

ENTERTAINMENT P|6

Will continue sending migrants home until the last one reunites with family: Sonu Sood

LOCAL / NORTH EAST / NATIONAL P|2

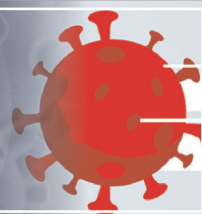
11 traders booked for violation of LM Act  
Assam reports third COVID death; 6 new cases...

SPORTS P|8

Kohli is the Best across formats: Ian Chappell  
BCCI cautious before organizing skill-based...



Let's extend our hands to beat **COVID-19**  
Stay home, stay safe. Maintain hand hygiene and WEAR MASK whenever go outside.  
Be a lockdown hero and don't believe in fake news in social media.



-Issued in public interest by Echo of Arunachal

## With highest single-day spike of 5,242 cases, COVID tally nears 1 lakh

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** The number of confirmed Novel Coronavirus cases in the country came closer to one lakh.

According to the Union Health Ministry, the COVID-19 infections rose to 96,169 in the country, after registering the highest single-day spike of 5,242 fresh infections in the past 24 hours.

Meanwhile, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Monday announced a slew of measures to bring the COVID-hit economy back on track, even as the number of positive.

'Bus services with restrictions, Odd even for shops in

the market, home delivery of food, autorickshaw with one passenger, Cabs with two passengers, Standalone shops and Industries with staggered timings allowed in Delhi during the Lockdown 4. Buses will run with 20 passengers,' Kejriwal said in a video conference.

Rajasthan topped the tally with 140 fresh cases taking its Novel Coronavirus tally to 5,342, while the death toll stood at 133.

With 47 fresh cases surfacing in Uttar Pradesh, it's infection tally rose to 4,511, second in the country. The state has 1,763 active patients, while 2,636 patients

have recovered and 112 died. As many as 1,878 patients were under isolation, while 10,601 were in facility quarantine, State Principal Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said.

With detection of 29 more new cases, the number of Corona positive cases has increased to 1392 in Bihar, taking the third rank in COVID cases nationwide.

Karnataka recorded the single-day highest spike of 99 fresh cases of COVID-19, including 24 from Bengaluru Urban district, taking the total number of infections in the state to 1,246, the state stood at fourth position in

the country.

Andhra Pradesh government followed the footsteps of Delhi government, as it decided to resume the APSRTC bus services in the state and also gave permission to the private travellers to resume their bus services.

The deadly virus claimed a pioneer of kids' drama, as well-known Marathi scriptwriter Ratnakar Matkari died while being treated for Covid-19 in a hospital at Andheri in north-west Mumbai. The 81-year-old was admitted to a hospital at Marol in suburban Andheri with symptoms of Coronavirus.

(Contd. on page-2)

## Devastating fire engulfs 36 houses at Daporijo

Staff REPORTER I

**NAHARLAGUN, May 18:** In a heartbreaking incident, at least 36 houses were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire that broke out at Sigin colony of Daporijo, the headquarters of Upper Subansiri district, this afternoon.

Fire fighters and CRPF personnel reached the spot and helped the blaze from spreading further.

According to town magistrate Dubom Apang, the incident happened around 2:30pm.

He informed that the house from where the fire started was vacant during the fire incident as the owner is out of station adding that short circuit could be the reason behind the mishap.

He, however, said that the assessment of 36 houses is only the result of preliminary enquiry. "Actual figure could be much beyond that," he added.

About the assessment of the property damaged, he said that the figure would amount to crores as many people were claiming that they also lost their local ornaments.

The town magistrate further informed that final assessment of the property damaged and distribution of relief materials would be done tomorrow.

"Relief measures could not be initiated today as the bank had already closed by the time the preliminary enquiry concluded," he added.



## CBSE to hold pending Class X and XII board exams from July 1 to 15

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will hold pending Board exams for class X and XII from July 1 to 15.

The revised datesheet was issued by CBSE on Monday. In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, all candidates have been asked to carry hand sanitisers and cover their nose and mouth with mask or a cloth. Students have been advised to maintain social distancing at the examination centre.

Class X students from North East Delhi, where riots had erupted, will appear for Hindi Course A, Hindi Course B, English Communication and Literature, Science, and Social Science papers.

(Contd. on page-2)

## ADM warns of legal action against those failing to remove construction materials from NH-415

**ITANAGAR, May 18:** Additional District Magistrate of Itanagar Capital Region cum Highway Administrator Talo Potom on Monday warned all those who do not obey the 'order' issued by his court and also those who do not remove their building materials and debris from the national highway-415 within given time frame.

"We have given sufficient time to all persons and those who do not adhere to the order may be booked as per law," the ADM said while interacting with media per-



sons at Chimpu on NH-415 this afternoon.

He said that show cause notices were served to more than 50 persons and a deadline was given to all such

persons to remove their building materials kept on the roadside which were creating hindrance to passers-by and moving vehicles.

He pointed out that depos-

iting building materials, condemned vehicles on roadside create nuisance and obstruction to others, and also damage the road surface. (Contd. on page-2)

## DC for strict compliance of SOPs as 144 CrPC extended to May 31

**ITANAGAR, May 18:** Capital Deputy Commissioner Komkar Dulom informing that Section 144 of CrPC has been extended up to 31st May 2020 from 7pm to 5am has appealed the business community to cooperate with the Administration and ensure strict compliance of SOPs like compulsory wearing of masks, social distancing etc while on operation.

In a press briefing today, the DC informed that the earlier order of opening of shops alternately on left and right hand side of NH-415 stands as it is.

Highlighting the quarantine facility, Dulom informed that the PTC can accommo-

date 444 persons out of which 119 are presently occupied. He added that paid quarantine centres have also been set up by requisitioning 34 hotels at Itanagar and Naharlagun having altogether a total of 608 rooms available.

The BPL complex will start functioning as facility quarantine in 2-4 days which would be able to accommodate 200 persons initially and a total of 570 persons once the whole complex is done.

As we are expecting around 350 stranded students from various states, the DC appealed the denizens to cooperate with Administration and not to protest and raise

issues against paid quarantines as these have been set up especially to accommodate our students who are stranded outside and administrators, police, medical teams etc are jointly supervising the same 24\*7.

The DC also highlighted that there are two ways to provide quarantine, one is home quarantine and the other is facility quarantine. However, the concept of home quarantine is not being followed properly as witnessed earlier and hence, we are emphasizing on facility quarantine to contain the disease at initial level, added the DC.

(Contd. on page-2)

## Alternative to Opium: DHO distributes 13 varieties of vegetable seeds to farmers

**KHONSA, May 18:** Tirap District Horticulture Officer (DHO) Henrik Basar has on Friday last distributed 13 varieties of vegetable seeds to the farmers at Lazu, under 'Alternative to Opium' scheme taken under the Chief Minister Sashakt Kisan Yojana (CMSKY).

While distributing the vegetable seeds, the DHO briefed the farmers about the ill effect of opium on health and society, and encouraged them to take up cash crops, vegetable

gardening and other commercial crops, like large cardamom as an alternative to opium.

Taking the advantage, the DHO also advised the farming community of Lazu to maintain social distancing, health & hygiene and not to spit in public places.

HDO Tolong Sunmyan and public leader Phawang Lowang also apprised the farmers to take up vegetable gardening seriously for their economic upliftment.

(Contd. on page-2)

## Call for strictly following MHA guidelines on lockdown 4.0

**TAWANG, May 18:** A day after the Central government extended the ongoing COVID-19 induced nationwide lockdown till May 31, Tawang MLA Tsering Tashi and DC Sang Phuntsok today said that the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the fourth phase of lockdown should be strictly followed without any dilution to keep the deadly Coronavirus at bay.

Taking a review meeting on COVID-19 scenario with the Army, paramilitary forces, BRO and NGOs of Tawang in the conference hall of DC office here, Tashi said the guidelines issued by MHA for lockdown 4.0 are to be followed strictly without any dilution, and issue of passes for emergency movement by Incident commanders should continue.

Appreciating the efforts from all frontline warriors to combat the invisible enemy COVID-19, he said, we have a big challenge ahead and need to be very careful by bringing changes in our social behaviours. (Contd. on page-2)

## Five-day OFDP on 'Re-thinking research.....' begins at RGU

**RONO HILLS, May 18:** A five-day online faculty development programme (OFDP) themed 'Re-thinking research and contemporary development priorities: Learning essentials for a sustainable future' being organized by the department of Social Work, Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) began here today.

In his inaugural address, RGU vice chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha said, when the world is suffering from the global pandemic and people are bound to stay home restricting all kinds of movements in every walk of

life, this worldwide crisis has given us the opportunity to evolve and search new strategies.

Schools and colleges are closed but with online classes educational institutions are trying to reach their students and educators so that the learning keeps thriving.

Academicians, research scholars, development professionals and social scientists representing more than 20 states and 50 different institutions across India are participating in the OFDP. The inaugural session witnessed participation of 100

delegates and resource persons including Prof Kushwaha and Prof Amitava Mitra, Pro-VC, RGU apart from Prof Kalpana Sarathy, Deputy Director, TISS, Guwahati.

Dr Kaushalendra Pratap Singh, HoD in-charge briefed about objectives and expected outcomes of the programme.

Prof Mitra highlighted the significance of a trans-disciplinary practice-based discourse for a sustainable future.

Prof Kushwaha stressed the need to revisit fundamentals of our personal and

professional priorities for a holistic social development and strengthening social fabric. He highlighted the need to revisit and redefine individual and institutional priorities from sustainability approach.

The VC threw light on how the technological advancement has changed the face of the learning. Importance of emerging practices viz Gross Happiness Index over GDP as an indicator of growth was emphasized by him.

Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar, Asstt Prof also spoke. (Contd. on page-2)

**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH**  
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE**  
**ITANAGAR CAPITAL REGION: ITANAGAR** **DM**

No.DM/ICR/DDMA-01/2020 **ORDER** Dated Itanagar the 18th May'2020

In compliance with the order of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India vide No.40-3/2020-DM-I(A) Dated 17th May'2020, the promulgation of 144 Cr PC is hereby extended upto 31st May'2020 from 7 PM to 5 AM.

