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20, (L=1.19 km), Majuli LAC (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/04)	Rs. 21,40,000.00	Rs. 420.00	Rs. 42,800.00
5	Re-Const. of Red Cross near Bongaligaon Borbari Road (PMGSY Package No. AS-10-131) under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 (L=1.30 Km), Majuli LAC, (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/05)	Rs. 23,89,000.00	Rs. 470.00	Rs. 47,780.00
6	Re-Const. of Bhakati duar to Mayangia Road from (Ch. 0.00km to 1.975 km) under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 (L=1.97 Km), Majuli LAC, (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/06)	Rs. 40,16,000.00	Rs. 800.00	Rs. 80,320.00
7	Re-Const. of SriRam Nepalibari to Pulungani Road from (Ch. 0.00 Km to 1.25 Km) under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20, (L=1.25 Km), Majuli LAC, (Package No. SPOD(G)/MDTRD/07)	Rs. 26,81,000.00	Rs. 530.00	Rs. 53,620.00
8	Re-Const. of approaches of RCC Bridge at Garamur Kakotibari Road under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20, (L= 0.26 Km), Majuli LAC (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/08)	Rs. 6,51,000.00	Rs. 130.00	Rs. 13,020.00

cheque of a schedule commercial bank drawn in favour of Empowered Officer, Assam state Road Board A/C No. 10566991479 and payable

2) Bids must be accompanied by BID security as mentioned in the above table for each work in the form of FDR/TDR/BG issued by nationalized

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Maiuli District Territorial Road Division, Garmui

No. DPD-II/NIT/2/Pt-IX/2019-20/2571

In the event of non functioning of office on the date due to some reason, the next working

Earnest Money: 2% for General & 1% for S.C./S.T./O.B.C./M.O.B.C.

Time of completion: 30 (thirty) days. Detail particulars may be seen in the office Tender papers may be obtained front the

timated rate must furnish authentic documents in support of their quoted ra with analysis, otherwise the tender will be rejected

Original documents are to be produced when sought.

Janasanyog/C/399/20

No.		of works (in Rs.)	Papers (in Rs.)	2% (two) percent
1	2	3	4	5
1	Improvement of Bongaon to Dhowasala Road under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 (L=0.300km), Majuli LAC, (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/01)	Rs. 28,19,000.00	Rs. 560.00	Rs. 56,380.00
2	Construction of Moharlehuk to Balijan road (Ch. 6000.00 m to Ch. 6140.00 M), L=140.00m under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20, Majuli LAC, (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/02)	Rs. 11,66,500.00	Rs. 230.00	Rs. 23,330.00
3	Improvement of Bokora Chandarchuk Road under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20, L=0.210Km Majuli LAC (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/03)	Rs. 22,75,000.00	Rs. 450.00	Rs. 45.500.00
4	Re-Const. of Garamur Satra App. Road under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20, (L=1.19 km), Majuli LAC (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/04)	Rs. 21,40,000.00	Rs. 420.00	Rs. 42,800.00
5	Re-Const. of Red Cross near Bongaligaon Borbari Road (PMGSY Package No. AS-10-131) under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 (L=1.30 Km), Majuli LAC, (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/05)	Rs. 23,89,000.00	Rs. 470.00	Rs. 47,780.00
6	Re-Const. of Bhakati duar to Mayangia Road from (Ch. 0.00km to 1.975 km) under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20 (L=1.97 Km), Majuli LAC, (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/06)	Rs. 40,16,000.00	Rs. 800.00	Rs. 80,320.00
7	Re-Const. of SriRam Nepalibari to Pulungani Road from (Ch. 0.00 Km to 1.25 Km) under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20, (L=1.25 Km), Majuli LAC, (Package No. SPOD(G)/MDTRD/07)	Rs. 26,81,000.00	Rs. 530.00	Rs. 53,620.00
8	Re-Const. of approaches of RCC Bridge at Garamur Kakotibari Road under SOPD(G) for the year 2019-20, (L= 0.26 Km), Majuli LAC (Package No. SOPD(G)/MDTRD/08)	Rs. 6,51,000.00	Rs. 130.00	Rs. 13,020.00

bank valid upto 180 days beyond the date of opening of the bid drawn in favour of the Executive Engineer, PWD Majuli District Territorial Road

Janasanyog/CF/296/20

Pallab Lochan Das holds review meet of various depts at Tezpur

cerned with farming activities.

sons belonging to single fami-

ly are included in the list, which

is a violation of the scheme

ers and unscrupulous Agricul-

ture department officials in this

scam, KMSS, Dhemaji district

unit has demanded the authori-

ty to institute a high-level probe

into the alleged irregularity and

take action against the fake offi-

prepared the list of beneficiar-

"We do not know who had

cials involved in the scam.

Alleging active involvement

Samiti (KMSS) have alleged Moreover, a number of per-

It has been alleged that a of a section of ruling party lead-

CORRESPONDENT

Farmers ploughing a paddy field, at Gohpur on Wednesday. - UB Photos

CORRESPONDENT

of Krishak Mukti Sangram

inclusion of fake beneficiaries'

names in the approved benefi-

ciary list of Prime Minister

Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-

large number of genuine farm-

ers of the district are deprived

of the benefits under the

scheme as a section of political

party workers and their close

relatives are taking financial

vealed that approved benefici-

ary list of PM-KISAN includes

Primary inquiry has re-

benefits of the scheme.

KISAN) scheme.

Persons found without mask to be penalized STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, May 13:

Taking serious note of the

health protocol violation, par-

ticularly with regard to the

mandatory mask wearing rule,

the district administration

here has underlined that vio-

The administration has reit-

erated that wearing three-lay-

ered mask or a cloth to cover

mouth and nose is mandatory.

Persons without the three-lay-

ered mask may at least cover

with two-layered linen or hand-

woven cloth. Officials or any

person without the mask will

not be allowed to attend any

meeting. Wearing a mask is

compulsory for movements in

a private, official or public con-

veyance. Persons working in

offices or any other work place

must also wear masks. One

person's mask cannot be used

by another. One-time or single

use mask should be properly

destroyed. Cloth masks are required to be properly cleaned

with soap and warm water.

