



The Assam Tribune

PUBLISHED SIMULTANEOUSLY FROM GUWAHATI & DIBRUGARH

1.5 Ton 3 Star Split AC Fully Copper just for ₹ 27,999/- INSTALLATION FREE DIGITAL WORLD Opp. Guwahati Club Bus Stand, Guwahati-781003 9883188366/9127234667

RN-1127/57TECH/GH – 103/2018-2020, VOL. 82, NO. 132

www.assamtribune.com

ePaper app for The Assam Tribune

Pages 16 Price: ₹ 6.00

GUWAHATI, SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

p3 Migrant workers a neglected lot: Madras High Court

p5 GMCH denies COVID patient's allegation

p11 Bihar migrant workers walk towards home from Nagaon

NEWS Capsule

CBSE exams

NEW DELHI, May 16: The HRD Ministry today postponed announcement of schedule for pending class X and XII board exams, saying the CBSE is still considering certain technical aspects before finalising the datesheet. The datesheet will now be released by Monday. – PTI

Ventilators

WASHINGTON, May 16: The US will donate ventilators to India to treat the COVID-19 patients and help it fight the "invisible enemy", President Donald Trump has announced, as he underlined the close partnership between the two countries. – PTI

Also see page 2

Babri Masjid

LUCKNOW, May 16: A special CBI court has decided to continue further trial in the Babri Masjid demolition case through video link conference. The Supreme Court on May 8 directed the special court to conclude proceedings by August 31. – PTI

Cyclone

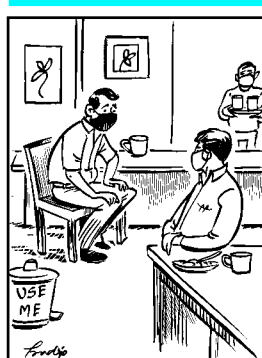
NEW DELHI, May 16: The National Crisis Management Committee today reviewed the preparedness for the impending cyclone, which is likely to hit Odisha and West Bengal coast. – PTI

Sunday
May 17, 2020

- The channel of unity
- Dr. M. Bhattacharjee
- Wheels of change
- Arshel Akhter
- UP CLOSE
- Green warrior
- Nasreen Habib
- WOMEN PLUS
- Birthright rights
- Dr. Amrit Krishna Bora
- FICTION
- Mother and me-II
- Vastav Bora
- MY SPACE
- A midsummer day's shopping
- Dr. Unnikrishnan Menon
- ALL THINGS CONSIDERED
- Maid in India
- Mitra Phukan

Plus all our regular features

JOCOSERIOUS



How can we be self-reliant when all our essential items come from outside?

COVID-19 may lead to spate in TB cases

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, May 16: The spread of novel coronavirus in the country may trigger a spate in tuberculosis cases, with a research indicating that COVID 19 can reactivate dormant tuberculosis cells. A team of researchers at KaviKrishna Laboratory in Guwahati led by its director Dr Bikul Das has demonstrated a unique stem cell-based defense mechanism against coronavirus infection which suggests that coronavirus infection may reactivate the dormant Mycobacterium tuberculosis (dMtb). History has it that tuberculosis is one of the key bacterial infections affected by viral pan-



Migrant workers gather outside a registration camp ignoring social distancing to travel back to their native places amid nationwide lockdown, in Jalandhar on Saturday. – PTI

30 municipal areas contribute 80 pc of COVID-19 cases

NEW DELHI, May 16: With coronavirus cases continuing to rise, top health ministry officials on Saturday held a meeting with senior officers and district magistrates from 30 municipal areas which are contributing almost 80 per cent of the country's COVID-19 cases during which monitoring of old city areas, urban slums, migrant labourer camps and other high density pockets was emphasised.

The measures taken by the officials and the staff of the municipal corporations for the management of COVID-19 cases were reviewed during the meeting which was also informed that fresh

guidelines on management of COVID-19 in urban settlements are being shared, a health ministry statement said. A total of 30,150 people have been cured till now across the country and in the last 24 hours, 2,233 patients have recovered – the highest number of recoveries in a day. This takes the total recovery rate to 35.09 per cent, the health ministry said.

2 more positive cases in Guwahati
STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 16: The total number of COVID-19 cases in the State rose to 91 today, with two more persons testing positive for the virus in Guwahati.

The new patients – one a handcartpuller and the other a barber – are linked to the potato godown case, Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said.

They have been identified as Mahendra Shah (57) and Suman Thakur (20) of Kumarpara. Both are asymptomatic and were taken to the MMCH.

SEE PAGE 6

Timely tracing of patients to improve recovery percentage and influenza like illness (ILI)/severe acute respiratory infections (SARI) surveillance was also stressed during the meeting. Health Secretary Preeti Sudan and Rajesh Bhushan, OSD, health ministry, along with other senior officers held the high-level review meeting with the Principal Health Secretaries, Municipal Commissioners, DMs and other officials from the 30 municipal areas. These 30 municipal areas are from the States of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Odisha.

The total number of confirmed cases stands at 85,940, registering an increase of 3,970 in the last 24 hours. During the meeting, a presentation was made on the present status of COVID-19 infections in the districts while highlighting the high risk factors, indices such as confirmation rate, fatality rate, doubling rate, tests per million, etc. The municipal officials were briefed about the factors to be considered while mapping the containment and buffer zones, the activities mandated in containment zone, active search for cases through house-to-house surveillance, contact tracing, testing protocol, clinical management of active cases, surveillance activities in buffer zone, etc. – PTI

25 migrant workers killed in UP road mishap

AURAIYA (UP), May 16: At least 25 migrant workers were killed and 40 others injured when a trailer rammed into a stationary truck, both carrying passengers, on a highway near Auraiya in Uttar Pradesh in the early hours of Saturday. Some of the workers coming from Delhi had stopped for tea when the accident occurred between 3 am and 3:30 am on the Auraiya-Kanpur Dehat stretch of NH-19,

police said, adding, most of those killed were from Jharkhand and West Bengal, and some from Kushinagar in eastern Uttar Pradesh. Meanwhile, in three separate road accidents in Madhya Pradesh eight migrant workers, including four women, were killed on Saturday, police said, adding, at least 29 others were injured in these accidents that took place in Sagar, Guna and Barwani districts. – PTI

8 others die in MP

While the stationary vehicle was coming from Delhi and was headed towards Madhya Pradesh, the other was coming from Rajasthan, both ferrying people who found themselves without

DN Barua, NE's first chem engineer, passes away



STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 16: Dikendra Nath Barua, the first chemical engineer of the northeastern region, former MD of the Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) and a prominent resident of Ambikagiri Path off RG Baruah Road, died at the Apollo Hospital here around 10:30 am today. He was 98. Barua started his career with the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation at Namrup and shifted to the AIDC where he was the only non-IAS managing director for many years. He retired from AIDC in 1976-77. During his illustrious career Barua was instrumental in rapid industrialisation of the State. He played a major role in setting up the Federation of Industries of North Eastern Region (FINER) and NEDFI.

Govt unleashes bold reforms

● FDI in defence production eased ● Coal, mineral mining opened for pvt sector ● Pvt players to enter space programme

NEW DELHI, May 16: In bold reforms aimed at boosting sagging economy, the government on Saturday announced an easing of limits on foreign direct investment in defence manufacturing, privatisation of six more airports, opening up of more air space and allowing private sector in commercial coal mining.

HIGHLIGHTS

DEFENCE

- FDI in defence manufacturing to be hiked to 74 per cent
- List of weapons/platforms banned for imports to be notified – such items can only be purchased from India
- Indigenisation of imported spares to be promoted, focus on lowering defence import bill
- Faster decision making in defence procurement
- Ordnance Factory Board to be corporatised

CIVIL AVIATION

- Restrictions on utilisation of Indian air space to be eased for increasing efficiency of passenger aircraft
- Six more airports to be privatised
- India to become a global hub for aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul

COAL AND MINERAL

- Commercial mining in coal sector to be introduced
- Entry norms to be liberalized, nearly 50 blocks to be offered immediately
- Rs 50,000 crore earmarked for infrastructure development in coal sector

POWER DISTRIBUTION

- Reform in tariff policy, privatisation of Discoms in Union Territories

SPACE:

- Private sector to be allowed in satellites, launches and space-based services
- Private sector will be allowed to use ISRO facilities

ATOMIC ENERGY:

- Research reactor to be set up in PPP mode for the production of medical isotopes

Also, the list of weapons that cannot be imported will be expanded to give Make in India a boost. The private sector will also be involved in the Indian space programme, including in future projects for planetary exploration and outer space travel as well as satellite launches.

Announcing the fourth tranche of the economic stimulus package that largely dealt with reforms and almost negligible new investment, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said foreign investors would be allowed to own up to a 74 per cent stake in defence manufacturing ventures under the automatic route, up from the current 49 per cent limit. This would be subject to security clearance norms, she said. Also, the government will expand the list of weapons/platforms banned for imports

with year-wise timelines and indigenisation of some imported spares. This, the minister said, would boost domestic manufacturing and cut huge defence import bill. To improve autonomy, accountability, and efficiency in ordnance supplies, the government will corporatise Ordnance Factory Board, which will ultimately lead to listing on domestic stock exchanges. "Corporatisation is not privatisation," she said.

CM stresses on united effort to revive economy

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 16: Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal directed the Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police of the State to take on board MLAs, MPs and minister in-charge of the respective districts to tide over the challenges posed by COVID-19 and stressed united effort by all to revive the economy that suffered a major setback during the lockdown.

COVID-19 STATUS

WORLD	
Confirmed cases	4,679,836
Cured/Discharged	1,788,503
Death	319,573
INDIA	
Confirmed cases	85,940
Cured/Discharged	30,150
Death	2,752
ASSAM	
Confirmed cases	91
Cured/Discharged	41
Death	2

Data as on Saturday

He directed this while reviewing the ongoing measures and future steps to deal with COVID-19 pandemic through video conference at Brahmaputra State Guest House here today.

In view of large number of stranded people of Assam returning to the State with operation of trains, Sonowal asked DCs and SPs to take steps for setting up quarantine management committees at village and block levels.

NE ultra outfits in Myanmar set up camps along India border

R DUTTA CHOUDHURY

GUWAHATI, May 16: The militant groups of the Northeast have started setting up camps in Myanmar again, but now these are located closer to the border with India. However, according to reports available, the militants are finding it tough to take rations to the camps because of the lockdown. Highly placed security sources told *The Assam Tribune* that the Myanmar army, following request of the Indian government launched a major offensive and took over the camps of the militants in the Taga area of Myanmar early

last year, which had put the militants in total disarray. Following the operations, the members of the National Democratic Front of Boroland (S) also came overground and signed a peace accord with the Government of India along with three other factions of the NDFB. However, in recent times, the other militant groups of the region, including the United Liberation Front of Asom (Independent), started setting up camps in the areas closer to the international border, which is a matter of concern for the security agencies. It is believed that the ULFA(I) and other ultra groups have set up camps with the help of the NSCN(K) that has good hold over the area because of the presence of a sizeable number of Naga population. Sources said in the last fortnight or so, the ultras faced shortage of food in their camps as the rations that they managed to store exhausted and they have not been able to take rations to the camps because of the lockdown. Sources said according to inputs available, a number of new recruits of the ULFA(I) also escaped from the camps because of the hardships they are facing.

SEE PAGE 6

SEE PAGE 6

SEE PAGE 6

SEE PAGE 6

SITUATION VACANT

Required Office cum Accounts Executive, Female, Commerce background, fresh/experienced, knowledge on Tally, M.S.Office, for a Private Ltd. Co. To handle accounts & official correspondences independently. Candidate residing in Uzanbazar, Silpukhuri, Rehbari, Panbazar areas preferred. Send your resume to: aamp.marketing@gmail.com immediately. Salary negotiable. SV/P/AC000117/1

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

Excellent opportunity for retired persons & Ladies, Earnings 45000 + PF & Medical extra. 9864012461. SV/P/AC000079/8

VACANCY

WANTED URGENTLY BY A LEADING HOSPITALITY SECTOR COMPANY BASED AT GUWAHATI THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL FOR IMMEDIATE APPOINTMENT IN GREENWOOD HOTEL AT TEZPUR.

GENERAL MANAGER: Graduate in Hotel Management from a recognized University having minimum 10 years' experience in the hospitality sector and possessing ideal leadership qualities and capable of handling a 3 Star category hotel or resort independently.

ACCOUNTANT: B Com (Hons.) with minimum 5 years' experience and capacity for maintaining accounts independently with knowledge of operating computer.

CASHIER: B.COM with 5 - 7 years' experience in hotel in capable of vouching and handling of cash with knowledge in computer operations.

RECEPTIONIST (MALE OR FEMALE): Graduate in any discipline with fair knowledge of English and operating of computer efficiently. Experience 5 years.

FRONT OFFICE MANAGER: Diploma in Hotel Management with 5 year experience.

F&B MANAGER: Graduate from a recognised university having 10 years' experience as F&B Manager in hospitality sector

COMPUTER OPERATOR: Graduate in any discipline with Diploma in Computer Application having 3-4 years' experience in computer application.

CHEF: Matriculate with 5 to 10 years' experience as Chef in 3-Star Category Hotel.

HOUSE KEEPERS: (Male & Female) : 5-10 Years' experience.

SERVICE STAFF (Male & Female): 5-10 Years' experience.

BAR TENDER: Apply with recent passport size photograph, bio data and xerox copies of all testimonials within 15 days of publication of this advertisement to **Box No. AP000023/1B** or to our e-mail address **accounts@thegreenwoodhotels.com, fom@thegreenwoodhotels.com.**

CD/SV/P/AP000023/1

COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENT AT GUWAHATI REQUIRES IMMEDIATELY SENIOR ACCOUNTANTS (PREFERABLY EXPERIENCED IN TAXATION), INTERNAL AUDITOR, STENOGRAPHER AND DATA ENTRY OPERATORS. SEND BIODATA TO fmsltd2007@rediffmail.com SV/BL000040/1

Required Teachers for Play School (A.G. English School, Beharbari). Interested candidate may upload their resume with contact No. & E-mail. Any query will be entrusted. e-mail: agenglishschoolbeharbari@gmail.com. President, School Management Committee. SV/BL000037/1

Urgently required 1 Garden Assistant Manager for a reputed Tea Estate in Guwahati. Candidates having 6 to 10 years experience in the relevant field are requested to send their CV's on amchongteaestate@gmail.com SV/BL000030/1

Maharishi Vidya Mandir Public School-II, Panikhaiti, Ghy-26. Admission open for Class-XI (Science & Commerce) with good Faculty. Session : 2020-21. Contact : 98640-17586, 70865-24774, 84729-27496. SV/P/AP000025/1

A leading Construction Company of Guwahati requires Head of Department - Power Div. Qualification: BE Electrical with exp min 10 Yrs in handling Transmission Power Projects. Email: hr@dksales.in and Cell: 7670099901. SV/P/AC000143/1

Required a **MARKETING STRATEGIST** having in-depth knowledge and Experience of Brand Building/ Positioning/Promotion, Supply Chain (Creation and Development), Marketing Strategy (Planning and Implementation) and lead a team of Salesman for a Consumer goods item.

Mail your CV to : **asomiprakashan@gmail.com or call - 86380-72038/ 98640-38253.**

CD/SV/...../1

Exp. qualfd & Dynamic person only required to Head newly opened 100 seat cap multi cuisine hiway restaurant with unique ambience, concept & good clientele on National Highway Nagaon. Package may include profit sharing. Also reqd amateur/students for mktg in social media. Mail resume at keymanagementsolutions20@gmail.com SV/P/AC000134/1

Applications invited for 5 Marketing Officer (Online) Female by Matrimonial company in Guwahati #8240320156 Drop CV in nehavrmn@gmail.com SV/P/AC000137/1

Work from Home. Urgently required Retired, Businessman, Ladies for Guwahati. 40kpm #9435083340. SV/P/AC000140/1

Required faculties for HS Science, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology: Lodging provided. Sal: 15K to 35K. Location: Dhing, Nagaon. Email: manmecsystms@gmail.com, #6913328386. SV/P/AC000145/1

EDUCATIONAL

We are Geared for the Next Decade



Job Ready Courses

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

Counselling for Admission from 9.00am to 5.00pm

GEC-Certified Courses now 17% **15% OFF** H.O.: SILPUKHURI, GHY-3. 97060-79979 @ 97060-79989 For Franchise @ 97060-79999 CD/Edu/RL001043/1

TUTOR

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

TUITION

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

H/Tuition in English (including complete grammar & writing). Social Science by S/Teacher, 98640-48003. Tuition/P/SP000032/6

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

Individual/Home Tuition (IX-XII) Physics (CBSE/ICSE) @ Intellectuals, Beltola Bazar #97064-95883. Tuition/P/NC000006/8

Special Home Tutorials : Class-III-XII (12+ years experienced) Contact : 60012-71363, 91014-73029. Tuition/RP000021/8

LAND & PROPERTY

1 Bigha myadi land (Lankeswar, Jalukbari) Plottingwise 11 Lakhs/Katha. #60018-25795. L&P/R/CO00001/15

Land for sale at Chatribari Krishnanagar (Near Hotel Raj Mahal) 70 mts. from main Rd. Ph. 98640-10641. L&P/R/SP000060/2

3 katha land for sale at Chowkidinghee Dibrugarh. Contact 9706350696. L&P/R/AC000142/1

OFFICE SPACE

Office space 1000 sq.ft. opp. KFC Ulubari, G.S. Road for rent. Call : 60026-12156. OS/P/SP000069/1

550 sq.ft. Zoo Road Tinali, 3rd floor. Deposit : 40,000, Rent 15,000/- 86381-15380, 98540-55171. OS/P/SP000070/1

IN MEMORIAM



Tasmin Saharia (Tina)
03.04.2012 - 17.05.2019

A year has passed since you have left us leaving behind all your sweet memories... We miss you every moment of our lives your presence continues to surround us Life is never been the same Since we lost you On this day we remember you with tears and pray to Almighty that Your Soul rest in eternal peace in Heaven..

Abba, Amma and all family members, Sixmile, Guwahati

CD/In Memo/P/BP000008/1

PAYING GUEST

High-end Corporate Paying Guest including all modern facilities like AC/TV/Free Internet. Separate room with attached bath. Call : 86382-73459. PG/P/SP000053/2

TO-LET

2 BHK semifurnished ready for rent. Hatigaon pipeline opposite to Bharat Patrol Pump. Please contact 9864107954. TL/P/AC000141/1

Two bedroom apartment with two toilets, modular kitchen, balcony and twenty four hours lift at seventh floor (not top floor) in Achyut nest, Radha Nagar, VIP Road, Guwahati 9864296367. TL/P/AC000135/1

HOUSE FOR RENT. 3000 SQ.FT. GROUND FLOOR, 65000/MONTH. RENT FULL OR IN PART. NO BROKERS PLEASE. 9435216067. HOUSE #58 BASHISTHA ROAD, BELTOLA, GUWAHATI. TL/P/AC000133/2

Flat for rent : 2 BHK full furnished Flat with AC, bed & furniture at main G.S. Road, Christian Basti, Opp. Mochi, Guwahati (Assam). Contact No. 70029-98327. TL/P/NP000026/1

Flat for rent : 3 BHK full furnished Flat with AC, bed & furniture at Airport road, main Dharpur Chariali, Guwahati (Assam). Contact No. 70029-98327. TL/P/NP000025/1

2nd/3rd floor - 300 sq.ft. office use, Opp. SBI-Chandmari, Ph. 94351-07106. TL/P/SP000056/1

2 BHK, IInd floor at Survey area for family, available Phone 94354-53567. TL/P/SP000057/1

3 BHK flat for rent at Lakhimi Path, Beltola Tinali 95081-61867, 70027-79621. TL/RP000023/1

2 BHK flat in Ulubari G.S. Road for rent. Contact : 94350-41952. TL/P/SP000068/1

1500 sq.ft. 2nd floor house for rent at Rajgarh Main Road. Contact : 99540-50683. TL/P/SP000067/1

A 2 room house + 1 Store room with Marble floor, attached bathroom & kitchen available in Nabagraha area on 1st floor @7000/- p.m. Electricity & 4 wheeler parking extra. Call : 91011-43314. TL/P/NP000015/1

2 BHK 2nd floor Chandan Nagar, VIP Road near Rahman Hospital Ph. 94355-50286. TL/P/NC000004/1

3 BHK flat 1st floor furnished at Shanti Plaza, Kahilipara Road, Jatia. Only Bank employee. Pl. contact : 99543-47129. TL/BL000041/1

2 BHK 3rd floor flat with 2 bathroom, Geyser and car park at Juripar Sixmile, Ph. 94350-52247. TL/P/NP000028/1

Commercial space/Residential flat Beltola/Ahongaon opposite DPS, Guwahati. Please Ph: 9864091296, 7002326089. TL/P/AC000084/4

One BHK at ground-floor for family at F.A. Rd, Machkhowa, Contact- 9886066481/9886462010. TL/P/AC000112/8

HOUSE & FLAT

35% completed 3 BHK 1288/ 1400 sq.ft. flats Rajgarh Pub Sarania, handover 2021 Dec. Cont : 98640-97777. H&F/P/SP000062/2

Booking 2 BHK flat 32 (lakh) 3 BHK 46 (lakh) at Kahilipara, Ganeshturning. Cont: 98640-99996, 98640-97777. H&F/P/SP000061/2

Ready 3 BHK at Barsojai (Near Maharishi Vidya Mandir School) @ Rs. 3200/- sq.ft. Contact : 91275-81044. H&F/P/SP000063/2

BOOKING OPEN: 2 & 3 BHK DELUXE FLATS WITH SOPHISTICATED INTERCOM, CCTV, LANDSCAPING ETC. AT "VIJAYA IMPERIAL TOWERS", ADJACENT TO PROTECH TULIP, NEAR HOCKEY STADIUM, BHETAPARA, GUWAHATI. PROMOTER: VIJAYA CONSTRUCTION, RERA REGISTERED PROJECT, PHONE: 70025-24219, 94357-34915, 98540-33621. H&F/P/SP000023/4

90% work completed 2 BHK flat at Kanaklata Path, Odalakra near Hayat Hospital, ground floor, 800 sq.ft. approx. Please contact 88118-49948. H&F/P/NP000017/2

BOOKING OPEN ALL 3 BHK DELUXE FLATS NEAR KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA KHANAPARA AND IIBM AT JAYANAGAR # 8811003300, 7002177300. H&F/P/AC006010/8

Residential 2/3 BHK flat/commercial space at Noonmati (Opp. Axom Jatiya Bidyalyal) Ph. 98640-10641. H&F/P/SP000058/2

80% work completed 2/3 BHK flat at Chandmari Colony (Nizarapar) Avail PMAY benefits, Ph. 98640-10641. H&F/P/SP000059/2

Booking going on for 3 BHK at Ganeshguri near Dispur Poly Clinic @Rs. 59 lakhs. Contact : 84864-07371. H&F/P/SP000065/1

Booking going on for 2/3 BHK near Ghy Doordarshan @ Rs. 3800/- sq.ft. Contact : 84864-07371, 91275-81044. H&F/P/SP000064/1

For Nagaon : Booking open for 1/2/3 bed room flats in Shivam Residency at Madhav Deb Road near Girls College with lift, generator facility. Contact : Manjushree Constructions, Bhajanka Market, G.S. Road, Guwahati (M) 98641-81004. H&F/RP000019/1

Booking open 2/3 BHK at Journalist Colony, Kahilipara @2950 per sq.ft. #88226-22225. H&F/P/NC000005/1

NURSING

Home Nursing Care, Baby Care. Patients Care. Contact: 8638895299, 86387-22884. Nursing/P/AP000019/15

We provide Old Age Care/Patient Care/Domestic Maid at home. Contact: 6913331735. Nursing/P/SP000066/4

We provide experience Nurse/Maid/Cook for Patient/Baby & domestic help since 2008 # 81350-02856. Nursing/P/AC000117/1

We provide Maid, Nurse, Babycare, Patient care, Old age care, Ph. 69132-28667. Nursing/P/NC000003/1

GODOWN

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

Cold Freezer Rom 1000 cft (expansion available) is available on rent at Narengi, VIP Road, Guwahati, Assam. Contact No. 70023-08691. Godown/P/NP000027/1

INVERTER

Free Checkup! Inverter/Battery Exide, Luminus, Microtek exchange offer + Home delivery 94356-59842. Inverter/P/NP000021/3

MATRIMONIAL

Choose your partner "North-East No-1 Matrimony". Never Married/Divorcee/Widow- Any Caste/Age/Community/Religion. Any place of North-East, Contact for Bride/Groom outside of Assam/India. Sanjyog Matrimony, Guwahati, Ulubari. @ 8638153087. Mat/P/AC000119/1

GROOM WANTED

Bengali/General/26/5'2"/M.Sc. Mathematics/Working in SBI/Beautiful Girl # 9613766785. Mat/G/P/AC000128/1

Kalita/Assamese/28/5'5"/B.Tech/Service in UCO Bank Manager (Ghy) # 9613435785. Mat/G/P/AC000129/1

Seeking for 26 years Assamese Girl, 5'4", completed Masters, Doing Central Govt. job. Both parents are employed in Govt. Sector and well known family of Assam. Contact: 7670002624. Mat/G/P/AC000130/1

Nepali Girl 30 yrs M.Sc./Ph. D. working as Agriculture Development Officer (ADO) from Assam, looking for a well educated & established Boy. 9163027336. Mat/G/P/AC000131/1

27 years Girl/MBBS/Doctor in Pvt. Hospital (Ghy.) 60005-42330. Mat/G/P/UP000008/1

BRIDE WANTED

Wanted a Beautiful Girl for Smart Handsome Boy. Slight manglik, March 1989 born, Lawyer, LLB (H), Delhi, LLM (US) from a reputed family of Assam. Please contact: 99034-91287. Mat/B/P/AC000138/1

Bengali Boy Age-39, edu-B.Tech, H-5'7", working at ONGC, urgent marriage (Caste no bar). Contact: 9101152291. Mat/B/P/AC000144/1

Suitable match for upper class family of Assam for Assamese Boy 34 years have completed master. Now working as a District Commandant of Civil Defence (Gazetted Officer). Contact: 6002008134. Mat/B/P/AC000120/1

Bengali, General/32/M.Tech (IIT), Asst. Engineer Govt. Sector/Caste no bar/7576026601, 8822230669. Mat/B/P/AC000121/1

(a) Assamese/Brahmin/Divorcee-35, working Gazetted Officer (b) Assamese Kalita-40, working Govt. Sector. Early marriage. @ 8638153087. Mat/B/P/AC000122/1

Bengali/General/35/5'8"/B.Tech/ Assam Govt. Officer # 96137-66785. Mat/B/P/AC000123/1

Kalita/Assamese/36/5'6"/BE Civil Service in Oil India Ltd # 9613435785. Mat/B/P/AC000124/1

Kalita/Assamese/ 34 yrs/5'11"/ BE from NIT/M.Tech/ Central Govt. Officer # 9854152573. Mat/B/P/AC000125/1

Brahmin, 33, 5'10", BE/MBA, Mechanical Engineer in (OIL), Caste no bar. 8471887825. Mat/B/P/AC000126/1

Hindu, Assamese, OBC, B.Tech (NIT)/MBA (IIM), Manager (SBI), Caste no bar. 84718-87480. Mat/B/P/AC000127/1

Suitable match for Assamese Boy 33 yrs/59"/NLU passout, Legal Manager in leading MNC. All Brahmins are acceptable. Contact: 9365383668. (Manglik, Brahmin, Born August, 1986). Mat/B/P/AC000132/1

36 years Boy/M.Tech & Ph.D. Geologist in Oil (Bangalore) 60003-88818. Mat/B/P/UP000009/1

40 years Divorcee boy/MBBS & MD Govt. Doctor in Ghy. 600083-88818. Mat/B/P/UP000010/1

33 years boy/M.Tech/Engineer in GAIL (Delhi), 60005-42330. Mat/B/P/UP000011/1

Alliance invited for a 1979 born Hindu Brahmin Govt. service holder boy from a Hindu Brahmin girl around 30 years. Contact directly : 0361-2265386. Mat/B/P/SP000055/1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Affidavit: I, Kamini Ray, W/O. Nagen Chandra Ray, Vill- Singhimari, P.O- Nayagaon, P.S- Abhayapuri, Dist- Bongaigaon (Assam) by an affidavit through the Executive Magistrate, North Salmara, Abhayapuri, dated 6th March, 2020 that my actual and correct name is Kamini Ray and is recorded correctly in my PAN Card, Voter ID, Educational records etc. But in the service records of my husband No. G/412357W, Rank Rfn/GD my name has been recorded as Kamini Bala Ray. Kamini Ray and Kamini Bala Ray is same and single person which relates to my name alone. PN/P/AC000139/1

"Abandoned Vehicles" The following vehicles are lying abandoned in our Workshop premises for over six months. Owners are hereby requested to contact Renault Guwahati at 7086088130 within 15 days failing which, the vehicles will be scrapped at the sole discretion of the Dealer. ARC1005, Duster, Chassis No. MEEHSRA36D3021128, Owner Fekik Teli AS01B7387, Duster, Chassis No. MEEHSRA36C013205, Owner Birkhang Basumatry AS09D1919, Koleos, Chassis No. MEEVYLOME1000185, Owner Sing Ronghang Unregistered Vehicle, BSIV Duster, Chassis No. MEEHSRAWEJ5022566, Owner Shima Nandi" Regards, TI Automotives Pvt Ltd, Narengi- Bonda, Guwahati-26. PN/P/AC000136/1

BEAUTICIAN

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

COMMERCIAL SPACE

6000 sq.ft. Commercial space available at RGB Road near Guwahati Central. Contact : 70021-13529. CS/BL000039/1

SALES & PURCHASE

One new Oxygen Cylinder with Flow Meter & Mask for sale @Rs. 7000/- . Contact : 0361-2265386, 94010-21775. S&P/P/SP000054/1

PRINTING & MACHINERY

Single Clamp perfect Binding Machine for sale Ph/ 94351-95060. P&Machinery/P/NP000024/1

PACKERS & MOVERS

Rhino Packers, Sixmile M:98644-69464, Local shifting M:94018-22253 (All India), Packers & Transportation Household Goods. P&M/P/AC000113/30

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

TENDER NOTICE

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (REENDER)

Sealed tenders are invited for construction of Staff Canteen at ALDA-Khanapara (Rs 18.17 lakh). NIT is available on application by email from registered contractors of APWD (B) & Assam Dairy & Vety Deptt. Last date of submission: 27th May 2020 (3 PM). Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, Assam Livestock Development Agency, GS Road, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022. Email: ceoalda@gmail.com CD/TN/BL000038/1

'US to donate ventilators to India to fight coronavirus'

WASHINGTON, May 16: The US will donate ventilators to India to treat the COVID-19

Migrant workers a neglected lot: Madras HC

CHENNAI, May 16: The Madras High Court has said it is not only the duty of the native states of migrant workers, but also the duty of the states where they work to take care of them, but this was not the case.