All the terms and conditions issued by this office vide earlier order No. Dated 5th May'2020 shall remain unchanged.

The Superintendent of Police and all the Magistrates are required to implement the order in letter and spirit throughout the administrative area of Itanagar Capital Region.

Issued under my hand and seal on this day of 18th May'2020.

Sd/-(Komkar Dulom)  
District Magistrate  
Itanagar Capital Region  
Itanagar

DIPR/ARN-10058-66/2020

**GOVERNMENT OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH**  
**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER**  
**PAPUM PARE DISTRICT, YUPIA.** **DC**

No.DC/PP/CVD 19/01/2020/PC **ORDER** Dated 18th May, 2020.

(Under Section 144 Cr. PC)

**WHEREAS**, in pursuance of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt of India order No.40-3/2020-DM-1(A) Dated 17th May, 2020 under Clause 6, movement of individuals shall remain strictly prohibited between 7 PM to 7 AM except for essential activities w.e.f 18.05.2020 to 31.05.2020.

**Therefore**, I Pige Ligu, Deputy Commissioner cum District Magistrate, Papum Pare District, Yupia in exercise of powers conferred upon me under Section 144 Cr.PC do hereby prohibit movement of individuals, for all non-essential activities between 7 PM to 7 AM on subsequent day until further orders.

The Superintendent of Police, Papum Pare District, Yupia is enjoined upon to implement this order under Section 144 CrPC in letter and spirit.

ADC, Sagalee, Balijan, Kimin, SDO Doimukh, EAC Mengio, CO Tarasso, Sangdupota, Gumto, Toru, Parang, Leporiang, Silsango and Kakoi are directed to enforce the order in letter and spirit and violators should be dealt with as per rules.

Issued under my hand and seal on this 18th Day of May, 2020.

Sd/-Pige Ligu  
Deputy Commissioner  
Papum Pare District  
Yupia

DIPR/ARN-10067-75/2020

**INFORMATION**

24x7 State Control Room  
COVID-19 numbers: 104/  
0360-2292777 / 75 / 74  
State Task Force Control  
Room at DHS No. 0360-  
2350407  
MoHFW, Gol 24x7 Control  
Room Number:+91-  
11-23978046

## 11 traders booked for violation of LM Act

**NAHARLAGUN, May 18:** The Legal Metrology & Consumer Affairs department is continuing its effort to discourage unfair trading practices at this time of Coronavirus-induced crisis.

The Legal Metrology officers (LMOs) today booked 11 traders across the State for violation of Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

A team of LMOs consisting of Zonal Deputy Controller Minte Siga and Asstt Controller C S Singpho conducted surprise inspection at Tezu Market and booked three traders for selling packaged commodities without the mandatory declaration as required under Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, while the LM team led by M Munglang, Inspector Namsai district in their inspection at Namsai market also booked three traders for similar nature of offence.

The LM team of West Kameng district led by Tasso Guro also booked five traders from Rupa market who on their inspection was found selling packaged commodities items without the mandatory declaration as required under the PC Rules.

On receipt of public complaint of overcharging on bakery products in Capital Complex, a special team of LMCA officers consisting of Papum Pare District Asstt Controller, Amrit Taba and Inspector LM Debia Tana in presence of office secretary of Consumer Rights Organization Tilling Tallo, inspected bakery factories located at Nirjuly area.

The team inspected the factory premises located at Nirjuly and no irregularities observed. All the packages used by them are bearing MRP, said Taba.

The public complaint which alleged selling of bakery products like bread, biscuits etc at exorbitant price could not be substantiated with our findings, he added. He, however, cautioned all owners of bakery not to market any of their products without the mandatory information on the label of each product.

## NPP condoles Migo Basar's demise

**ITANAGAR, May 18:** The National People's Party (NPP), Arunachal Pradesh has expressed profound grief on the sudden demise of veteran political figure of Lepa Rada district of the State, Migo Basar.

Late Migo Basar, father of Gokar Basar, MLA Basar, breathed his last at TRIMHS hospital, Naharlagun yesterday.

He is survived by his two wives, five sons and three daughters, three grandsons and one granddaughter. The mortal remains of Migo Basar will be laid to rest at his native Hoi (Soi) village tomorrow.

He was born to late Karmi Basar and late Moyo Angu Basar of village Soi in Lepa Rada district on 01/01/1957.

Late Basar championed the cause for promotion of indigenous faith movement and performed various Galo traditional festivals and rituals.

He was a social reformer and also widely acclaimed as a great orator and practitioner of Gomku Agom in Galo Gumin. He also put in lot of efforts for development of education sector in Basar area as member of School management Committees.

Late Migo Basar, a great visionary leader of our state who contributed a lot for all-round development of the state will always be remembered by the people of the State, said the NPP in its condolence. His untimely demise is a great loss for the Lapa Rada district as well as the State, it added.

The State NPP prayed to almighty God for eternal peace of the departed soul and to bestow enough strength to the bereaved family members to bear the irreparable loss caused to them.

## Relief to establishments for delayed deposit of dues during lockdown

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** Due to prolonged lockdown announced by the Govt to control the spread of COVID-19 and other disruptions due to pandemic, establishments covered under EPF & MP Act, 1952 are distressed and unable to function normally and pay the statutory contributions in time.

Considering the difficulty faced by the establishments in timely deposit of contributions or administrative charges due for any period during lockdown, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (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.

A 'circular' dated 15.05.2020 has been issued to Field Offices of EPFO containing instructions to the effect that no proceeding shall be initiated for levy of penal damages in such cases which is 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.

## EKSWCO donates sanitizer, masks, PPE kits

**SEPPA, May 18:** Continuing its fight against COVID-19 pandemic, the East Kameng Social Welfare & Cultural Organisation (EKSWCO) team led by its chairperson Dahey Sangno and vice chairperson Er Sankoli Cheda today donated sanitizer, mask and personal protection equipment (PPE) kits to Health and Police departments.

Meanwhile, assuring to extend its wholehearted support for beautification of Seppa township, the Orga-



nization has extended financial assistance of Rs 50,000 toward town beautification

## Assam reports third COVID death; 6 new cases take tally to 106

**GUWAHATI, May 18:** Six new COVID 19 positive cases in Assam today so far has taken the total count to 106, while the third dead due to the infection was also reported in the state. State Health Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma informed that two new cases of COVID 19 positive were reported this morning.

One case was detected from Jorhat and the other from Nagaon. Both were in quarantine centres.

Two more cases were reported each from Golaghat and Cachar districts later in the day.

The Minister further informed that a COVID 19 positive person who was also suffering from cancer and had returned from Mumbai, along with other patients and their attendants in special buses arranged by the state government, died today.

Dr Sarma wrote on Twitter: "Extremely sad to share that Gopindra Ch Malakar, 71, who returned from Mumbai & had neck cancer + Covid positive passed away at 11.05 am at GMCH owing to respiratory distress."

The wife and son of the deceased, who had travelled with him from Mumbai and were being kept in a city hotel, have been shifted to MMC Hospital here for further screening.

Altogether seven patients and their attendants among over 60 people who had returned from Mumbai in the special buses had tested positive for COVID 19 here.

With this, the total number of COVID 19 positive cases in the state has reached 106, out of which 41 have recovered and three have died so far. (UNI)

## Assam to issue job cards within 7 days to migrant workers

**GUWAHATI, May 18:** The Assam government today announced of issuing job cards under MGNREGA within seven days of applying for all migrants who return to the state due to the lockdown.

"Assam government has initiated special steps to provide wage based employment to the migrant workers and also other interested people of the state who have returned due to the present crisis situation of COVID-19," state Panchayat and Rural Development (P&RD) Minister Naba Kumar Doley said here today.

He urged all such people to apply for job cards and informed that the willing people will be provided job card within seven days and they would get work when they seek.

Referring to the enhancement of budget from Rs 61,000 crore to Rs 101,000 crore in the current year for MGNREGA under special economic package, Doley said the needy persons should come forward to get financial relief of Rs 213 per day by working under MGNREGA.

The P&RD department has planned to prepare a Gaon Panchayat wise list of migrant workers and information relating to their previous engagement will also be included in the list so that they might be employed as per their field of expertise. After relaxation of lockdown, 6,261 job cards were issued covering 26,891 persons.

The minister has been visiting different districts with the senior officials of the department to review the progress of the rural development schemes. He has already visited Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Nagaon, Barpeta, Hojai and Darrang districts. As many as 99 % workers are provided wage in their account through DBT and during relaxation period of lockdown, wage amounting to Rs. 28.40 crores has been released. (UNI)

## 1471 Nagaland stranded persons opt to stay back

**KOHIMA, May 18:** Nagaland Government has informed that a total of 18,255 citizens of the state are stranded in different parts of the country have filled up the Returnees Declaration Forms on the portal for availing the one-time assistance for Rs 10,000 and a total of 1,471 persons have voluntarily opted for staying back as filled up the required forms on the portal.

According to an official release briefing the latest situation amid COVID-19 lockdown, Nagaland Principal Secretary for Home Abhijit Sinha informed that 47 stranded citizens arrived Dimapur yesterday (on May 17) around 7 PM by the special train (New Delhi to Dibrugarh). Of the 47, one person from Assam left in a private vehicle and three buses with 45 persons left for Arunachal Pradesh from the station.

He also informed that a total of 1,382 people from different parts of the country have arrived Nagaland till Sunday, the release said. (UNI)

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

### With highest single-day spike...

Good news came from Meghalaya, which declared itself COVID-free, after a woman who had tested positive a week back, was declared fully recovered.

With six more deaths, the toll due to COVID-19 in Bengal rose to 172, while confirmed cases touched 2,825 in the state with 148 more cases.

Over four dozen policemen and five doctors were among 106 people, including 94 from Kashmir and 12 from Jammu, who tested positive for COVID-19, taking the total number of infected people in the Union Territory of J&K to 1289.

Meanwhile, the death toll due to the infection has risen to 15 with two patients, including an elderly man and woman, dying due to COVID-19 in Kashmir, where 34 positive patients were discharged after being treated successfully.