All employers are also asked

to ensure that employees wear

the prescribed mask. Assistant

Sub Inspector ranked police of-

ficers and above will levy pen-

alty of Rs 500 on persons break-

ing the rule for the first three

lators will be penalized.

TEZPUR, May 13: Memparliamentary constituency, Pallab Lochan Das on Tuesday reviewed the works of the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary and Panchayat and Rural Development departments with officials concerned in a meeting held at the conference hall of Tezpur Municipal Board. The parliamentarian di-

rected the Agriculture department officials to carry out of beneficiaries of PM-KISAN scheme at the gram panchayat level by May 15 and submit their reports. He 751/2020 u/s 448/294/506/353 asked all ADOs present to scan the lists for any dead

ies' list can be prepared.

Das warned of strict action against anyone found involved ber of Parliament of Tezpur in any misdoings. Reviewing the situation prevailing due to African Swine Fever, he also asked the District Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Officer, Sonitpur to prepare a list of all organized and unorganized pig farms in the district and asked the department to draw up certain guidelines within seven days to make registration of all pig farmers mandatory, take steps for compulsory certification of all

ing or meat. The meeting also discussed ways to come up with an alternative route to tackle the problems faced by the pig farmer community due to beneficiaries, those belongswine flu, option of community farming for scientific any service holders etc., so rearing of pigs, among oth-

pigs and piglets sold for rear-

veillance on the field and create awareness about the disease among the pig farmers at the gaon panchavat level in close coordination with PRI members.

Later, the parliamentarian also discussed the issues related to implementation of PMAY(G), MGNREGA etc., and asked CEO, Zila Parishad to initiate action against whom official complaints have been received. He also sought details of officials remaining absent without prior authorization and asked all BDOs present to resume all works under the Panchayat and Rural Development department in full swing.

Moreover, he directed that all block-level vigilance committee meetings of all departments be completed and reports submitted before the that an error-free beneficiar- ers. He also stressed on the next DISHA meeting.

Day observed at AMCH

79.000 were given financıal

benefit under the scheme as

ordered us to verify the ap-

proved lists and detect the

fake beneficiaries within May

15 next," Bora said, while as-

suming inclusion of 3 to 4 per

cent fake beneficiaries in the

The DAO stated that his

officials were forced to pre-

pare beneficiaries' lists with-

in a short period on the eve

of last election, so that they

could approve the lists with-

Int'l Nurses

out proper verification.

list for Dhemaji district.

"The State government has

the first instalment.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the International Nurses Day yesterday, a release stated.

In keeping with the celebration, Dolly Handique, one of the senior nurses at the Assam Medical College here hoisted the flag in the morning. The flag hoisting was followed with lighting of traditional lamp, releasing of the second issue of the wall magazine and offering prayers to celebrate the day in the office premises of the Nursing Superintendent.

Speaking on the occasion, the Nursing Superintendent of AMCH, Dr Momi Neog expressed her contentment for being a part of the noble pro-

DIBRUGARH, May 13: In adherence to the health protocol of COVID-19 pandemic by the nurse fraternity, the nurses in Assam Medical College & Hospital here observed

fession.

No. CE/REC/7/2020/19

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

PRESS NOTICE

(Website: http://assamtenders.gov.in)

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

SI No	Package No.	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work (in Rs.)	Time of completion.	Bid Security (2% for General, and 1% for Reserved category)	Bid Security to be drawn in favour of	Cost of Bid (Rs.)
1	Pkg-1	Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at Bilasipara in Dhubri, District)	Rs. 13,58,77,619.00	24 (Twenty four) Months	Rs. 27,17,553.00 for General, and Rs. 13,58.776.00 for Reserved category	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Dhubri Building Division. Dhubri.	12,500.00
2	Pkg-2	Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assarn (at Tihu in Nalbari District)	Rs. 13,58,77,619.00	24 (Twenty four) Months	Rs. 27,17,553.00 for General, and Rs. 13,58,776.00 for Reserved category	Executive Engineer. P.W.D. Nalbari Building Division, Nalbari.	12,500.00
3	Pkg-3	Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at Rangia in Kamrup (R) District)	Rs. 13,58,77,619.00	24 (Twenty four) Months	Rs. 27,17,553.00 for General, and Rs. 13,58,776.00 for Reserved category	Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Guwahati Building Division-II, Guwahati.	12.500.00
4	Pkg-4	Establishment of Govt. Law Colleges in 10 places of Assam (at Raha in Nagaon District)	Rs. 13,58,77,619.00	24 (Twentv four) Months	Rs. 27,17,553.00 for General, and Rs. 13,58,776.00 for Reserved category	Executive Engineer. P.W.D. Nagaon Building Division, Nagaon.	12,500,00

Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building), Assam

Janasanyog/C/411/20

Chandmari, Guwahati-3

IPC and 51(a) of Disaster Management Act at Dibrugarh Sadar PS after the Health de-

partment lodged complaint ing to well-off families and for and accordingly the accused

consecutive times and Rs 1000 for further violations, a release stated. One held: Police last night arrested one Abhishek Barua, a resident of ward no. 17, Graham Bazar here for allegedly misbehaving with an ANM Nurse and an ASHA worker while they were performing proper verification of the list their duties related to COV-ID-19 today. Police registered a case no.

Decision on India, Bangla tours soon: SLC

COLOMBO, May 13: Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) on Wednesday said it will take a call on India and Bangladesh's upcoming tours to the island nation later this week.

"The two cricket boards (BCCI and BCB) wanted time till May 15 to assess the situation and we have given them that. We will arrive at a collective decision at the end of this week," said SLC chief executive Ashley de Silva.

India was scheduled to tour Sri Lanka in June-July for three ODIs and as many T20Is while Bangladesh was due to visit in July-August for a three-Test series as part of the ICC World Test Championship.