The court, while observing that migrant workers and agricultural workforce are a neglected lot in the COVID-19 crisis, asked the Central and state governments to file a report on such workers by May 22.

The bench observed though the governments have taken care of every section of the society to the maximum extent possible, the guest workers and agricultural workforce were neglected.

This was evident from the reports of the print and visual media in the past one month.

While referring to the sufferings of the migrant workers, the court said, "One cannot control his/her tears after seeing the pathetic condition of migrant labourers shown in the media for the past one month."

"It is nothing but a human tragedy...."

A Division Bench of Justice N Kirubakaran and Justice R Hemalatha made these observations while passing an interim order on a habeas corpus petition from advocate Suryaprakasam seeking a direction to produce Ilayaraja and 400 others who have allegedly been illegally detained by the Superintendent of Police, Sangli district, Maharashtra.

Most of the workers lost their jobs, no shelter is said to have been provided apart

from lack of supply of adequate food.

After waiting for long, they started migrating to their native states by foot with their children carrying all the belongings and surviving on food provided by good samaritans.

As if these were not enough, there were reports of starvation deaths, the bench said while referring to the death of 16 workers caused by a train when they were sleeping on the tracks.

The bench then directed the Central and state governments to file a detailed report by May 22 as to whether any data on such guest workers is being maintained, if so, what is the number of migrant workers in each state/Union Territory, and whether assistance was provided to those migrant workers. - PTI



An injured migrant worker being helped after the truck in which they were travelling towards their hometowns collided with another vehicle, during the ongoing lockdown, in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. - PTI

Migrants prefer trucks, tempos to return home

MUMBAI, May 16: Even as special Shramik trains and buses are being run by the government to ferry stranded migrant labourers from Maharashtra and other states, most of them still prefer to travel in vehicles like trucks and tempos to return home, flouting the social distancing norms.

The migrants find trucks and tempos convenient, mostly because they drop them close to their home in their respective states, unlike the buses which carry them only till the state border, while the trains ferry them to their home state, from where they have to arrange for vehicles to reach their places.

However, their journey in trucks and tempos is not safe as these vehicles are almost always tightly packed, due to which the risk of contracting COVID-19 infection is higher.

Small tempos carry around 20 persons, while the medium-sized ones can accommodate 25 to 40 people. Small trucks can carry 40 to 60 people, while the larger ones are found carrying upto 100 or even more, with several of them sitting atop.

Sources said that the truckers charge anywhere in the range of Rs 1,500 to Rs 4,500 per person for the journey to Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand depending upon the distance to their native places from Mumbai and adjoining places.

Talking to this news agency, several migrant labourers said that vehicle operators charge Rs 1,500-2,000 for MP, Rs 3,000-3,500 for UP and Rs 3,000-4,500 for Bihar.

The migrants said that they prefer trucks and tempos to go back to their native places as the trucks drop them close to their villages, while buses drop them only till the state border, from where they have to find other modes of transport to reach home.

Several of them said that they were forced to undertake journey in vehicles like trucks, as their efforts in seeking permission for Shramik special trains did not get any response. - PTI

Nations should work together to fight COVID-19: Modi to Trump

NEW DELHI, May 16: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today thanked President Donald Trump for his remarks that the US stands with India during the pandemic as also for deciding to provide ventilators to New Delhi to help patients suffering from COVID-19.

"Thank you @POTUS @realDonaldTrump. This pandemic is being fought collectively by all of us," the Prime Minister tweeted.

He said in such times, it's always important for nations to work together and do as much as possible to make the world healthier and free from COVID-19.



Modi was responding to a tweet by US President Trump on Friday announcing his decision to donate ventilators to India.

"I am proud to announce that the United States will donate ventilators to our

friends in India. We stand with India and @narendramodi during this pandemic. We're also cooperating on vaccine development. Together we will beat the invisible enemy!" the US President said. - PTI

CSIR-CMERI scientists develop disinfectant sprayer units

KOLKATA, May 16: Scientists at CSIR-CMERI in Durgapur have developed two sprayer units to disinfect indoor areas.

The units can be used for effective cleaning and disinfecting pathogenic micro-organisms present in hospital wards, hospital beds, surfaces, rooms, halls and building corridors, a spokesperson of the institute said today.

The two units - Battery Powered Disinfectant Sprayer (BPDS) and Pneumatically Operated Mobile Indoor Disinfection Unit (POMID) - are designed with two-stage spraying and separate storage tanks.

Most of the disinfectant sprayers available in the market are based either on cleaning or disinfecting by using single chamber storage, but CSIR-CMERI developed sprayer systems consists of dual-chamber storage, its director Harish Hirani said.

The technology will have relevance even beyond the COVID-19 crisis, he said. - PTI

Clinical trial of plasma therapy in Kolkata soon

KOLKATA, May 16: The West Bengal government in collaboration with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is set to commence clinical trials of convalescent plasma therapy with the objective of treating COVID-19 patients in the city, after the Drug Control General of India gave its approval for the joint effort, an official said today.

The purpose of the clinical trials is to understand the efficacy of blood plasma of a recovered COVID-19 pa-

tient in the treatment of others suffering from the disease, he said.

The trials are likely to start at the newly-constructed Critical Care Unit (CCU) of the Beliaghata ID Hospital next week, he said.

"The CCU unit of the Beliaghata ID Hospital is almost ready and the clinical trials of the convalescent plasma therapy may start next week," the official told this news agency.

The CCU unit of the hospital has 16 beds, he said.

The trials, funded and sup-

ported by the CSIR, will have senior doctors like Yogiraj Roy, Biswanath Sharma Biswas and Shekhar Ranjan Paul as clinical investigators, he said.

The therapy involves taking antibodies from the blood of a person who has recovered from COVID-19 and transfusing those antibodies into an active coronavirus patient to help the immune system to fight the infection.

To begin with, willing plasma donors will be screened to select those eligible for donation. - PTI

Migrants ransack food dispensing machine at railway station

JABALPUR, May 16: A day after some migrant workers travelling in a special train allegedly ransacked a food vending machine at Jabalpur Railway Station in Madhya Pradesh, the West Central Railway (WCR) today emptied out such dispensers on platforms of the stations under its jurisdiction, an official said.

The incident occurred early Friday on Platform No. 5 of the railway station when some migrants travelling in Mumbai-Danapur special train damaged a vending machine of packaged food items and cold drinks, the official said.

A video of the incident had gone viral on social media. WCR covers Jabalpur, Bhopal and Kota railway divisions.

"Packaged eatable items have been removed from vending machines installed on platforms of railway stations after a video showed passengers taking away eatables from the machine," WCR Chief Public Relation Officer Priyanka Dixit told this news agency.

Dixit said the Railways has been providing food and water to passengers at designated stations under WCR. - PTI

Brother-sister duo booked for threatening to 'spread' virus

KHARGONE (MP), May 16: Police have registered a case against a 27-year-old woman and her younger brother, both COVID-19 patients, for allegedly threatening to "spread" the deadly infection in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh, an official said today.

The case was registered at Kotwali Police Station at Khargone on Friday, after a video in which the woman purportedly gave the threat went viral on social media. The video was shot by her brother, the official said.

However, after the case was registered against them, the woman posted a fresh video in which she said that the previous video was shot out of "frustration and anger" as some reporters were creating trou-

ble for her father, who has also tested coronavirus positive.

Kotwali Police Station incharge Lalit Singh Dagur said that the woman and her 21-year old brother, who have returned from China after studying medicine there, were booked for posting the video, in which she threatened to spread coronavirus in Khargone.

According to police, the parents of the brother-sister duo have also tested coronavirus positive and undergoing treatment.

According to police, the video was shot when the brother-sister duo was being taken to an isolation centre in an ambulance on Wednesday.

The case was registered against the duo under IPC sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promul-

gated by public servant), 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) and 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life), and provisions of the Disaster Management Act, Dagur said.

In the second video, the woman said that she and her brother were doctors and they had no intention of spreading coronavirus.

"We went for the tests on our own when we saw the symptoms. We are doctors and know what to do. It was not our intention...I was frustrated due to reporters...you have seen what they have reported. They are publishing useless news since my father tested positive. My father is critical...," the woman said in the new video. - PTI

Ensure essentials for tribals, HC tells Maharashtra govt

MUMBAI, May 16: The Bombay High Court directed the Maharashtra government and civic authorities to ensure that food and basic necessities reach the tribal community across the state amid the COVID-19 lockdown.

A division bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice Amjad Sayed was hearing a petition filed by one Vivek Pandit highlighting the plight of tribals in the state during the lockdown, which was enforced to contain the spread of coronavirus.

The petitioner sought a direction to the government and civic authorities to provide essentials to tribals in Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Nashik, Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Bhandara, Gondia, Nagpur, Yavatmal and Amravati districts.

Additional government pleader BV Samant told the

court on Friday that several measures had been adopted by the government to supply foodgrains to the tribal community across the state.

"A circular was also issued by the government on April 27, directing all collectors to provide benefits of the Pub-

"We have no doubt in our mind that the testing times notwithstanding, the government would leave no stone unturned to reach out to the members of the tribal community.

lic Distribution System to vulnerable households, especially migrant labourers and others," Samant told the court.

He further submitted that the process of issuing ration cards to tribals was also under way.

However, the petitioner's

advocate Vaibhav Bhure argued that this process was delayed as the authorities were asking for various documents, which tribals were unable to furnish.

He urged the government to ensure that foodgrains and other essentials were provided to the community, keeping the process of issuance of ration cards in abeyance.

Samant assured the court that all essential items were reaching each and every member of the tribal community across the state.

"We have no doubt in our mind that the testing times notwithstanding, the government would leave no stone unturned to reach out to the members of the tribal community, who are marginalised people, and to ensure that not a single member is left without food and the basic necessities in these dark hours," the court said and disposed of the petition. - PTI

Ship from Maldives with 590 Indians to arrive in Kochi on May 17

KOCHI, May 16: Nearly 590 Indian nationals stranded in the Maldives due to COVID-19-induced international travel restrictions were evacuated today from the island nation on an Indian Navy warship.

In its Phase 2 of Operation Samudra Setu, *ZNS Jalashwa* left Male for Kochi with 588 Indian citizens, including 70 women, 21 children and 497 on board today morning, a Defence source here informed.

The ship is expected to arrive here on Sunday morning, he said.

A source said the inclement weather prevailing in the area had delayed the process of embarkation of people and departure of the ship.

On May 12, the vessel had successfully brought home 698 Indian nationals from Maldives to Kochi.

Another Navy ship *ZNS Magar* under "Operation Samudra Setu" had evacuated 202 Indian citizens from Maldives to Kochi on Tuesday.

In a tweet, the High Commission of India in Maldives has expressed its gratitude to the govern-

ment of the island nation for ensuring safe repatriation of stranded Indian citizens.

"We are extremely grateful to the Govt. of #Maldives and all concerned agencies in ensuring safe and secure repatriation of nearly 1,500 Indian nationals from the Maldives under Op. #SamudraSetu," the Indian High Commission tweeted.

The Indian nationals were screened medically, allotted IDs and their baggage sanitised before boarding the ship. - PTI



Goddesses of Cure

Ola Bibi, is a goddess worshiped in Bengal, by both Hindus and Muslims to get relief from Cholera. Same way Devi Sitala is worshiped all over East India to get relief from measles and pox.



www.apnedeshkojano.com | contribution@apnedeshkojano.com

Powered by: Priya Communications

CHOTI CHOTI KISHTON SE HAR MAHINE INVEST KARO.

KUCH SMART KARO, SIP START KARO

To know more, Consult your Financial Advisor
www.iciciprime.com

An investor education initiative by

ICICI PRUDENTIAL MUTUAL FUND

TARAKKI KAREIN!

Visit www.iciciprime.com to learn more about KYC requirements, SEBI registered Mutual Funds and grievance redressal.

Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

AMUL DOODH PEETA HAI INDIA

₹26*/500mL

Amul SHAKTI

* Fresh milk with shelf life of 2 days, * Packed at the state-of-the-art dairy plant at Chandrapur KEEP UNDER REFRIGERATION

*MRP (incl. of all taxes), transportation and cooling charges included. Conditions apply. For any clarification please contact us on: 0361-2331139, 9957103766

MESSAGE FORTODAY

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

— NELSON MANDELA

The Assam Tribune

High tension

At a time when entire mankind needs to unite to confront a common enemy, the lethal novel corona virus Covid-19, trust the maverick American President Donald Trump to try and throw a spanner at the works! Keeping the U S Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo, at the frontline of the assault, Trump is engaged in putting into place a hard-line strategy against China. The plan, clearly, is to put the blame squarely on the latter for the plight America is in at the moment, with cases of infection there approaching the 1.5 million mark and deaths almost 90,000. A conspiracy theory, one so beloved of Trump's support base, is being touted — rather than the virus jumping from a bat or a pangolin to a human at an animal market in Wuhan, it was actually artificially hatched at the Wuhan Institute of Virology, from where it accidentally leaked out to infect the globe! China has also been accused of trying to initially hide the Wuhan outbreak and then informing the rest of the world when it was too late and the contagion could not be kept under wraps any longer. In a hyperbolic vein Trump has asserted that the Coronavirus attack was worse than the Pearl Harbour attack and has accused the World Health Organisation of complicity in the cover up!

China has fired back, not hesitating to use phrases like “evil,” “lunacy,” “shameless” and “sick and twisted!” Unfortunately, Trump has not kept his diatribe against China merely at the bad-mouthing level; His administration is taking steps aimed at Chinese telecom firms, with the U.S. Federal Communications Commission beginning the process of shutting down U.S. operations of three State-controlled Chinese telecommunications companies, citing national security risks. At the same time the US has blocked shipments of semiconductors to Huawei Technologies from global chipmakers, in an action that could adversely impact the world's no. 2 smartphone manufacturer. There is little doubt that China would retaliate with its own tit for tat measures, dealing a grievous blow not only to trade between the two countries, but also the global economy which is currently reeling under havoc wrought by Covid-19. There too is prospect of destabilisation at the political and military level, something that the world does not wish for at this moment. Trump, of course, has cynically ignored the timing, busy as he is in trying to distract the American voter from the shortcomings of his administration in dealing with Covid-19 by directing attention towards China. However, despite the high tension the US-China conflict has wrought, it is doubtful if the saner segment of America would be distracted, for Trump's approval ratings at the polls currently appear to be sinking!

Monetary interventions

With the State advocating on another extension of the lockdown for at least two weeks, the Government needs to weigh in all the pros and cons of keeping the stalemate prolonged. Almost two months into the lockdown, the benefits accruing from the shutdown have manifested in the form of a comparatively lesser incidence of Covid-19 in the State. But with most of the economic activity now having been resumed, it is also apparent that persisting with the lockdown will serve little purpose. Now onwards, the lockdown is not going to have any impact in breaking the chain of the infection, as routine activities have resumed for most people with roads and commercial places witnessing normal gathering of vehicles and crowds. The State's economy has been severely hit by the lockdown and there can now be no delay in streamlining routine activities for the people so that the economy can limp back to normal in the days ahead. Rather than holding the economy to hostage, prudence dictates that normal life be resumed with adherence to norms of social distancing, universal mask wearing, and hand-washing. With some restrictions still in place in market places, vendors, and restaurants, a large segment of the populace dependent on daily earnings have suffered immensely and the Government should now think of lifting these curbs. Of course, educational institutions, especially schools, must not be allowed to open for at least a couple of more months in view of the vulnerability of children in congested classrooms. The lockdown has undoubtedly helped the government authorities in putting in place some much-needed healthcare infrastructure to deal with the crisis and given that we have not seen any massive surge in corona virus positive cases, handling the situation vis-à-vis Covid-19 outbreak should not be too difficult as of now.

The Centre should now have a rethink on its strategy to deal with the emerging situation, as having a uniform, nationwide formula is not going to yield the desired results. Rather, given that the contagion has varied significantly from State to State, a local-specific approach would better serve the interests of the regions. Given the low financial resources of the States, the Centre would do well to concentrate more in easing their situations through monetary interventions.

‘Mix of classroom, online teaching in future’

Face to Face

Prasanta J Baruah

Dr Ashok Kumar Pansari, Chancellor, Royal Global University and Chairman, Royal Global School is a multi-faceted personality. Apart from being an educationist, he is a qualified Chartered Accountant with a degree in law. He is also a leading real estate developer. He did his PhD from Gauhati University on ‘Problems and prospects of real estate business in Assam’



tions whether schools, colleges or universities are certainly equipped and in fact, they are doing a wonderful job on the digital platform. However, the Government schools are not really equipped for online classes due to lack of technological knowhow and devices as well. Government higher education institutions although equipped, have not shifted to the new mode due to the diffidence of the educators to adapt to the change.

Again the question of online classes brings in issues like connectivity, internet and devices like computers and smartphones?

Yes, that is the flipside of online teaching-learning process to some extent. But then, even the campus classes have got its own limitations. Statistically seen, 81% Indians use 4G phones and a survey also says that India has one of the lowest 4G mobile data prices in the world. These are the basic requisites for learning digitally, which I personally feel, is not out of reach for the rural population also. Connectivity issue does persist at times but that can-

not be a reason for not taking to online education.

Online classes will also involve issues like orientation of teachers to technology and content to face the situation. How do you visualize the emerging situation?

Stormy seas produce the best sailors. Nowadays most private school teachers are tech savvy, nonetheless they have been getting oriented, by the school and even on their own, to acquaint themselves with the alternative platforms of teaching online. This unprecedented situation has provided an opportunity to the teachers to enhance themselves and their teaching materials. For instance, teachers of Royal Global School started the new session through online classes as per schedule i.e. on April 6 2020. Since then they have been upgrading themselves and now, they are not only teaching but also assessing the learning of the students online. Educators of Royal Global University as well, have left no stone unturned in imparting education online. The buzzword now is - Survival of the tech-savviest.

As the Chancellor of a private university, how are you coping with the post COVID situation?

Well, presently the online classes are going on. The UGC has hinted that the final exam of the present students would be held in July and their new session would start in

August, while the academic year for the new entrants would begin in September. We are mentally prepared and physically equipped to maintain the COVID norms strictly and run the session with a blend of physical and online classes.

How will the post COVID situation affect Assam and the North East?

Exodus of students from Assam and northeast to the other parts of the country and abroad was an issue of concern for the Government since long as it was hampering the educational sector and economy of this region. Post COVID situation will see a U-turn in this outflow and a huge number of our students will stay back to pursue their higher education. Challenges ahead are, having the required number of seats and a robust faculty in the higher education institutions in our region.

Will hybrid education – a mix of conventional classes and online education be the scenario of the future?

Yes, I strongly advocate hybrid education. At present, the virtual platform is the only option, however it can never fully replace brick and mortar classrooms. It can only be a supplement. I foresee hybrid as an efficient means of teaching learning process, which will benefit all the stakeholders. Now it is a compulsion, but the day is not far when it will become

a dire necessity alongside physical classes.

How will professional and skill courses, where practical classes are the centre of focus, face the situation?

The theoretical part of the professional and skill courses is being taken care of by the online classes. But practical aspects of the courses are not taking place, which can be said to be a lacuna of online teaching. Once the classes resume, the practical classes need to be given extra emphasis, even if it means conducting classes on holidays and weekends.

How are the state educational bodies, UGC, AICTE and the government responding to the new development?

These bodies are doing their job and issuing various advisories and notifications so that the institutions remain connected to the students. Due to their positive role, students are confident of not losing their valuable academic year. They have already declared dates for various exams and the new sessions.

What role can universities imparting distance education play in the present scenario?

As distance learning is inherent to such open universities, so COVID has posed no challenges before them. However, they also need to upgrade themselves technologically.

(pjbaruah_at@yahoo.com)

What is your assessment of the prevailing education scenario in the state in the post COVID-19 situation?

Education system in Assam will confront a lot of challenges post COVID-19. The institutions once functional, must follow the cardinal rules of hand sanitizing, wearing mask and social distancing. On any given day only 50% attendance must be there. Selective sports and regulated lab activities can be allowed whereas there will be a curb on co-curricular activities.

Summer holidays have been advanced in the State. Classes are expected to start in June. There is talk about changes in the academic calendar. What is your take on these developments?

I am quite skeptical that schools would start functioning in June. As per the most optimistic estimate, institutions should start functioning in the campus from August 2020. SEBA has already extended its current academic session

till March'21, in the pursuit of making up for the 3 months lost. Tweaking the academic calendar would provide a solace to the educators and the students also.

Even if classes resume educational institutions will have to follow COVID norms like social distancing, sanitization etc. How can educational institutions face the challenge?

Yes, once the classes resume, COVID norms should be strictly adhered to. Attendance of 50% of students on any given day, accommodating half the capacity in the buses while commuting, maintaining a gap of 1 metre between the desks in classrooms, making sanitizers available at different places, wearing of masks compulsorily would be the new norms that every school would have to abide by.

The COVID situation has brought into sharp focus the concept of online classes. Are our conventional schools, colleges and universities equipped to adopt such changes?

Most of the private insti-

Psychiatry during COVID-19

■ Prof Deepanjali Medhi, Dr Arundhati Bhagabati

The word pandemic, derived from the Greek word Pandemos (pan: All, demos: people), denotes a sudden outbreak of an illness over widespread regions. Diseases are not new to the world and so are pandemics. History has witnessed pandemics from the time of the Greek civilization, 430 BC, to very recent times, viz. the Athenian Plague, the Black Death, the Spanish Flu, Cholera pandemic, HIV pandemic and the Small Pox pandemic, all of them affecting and killing millions around the globe over various time periods. The 21st century is now witnessing the latest pandemic of COVID-19.

Concomitant with the physical symptoms, a myriad of psychological symptoms have been brought about by COVID-19 with a profound impact on the mental health of people. The brain, being the master organ of the body, is responsible for the intellectual, emotional, and psychological functions. It perceives the information around us and then reacts for the adaptation and survival of the individual. Whenever there is a perceived threat, it reacts by choosing to fight back or fly and if that threat becomes overwhelming it no longer can adapt, thereby paving the way for psychological symptoms. This adaptation, though may be distressing, is very much a normal process but might warrant need for psychological help.

But if the stress (threat) is very high and continues for prolonged duration, thereby burdening our psychosocial resources and productivity, we develop a mental illness. It is just like any other bodily organ giving away to chronic stress and developing an illness. So, there will be an emergence of mental disorder or accentuation of an already existing mental illness.

A pandemic causes illness by its inherent properties as well as by its impact on the society. Mental health issues in the immediate scenario arise

as a result of the primary and secondary effects of the widespread infection, like social distancing and lockdown. Long-term effects can occur due to the pathology of the viral infection as well as due to the phenomenon of giving up or learned helplessness.

There may be emergence of varied mental symptoms such as anxiety, excessive anger, despair, apprehension, sadness, grief, guilt, fear of contamination, confusion, feelings of insecurity, thoughts of helplessness and hopelessness, suicidal intent, boredom and loneliness, feelings of detachment, sleep disturbance, behavioural changes viz. hoarding of food and protective equipment, undue attention to unsubstantiated facts in news and social media, excessively indulging in maladaptive behaviours such as substance abuse, online gaming, watching pornography etc.

These may progress to the onset of different kinds of mental disorders after a time lag such as dissociative disorder, panic disorder, acute psychosis, acute mania, delirium, OCD, generalized anxiety disorder, phobic anxiety disorder, depressive disorders, mixed anxiety depressive disorder, hypochondriasis, somatization disorder, post traumatic stress disorder, substance use disorder etc.

In patients already suffering from psychiatric illnesses, there may be exacerbation of symptoms such as in schizophrenia, mood disorders, anxiety disorders etc. Patients of substance dependence are prone to develop withdrawal symptoms due to unavailability of the substances or intoxication due to excessive consumption. Accentuation of personality disorders (borderline/antisocial/histrionic/passive dependent/anxious avoidant/anankastic) due to failure of coping and extra demand on one's already deficient psychic reserve may also be seen.

People working on the front line and

essential services encounter distinctive concern about working environment and competence for assigned works, burn out due to long work hours, unprecedented deaths on a regular basis than usual and adaptation to rapidly changing guidelines.

Certain social situations of a pandemic can secondarily affect the mental health of individuals like increase in domestic violence, sexual abuse, child abuse, elderly abuse, poverty, economic recession, unemployment, decrease in social cohesion, stigma and discrimination.

In such situations, the following people might need psychosocial attention : people in extremes of age, patients with psychiatric illness, patients in isolation or ICU diagnosed with COVID-19, patients in self-isolation/home quarantine, people at risk, extremes of ages (young and elderly), health workers, administrative officials, patients with chronic illness and their caregivers, media personnel, people stranded in faraway places etc

Creating awareness, educating masses on new terms like lockdown, quarantine, hand hygiene, cough etiquette, respiratory hygiene, control over social media posts have already been enforced since the beginning of the pandemic.

The mental well-being measures during COVID-19 can be enumerated as ABC wherein A stands for acknowledgement of feelings and sharing the pain, awareness about procuring information from reliable sources, avoiding rumors and speculations, avoiding excessive intake of caffeine and hard beverages; B stands for being physically active, balancing work and leisure, having balanced diet and keeping back up plans and finally C stands for communication with empathy, cultivating hobbies to tide through tough times, careful and calm attitude while dealing with people already in distress etc.

Voices of the WEEK



Courtesy: THE HINDU

“Modi government is ‘centralizing’ all authority in the name of fighting COVID-19 pandemic. This will be ‘very detrimental’ for the future of the country.” – SITARAM YECHURY, GS, CPI (M)

★★★★

“It is not possible to conduct tests on everyone. And it is not possible to put all those travelled by train under quarantine.” – K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO, CM, Telangana

★★★★

“Promote all school students next year or use internal assessment mechanism instead of exams.” – KAPIL SIBAL, former HRD minister

★★★★

“This (pandemic) is not the time to do politics but to work collectively for the people and the nation in these tough times.” – ARVIND KEJRIWAL, CM, Delhi

★★★★

“The Government of India has told all states to bring back their citizens who are stranded in other states. This will bring danger for the home states, but at the same time we cannot stop our own people from coming ... we have to take the risk... we have no option.” – HIMANTA BISWA SARMA, Health Minister, Assam

★★★★

“Mental health services are an essential part of all government responses to COVID-19.” – ANTONIO GUTERRES, GS, UN

★★★★

“It is unfortunate that the entire Press Conference (of Sitharaman) was a classic display of arrogance, ignorance and insensitivity.” – ANAND SHARMA, senior spokesperson, Congress

★★★★

“COVID-19 has a significant deflationary impact because demand ... will go down significantly.” – KV SUBRAMANIAN, Chief Economic Adviser, GOI

★★★★

“In the name of lockdown, the Centre is trying economically to cripple all the state governments.” – MAMATA BANERJEE, CM, West Bengal

The Assam Tribune

From THE PAST

ASSAM AND NEFA RIVERS IN HIGH SPATE: LARGE AREAS INUNDATED

SHILLONG, May 16: The turbulent Brahmaputra along with its tributaries in Upper Assam and the Lohit and Digaru rivers in NEFA are in high spate following continuous heavy rains in the catchment areas for the last 24 hours.

The flood waters have inundated vast areas along the course of the rivers.

An official source told PTI today that surging waters of the Lohit and Digaru have overflowed the banks resulting in suspension of all road communications between Sadiya, Tezu and Chowkhan. Communications between Tezu and Sonapura also remained suspended. The entire foodgrains stock of the Tezu Cooperative Store has been washed away by the floods causing food scarcity in the area.

The Dibong river, a tributary of the mighty Brahmaputra, has submerged parts of Sadiya, including standing paddy-fields and extensive damage to the crop is feared, the source added.

It was on a bone chilling January morning, in the final leg of an academic year in late 90's. I indeed had to be in a rush to get to hall number 10 for 9.15 psychology class of 1st year general course students to start the day with. I was aware by now Rajkhowa Sir would definitely be starting his class in the room next to mine. He was one of the senior colleagues of our college I served for nearly two decades, best known for his extreme punctuality and as a complete disciplinarian who influenced and inspired everyone.

Normally, the mathematical and scientific units, even in its smallest proportion of the syllabus happens to be a

Give me your brain !

Different Strokes

Dr Debahari Talukdar

major concern, are selectively avoided by most of the students of Arts stream. Even I never dared to take the classes of those few units of statistics and human physiological structure without a specialized preparation.

As expected and planned, I started the proceedings by registering the attendance of three hundred odd students

followed by a science based unit of *Physical Basis of Mental Life* using my best possible vocabularies and appealing tone, drawing a proximate diagram of human brain in the blackboard. Intuitively, an innovative thought sprang to my mind, “why shouldn't I facilitate the transaction through a visual aid...”.