The new guidelines for Andaman and Nicobar Islands for lock-down 4.0 has brought great relief for the people of South Andaman as entire South Andaman District has now been classified as Green Zone based on the parameters shared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, except the containment zones.

Goa Health Minister Vishwajit Rane said that two passengers who came from Mumbai-Goa train had tested positive for COVID-19, taking the tally of active cases to 36.

Four new COVID 19 positive cases have been detected in Assam, while the third dead due to the infection was also reported in the state. The total number of COVID 19 positive cases now stands at 104.

The swab sample of seven suspected patients, including a Mominpura-based man who died, reportedly tested positive for coronavirus in Nagpur. After this development, the death toll in the city has escalated to seven while the positive cases stands at 371.

A married couple tested positive for COVID-19 in Kolhapur after seven new cases were detected, stated Chhatrapati Pramila Raje Hospital. The couple, in their thirties, are residents of the Shahuwadi tehsil. With the new additions, the district's pandemic tally now stands at 56.

A 60-year-old man, who has been hailed as one of the COVID-19 warriors by his employer company in Thane, succumbed to the contagion, a day after testing positive for the pandemic. A resident of the Wagle Estate locality here, the man has been described by the company as a dutiful employee who readily offered his service when the company started making face masks.

Thirteen new COVID-19 cases, including 12 from Bhadrachal taluka and a lone patient from Bhusawal, were detected in Jalgaon. The new patients were found after the test reports of 35 suspects were received. With new additions, the district's pandemic tally has surged to 279. (UNI)

### DC for strict compliance...

Also few people tend to believe that there are chances of infection through these facility quarantines, however, people should understand that these people are not positive cases, said the DC adding we are following the SOPs of the MoHFW and incase there happens to be a positive case, the same would be immediately shifted to TRIHMS. The DC further stressed that every caution is being taken by the DA in this connection.

As spitting in public is now a punishable offence under section 51(B) of the Disaster Management Act, the DC has requested denizens to refrain from doing the same.

Also chewing of Paan, tobacco etc isn't permitted in public space, added the DC.

He also appealed all not to venture out of their homes unless very urgent especially senior citizens above 65 years, children below 10 yrs and pregnant women.

Further, the DC stressed on the importance of Aarogya Setu and urged all to download the app which is a COVID-19 tracking app and would help detect such cases.

### Five-day OFDP on 'Re-thinking...

During the first technical session, Prof Sarathy shared practical and theoretical insights on 'Mental Health: Vulnerability, Resilience, and Overall Well-being' where she focused on the importance of mental well being as an ignored area in our country and how we can tackle the psychological needs of women, children, youth, specially able and other vulnerable population pertaining to the current needs of the individuals during unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

In the second technical session, Dr Rajendra Singh, Waterman of India, internationally acclaimed Stockholm Water Prize (Nobel Prize for Water) & Ramon Magsaysay Awardee and Chairman of Tarun Bharat Sangh, gave insights into 'Environmental Sustainability: Inter and Intra Generational Justice, Trans-boundary Pollution and Population'.

He focused on going back to our basic social fabric viz villages for preserving our environment. He also suggested initiating courses like 'Nourishing Nature' instead

of 'fashionably' taught Environmental Studies which offers only synthetic learning and lacks in grassroots reality based attitudinal transformation of learners.

### CBSE to hold pending Class X ...

Class XII students from across India will sit for the remaining papers including Business Studies, Geography, Hindi (Elective), Hindi (Core), Home Science, Sociology, Computer Science (Old), Computer Science (New), Information Practice (Old), Information Practice (new), Information Technology, and Bio-Technology.

The papers for class XII students from North East Delhi include English Core, Mathematics, Economics, Biology, Political Science, History, English Elective-N, English Elective-C, Physics, Accountancy, and Chemistry.

The revised dates were to be announced by Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal on Saturday, but was later postponed to today.

"Dear students of class 12th of #CBSE Board here is the date sheet for your board exams. All the best," tweeted the HRD Minister. (UNI)

### Work on makeshift ...

The preliminary work has started on war footing and is expected to be completed within a weeks' time by the department of UD&H.

Earlier in the morning, a meeting on 'micro plan for containing local transmission of Corona virus and on the enforcement issues' was held by the DC with the nodal officers. (DIPRO)

### ADM warns of legal action against...

People should understand these problems for others, specially the pedestrians and moving vehicles, he said.

"I have started enforcing the order and started the eviction drive, which will continue from Chimpu to A-Sector near Todo Hotel.

Eviction will continue in sectors and colonies if such activities continue and simultaneously notice is being served from 0-Point Tinali to Jullang tri-junction on NH-415," Potom added.

As several constructions are also seen on the roadside of NH-415, Highway department has been requested to take necessary action in a phased manner, he said.

### Alternative to Opium: DHO...

After distributing on 15th May at Lazu on 16th May, 2020 the Vegetable seeds were also distributed at Barap village on Saturday by the Department of Horticulture. Prior to distribution of vegetable seeds, Areca nut, orange seedlings, banana suckers and black pepper cuttings were also distributed to farmers of Tirap under CM-SKY.

It is to mention here that under CMSKY, various schemes like, Area expansion program of Orange Garden, Banana Garden, Areca-nut intercrop with Black Pepper and Alternative to Opium were taken up in Tirap district during 2019-20 to uplift rural farm economy towards fulfilling the vision of Prime Minister to double the farmers' income by the year 2022. (DIPRO)

### Call for strictly following MHA...

We have to strictly monitor those people coming from outside, and being kept in quarantine facilities and sent to home quarantine. The Gaon Burahs, ASHAs, and Anganwadi workers are to be mobilized for strictly monitoring those in home quarantine.

He, however, said if there is any problem for the economically weaker section to follow the home quarantine guidelines at home, they can be managed by NGOs and if needed, he personally assured to help them. But at the same time, it is the responsibility of every villager and parents to comply with instructions to keep everyone safe from infection, he added.

Besides complimenting the district administration for putting in place best quarantine facilities in Tawang, the MLA appreciated the hoteliers for providing accommodation in very cheap rate, as well as the Army authority for jointly working with civil administration in the fight against COVID-19 and requested to continue the same spirit.

DC Sang Phuntsok, while apprising the house about the MHA guidelines for lockdown 4.0, said everyone should take care of themselves, while noting that Govt officials may not be available all the time to remind, so everyone must contribute as Corona warrior. We have kept every one coming from other states in strict quarantine facilities irrespective of status. He strongly appealed everyone to download Aarogya Setu application and use it.

Participating in the discussion, Commander of Tawang Brigade, Brig VK Jagtap said that Indian Army is taking all precautions to make sure that, not a single soldier is infected with COVID-19. The soldiers are being screened at various locations before making an entry to Tawang, he informed and added that even the fresh vegetable supplies are also thoroughly sanitized with salt water and then distributed to units.

The officers from SSB, ITBP, and representatives of various NGOs also shared their views and ideas for combating COVID-19. (DIPRO)

## Meghalaya no longer have any COVID-19 active case: Tynsong

**SHILLONG, May 18:** Meghalaya no longer have any COVID-19 active case after a woman who had tested positive a week back was declared recovered on Monday, Deputy Chief Minister Prestone Tynsong informed on Monday.

"I would like to inform today that Meghalaya has no more active case. Out of the 13 cases, one has passed away while 12 have fully recovered," he told reporters

in his daily briefing.

The 30-year old woman had tested positive for COVID-19 on May 9, was one of the 181 primary contacts of the first positive patient, late Dr John L.Sailo Rynthiang who died on April 15 after he was tested positive on April 13.

All these cases were within the Shillong agglomeration under East Khasi Hills district.

Out of the 11 districts, Tynsong said only East Khasi

Hills would still be categorised as an "orange zone" while the remaining have been categorised as "green zones".

However, he said that the government would communicate to the Centre regarding the development where there are no more active cases in the State.

The Deputy Chief Minister also informed that till Monday, 3,207 samples have been collected for testing, out of which, 2,883 samples report-

ed negative while the results of 311 samples were awaited.

"6,565 citizens who were stranded in different parts of the country, including from the other North Eastern States, have returned home," he said.

Furthermore, Tynsong informed that a train from Bangalore, with not less than 1,250 citizens from the state, has left on Monday evening, and is expected to arrive at Guwahati railway station on Wednesday. (UNI)

# VP suggests 12-point framework of living during Corona times



**NEW DELHI, May 18:** Underlining the need to adopt new ways of living in Corona times, Vice-President and Chairman of Rajya Sabha M Venkaiah Naidu has suggested a 12-point framework to deal with this new normal. Learning from the lessons taught by the pandemic so far, he stressed on the need for new attitude towards life and humanity amid indications the virus was likely to stay for longer than previously calculated.

On Sunday night, soon after the announcement of lockdown 4.0 with restrictions substantially relaxed, Naidu wrote a detailed 1,539 word article on Facebook, dealing at length on the philosophical and moral issues thrown up by the Covid-19 pandemic and the way life needs to be lived henceforth. "...What affects one person anywhere affects everyone everywhere, be it the disease or economy," the article says, its main thrust

being that life can't be lived in isolation and the virus outbreak highlighted the inter-connectedness of lives. The 12-point new normal of living during the Corona times favoured by Naidu includes: Living in harmony with the nature and fellow beings, Knowing that safety and security of lives are interconnected, Rationally analysing the impact of every movement or action on the spread of virus, Not responding impulsively to the situation and instead living in confidence keeping faith in

science which can come up with a solution to the problem, Strict adherence to the behavioral changes ushered in so far like wearing mask, maintaining physical distance and ensuring hygiene, Preventing stigmatisation so that the infected volunteer for treatment, Checking disinformation and prejudices against fellow citizens as carriers of the virus and Replacing the sense of collective helplessness by the spirit of the virtue of living interconnected with shared destiny.

The Vice-President also urges the media of all kind to disseminate correct and scientific information about the virus and the disease instead of presenting them as a catastrophe.