If the tours didn't materialise, it will be the third home series of Sri Lanka to be cancelled in a row because of the COVID-19 pandemic. - PTI

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Originating from Japan,

'su do ku' is a mind game

and a puzzle that can be

solved with proper

reasoning and logic. Fill

the grid with digits in such

a manner that every row,

every column and every

3 x 3 box accommodates

the digits 1 to 9 without

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SU DO KU

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Solution of last problem

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Premier League players face strict new training protocols

LONDON, May 13: Premier League players are set to be subjected to a strict testing regime if they are to return to training amid the coronavirus pandemic, according to British media reports.

The BBC said on Tuesday it had seen a copy of official protocols sent to all 20 Premier League clubs detailing the need for corner-flags, balls, cones, goalposts and even playing surfaces to be disinfected after each training session.

Other measures in the guidance include twice-weekly testing, and a daily pre-training questionnaire and temper-

Should a player test positive, with or without symptoms, they will be forced to self-isolate for seven days.

All players will have to travel to a training ground individually and avoid public transport. Once there they will not be allowed to gather in communal areas and won't be fed on the premises.

Tackling and contact will reportedly be banned for the first phase of team training.

Meanwhile club medical staff must

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wear personal protection equipment

when treating the players. A meeting involving players, the Professional Footballers' Association and the British government over safety and health issues surrounding a possible restart of the game is set to take place on Wednesday.

PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor, said his members would be open to playing again provided "everything that can be done is being done" to assure their safety.

"We've got to try it, see if we can do it and see if we can return to some form of activity," Taylor told the Mirror.

"But it's also being as careful and having as many assurances as possible that it's achievable.

However, England internationals Raheem Sterling and Danny Rose are the two latest high-profile players to raise their concerns over a return to contact sport when the rest of society is being advised to follow social-distancing guidelines.

"The moment we do go back it just

needs to be a moment where it's not just for footballing reasons, it's safe for not just us footballers but the whole medical staff, referees," Sterling told his YouTube channel.

Meanwhile Rose, on loan at Newcastle from Tottenham, told an Instagram live: "People's lives are at risk.

"Football shouldn't even be spoken about coming back until the numbers have dropped massively.

A further complication for Project Restart is where any matches would be played, with the clubs opposed to a proposal for a limited number of neutral venues to be used.

The UK's national football policing lead previously stated resuming matches on a home-and-away basis would "present challenges" to the emergency services.

But Mark Roberts said on Tuesday that police, government and football authorities were working together on a plan "which minimises any risks to public safety and unnecessary pressure on public services, but facilitates a sensible restart to the season." - AFP

'Imposing Virat can't share captaincy'

Hussain's view on selec-

tion was echoed by India's

twin World Cup hero Yuvraj

Singh, who wants to know

"imposing character" like Virat Kohli will not be comfortable sharing power and hence split captaincy is not something that will work in Indian cricket, feels former England skipper Nasser Hussain.

However, he does feel that the Indian team management often messes up selections as they did in that World Cup semifinal against New Zealand and split coaching might

how the current Indian coaching staff headed by Ravi Shastri is dealing with players of different mindsets. Asked if split captaincy can work in India, like it did in

England, Hussain didn't sound confident.

"It depends on the charac-

imposing character, all encompassing, it would be difficult for him to hand over, he wouldn't want to hand anything over. Whereas with England, we have (Eoin) Morgan and (Joe) Root, two likeable, laidback (characters)," Hussain said during a podcast on Cricbuzz.

However, split coaching is not a bad idea, said Hussain, a respected voice in world cricket. - PTI

বিশেষ

সংখ্যা

'Gayle likely to be penalised'

KINGSTON, May 13: Chris Gayle is likely to be penalised for his recent outburst against Ramnaresh Sarwan, said Cricket West Indies (CWI) chief Ricky Skerritt and hoped that it doesn't end the maverick big-hitter's "outstanding career".

The 40-year-old Gayle, who was signed by St Lucia Zouks for the 2020 season of the Caribbean Premier League, called his former teammate "worse than coronavirus", accusing the Guyanese of plotting his exit from CPL outfit Jamaica Tallawahs.

Skerritt said though it is an "interpersonal battle", he doesn't expect the controversy to die down so easily.

"I'm sure there is some kind of discussion taking place at the moment between Chris and the CPL because the CPL has rules which will come into view here because Chris is signed into a franchise team,' Skerrit was quoted as saying by 'Jamaica-Gleaner'.

"I hope it doesn't become a world matter in terms of the career of Mr Gavle, because it's been a very outstanding career and I really wouldn't want to see it brought to an end by this event," he added.

The opener had claimed that Sarwan was behind his ouster as the former middle-order batsman wanted to take control of the franchise. - PTI



নিৰৱচ্ছিন্নভাৱে ইংৰাজী মাহৰ পহিল তাৰিখত 'গৰীয়সী' প্ৰকাশ আহিছে। আকস্মিক পৰিপ্ৰেক্ষিতত 'গৰীয়সী'ৰ বৰ্ধিত কলেৱৰৰ উৎসৱ সংখ্যা'টি পহিলা এপ্রিলত প্রকাশ কৰিব পৰা নগ'ল। সেয়ে **'গৰীয়সী'**ৰ নিয়মীয়া মে মাহৰ সংখ্যাটি 'বিশেষ সাহিত্য সংখ্যা 'ৰূপে প্ৰকাশৰ

দিহা কৰিলোঁ। তিনি কুৰিৰো অধিক ন-পুৰণি কবি আৰু গল্পকাৰৰ ন ন সৃষ্টিৰে সমৃদ্ধ এই <mark>'বিশেষ সাহিত্য সংখ্যা'</mark>ই পঢ়ুৱৈক নিশ্চয়কৈ

কবিতা শিতানত আছে ৰবীন্দ্ৰ সৰকাৰ, নগেন শইকীয়া, ঈশান দত্ত, অনুভৱ তুলসী, সনন্ত তাঁতি, ৰফিকুল হোছেইন, প্ৰয়াগ শইকীয়া প্ৰমুখ্যে কবিৰ কবিতা।।