I just signaled the front benchers to volunteer to get me a clay model of human brain from the department laboratory. The boy at the extreme end of the first bench was prompt enough to seize the opportunity to be on everyone's notice, to go away to

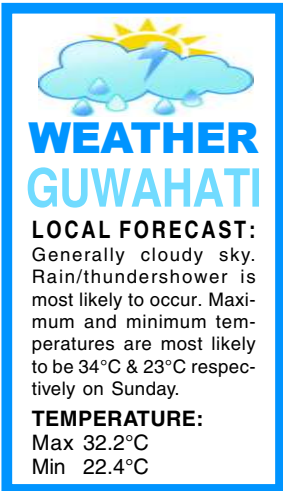
the laboratory. The boy came back in a short while, fumbled to tell me something and got back to his seat.

The class was going on till Mahanta Sir (then HoD) turned up and showing a gesture of reverence, approached the dais and handed the clay model of human brain over to me saying- *Is this what I think you asked for? You know how nicely the boy requested me!*

“Talukdar Sir has asked me to meet you; please give me your brain immediately!”

Different Strokes

Anecdotes full of wit and humour with a finishing punchline having a word count of 360 words may be sent to differentstrokes@assamtribune.com



WEATHER GUWAHATI
LOCAL FORECAST:
 Generally cloudy sky. Rain/thundershower is most likely to occur. Maximum and minimum temperatures are most likely to be 34°C & 23°C respectively on Sunday.

TEMPERATURE:
 Max 32.2°C
 Min 22.4°C

GMC fines NGO for irregular waste collection

CITY CORRESPONDENT
 GUWAHATI, May 16: The Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) has penalised an NGO for irregular collection of household waste and for its members not wearing protective equipment.

The NGO, Wings Rural Development Society of Ward No 26 (B) has been fined five per cent of its total monthly bill.

There are altogether 90 NGOs which collect garbage from people's doorsteps on behalf of the GMC. A source in the GMC said, "An inspection was undertaken regarding primary collection of waste by the NGO and safety measures provided to the labourers. It was found that the NGO is irregular in collecting household wastes and the labourers do not wear jackets and shoes while collecting the wastes."

APCC chief asks Centre to revive paper mills

STAFF REPORTER
 GUWAHATI, May 16: Supporting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' or self-reliant India, Assam Pradesh Congress Committee president Ripun Bora has urged the Centre to take steps for reviving the Nagaon and Cachar paper mills and said that such a step will not only boost the State to be self-reliant but also help employees save jobs.

"I strongly support your appeal to the people of India in your address to the nation on May 12 to be self-reliant, to consume and use Indian goods. This has encouraged all of us. Under this backdrop, I want to draw your attention that despite the 'Make in India' slogan and your election promise in Assam to revive the two public sector undertaking paper mills, namely, Panchgram Paper Mill (Cachar) and Nagaon Paper Mill, (they) were closed down. Now thousands of employees (and) their families are passing sleepless nights with untold sufferings," Bora stated in a letter to Modi.

Bora stated that Modi has urged people to become self-reliant and to use and consume Indian products as part of the strategy to revive the country's economy which has been badly affected on account of the COVID-19 pandemic and the nationwide lockdown. "I urge you as a part of your vision to restart the two paper mills of Assam so that we can be self-reliant. We can produce paper locally and at the same time save thousands of employees and their families," Bora added.

GMCH denies COVID patient's allegation

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 16: A telephonic conversation by a COVID-19 positive patient Amarjyoti Deka got viral on the social media today where the youth alleged that he is not receiving proper care and treatment.

Deka was admitted to GMCH on April 24 for various other ailments and tested positive for COVID-19 on May 11. In the audio clip, he spoke to his family members and informed them about the kind of treatment he is receiving. "No one is doing anything here. They only bring the food in the room but do not feed me. I find it difficult to eat by myself," a crying Deka alleged in the conversation.

The doctors and nurses at GMCH have dismissed the

allegations made by Deka and said it is completely baseless.

GMCH Superintendent Dr Ramen Talukdar said the patient is being monitored regularly and provided necessary care and treatment. "There is no lapse from any of the hospital staff. He wanted his wife as attendant, which was not allowed," Talukdar said.

Some doctors claimed he is not cooperating with the doctors and nurses from the beginning.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma in his tweet said, "Superintendent, GMCH has told me that best possible care has been taken. And at this stage I have to believe my doctors completely. All COVID patients are praising GMCH after their release so far."



GENEROUS NATURE: Blooming krishnachura flowers add to the beauty of a street in Guwahati, as seen on Saturday. - Photo: Samarendra Sarma

CM asks scientists to evolve triple cropping system

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 16: As part of activities chalked out to strengthen the agro-based economy, Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal today visited the Assam Agricultural University (AAU), Kahikuchi campus of Krishi Vigyan Kendra and asked the agricultural scientists to develop ways and means for a triple cropping system in the State.

A day after his announcement of the State losing Rs 1,000 crore revenue every day amid the coronavirus pandemic, Sonowal, in an attempt to infuse a fresh lease of life into the rural economy, asked the agri-scientists to empower the farming community as well as increase fertility of the crop area to sustainably practise triple cropping in the State throughout the year.

He said, "If this can be done it will help in ramping up production as also the State's self-reliance. In a state where approximately 53 per cent of the total workforce is engaged in agriculture,

the sector, if scientific practices are followed, can turn around the State's economy which is in slump because of the COVID-19 pandemic."

He also asked the agri-scientists to take the lead in using agriculture in the State's endeavour to turn around its corona-affected economy.

Sonowal also visited a plot of land where *dhaingcha* which is regarded as a green manure to sustain high demand for organic farming, is cultivated. Cultivation of *dhaingcha* increases soil fertility by way of nitrogen fixation which sustains high yielding crops variety. Sonowal requested the KVK functionaries for increased cultivation of *dhaingcha* to contribute to increased production of agri-products.

Chief Minister Sonowal also visited plots of lands where lemon, mango, black pepper, pineapple, mango, etc., are grown. In a bid to empower the farmers hit by the COVID-19, he distributed vegetable seeds and paddy seeds. He also distributed pulverisers, power tillers, etc., among the farmers.

Open selling of facemasks ups risks of pathogen spread

MANASH PRATIM DUTTA

GUWAHATI, May 16: The increasing necessity of using facemasks to contain the spread of COVID-19 has opened up a lucrative business opportunity for a section of people who are selling the



item, especially the handmade ones, on roadsides and in bylanes in the city.

According to a section of mask sellers, who have their entities at Silpukhuri and Ganeshguri areas, demand for masks, mainly the hand-made ones, in the market is at present very high. On average, 100 masks are sold by them in a single day since the relaxation of lockdown norms by the administration.

One handmade mask costs Rs 25-30 and most of these are stitched by the local people, especially the members from different rural self-help groups. But the growing demand for masks also becomes a challenge to contain the virus as most of these products have no proper packaging.

Reacting to the issue, city-based physician Dr Daboo Patowary said, "Using a mask with proper precaution has become a social responsibility for every person. We need a mask to contain the virus because sneezing could spread the pathogen to many people near us."

He opined that everyone needs to wash and sanitize a mask properly before using the same. In case of a hand-made mask, one should also be careful while purchasing it because wearing a mask is not a fashion anymore. Even one should sanitize his or her

hands after taking off the mask, he added.

Another physician Dr Hitesh Barua stated that there is a need for proper sanitization process as part of the open selling of handmade masks and everyone should buy masks from clean places only.

"Vending of masks without proper packaging is very dangerous in such a situation. Everyone needs to wash a handmade mask properly before use. Even social distancing without having masks is useless too. We should avoid people not wearing masks in outside," Dr Barua said.

Similarly, he also advised that wearing a mask for the whole day is not good as it could lower the oxygen level in the body. "We need not wear a mask at home if everyone in the family is in a healthy condition. But we should keep our house clean and sanitize," he added. Dr Abhijit Sarma also said the open sale of masks should not be allowed in such a situation.

14 dengue cases detected in State

CITY CORRESPONDENT
 GUWAHATI, May 16: Altogether 14 positive cases of dengue have been reported in the State till date, a statement issued by the National Health Mission (NHM), Assam said.

The NHM in association with the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), Assam observed National Dengue Day in every district of the State. As part of the event, officials conducted public awareness events in different ways.

"As the dengue mosquitoes bite during the day, we request everyone in the high-risk dengue-prone areas to use mosquito nets while sleeping, wear long-sleeved clothes, vent out stagnant water and not to allow water to stagnate in and around the house in open containers, coconut shells, flower pots, etc.," said Dr Harpal Singh Suri, state programme officer of NVBDCP, Assam, in a statement.

He said free testing facilities and medications are available at all health centres. He urged people to avail the facilities and not to indulge in self-medication. - Staff Reporter

Chicken price shoots up by 35 pc

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 16: A sudden rise in prices of chicken has hit residents of Guwahati. The price has shot up by up to 35 per cent.

Dressed broiler chicken, which used to cost Rs 200 per kg, is now being sold at Rs 320 a kilo. The price of undressed broiler chicken has risen to Rs 220 per kg.

Similar is the case with local chicken. Dressed local chicken is now being sold at Rs 500-Rs 550 per kg.

Chicken traders of the city have attributed the surge to the disruption in the chicken supply chain. A chicken retailer in Hatigaon area Bhuban Das said, "There is no availability of chicken in the market which has caused a sharp rise in the prices here. We buy undressed chicken at Rs 180 per kg now which was earlier Rs



fixed prices of fish, chicken and mutton to be sold in the city. Dressed (broiler) chicken price was fixed at Rs 200 per kg by the administration. The sudden price rise has not happened only in case of chicken. Prices of several essential items have also increased in the city. "Prices of several items including rice, oil, peas, etc., have increased by Rs 10-Rs 20 per kg. The wholesalers have hiked the prices of almost all items," Babul Ali, a retailer, said.

Delayed EPF payment not to attract penalty

CITY CORRESPONDENT

GUWAHATI, May 16: Considering the difficulty faced by the establishments covered under EPF & MP Act, 1952 in the timely deposit of contributions or administrative charges due for any period during the nationwide lockdown, the EPFO has decided that such delays due to operational or economic reasons shall not be treated as default and penal damages should not be levied for such delay, stated an official press release issued here today.

Circular dated May 15 has been issued to EPFO field officers containing instructions to the effect that no proceeding shall be initiated for levy of penal damages in such cases which are available under TAB "COVID-19" on home page of EPFO website.

The aforesaid step shall ease the compliance norms for 6.5 lakh EPF covered establishments and save them from liability on account of penal damages, added the release.

Mental harassment deadlier than COVID-19 for cancer patients

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 16: Dr B Borooah Cancer Institute (BBCI), Guwahati, has expressed concern over the psychological harassment of cancer patients who came to the hospital for treatment and check-up from neighbours and people of their respective localities.

The BBCI authorities have also termed the "excessive fear about COVID-19" among the public unfounded.

The hospital has opened its services for patients already undergoing treatment on May 11 and footfalls of 250-300 patients have been recorded on average since then.

According to Dr Amal Chandra Katak, BBCI director, the stigmatisation of cancer patients followed by psychological harassment is unscientific and unethical, and those committing it should refrain from doing so.

"Cancer patients are emotionally fragile due to the nature of their illness, and to subject them to any further psychological harassment will lower their strength to fight the disease, which is far more dangerous than COVID-19. One must understand that people afflicted with COVID-19 are now recovering without treatment in most of the cases. So, the excessive fear about COVID-19 among the public is unfounded," he said.

Pointing out that the World Health Organization (WHO) noted that people around the world will have to learn to live with the virus, Dr Katak said, adding that many staff from BBCI are also facing such harassment, and despite this, they have been continuing to serve cancer patients.

In a report came out in April, WHO has noted that in 11 countries, there were 35 reports of serious attacks on health-

care workers, mostly due to people's excessive reaction, rumours, and vested interest.

"This COVID-19 pandemic has shown the best amongst us, but also exposed the worst in us. The management of BBCI would request the authorities concerned to take up this matter and do the needful," Dr Katak added.

Dr Manigreeva Krishnatreya, medical officer at BBCI, said the cancer patient or the patient's attendants are not primary or secondary contacts of the deceased COVID-19 patient detected at BBCI staff quarters.

"Furthermore, samples of 82 primary contacts of COVID-19 patient have tested negative. Also, some cancer patients undergoing treatment at BBCI are reluctant to be go back to their villages in fear of social isolation," added Dr Krishnatreya.

Black tea compound can prevent COVID-19: Tocklai report

RITURAJ BORTHAKUR

GUWAHATI, May 16: There is documented evidence on immunity and antiviral activity of black tea and its bioactives, and as such regular consumption of black tea could very well fit in as a component of a healthy diet for boosting immunity, which is considered essential in this time of global pandemic created by COVID-19, a publication by Tocklai Tea Research Institute has said.

The theaflavins present in black tea have been reported to inhibit HIV, hepatitis C and influenza viruses. A recent study in China suggested that theaflavins, present in abundance in the black tea of Assam, could be used as a lead compound to inhibit the SARS-CoV2 virus. Further, in another study in Taiwan, black tea extracts were demonstrated to have inhibitory activities against 3C-like protease

(3CLPro) enzyme of another SARS virus, the report by Dr AK Barooah, director of Tea Research Association, stated.

Elaborating, the Tocklai publication referred to a recent study published in the 'Journal of Medical Virology', where 83 compounds used in Chinese medicine system were screened for their potential efficacy against SARS-CoV-2 by assessing their binding efficiency onto this RNA dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) of the COVID-19 virus.

"This virtual screening to test the efficacy of the compounds in this bioinformatics study revealed that out of the 83 compounds screened, theaflavin was the best compound on the basis of idock score (prediction of binding affinity), hydrophobic interactions and additional hydrogen bonds between theaflavin and amino acid near the active site of RdRp. This was further confirmed by lower

binding energy when it docks the catalytic pocket of SARS-CoV-2 RdRp. These finding suggested that theaflavins could be used as a lead compound for developing a SARS-CoV-2 inhibitor that targets the RdRp. Theaflavins are present in black tea and the highest theaflavin contents are present in the black teas of Assam," Dr Barooah stated.

The report further stated that though further in vivo, animal and clinical trials would be required to carry forward this research finding, an earlier study from Taiwan has convincingly demonstrated the inhibition of SARS-CoV 3C-like protease activity by Theaflavin-3, 3'-digallate (TF3) published

in the journal 'Evidence based Complementary and Alternative Medicine'.

The authors have reported that the extracts from Puer and Black tea were more potent than the green or oolong tea extracts in their inhibitory activities against a chymotrypsin-like (3CLPro) protease.

In this study, 3CL protease was a target and the virus of interest was SARS-CoV (2002 epidemic). This study also used a docking approach to screen

out the best inhibitory compounds using a natural product library consisting of 720 compounds. Two compounds, tannic acid and TF2b (Theaflavin 3-gallate) were found to be active against 3CL Protease. The authors further examined the inhi-

bitation of activity by various tea extracts and several well known pure ingredients present in teas. The water extracts of TF2b (theaflavin-3-gallate), TF3 (theaflavin digallate) and tannic acid were found to be the best effective 3CLPro inhibitors with inhibitory concentration (IC50) of less than 10 μM. The results from this study showed that Puer and Black tea extracts were more potent than the green or oolong tea extracts in inhibitory activities against 3C-like protease (3CLPro) of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV).

"Given the available evidence of antiviral activity of black tea and its theaflavins against the SARS-CoV coronavirus and the recent demonstration of the binding efficiency of theaflavins onto the RNA dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) of the COVID-19 virus, the black tea could very well fit in as a component of a

healthy diet for boosting immunity which is considered essential in this critical time of Global pandemic created by COVID-19," Dr Barooah added.

Despite being the world's most popular beverage, the health benefits associated with tea are quite often ignored. While several studies have established the beneficial properties of green tea, the efficacy of the bioactive compounds present in black tea has been the subject of several recent studies.

Extracts of black tea have been found effective in combating inflammatory diseases, cancers and neurological disorders while being efficient in cardiovascular disease prevention. Black tea consumption has also been associated with weight loss and reduction in obesity. L-theanine, the most predominant amino acid present in tea, boosts immunity by fighting infection by bacteria, viruses and fungi.



PRESS NOTICE / IFB

No. CS/DTRD/SOPD(G)/2019-20/542/1

The tender has been invited by the Superintending Engineer, PWD, (Roads), Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Ghy-21 on behalf of the Governor of Assam for 4 (four) 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 the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads),
Janasanyog/CF/355/20
Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Guwahati-21

NOTICE

This is for information of all concerned that in reference to this Office Advertisement No. Janasanyog/D/10012/19 on 08.02.2020 (The Assam Tribune) Skill Test and Document Verification for candidates for the posts of Staff Nurse will be held from 21.05.2020 to 12.06.2020 for which Call Letters will be issued online through this Office website, www.gmchassam.gov.in from 17th May, 2020. Candidates are therefore directed to download the Call Letters and take print out of the same. They must bring the printed copy of the Call Letters while appearing for the Skill Test and Document Verification.

Sd/- Superintendent
Gauhati Medical College Hospital, Guwahati
Janasanyog/D/600/20

SHORT QUOTATIONS NOTICE

Sealed quotations in plain papers affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and Paisa Twenty five) only are hereby invited from the reputed experienced Wholesale Traders, Rice/Chira/Flour/MC Millers of Morigaon/Nagaon and other district having financial capacity to supply of the food grains/essential commodities for flood relief for **2020 before 2 PM of 18.05.2020**. The quotation so received will be opened on the same date and hours in presence of the quotationer or their authorised agent who likes to be present. If the date of receiving quotation falls on holiday then the same will be received and opened on the next day at the same time. Detail of the notice may be seen at the undersigned office.

Sd/- Addl. Deputy Commissioner
Morigaon
Janasanyog/C/569/20

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. EE/BR/SJTRD/TB-17/2019-20/

The Executive Engineer, PWRD, Sorbhog & Jania Territorial Road Division, Barpeta Road, on behalf of Governor of Assam, invites bids with Bid Price Rs. 937.967 Lakhs (Rupees Nine Crores Thirty Seven Lakhs Ninety Six thousand Seven Hundred) only for 12 (Twelve) Nos. of Road Work Schemes within Sorbhog LAC as stated below under SOPD-G for 2019-20 within the jurisdiction of P.W.D. Sorbhog & Jania Territorial Road Division, Barpeta Road from approved and eligible contractors registered with Public Works Department (Roads), Assam with a validity period of 180 (one hundred eighty) days from the date of opening of the tender

Details may be seen at the website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 01.06.2020 onwards.

LAC	No. of Scheme	Amount (in Lakhs)
40 Sorbhog	12	937.967
Total	12	937.967

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWRD,
Sorbhog & Jania Territorial Road division
Janasanyog/CF/353/20

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

NIT No. Q-1/DK/GNL/2013-14/229

Sealed tender in prescribed form to be eventually drawn up in APWD H/F2/K2 form affixing non-refundable court fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees eight and paisa twenty five) only are hereby invited from the registered contractors/ firms under Water Resources Department, Assam for the following schemes-

- M&R to Korha L/B dyke from Bhogamukh to Moukhowa in between Ch. 1200m to 19000m for 2019-20
Estimated Amount : Rs. 15,00,000.00
- M&R to protect Dhakuakhana College Girls' Hostel from the erosion of river Charikoria for 2019-20
Estimated Amount : Rs. 15,00,000.00

The tender will be received by the undersigned up to 2.00 PM on 28.05.2020 and will be opened on the same day, place and hours. If the day fixed for submission of tender falls on unscheduled holiday etc. the same will be received on the next working day.

Tender paper may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days, on payment of Rs. 50.00 (Rupees fifty) only through IPO duly pledged to the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Dhakuakhana W.R. Division
Dhakuakhana
Janasanyog/C/543/20

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

No. PDM.2/2020/4

Sealed tenders affixing non-refundable Court Fee stamps of Rs. 8.25 (Rupees Eight and twenty five paisa) only are invited from Govt. Registered dealers/ firms/ suppliers for supply of the following Gratuitous Relief items to the Office of the Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Parbatjhora, Kazigaon for affected families of Storm/ Flood for the year 2020-21 will be received by the undersigned on or before 3rd June, 2020 upto 3.00 PM and the same will be opened on 03.06.2020 at 3.30 PM in presence of the tenderers or their authorized representatives. The tender must be accompanied with a copy of the Firm Registration Certificate, GST Registration Certificate, Trade License, Tax Clearance Certificate, IT return Certificate, Credential Certificate/ Financial Sound Certificate, PAN Card & Bank Draft/ F.D. for Rs. 50,000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) only as Security Deposit in favour of Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil), Parbatjhora, Kazigaon. Tender without samples will not be accepted.

The tender should be submitted in sealed envelope super-scribed on the cover as "Supply of G.R. Items (Storm/ Flood) for the year 2020-21". The rate should be quoted both in figures and words and correction/ alteration will not be allowed. In the absence of fulfilling these conditions, the tender will be rejected. The rate should be quoted separately for different types of article including GST. The trade marks, if any, may be indicated in the tender against each item of gratuitous relief.

The tenderer must be in a position to supply the articles immediately on emergency basis to the affected families from the date of receipt of supply order, failing of which, the Security Deposit amount will be forfeited and the approved rate of that firm will be rejected as cancelled.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept any or all the tenders without assigning any reason therefor.

Detail of notice and list of GR items may be seen at the undersigned office.

Sd/- Sub-Divisional Officer (Civil)
Parbatjhora, Kazigaon
Janasanyog/C/562/20

Govt ...

(Contd from page 1)

The Finance Minister said six more airports will be bid out for operation and maintenance on public-private-partnership (PPP) basis. Also, additional investment by private players in 12 airports bid out in the first two rounds is expected to be around Rs 13,000 crore.

She said more air space will be opened for civil aviation, helping airlines save Rs 1,000 crore in flying cost through reduced flying time and lower fuel consumption. Currently, only 60 per cent of the Indian air space is freely available.

Restrictions on the utilisation of the Indian air space will be eased in consultation with the Defence Ministry so that civilian flying becomes more efficient, she said.

Steps would also be taken to make the country a hub for maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) of aircraft, she said, adding a tax on MRO operations had already been cut in March.

For the coal sector, she announced allowing the private sector in commercial mining as well as auction of even partially explored coal blocks. Also, turning coal into liquid or gaseous fuel will be incentivised, while rights to exploit of gas

lying below coal bed in blocks owned by state-owned Coal India Limited will be auctioned.

Sitharaman announced structural reforms in the mining of minerals through the introduction of a seamless composite exploration-cum-mining-cum-production regime under which 500 mining blocks would be auctioned.

The government will also remove the distinction between captive and non-captive mines to allow the transfer of mining leases and the sale of surplus unused minerals, leading to better efficiency in mining and production.

For boosting private sector investment in social infrastructure, a Rs 8,100-crore revamped viability gap funding scheme will be launched by raising the share of government funds in such projects to 30 per cent from the current 20 per cent.

Sitharaman said for boosting private participation in space activities, the government will provide a level playing field for private companies in satellites, launches and space-based services. The private sector will be allowed to use ISRO facilities and other relevant assets to improve their capacities. - PTI

COVID-19 ...

(Contd from page 1)

Hence, for the last few years, we were using a mouse coronavirus mediated lung infection to study whether viral infection causes the bacteria to escape from stem cells," Dr Das said.

A mouse coronavirus strain - the murine hepatitis virus-1 (MHV-1) - that represents clinically relevant human coronavirus SARS-CoV-1 infection was used in the research. The remarkable significance of the study is that although MHV-1 infection causes dMtb reactivation, it also activates an altruistic stem cell (ASC)-based innate defence mechanism against the virus.

The lab has been a pioneer in ASC-based research. Now that MHV-1 has been found to activate ASC defence, this mechanism could be further explored to develop therapeutics to target corona virus.

"In plain words, it can be explained that though the virus will reactivate the TB, it will also set off the defence mechanism against the virus and ultimately defeat it, in most cases, and further study of this defence mechanism could help in treatment of the virus," Das said.

He also cited recent surveys and reports that countries which do not have a policy of universal Bacille Calmette Guerin (BCG) vaccination, which is closely related to Mtb, have experienced higher mortality related to COVID-19.

"Thus our results could provide a novel explanation of BCG mediated host defence or anti-viral mechanism against SARS-CoV-2 that could be further utilized to design a drug or vaccine against the virus," he said.

The research team included Lekhika Pathak,

Sukanya Gayan, Bidisha Pal, Joyeeta Talukdar, Seema Bhuyan, Sorra Sandhya, Herman Yeger, Debabrat Baishya, besides Dr Bikul Das

Dr Das and his research team has published their findings in a paper - "Corona virus activates a stem cell mediated defense mechanism that accelerates activation of dormant tuberculosis: implications for the COVID-19 pandemic" - on pre-print server bioRxiv recently. However, these are preliminary findings and await peer-review.

Now, the laboratory is actively pursuing research to confirm the findings in human subjects. Importantly, the laboratory is also testing the efficacy of the BCG stem cell vaccine against coronavirus using mouse model of coronavirus. Previously, the lab has developed the BCG stem cell vaccine against cancer.

KaviKrishna Laboratory is a division of KaviKrishna, a research-based NGO committed to research on stem cell altruism to India.

In the year 2018, KaviKrishna received the recognition of scientific and industrial research organisation (SIRO), which has been a remarkable achievement for the organisation in its 8 yearlong journey. Along with the SIRO certification, KaviKrishna was able to form 'Institutional Committee for Stem Cell Research (ICSCR)' and become the first organisation of having ICSCR in North East India.

The laboratory is now actively engaged in cutting-edge research on stem cell altruism in collaboration with its sister laboratory, The Thoreau Laboratory of Global Health at University of Massachusetts - Lowell, MA, managed by KaviKrishna USA Foundation.

CM stresses ...

(Contd from page 1)

He also instructed them to develop a positive environment in the villages for people living in home quarantine with active support of senior citizens and opinion leaders.

Further, taking serious note of beneficiaries in groups visiting banks to withdraw funds transferred by the government under various schemes, the Chief Minister suggested engaging services of NCC cadets and NSS volunteers for maintaining discipline and social distancing norms in the banks.

While appreciating the services of DCs, SPs, Joint Directors of Health Services and staff of other emergency services in the fight against COVID-19, the Chief Minister said that the coming days would be

very challenging and urged all to work with 'Team Assam' spirit to overcome the dreaded disease.

Moreover, the Chief Minister asked the DCs and Joint Directors of Health Services to interact with the authorities of private nursing homes to ensure all possible services by the latter to the people at this difficult time.

He also directed them to ensure smooth operation of schemes under 14th Finance Commission, various beneficiary-oriented schemes as well as activities related to agriculture, pisciculture, etc., besides compliance of Central government directives issued to contain the African swine fever.

As the third phase of the lockdown will end tomorrow,

the Chief Minister said that until new directives are issued by the Union government the existing guideline will remain in force in the State and asked the DCs and SPs to ensure their total compliance.

Keeping in view the forthcoming monsoon season, the Chief Minister asked the district administrations to gear up with all preparations to tackle any flood situation by preparing in advance an effective mitigation plan, including relief camps, relief material and health services ready.

He also directed to designate one nodal officer to oversee flood preparedness in the districts and to engage staff of government departments who are not involved in COVID-19 related duty in flood mitigation activities.

DN Barua ...

(Contd from page 1)

He also initiated establishment of the Assam Petrochemicals Limited and the Cachar Sugar Mill during his stint at AIDC.

After his retirement, Barua was instrumental in setting up the Guwahati Stock Exchange and was its working president. As president of the Guwahati Management Association (GMA) for long 12 years, he shaped and nurtured the organisation into the robust management body it is today. He was also a past president of Rotary Club of Guwahati South and a member of the Senior Engineers' Forum, Guwahati (Northeast region).

Barua is survived by his son, daughter, daughter-in-law, grandchildren and innumerable admirers.

Owing to the COVID-19 situation, a small group of senior GMA members visited Barua's residence here to pay their last respects to the departed soul, while another GMA team attended the cremation rites at the Nabagraha cremation ground here. Various organisations and associations have condoled Barua's death.

NE ultra ...

(Contd from page 1)

"It is believed that a number of them have already entered India and are looking for opportunities to surrender," sources added.

Senior ULFA(I) leader Drishti Rajkhowa recently had a narrow escape when Meghalaya Police raided a camp where he was hiding in a remote place in the Garo hills. Rajkhowa was staying in the camp along with members of the Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA). Police recovered demand notes of the Garo outfit from the camp. Meanwhile, the Myanmar government has handed over 22 militants - ten from Assam and the rest from Manipur - to India and Indian security agencies brought them back on Friday. Those militants were arrested in the operation in the Taga area last year. It is not known whether there are any more Indian ultra in the jails of Myanmar, sources said.

No. SMC/45/2020/3

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings), Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites fresh bids from APWD registered Class-I (A) contractors having experience in similar nature of work, for the following works.

Details of the bids may be seen at e-procurement website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 18.05.2020 to 08.06.2020.

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

Sl. No	State/Package	Name of Work	Approx. Value of Work	Time of completion	Earnest Money Deposit	E.M.D. to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
1	SMC-ART1	External development work at proposed Training Institute for Grade-III & Grade-IV staff of Government of Assam at Tepesia village, Sonapur Circle, Guwahati. (Construction of approach road, drain, retaining wall, earth cutting and earth filling of the plot for Training Institute)	Rs.496.176 Lakh	06 (six) months	Rs.9,924 lakh (for General) or, Rs. 4,962 lakh (for reserved Category)	E.E., PWD, Guwahati Building Division-II	Rs. 12,500/-

Sd/- Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Building),
Janasanyog/C/535/20
Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

No. DME/Pharma/133/2019/5614

E-Tender

INVITATION FOR E-BID (IFB)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Re-e-Tenders are invited online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in from the intending Manufacturer/Accredited Dealers for supply Equipment & instrument for the Department of Pharmacology for all Medical College Hospitals of Assam under the Health & F.W. Department, Govt. of Assam.

The Equipment tendered here have been invited for bids vide an earlier tender, but due to less participation, only few items are finalized through the earlier tender and now is being re-tendered again for the remaining items/equipments. Pre-bid meeting is also scheduled as per date and venue given below.