Citing examples of life 'Before Corona' and 'After Corona', Naidu notes that the outbreak has shaken the fundamentals of living by oneself and highlighted the need for living in harmony with nature and fellow humans. "The invisible microbe once again proved that life can change very quick. It brought into full play the uncertainty that can co-sail with life," he wrote.

While the pandemic has raised questions about the meaning and purpose of life, including the nature of relationships with fellow beings and moral issues connected with the current pathways of development given their impacts on nature and equity, he was of the opinion that "the virus has highlighted

the consequences of economic fault lines in societies created by development pathways in terms of the impacts. Uncertainty continues to haunt the people. Uncertainty is the known source of anxiety which can lead to psychological issues. How to deal with this problem? To stay calm and be confident and adopt a new normal of life."

He stresses that the corona challenge is more a civilisational issue than that of individual lives and new norms and ethos of living should be evolved to save the present civilisation.

Naidu welcoming the new relaxations for lockdown 4.0, refers to the people living with HIV virus that had no vaccine for long time by changing habits and urges the people to learn to cope with Covid-19 by changing habits and attitudes towards life and fellow humans, if the virus stays with the people for longer than expected. (UNI)

# PM reviews preparations against cyclone Amphan

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday chaired a high-level meeting to review the response measures against cyclone Amphan developing in the Bay of Bengal, the Prime Minister's office said.

During the meeting, which was also attended by Home Minister Amit Shah, Principal Advisor to the Prime Minister PK Sinha, Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba besides other senior officers of the government, the Prime Minister took full stock of the situation and reviewed the response preparedness as well as the evacuation plan presented by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).

During the presentation of



the response plan, DG NDRF informed that 25 NDRF teams have been deployed on the ground while 12 others are ready in reserve. 24 other NDRF teams are also on standby in different parts of the country.

In a tweet, the PM said, 'Re-

viewed the preparedness regarding the situation due to cyclone Amphan. The response measures as well as evacuation plans were discussed.'

'I pray for everyone's safety and assure all possible support from the Central Government,' the PM said. (UNI)

# India supports nations' motion at WHA seeking COVID-19 probe

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** India, likely to take over as the Chair of the WHO executive board on Monday, has backed a draft EU motion to be adopted at the World Health Assembly (WHA) seeking probe into Covid-19. Apart from EU, Australia, Japan, UK, Indonesia, Canada, Brazil, New Zealand, South Korea and Turkey are among 62 countries which are supporting the draft motion at the WHA beginning today in Geneva.

The motion demands an independent inquiry into the Coronavirus outbreak worldwide and WHO's response and steps to counter the pandemic.

According to official sources here, the motion seeks an "impartial, independent and comprehensive evaluation" of the international health response under WHO to Covid-19 along with a timeline.

The sources also informed that though the US and China did not join the group

of nations, the motion was not objected to by either of the two countries.

The motion also calls for WHO Director-General to work with international agencies to identify the zoonotic source of the virus and the route of Introduction to the human population, including the possible role of intermediate hosts, including through efforts such as "scientific and collaborative field missions, which will enable targeted interventions and a research agenda to reduce the risk of similar events".

Informatively, India has so far avoided lending support to any demand to put China in the dock for the origin of the Covid-19.

The EU resolution also does not name Wuhan or China.

Meanwhile, the worldwide COVID death toll accelerated to 3,15,023 as India is accounted for 3,029 deaths.

Incidentally, Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi, while speaking at the G20 virtual summit in March, had called for reforming and strengthening WHO which has faced criticism for being soft on Beijing with US President Donald Trump even describing the agency as a 'puppet' of China.

Modi had told the summit that the UN health agency needed to be empowered because it did not presently have the mandate to deal with a global pandemic like Covid-19.

Foreign Secretary Harsh Shringla had recently said, "India, as Chair of the WHO executive board, will look to promote new crisis management protocols and develop more adaptive, responsive, affordable and humane healthcare systems and resources that can be deployed globally."

The two-day World Health Assembly is scheduled to conclude tomorrow. (UNI)

# Oppn using state machinery to target BJP workers, says Nadda

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** BJP president J P Nadda on Monday charged the opposition-ruled states with using state machinery to target BJP workers and independent voices and said this was unacceptable in a vibrant democracy.

"In the last few days, it has been observed that in opposition ruled states, the state machinery has been used unfairly to target BJP workers and independent voices on social media, critical of the local government's handling of Covid-19. In a vibrant democracy, this is unacceptable," Nadda said in a series of tweets.

He said culture of debate and criticism of those in public life is an integral part of the democratic process of the country but 'using state



agencies at your disposal to silence dissent is unbecoming of those in power'.

Opposition should adhere to political arguments, when questioned on their failing, he added.

He assured BJP workers of support and said the party will defend their right to free speech.

"I want to assure every BJP worker, supporter & well wisher, who is being targeted by those scared of their un-

principled politics getting exposed, that the BJP stands with you. We will defend your right to free speech and resist these tyrannical forces in the democratic framework," he said in his missive.

In opposition ruled states including Maharashtra and West Bengal, there have been incidents of police cases against BJP workers over alleged 'fake reports' related to Covid-19 developments. (UNI)

# Harsh Vardhan to represent India at 73rd World Health Assembly

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan will represent India at the two-day meet of the World Health Assembly, organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which begins on Monday.

The two-day meeting having Coronavirus as its agenda, will address a resolution proposed by the EU to jointly develop affordable diagnostics, medicines, and vaccines for Covid-19.

The Assembly is also set to vote on whether Taiwan should be invited to join as

a WHO member in the teeth of stiff Chinese opposition.

As already announced, the 73rd World Health Assembly will be held virtually following the Covid-19 outbreak.

The meeting, which is due to be attended by all 194 WHO member states and observers, will deliberate on the impact of the Coronavirus in the world.

The WHA is the plenary body of WHO whose member states and approves the organisation's budget, fill vacancies in its executive board, and votes on agenda items. (UNI)

# Don't dilute MHA guidelines, can impose stricter norms if needed: Centre to states

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** A day after the fresh guidelines were issued by the Union Home Ministry, the Centre on Monday directed the state and Union Territories (UTs) not to dilute the MHA guidelines but allowed them to impose stricter prohibitions if needed.

The Centre has extended lockdown up to May 31 and issued new norms for lockdown 4.0. In a letter written to all Chief Secretaries on Monday, the Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said that the states or UTs, based on their assessment of the situation, may prohibit certain other

activities or impose restrictions as deemed necessary.

"I would urge you to ensure compliance of the new guidelines, and direct all concerned authorities for their strict implementation. Further guidelines issued by MHA and consequent Orders issued by the respective State Governments/ UT Administrations should be widely disseminated to the public and to the field functionaries for the convenience of people", the MHA letter reads.

Bhalla also said that under the new guidelines effective from May 18 as the nation enters lockdown 4, the states and UTs

would now categorise Red, Orange and Green zones taking into consideration the revised guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on May 17.

Under the new guidelines, now inside the Red/Orange zones, containment and buffer zones will be identified by the district administration or local urban bodies with technical inputs at local level and by taking into consideration the Union Health Ministry guidelines.

Within the containment zones, strict perimeter control shall be maintained, and no movement of persons

would be allowed across the zones, except for medical emergencies and for maintaining supply of essential goods and services.

A limited number of activities will continue to remain prohibited throughout the country. In order to facilitate the movement of persons, various modes of transport have already been opened up as per SOPs issued by MHA.

All other activities will be permitted except those which are specifically prohibited under these guidelines. However, in containment zones, only essential activities shall be allowed as earlier. (UNI)

# Tourism Secretary to host meeting with States/UTs tourism heads on May 21 to discuss restoration of domestic travelling

**KOLKATA, May 18:** Union tourism secretary would hold a meeting on May 21 with the tourism heads of state governments and union territories to discuss the major challenges and opportunities for restoration of domestic traveling across India in the face of Covid-19 situation.

"The outbreak of Covid-19 presents the tourism sector with a major challenges and opportunities and in order to take forward the domestic tourism in post Covid-19 era a meeting will be held on May 21," Union ministry of tourism additional director general Rupinder Brar said in letter to the tourism heads of the states and UTs.

The Union secretary would chair the meeting at 3 pm via video conferencing the letter said.

The agenda among others are working together to promote local and domestic tourism and discussion on protocol for state governments/ UTs in the post Covid-19 era.

All the tourism heads of states and UTs have been requested to confirm and attend the video conferencing meeting, the first of its kind in recent years, especially when the travelling and hospitality sectors touched the rock bottom due to restriction of movement and lockdown. (UNI)

# Chidambaram slams govt, says stimulus package left many sections left high and dry

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** Taking on the Narendra Modi government over the special stimulus package for the lockdown-hit Indian economy, former finance minister P Chidambaram on Monday expressed disappointment, saying it has left high and dry various sections, including 13 crore families in the bottom half of the population.

"We express our thorough disappointment and request the government to reconsider the stimulus package and announce a revised and comprehensive fiscal stimulus package of not less than Rs 10 lakh crore of real additional expenditure, equivalent to 10 per cent of GDP," the senior Congress leader said via video conference.

Referring to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's press conferences to elaborate the special economic package, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr Chidambaram said the Congress has carefully analysed the contents of the five 'tranches'.

"We have also looked into the analyses put out by various economists, experts, agencies and banks. In our



view, a fiscal stimulus of Rs 1,86,650 crore amounting to barely 0.91 per cent of GDP will be totally inadequate given the gravity of the economic crisis and the dire situation in which people find themselves.

'Most analysts, rating agencies and banks have placed the size of the fiscal stimulus at between 0.8 to 1.5 per cent,' he said.

Chidambaram said, 'We note with deep regret' that the fiscal stimulus package has left several sections high and dry, including 13 crore families who are the bottom half of the population; migrant workers; farmers; landless agricultural labour; daily wage non-agricultural labour; workers who have been laid off or retrenched; workers in unorganised or unregistered

businesses/units who have lost their jobs; self-employed who have no work; 7 crore shopkeepers; lower middle class families who have run out of cash and are forced to borrow and 5.8 crore MSMEs.