গল্প লিখিছে ডঃ লক্ষ্মীনন্দন বৰা, ইমৰান শ্বাহ, ডঃ ভূপেন্দ্ৰনাৰায়ণ ভট্টাচাৰ্য্য, অপূৰ্ব কুমাৰ শইকীয়া, সূৰেশ চক্ৰৱতী, বিমল কুমাৰ হাজৰিকা, মদন শৰ্মা, জয়ন্ত কুমাৰ চক্ৰৱতী, দিলীপ বৰা, জয়ন্ত মাধৱ বৰা, কাব্যশ্ৰী মহন্ত, ফুল গোস্বামী, জ্যোতিষ শিকদাৰ, ডাঃ জয়ন্ত কুমাৰ গোস্বামী অভিজিত শৰ্মা বৰুৱা, সোমনাথ বৰা, ডঃ জয়শ্ৰী গোস্বামী মহন্ত, ধনদা দেৱী আৰু সুৰঞ্জনা শৰ্মাই।।

এই সংখ্যাৰ প্ৰচ্ছদ-চিত্ৰ বিশিষ্ট শিল্পী প্ৰণৱ বৰুৱাৰ।।

💠 'গৰীয়সী'ৰ সংৰক্ষণযোগ্য এই 'বিশেষ সাহিত্য সংখ্যা'টি আজিয়ে কাষৰ এজেণ্ট বা গ্ৰন্থ-বিপণীৰ পৰা সংগ্ৰহ কৰক 💠

With little competition, Bundesliga goes global

football will find itself in an unaccustomed global spotlight this weekend as audiences starved of live football turn to the only major European league back in action.

With the Premier League, Spain's La Liga and Serie A in Italy all still sidelined by the coronavirus pandemic, the Bundesliga will take centre stage on Saturday.

Even in Brazil, media coverage has switched from domestic football stories to what TV viewers can expect to see when Borussia Dortmund meet Schalke in the biggest match of the opening day, albeit it without spectators in the stadium.

Cable channel Fox Sports, which holds exclusive rights to show the Bundesliga in Brazil, will be showing the Ruhr Derby at 9:30 am local time. Its website already features a lengthy article about the games entitled "The wait will soon be over".

Even Brazil's biggest media group, Globo, is getting in on the act with interviews with four Brazilians who play for Bundesliga clubs, including Wolfsburg midfielder William, who admitted players were "a little bit scared" about the implications for their health.

In India, foreign football leagues have found a market in India's urban youth who keenly follow the Premier League and support clubs like Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester United. But a few of these fans also watch La Liga

"I am desperately waiting for the Bundesliga to start this weekend. I am thirsty for live football action in this lockdown," Amjad Rehan Ibrahim, a student of Delhi University, told AFP.

Indian international forward Jeje Lalpekhlua said he would also be tuning in to the coverage on Indian broadcasters Star Sports and Hotstar: "It's difficult without football for so long. I am surely going to watch it." In Japan, rightsholder Sky Perfect is going to show two Bundesliga matches this weekend free of charge.

In Europe too, the matches in Germany will provide a much-needed fix of live

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3 Years/I Unimited km for VENUE, CRETA, ELANTRA and TUCSON. #ELLOwes are yearly periodic maintenance service cost starts @ *CZEIG (SANTRO Petroi in Delhi), Source: Cardeho.com for 5 years. Hill reserves

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GUWAHATI, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

Resys __ Believe It or Not!



Which is the biggest ocean carnivore?

he great white shark, also known as white pointer and white death, is considered the most dangerous of all sharks. The great white shark has a conical, instead of a flattened snout, black eyes, and large, serrated, arrowhead-shaped teeth. The upper and lower lobes of the tail are almost equal in size, and the body is blue or brown-grey, not white, except on the underside. The great white shark belongs to the family Lamnidae. It is classified as Carcharodon

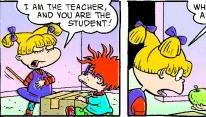
Although the great white shark is notorious as a movie villain, little documented information exists about its behaviour. One of the largest specimens caught was off Montauk, Long Island, New York, in 1964; it was 5.34 m. (17.5 ft.) long and weighed an estimated 2,043 kg. White sharks swallow whole creatures half their size, especially seals, dolphins, turtles, other sharks, chunks of whale, fish, and

ship's garbage. Between 1916 and 1969, there were 32 attacks on swimmers, resulting in 13 deaths, attributed to white sharks. On three occasions, white sharks were reported to have attacked boats, sinking one of them in Canada. Off Australian coasts, where most of the big-game specimens are taken, one female, recognised by its scars, returned for 13 years.

Although the white shark exhibits great strength and terrifies humans, most authorities agree that its villainous reputation is undeserved. Some specialists believe it is endangered due to its shrinking food sources and overfishing by trophy hunters. Great white sharks are an enigma, as scientists are still trying to unravel the mysterious lifestyle of these denizens of the deep. They are solitary creatures roaming the ocean in constant search of food. Scientists are still unsure how to tell the age of a great white shark or how long they live, how often and where they breed, and how quickly they grow.





















life in outer space?"



Rahul Kakati Maharishi Vidva Mandir. Silpukhuri, Guwahati.

According to me, there may be life in outer space. The alien life-form can be unlike anything we know or anything we have seen. Though scientists infer that any form of life needs oxygen, I sometimes think, is oxygen really necessary for life on other planets? Scientists also state that any form of life needs water. But, is water really a necessity for life in outer space? These are just theories based on life on Earth. People even spot UFOs in the sky and say that these are aliens, but we can't say for sure, because, for example, scientists say that we are at the centre of the universe, but how much of the universe is observable to us?



Himangshu Das, Pragjyotish Sr. Sec. School, Guwahati.

Till date, many scientists have explored space, but not the whole universe. Scientists have also discovered many facts about extraterrestrial life, yet the facts are not proven. Our scientists are trying to search for life beyond our solar system. If there would have been any intelligent or alien life in outer space, then they could have definitely made the human race feel their presence. So, it's a mystery to us. Many people have claimed that they have seen UFOs and have contacted aliens. But, that's not enough to justify the fact that there is life in outer space.