The e-Tender is a 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 State of Assam) in favour of "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

Important dates of the e-Tender

Sl. No.	Scheduled	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1.	e-Tender Publishing	18-05-2020	11.00 AM	-	-
2.	e-Tender Download	19-05-2020	12.00 Noon	22-06-2020	12.00 Noon
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting	8-06-2020	11.00 AM	Venue - Room No. 4C, 2nd Floor, Directorate of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Guwahati- 32	
4.	Bid Submission	8-06-2020	02.00 PM	22-06-2020	02.00 PM
5.	Bid Opening	22-06-2020	03.00 PM		

1. Brief Schedule

Description (Name of the Items)	Bid Security (E.M.D.)	Delivery/Installation schedule/Completion period	Tender fees in Rs.	Eligibility
Supply Equipment & instrument for the Department of Pharmacology for all Medical College Hospitals of Assam	Rs. 1.0 Lakhs	25 days,	Rs. 5000/-	Manufacturer/ accredited Dealer

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.

Janasanyog/C/523/20
Sd/- Director of Medical Education, Assam

No. DME/FSM/135/2019/5608

E-Tender

INVITATION FOR E-BID (IFB)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Re-e-Tenders are invited online through e-procurement system i.e. through website www.assamtenders.gov.in from the intending Manufacturer/Accredited Dealers for supply and Installation of Equipment related to **F.S.M. Department** for all Medical College Hospitals of Assam under the Health & F.W. Department, Govt. of Assam.

The Equipment tendered here have been invited for bids vide an earlier tender, but due to less participation it was decided to re-tender the same. Pre-bid meeting is also scheduled as per date and venue given below.

The e-Tender is a 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 State of Assam) in favour of "Director of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022.

Important dates of the e-Tender

Sl. No.	Scheduled	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1.	e-Tender Publishing	18-05-2020	11.00 AM	-	-
2.	e-Tender Download	19-05-2020	12.00 Noon	19-06-2020	12.00 Noon
3.	Pre-Bid Meeting	05-06-2020	11.00 AM	Venue - Room No. 4C, 2nd Floor, Directorate of Medical Education, Assam, Sixmile, Guwahati- 32	
4.	Bid Submission	05-06-2020	02.00 PM	19-06-2020	02.00 PM
5.	Bid Opening	19-06-2020	03.00 PM		

1. Brief Schedule

Description (Name of the Items)	Bid Security (E.M.D.)	Delivery/Installation schedule/Completion period	Tender fees in Rs.	Eligibility
Supply and Installation of Equipment related to F.S.M. Department for all Medical College Hospitals of Assam	Rs. 2.0 Lakhs	25 days,	Rs.5,000/-	Manufacturer/ accredited Dealer

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.

Janasanyog/C/518/20
Sd/-Director of Medical Education, Assam

No. SMC/32/2020/3

PRESS NOTICE

The Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Buildings), Assam, on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites bids from registered contractors of class I(A) under APWD (Building) having experience in similar nature of work. Details of the bid may be seen at e-procurement portal website i.e. www.assamtenders.gov.in and also in the office of the undersigned during office hours from 18.05.2020 to 08.06.2020. The bidders must be enrolled in www.assamtenders.gov.in.

Sl. No.	State/Package	Name of Work	Approx Value of Work	Time of completion	Bid Security (2% for General, and 1% for Reserved category)	Bid Security to be drawn in favour of	Tender Cost
1	SMC/CIDF/ Bon_Eco Park	Development of Eco Park and Water Body adjacent to Eco Park in the line of Accoland at Bongaigaon Town under CIDF	Rs. 14,25,00,237.00	24 (Twenty four) Months	Rs. 28,50,010.00 (for General) or, Rs. 14,25,005.00 (for reserved Category)	E.E, PWD, Goalpara Building Division	Rs. 12,500/-

Sd/- Chief Engineer, P.W.D. (Bildg.)
Assam, Chandmari,
Guwahati-3
Janasanyog/C/565/20



WEATHER NORTHEAST
Forecast for North Eastern States: Rain/thundershower is very likely to occur at many places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.
Warning: Thunderstorm with lightning is very likely to occur at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty wind with speed (30-40) kmph is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. Heavy rain is very likely to occur at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura.

Temperatures :		
	Max (°C)	Min (°C)
Dibrugarh	25.7	21.8
Tezpur	29.2	22.9
Silchar	30.4	25.4
Dhuli	30.8	23.6
Jorhat	25.5	21.9
N Lakhimpur	24.5	21.1
Shillong	24.3	-
Cherrapunjee	21.9	16.4
Aizawl	28.3	17.9
Kohima	23.0	14.8
Pasighat	23.6	21.9
Itanagar	25.6	21.1
Imphal	29.2	18.9
Agartala	35.0	23.6

11 new COVID-19 cases reported in Tripura

CORRESPONDENT

AGARTALA, May 16: Amid the growing number of COVID-19 cases in the State, the Tripura Government has decided to enforce home quarantine in a stringent manner to break the chain of infection.

The decision came in the wake of 11 more persons testing positive today, taking the COVID-19 tally in the State to 165, which is the highest among the North Eastern States.

Among the new cases, seven are from the BSF's 86th battalion, while four are civilians from the Churaibari Gate in North Tripura (two drivers from other State and two persons who returned from Guwahati), Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb said.

Two stranded persons, who were scheduled to leave for the State from Maharashtra today in a special train, tested COVID-19 positive, prompting the authority to cancel the scheduled train journey.

The special train was supposed to evacuate more than 1,500 people of Tripura from Maharashtra.

The Chief Minister chaired a



Members of a Central team during their visit to Jawaharnagar where the headquarters of two BSF battalions are located, in Tripura on Saturday. - Photo: Correspondent

high-level meeting to review the preparedness to fight against the pandemic. At the meeting, a decision was taken to create more treatment and quarantine facilities as the situation may worsen in the days to come.

The Government has decided to send all returnees to strict home quarantine even if they are found to be asymptomatic.

"If anybody under home quarantine is found to be venturing out, he or she will be

sent to jail quarantine. If the situation arises, jail quarantine facilities will be created in the districts too," said an official.

Sources said more than 30,000 persons stranded in various States like Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Assam and West Bengal are scheduled to return in the next few days by special trains, buses and other vehicles. Most importantly, many of the stranded

persons are returning to their home State from hotspots, which has made the State Government jittery.

Altogether 2,435 persons are under home quarantine, while 300 are lodged in quarantine facilities. A total of 13,172 samples were collected for testing so far, of which 12,561 have been tested till date.

Forty-two positive patients have recovered in the State and there has been no fatality yet.

Manipur reports three new COVID-19 cases

CORRESPONDENT

IMPHAL, May 16: Two days after confirming the third case of COVID-19, Manipur reported three more positive cases today. With this the total of number of positive cases in the State has risen to six, Health Department officials said.

Among the new COVID-19 patients are a 76-year-old woman and her 48-year-old son, who had returned in a group of 36 people from Mumbai. "They reached Manipur on May 13 and all the rest are found negative," a press release issued here this evening stated. The elderly woman and her son are now admitted to the RIMS (Regional Institute of Medical Sciences) for treatment, the release added.

Earlier, in a press release issued this morning, Additional Director of the Health Department Dr Khoirom Sasheeku-

mar Mangang said that a nursing professional who had returned from Kolkata, also tested positive for COVID-19 on Friday. "She is now admitted to the JNIMS (Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences)," he said.

Meanwhile, in view of the current situation, the State Government has temporarily suspended issuing of inter-State passes for entry into Manipur in private or hired vehicles.

It may be mentioned here that the first two COVID-19 patients in Manipur were discharged after recovery from two government hospitals last month. Since then no new case had been reported in the State till the third case was detected on May 14.

Meanwhile, sources at the COVID-19 common control room here said that tests for the disease have increased to about 200 per day during the

last few days. This has been made possible with the introduction of the "pool testing" method, the sources added. Besides, the RIMS and the JNIMS have installed TrueNat machines for testing COVID-19. This has further enhanced the testing capacity.

The sources pointed out that till date 1,900 samples have been tested in the State, out of which four were found positive.

It may be mentioned here that a second special train carrying 932 people belonging to the State, who were stranded in and around Punjab due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown, arrived at the Jiribam Railway Station last evening. They have already started reaching their respective districts. The first special train with more than 1,000 stranded people came from Chennai on May 13.

Arunachal Police escort stranded migrant workers to Assam

ITANAGAR, May 16: The Arunachal Pradesh Police today escorted 761 migrant labourers who were stranded in the State capital due to the nationwide lockdown, and handed them over to the Assam administration at the Banderdewa check gate near here, a senior officer said.

All the workers, who hail from Assam, were stranded at Naharlagun near here, Capital SP Tumme Amo said.

A total of 11,776 migrant work-

ers were sent to Assam by the Capital police in the past 14 days through the Banderdewa and Hollong check gates, the SP said.

Of the total stranded workers sent to Assam, 11,247 were from Naharlagun while 529 were from Itanagar.

The SP has requested all the migrant workers and their employers in the State capital to contact or report to the nearest police station if they are willing to move out of the State to

Assam. "SDPOs of Itanagar and Naharlagun will coordinate the movement of the stranded workers," the SP said.

Amo added that those people from other States, excluding Assam, who are stranded here and want to return to their home States, should fill in their details on the website, covid19.itanagarsmartcityin/sr/register/strandedinarunachal.php for proper planning of movement. - PTI

3,679 stranded people not to return to Nagaland

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, May 16: Altogether 3,679 citizens of Nagaland, presently staying outside the State, have opted to stay at their respective places, Principal Secretary (Home) Abhijit Sinha said this evening.

These people have filled up requisite forms on the portal, iamstranded.nagaland.gov.in, for availing one-time assistance of Rs 10,000 from the State Government.

Sinha said that 1,314 people stranded in other North Eastern States have returned to Nagaland till Saturday.

All the returnees should register themselves on the nCOVID-19 Nagaland-Visitors app and the Aarogya Setu app. For any technical support, one may contact the toll-free helpline number, 1800-345-0019, he added.

The Principal Secretary said that out of 917 samples sent for testing from the State, results of 891 have been received till 4 pm (on Saturday) and all have tested negative. The results for the remaining 26 samples are awaited.

Besides, 25 samples were tested in TrueNat machines and all tested negative. Sinha said 3,943 people were screened on Saturday and 1,073 people are presently under facility quarantine.

Donation: The Dimapur unit of All Nagaland Private Schools' Association donated rice bags and biscuits to its member schools in and around Dimapur district on Saturday in a bid to mitigate the effects of the lockdown.

Around 300 rice bags and 100 biscuit cartons were handed over to all the seven zonal in-charges, including the Chumukedima sub-unit, by association president Andrew Ahoti Sema and other executive members.

Dimapur autorickshaw drivers leave for Bihar in own vehicles

CORRESPONDENT

DIMAPUR, May 16: Hit by the ongoing lockdown, around 30 autorickshaw drivers from Dimapur district left for their home State, Bihar, along with their families, in their respective autorickshaws today. A total of 50 people, including the autorickshaw drivers, departed from here around noon.

President of the Dimapur District Auto Drivers' Union Tito Yephthomi said despite several requests, the autorickshaw drivers left for their homes under the compulsion of the prevailing circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yephthomi said that the union had assured to do "something" for them and tried to convince them not to leave Dimapur. But the autorickshaw drivers refused to stay, saying

that if they had to die, they would rather die in their own State, he added.

When asked if they did not get any rations or other assistance from the Government, Yephthomi said only 30 bags of rice were given for distribution whereas there are over 10,000 autorickshaw drivers in Dimapur. He said it would take them around four days to reach Bihar.

Wishing the autorickshaw drivers a safe journey, Yephthomi said he gave each of them Rs 500 from his pocket to buy at least one bottle of water and some snacks during their homeward journey.

"We will continue to support our Bihari auto drivers' families and their long journey in our prayers. May you all have a safe journey, brothers," the union posted on its Facebook

page. The union leaders requested the autorickshaw drivers, who have been here for the 10 to 15 years, to return to Nagaland when the COVID-19 situation returns to normal.

The union has also requested people of other States to support them with tea and snacks during their journey. It also urged any autorickshaw driver or family members living in and around Dimapur to contact the union president directly if they face any "untold hardships".

The union urged those willing to help the autorickshaw drivers' families to contact its office. All details of donations will be posted on the union's Facebook page, it said.

The union said its office-bearers would identify every affected family and distribute the donations to them.

Mizoram extends lockdown by two more weeks

CORRESPONDENT

AIZAWL, May 16: Despite being a Green Zone with zero COVID-19 cases, the ongoing lockdown has been extended in Mizoram by two more weeks.

The Mizoram Government took the decision to extend the lockdown till May 30 during a meeting with representatives of political parties, civil societies, churches and doctors on Friday after the participants favoured extension to be on the safe side.

"In view of the stranded residents being brought back from various States, including the Red Zones, and the current situation in the neighbouring States, the participants were unanimous in their view that the lockdown should be extended," an official said.

Speaking in the meeting, Chief Minister Zoramthanga said extending the lockdown was crucial to ensure public safety, although the State has been declared a Green Zone after the lone patient recovered on May 9.

The official said fresh guidelines for Lockdown 4.0 would be released before May 18. After 833 Mizoram residents were brought back from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on Friday, many more would be brought back in a phased manner. This mass homecoming is the main concern for doctors as there are high chances of some of them being positive, sources said.

"In Manipur, which was declared COVID-free, four new cases were detected among those who had come back from other States. So we cannot run the risk," a health official said.

Mizoram has been experiencing a partial lockdown since May 4. Sources said the Government could opt for stricter guidelines for the fourth phase.

108 personnel cite protocol for refusal to help injured

CORRESPONDENT

TURA, May 16: Six people, including four returnees from Chennai, who were injured in an accident near Dudnoi in Goalpara district of Assam this morning, were allegedly denied 108 ambulance service over protocol issues, in North Garo Hills district.

A driver, handyman and four returnees from Chennai had suffered minor injuries in the accident. Sources said that the accident was reported to the team stationed at Berubari in Bajengdoba to receive the returnees. A magistrate on duty had alerted ambulance personnel at the check point to assist those injured and take them to Tura. However, the 108 ambulance personnel refused to move, stating that according to protocol a call needed to be made through the helpline number.

"An ambulance from Dudnoi, Assam, attended to the injured and they were then rushed to Tura," said North

Garo Hills SP Abraham T Sangma.

The refusal of the 108 service to help the injured despite intimation of the matter, has been criticised by some people who have questioned the attitude of the employees on duty.

"Humanity comes first and they should have acted as the first responders in such a case. It is surprising that they chose to follow protocol despite a magistrate asking them to act in the matter," said an officer on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, inclement weather and bad road condition caused another accident involving a bus on the NH-51 near Asuragre village in West Garo Hills this morning.

"There were no major injuries. The bus was moving towards the ISBT with returnees from Chennai. Those with minor injuries were given medical care. Cranes were pressed into service to retrieve the bus that skidded off the road," said West Garo Hills SP Dr MGR Kumar.

Poor health infrastructure in Nagaland

KOHIMA, May 16: Nagaland has no case of coronavirus, but it also does not have adequate health infrastructure to deal with an outbreak, a cause for concern for officials who believe prayers have kept the State safe from the contagion. The State with a population of over 20 lakh has no medical college. It set up its lone testing laboratory for COVID-19 here after directions from the High Court, but has not been able to make it functional due to non-availability of an essential compound.

"It is all God's miracle that has kept Nagaland safe from the COVID-19 pandemic till date," Chief Secretary Temjen Toy said. The other reason is the hard work of the Health workers in dealing with the suspected cases, he said.

Nagaland at present sends samples to Assam and Manipur for testing. The Chief Secretary said the biggest threat is the virus entering the State with the stranded people coming in from other parts of the country. - PTI

Army officer killed in Sikkim avalanche

CORRESPONDENT



Lt Colonel Robert TA Kuba

IMPHAL, May 16: The mortal remains of Lt Colonel Robert TA Kuba, who lost his life along with a soldier when his patrolling party was hit by an avalanche in North Sikkim on May 14, was laid to rest with full military honours at his native Maram Centre village in Manipur today.

The funeral service held at Maram Centre, 80 km north of Imphal in Senapati district, was attended by only family members and a few others including an Army brigade commander in view of the lockdown restrictions.

Earlier, Lt Colonel Kuba's mortal remains were taken in a chopper to the Assam Rifles camp at Maram Bazar from the Bir Tikendrajit International Airport here. The Army officer's body had arrived in an IAF plane from Bagdogra, and was received with full military honours at the Imphal airport, family sources stated.

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, Tribal Affairs Minister N Kayisii, titular king of Manipur Leishemba Sana-jaoba, former Assembly Deputy Speaker K Raina, civil society organisations and others have consoled the sudden demise of the Army officer.

Low-key celebration marks Sikkim State Day

A CORRESPONDENT

GANGTOK, May 16: The 45th State Day of Sikkim was celebrated today on a low-key due to the coronavirus-induced lockdown.

A brief function was held at Chintan Bhawan here, which was attended by Governor Ganga Prasad as the chief guest and Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang as the guest of honour.

Ministers, MLAs, senior government officials and other dignitaries attended

the function.

At the outset, Governor Ganga Prasad and Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang garlanded the statue of Late Kazi Lhendup Dorji Khangsarpa, the first Chief Minister of Sikkim.

Other dignitaries also paid tributes at his statue.

On this day in 1975, Sikkim became the 22nd State of India.

Keeping the coronavirus-related restrictions in mind, this year's State-level function was brief and confined to

the indoors.

A PTI report from New Delhi adds: Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi today extended greetings on the Statehood Day of Sikkim, saying the State has enriched India's progress in many sectors.

"Greetings on Sikkim's Statehood Day. Home to talented and compassionate people, Sikkim has enriched national progress in many sectors," the Prime Minister tweeted.

He pointed out that Sikkim's progress in areas such as organic farming has been admired all over.

"Praying for Sikkim's progress in the years to come," he added.

In his message, the Vice President said that known for its natural beauty and rich spiritual heritage, Sikkim is India's first fully organic State, "demonstrating the importance of living in harmony with nature".

"My best wishes for a happy, healthy & prosperous #Sikkim," he said.

INSTITUTE OF LIVER & BILIARY SCIENCES (ILBS)

"CAREER OPPORTUNITIES" Faculty & Non Faculty posts (ILBS/Careers/2/20)

Addendum: In continuation to advertisement dated 19th April, 2020, the last date of receipt of applications is hereby extended to 15th June, 2020. For additional vacancies of Faculty and Non Faculty and further details, eligibility criteria and Recruitment rules, the interested candidates are advised to visit the website <http://www.ilbs.in>

Deputy Head (HR)

"HEALTHY LIVER - HEALTHY INDIA"
24 Hr Emergency, Liver Ambulance & Helpline: 1-800-11-5354,
Ph. : 011-463 00 000

NEWS IN BRIEF



Hayat Hospital managing director Rajib Saikia handing over a cheque of Rs 10 lakh to Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday. Employees of the hospital donated a day's salary to Assam Arogya Nidhi for the fight against COVID-19.

AAU prof's wife files FIR

JORHAT, May 16: The wife of Assam Agricultural University professor Abhijit Sarma, who was found hanging in his office on May 12 leaving behind a suicide note, has lodged an FIR at the Lichubari police outpost seeking a proper investigation into the death of her husband. A police source said a case under Section 306 of IPC (Abetment to suicide) was registered at the Jorhat PS. In the suicide note, it was stated that Sarma was "betrayed", a police official said. The source said the police investigation will look into the points raised by Sarma's wife regarding the circumstances that may have led him to take his life. — Staff Correspondent

4 in home quarantine

TIHU, May 16: Angshutam Jawahar, a businessman of Tihu town, and his wife have been told to stay under home quarantine after it was learnt that the couple came from another state recently. It was also learnt that their residence is attached to their wholesale shop, and his father was still selling goods. When locals informed the Nalbari Deputy Commissioner, the shop was closed immediately. Arnab Barman of Piplibari village near Chamata, and Dilip Saikia of Belsor have also been told to stay under home quarantine. Both Barman and Saikia had gone to Fancy Bazar in Guwahati for business purposes. — ANN Service

Shops opened in Morigaon

MORIGAON, May 16: Following the release of the last COVID-19 positive person, Morigaon district has become a Green Zone from Orange Zone. The administration has allowed shops to open for three days a week. The Morigaon Municipal Board has arranged odd-even numbers for shops, which will be allowed to open from 9 am to 4 pm. The administration has also arranged several quarantine centres, as migrant labourers are expected to return next week. The Morigaon Deputy Commissioner on Friday held a meeting with representatives of the civil society and sought cooperation to tackle the situation arising out of the return of more than 10,000 labourers. — Correspondent

EVM foundation day

DOOMDOOMA, May 16: The 17th foundation day of Ellora Vigyan Mancha (EVM) was observed by its Doomdooma branch on Friday at the Doomdooma Sakha Sahitya Sabha Bhawan. EVM Doomdooma president Jhikananda Borgohain hoisted the flag, while vice president Arjun Baruah offered floral tributes to Ellora Roy Chowdhury who passed away at the age of 34 and according to her wish, her body was handed over to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital for research. In her memory, EVM was formed to spread scientific temper and fight against superstition in society. The programme was anchored by working president Tarini Deka. Social activists Deben Deka and Saranga Nath, and EVM members Sufala Moran and Nani Deka attended the programme. — Correspondent

Relief items distributed

PATACHARKUCHI, May 16: Phani Pathak, state executive member of the BJP, distributed masks and relief materials among stranded Hindi-speaking people who work in saloons and as washermen and labourers in Pathsala town, and whose sources of earning have been affected due to the lockdown. Maintaining norms of the lockdown, the relief materials were distributed at the Bhagabati Kshetra. — ANN Service

Scribe distributes newspapers

TIHU, May 16: Following the COVID-19 outbreak, many people expressed concern over receiving newspapers at home. With an aim to create awareness, Dipak Kumar Das, a sports journalist of Jajibari village of Pub Nalbari, assistant secretary of the All Assam Volleyball Association, volleyball secretary of the Nalbari Sports Association and president of the Pub Nalbari Coaching Centre, started distributing newspapers in Dalua, Kayakuchi, Jajibari, Sahrpur, Dihari, Khudra Chenikuchi and Nankar Bhayra. — ANN Service

9 quarantined in Pathsala

PATACHARKUCHI, May 16: Nine passengers have been put under quarantine at Hotel Abhinandan in Pathsala after a preliminary check-up at the Patacharkuchi inspection bungalow on Friday. Out of 84 people who have returned, nine have been kept at Pathsala and the remaining at a centre at Sorbhog. Of the nine persons, five came from Tamil Nadu, two from Delhi and two from West Bengal. They returned by train and got down at the Guwahati Railway Station. Those who came from Jharkhand, Bihar and Haryana have been quarantined at Barnagar College in Sorbhog. — ANN Service

Woman kills self

DIPHU, May 16: Junali Englengi, a resident of Matipung of Diphu town, committed suicide at a house in Bengaluru recently. According to information, the incident took place at Ambedkar Nagar 2nd Cross Whitfield locality, but the cause is not known yet. KAAC CEM Tuliram Ronghang has remitted Rs 1.5 lakh for bringing back the mortal remains of the deceased to her native place. A few days back, another youth of Karbi Anglong, Dorsing Ronghang, engaged in a private firm in Tamil Nadu, committed suicide, apparently out of frustration for failing to return home following the lockdown. — Correspondent

Medic held for molestation

DIPHU, May 16: A homeopathic doctor at Bokajan civil hospital, was arrested on charges of molestation and physical misconduct with a teenage girl. A case under section 354 IPC has been registered against Sheikh Ahmed Ali Kajaria, who confessed to the crime. Meanwhile, one Dipak Shah, an employee of a petrol pump in Diphu town, was mowed down by a car around 5.30 pm on Friday. The driver, Jonas Kro, has been arrested, and his car seized. — Correspondent

As stranded people reach home, Cachar DC seeks cooperation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, May 16: As people of Cachar district who were stranded in other cities across India owing to the ongoing lockdown start to reach home, questions, objections and speculations from a cross-section of the society regarding their accommodation in hotels and other buildings as institutional quarantine centres have started to pour in.

Against this backdrop, Cachar Deputy Commissioner Keerthi Jalli, in her first media interaction on Friday urged the people of the district not to panic over the developments and extend cooperation to their own fellow residents.

"Those returning from States outside the North-east are people of this district, who got stranded due to the clamping of lockdown since March this year. They are not potentially COVID-

19 positive patients. Since the number of persons reaching back home would be large, we have made institutional quarantine centres at hotels and other places which are well within the society. Arrangement of large-scale facilitation in remote and isolated places overnight would not be possible.

People and associations who approached the administration with complaint and appeals not to keep these persons in close proximity are requested to cooperate in this hour of crisis. There is no reason to panic as only asymptomatic people would be kept in the quarantine centres only for observation and under tight police security so that no one can come out at any point in time. Those with symptoms of COVID-19 would be directly taken to the designated ward at the Silchar Medical College and Hospital for treatment," Jalli maintained.

The Deputy Commissioner, who recently joined the district said that people would be sent home only after their swab sample test results come out to be negative and once they are home, the particular homes would be tagged as containment homes with ASHA workers visiting frequently to get their health updates. "People who would be sent home would not be allowed to come out for a period of 14 days and we shall take all care to send them food and other essentials. It is the society that has to join hands with the administration in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and help the people. Let all of us work together to see through the phase," she added.

Further, Jalli informed that recently 47 persons who had been on institutional quarantine were released after their medical results were found negative and asymptomatic.



Having a field day: A flock of egrets land on a paddy field, even as a farmer ploughs the land with his tractor, at Kamargaon in Dergaon on Saturday. — Photo: Sanjoy Kumar Hazarika

'Nearly 10,000 Dhubri-based workers returning home'

CORRESPONDENT

DHUBRI, May 16: The Dhubri district administration expects that around 10,000 migrant workers from the district will be returning home in the next few days.

Dhubri ADC Pallav Mazumder said that in the last few days, many people from different parts of the country stranded in the district have returned. "We are expecting not less than 10,000 migrant workers belonging to the district, but who have been working in different parts of the country or went out for medical or educational purposes or

other reasons, to return."

The ADC said all these people will be kept for six days in mass quarantine, after which they will be home quarantined for 14 days. "During these six days, their medical checkup will be done, swabs will be tested for COVID-19, and their data will be taken up for tracking them through an app-based system," he said.

Mazumder said this system will be very effective as the information will be available with all the authorities including ASHAs, who will keep an eye on them.

If anyone is found COVID-19 positive, then he/she will

be kept in isolation for treatment. For this purpose, the administration has prepared 10 mass quarantine facilities where till Friday, 1,597 persons were staying. These include the Chagolia institutional quarantine centre on the Assam-Bengal border where 1,077 persons are staying.

The administration has marked out 10 centres for institutional quarantine – including ITI College, Chilarai College and Chinmoyee School at Golokganj; Dumurdoha HS School, Bidyapara HS School and BN College in Dhubri town and PB College at Gauripur.

Over 500 people from all over the country, chiefly labourers, are stranded in different parts of the district. "Of the stranded labourers, 43 are from Bihar and 170 are from West Bengal. These people have returned to their States. A few workers from Meghalaya have also returned," said the ADC. There are many workers who will return soon, while over 200 nomadic people do not want to go back.

Till Friday, 7,358 persons were home quarantined in Dhubri district, out of which the maximum (2,965) are from Dharmasala area.

Man held for killing brother, burying body

CORRESPONDENT

HAILAKANDI, May 16: Hailakandi police on Friday exhumed the decomposed body of a person who was murdered, allegedly by his elder brother who later also buried the body. The accused has been arrested.

On Friday noon, the in-charge of Kalacherra Outpost under Lala Police Station was informed by some workers of Narshimpur Tea Estate that a person named Lakhi Narayan Rabidas (28), son of late Sital Prasad Rabidas and a resident of the tea estate, was missing from his house since May 11.

Police from the Kalacherra Outpost rushed to the spot and started an inquiry. Himachal Rabidas, the 40-year-old brother of

Lakhi Narayan Rabidas who is a carpenter by profession, confessed during police interrogation that he murdered his younger brother on the night of May 11 after a heated altercation and buried his body in the backyard of his house.

The Deputy Superintendent of Police (Hq), Hailakandi and an executive magistrate rushed to the site and dug up the body from an abandoned kutchra latrine pit in the backyard of the house. The murder weapon – a *dao* (machete) – used by the accused was also recovered by police. An inquest was conducted by the executive magistrate and the decomposed body was sent to the SK Roy Civil Hospital for an autopsy. Superintendent of Police Pabindra Kumar Nath said a case has been registered against the accused at the Lala Police Station.

Transparent sheets on windows to prevent spitting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, May 16: Silchar Medical College and Hospital (SMCH) will now take steps to prevent spitting by COVID-19 patients through windows from inside the wards.

SMCH vice principal Dr Bhaskar Gupta said that anticipating spitting by patients through windows, transparent sheets would be fixed on windows so that no one throws anything outside. "We have kept boxes inside the wards for COVID-19 patients to spit. We will put transparent sheets

Confusion over use of hotels as quarantine centres in Darrang

CORRESPONDENT

MANGALDAI, May 16: Confusion prevails among hoteliers here over media reports quoting the district administration that their hotels will be used as temporary quarantine centres for people entering the district from outside the State.

Anupam Deka, owner of Hotel Kharkhowa, said he came to know about the development only from the media. "The administration has asked for our rates. Apart from that I have not been given further information". Similarly, Sidhartha Baruah, owner of Hotel Sidhartha Palace, said, "We were called for a discussion some 20 days ago. After that, there was no correspondence from the district authority."

Mriganka Sahariah straightaway expressed his inability to accept any such proposal. "I can't accept any such proposal as my residence is attached to my hotel where my elderly parents stay. My staff is also unwilling to serve in such a situation," he said.