Chidambaram said the finance minister had acknowledged that additional expenditure must be financed by additional borrowing.

The former Union Minister further stated that there can be no fiscal stimulus to the economy without additional expenditure over and above the budgeted expenditure.

'The true value of the fiscal stimulus package will be known when we know what is the additional borrowing in 2020-21 to finance the additional expenditure over and above the budgeted budget of Rs 30,42,230 crore. The truth cannot be hidden for long,' Chidambaram said.

The Congress leaders requested the government to reconsider the stimulus package and announce a revised and comprehensive fiscal stimulus package of not less than Rs 10 lakh crore of real additional expenditure equivalent to 10 per cent of GDP. (UNI)

# Cyclone 'AMPHAN' getting stronger; to bring heavy rains, high wind speed in W Bengal, Odisha

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** With 'AMPHAN' getting stronger and intensifying into a Super Cyclonic Storm, the India Meteorological Department has warned of heavy rainfall and high wind speed in West Bengal and Odisha.

The super cyclonic storm is likely to make a landfall in West Bengal and Odisha on May 20.

According to the latest release at 1500 hrs by the Cyclone Warning Division of the IMD, the storm is very likely to move nearly northwards for some more time and then north-northeast wards across northwest Bay of Bengal and cross West Bengal - Bangladesh coasts between Digha (West Bengal) and Hatiya Islands (Bangladesh) close to

Sundarbans during the afternoon or evening of May 20.

IMD has predicted that

rainfall at Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Balasore, Bhadrak and



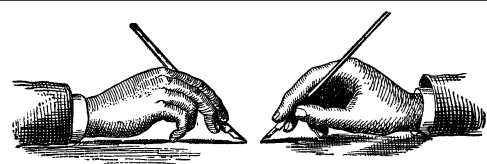
coastal Odisha is likely to experience light to moderate rainfall at many places from Monday evening with heavy falls at isolated places over coastal Odisha such as Gajapati, Ganjam, Puri, Jagatsinghpur and Kendrapara Districts on May 18.

"Rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy

Medinipur, South and North 24 Parganas are likely to experience light to moderate rainfall at many places with heavy falls at isolated places on May 19.

Rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy falls at a few places and extremely heavy falls at isolated places East and West Medinipur, South and North 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hoogli, Kolkata and adjoining districts on May 20 and isolated heavy rain over interior districts on May 21.

Light to moderate rainfall at most places with heavy to very heavy falls at a few places over Malda and Dinajpur districts on May 20 and over most of the districts of Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim on May 21. (UNI)



## Echo of Arunachal

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

### Strict no to complacency

In 106 days since the first laboratory-confirmed novel coronavirus case was reported on January 30, India surpassed China's tally of 84,038. As on May 15, India had over 85,500 cases and the death toll stood at 2,752, as against 4,633 in China. There are only 10 other countries that have more cases than India. At the same time, the toll in the US alone went past the total number of cases in China, while the total case load crossed 1.4 million. On March 18, when China reported zero fresh cases, India had just 162 cases and three deaths. Despite the country being under lockdown since almost end-March, the number of fresh cases and deaths reported each day has continued to rise steadily — on average, over 3,600 cases have been reported daily since May 8. This is of serious concern as contrary to the advice of WHO, India has not fully utilised the precious lockdown period to increase manifold the number of tests carried out daily while simultaneously tracing, isolating and treating COVID-19 patients. That even during the lockdown India has witnessed the shortest time, of 13 days, for cases to double compared with 14 other countries that have the most cases reported is testimony to the wide spread of the virus. A reason for this could be that cases in other countries, barring Russia and Brazil, have already peaked or are about to. Unfortunately, even as the number of cases has crossed 94,700, India is yet to begin investigating community transmission despite the strongly suggestive findings of sentinel surveillance among those hospitalised for severe acute respiratory infections. Given the high rate of asymptomatic transmission, high viral resurgence is inevitable when the lockdown is lifted. With over 11,200 cases, Tamil Nadu has the second highest number of cases next to Maharashtra (over 33,000). But with over 4,000 tests per million, TN is testing nearly two times more than Maharashtra. It is not the States that report more cases that is a cause for concern, but those that have reported fewer. Active case finding and testing of most people with a travel history early during the lockdown could be one reason why Karnataka has reported fewer cases. Similarly, surveillance and case finding of those with a travel history early on have been good in Andhra Pradesh and could be a reason why it has reported fewer than 2,400 cases so far. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal have reported high case positivity. This could either be due to good surveillance, which is unlikely, or wider spread of the virus in the community, at least in specific regions. If the latter be the case, India can expect huge numbers to be reported in the coming weeks. No State, including Kerala, can thus be complacent.

## Pokhriyal welcomes FM initiatives to boost education sector

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** Welcoming the host of initiatives unveiled by the Finance Minister in the fifth and last tranche of the Rs 20-lakh crore Covid-19 packages as part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' has said the "One nation, one digital platform" and "one class one channel" will ensure that quality education material will reach the students present in farthest corners of the country.

Stating that the initiatives will boost access and equity in education and improve the gross enrolment ratio in the times to come, Pokhriyal said that due consideration was being given to the

Divyang children also and the measures will usher in a new paradigm in the creation of New India.

He was reacting to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement of a set of initiatives, including a comprehensive initiative called PM e-VIDYA, "One nation, one digital platform" and "one class one channel" among others.

This will benefit nearly 25 crore school going children across the country.

While to-be-launched PM e-VIDYA unifies all efforts related to digital/online/on-air education to enable multi-mode access to education, and includes: DIKSHA (one nation-one digital platform) which will now become

the nation's digital infrastructure for providing quality e-content in school education for all the states/UTs, it includes TV (one class-one channel) where one dedicated channel per grade for each of the classes 1 to 12 will provide access to quality educational material: SWAYAM online courses in MOOC format for school and higher education and IITPAL for IITJEE/NEET preparation.

Also, part of the package is Air through Community radio and CBSE Shiksha Vani podcast and study material for the differently abled developed on Digitally Accessible Information System (DAISY) and in sign language on NIOS website/YouTube.

To provide psycho social support to students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional well-being in the times of Corona, the Manodarpan initiative is being launched to provide such support through a website, a toll-free helpline, national directory of counselors, and interactive chat platform. This initiative will benefit all school going children in the country, along with their parents, teachers and the community of stakeholders in school education.

The Government proposes to expand e-learning in higher education — by liberalising open, distance and online education regulatory framework. Top 100 univer-

sities will start online courses. Also, online component in conventional universities and ODLE programmes will also be raised from present 20 per cent to 40 per cent to provide enhanced learning opportunities.

Recognising the need to promote critical thinking, creative and communication skills, the Government wants the curriculum to be rooted in Indian ethos and integrated with global skill requirements. Therefore, it has been decided to prepare a new National Curriculum and Pedagogical Framework for school education, teacher education and early childhood stage to prepare students and future teachers as per global benchmarks.

As part of this, a National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission will be launched, for ensuring that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy in Grade 3 through teacher capacity building, robust curricular framework, engaging learning material — both online and offline, learning outcomes and their measurement indices, assessment techniques, tracking of learning progress will be designed to take it forward in a systematic fashion.

This mission will cover the learning needs of nearly 4 crore children in the age group of 3 to 11 years, an official release here said. (UNI)

## NFR operated over 100 parcel trains to carry essential items

**GUWAHATI, May 18:** During the nationwide lockdown period, Railways has demonstrated agility and ingenuity to cater to completely new requirements that arose in India's fight against COVID-19. As the situation being faced is an unprecedented one, the requirements are also of unique kind. However, there was challenge of uninterrupted supply of essential commodities like rice, wheat, vegetables, milk, medicine, fruits, petroleum products etc not only to the doorsteps of crores of the people of country but also to Corona warriors.

Indian Railway has played a significant role in providing

its services for transportation of these essential commodities and life-saving drugs and medical equipments even beyond this region.

Northeast Frontier Railway is not lagging behind and has already operated more than 100 Parcel Special trains from major industrial hubs situated in Delhi, Mumbai, Nagpur, Bangalore and Kolkata for quick distribution of essential commodities to remote markets to provide relief to the public. In order to ensure hassle-free booking and delivery of parcel & freight consignments, all Railway officials at every level were put into the job

so that wheels of rail never stopped. NF Railway achieved to deliver such huge quantity of essential commodity with mandatory skeleton staff.

These inbound Parcel Express trains carried essential commodities like milk, various milk products, medicine, mask, personal protection equipment, sanitizer for hospital uses, sanitizer for personal use, Maggi and other Nestle products, fresh fruits, baby foods, AmulTaza, Amul Ghee etc to this region. NFR has also played a pivotal role in ensuring the availability of essential commodities and medical equipment in this

region at this hour of crisis.

NFR has operated a few Covid-19 Parcel Special trains viz. Guwahati – Agartala & back, Guwahati – Dibrugarh & back, Guwahati – Mandipathar & back, Dimapur – Howrah & back, New Jalpaiguri – Guwahati & back, Guwahati – Secunderabad & back so that various producers of this region can avail the transportation facility amidst nationwide lockdown. Due to this endeavour, NFR has been able to transport more than 1640 tonnes of material containing sanitizer, mask, medicine, blood sample bags, other goods etc & fetched Rs 65

lakh to Railway as revenue so that flow of essential commodities can be ensured.

With an objective to provide transport solution to much needed agriculture sector of Assam Area, NFR operated one round trip time tabled Covid-19 Kissan Parcel train in between Guwahati – Dibrugarh with intermediate halt at Jagiroad, Chaparmukh Jn., Hojai, Lumding, Diphu, Dimapur, Sarupathar, FarkatingJn, Mariani Jn., Simaluguri Jn, Duliagan & New Tinsukia Jn in both directions on regular interval. These services of Covid-19 Kissan Parcel Train in between Guwahati – Dibrugarh & Agartala have

been getting good response from the traders which is growing day by day.