Ambalika Bharadwaj,

When we say 'life', the image formed in our brains is of the biosphere the sphere of the Earth, where all organisms live and grow. Outer space makes me think of astronauts on the moon. The future cannot be seen, but predicted and imagined. According to me, there is life in outer space, which is unaware of us and we are not sure about them. Their lives might be the same as ours or might be the opposite. The universe is big, with nearly 100 billion galaxies, so I believe that there are chances of life in outer space. The UFOs might be an indication of the existence of life in outer space. I think the developing technologies will soon be able to connect us with life in another world.



Adriana Mahanta, Don Bosco School. Panbazar, Guwahati.

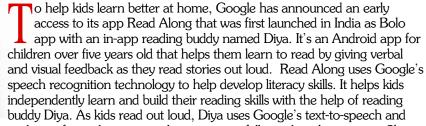
I think there is life in outer space. I believe there are different types of creatures on every planet. Mercury might be home to distinctive creepycrawlies, while Jupiter might be the home of dinosaurs. Saturn might be the planet where some people like us live. The people there might be studying about creation and might be pondering over whether there is life on Earth or other planets. Neptune must be the planet of cartoon characters! I have a feeling that after people die, they are reborn on some

The Assam Tribune

PLANET YOUNG

GUWAHATI, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

Google rolls out India-first app globally



speech recognition technology to detect if a student is struggling or successfully reading the passage. She gives them positive and reinforcing feedback along the way, just as a parent or teacher would.

Shed weight and solve problems

Teen obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure may lead to prematurely aged arteries.

eenagers who have obesity, type 2 diabetes (T2D), or high blood pressure may be more likely to have signs of premature blood vessel ageing compared to teens without those health conditions, according to a research published in the Journal of the American Heart Association.

Researchers evaluated 141 teens with normal weight, 156 who had obesity, and 151 who had T2D over the course of five years, with an average age of 17.6 years at the beginning of the study. At the end of five years, the teens with either obesity, T2D, or high systolic blood pressure were significantly more likely to have thicker and stiffer carotid arteries, the main blood vessel that leads to the brain, according to the study.

Carotid artery health was assessed by non-invasive



read Anne Frank's diary two years

ago, when I was in Class-VIII. The

her situation with utmost bravery.

book keeps reminding me how

Her constant positive outlook on life,

Reading Anne's diary changed me

and I am sure it did the same to the

read the diary, I thought it would be

other readers. When I was about to

even through the toughest of tough

situations, is heart-warming.

two layers of the blood vessel called the carotid intimamedia thickness. The pulse wave velocity gauges how fast blood flows through the vessels to determine arterial stiffness. Both measures were taken at the beginning of the study and five years later.

The researchers concluded that teens with obesity. T2D, or high systolic blood pressure had greater change in the thickness and stiffness of their arteries, compared to participants in the group with normal weight. This would suggest a greater risk of early heart attacks or strokes among the teens with obesity, T2D, or high systolic blood pressure, according to the study authors.

"Although T2D is treated aggressively in the U.S., obesity needs to be treated just as vigorously because it has the same increased risk for premature ageing of the blood vessels, which is an early sign of cardiovascular dysfunction and a precursor to cardiovascular diseases in adulthood," said lead study author Justin R. Ryder, Ph.D., in a press release.

A limitation of the research is that the teenagers were not followed into adulthood to track whether the premature ageing of their blood vessels results in heart attacks, strokes, and other cardiovascular conditions.

However, strengths of the study included its large population size and the objective measurements of carotid artery health five years apart.

and sensitive about the environment.

Ketaki Bardalai has been closely involved in working for child disability and development of the NE region.

The people who have influenced me the most.

They have been my father, my husband and all the friends who have done inspiring work.

The turning point of my life... Was when I came to Guwahati and then began working for Sishu

The happiest moments of my

Were the birth of my children. It also makes me happy when our work is recognised.

A change I would like to see in the society.

I would want people to be more sensitive, understanding and less self-centred.

Message for today's youth.

Be caring and sensitive about the environment and the people around you. Accept people with open minds.

Anne's undying endurance

Anne, being nearly my age, handled Chayanika Saikia,

Don Bosco H.S. School, Baghchung, Jorhat.

just another work of historical fiction. But once I finished it. I realised that her story is even more intriguing. Her time in the concentration camps outlined her persistence. She never let the thought of being captured by the

Nazis hold her back. Anne's diary was a hopeful ray of light during the horror of the Holocaust. Despite knowing the dangers that surrounded her family and friends, she was still optimistic and believed in the goodness of everyone.

Anne Frank quotes, "In spite of everything I still feel people are really good at heart." Maybe they are. Anne, I just wish you were still

around today. You don't have to worry, Anne, you are safe in your world. There's no one chasing your life, no one to cage your freedom.





POEM OF THE WEEK Ankita Bharadwaz,



SKETCH OF THE WEEK Ishan Tamuli, Guwahati.



Dear Ishani Aunty,

We were going to do a school play and I was to play the lead role of a queen. Now it has been postponed and I am very disappointed. Help. - Hela

Dear Hela,

It is more important to be safe from the coronavirus than acting in a school play. When this is over, I am sure you will be glad to get back to your normal activities.

Dear Ishani Aunty,

I am very afraid. Are we all going to die of the coronavirus?

– Trishala Dear Trishala,

This is not the time to be afraid. We should be prepared to face the future. Sleep for at least eight hours a day, eat healthy meals and keep washing your hands with soap and water. Remain at home, and you shall be safe.

Dear Ishani Aunty,

I had a fight with my best friend because I made a comment on his father. How can I make it up to him? - Shreyas

Dear Shreyas,

Have a sincere talk with your friend. Beg forgiveness for being insensitive and mean. Promise him you will not do it again.