The Darrang district administration officially announced its decision to use four hotels here as temporary quarantine centres along with four government educational institutions to accommodate around 9,000 returnees to the district.

Meanwhile, till Friday, 21 persons arrived in the district – all of whom have been quarantined in government hospitals.

With collection of swab samples being intensified, the cumulative figure of samples sent for tests stood at 616 on Friday. On Friday itself, 58 new samples were sent to Tezpur Medical College and Hospital instead of GMCH. Earlier, 558 samples were sent to GMCH, of which reports of 399 have been received, Health department sources said. The pending results indicates that GMCH is overburdened with swab samples. This situation has led the Health department here to start sending samples to TMCH.

Food packets for newspaper hawkers, other factory staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, May 16: The Jorhat district administration on Friday distributed food packets to 200 people, including newspaper hawkers, factory and digital satellite news gathering staff, as an assistance in view of the ongoing lockdown.

The packets were handed over to the people at the DC's office premises in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Roshni A Korati, who thanked them for diligently discharging their duties for public service.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Damodar Barman too lauded the role of newspaper hawkers, factory and other staff for their service and hoped that they will continue doing their jobs adhering to all instructions for their own safety and of the society at large.

Newspaper agent feted: A group of agents and newspaper hawkers of Jorhat felicitated Nirod Changkakoti, the owner of Changkakoti Book Stall and a leading newspaper agent, for his proactive role in enabling distribution of newspapers during the lockdown.

Changkakoti was presented a *phulam gamosa* and a *japi* at his book stall. After the lockdown came into effect on March 24, it initially led to several difficulties for agents and hawkers to carry on their job due to a number of restrictions.

Changkakoti, a former Ward Commissioner of Jorhat Municipal Board, played a leading part in coordinating with the administration to issue passes to hawkers and agents and guided them in adhering to all norms of social distancing and personal hygiene to carry out their work. Newspaper agent Simanta Baruah, journalists Diganta Buragohain, Nabajyoti Baruah and Nekib Ahmed were present on the occasion.

Awareness meets: Awareness meetings on African Swine Fever and Japanese Encephalitis were organised at Bosagaon under Titabar Revenue Circle and at Arunamukh Jhanjimukh under Teok Circle on Friday.

OBITUARY

Arun Kumar Borgoyari

CORRESPONDENT

KOKRAJHAR, May 16: Arun Kumar Borgoyari, a noted writer and former president of the Asam Sahitya Sabha, Kokrajhar district unit, passed away due to old-age ailments at his residence in Kokrajhar on Friday. He was 83.

Borgoyari is survived by a son and a daughter. Several organisations condole his death.

Dr Phatik Gogoi

CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, May 16: Dr Phatik Gogoi, a physician, founder president of the Golaghat Government Pensioners Association, former member of Golaghat Municipal Board and a resident of Bagicha Ali in Golaghat, died at his residence on May 14. He was 93.

Starting as a doctor, he retired as Joint Director of Health Services, Sivasagar and settled at Golaghat. Through Aikyataa, a cultural organisation, he contributed a lot for the development of greater Golaghat.

As a recognition of his contributions, he was awarded the Golaghat Jyoti award by the Golaghat Municipal Board. He leaves behind his wife, a son and daughter-in-law and a grandchild.

Contrasting tales of self-reliance and despair

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, May 16: Nabaneeta Neog Baruah, a resident of Dirak Bormesai Simaluguri village of Kakopthar in Tinsukia district, has become an inspiration for hundreds of women who live by the motto of self-reliance.

Nabaneeta has been selling chicken and ducks as her livelihood, in order to feed her family of four members and help bring up her two children. "For the last nine years, I have been buying local chicken and ducks from my locality and selling them at Kakopthar, Rupai Siding, Doomdooma and Tinsukia town," Nabaneeta said.

"When I had started my business in 2011, I used to carry the chicken and ducks on a bicycle. Recently, I bought a scooter with money that I had saved from my business," she said. Nabaneeta is an example of em-



(Left) Nabaneeta Neog Baruah and (right) Rinku Chourasia and his family. — Photos: Abhijit Khatanar

powerment of rural women in Assam. With her enthusiasm and dedication, she is progressing in her business and has set an example for others.

"Each type of work has its own dignity. We should not be ashamed of doing a work, thinking of it as of an inferior category. If we have goodwill and are dedicated towards any work, we will certainly be successful," Nabaneeta said.

The story of Rinku Chourasia, a resident of Nepali Basti at Azad Road here in Tinsukia district, is, however, completely different.

Rinku, a 30-year-old kidney patient, has sought help from the Government of Assam for his treatment.

Rinku was admitted at the Assam Medical College and Hospital, Dibrugarh in January this year after

complaining of severe stomach pain and was treated for nine days. Specialist doctors diagnosed him with disease in both kidneys, and suggested that he should go to Hyderabad for better treatment.

His father Gopal Prasad (56) and mother Lalita Devi (52) said they have spent everything for their son's treatment and now they were helpless. Rinku needs to be taken to AMCH on a regular basis for dialysis.

Earlier, Rinku used to drive goods-carrying vehicles to the weekly markets, while his father used to sell daily-use commodities in the weekly markets to earn for the family. But due to his ailment, Rinku is now unable to drive and his father's work has also stopped due to the lockdown.

Rinku is married to Sony Devi (28) and they have two children, one of whom is still a toddler.

Govt to auction 6 more airports under PPP model: FM

NEW DELHI, May 16: The government will soon start auctioning of six more airports under public-private partnership and additional investment by private players in total of 12 airports will be around Rs 13,000 crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said today.

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has already awarded three out of the six aerodromes that were bid out for operation and maintenance under public-private partnership (PPP).

The announcement about airports was made as part of the fourth tranche of stimulus measures to bolster the country's economy that has been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown.

Sitharaman said annual revenue of the six airports would be around Rs 1,000 crore while the current profit is about Rs 540 crore per year. Besides, AAI would get a down payment of Rs 2,300 crore.

Six more airports have been identified for bidding out and the bid process would commence immediately.

These airports are those at Amritsar, Varanasi, Bhubaneswar, Indore, Raipur and Trichy, according to an official.

Additional investments by private players in 12 airports in the first and second rounds are expected to be around Rs 13,000 crore, Sitharaman said.

Last year, the government bid out six airports - Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangaluru, Thiruvananthapuram and Guwahati - for operation, management and development through PPP model. Another six airports will be put out for the third round of bidding, Sitharaman added.

Announcing measures to boost the

Sitharaman announces plans to make country hub of aircraft MRO

country's domestic aviation sector, Sitharaman said steps will be taken to make the country a hub for maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of aircraft.

"Not just civil aircraft but defence aircraft can also benefit from the MRO if we make India a huge hub... Maintenance cost for all airlines will come down and that again will have a ripple effect on passengers. Travellers can probably pay less after that," she said.

A competitive Indian MRO industry would help local airlines reduce expenses on such works which are currently done mostly overseas. India was one of the fastest growing aviation markets in the world and has high growth potential.

For MRO, Sitharaman said India has all the capacities, manpower and soft skills required.

Aircraft component repairs and airframe maintenance segment is worth around Rs 800 crore and would increase to Rs 2,000 crore in three years.

"India can be the centre for many of the flights that go to Southeast Asia, Australia and westwards also... This is a major step we wanted to make sure that India benefits from," she noted.

According to the Economic Survey for 2019-20, the annual import of MRO services by Indian carriers is around Rs 9,700 crore.

"With airlines' fleet growing annually by 100, the size of domestic and imported Indian airline MRO is set to grow annually to Rs 21,600 crore in the next five years and to Rs 36,000 crore once the fleet size reaches 2,000 aircraft," the Survey said. - PTI

India to start containerised exim cargo service to B'desh via IBP route: Govt

NEW DELHI, May 16: The government today said it is set to start maiden containerised exim cargo service from Haldia Dock Complex to Narayanganj, Bangladesh, via Indo-Bangla Protocol (IBP) route.

This is the first time that cargo consignment is to be exported through IBP route.

"In line with government's focus on strengthening regional

connectivity through inland waterways, maiden containerised exim cargo consignment is set to sail from Haldia Dock Complex (HDC) to Narayanganj, Bangladesh," the Ministry of Shipping said in a statement.

It said 64 TEUs (twenty feet equivalent units) of steel fillings/pig iron ingots of West Bengal-based steel manufacturer Rashmi Metaliks Ltd will be export-

ed to Bangladesh via National Waterway 1, National Waterway 97 (Sundarbans) and IBP route.

It is expected to open up possibilities for movement of other commodities on inland waterways between India and Bangladesh. Currently, IBP route is mostly used for transportation of bulk cargo like fly-ash, coal, stone chips and over-dimensional cargo for export to Bangladesh.

Shipping Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, "The maiden exim cargo movement through National Waterways is a landmark moment and we are very delighted with our recent development in shipping sector. This environment-friendly mode of transportation would escalate business growth and contribute to the economic development of the country." - PTI

Agri package to help farmers, boost food processing linkages: ITC, Dabur

NEW DELHI, May 16: FMCG majors ITC and Dabur on Friday welcomed the third tranche of economic stimulus package worth Rs 1.63-lakh crore announced by the government for farm and allied sectors, saying it would empower farmers, strengthen agri-food processing linkages and enable demand-driven value-added agriculture.

The investments in farm-gate infrastructure would help to reduce food wastage in the country and also ensure availability of quality local produce for food processing companies, besides generating employment.

"It is heartening to see the reforms announced for the agri sector that provides livelihoods to about half of India's workforce. Amendments to the ECA (Essential Commodities Act), reforms in agri marketing and risk mitigation through predictable prices will empower farmers, strengthen agri-food processing linkages and enable demand-driven value-added agriculture," ITC Chairman Sanjiv Puri said in a statement.

He further said, "The reforms will encourage invest-

ments in food processing and together with the infrastructure outlays will contribute in shaping a competitive agri value chain, reduce wastages and raise farmer incomes."

Echoing views, home-grown FMCG firm Dabur said the support is aimed at empowering farmers and driving long-term growth through creation of infrastructure to support the agri-industry.

The investments in farm-gate infrastructure would go a long way in reducing food wastage in the country and also ensure availability of quality local produce for food processing companies, besides generating employment, Dabur India CEO Mohit Malhotra said.

Promoting cultivation of medicinal plants is a big positive and will help the Ayurvedic products and medicines manufacturers by ensuring availability of key raw material, he added.

Encouraging more farmers to enter this field will ensure a steady increase in the population of native herbs, besides boosting farmer income, Malhotra added. - PTI

RIL's Rs 53,125-cr rights issue to open May 20

NEW DELHI, May 16: Oil-to-telecom conglomerate Reliance Industries Ltd today said its mega Rs 53,125-crore rights issue will open for subscription of shareholders on May 20 and close on June 3.

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's firm had on April 30 announced fund-raising of Rs 53,125 crore by way of a 1:1.5 rights issue - India's biggest and the first such issue by the firm in nearly three decades.

Reliance had earlier fixed May 14 as the record date for determining shareholders' eligible to apply for the issue.

In a regulatory filing, the company said the rights issue committee of the board of directors at its meet on May 15 approved issue opening on May 20 and closing date of June 3.

"Abridged letter of offer, application form of rights issue, and rights entitlement let-

ter, to be sent to the eligible equity shareholders of the company," it said.

One share will be offered for every 15 shares held at Rs 1,257, a 14 per cent discount to the closing price for April 30. Reliance share price has since risen to Rs 1,458.90 (Friday's closing price) but rights issue price remains the same.

Typically, cash-strapped companies use rights issues to raise money when they really need it. -PTI



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman holding the 4th press conference to announce the details of special economic package, in New Delhi on Saturday. - PIB

Discoms in UTs to be privatised, says Sitharaman

NEW DELHI, May 16: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said electricity distribution companies in Union Territories (UTs) will be privatised.

This is expected to provide a model to be replicated in States later to improve efficiency and attract investment.

Unveiling the fourth tranche of the Rs 20-lakh crore stimulus package to revive the coronavirus-hit economy, Sitharaman said there is sub-optimal performance of power distribution and supply in the country.

She said privatisation of discoms will lead to better service to consumers and improvement in operational and financial efficiency in power distribution.

This would serve as a model for emulation by other utilities across the country, she added.

Privatisation of distribution companies (discoms) has been under consideration of the Power Ministry for quite some time. Earlier, discoms in Mumbai, Delhi and some other cities had been privatised.

Meanwhile, Power Minister R K Singh

had on Friday asked industry representatives to participate in the bidding process for discoms.

The minister also said a revised power tariff policy will be unveiled in the coming days which would focus on consumer rights, promotion of industry and sustainability of the power sector.

Under the revised policy, the discoms will not be allowed to pass on their inefficiencies and losses to consumers.

Discoms will also have to maintain certain service standards and would be penalised for load shedding, except in cases of natural calamities or technical failures.

The generation and transmission project developers would be selected through competitive bidding. It will also provide for direct benefit transfer of subsidies and installation of smart meters.

Singh had told industry representatives in a webinar that an informal group of ministers had approved the revised tariff policy which would be taken to the Union Cabinet for approval. He expressed

hope that the policy would be rolled out within a month.

Opening up of space sector: The Finance Minister today also announced giving the private sector a role in India's space programme, including in satellites, launches and space-based services.

For boosting private participation in space activities, government will provide level-playing field for private companies in satellites, launches and space-based services.

Also, the government will provide predictable policy and regulatory environment to private players, she said while announcing the fourth tranche of the economic stimulus package.

Private sector will be allowed to use ISRO facilities and other relevant assets to improve their capacities.

Future projects for planetary exploration and outer space travel would be open for private sector, she said, adding, liberal geospatial data policy will provide remote sensing data to tech-entrepreneurs. - PTI

War of words breaks out between producers, multiplex chains

MUMBAI, May 16: The announcement of the direct digital release of seven films, including two major Bollywood movies, has split the industry with several multiplex chains saying they are alarmed and producers upset at the "unconstructive messaging" from the exhibitors.

The war of words, at a time the entertainment industry faces crippling revenue losses following the coronavirus-forced lockdown, was triggered by Amazon Prime Video acquiring Amitabh Bachchan-Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer *Gulabo Sitabo* and *Shakuntala Devi*, with Vidya Balan in the title role of the mathematics whiz, for direct-to-digital premieres.

Five films from the South are also lined up for digital releases.

Besides, there are reports that *Laxmi Bomb*, starring Akshay Kumar, may opt for a digital release along with Janhvi Kapoor's *Gunjan Saxena*, another Bachchan-starrer *Jhund* and *Ludo*, starring Abhishek Bachchan and Rajkumar Rao.

PVR, the largest theatre chain in the country, said it is disappointed with the decision of some producers to opt for digital releases.

"Theatrical release is the best way for audiences to experience the labour

and creative genius of our filmmakers. This has been so for decades and not just in India but globally," Kamal Gijachandani, CEO of PVR Pictures, told PTI.

He said the ongoing COVID-19 crisis has caused an unfortunate shutdown of cinemas but expressed confidence that people will be back to cinemas once the situation returns to normal.

He said exhibitors have asked producers to "hold back their film's release till cinemas reopened".

After Shoojit Sircar announced that his *Gulabo Sitabo* was headed to Amazon, theatre chain INOX expressed "extreme displeasure" and "disappointment", saying the production house's decision to deviate from first releasing the film in theatres was "alarming and disconcerting". It also called for "retributive measures".

"In these troubled times, it is disturbing to see one of the partners not interested in continuing the mutually beneficial relationship, especially when the need of the hour is to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with each other, and bring the film industry back to its vibrant best," the chain said in a statement on Thursday, labelling the producers "fair weather" friends.

and once cinema halls are back, the backlog of movies would be a concern. "In addition to this, there will be a huge backlog of releases, and the smaller and medium-scale films especially will suffer from sub-optimal showcasing in addition to all the concerns above."

The Guild said given these factors, it is only natural that producers will seek out all avenues available to recover their investment.

Some experts are of the view that small or medium-budget films releasing on OTT platforms won't do much harm to the overall financial growth of the industry.

"Had these films seen a theatrical release, *Shakuntala Devi* could have done Rs 50 crore or little more, *Gulabo Sitabo* could have done Rs 70-80 crore. This is keeping in mind Ayushmann's highest-grossing film earns Rs

130 crore and on an average one expects his films to do a business of Rs 70 to 80 crore," an industry insider said.

Trade analyst Amul Mohan said the announcement is not shocking but a practical move given the situation.

"When everything was normal before COVID-19 films were released on OTT - *Love Per Square Foot* and *Drive* - that time multiplexes didn't say anything. One can't be selective in their outrage," Mohan told PTI.

Sensing trouble ahead, the Multiplex Association of India (MAI) earlier this month issued a statement appealing to studios, producers and artists to support the cinema exhibition sector by withholding the release of their films.

"The entire industry needs to stand by each other. It (films releasing on OTT) is the loss of opportunity. It is not an absolute loss. We hope filmmakers stick to theatre format."

Multiplex chain Carnival Cinemas said it understands the financial stress of the producers.

"In this time of uncertainty some producers have decided to release their content directly on OTT. It is within their rights to decide. We will not release those movies in theatres," said Carnival Cinemas CEO Mohan Umrotkar. - PTI

PRESS NOTICE / IFB
No. CS/DTRD/SOPD(G)/2020-21/54/1
The Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads), Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Ghy-21 on behalf of the Governor of Assam invites 1 (one) no. item rate Bid from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Assam PWD (Roads) for the work. Details may be seen at website <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also at the office of the undersigned during office hours.
Sd/- Superintending Engineer, PWD (Roads), Guwahati ARIASP Circle, Guwahati-21
Janasanyog/CF/357/20

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM
No: NHM-18019/1/2020-PROC-NHM/ECF-139830/12-P Dtd. 15/05/20
Corrigendum-1
Certain terms & conditions incorporated in e-TENDER NO: **NHM-18019/1/2020-PROC-NHM/ECF-139830/P-9, Dated. 13/05/2020** for supply of the "Sodium Hypochlorite solution 10.0% IP/BP/USP & Malathion; 50%- 55 % concentration" has been amended. The details of amendments can be obtained from the website- <http://assamtenders.gov.in> and also in the NHM official website- www.nhmassam.in which should be taken note of prior to submission of bids.
Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM, Assam

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM
No: NHM-18018/5/2020-PROC-NHM/ECF-139634/11-P Dtd 14-05-20
NOTICE INVITING EOJ
Expression of Interest (EOI) for Managing Covid-19 testing facilities at a specified location(s) in State

Key Information/Events	Time/Venue/Address
Date of issue of the EOI Document	Date: 15-05-2020 (5.00 PM)
Start Date & Last date of download of EOI Document	Date: 16-05-2020 (10.00 AM) Date: 26-05-2020 (10.00 AM)
Date of Pre-submission meeting	Date: 22-05-2020 Time: 3:00 PM Venue: Conference Hall, NHM, Assam
Start Date & Last date of submission of EOI Document	Date: 16-05-2020 (10.00 AM) Date: 26-05-2020 (1.00 PM)
Place & Time of opening of EOI	Office of the Mission Director, National Health Mission, Saikia Commercial Complex, Shreenagar Path, Christianbasti, G.S Road, Guwahati-781005, Assam. Date: 26-05-2020 (3.00 PM)
Address for Communication	The Mission Director, National Health Mission, Saikia Commercial Complex, Shreenagar Path, Christianbasti, G.S Road, Guwahati-781005, Assam.

The complete set of EOI documents may be downloaded from assamtenders.gov.in or the official website of NHM: <https://nhm.assam.gov.in>.
Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM, Assam

NATIONAL HEALTH MISSION ASSAM
No. NHM/CW/Construction of BU & CCU/Kokrajhar/3979/19/71 Dated Guwahati the 13/05/2020
INVITATION FOR E-BID (IFEB)
The Office of the Mission Director, National Health Mission, Christian Basti, Guwahati-5 invites bid for the work **ON TWO BID SYSTEM on Turn Key Basis** under NHM as detailed below:-

Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Bid Security (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Document (In Rs.)	Period of Completion (from the date of issue of work order)
Construction of Burn Care Unit at R.N.B. Civil Hospital in Kokrajhar District" under NHM, Assam.	Rs. 1,20,00,000.00	2% for General Category & 1% for SC/ST Category	Rs. 10,000.00	12(Twelve) Months

1. Eligibility Criteria:-
(a) Registered APWD (Bldg) Class-I-(A)/(I)-(C)/CPWD/Reputed Construction Company/Agency regd. under Govt./Public Sector undertaking.
(b) Contractor must have satisfactory completed:-
i) Four Similar works, each of value not less than 25% of the estimated cost put on Tender OR
ii) Three similar works, each of value not less than 40% of the estimated cost put on tender OR
iii) Two similar works, each of value not less than 50% of the estimated cost put on tender OR
iv) One similar works of value not less than 80% of the estimated cost, all amounts rounded off to a convenient full figure in the last 5 years ending on the last day of the month previous to the one in which the tenders are invited.
(c) Contractor must have achieved average Annual Turnover of at least 30% of estimated cost in any **TWO YEARS** during last 5 years ending 31st March of the previous Financial Year.
(d) The Contractor having PAN Card/GST Registration/ Labour License/registration under EPF & MP Act, 1952 etc. are eligible to Participate in the bid process.
(e) **The intended bidders are asked to verify the site for the work prior to quoting their rates.**
2. Cost of tender document should be drawn in favour of **State Health Society, Assam**, payable at **Guwahati** in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft.
3. Bid security with a validity of 225 (i.e. 180+45) days should be in the form of **FDR/CDR/DR** and drawn in favour of the **State Health Society, Assam**, payable at **Guwahati**.
4. The Contractor/bidder must be registered with the Electronic Tendering System (ETS) of the Govt. of Assam ([website http://assamtenders.gov.in](http://assamtenders.gov.in)). Contractors/Bidders can download documents free of cost. Contractors/Bidders have to necessarily download the bidding document from the ETS using their own ID (Digital Signature Certificate). Bid documents not procured (downloaded) through the ETS/not using the contractor's own user ID will be considered invalid and summarily rejected. Contractors submitting bids online have to submit copy of the documents of technical bid manually along with cost of tender 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.
5. The tender will be available through the link <http://assamtenders.gov.in> from **18/05/2020**.
6. Tender Schedule:

Sl No.	Name of Event	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	End Time
1	Tender Download	18.05.2020	12.00 HRS	08.06.2020	14.00 HRS.
2	Tender Submission	18.05.2020	12.00 HRS	08.06.2020	14.00 HRS.
3	Technical Bid Opening	09.06.2020	15.30 HRS	-	-
4	Financial Bid Opening	Will be intimated latter on			

Technical bid submitted along with Cost of Tender and Bid Security manually will be accepted till 08/06/2020 up to 14.00hrs.
Sd/-
Mission Director, NHM, Assam

Post-lockdown attire



Cabin crew may now have face shield, gown and mask as part of their uniform

Cabin crew members of airlines in India will have personal protective equipment (PPE) like face shields, gowns and masks as part of their attire on commercial passenger flights when they resume operations, industry sources said.

India is under lockdown since March 25 to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, and all scheduled commercial passenger flights remain suspended.

Airlines such as IndiGo, Air India, Vistara and AirAsia India have decided to go with the new attire to ensure safety of cabin crew members as they are in close proximity to passengers during flights, sources said.

This would be similar to the attire unveiled by Philippines AirAsia for its cabin crew on April 27. The attire comprise a red-coloured full body suit consisting of a face shield and a face mask.

"While AirAsia India will have face shields, masks, gowns, aprons and gloves as a part of their PPE attire for cabin crew members, Vistara would have a lap gown, face mask and

face shield as the new dress code," a source said.

Once commercial flights resume, each IndiGo's crew member will have to wear a surgical mask, gloves, face shields along with a gown or a body suit, the sources said.

Air India, which is currently conducting repatriation flights under the Vande Bharat Mission to bring stranded Indians home from abroad, will have its crew members wear a body suit, gloves, face shield and face mask even in scheduled commercial passenger flights, whenever they restart, the sources said.

The virus has infected more than 78,000 persons and killed more than 2,500 in India.

Earlier this month, the Civil Aviation Ministry asked airlines and airports to give their comments on a draft Standard Operating Procedure regarding the post-lockdown commercial flight operations.

On May 12, the ministry said on Twitter that it has received comments from the stakeholders and is yet to issue the final SOP. (Source: PTI)

Kids

12:00 Oggy & Cockroaches
14:00 Roll No. 21
15:00 Oggy & Cockroaches
16:00 Roll No. 21

19:00 Oggy & Cockroaches
21:00 Be Cool, Scooby-Do!
22:00 Courage, Cowardly Dog
23:30 Teleshopping

12:30 Super Bheem-Fire...
14:00 Chhota Bheem Chatpat
14:30 Chhota Bheem
15:00 Super Bheem
15:30 Chhota Bheem
16:30 Grizzy & The Lemings
18:00 Chhota Bheem Chatpat

18:30 Super Bheem...
20:00 Chhota Bheem Chatpat
20:30 Chhota Bheem
21:00 Grizzy & The Lemings
22:00 Mr. Bean: The Animated
23:00 M.A.D.

Entertainment

12:00 Saaho
15:00 Choti Bahu
16:00 Pavitra Rishta

12:00 Best Of Kapil Sharma Show
13:00 Best Of Crime Patrol
17:00 India's Best Dancer
18:30 The Kapil Sharma Show
20:00 India's Best Dancer
21:30 The Kapil Sharma Show

17:00 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Lil...
21:30 Saregama Li Champs

12:00 The King Of Queens
14:00 G.I. Joe: Retaliation
16:00 BattleBots
19:00 Carol's Second Act
19:20 The Unicorn
20:00 SEAL Team
22:00 Love Island UK

11:25 Fear Factor Khatron...
15:40 Khatron Ke Khiladi Jigar
17:20 Naagin Bhagya Ka...
19:00 Vidya

rishtey

12:00 Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham
16:05 Sasural Simar Ka
18:00 Laagi Tujhe Lagan
19:00 Swaragini
20:00 Sasural Simar Ka
22:30 Nisheeh
23:10 Sasural Simar Ka

11:00 The Accountant
13:00 Gossip Girl
16:30 Cyril: Viva Magic
17:35 Top Gear
18:15 Duma
20:00 Jeep Bollywood...
20:50 Gossip Girl
21:30 Supernatural
22:10 Ray Donovan
23:05 Witn

12:00 Happu Ki Ultan Paltan
14:00 Laal Ishq
19:00 Raat Ka Khel Saara
21:00 Laal Ishq
23:00 Raat Ka Khel Saara

UTV MOVIES

10:05 Shola Aur Shabnam
13:10 Sanam Bewafa
16:45 Kis Kisiko Pyaar Karoon
19:55 Naseeb
23:00 Patla House

10:40 Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
13:15 John Rambo
14:45 Baby Driver
16:55 Journey to the West: The Demons Strike Back
19:00 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
21:00 Avengers 2: Kalyug Ka Mahayudh
23:40 The Mermaid

09:00 Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted
10:45 Crazy Rich Asians
12:45 Aquaman
15:15 Clash of the Titans
17:10 The Hangover Part II
19:00 Pokemon Detective Pikachu
21:00 Godzilla
23:15 After the Sunset

12:00 Avengers: Endgame
15:10 TBA
16:00 Avengers: Age of Ultron
18:25 Avengers: Infinity War
21:00 Avengers: Endgame

12:00 Movie
15:00 Movie
18:00 Movie
21:00 Movie

Infotainment

12:00 Ultimate Weekends
15:00 Stranger Than Nature
16:00 World's Deadliest
17:00 Hostile Planet

18:00 Wonderfully Weird
19:00 Predator Fails
20:00 Hostile Planet
21:00 Africa's Deadliest
22:00 Night Stalkers
23:00 Wild Hunters

12:00 Modern Dinosaurs
12:40 North America
13:25 The Carnian Hunters
14:10 Masai Mara: The Big Hunt
14:50 Earth: Nature/Our Planet
15:50 India's Wild Tales
16:50 Tasmania: Weird...
17:50 Wildest Africa

18:50 Animal Planet Exclusives
19:50 Wild Africa: Rivers Of Life
20:50 How Do Animals Do That
21:25 The Lion Kingdom
21:50 Wild Philippines With Nig.
22:50 One Wild Day

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

12:00 Adventure: Snakes in ...
13:00 Adventure: Primal Survivor
14:00 Running Wild With Bear
16:00 Cesar To The Rescue
17:00 Snakes in The City
18:00 Running Wild With Bear
19:00 World's Most Extreme

20:00 Earth Day: 50 Days 50...
21:00 Primal Survivor
22:00 Chain Of Command
23:00 Hidden Gems Of Turkey

11:50 Forged In Fire: Knife/Death
12:50 Car Jackers
13:15 Pawn Stars
13:45 Storage Wars
14:15 Modern Marvels

15:10 OMG! Yeh Mera India
16:10 Forged In Fire: Knife/Death
17:30 Shipping Wars
18:05 Magician Impossible
19:00 Leepu & Pitbull
20:00 Modern Marvels
21:00 The Food That Built...
23:00 Find Your Great Britain

NEWS LIVE

11:00 Assamese news
11:30 Assamese news
12:00 Mid Day Live
13:00 Assamese Feature Film
16:30 Discussion Show (R)
17:30 Guwahati Bishesh
18:00 Guwahati Live
18:30 Breaking @ 8:30
19:00 Assamese Prime Time
20:00 Discussion Show (R)
21:00 Kotha Barta
22:30 Noix Guwahati
23:00 Noix Batori

16:00 Upasana
17:00 Devotional Slot
17:30 B2B Music
18:00 North East Diva GF
20:00 Rang Blockbuster
23:00 B2B Music

Regional

07:45 Pratham Xongbad
14:00 B'rollr! Headline
16:00 Abellil Khabar
16:30 Superfast Prime Time100
17:00 City18
18:00 Prime Time18
19:00 Dintur Shironam
20:00 Ekhonlek
21:30 Prasankol
22:00 North East Scan
22:30 Noix Xironam

15:00 Chah Gachar Maje Maje
16:00 Abellil Batori
16:05 Tezawini (Epi-65)
17:00 Geetmala
17:00 Nimishote Batori
17:02 Rong Biring
17:30 Rupali Dhou
18:00 Dharababik
18:30 Batori
18:45 NE News

STAR MOVIES

21:00 Avengers: Endgame

11:15 The Real Tiger 2
13:50 Veer
16:45 Munna Michael
19:45 Jurr
22:45 Snake in the Eagle's Shadow

12:00 Movie
15:00 Movie
18:00 Movie
21:00 Movie

MOVIES

10:05 Shola Aur Shabnam
13:10 Sanam Bewafa
16:45 Kis Kisiko Pyaar Karoon
19:55 Naseeb
23:00 Patla House

10:40 Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
13:15 John Rambo
14:45 Baby Driver
16:55 Journey to the West: The Demons Strike Back
19:00 X-Men Origins: Wolverine
21:00 Avengers 2: Kalyug Ka Mahayudh
23:40 The Mermaid

09:00 Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted
10:45 Crazy Rich Asians
12:45 Aquaman
15:15 Clash of the Titans
17:10 The Hangover Part II
19:00 Pokemon Detective Pikachu
21:00 Godzilla
23:15 After the Sunset

12:00 Avengers: Endgame
15:10 TBA
16:00 Avengers: Age of Ultron
18:25 Avengers: Infinity War
21:00 Avengers: Endgame

11:50 Ramayya Vastavayva
14:40 Bengal Tiger
17:10 Entertainment
20:00 Bruce Lee-The Fighter
23:00 Daring Policewala

12:00 Avengers: Endgame
15:55 MS Dhoni: The Untold Story
19:55 Darbar
23:25 The Return of Abhimanyu

11:00 Best of UCL Finals
21:30 Football Greatest
22:00 UFC Main Event
22:30 UFC Ultimate Knockouts
23:00 Immortal
23:30 Football Greatest

11:00 The Blue Revolution
17:00 E Cricket Challenge
18:00 CA Archive Programming
19:00 Arena - E Sports
19:30 Asian Games
20:30 CA Archive Programming
21:30 Sports Stars Uncovered
22:00 India's Finest
22:30 Best of Nzansi Super...
23:00 Great Centuries
23:30 Asian Games

Know your DAY

By JACQUELINE BIGAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Sunday, May 17, 2020:

Outspoken and intense, you go all the way this year. Beware of being too hard on yourself. It is a frustrating but ultimately successful year for your project. If single, you prefer to play solo, but you meet someone who you can trust, and then it is up to you. If attached, you are not easy, but you give joy to your partner, who makes you two laugh with giddiness. CANCER is as attached as you.