Recently, e-commerce portal Amazon and India Post availed the Parcel Special services from Guwahati to book their consignments to New Delhi and Kolkata area. So far, NFR has been able to book more than 2000 packages & earned Rs 3 lakh. These Parcel Special Services rendered by the Indian Railway are not only ensuring availability of essential commodities across the country but also playing a pivotal role in fight against Covid-19 with support to the growth of economy.

## Assam negotiating Rs 300 cr package with World Bank to meet quarantine costs

**GUWAHATI, May 18:** With Assam deciding to pursue a strict quarantine policy to check spread of COVID 19, the state government is in advanced stage of negotiation with the World Bank for a special package to meet the costs.

Informing this at a press conference here today, state Health and Finance Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "We have noticed that the quarantine system for all returnees has worked well, and irrespective of COVID 19 positive figure, we can stop the virus from reaching the community level is this system continues."

"As such, we have decided to pursue a policy of 'ruthless quarantine with humane heart' and are in the process of finalizing guidelines for

ensuring quarantine with basic facilities for all returnees. We have estimated a cost of Rs 300 if we need to cover 4 lakh people under AssamCare initiative of monetary assistance for the stranded and quarantine for one lakh returnees," he said.

The minister said the state is in talks with the World Bank for assistance for this endeavour, adding, "The Department of Economic Affairs has encouraged us. We are looking for a package of Rs 300 crore and we are in advanced stage of negotiation with World Bank."

He further added that World Bank assistance is normally in the form of loan to the Central government, which forwards it to Assam with 80% in the form of grants.

On possible outbreak of COVID 19 cases with economic activities resuming in the state, Dr Sarma said, "The COVID tally will go up, but not because of opening of economic activities but due to people returning from outside the state."

He said 48,000 people have so far returned to the state and local level committees are being notified to ensure strict surveillance of the returnees.

The minister requested the people wishing to return to come back in a systematic manner so that the government can arrange for adequate quarantine facilities.

Altogether 104 COVID 19 positive cases have been detected in the state so far, with 41 people recovering and three dead. (UNI)

## Govt implements Shekatkar Committee recommendations related to creating border infrastructure

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** Aiming to enhance the border infrastructure, the government on Monday gave approval for implementation of the Committee of Experts' recommendation to outsource road construction work beyond optimal capacity of Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

The Ministry of Defence said that the government has accepted and implemented three important recommendations of Committee of Experts (CoE) under the chairmanship of Lt General D.B. Shekatkar (Retd) relating to border infrastructure.

These were related to speeding up road construction, leading to socio economic development in the border areas.

"On the matter related to

creating border infrastructure, the government has implemented recommendation of Committee of Experts to outsource road construction work beyond optimal capacity of BRO," the ministry said in a statement.

It has been made mandatory to adopt Engineering Procurement Contract (EPC) mode for execution of all works costing more than Rs 100 crore.

The other recommendation relating to introduction of modern construction plants, equipment and machinery has been implemented by delegating enhanced procurement powers from Rs 7.5 crore to Rs 100 crore to BRO, for domestic and foreign procurements.

It added, "Border Roads Organisation has recently inducted Hot-Mix Plant 20/30

TPH for speedier laying of roads, remote operated hydraulic Rock Drills DC-400 R for hard rock cutting, a range of F-90 series of self-propelled snow-cutters/blowers for speedier snow clearance."

It also stated that new technology like blasting technology for precision blasting, use of geo-textiles for soil stabilisation, cementitious base for pavements, plastic coated aggregates for surfacing, is also being used to enhance the pace of construction.

With the empowerment of field officers through enhanced delegation of financial and administrative powers, there has been significant improvement in faster financial closure of works, the ministry said in a statement. (UNI)

## 14 captive-bred pygmy hogs released in wild in Assam

**GUWAHATI, May 18:** In continuation with conservation efforts of pygmy hogs, the world's smallest wild pigs, 14 captive-bred pygmy hogs have been released in Manas National Park (MNP) in Assam.

The pygmy hogs, released by the Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP) over two days on May 14 and 17, prior to release in Manas were maintained in the pre-release centre near Nameri National Park for six months.

During the time of translocation from the centre to Manas, Assam State Zoocum-Botanical Garden DFO Tejas Mariswamy and Debashish Buragohain, Range Officer, Nameri National Park, were present.

This is a significant milestone in the effort to save one of the most endangered mammals in the world as the original wild stock for the con-

servation breeding project was captured from the same Park about 24 years ago.

The species now returns to their home, where the original population still survives, albeit dramatically declined.

With this, the number of pygmy hogs reintroduced into the wild by PHCP has reached 130 (62 males, 68 females) which is more than their current original global wild population.

In 1996, six hogs (2 males, 4 females) were captured from Bansbari range of MNP to start the breeding programme.

Later, a young male rescued in 2001, and another male and two females captured in 2013 from the same range joined the captive breeding stock.

Reintroduction of captive hogs in the wild began in 2008. Initially, three Protected Areas in their past distribution range in Assam were

selected for better protection and restoration of alluvial grasslands.

Over the next decade, 35 hogs (18 males, 17 females) were released in Sonai-Rupai Wildlife Sanctuary, 59 (26 males, 33 females) in Orang National Park, and 22 (11 males, 11 females) in Barnadi Wildlife Sanctuary.

The reintroductions in Orang has been particularly successful as they have multiplied almost two and a half times in number, and have spread to the areas far from the release locations.

It has been estimated that with the release of these 14 (6 males, 8 females) hogs in Rupahi grasslands in the Bhuyanpara range of MNP, the total number of reintroduced hogs and their progeny may have reached 200 in the four release sites.

About 60 hogs will be released over a 5-year period in the Bhuyanpara range from

where they had disappeared.

The Chief Wildlife Warden and the Additional PCCF, Assam, MK Yadav said, "Amidst the crisis of African Swine Fever we decided to secure the future of the Pygmy hogs. One of the first things is to release them in a secure place such as Manas."

Manas Field Director Amal Chandra Sarma added, "The old glory of Manas seems to be coming back with the release of these hogs in Bhuyanpara range and this may attract more visitors to the Park."

In the meanwhile, PHCP will continue to maintain about 70 captive hogs at its two centres in Assam and breed more hogs for release.

Manas contains some of the largest remaining grassland blocks in the sub-Himalayan grassland ecosystems. Found only in these tall dense alluvial grasslands, pygmy

hogs are incredibly shy and are almost never seen.

Dr Parag Jyoti Deka, Project Director, PHCP, said, "Tracking both wild and released animals is normally achieved by monitoring their nests, droppings or foraging marks and through radio telemetry. Pygmy hog is one of the few mammals that construct a 'house' (nests) which is used by small groups. Large number of camera traps are being deployed carefully to capture their images, identify marked individuals and to find out if babies are being produced."

PHCP founder and advisor Dr Goutam Narayan added, "Adhering to IUNC re-introduction protocol, PHCP aims to release pygmy hogs in suitable grasslands of Manas where the species does not currently exist and only in areas that are not directly connected to the locations holding wild pygmy hogs."

Dr Dhritiman Das, Field Scientist of PHCP, further said, "The project developed a holistic approach as part of the Rewilding Plan for Pygmy Hog Conservation for recovery of biodiversity-rich grasslands of Manas. Focusing on three different grasslands blocks of

Manas the programme actively collaborates with the Assam Forest Department in species management, community engagement and threatened species recovery to restore grassland diversity."

The Pygmy Hog Conservation Programme (PHCP) is a collaborative effort involving as key partners Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, IUCN/SSC Wild Pig Specialist Group, Assam

Forest Department, Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, EcoSystems-India and Aaranyak. (UNI)

## Rajyogi Speaks

A SOCIETY FULL OF CONFLICTS



There is no doubt in it that the present day society that we live in is rife with many kinds of conflicts and is pilled with many predicaments. Like, there is communal discord at its ignition point that can flare up even at the slightest show of heat, there are casteist tensions that rise to the point of fish at the slightest provocation, there is grave dissidence and internal strife in every ruling party that keep the party bosses on tenterhooks. There are also morbid intra-party fights for capturing levers of power. All these promote political instability and uncertainty and keep the people constantly guessing. All this hot lava provides enough grit to the mills of the media that work overtime to rake up the rubble and keep institutions and groups astir. Similarly the youth seem to have ceased to be inspired by lofty ideals and women seem to feel very little responsibility to nourish their children with moral and human values. It also appears that though the percentage of literates is rising, moral illiteracy is increasing and those who frame educational policy are in a quandary. Business and industry, in pursuit of high profits and in face of hard competition and demands of bureaucrats, have been losing their grip on integrity. There is nothing left but only unabashed selfishness. Religious discourse has lost its impact and ethics its essence. Where is our society going? What is to be done? Is there any light at the end of the tunnel? A clear thinking would lead us to the conclusion that only six steps, taken in time, can save us from the impending peril. To start with, the timely realisation that our own benefit lies in the betterment of all, that the goal of our life is neither blind power nor ill-earned money, position or property but happiness and peace that comes from a clear conscience and from the concern for the well-being of others, that we have a responsibility for our actions hence if we neglect our duty, we will incur sorrow for our own selves sooner or later, that we have not descended from apes but from divine ancestry and, so, we should awaken our inherent divine potential, that we must bring love and moral values in our relationships and lastly universal love in our relationships can come from the realisation of our real identity which is that we are souls, children of god, and are, therefore, brothers. This is the six-point formula for Universal Harmony.

(nikunjji@gmail.com --- www.brahmakumaris.com)  
(Writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist for publications across India, Nepal & UK)



## COVID-19 wake-up call for all nations: UN chief

GENEVA, May 18: United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Monday that the COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest challenge of our age and it must be a wake-up call for all nations.

Delivering a speech through a video link to the 73rd World Health Assembly, the UN chief said that the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated our global fragility, and despite the enormous scientific and technological advances of recent decades, "a microscopic virus has brought us to our knees."

"Deadly global threats require a new unity and soli-

darity," he stressed. Guterres reiterated a three-point response he and the UN have advocated for since the beginning of the pandemic: a large-scale, coordinated and comprehensive health response; policies to address the devastating social and economic dimensions of the crisis; more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies and societies.