Funky Facts

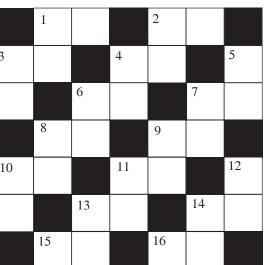
Unmana Das, **PicSPEAK** Little Flower School, Guwahati

NEXT WEEK'S PICTURE





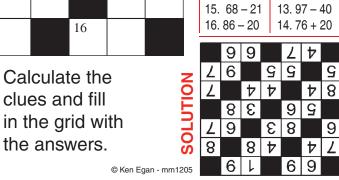




Please collect your certificates from our office.

planet_young@assamtribune.com]

[Send your entries to





Ned: "What is a computer's favourite snack?" Fred: "Microchips!"

89 – 20 1. 42 + 22

62 +12 3. 91 – 15

8. 11 + 45 7. 20 + 48

9. 20 + 18 8. 37 + 17

10. 52 + 32 9. 8 + 26

11. 54 – 10 10. 69 + 16

14. 59 + 38 | 12. 38 + 39

2. 40 - 22

4. 30 + 13

5. 58 + 29

6. 71 + 15

11. 30 + 15

43 - 24

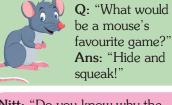
30 + 37

4. 25 + 23

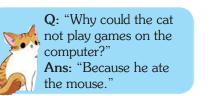
6.80 + 3

13.50 + 5









It is a valuable repository of knowledge.

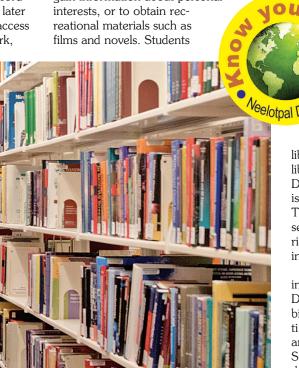
library is a place where we find a collection of books and other informational materials made available to people for reading, study, or reference. The word 'library' comes from *liber* – the Latin word for "book". Library collections have almost always contained a variety of materials. Contemporary libraries maintain collections that include not only printed materials such as manuscripts, books, newspapers and magazines, but also art reproductions, films, sound and video recordings, maps, photographs, microfilms, CD-ROMs, computer software, online databases and other media. In addition to maintaining collections within library buildings, modern libraries often feature telecommunication links that provide users with access to information at remote

The central mission of a library is to collect, organise, preserve, and provide access to knowledge and information. In fulfilling this mission, libraries preserve a valuable record of culture that can be passed down to the succeeding genera-

tions. Libraries are an essential link in this communication between the past, present and the future. Whether the cultural record is contained in books or in electronic formats, libraries ensure that the record is preserved and made available for later use. Libraries provide people with access to the information they need to work,

play, learn and govern. People in many professions use library resources to assist them in their work.

People also use library resources to gain information about personal



use libraries to supplement and enhance their classroom experiences, to learn skills in locating sources of information, and to develop good reading and study habits. Public officials

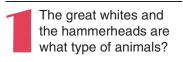
> use libraries to research legislation and public policy issues. One of the most valued of all cultural institutions, the library provides information and services that are essential to learning and progress.

The National Library of India at Belvedere, Kolkata, is the largest library in India by volume and India's library of public records. It is under the Department of Culture, Ministry of Tourism & Culture, Government of India. This library is designated to collect, disseminate and preserve all printed material produced in India. It has a collection in excess of 2.2 million books.

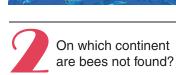
In Assam, there are district libraries in almost all district headquarters. The District Library in Guwahati is one of the biggest libraries in the State. In Guwahati, there are several other public libraries and these include the Bishnu Nirmala Sishu Puthibharal, and the Nabin Bordoloi Library. The Student and Research Library at Gauhati University is one of the biggest student libraries in the State.

(only4_pol@yahoo.co.uk)













What would a giant

panda mostly eat?

Can frogs swallow

with eyes open?



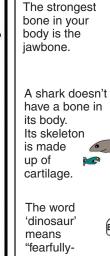
3

1. Sharks, 2. Antarctica, 3. No, 4. Bamboo, 5. No. **SABWENA**

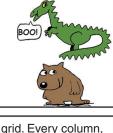




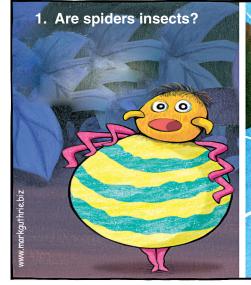
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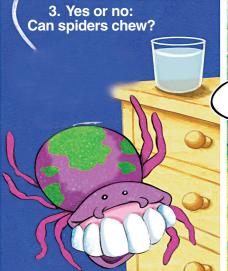




Fill all the missing numbers in the grid. Every column, row and box must contain each of the numbers from









IT'S TRUE!

Answers: 1. No. They are Arachnids, 2. True, 3. No.

PAGE 3 THE ASSAM TRIBUNE, GUWAHATI, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

watch a) Glistening

- b) Dull
- c) Silver
- d) Done in one colour

Candid

- a) Quick b) Alert
- c) Frank d) Protective

a) Clear b) Polite c) Prompt d) Abrupt

icture

Self-effacing b) Unselfish

c) Weak

Feisty

c) Vicious

d) Sturdy

d) Humble

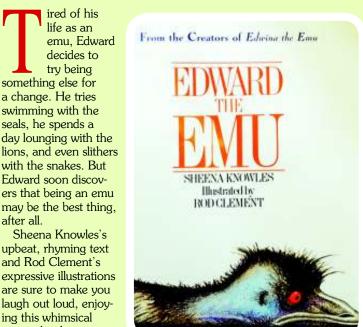
- By Sheena Knowles
- emu. Edward decides to try being something else for b) Impulsive a change. He tries swimming with the seals, he spends a day lounging with the lions, and even slithers 5. a) Spirited. with the snakes. But 4. d) Humble, Edward soon discov-3. d) Abrupt,

2. c) Frank,

1. d) Done in one colour,

after all Sheena Knowles's upbeat, rhyming text and Rod Clement's expressive illustrations are sure to make you laugh out loud, enjoying this whimsical

Edward the Emu



BOOK NOOK

picture book.



acen Callender is an author of children's fantasy books. She has won the Stonewall Book Award and Lambda Literary Award.