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

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Today you stir up the status quo just to relieve the tedium of daily life. You will be enthused and motivated. You feel better than you have in a while. Tonight: You intuitively know what needs to be said, and you share the information openly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Healing is likely to occur through meditation and worship. You assimilate new ideas and make wise decisions. Make the most of private, quiet time. A creative project could begin to take form while you are enjoying a solitary walk. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Group activities are rewarding; others have confidence in you. Ask for help with a cherished goal. Others go out of their way to please you. You will develop immediate rapport with new acquaintances. Tonight: Do not push yourself too hard.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your working environment is sociable and friendly today. Use creative ideas and add a touch of beauty to professional duties. Do not indulge in casual gossip. Loyalties are changing and work politics are especially volatile. Tonight: An elderly family member is overly serious.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Music and art from other lands uplift you. It is easy to become friends with those from a different background. Writing and study bring pleasure. It is a good time to enroll in courses and seminars for the summer. Tonight: Relate on a one-on-one basis.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Today finds you doing research work. Your skills as a detective are sharp, and a mystery is solved. Partners are generous if you need a loan. Invested or inherited resources add to your income. Tonight: You have the courage to express yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You will be concerned about fairness and propriety. Be patient if dealing with government offices or politicians. Background research and documentation will win them over to your point of view. Take time off to spend with your partner. Tonight: An intimate date night.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Be patient with those who have not had your educational and other advantages. Someone could be difficult. A helper or assistant talks about moving on. Create neatness and order in your surroundings. Pets are the perfect companions, bringing love and joy. Tonight: Early bedtime.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You will feel loved and cherished today. Experiment with handicrafts. Creative ideas are at a peak. You will enjoy the company of children and teenagers, too. You are ready to begin a party. Tonight: You could take on the role of a guide or teacher.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Find peace within. There can be external stress or uncertainty in the environment. Ignore controversy and get to know a new acquaintance much better before sharing private details with them. It is a good day to pamper yourself at home. Tonight: Catch up with family.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You will use words in a clever, convincing way. Be patient with a neighbor or sibling. You will feel the urge to travel a little. A new vehicle, perhaps a bicycle, fits the bill. Tonight: Do not write emails or make phone calls if upset.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★ There is a need for more security. You will think hard about adding to your income and acquiring new possessions. Resist the temptation to argue about money with loved ones. The stress it might create is not worthwhile. Tonight: Trust your instincts to guide you.

Thought for the day
No man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar.
- ABRAHAM LINCOLN

CRACK

by Bill Rechin and Don Wilder

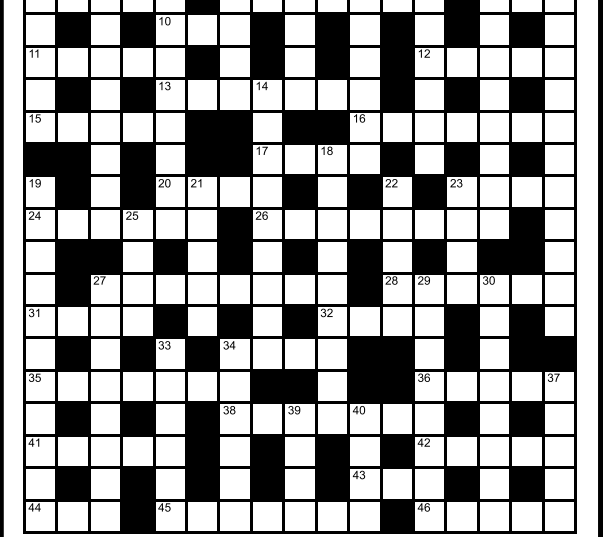
HÄGAR

THE HORRIBLE
by DIK BRONNE

DADDY DAZE

BY JOHN KOVALESKI

Tribune SUNDAY CROSSWORD - 1131



- Across**
- India paceman
 - Ashish ___ (5)
 - Shoe material (7)
 - Mine and thine (3)
 - Famous French marshal (3)
 - Share out (5)
 - Buy the drinks (5)
 - Foes, not friends (7)
 - Sales pitch (5)
 - Goddess of wealth and prosperity for us Indians (7)
 - Remedy (4)
 - Duo (4)
 - Hindu wind God (4)
 - Tolerated (6)
 - Got or procured (8)
 - Old Spanish gold coin (8)
 - Leisurely, musically speaking (6)
 - Somersault; jump (4)
 - Excursion (4)
 - Mine, in Aix (4)
 - Reindeer (7)
 - With uncontrolled excitement or emotion (5)
 - Elderly relative (7)
 - Female relative (5)
 - Pick-me-up (5)
 - Indonesia's earlier name (3)
 - Record maker; abbr. (3)
 - Grass-cutting tools (7)
 - Map or lay-out (5)
 - Gets closer (5)
 - Capital of Finland (8)
 - A wild animal (8)
 - Old musical instrument used to accompany poetry (4)
 - Opposed (4)
 - Trouble; nuisance (6)
 - Gain back (6)
 - Up in the air above us (8)
 - Vegeance (11)
 - Miniature world (9)
 - Memory (9)
 - Doing or causing evil (11)
 - Sun-dried brick (5)
 - Indian rice dish (5)
 - Indonesia's famous singer? (4)
 - Loose altitude (4)
 - British Prime Minister 1874-1880 (8)
 - Theatrical or histrionic (8)
 - Fragrant white flower (8)
 - Frequent, hang around or haunt (6)
 - Divination or omen (6)
 - Light sailing- vessel (5)
 - Curve (4)
 - Mafia bigwigs (4)

HEALTH CAPSULES®

by Bron Smith

WHERE ON MY BODY IS MY SKIN THE THINNEST?

22. MUSCLES AROUND THE EYES - 10,000 BLINKS PER DAY!

THE SKIN AROUND THE EYES IS AS THIN AS A FEW SHEETS OF PAPER. YET THE PADS ON THE BOTTOM OF YOUR FEET ARE ABOUT AS THICK AS A PENCIL ERASER. SKIN MAKES UP ABOUT 16% OF TOTAL BODY WEIGHT.

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

SOLUTION TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD - 1131

Down: 37 Yehti, 39 Arch, 40 Dons, 30 Gardella, 33 Obases, 34 Bro, 27 Disraeli, 29 Dramatic, 30 Ration, 19 Maljeerence, 21 9 Feltburn, 14 Micoosom, 18 Hassle, 7 Felake, 8 Overhead, 3 Antelope, 4 Lye, 5 Ant, 6 Antelope, 1 Nears, 2 Heinsk, EMI, 45 Scythens, 48 Chart, Niece, 42 Tonic, 43 NEI, 44 Bou, 36 Medly, 38 Grandma, 41 Flip, 32 Tor, 34 Amol, 35 Car, 27 Doubloon, 28 Adagio, 31 Yavu, 24 Abided, 26 Obtained, Lashmi, 17 Cure, 20 Pair, 23 8 On, 10 Ney, 11 Alt, 12 Treat, 13 Ememes, 15 Spitel, 16

Across: 1 Nehra, 4 Leather,

Bihar migrant workers walk towards home from Nagaon dist

ANN SERVICE

GOSSAIGAON, May 16: More than 100 people, most of them labourers who worked at a private farm house in Nagaon district, arrived at Srirampur yesterday on foot. They will leave for their own State Bihar on foot. They had waited for many days at Nagaon after the declaration of the lockdown. But as the farm house was closed down, they had nothing else to do than to leave for their home State Bihar. Their hard-earned money had been spent on day-to-day expenditures. Now with the remaining small amount, they are determined to reach their home.

The on-duty officials at the COVID-19 centre at Srirampur did not pay any heed to their request for food, water and humanitarian aids. They will leave towards their home State on foot and will consume biscuits and water. The tired workers narrated their story before the scribes and other local residents of Srirampur.

It may be mentioned here that only registration of vehicles coming from both the sides, their destinations, addresses, names are maintained in Srirampur.

Web training programme organised

A CORRESPONDENT

NAGAON, May 16: For the first time, a web training programme on URKUND was organised by the Central Library of Mahapurusha Srimanta Sankaradeva Viswavidyalaya, Nagaon in collaboration with E-Galactic on Thursday.

Professor Kandarpa Kumar Deka, the Vice-Chancellor of the varsity, inaugurated the programme here.

In his inaugural speech, Deka appreciated the library staff for providing such programme online for all faculty members. Further, Deka also conveyed his gratitude towards the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, INFLIBNET Centre and E-Galactic for rolling out URKUND to all the universities and CFTIs in India and expressed his hope for getting more cooperation from those institutions in the near future for quality higher education.

In the technical session, Prity Rathi, product trainer of E-Galactic, delivered her speech on URKUND software in details.

Around 41 participants including professors, associate professors and assistant professors participated in this online training.

Sekhar Jyoti Neog, assistant library in charge, MSSV, offered his vote of thanks.



Social workers distributing masks among labourers of a Gohpur-based tea estate, on Saturday. – UB Photos

Over 200 train passengers reach Dibrugarh today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DIBRUGARH, May 16: Altogether 229 passengers including a few passengers of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya, alighted from the special train today at Dibrugarh Railway Station in Banipur here.

Among the 229 passengers, 99 are from Tinsukia,

60 from Dibrugarh, 23 from Dhemaji, 11 from Lakhimpur, 6 from Sivasagar, 11 from Charaideo, 3 from Golaghat and 2 from Biswanath Chariali of Assam.

The passengers from the neighbouring States include – Arunachal Pradesh (11), Nagaland (1) and Shillong (2). The authorities

stationed at the railway station campus have sent four Dibrugarh passengers for hospital quarantine after getting all screened at their respective health screening camps on the spot.

Further the passengers who arrived Guwahati yesterday by Shramik Express train were brought to Dibrugarh by buses today.

After primary health check up at the Victoria Girls' HS School, Dibrugarh, seven passengers of Dibrugarh have been sent to quarantine centres in the city while five passengers who reportedly came from West Bengal and were kept in quarantine in Jorhat have been sent for home quarantine on their arrival here.

Customer Service Points of banks closed down in Majuli dist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, May 16: The Majuli district administration has ordered closure of all Customer Service Points (CSPs) of banks as part of the efforts undertaken to prevent outbreak of novel coronavirus in the Brahmaputra island.

An order passed by Majuli Deputy Commissioner Bikram Kairi today stated that "in view of the gradual spread of

the COVID-19 virus in the State and the consequent threat posed by its potential outbreak, and to ensure all possible preventive measures to stop the virus from spreading as well as protection and safeguarding public health in the island district," all bank CSPs in Majuli are directed to close down.

The order further stated that CSPs of the banks were directed to provide the banking services door-to-door by main-

taining social distancing and adopting all necessary precautionary measures under Assam COVID-19 rules to prevent spread of the virus.

The order stated the direction comes into force with immediate effect and will be in force until further orders in this regard. Any violation of the same will be dealt with firmly under the relevant laws and also under Section 188 of the IPC, the order mentioned.

Golaghat civil hospital gets 3 costly bins amid COVID-19 crisis

CORRESPONDENT

DERGAON, May 16: With a view to segregate the medical wastes at COVID-19 hospital set up at Swahid Kunal Konwar Civil Hospital scientifically, three expensive bio-medical waste bin sets were received by the hospital authorities as donation on Saturday.

Among the three costly sets, each costing Rs 29,120, two sets were donated by Assam Branch of Indian Tea Association (ABITA), Zone II

Golaghat Circle and one by Jalan family on behalf of Furkating Tea Company.

The sets were received by the Superintendent of SKKCH Dr Uttam Prasad Dutta along with Sub-Divisional Medical and Health Officer (SDM&HO) Dr Ananta Kumar Baruah, Dr Rupak Bora and other staff of SKKCH in presence of the manager of Doyang Tea Estate (TE) for ABITA Zone II Golaghat Circle and manager Pritam Barthakur and commercial manager Viraj

Agarwal of Furkating TE for 'Jalan family' of Golaghat.

As a normal procedure, anatomical wastes, including chemical waste, body fluid, clinical waste etc., are segregated in the yellow bucket, while contaminated waste (recyclable), including plastic bag, catheter, intravenous sets etc., in the red bucket and the broken glassware or metallic body implants in the black bucket accordingly. There is also a normal bucket to keep the other wastes like blades, needles,

syringes, sharp metal etc. However, in case of COVID-19 treatment all the wastes are to be kept in the yellow bucket as per protocol.

Talking to this correspondent, SDM&HO Dr Ananta Kumar Baruah said that after setting up these bins, the waste management in the hospital would be quite easier.

"It will definitely help the hospital authorities to keep the hospital infection free to some extent," he said.

Silchar gurudwara donates to Assam Arogya Nidhi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SILCHAR, May 16: In a noble gesture towards the cause of fighting COVID-19 pandemic, members of Gurudwara Sri Guru Singh Sabha extended donation of Rs 25,000 to Assam Arogya Nidhi fund.

Sandeep Singh Walia, president of the Sabha informed that they have handed over the cheque of the amount to Silchar MP Dr Rajdeep Roy. "On behalf of the Sabha and the Sikh Sangat of Silchar, we have extended a humble contribution to the fund believing that Wahe Guru will bestow his blessings in fighting the global pandemic," Walia said.

Sanitization machine donated

CORRESPONDENT

DOOMDOOMA, May 16: The National Chambers of Commerce (NCC), Tinsukia donated a sanitization machine to the Deputy Commissioner's office here on Wednesday. The machine was manufactured by Tinsukia-based Paban Steel Company.

The sanitization machine was formally inaugurated by Bhaskar Pegu, the Deputy Commissioner of Tinsukia, in presence of Minister of State for Labour and Tea Tribe Welfare Sanjay Kishan and Digboi MLA Suren Phukan.

Earlier, Sushil Modi, owner of the company, demonstrated the usage of the machine.

Pegu, in his address, appreciated the NCC, Tinsukia for overwhelming support during the lockdown period, particularly in the distribution of foodgrains and other social activities.

Hira Lal Sharma, president of the NCC, who initiated the move, appraised the gathering that efforts would be made to donate more shortly.

OBITUARY

Subhash Deka

CORRESPONDENT

JAGIROAD, May 16: Subhash Deka of Ghuligaon under Jagi Bhakatgaon Gaon Panchayat and an employee of Jagi HS School under Mayong Circle, passed away today at a Guwahati-based hospital due to cardiovascular disorders. He was 57.

The teachers including the Principal and the employees of the institution paid floral tributes to the departed soul this afternoon.

He leaves behind his wife, three daughters and a host of relatives.

No. PDDP/77/2017/87

PRESS NOTICE/IFB

The Commissioner, Panchayat & Rural Development, Government of Assam invites expression of interest (EOI), from reputed Solar Lighting System Integrator for empanelment of Vendors for Supply, Installation & Commissioning of-

- 'Solar Street light (All in One) in 6 M (Octagonal Pole) height pole'
- 'Solar Mini Mast of 9 M (Octagonal Pole HD Galvanized) with All in One LED Light System at various villages in Gaon Panchayats of Assam as per the specification, terms & conditions given in the Bid Document.

The details may be seen in the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in> from dt 18.05.2020 to 08.06.2020 and also in the departmental website. Interested bidder may contact the office of undersigned for any details of the bid during office hours.

Note :

- The tender should submit tenders through online only.
- The Tender Processing Fee must be paid through online mode only.

Sd/- Commissioner

Panchayat & Rural Development, Assam

Panjabari, Guwahati, Assam

Janasanyog/C/549/20

THE GAUHATI HIGH COURT, GUWAHATI NOTICE

To,

Sri Monojit Chanda
Senior Computer Assistant
Gauhati High Court
Guwahati- 1

Whereas, a Disciplinary Proceeding No. 01/2019 was initiated against you for your unauthorized absence from duties on various dates w.e.f. October, 2018 to March, 2019.

And whereas, a memorandum of charges was framed and the same was issued to you vide Show Cause Notice No. HC.V-23/2019/368/Estt dated 08.05.2019 and HC.V-23/2019/67A1/Estt dated 24.01.2020;

And whereas, same was received by you on 20.05.2019 and 06.02.2020 respectively;

And whereas you neither submitted any reply nor appeared before the Inquiry Officer;

Now, you are hereby directed to appear before Sri Kaushik Kumar Sharma, Joint Registrar (Vigilance), the Inquiry Officer on 20.05.2020 at 10.00 AM positively in his office in the 2nd Floor of New Block of the Gauhati High Court, failing which the Inquiry will proceed ex-parte.

Sd/- Registrar (Estt)

Date : 15.05.2020

Janasanyog/D/593/20

PRESS NOTICE

The Executive Engineer, PWD, Tezpur Building Division, Tezpur on behalf of the Governor of Assam, invites sealed tenders for the following work in Sonitpur & Biswanath District, affixing Court Fee stamp of Rs. 8.25 and with a validity period of 180 (one hundred eighty) days from the date of opening of tender from registered APWD Contractors/ Firms/ Pvt. Ltd. Co Class-I (A, B & C) category, Class-II category (Registered under PWD, Tezpur Building Circle, Tezpur) and Class- III category (Registered under PWD, Tezpur Building Division, Tezpur) (only for Sl. No. 5 & 6). Details of tender/ approved estimate may be seen in the office of the undersigned during office hours on 20.05.2020 and tender documents will be issued to the eligible contractors on 21.05.2020 only on submission of necessary IPO, Photo copy or their up-to-date Registration Certificate, PAN Card and Registration Certificate under GST along with the application for acquiring tender documents.

The tender papers will be received on 22.05.2020 (upto 2.00 PM) and will be opened on the same day at 3.00 PM in the office of the undersigned. The Press Notice will form a part of the Tender document.

Sl. No.	Names of work	Bid Price (Rs.)
1	Repairing/ Renovation of Jamuguri I.B under Sootea LAC, Dist- Sonitpur (Assam)	42,60,111.00
2	Repairing/ Renovation of Chariduar I.B under Sootea LAC, Dist- Sonitpur (Assam)	46,72,307.00
3	Repairing/ Renovation PWD Inspection Bungalow at Dhekiajuli in Sonitpur District	28,42,788.00
4	Renovation/ Extension of Kalabari I.B at Biswanath District, Assam (Gohpur LAC)	37,03,919.00
5	Repairing/ Renovation of Chatia I.B. under Biswanath LAC, Dist- Sonitpur (Assam) for the year 2019-20	18,32,753.00
6	Repairing/ Renovation of Ketta I.B under Biswanath District	19,34,167.00

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD

Tezpur Building Division

Janasanyog/C/529/20

No. CE/CC/WR/NIT/2019-20/1003/38

PRESS NOTICE FOR BID

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

Sl. No.	Name of W.R. Division	Name of The Scheme	Approx. amount in lakh (Rs.)	HOA
1.	Mangaldoi	I/M for restoration of damages at Barjhar area by river Mangaldai (Kawadanga) under SDRF for 2019-20	Package 1- 42.855	SDRF
			Package 2- 85.856	
2.	Mangaldoi	Immediate Measures to restore flood damages of Saktola B/B embankment from Jajjali to MPK road in R/B and from Hollowchowka to Jajjali in L/B including renovation sluice gate at Ch. 9200 m L/B under SDRF for 2019-20	Package 1- 202.773	SDRF
			Package 2- 44.751	
3.	Nagaon	Re-building & development of bank of river Brahmaputra at Borghuli, Bhurbhanda and its adjoining areas	Package 3- 1022.149	NESIDS

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

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

Sd/- Chief Engineer, Water Resources Department

Assam, Chandmari, Guwahati-3

Janasanyog/C/514/20

Order to convert textile park at Mushalpur into mass quarantine centre opposed

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, May 16: An order of the Baksa district administration requisitioning the Integrated Textile Park Kharujan, Mushalpur, for setting up a mass quarantine facility at a time when curbs on most of the entrepreneurial activities have been eased has created consternation among the entrepreneurs and weavers working in the park.

The entrepreneurs believe that the move would be disastrous for them and the local people, as they would be robbed of their livelihood. The park was inaugurated last year by the State Government and the BTC authorities in a bid to promote local entrepreneurship and showcase the region's rich textile sector. It started functioning since November in PPP mode with 21 units, engaged mostly in handloom.

"While we understand and support the administration's efforts

to combat Covid-19, the livelihood concerns of those involved with the textile park also cannot be ignored. After lockdown norms eased, we are in process of re-commissioning and restoring production in the allotted weaving sheds. We had just mobilized all our necessary resources into the weaving centres to make them operational and have already invested substantial amount," the entrepreneurs reasoned.

The Baksa Deputy Commissioner through an order dated May 1, 2020, requisitioned the Integrated Textile Park building (excluding the administrative building and the weaving sheds) for setting up a mass quarantine facility and placed it at the disposal of the Health department.

Entrepreneur and textile designer Sudakshina Bhuyan who has an unit at the park said that the integrated textile park could easily offer 500 direct employment to

local weavers and workers with each weaving shed having the capacity of employing minimum 20 weavers and other employees.

"At present nearly 250 people are engaged in the textile park, most of whom are people belonging to local areas. The integrated park was established to generate employment opportunities for the local womenfolk and also to encourage local entrepreneurs who want to work in the textile sector. We have invested good amount of money for official and production purposes, with some of us taking bank loans under different MSME schemes of Government of India. We are also regularly paying our employees. Turning it into a quarantine facility will be disastrous for us and the local people who will be deprived of their livelihood," she added.

Pointing out that the park was meant for economic uplift of the local rural youth, the entrepreneurs

said that requisitioning the centre for creating a mass quarantine facility led to visible social discontent and a potential conflict among the artisans, entrepreneurs and the surrounding villages.

"Keeping the weaving sheds operational is becoming a challenge, with the weavers naturally reluctant to enter the complex and work, given that a major part of the complex is being readied for mass quarantine facility. If the park becomes defunct, the whole purpose of economic development will be jeopardized. The authorities should have a rethink on the matter and work out a win-win situation for all the stakeholders," they said.

The entrepreneurs said that although the authorities have assured them that the centre would be used as a quarantine facility only as a last resort, the developments had already impacted the park's functioning, with the weavers reluctant to join work.

German football returns under intense scrutiny

BERLIN, May 16: Football in Germany returns to the pitch on Saturday as the Bundesliga becomes the first of Europe's top leagues to swing back into action since the coronavirus lockdown.

The German Football League (DFL) convinced Chancellor Angela Merkel and the country's regional leaders to allow play to resume by agreeing to submit to an extraordinary set of guidelines to prevent infection.

The stadiums will be empty and silent except for the players' shouts and the referees' whistles - Germany has suffered far fewer deaths from coronavirus than other large European countries, but it is still too dangerous for crowds to return.

Borussia Dortmund will take on local rivals Schalke 04 in the Ruhr Derby on Saturday.

That fixture would normally have attracted an 82,000

crowd to Dortmund's Signal Iduna Park but supporters will be locked out.

On Sunday, Bayern Munich, who were four points clear at the top of the table when the season was suspended in March, will resume their quest for an eighth successive Bundesliga title when they play in the capital against Union Berlin.

To minimise the risk of infection, players and staff are being tested regularly and each club has been in a week-long quarantine ahead of the matches.

Teams will arrive at stadiums in several buses in order to meet social distancing requirements inside the vehicles. Once on the pitch, players have been warned not to hug to celebrate goals.

Substitutes and coaches on the bench must wear protective masks.

Some have already fallen foul of the unprecedented rules. - AFP

Pandemic stoppage can benefit Barcelona: Messi

BARCELONA, May 16: Lionel Messi believes the long break caused by the coronavirus pandemic will be a boon for Barcelona.

Maybe this stoppage will end up benefiting us, but we will have to see if we are re-starting the competitions and then we will know the truth, Messi told Spanish sports daily Sport on Friday.

Barcelona and Spain's soccer leagues have not played since March 12, when La Liga halted action as the country's COVID-19 virus outbreak picked up speed. More than 27,000 Spaniards are known to have died from the disease.

Messi did not cite his reason for thinking the stoppage would be good for Barcelona, but the return of strike partner Luis Suarez from injury is surely one, and resetting another.

Another boost could be more rest. Barcelona has suffered big losses in key matches in the Champions League in the last three seasons, in-



Barcelona's Lionel Messi during a practice session.

cluding last season's 4-0 debacle at Liverpool in the semifinals. In those matches it appeared that Barcelona was worn down by a long season.

When played was stopped in March, Barcelona was leading the Liga by two points over Real Madrid. It was also in the round-of-16 of the

Champions League.

It has, however, been a rocky season for Barcelona. Besides public spats between club officials and players over their inconsistent play, the club also made a rare in-season coaching change when it fired Ernesto Valverde and replaced him with Quique Setin.

Barcelona struggled to adapt to Setin's playing style, whose emphasis on ball possession and attacking was different from Valverde's more balanced approach. The time off could help the squad and staff work out their differences. Playing like we did in the matches before play was stopped, we would never win the Champions League, Messi said.

I have no doubts about my teammates and that we can win it all, but not in the way we had been playing. Teams have recently returned to practice at club facilities, but they are training individually and undergoing tests to make sure there is no spread of the virus. - AP

Gayle "stands by his comments"

KINGSTON, May 16: Maverick batsman Chris Gayle has said he "stands by his comments" against former teammate Ramnaresh Sarwan but conceded that his actions were damaging to West Indies cricket, prompting the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) organisers to close the controversial issue.

The 40-year-old Gayle, who was signed by St Lucia Zouks for the 2020 season of the CPL, had called Sarwan "worse than coronavirus" in a video post, accusing the Guyanese of plotting his exit from CPL outfit Jamaica Tallawahs.

The self-styled 'Universe Boss' admitted, in a statement issued by CPL Technical Committee (CTC) chief PJ Patterson, that his description of Sarwan was "damaging Cricket West Indies, and



to the CPL tournament and its brand".

"I made these videos with one single intention to explain to the fans in Jamaica the reasons behind ... my second departure from the Tallawahs franchise. It was my greatest wish to finish my CPL career in Jamaica ... with the franchise that I had previously led to two CPL titles," Gayle said in the statement. - PTI

'Windies cricket in ICU' due to COVID-19'

KINGSTON, May 16: Cricket West Indies (CWI) chief Ricky Skerritt has said that the COVID-19 pandemic has put the region's already ailing cricket body into "Intensive Care Unit" and it will have to go for cost cutting measures to ride out the financial crisis. The coronavirus outbreak, which has infected over 45 lakh people globally, has forced a global sporting shutdown, including cricket.

"This crisis has put our already poor financial state into ICU. It is like going to the doctor with an illness, and as he is about to prescribe the medication, you get a stroke," Skerritt said in an interview with Guardian Media Sports.

West Indies was scheduled to tour England in June but it has been postponed now due to the COVID-19 outbreak. South Africa's tour of West Indies in July-August for five T20Is and two Tests is also in doubt. New Zealand was also scheduled to tour West Indies in July to play three ODIs and three T20Is but that series too is under threat.

Skerritt said a committee was set up after accounting and financial management consulting firm PKF had presented a 63-page review report last December.

This committee, which has been entrusted with the task of assessing the financial implications for future international tours and rescheduling or cancellation of events among other things, is expected to present its report at the board's next quarterly meeting on May 27.

"What this committee will do is to look at that and also look at the emergency situation that this COVID-19 pandemic has thrown us into and recommend what can be done," Skerritt said. - PTI

Player divide threatens Premier League's restart plan

LONDON, May 16: The Premier League's bid to restart the season in June is in danger of being derailed by a heated debate between players about the risks of playing amid the coronavirus crisis.