"Instead of going back to systems that were unsustainable, we need to make a leap into a future of clean energy, inclusivity and equality, and stronger social safety nets, including universal health coverage," he said, adding that multilateral

efforts will be needed in this regard.

In his speech, Guterres also highlighted the importance of the World Health Organization (WHO) and paid tribute to the front-line health workers.

Saying that the WHO is irreplaceable, the UN chief told the conference that the entire UN family stands with the WHO and its staff working worldwide to support member states in saving lives and protecting the vulnerable.

"Either we get through this pandemic together, or we fail. Either we stand together, or we fall apart," he said. (Xinhua)

## WHO chief says world humbled by coronavirus, due attention needed

MOSCOW, May 18: The world has been humbled by the coronavirus, World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said on Monday, stressing the need to treat COVID-19 with the "respect and attention it deserves."

"For all the economic, military and technological might of nations, we have been humbled by this very small microbe. If this virus is teaching us anything, it's humility," Tedros said at the World Health Assembly.

The WHO chief also called for treating the coronavirus with due respect and attention, warning that it moved "like bushfire."

"This virus is efficient, fast and fatal. It can operate in the dark, spread silently if we are not paying attention, then [it] suddenly explodes, if we are not ready, and moves like a bushfire. We have seen the same pattern repeated in cities and countries all over the world. We must treat this virus with the

respect and attention it deserves," Tedros said.

The "dangerous enemy" has already claimed over 300,000 lives globally, but numbers fail to tell the story of the pandemic, the health effects of which extend far beyond the coronavirus-related sicknesses and deaths, Tedros added.

The pandemic threatens to "unwind decades of progress against maternal and child mortality, HIV, malaria, tuberculosis" and many other problems, the WHO director-general said, warning against easing restrictions too early.

"Some are now assessing how to ease the restrictions that have exacted such a heavy social and economic toll. WHO fully and supports the desire of countries to get back on their feet and back to work ... Countries that move too fast, without putting in place the public health architecture to detect and suppress transmission run a real risk of handicapping their own recovery," Tedros said.

The WHO wishes to see "the fastest global recovery," he added, calling on the global community to do everything possible to ensure that the 2020 pandemic does not happen again. (Sputnik)

## South Korea launches mass coronavirus testing of new draftees - Defence Ministry

MOSCOW, May 18: South Korea's armed forces rolled out coronavirus testing of all the new conscripts on Monday to prevent the infection from spreading through the military, the Ministry of National Defence said.

"The move is aimed at preventing COVID-19 from penetrating the military, and to check for the possible infection of people in their 20s with no symptoms," ministry spokesperson Choi Hyun-soo said at a briefing, as quoted by Yonhap.

According to the news agency, about 6,300 new draftees will be tested every week for the next two months. Previously, several servicemen tested positive for the virus after their colleague contracted the infection following his visits to clubs and bars in the Seoul neighborhood of Itaewon, where an infection cluster was reported in early May. The military, however, has reported no new coronavirus cases for a third consecutive day, the agency added.

Earlier in the day, the country updated its COVID-19 tally by 15 new cases to 11,065. The death toll stands at 263. (Sputnik)

## Coronavirus cases in Belarus exceed 30,000 with 171 deaths - Health Ministry

MINSK, May 18: The Ministry of Health of Belarus has registered 922 new cases of coronavirus infection over the past 24 hours taking the total to 30,572, while the COVID-19 death toll has increased by six to 171.

The ministry also noted that 10,130 people have so far been discharged with recoveries. Since the beginning of the outbreak in the country, 364,319 people have been tested, the ministry's charts show.

Belarus is among the few countries to have avoided drastic lockdown measures to abate the spread of coronavirus, although social distancing and other recommendations have been issued by the government. (Sputnik)

Guterres on Sunday. The warning was also communicated to Washington via the Swiss ambassador, who represents the US interests in Iran.

"Tankers with gasoline were sent at the request of the Venezuelan government. I hope that the US can avoid mistakes, but we will consider all possible options and we will be ready for the worst case scenario. Of course, it is premature to discuss the response to possible sea piracy by the US. Nevertheless, if this happens, we reserve all possible

means and we will give a proper answer," Rabiei said at a press conference, released by the Iranian government. Reports late last week had it that the US government was planning to act on Iranian oil shipments to Venezuela, fearing that Caracas was paying back with significant amounts of gold.

Both Iran and Venezuela were hit by the US sanctions in the past. Washington has vowed to nullify Iranian oil exports and called upon other countries to choose other suppliers. (Sputnik)

peace deal with the United States. He also accused the group of ties with other terrorist organizations, including al-Qaeda (banned in Russia). Army Chief of Staff Gen. Bismillah Waziri during the same press conference said that the military had resumed fighting with the Taliban "at the request of the people" to defend civilians.

Acting Interior Minister Gen. Massoud Andarabi also blamed the Taliban for the recent escalation of tensions and for bringing foreign terrorists into the country. He went on to say that approximately 4,000 attacks have been carried out since the United States and the Taliban signed a peace deal in Doha on February 29. (Sputnik)

## Iran ready to retaliate if US attacks its Venezuela-bound oil tankers - Govt

TEHRAN, May 18: Iran is prepared for the worst-case scenario and has all it takes to respond to any provocation by the United States against its tankers transporting oil to Venezuela, government spokesman Ali Rabiei said on Monday.

Iran has already warned the US against sending its navy to the Caribbean to intercept Iranian tankers en route to Venezuela and vowed to retaliate if that happens, as conveyed in a letter of Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif to UN Secretary General Antonio

## Afghan security directorate accuses Taliban-affiliated haqqani network of supporting IS

KABUL, May 18: The Haqqani network, the Taliban's guerrilla offshoot, is assisting the Islamic State (IS, banned in Russia) across Afghanistan, Ahmad Zia Saraj, the acting head of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), said on Monday.

"Relations between the Taliban and other terrorist groups have expanded, and the Taliban are using foreign terrorists in their attacks. The NDS has documents and evidence that the attackers have dual citizenship. There are small IS groups in cities, and the Haqqani network supports them," Saraj said during a joint press conference of Afghan security agencies.

According to Saraj, the Taliban has recently increased violence despite its

## WORD PUZZLE

E	G	A	D	E	B	S	R	T	D	H	G	L	L
H	E	A	D	I	N	G	H	O	M	E	C	O	E
N	R	E	R	E	B	U	L	L	S	E	Y	E	K
T	Y	O	E	B	P	E	T	C	O	P	A	R	K
T	Y	A	D	G	N	I	N	E	P	O	I	I	W
T	S	O	B	E	E	N	A	R	D	D	S	E	
T	D	R	C	L	P	G	D	A	W	P	U	N	P
L	S	Y	P	E	N	L	L	A	B	E	S	A	B
C	U	M	R	P	A	D	R	E	E	B	L	D	D
G	W	E	P	A	D	R	E	S	G	O	L	D	N
N	N	N	Y	W	G	Y	N	O	T	E	T	C	L
M	R	B	W	O	P	E	A	L	M	I	B	O	D
G	S	W	E	E	T	S	P	O	T	P	E	E	B
A	E	U	L	B	C	I	F	I	C	A	P	I	M

PACIFIC BLUE  
PADRES GOLD  
TONY GWYNN  
OPENING DAY  
SWEET SPOT  
BASEBALL  
BULLSEYE  
PETCO PARK  
MR. PADRE  
HEADING HOME  
SDSU

## PREVIOUS ISSUE'S SOLUTION

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

## TODAY'S SUDOKU

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

SUDOKU is a Japanese, fun puzzle game. It requires the player to fill in the 9x9 square grid with the numbers one to nine. The numbers should be arranged in such a way that each row, column and mini-grid contains one of each number. A single error in a Sudoku throws the whole game out.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4		5		6		7
8								9				
10						11						
13								14				15
17												
21												23
24												

### Across

- 1 Trousers that end at the knees (7,6)
- 8 Veteran (3,4)
- 9 Stop for a moment (5)
- 10 Cry (4)
- 11 Most pathetic (8)
- 13 Approval (6)
- 14 Distinction — attribute (6)
- 17 Observe rhythm accurately (4,4)

### Down

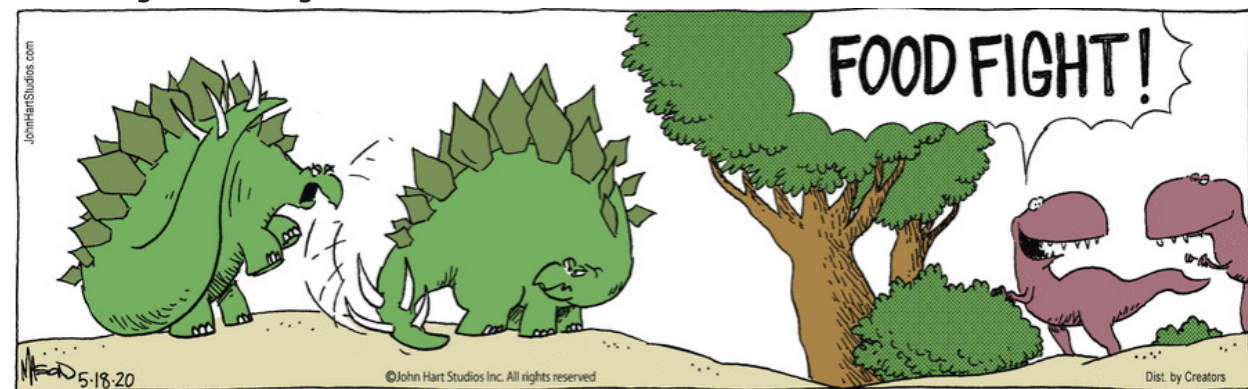
- 1 Show displeasure orally (3)
- 2 Set right (7)
- 3 River flowing through Russia and Kazakhstan to the Caspian (4)
- 19 Accomplished (4)
- 21 Banishment (5)
- 22 Facial hair (that can be raised) (7)
- 24 Scornful criticism (13)