Her books include:

- Hurricane Child.
- King And The Dragonflies.
- Felix Ever After.
- King Of The Rising.

The Wild Robot

By Peter Brown

she is on a remote, wild island. Why is she there? Where did she come from? And, most impor tantly, how will she survive in he harsh surrounding Roz's only hope is to learn from the island's hostile animal inhabitants When she tries to care for an orphaned gosling, the other animals finall decide to help, and the island starts to feel like home. Until one day, the robot's mysterious past comes back to

haunt her...



11. Radio, 12. Organ. Down: 2. Elk, 3. Carpet, 4. Shrimp, 5. Barrel, 8. Tabla, 10. Sack, 10. Sparrow, 13. Cardigan, 14. Kayak. Across: 1. Stretcher, 4. Skirt, 6. Farm, 7. Tooth, 9. Balloon,



Aliza and the magical island

princess name Aliza. One day, Aliza and the king set out into the sea on a ship. In the middle of the sea, a storm rocked their ship and Aliza fell into the water. She was swept away to a faraway, magical island. As Aliza picked herself up and walked ahead, she saw a dog that was in a lot of pain. Feeling sad for him, she gave him some water and tended to his wounds. When the dog recovered, he said, "Thank you for your help. Now you must go ahead on your journey and when you return, I will reward you."

Soon Aliza met a dying mulberry tree. Upon seeing her, the tree asked her for water. Aliza brought some water and poured it onto the tree. The tree said the same thing as the dog. As Aliza walked ahead, she saw a trapped butterfly. On freeing the butterfly, it also said the same thing as the dog and the tree.

Soon Aliza reached a beautiful castle made of diamonds. There lived three fairies. Aliza explained her story to the fairies - how she got lost and told them that she wanted to go back home. The fairies said, "If you want to go home, you have to work here for a year. There are three rooms in our castle, you have to clean only two of them. Do not open the third door." Aliza followed their orders diligently.

After one year, the fairies said, "You have worked very hard, you should get Holy Flower Sr. Sec. School, Teok, Jorhat.

rewarded. Open the third door!" Aliza opened the third door and the room was full of gold and silver. They said, "Today, you will sleep over silver and tomorrow, you will sleep over gold". On the third morning, Aliza saw that her clothes and ornaments had been converted to gold and silver. The fairies said that she could go back home the same way that she

had come. On her return journey, Aliza met the butterfly. It gave her a pair of magical shoes, which allowed her to travel wherever she wanted. The tree gave her a magical leaf, with which she could wear whatever dress she liked. And at last, she met the dog. It gave her a wish-granting

Aliza requested the magical shoes to

take her to her palace. On reaching home, everyone was delighted, except the evil stepmother. She became jealous of Aliza's story and her rewards. The stepmother, together with her own daughter Alvena, planned to visit the island. But, on their way, when they met the dog; instead of showing him kindness, they rudely stated "We are a queen and a princess. Why should we help you?" Soon they met the mulberry tree and the butterfly and left them both with the same answer.

Finally, they found the palace. They lied to the fairies that they were lost. The fairies gave them the same directions as Aliza. However, as the evil stepmother and daughter knew the mystery behind the third door, they opened it in no time. But instead of finding gold and silver, they were attacked by insects. Petrified, they decided to go back. However, on their return journey, they were cursed by the butterfly and the tree that they could never return to their palace and could never wear nice dresses any more. Finally, they met the dog. He cursed them that nothing would ever go right in their lives. As a result, they had to stay and suffer on the island. Meanwhile, Aliza lived happily ever after.

(Moral: If we wish to be happy in our lives, we should always be kind and helpful towards others. And if we are greedy and conceited, we cannot live a happy life.)

IDIOM OF THE WEEK

There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and lip

here's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip' is an old English proverb. It implies that between the time we decide to do something and the time we do it, things often go wrong.

A Latin form is found in Erasmus's Adagia, I.v. 1 (Multa cadunt inter calicem supremague labra),



which appears to derive from an epigram by Palladas in The Greek Anthology (X

The proverb supposedly comes from a Greek legend in which one of the Argonauts returns home to his winery. A local soothsayer had

previously predicted that the Argonaut would die before he tasted another drop of his wine, thus, the Argonaut calls the soothsayer and toasts him, for the Argonaut had survived his journey. The soothsayer replies to the toast with a phrase corresponding to the English proverb. As he completes his test, the Argonaut raises a cup filled with wine to his lips but is called away to hunt a wild boar. The Argonaut is killed hunting the boar.

The first occurrence of the proverb in English, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, is in Thackeray's *Pendennis*, 1850.

Welcome back!

Dear Bhaity, Bhonti,

Welcome back, dear children! In these weeks, you were never far from our thoughts. We continued to feel inspired by your creations. And now, we are all back, the journey continues.

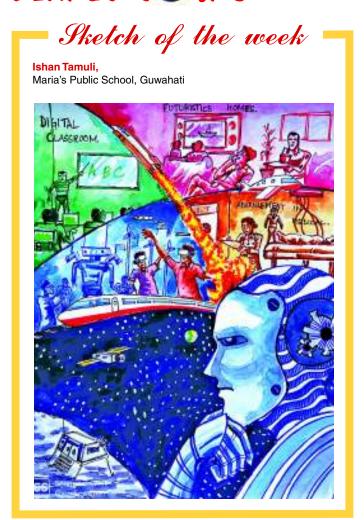
Author C.S. Lewis wrote, "Hardships often prepare ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny." As the whole of mankind unites to battle this invisible foe, it is up to each one of us to play our part. We appeal to all of you to maintain social distance, wash and sanitise your hands frequently, and avoid leaving the house as far as possible. There is also the need to sincerely carry on your online studies and keep yourself engaged in creative, meaningful activities. You must be particularly careful around elderly members of the family – as they are more vulnerable.

Remember, the whole world is together in this. Remain optimistic and proactive. Often, the most sense you need at this time is common sense. So, once again, we eagerly await your creative gems.