While Premier League chiefs believe completing the campaign is essential to safeguard the financial and sporting future of the game, some stars are not so convinced.

Watford captain Troy Deeney has been one of the loudest voices against returning to the pitch so soon.

Although the Premier League has agreed to fund regular testing for players and staff, there is no guarantee of keeping the virus at bay while vaccine trials remain in the early stages.

Adding to Deeney's concern, black and ethnic minorities are statistically more at

risk of dying from the virus, leaving him adamant he will not gamble with his family's life just to satisfy the desire for football to resume.

"I'm not even talking about football at the moment. I'm talking about my family's health," Deeney said on Instagram. "I'm not going to put my family at risk. What are they going to do, take money off me? I've been broke before so it doesn't bother me.

"They're talking about not playing in front of fans until 2021. So if it's not safe enough for fans to be inside a stadium, why should it be safe for players to be in there?"

Critics of Deeney's view have noted that Watford were just outside the relegation zone on goal difference when the season was halted, so his club would clearly benefit

from the season being abandoned.

But Manchester City stars Sergio Aguero and Raheem Sterling have also raised concerns about restarting, while Newcastle's Danny Rose, on loan from Tottenham, launched a furious rant about the situation. "Government is saying 'bring football back' because it is going to boost the nation's morale. I don't care about the nation's morale, bro, people's lives are at risk," he said.

"Football shouldn't even be spoke about coming back until the numbers have dropped massively." Like Deeney and other Premier League skipper, Norwich captain Grant Hanley took part in a conference call with the Premier League this week that reportedly saw numerous disagreements. - AFP

Kohli even better than Sachin: Pietersen

LONDON, May 16: Steve Smith's accomplishments pale in comparison to Virat Kohli's "unreal numbers" and the Indian captain has outstripped even the great Sachin Tendulkar with his mastery of chases, feels former England star Kevin Pietersen.

Smith and Kohli are among the leading batsmen in the world now but for Pietersen, the Australia doesn't even come close to the Indian superstar.

"Kohli, hands down. Freakshow. His record chasing, winning games for India with the amount of pressure he consistently lives under, Smith doesn't even come close," Pietersen told former



Zimbabwe cricketer Pommie Mbangwa during an Instalive.

When Mbangwa asked Pietersen to choose between Kohli and Tendulkar, he said: "Again Virat because of his chasing numbers. His chasing numbers are frightening. He averages 80 in chases, all his one-day hundreds come when chasing". PTI

I can beat Slam titles and world number one record: Djokovic

PARIS, May 16: Novak Djokovic said he is confident he will end his career as the greatest Grand Slam title winner of all time and break the record for weeks in the world number one spot.

The Serb has 17 majors, three back from the record of Roger Federer's 20 and two behind the 19 of Rafael Nadal.

Before the coronavirus brought the 2020 season to a halt, Djokovic had captured an eighth Australian Open and was on an 18-0 winning streak for the year.

"I think that I still have things to do in this sport. I believe that I can win the most Slams and break the record for most weeks at No. 1. Those are definitely my clear goals,"



Djokovic told the 'In Depth with Graham Bensinger' TV show. Djokovic has been on top of the rankings for a combined total of 282 weeks. Federer leads the way on 310 with the long-retired Pete Sampras on 286. However, time is

comfortably on the side of Djokovic who will celebrate his 33rd birthday on May 22.

Federer will be 39 in August while Nadal turns 34 in June. Djokovic even sees himself still playing at 40.

"I don't believe in limits. I definitely want to go for a long time," he said. "But I'm aware that the amount of tournaments I'm playing is going to decrease very soon.

"I will not be able to play at this intensity, with this many tournaments and this much travelling, for a long time.

"I might be playing at 40, but then there will probably be a focus on the biggest tournaments and the tournaments that mean the most to me." - AFP

Date change for 2021 Tata Open Maharashtra likely

MUMBAI, May 16: The 2021 Tata Open Maharashtra could be impacted by the rejig of the ATP calendar forced by the COVID-19 pandemic, hinted tournament director Prashant Sutar on Saturday.

Tata Open Maharashtra is south Asia's only ATP tour event. The third edition of the tournament was held from February 3-9 at Mhalunge Balewadi Stadium in Pune.

In that edition, Jiri Vesely had emerged victorious in the singles, while the pair of Christopher Rungkat (Indonesia) and Andre Goransson (Sweden) won the doubles.

Sutar said the world men's tennis body, ATP, has been having frequent discussions with its tournament directors around the world in an attempt to get the action back on the courts.

"Regarding the 2021 calendar, there have been a lot of discussions that are going on. Lot of communications are happening between ATP and Tournament Directors," Sutar said during an Insta live session with Indian tennis player Arjun Kadhe. - PTI

Liga clubs Villarreal, Getafe deny match-fixing report

MADRID, May 16: Two Spanish first-division clubs have denied media reports that link them to alleged match-fixing.

Getafe and Villarreal issued statements on Friday supporting their players and denying any involvement in the possible attempt to fix a match as reported by Spanish radio COPE.

COPE reported it had access to police investigation files that included transcript of a conversation between two former players talking about arranging payoffs to some Villarreal players to lose the final match of last season. The transcript is part of a larger investigation into an alleged match-fixing ring in Spanish football. The match ended 2-2 between Getafe and Villarreal. Getafe finished two points behind Valencia in fifth place, missing out on a Champions League berth. Villarreal finished in the middle of the table.

Getafe specifically defended its captain Jorge Molina, whom the two former players on the transcript appear to mention.

Last month in a separate case, a Spanish court sentenced nine former soccer executives, players, and businessmen to prison after finding them guilty of colluding to fix the result of soccer matches. That was the first time such a verdict had been handed down in the country. - AP

Afridi buys Mushfiqu's bat for USD 20,000

NEW DELHI, May 16: Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has bought the bat put up for auction by Bangladesh wicketkeeper batsman Mushfiquur Rahim for USD 20,000.

Last month, Mushfiqu had announced he was auctioning the willow, with which he scored a double hundred against Sri Lanka in 2013, to raise funds for the COVID-19 relief work in his country.

Afridi bought the memorabilia for his foundation for USD 20,000.

"Shahid Afridi bought my bat on behalf of his foundation. I feel privileged and honoured that someone like him has joined our great cause," Rahim was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

Last week, several fraud bidders had flooded the auction, leading to the suspension of the process. However, Afridi contacted Mushfiqu to buy the bat. - PTI



Afridi

No crowds, no problem for England's Anderson

LONDON, May 16: James Anderson has insisted he is still excited about playing for England this season, even if matches are played behind closed doors.

England cricketers are set to return to limited individual training next week, with bowlers such as Anderson leading the way, amid assurances that health protocols will make their sessions less risky than going to a supermarket.

The England and Wales Cricket Board hope they can kick-start a season delayed by the coronavirus by rescheduling for July a three-Test series at home to the West Indies that was meant to take place in June.

But officials have conceded the only way international matches can be staged in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic is by barring spectators from what will be 'bio-secure' grounds. - AFP

FIFA to pick 2023 Women's World Cup host next month

ZURICH, May 16: The 2023 Women's World Cup host will be picked by FIFA's ruling council on June 25.

The contest is between Brazil, Japan, Colombia, and a joint bid from Australia and New Zealand.

In an open vote of the 37-member FIFA Council, the result of each round of balloting and each voter's choice will be made public. FIFA inspection teams visited the four bid candidates in January and February before international travel was restricted due to the coronavirus pandemic.

FIFA is now finalizing the evaluation report, which will be published in early June, FIFA said in a statement on Friday.

The 2023 World Cup will be the first to feature 32 teams. There were 24 at the 2019 edition won by the United States in France. - AP

Afridi was always against me, ruined my ODI career: Kaneria

NEW DELHI, May 16: Former Pakistan spinner Danish Kaneria on Saturday accused Shahid Afridi of treating him unfairly all through his career and blamed him for a rather short limited overs outing.

Kaneria, only the second Hindu to play for Pakistan after his maternal uncle Anil Dalpat, took 261 wickets in 61 Tests at an average of 34.79. However, he only played 18 ODIs between 2000 and 2010.

Speaking to PTI from Ka-

rachi, the 39-year-old said, beyond his religion, it was difficult for him to think about the reason behind Afridi's discriminatory behaviour.

"He was always against me, when we were playing for the same department in domestic cricket or playing me in ODIs. If one person is always against you and you are in that situation, what other reason would think other than that (religion)," said Kaneria when asked if

he was a victim of religious discrimination.

Kaneria, who last year supported Shoaib Akhtar's claim that he was treated unfairly in the team because of his religion, said he could have played a lot more than 18 ODIs if it was not for Afridi.

"I could not play more ODIs be-



cause of him and he also treated me unfairly when we used to play for the same department (in domestic cricket), he was the captain. He used to keep me out of the side and often he would do the same in ODIs without any reason.

"He used to support others but not me. Thanks to almighty, I still went on to play a lot for Pakistan and I could not be more proud of that."

Kaneria said he used to be a regular member of ODI squads but hardly got to play, blaming Afridi again for that.

"I was a leg spinner and so was he. That was another reason. He was a big star and playing for Pakistan anyway and to treat me like that, I could not understand why.

"They used to say two spinners can't play in the eleven. They used to say my fielding was an issue in limited overs cricket. You tell me who were the supremely fit fielders at that time? There were only one or two good fielders. Pakistan was never known for fielding anyway.

"When not playing international cricket, he used to come back and drop me from the departmental team."

Kaneria, who was found guilty of spot-fixing alongside Mervyn Westfield while playing for English county Essex against Durham in 2009, has been pleading for PCB's help for a long time. He wants to come back into the PCB fold and serve the game again. - PTI

“He was always against me, when we were playing for the same department in domestic cricket or playing me in ODIs. If one person is always against you and you are in that situation, what other reason would think other than that (religion).”

- Danish Kaneria

SU DO KU

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

Solution of last problem

Originating from Japan, 'su do ku' is a mind game and a puzzle that can be solved with proper reasoning and logic. Fill the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3x3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9 without repeating any.

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

2 WOMEN PLUS
DR. AMRIT KRISHNA BORA writes about reproductive rights.3 MY SPACE
DR. UNNIKRISHNAN MENON dwells on a shopping trip.4 ALL THINGS CONSIDERED
MITRA PHUKAN sympathises with the workers.

The Assam Tribune

READING

Sunday



The channel of unity

Doordarshan has had an eventful journey in India, writes **DR. MOUSHUMI BHATTACHARJEE.**

India has a strategic geo-political advantage as the largest country in South Asia, with a population of over a billion, and a diversity of languages, religions and cultures. At its heart lies the doctrine of 'unity in diversity'. There are times when the country bleeds and burns because of religious clashes, and the message of unity is lost somewhere. And, now, we have the highly contagious novel coronavirus outbreak which has necessitated a pan-India lockdown. The government imposed a 40-day lockdown in a nation of 1.3 billion people, forcing businesses to shut down and bringing educational institutes to a standstill. But this period has proven to be a boon for our very own channel of unity—Doordarshan. It not only re-created history, but also garnered a feeling of unity among the citizens of the largest democracy.

Way back in 1988, a song that played on Doordarshan right after the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's address to the

nation on Independence Day became an anthem for national integration. And 31 years on, *Mile sur mera tumhara* still lives on in the hearts of all Indians, even for those who were born well after the song was telecast. Produced by ace filmmaker Kailash Surendranath, this rousing song became no less popular than a Bollywood chartbuster. The song also incorporated 13 languages, brought together three musical geniuses like Pt. Bhimsen Joshi, Lata Mangeshkar and M. Balamuralikrishna, and was a blend of Indian classical, folk and modern sounds.

The concept of unity in diversity was conveyed not only through music, but also through the personalities it featured from various fields. Shabana Azmi, Om Puri, Amitabh Bachchan, Kamal Haasan, Tanuja, Hema Malini, Sharmila Tagore, Waheeda Rahman, Ramanathan Krishnan, Prakash Padukone, Diana Edulji, Arun Lal, S. Venkataraghavan, Mallika Sarabhai, Sudharani Raghupati, Mario

Miranda, Mrinal Sen and Sunil Gangopadhyay—a comprehensive list was drawn up to represent every region of the country.

Television plays a very important role in our lives and has been successful in creating an impact on the society. What was achieved during the quieter days of Doordarshan is an example in itself. Recalling its making, in an interview, Louis Banks (jazz exponent and keyboardist) who arranged the music of *Mile sur...*, once said, "We were positive about its impact even while working on it. It was brilliantly conceptualised by Suresh Mallick, then creative head of Ogilvy and Mather." It was an uplifting, soaring musical presentation with an admixture of culture, diversity, and harmony that took all of India by storm.

But cultural diversity has emerged as a key concern at the turn of a new century. Cultural diversity, beyond the mere fact of its existence, has aesthetic, moral and instrumental value as the expression of

human creativity, the embodiment of human strivings and the sum of humanity's collective experience. Some see cultural diversity as inherently positive, because it unites us in processes of exchange and dialogue. For others, cultural differences are what cause us to lose sight of our common humanity and are, therefore, at the root of numerous conflicts.

This second diagnosis is all the more plausible today since globalisation has increased the points of interaction and friction between cultures, giving rise to identity-linked tensions, withdrawals and claims, particularly of a religious nature, which is now becoming a potential source of dispute. The essential challenge, therefore, would be to propose a coherent vision of cultural diversity and thereby, to clarify how, far from being a threat, it can become beneficial to the community.

The journey of television began in India for promoting development and serving the cause of the poor and the underprivileged. While some efforts were made to fulfil these brave goals, television also earned the unholy reputation of being a vehicle for government propaganda. Contemporary Indian television is divorced from the realities of the other half of India that lives in dismal poverty and deprivation, thus presenting a distorted view of social reality.

As the country stood still in a 40-day lockdown to fight the coronavirus outbreak, Doordarshan again turned out to be a saviour. The government's decision to re-telecast iconic shows like the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* was bang on time as the channel has broken its own records—achieving viewership figures of 1.9 billion, according to the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) data. DD National, popularly known as Doordarshan, topped in both Hindi GEC Rural and Urban. The channel garnered 810 million weekly impressions in rural areas. In urban areas, it fared a bit better with 1.09 billion weekly impressions.

So, in the present context, when viewers have a choice of innumerable satellite channels (which are suffering from a lack of fresh content as shooting remains suspended), along with web series and devices like smartphones to help them utilise their valuable time, the familiar maxim 'old is gold' is seen to have reaffirmed its position by breaking all records. Social media was flooded with updates by fans, followers and television buffs who could not control their emotions after watching the shows. The magic of Doordarshan continues as Indians are going down memory lane with the telecast of some much-loved iconic shows.

(moushumi2882@rediffmail.com)

Wheels of change

ARSHEL AKHTER advocates cycling to maintain social distancing in a post-COVID world.



The COVID-19 pandemic has made us realise a lot of our potential and priorities in life. It has made us realise that when it comes to the well-being of our health and lives, many other things become unimportant for us. During the lockdown, we have had to sacrifice many of our luxuries, fast-paced lifestyle activities and wants in life that we earlier took for granted or never knew we could live without.

Experts have warned that the dangers presented by the SARS-Cov-2 virus will not go away soon. We will have to maintain social distancing for a long time to come. Economists have said that there may be severe recession and a lot of us may lose employment or earn less.

Many experts, worldwide, are saying that we will need to change a lot of our preferences, actions and habits. Among many others, one important aspect will be how we travel, especially to our work, school or college in cities.

Travelling via public transport will not be very safe due to social distancing concerns. Motorised two-wheelers and private cars are choking up our city streets. The resultant pollution by these vehicles is another concern and so is the amount of money that will be used in running those. We have seen how less vehicles on the streets have cleaned up the air

we breathe.

The World Health Organization has said that cycling and walking are the two healthiest ways to travel in cities. A cycle does not take up much space and money, it does not pollute, it helps us keep distance from others, it does not kill anyone on the street, it helps keep the environment clean and it also keeps us healthy.

In many cities around the world, like Berlin, Bogota, Paris, Budapest, Auckland, Mexico, the city administrations are taking measures like setting up emergency and temporary bicycle lanes at the busiest streets to encourage more people to cycle. Many cities are seeing a boom in cycle sales as people are buying cycles to commute to work. People in these places are realising the importance of contributing to the global efforts of keeping our environment pollution-free and keeping themselves healthy.

A number of people in Guwahati, too, use the cycle for their work, but since many of these are very poor, most of us overlook their contribution. Lately, cycling has become quite popular in Guwahati as a mode of recreation among the middle and upper-class population. A sizeable section of these people are willing to cycle to work, but the non-existence of cycling infrastructure in the city discourages them.

Setting up of covered cycle parking spaces, with locking facilities near designated city bus points, at various car parking facilities around the city will go a long way in encouraging these people to use their cycles. Commercial and residential complexes, government offices, and all educational institutes should also be asked to set up covered cycle parking areas inside their cam-

pus. Due to their small size, six to ten cycles can be parked in the place of one car. These cycle parking spaces need to be free, so that everyone can use them. Parking sheds at public places can be used to earn revenue through advertisements.

Another way could be to have car-free days, every month. The important aspect of having a car-free day is not just to give out a notification. People will not follow if it is imposed, so it is very important that every organisation or institute makes efforts to motivate and educate their employees or students about the benefits of car-free days. It is very important that the leaders of the organisation lead the way. Later on, some non-financial incentive model can be incorporated to encourage more people to take up the practice.

The idea of setting up temporary cycling lanes for a few months at the busiest streets can also be taken up. During this time, the flow of traffic and its resultant effect on air pollution levels need to be studied for future course of action. It is advised to make these studies public and keep cycling organisations in the loop, as they are important stakeholders.

Our decisions and actions taken now have the power to change the course of our future. If we don't learn from our past mistakes and continue with our wasteful ways, we may have to face bigger and longer lockdowns as a result of new viruses or climate change.

(The writer is co-founder of Pedal for a Change and Bicycle Mayor of Guwahati. He can be contacted at arshel.akhter@gmail.com)



UP CLOSE

Nasreen Habi

nasreenhabi@gmail.com

Green warrior

BAHAR DUTT is known for her reporting on some of India's most important environment crises.

As a young child, Bahar was happy playing with the ants in the mud patch outside her parent's home, rather than going out with friends. As an adult, she has created a natural space where kids can come on the weekends and learn about Nature or how to grow their own food. Nature, in a significant way, has always been a part of award-winning environment journalist Bahar Dutt's life.

All pandemics leave their mark. Some are saying that this particular one (COVID-19) has allowed Nature to literally and figuratively breathe. What is your take on this?

It is tragic that it has taken a pandemic and millions of lives worldwide for us to wake up and realise that the crazy, frenetic pace of life needed to slow down, not just for Nature but also our own good. Nevertheless, I believe that the rebound will be short-lived. I am not being pessimistic but simply cautious, as there will be a need to rev up the engines of the economy. I hope our leaders have the foresight to gravitate towards a low carbon economy. But I am not so sure, for even in lockdown, we have heard that the Environment Ministry is considering a proposal to fell 2.7 lakh trees in Dibang in Arunachal Pradesh. I have reported from the same project site in Dibang when the first proposals were being considered for dam construction by the UPA Government and seen for myself the forest that will be destroyed. We have to undertake a more honest assessment whether we need these big dams and what are the losses along the way, not just for Nature but also for livelihoods.

How did you gravitate towards conservation?

Growing up in a city, the access to Nature was limited but I more than made up for it by diving into books. My highpoint was studying for my Masters in Conservation Biology and working at Gerald Durrell's Zoo on Jersey Island in the U.K. We had a shared tent not far from the zoo as the students and I would spend the day studying a family of Black Lion Tamarins (a tiny Amazonian primate species) and come back to cook our own meals and enter the data we had gathered during the day.

Was investigative journalism always on the cards?

I must confess I did not always want to be a journalist. I started my career working with a community of snake charmers and it wasn't exactly the easiest career option for a 22-year-old. I cut my teeth working with the community, travelling with them to distant villages and learning about their culture, why they had—as a community, earned a bad name and how their culture could be revived in a way that didn't harm snakes living in the villages. It was only in 2005 when I heard that a news channel was being set up that I decided to give it a shot and there was no looking back.

Your investigative report on illegal mining in the hills of Meghalaya (and in Goa) is seen as a gold standard in investigative environment journalism. Your reports have been the basis of PILs and advocacy efforts. How do you view the outcome of your efforts?

For me, both these stories stand out as they didn't just end up as stories. The courts took up the cases and gave a judgement in favour of the environment—which was a huge victory. That's why I believe in the power of journalism. Some people dismiss it as activism. But I firmly believe our stories must challenge the status quo, particularly if it involves the silent diversion of our forests and wildlife.

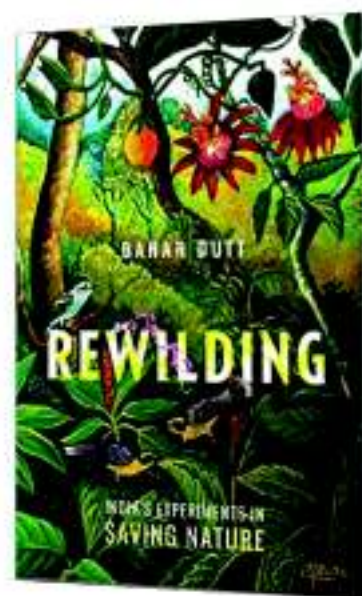
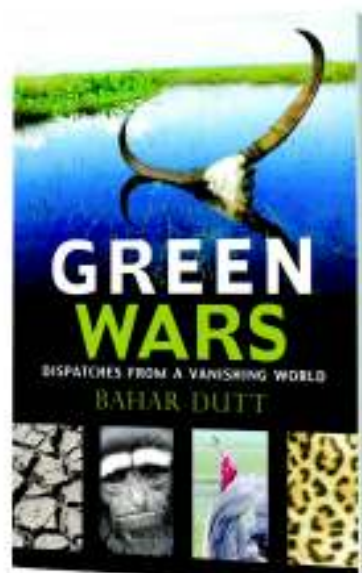
Was your gender ever a barrier to reporting from often unheard-of, little-known areas?

My mother was a journalist, too, and perhaps in her times, gender may have been a barrier. I haven't felt that my gender has been a barrier but yes, there have been challenging times, like when I trekked up to the Gangotri glacier and I was the only woman on the team. I had to sleep in a

dormitory full of ten men with very smelly socks! But on a more serious note, when I was covering the story in Goa on illegal mining and my team and I were physically attacked by the mining mafia, I did feel scared for a brief second and suddenly aware of being a woman. But it was a fleeting moment, I think I was so singularly obsessed with getting my tapes to Delhi that the rest was forgotten. Being in the media, particularly the English media, gives us a privileged position, the people who stay behind are the real heroes, not us who troop in, report our stories and move on.

Tell us a little about your last book.

Rewilding is my second book. It presents an account of my travels around India, documenting and investigating efforts to restore Nature. Through my travels I came across a battery of people—scientists, fishermen and government officers who are turning the tide to save species and forests. Incidentally, two of the chapters in this book are based in North-East India. One is on the efforts being undertaken to revive the Manas National Park by bringing back the rhino, and the second is on the pygmy hog and using the species to revive grasslands.



WOMEN PLUS

Dr. Amrit Krishna Bora
amritkrishnabora@yahoo.co.in

Birthing rights

Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights are an integral part of human rights.

‘Reproductive health’ means a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being. ‘Reproductive right’ defines a couple’s right to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of fertility regulation and the right to access appropriate health services that will enable a woman to have safe pregnancy and childbirth.

Reproductive rights rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely, responsibly on the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and the means to do so. In the exercise of these rights, they should take into account the needs of their living and future children, and their responsibilities toward the community. The promotion of the responsible exercise of these rights for all people should be the fundamental basis for the government and community-supported policies and programmes in the area of reproductive health. (The United Nations, 1994-Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. New York.)

Thus, reproductive rights may be viewed as certain rights that all persons possess which will allow them to access the full range of reproductive healthcare. It encompasses:

- A satisfying and safe sex life, free from fear of disease, coercion and violence.
- Capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so, that is access to both infertility and fertility limiting services.
- Informed choice of reproduction and access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable method of family planning.
- Access to safe and affordable abortion service.
- Accesses to appropriate healthcare



In the exercise of these rights, they should take into account the needs of their living and future children, and their responsibilities toward the community. The promotion of the responsible exercise of these rights for all people should be the fundamental basis for the government and community-supported policies and programmes in the area of reproductive health.

services that will enable women to go safely through pregnancy and child-bearing.

- Access to services for the prevention and care of reproductive health problems in a culturally sensitive set-up to reduce reproductive morbidity. All these rights have been documented and endorsed in different international conferences on human rights. Reproductive rights have been converted to different national laws, according to the socio-cultural and political atmospheres of different countries.

But, we have some limitations in implementing the reproductive rights in practice. It is because:

- Issues are controversial and sensitive in nature, involving sexuality, contraception, and empowerment of women.
- General public has little information about reproductive rights.
- Human and reproductive rights seem to be abstract in nature and even foreign to local experiences, attitudes and traditions.
- Women are restricted from obtaining information on their rights, and are unlikely to exercise them.

Every country has incorporated reproductive rights in health and social planning to achieve the preset goal, by initiating different action

plans. The policy adopted by any implementing agency has to be based upon the changing cultural attitude and norms. The best example is the Global Gag Rule adopted by the present American Government, where the public fund allocation for family planning and abortion has been drastically reduced, which has been criticised as a violation of the rights-based approach. The strategies to improve the implementation are:

- Strengthening of international monitoring mechanism.
- Disseminating knowledge of reproductive rights and reproductive health among the common people. This knowledge regarding the connection between poor health with some social issues like early age of marriage, level of education, economic and decision-making capacity of women and some harmful social customs like genital mutilation should be stressed upon.
- Scientific and technical aspects of different reproductive rights should be provided to medical and social activists, religious leaders, policy makers, government, NGO officials, and other stakeholders.

Many countries are signatory of different international treaties and agreements, but at the ground level, implementation has been overpowered by religious and cultural views. The concept of reproductive rights in the Northeastern region of India is plagued by poor reproductive and sexual outcome due to various reasons. Many organisations and academic bodies involved in SRHR activities have been seen in society. But, we need a collaborative approach where knowledge of reproductive health and rights can be translated to the field by a pool of dedicated workers maintaining the cultural sensitivity of a particular nation.

Educative and technical deliberations, involving different disciplines like education, sociology, medical and health, with social planners, policy makers, women rights’ activists, social psychologists, religious clerics, and NGO leaders should be encouraged.

FASHION

Puja Gupta
puja.g@ians.in

Design dreams

Fashion designer Anita Dongre advises young designers to utilise this time to find inspiration.



Veteran fashion designer Anita Dongre suggests that in these unprecedented times, when uncertainty looms large, young designers should utilise this time to find inspiration and design while in lockdown.

Dongre believes the fashion industry is going to be seriously impacted due to the pandemic, and resulting nationwide lockdown.

“As an industry, it provides employment to millions, now all work has come to a halt. It will take many months to pick up, and even post the lifting of the lockdown, one will have to be extremely cautious to follow social distancing norms and ensure that the spread is curtailed. Manufacturers and retailers will have to follow strict guidelines and it will take many months to come back to normalcy. Most weddings have been scaled down or postponed. Summer fashion will be offered to consumers post-lockdown by all, and fortunately, we have a late winter in India,” states Dongre.

The Anita Dongre Foundation has set up an emergency medical fund of Rs. 1.5 crore. This amount is for self-employed vendors and independent artisans who are associated with the company and who may not have adequate medical coverage.

“Our direct employees and their families are covered by medical insurance but should they need more, we’ll extend the fund to them as well. Just like other major industry bodies, our main focus right now is on keeping our people safe and to help them deal with the current crisis,” says the veteran who has built one of India’s largest fashion houses. The designer has also set up a dedicated helpline for her employees.

Recently, Dongre has also started the production of masks with fabric in stock. “We wanted to make sure we’re doing everything within our capacity to keep people safe during these uncertain times.”

Her advice to young designers who might be left struggling for survival as an aftermath of the lockdown: “Stay positive and focussed. Don’t lose hope but use this time to find inspiration and design. You will get past it. We’re all in this together, we shall overcome.”

Dongre has been utilising this period to appreciate and be grateful to be working with family and enjoying the space in her new sustainable home.

“This is a reminder to celebrate the time I have to share with the people I love most. I have also taken this time to re-explore. Cooking, gardening, reading, and connecting with the family has filled little spaces that were taken up by the many other pieces I love about running a fashion house,” she says.

— IANS



HANDS ON

The fourth phase of lockdown is upon us now and even though there will be a relaxation in rules, we still have to follow some basic physical distancing norms. In such a time, it’s truly difficult to celebrate a special day – be it a birthday, an anniversary or some other major milestone. But when it comes to our little ones or our elderly grandpas and grandmas, we have to try to do every little bit to make the day special, and that calls for some party decorations too. So, here are a few ways in which you can set the mood for the little celebration:

1 Party banner

This one’s a must when it comes to any kind of celebration and very often we do not find the banner that we wish for, so it’s best to make one at home. It can be done in many ways. You can use any kind of paper and paint to make one; you can use paper cups as the base for the alphabets, and then string them down on a ribbon; if you have a printer at home, you can even print the alphabets in appropriate designs. You can also make a banner with a string of balloons, simply paint the alphabets on them.



2 Glitter balloons

While the balloons that we get in the market are mostly for kids, there is no rule that says that balloons cannot be used for seniors too. You might have to jazz them up a bit. And glitter is the best way to go. Just dab generous amounts of Mod Podge at the base of a balloon and roll it on to the glitter; it will get a bit heavier on the bottom, so you can hang it down like a chandelier.

P.S: Get homemade Mod Podge by mixing one cup of white glue (Fevicol) with 1/3rd cup of water.