With love, as always,

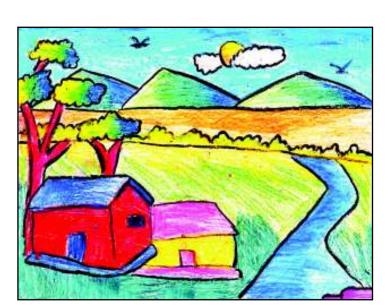




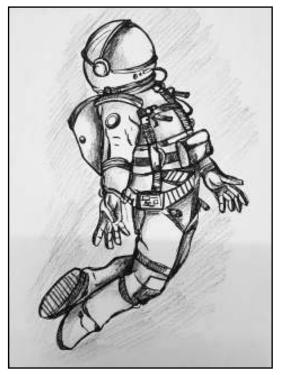




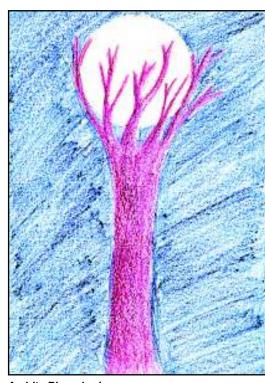
Aadishree Nath, Tezpur Gurukul, Tezpur



Aradhya Bharadwaj,Gurukul Grammar Sr. Sec. School, Guwahati



Maharnab Choudhury, International School, Guwahati



Aadrita Bharadwaj, Gurukul Grammar Sr. Sec. School, Guwahati

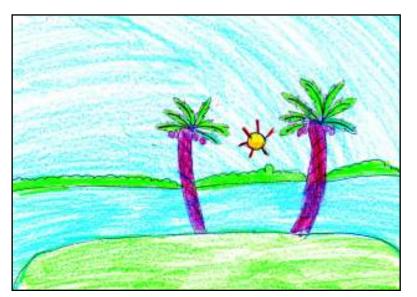
Chirping of the birds

Echoed so deep, As if in a rhythm They were singing. The sun was in the horizon, Looking fresh and vigorous, Amidst the thick, white fog, That held it tight. The trees were enjoying A dance in the Chilly breeze. The air was clean, That refreshed my mind. The dewdrops that dived From the nearest tree, Kissed my hair In a gentle manner. The clouds above, hid Behind the screen of thick fog. A breeze it was -That raised a question In my mind-"Is this what a morning In a village looks And feels like?"



Heemav Kashyap, Don Bosco School, Guwahati

Gargi Gogoi, Maria's Public School, Guwahati.



Shivangi Bhattacharjee, Maria Montessori House of Children, Guwahati

Poem of the Week

Ankita Bharadwaz, Ramanujan Academy, Baihata Chariali.

Happiness

The world is filled with uncountable stuff,
So that we can show ourselves happy enough.
Being surrounded by friends or loving partners,
We all want to prove ourselves as the happiest creatures.
We can be happy if we want,

No matter how many difficulties we have to confront. I don't want to deny that very true fact,

But on this Earth, it is also true that

Each one of us is successfully fooled by others' false acts. All of us feel that

Deep inside, we are all alone,

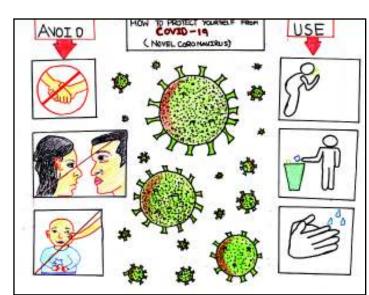
On lazy, lonely and deprived nights, we all silently cry. We frantically try to find the hidden meaning of life, But in vain,

As, at last, we are thrown to our hard, present times again. It is a truth that everyone feels,

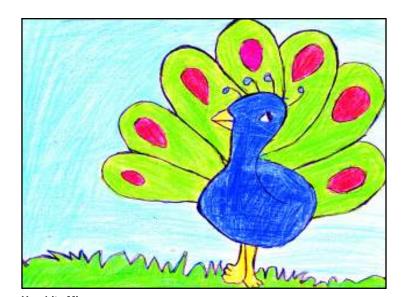
But nobody wants to deal with it.

We all love to wear the 'happy' mask,

So that in this modern world, we can maintain our peace.



Pori Nath,
Maharishi Vidya Mandir-IV, Barsajai, Guwahati



Harshita Misra, St. Mary's H.S. School, Guwahati



Dimbeswar Kujur, Laina Chengelijan L.P.S. Kakopather, Tinsukia



Yash Khemani, Shrimanta Shankar Academy, Guwahati

Love yourself

I can't enjoy myself when others laugh, They question why I am so dull and rough. All these luxuries push me into this maze, Having everything, it feels like nothing, When surrounded by this thick haze...

I close my eyes, trying to forget the pain. Thousands of thoughts pour down like rain. Thoughts like phrases, looking for an ending, Thoughts that others don't find overwhelming. Questions that never find an answer, Dreams that often remain uncovered...

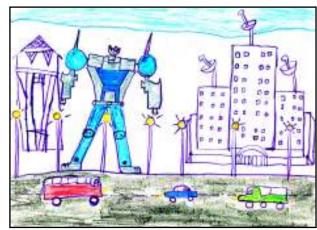
Now, I wonder why, Why have I become so selfish? No, never with others, But with the one I should have been modest, I was never the closest.

Living a life for others, Why isn't there anything For my biggest admirer; Me, myself, my own true lover...?

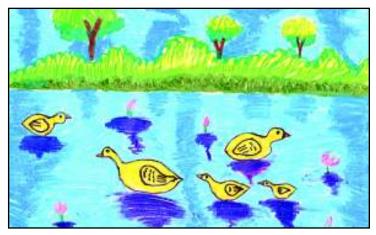
Sarah Ishika Dowerah, Delhi Public School, Numaligarh.



Nandini Bharali, Don Bosco H.S. School, Baghchung, Jorhat



Maharishi Vidya Mandir Sr. Sec. School, Silpukhuri, Guwahati



Mrigaj B. Sarma, Narayana School, Guwahati