3 Rainbow water

There will be several glass bottles around the house, be it old coffee bottles, mason jars or the likes. Now these can be turned into a simple table décor ensemble with the help of some coloured water and some fresh flowers. You will just need some food colouring to turn them into rainbow water vases, and this simple trick will add an easy pop to an unsuspecting spot.

4 Ribbon chandelier

Girls love ribbons and chandeliers and so if it’s your little one’s birthday, this idea could work wonders. You will need a round frame for the base – it could be an embroidery frame or a small hula hoop, and some ribbons or strips of colourful fabric. Simply sew one side of these ribbons or strips onto the base and let them hang around the hoop. Your ribbon chandelier is ready!



5 Paper rosettes

Rosettes are a party favourite for all. As pretty as they look, it’s rather easy to make one. You just need some fancy paper and some glue or stapler. The size of the rosette will depend on the size of the paper you take. Simply fold the paper in the accordion way, like the way you fold a paper fan. Once it’s folded, make a fold at the halfway mark. Make a similar one with another paper of the same size and colour. Now open the two up and stick them by the sides. You can also use newspapers to make rosettes.



Saffron egg pudding

Ingredients:

- ▼ Milk powder..... 1 cup
- ▼ Milk..... 500 ml
- ▼ Sugar..... ¾ cup
- ▼ Butter..... ¾ cup
- ▼ Saffron..... ¼ tsp
- ▼ Cardamom pods..... 2
- ▼ Eggs..... 6
- ▼ Almonds (ground)..... ½ cup
- ▼ Nuts (chopped)..... to garnish

Method:

In a saucepan, heat the milk, milk powder, butter, sugar, saffron, and the cardamom pods over medium heat, stirring until mixed well. Allow it to cool.

Slowly whisk in the ground almond and the eggs.

Pour the mixture into individual, greased, oven-proof bowls.

Place the bowls in the oven and bake at 180°C for about 20-30 minutes, or until the pudding sets.

Remove from the oven and when cool, transfer to the fridge and allow it to cool for a few hours.

To serve, run a knife around the inside perimeter of the bowl; invert onto a serving plate.

Garnish with nuts and serve.



Sharmin Pasha is a food writer currently based in Dubai, UAE, where she teaches privately-organised cooking lessons on different techniques of cooking. She also hosts an informative page featuring Assamese recipes on Facebook, which was created to showcase the culinary treasures of Assam to the world and to preserve ethnic recipes for generations to come.

Spiced tomato with cottage cheese



Ingredients:

- ▼ Cottage cheese (paneer), cut into big chunks..... 250 gms
- ▼ Ginger paste..... 1 tsp
- ▼ Garlic paste..... 1 tsp
- ▼ Tomatoes (chopped)..... 2
- ▼ Coriander powder..... 1 tbsp
- ▼ Vegetable oil..... 3 tbsps
- ▼ Oil and spices from mango pickle..... 2 tbsps
- ▼ Water (warm)..... ½ cup
- ▼ Salt..... to taste
- ▼ Green chillies (chopped)..... 2 tsps
- ▼ Coriander (chopped)..... 2 tbsps

Method:

Heat the vegetable oil in a deep pan. Stir in the ginger paste and the garlic paste and cook until aromatic. Add the chopped tomatoes and cook, uncovered, over medium heat, until the tomatoes collapse and is reduced to a sauce like consistency. Mix in the pickle oil and the spices, the coriander powder and the salt, and cook, stirring, until oil spots surface.

Add the cottage cheese and the water. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and cook until sauce thickens.

Garnish with chopped coriander and green chillies. Serve with Indian flatbread.



HEALTHWISE

Dr. Saurav Bardalai,
MD, Psychiatry,
Excel Care Hospital, Guwahati.

Make a mental note

It is vital to regard mental illness without stigma.

Mental health basically means someone's psychological well-being. Working as a mental health professional for the past two years, I have realised that mental health is widely misunderstood. This is due to lack of information and preconceived notions of what should be 'normal'. Society has already built these concepts of what is right and wrong, and everything that does not fit into the box is automatically stigmatised.

Disruption or imbalance in social, emotional and occupational domains can be signs of mental illness. Emotional imbalance is when nothing seems to interest you anymore. I remember when we were kids, happiness was fulfilled with the smallest experiences – like being on the football field, eating a chocolate bar, or cycling. But in today's time, such innocent happiness is hard to achieve. So, where did it all go wrong?

Instead of taking professional help for their emotional distress, some just resort to having their two glasses of whiskey and thereby, make matters worse in the long run. When I say make matters worse, I mean by having the whiskey, you are countering a problem with another. Eventually, one might get dependent on alcohol with time. We are always looking for problems to solve – as humans, we are inherently problem-solving beings. Do not be bogged down by your problems and feel let down; take up the challenge and tackle the obstacles, because once we give in to self-pity, it's beginning to be a very rough road for your mental health.

Social balance is the ability to have healthy inter-personal relationships with your partner, family and friends. Inability to have a healthy relation may be due to things like anger issues and communication problems. And yes, if you are already having problems on your emotional and social front, it's most likely that your occupational domain will also be affected. Inability to recognise your mistakes is a sign of mental illness. Imbalance can be seen if on an emotional level, you are not able to find an activity that brings you joy. More people suffer from mental illness than we realise. Did you know that irritability, short temperedness, substance abuse, gastritis and even frequent constipation and loose motion are all signs of mental illness? According to the WHO, mental illness is more common than cancer, diabetes or heart disease; nearly half of the world's population is affected by mental illness. Despite the number of people suffering from mental illness being so high, the number of people turning up for help is very less. Mental illness is not taken seriously – as it is not seen as life-threatening. Doctors, especially cardiologists or endocrinologists, tell us not to take stress. Ever wonder why? Because stress-related anxiety can cause fluctuations in your blood sugar levels and cause sudden spikes in your blood pressure. These parameters can have a very adverse reaction on your body – like making you susceptible to cardiovascular diseases or indirectly affect your organs. It also causes difficulty to tackle bad habits like smoking and alcohol consumption. We all know that yoga, meditation and exercise helps a person with anxiety, those who find it difficult to stay in crowded areas or are intolerant to loud noises and having palpitations for the same.

A very important point to consider is, people not turning up for treatment for mental illness. This is because of the stigma associated with it – a person with mental illness is immediately classified as 'crazy'. But this is far from the truth: the person can still very much be functional in their day-to-day activities. It is important to understand and accept all kinds of mental illnesses without any judgement. Acceptance is key and as the first step towards recovery, we should learn to accept because what is more exhausting than mental illness is when you have to pretend not to have one.



failure, that she did not have a hobby, she coolly turned over in bed, saying, "And what will I write about? My life? All I want to do is escape from it." And slid immediately into a deep slumber, because she obviously had a very tiring day. She was an unwritten story really and she has remained one till now. She is a dishevelled pursed-lipped lady one passes in the hall and a scared lanky girl, who continuously looks out from a moth-eaten photograph with glazed eyes.

These days, I visit our old home regularly. I have plans of renovating it. Overgrown grass bristles at my ankles as I walk through the patch of green before the verandah. Months prior to her death, Mother had been brought here where she lay on this narrow bed for two years. Towards the end of her life, I became a companion of her's, a stoic friend, who discovered that she could sing. Grudgingly, she showed her best parts. Once when it was nearing dusk, her mood considerably mellowed, she directed me to open her rusty drawer. I found there were these yellow sheafs where she had written love poems, which dated from the time of our childhood. How she had the time, I could not tell. Maybe, she had sneaked a couple of papers into her bed. Was it that what made me secretly administer extra doses of morphine everyday while reading Ranju Hazarika to her, I do not know. But sometimes, rendered senile by her illness, she would be vehement. She would howl inconsolably, remembering the wrongs done on her, the slave-like treatment we had subjected her to, regret her inability to break away, and I would really be at my wits' end because I was never cool and patient like my sister. And then there were the long medical bills. As my savings dwindled, her health failed. Perhaps, that is why I granted the escape that she desired most.

Two days from now, the house would be as good as new; the house which I have been loathing all my life. It would be purged of its past, but the ghost of my enigmatic mother would remain, I know. I would find her here, there, everywhere. She will trouble my conscience to the last.

(Concluded)

Fiction entries should not exceed 1,800 words.

Mother and me-II

FICTION

Vastav Bora

Water was an issue in our household. We did not have costly water extracting implement fitted because hard up as we were, my father would really have to count pennies before spending on anything other than our school fees and the bills. As a result, there was never a time I did not see her sari hitched up to her thighs, as she walked about our backyard lugging a bucket of water. Of all her memories from that time, that image has stuck. Once a friend of mine who

had passed by our house told me on the bus ride home, "I saw your house yesterday." "What did you see?" I asked. "Oh! Just your maid, carrying water into your house," he replied. When I reached home that day, I pleaded with my mother not to wear that sari. But she was the last person to care about appearances. When we would dress up for wedding receptions, her tired shoulders would barely hold the *sador*, and she would look gloomier with her unlipsticked mouth. That is why, when I met my classmate once at the market, I furtively pointed towards my aunt as my mother when she was busy looking at the shop windows. I am 40 now. I have no pretensions

to keep. I simply want to come to terms with her. I am writing this at the same dinner table where she had sat all those years ago on a rainy evening, with a few unpeeled potatoes at her elbow, and a piece of paper before her. She was to write a memorial piece on her departed uncle. I had never asked my mother if she wanted to write. My mother was really bereft of hobbies: playing Ludo did not come to her, she could not apply make-up, and she could not weave. And writing being an extremely demanding task, it was obvious that the memoir could not have her contribution. I thought about this for a long time and finally, when I accused her that she was a

MONEY SMART

Dipankar Jakharia

money.smart@assamtribune.com

Accepting the crisis

It is time to reassess our financial plans to help us tide over the economic slowdown.



Prepare for a job loss. With factories and services non-functional, job loss is a future reality. Make a plan, what you will do in the event of job loss. Acquire a new skill. You have time at your hand to prepare.

Don't take new credit. Don't spend on credit cards. Pay everything in full. When your future income is at stake, taking a new loan will be a bad idea to float. Talk to your partner about it. If you have EMLs to pay and if you think

you might fail to pay, have a talk with your bank. Your banker might be able to help you in this.

Make a note of all the assets you possess. Gold, plot of land, bonds, shares of companies are all assets which can be liquidated. Don't worry about how much hard work you have put in to acquire them in your life. Assets are meant for us, not the other way around. If you need to liquidate, in which order you will do, make a list of it. And

remember when the good times return, you can always get them back.

Don't get greedy when you see prices of property or stock market fall south. In this time, cash is king. Prices will fall in the coming months or year, but take informed and non-sentimental decisions. Anchor your boat in the harbour when the storm is strong. Sail again when weather clears.

With the changing social norms, there will be many new opportunities to follow. Keep yourself informed about any new trends. Adaptation is the oldest survival tactic. Don't get too engrossed in the crisis. Look for entrepreneurial opportunities around.

Don't let your health insurance policy lapse. Set priorities among your insurance policy, mutual fund SIPs and loan EMLs. Make a mental calculation on which is the most important for you. This will help you pre-plan, in case you have problems fulfilling your commitments.

Most of us are emotional beings attached to our assets. Your investments for your daughter's wedding or your life savings for your retirement are all meant for your well-being. Don't get emotional about selling your gold or investments. Look at the brighter side. Because you kept those assets for the future, now they are working for you in this crisis.

MY SPACE

Dr. Unnikrishnan Menon

unnikrishnanmenon8@gmail.com

A midsummer day's shopping

So I had to be Superman for a day in this locked down existence on Earth. Not in the sartorial way, but the mundane, Everyman way – helping with some domestic chores. And my contribution, as seen fit by beloved family members, was to get some routine bit of shopping done. Just a quick hop and back to the supermarket across the road, for "groceries and stuff". Present circumstances meant that only one person could go. Well, I had done this a few times, so the experience would definitely see me through. Or so I thought.

So first things first: The List! A quick look showed a lot of bi-lingual written matter on a note page. Mother had written the items in Malayalam, while wife had translated, with additional instructions, into English. Seeds of doubt were sown. Was nothing purchased in the last few weeks? Anyway, the man-of-the-house strode forth. The time budgeted was "about one hour, max".

Uneventful comfortable car drive, and less than ten minutes later, there I was. Social distancing, the new normal, greeted me at the entrance of

the mall. The wait in the hot sun outside seemed longer than the ten minutes, especially with the trickle of sweat tickling its way down my spine. Entry permitted, and Obstacle No. 2 presented itself – a row of suitably separated chairs, meant for those waiting to gain entry into the supermarket store. Another 15 minutes there, and I was longing to get back into the hot sun outside, as there was at least air flow. The only comfort that I could derive from the mild hypoxia and the drying sweat was the feeling of martyrdom. Out of spite, I took a Selfie and posted it in the family group. The imagined tagline, "suffering for you'll" remained un-typed. Nary a response from the busy kitchen. Finally, *apna number aa gaya*, nearly 45 minutes since departure time. The weary shoppers trooped in, to be met with another unpleasant surprise. The A/C was switched off, in keeping with safety precautions. All thoughts of a pleasant stroll through the supermarket park had begun to evaporate.

Anyway, once again reminding myself that this was Man's Day Out for the family's sake, I steeled



Anyway, once again reminding myself that this was Man's Day Out for the family's sake, I steeled myself. Taking a leaf from the approach to written examinations, I decided to go about the list in an ordered and time-bound manner. One set of items at a time, and moving in an orderly fashion, I took deep breaths (of non-circulating air) and instructed myself.

myself. Taking a leaf from the approach to written examinations, I decided to go about the list in an ordered and time-bound manner. One set of items at a time, and moving in an orderly fashion, I took deep breaths (of non-circulating air) and instructed myself.

In keeping with the exam model, I decided to tackle the easy questions first. So the snacks, which were a piece of cake. Keeping my sons' tastes in mind, I lay both hands on Bingo and assorted chips, followed by biscuits. This was shopping with a vengeance, determined to outdo the insatiable appetite of two teenagers.

The "vegetables and fruits" question was solved reasonably efficiently, if you discount the lack of effort in testing for freshness and ripeness. The heat and lack of fresh air were rapidly dousing the flames of my burning desire to help in the family chores. And now, I had to answer the trickiest question – the groceries section.

Pulses, I must say, I could never get the pulse of. With due respect to all the various *daaks* and *chanas* in their dining table-top versions, I find getting their

shelf versions right a challenge. There was only one kg. of one thing, not the listed requirement, while some items seemed to determinedly stay out of sight. The explicitly stated brand name of another item was missing. Looking around and sporting an embarrassed half-smile at a lady co-shopper some distance away was obviously not of much use. The onset of hunger pangs added to the breaking of resolve. Swallowing my pride, I called up the wife, to clear doubts and get clearance to abort my mission at the present stage. There seemed to be unseemly patience in her voice. Quick consultations with her MIL settled the matter. The question paper would have a couple of short notes unanswered.

By now, it was well past 1 p.m. – way beyond the expected time of this friendly mission. Hunger and thirst prodded me to do just one more bit of shopping – a pack of fruit juice, which I quickly consumed while waiting at the payment counter. Small mercies here; the crowd control meant that there was practically no queue there. I rather fancied I saw a respectful look in the eyes of the lady at the counter, noting all the dutiful purchases made by this responsible man. And then, the rush back home, to rapturous welcome for the Superman, as he lugged in all the life-saving stuff obtained from the great outdoors.

Maid in India

Among the many harsh truths that COVID-19 has taught us is the fact that India rests on the shoulders of its *safai karmacharis*. It's something that we have taken so much for granted that nobody really talks about it. It has been swept under the carpet, and rendered invisible. "Serious" columnists, especially males who, notoriously in India, perch loftily above such mundane considerations as housework, never mention this fact. Economists hardly ever factor in the labour of this vast army of cleaners, both public workers and household help, when discussing Important Matters about the state of the nation, except maybe giving a token nod to that concept known as the Unorganised Sector.

The sanitation workers who labour in the public domain are the ones who clean our dustbins, sweep our roads, and generally keep things liveable around the country. It is only when, for some reason, they do not do their work that we realise how important they are for the smooth functioning of our societies. We are not people who segregate our waste in most towns and smaller cities. We leave it to them, and to the rag-pickers to do that for us. We are not a mechanised society, and depend heavily on manual labour to clean up our drains, sometimes, in smaller towns, even our septic tanks. Yes, deaths occur. Working conditions are extremely poor. But then, we are a poverty-ridden country, those who work in these fields so tragically poor that they are happy even to get this job.

And there is also the home help. The vast army of cleaners, cooks, gardeners, chauffeurs, without whom our middle-class homes would grind to a halt. And yet, they are taken so much for granted. For we know that, on the whole, if one cleaner leaves, we may be inconvenienced for a while, but we shall soon get another for the same work. For we all know that in this vastly overpopulated land, there will be several applicants for this job requiring only unskilled labour. Perhaps the way we "invisibilise" them is a hangover from colonial times, when the "native bearer" was to be seen, but never cared for, or cared about.

One of the things that visitors to our land, especially from "developed" countries marvel at is the presence of these workers. But for middle-class people, they are not luxuries, they are necessities. On their labour rests the freedom of the employers, especially the women, to go

ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

Mitra Phukan



The air is pure now, Nature sparkles. Yet the days pass in a haze of dull, grey sameness. Just how many books, songs, movies can you consume, sitting at home, without company? We try to evaluate in our minds what we see on the screens around us. Images of migrants going home, balancing bundles and babies, of being mown down by oncoming freight trains. News reports of people driven by hunger to break into houses and rob them, sometimes injuring the people inside. The ever-rising numbers of the infected, and the dead.

out and work, climbing ever higher rungs of success. Their presence enables us to entertain effortlessly, to outsource our childcare in the absence of daycare centres, to talk of feminism at seminars around the world. And since the concept of the "Assisted Living Facility" is still in its infancy here, and comes attached with many taboos, the care of the bedridden, the elderly becomes much easier with the presence of these professional caregivers. For the elderly who live alone, long-term helpers are companions. And now that there are so many thefts and break-ins being committed by desperate, starving people who are suddenly out of food and money, these helpers are also protection, and security.

And yet, we barely acknowledge their indispensability in our lives. Until something like this happens, and they are stopped from coming to our homes for weeks, months on end. And

even though they will get their salaries, there is the problem of how to get the money into their hands, since there is no public transport. And so, they suffer.

During the days of the lockdown, the first thing that affected most families without live-in help was the absence of the "Bai". Ours is not a country that can manage for days without sweeping and swabbing. We are a dusty country, we do not have double-glazed windows to keep out the muck. The grime of March settles onto our floors and our furniture, and it needs a constant battle to be waged with brooms and mops and dusters to keep things hygienic on the home front.

Even so, people did it. Not for days, but for weeks on end. Even without the proper brooms and mops which make these things easier, people did it. The maids and helpers themselves were full of genuine sympathy, wanting to return to help. But most employers stuck to the directive that people should not be allowed in. A new appreciation of the work done by domestic helps was born, even as vast amounts of Volini and Iodex were massaged onto aching backs and shoulders.

Cooking and stocking up on food, too, is a process that cannot be compared to what happens in the developed places. Here, we have to forage, it's an economy of scarcity again. Socially distancing and fighting for the last few potatoes in the neighbourhood shop are hardly compatible, but it's a question of survival.

The air is pure now, Nature sparkles. Yet the days pass in a haze of dull, grey sameness. Just how many books, songs, movies can you consume, sitting at home, without company? We try to evaluate in our minds what we see on the screens around us. Images of migrants going home, balancing bundles and babies, of being mown down by oncoming freight trains. News reports of people driven by hunger to break into houses and rob them, sometimes injuring the people inside. The ever-rising numbers of the infected, and the dead.

And on the other hand, on social media, images of people making chocolate cake, smiling into the camera as they cook really fancy dishes with exotic and pricey ingredients. No, they should not be judged. All Things Considered, they are trying to stay sane, too, and who knows which demons each person is battling, at this time?

Mitra Phukan is a novelist, short-story writer, translator and trained Shastriya Sangeet vocalist.

5 THINGS/ Economic revival

"This pandemic has proven that local, rural economies are inherently resilient..."

RANJIT BARTHAKUR, well-known industrialist, on how local entrepreneurs can get back into business.



2 Invest in local green economies

This pandemic has proven that local, rural economies are inherently resilient to disruptions in supply-chain and logistical challenges. Rural and forest fringe communities offer an opportunity to transition to a new, sustainable model of growth that is locally self-reliant and self-sufficient. Enhancing local agriculture and forestry (Agroforestry)-based economies will not only lead to a spurt in green business, but also develop the very fabric of this region – our rural communities.

3 Advocacy by entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs must get together and through their associations, work with the government to ensure that the government puts in place adequate support measures like low-interest loans for industry.

4 Consolidating existing businesses

To ensure survival during tough times, entrepreneurs must consolidate existing businesses before venturing into newer areas.

5 Physical distancing and social embracing

To prevent possible spread of the virus, proper physical distancing at the workplace must be maintained, while ensuring that all workers, including those who are staying away from home for work, are taken care of. Adequate arrangements must be made to test all those workers who show any symptoms of being infected or are unwell.

(As told to Nasreen Habib)

1 Restoring natural capital

The world is going through a very difficult time. Forest fires, super cyclones, devastating floods, and now COVID-19: the degradation of the natural world will only have an increasing impact on the business world in the coming years. Around the world, big business is slowly pivoting to include climate risks in its assessments – but there is a more proactive way to build resilience. It is time we invested in restoring and managing natural capital to manage some of these natural risks in the future and build resilient and future-proof businesses.

FORECAST

May 18 – 24, 2020

ARIES (MAR 21–APR 19) This week is about being meticulous, re-read everything, and check if you have the correct recipient before you press send. If you can't indulge in me-time, it's worth taking the time to plan things.

TAURUS (APR 20–MAY 20) This is not the time to spend big, although shiny, gorgeous items are particularly tempting right now, especially tech, design, and communication devices.

GEMINI (MAY 21–JUN 20) This week kicks off some crackling insights, visits from the past, and general rediscovery. This is not the time to start a new direction, relationship, or a drastic new look.

CANCER (JUN 21–JUL 21) During the next few days, you'll find pleasure in improvement. Beautify the areas of your home that provide a sanctuary for you. Find a novel or series that allows you to escape into another world.

LEO (JUL 23–AUG 23) You're revisiting and reviewing your extended social circle, so expect the unexpected as old friends dial in from the past. Over these times, a lot of people have had extra time to recall past connections. Perhaps, you can rekindle a friendship.

VIRGO (AUG 23–SEP 23) Career relationships are beginning to pivot. Expect to hear from or feel the urge to contact an old boss or someone significant from an earlier period. This is an ideal time to review your professional relationships, in general.

LIBRA (SEP 23–OCT 23) You are itching to expand your horizons, but it has to be done virtually for now. Consider a course of study online or start mulling over that next big idea of a trip – without locking in dates.

SCORPIO (OCT 23–NOV 21) Just when you thought your bedside manner couldn't be any more on point, it's time to put the playbook down and revise. How and who are you relating to on the deepest level? It's talk time, so be frank and clear about your needs.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22–DEC 21) Your intimacy zone is up for review, so note who appears in your rearview mirror. Expect a love ghost or two from the past to visit and note the message but don't commit for now.

CAPRICORN (DEC 22–JAN 19) Your work relationships are all up for review by you. Take a look at who you really want to work with. You have so many bright ideas, and it's essential to enjoy the company you keep.

AQUARIUS (JAN 20–FEB 18) This period begins a retrospective on romance, so expect signs from people you've made an impact on – even if it's just in the form of old flames watching your IG stories. Review your creative pursuits.

PISCES (FEB 19–MAR 20) If your work persona is starting to clash with your homebody side, don't panic. It's perfectly normal to feel alienated from the day-to-day tasks your job requires while under your own roof.

MOVIE WATCH

Bidisha Singha

The Half of It

Director: Alice Wu.

Cast: Leah Lewis, Daniel Diemer, Alexxis Lemire.

Netflix finally gets it correct with an American college rom-com that ticks all the right boxes.

Chinese immigrant Elli Chu is a straight-A student who makes an extra buck by completing assignments for her classmates. But when she agrees to write a love letter for a jock, she gets into an unlikely friendship with this guy and also falls in love with his crush. There is nothing straight-forward about love or life and *The Half of It* embodies just that.



Top rated movies on NETFLIX

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (1966) | 7. Django Unchained (2012) |
| 2. Inception (2010) | 8. Dangal (2016) |
| 3. The Matrix (1999) | 9. Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981) |
| 4. Back to the Future (1985) | 10. Taare Zameen Par (2007) |
| 5. The Pianist (2002) | |
| 6. Once Upon a Time in the West (1968) | |

All Day and a Night

Cast: Ashton Sanders, Jeffrey Wright, Isaiah John. Director: Joe Robert Cole.

A typical hood movie, there's nothing here that you haven't already seen in any other 'Black-guy-goes-bad' film. And yet you feel for the protagonist (Jahkor) who tries his best to get out of the shadow of his criminal father, serving life in prison. His rapping abilities notwithstanding, Jahkor keeps trying to turn his life around, but he can't seem to catch a break, eventually ending up in the same prison as his father. The cycle of racism and trauma that Black men face is poignantly portrayed in this film.



SCREEN SHOTS

Sugandha Rawal

sugandha.r@ians.in

Manoj Bajpayee is spending his lockdown in the mountains of Uttarakhand, and says he is unaffected by the outside mayhem. The actor says the COVID-19 pandemic has turned out to be a great leveller. "I am stuck in the mountains with my family. It's a great place to be in, anyway. I am unaffected by the outside mayhem going on. Also, the locals are very aware and careful," Manoj said when asked about his lockdown.

"The realisation (after this period) is that life is too unpredictable. I was just kind of thinking and realised that we give so much importance to ourselves for no reason. In this kind of a situation, be it a millionaire or an underprivileged, all are on the same platform and on the same level... This is the beauty and power of Nature. When it comes to proving its force, it spares no one. So, it is important to keep your head on your shoulders," he added.

Manoj was shooting for an upcoming web series with Deepak Dobriyal in the hills when the lockdown was announced. Since then he has been staying there with his family and the crew.

On the work front, he was recently seen in *Mrs. Serial Killer*, which released on Netflix on May 1. *Mrs. Serial Killer* is directed by Shirish Kunder and produced by his filmmaker wife

Liberating experience

MANOJ BAJPAYEE is spending his lockdown in the hills of Uttarakhand.

Farah Khan. The thriller is about a wife, whose husband has been framed and imprisoned for serial murders. She needs to perform a murder exactly like the serial killer to prove that her husband is innocent. It also stars Jacqueline Fernandez and Mohit Raina.

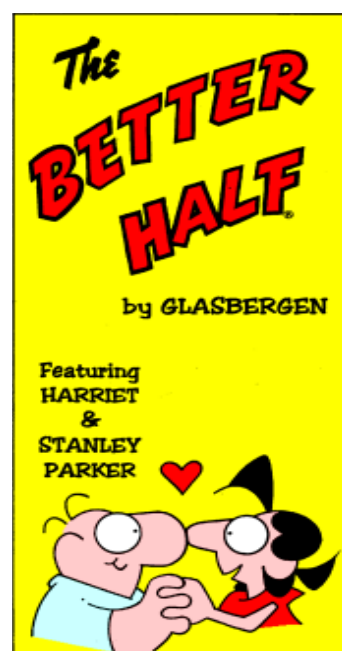
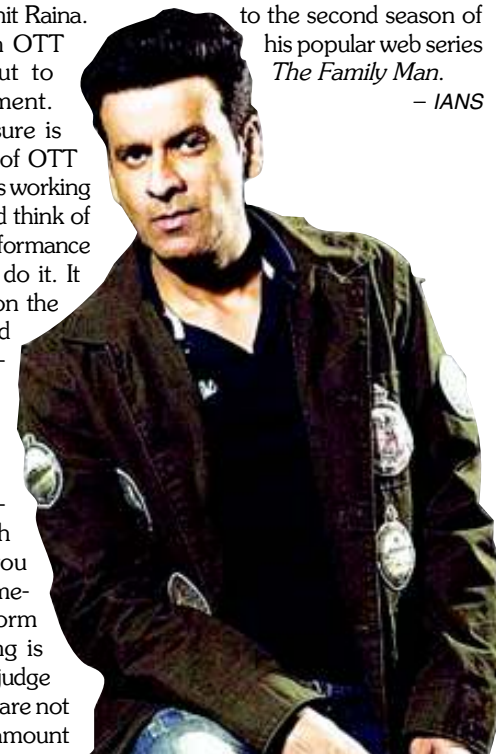
For Manoj, working on OTT platforms has turned out to be a "liberating" experiment. "The no box-office pressure is the most liberating aspect of OTT platforms. I felt it when I was working on *The Family Man*. I could think of wild experiments for my performance and I could go ahead and do it. It used to work and people on the set would appreciate it and acknowledge it and be entertained," said the actor, who has proved his acting calibre in projects like *Satya*, *Shool* and *Gangs of Wasseypur*.

He continued: "The experiments have worked with the audience as well. If you want to come up with something new, this is the platform because the ultimate thing is output. There is nobody to judge you before release and you are not going to be judged by the amount

of money that you collect at the box-office."

"In future, if I get something as exciting as the last one, I will go ahead and be part of it," said the actor, who is also looking forward to the second season of his popular web series *The Family Man*.

– IANS



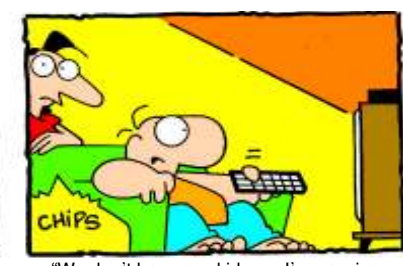
"It was the longest kiss he ever gave me. Then I noticed he was asleep."



"I was doing great on my diet until I lost control and ate a whole tube of toothpaste."



"When I was a skinny kid, all I ate was junk food. I never got heavy until I started watching my weight!"



"We don't have any kids, so I'm passing along my values and beliefs to our cat."