## PREVIOUS CROSSWORD SOLUTION

		O	S	T	R	A	C	I	S	E			
	F	C	E	O	U								
D	I	O	R	M	O	M	E	N	T	U	M		
	G	O	I										
C	U	T	O	U	T		C	O	R	P	S	E	
	R	G								U	P		
D	E	F	E	C	T		B	A	B	O	O	N	
	O						O	U	I	K			
C	U	P	F	I	N	A	L		T	H	E	N	
	T		A	I	L		L	I	N				
			S	T	I	C	K	Y	E	N	D		

- 4 Gone off (6)
- 5 Leading European imperial dynasty from the 13th century to 1918 (8)
- 6 Cosmetic (5)
- 7 Viewer (9)
- 10 Irresolute (4-5)
- 12 Formal curse leading to excommunication (8)
- 15 Go in different directions (7)
- 16 Single-celled organism (6)
- 18 Ways out (5)
- 20 Nothing more than (4)
- 23 Irresolute (3)

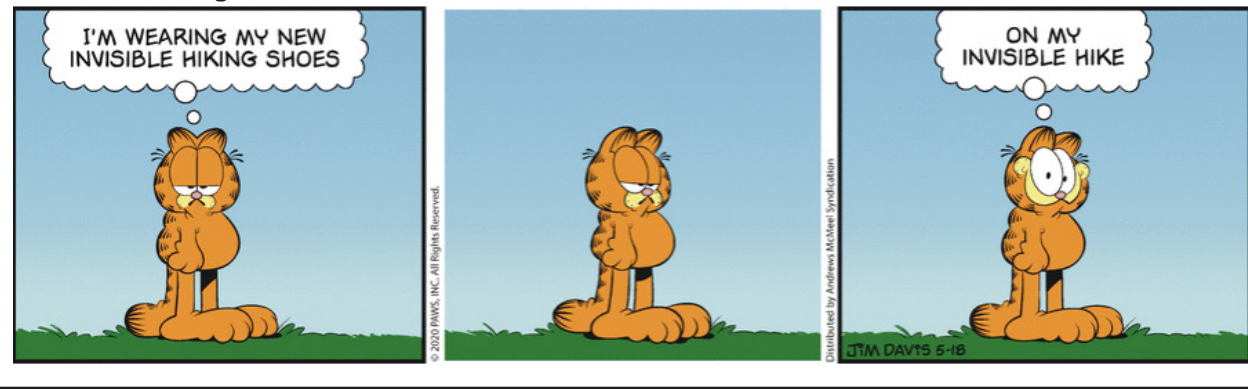
## B.G. by Johnny Hart



## Peanuts by Charles M. Schulz



## Garfield by Jim Davis



# HEALTH

## Just how beneficial is the guava leaf? Find out

If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is that health is the most important of all assets, and is to be taken seriously. In your quest to remain in perfect health, you may have come across many editorials and explanatory pieces on what to eat and avoid, and drink, and do. But, were you ever told that the guava leaf is highly beneficial for the health and overall well-being? And not only that, it can be used as a beauty product, too. Here is everything that you need to know about it.



of cold, consider drinking the tea. It is extremely effective in getting rid of the mucus respiratory tract, throat and lungs.

Also, if you are looking to better your skin texture and get rid of acne scars, consider the leaves. Just crush them and apply them on the spots to see and feel the difference. You must also consider applying a decoction on the skin to tighten it and improve its tone.

For those suffering from hair loss and reduced volume, guava leaves is the solution. You can boil the leaves and massage them on the scalp, to allow the antioxidants to work their wonders. Just make sure the water is not piping hot when you massage.

Also, the tea is believed to improve the quality of sleep, by calming your nerves and quietening the mind. (Agencies)

been a part for traditional medicine in Mexico and some parts of South America for years, now. To make this tea, all you have to do is boil some water, soak the leaves in it, and drink up the concoction. It is that simple.

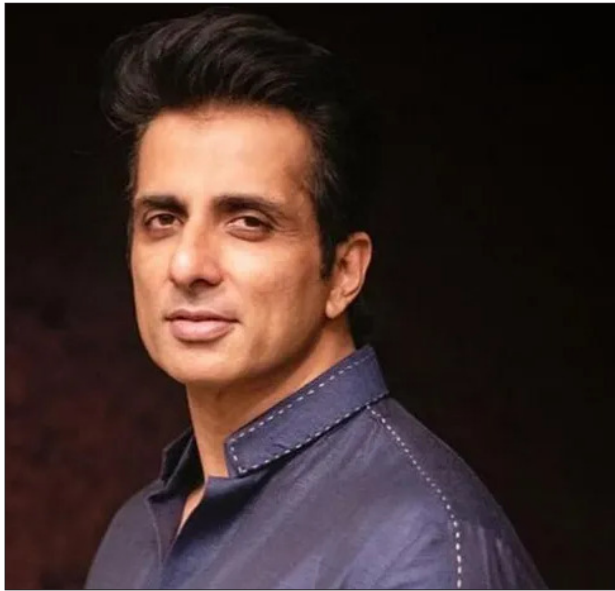
Drinking guava leaf tea can give some relief to people who are suffering from diarrhea. It can ease out the abdominal cramps and promote faster recovery. Also, since it is a liquid that is to be taken orally, it can

keep you hydrated, too. Add the leaves to a cup of hot water, then strain it and consume on an empty stomach. The guava leaf tea can also promote weight loss. So, if you are looking to lose some extra kilos and stay in shape, this should become your go-to drink. Just take a sip and let the drink prevent the complex carbs present in the body from becoming sugar.

The leaves also contain Vitamin C and iron, and so, if you are suffering from a mild case

# Will continue sending migrants home until the last one reunites with family: Sonu Sood

MUMBAI, May 18: Actor Sonu Sood says he is pained by the plight of migrant workers who are unable to go back home amid the nationwide lockdown and he will do everything he can to arrange for transport for them. On Saturday, Sonu arranged more buses for the migrants after obtaining special permissions from the government of Uttar Pradesh. The actor had earlier organised multiple bus services for many such workers heading to Gulbarga, Karnataka from Maharashtra. "It has been an extremely emotional journey for me as my heart pains to see these migrants staying away from their homes walking on streets.



"I will continue sending migrants home until the last migrant reunites with his family and loved ones. This is something really close to

Wadala and various parts of UP, including Lucknow, Hardoi, Pratapgarh and Siddharthnagar, as well as to states like Jharkhand and Bihar.

The Happy New Year actor was present to bid goodbye to these workers who were stranded in the city since the lockdown began on March 25.

Previously, the actor also donated over 1,500 PPE kits to doctors across Punjab and provided his Mumbai hotel for the accommodation of the healthcare workers.

Sood has also been feeding thousands of underprivileged people along with providing meal kits to migrants in the Bhiwandi area during the holy month of Ramzan. (Agencies)

my heart and I will give it my all," Sood, 46, said in a statement.

As per arrangements, multiple buses left from

## Big B appreciates cleaning workers on duty outside his bungalow



MUMBAI, May 18: Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan took to social media to appreciate the cleaning workers performing their duty in front of the gates of his bungalow 'Jalsa' even on a Sunday.

On Sunday night, the veteran actor tweeted a few photographs showing cleaning staff at work in front of his bungalow with the caption "Kaun kehta hai Sunday ki well wisher meetings band ho gayi Jalsa gate pe .. ye dekhiye ..!!" (Who said my well wishers have stopped

coming to Jalsa on Sundays... Look at this!)

Bachchan is missing his fans who can't assemble outside the gate of his bungalow on Sundays to get a glimpse of him due to the lockdown. However, the megastar also appreciated the hard work of the cleaning workers amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 77-year-old actor has been working hard on his fitness even amid the lockdown. Recently, Bachchan tweeted a selfie while working out in his private gym at home. (Agencies)

## Nawazuddin Siddiqui's wife Aalia Siddiqui sends him legal notice, wants to 'end the marriage'

MUMBAI, May 18: Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui's wife Aalia Siddiqui has sent him a legal notice and wants to "end the marriage."

When got in touch with Aalia, she confirmed sending a legal notice to the actor seeking divorce. She said, "I have sent him a legal notice, but he has not replied."

On being asked what were the issues that led to her taking this step, Aalia Siddiqui said, "I won't be able to speak on the issues right away, but yes, we have been having problems from the last ten years. And now, during the lockdown, I got thinking and thought I had to end this marriage. I had sent him the notice much before he left for Muzaffarpur, and he has not yet replied to my notice, so I have to take a legal route now."

Aalia's advocate Abhay Sahai of B. C. Dasgupta & Co, in a video statement, said, "We have sent a legal notice to Mr Nawazuddin Siddiqui. The notice was sent by our client Mrs Aalia Siddiqui on

7th of May 2020. Due to unprecedented covid times, the notice could not be sent through speed post. The notice has been sent through email as well as WhatsApp. Mrs Siddiqui, our client, has also sent the notice through WhatsApp. However Mr Nawazuddin Siddiqui has not responded till date. I think he is just keeping quiet regarding the notice and ignoring it. The notice has been sent claiming maintenance and divorce. I would not like to get into the details of the notice regarding what are the allegations, but let me tell you that the allegations are quite serious and those are very sensitive to Mr Siddiqui as well as the family members."

We tried getting in touch with actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui, and are awaiting a response. Nawazuddin Siddiqui and wife Aalia Siddiqui have two children, a nine-year-old son and a five-year-old daughter. (Agencies)

## Genelia feels less cruel to animals after turning vegetarian

MUMBAI, May 18: Actress Genelia Deshmukh has revealed how her perspective of looking at things changed after she turned vegetarian a couple of years ago. Genelia took to Instagram to reveal that she has had a few realisations after turning vegetarian.

"Turning vegetarian was a choice I took a couple of years ago... I honestly thought it was going to be really really tough, but I was determined to make it work? On my journey, I realised the beauty of plants, the various colours I see through them

and eventually the nutrients I get through them, but most importantly I feel less cruel to animals..." the actress said.

Genelia also spoke about her mother-in-law's organic farming in her post and how she had made a soup with organic purple cabbages from their farm which her kids believed as "unicorn colour!"

"My mother in law grew some beautiful organic cabbages in our farm... We have been enjoying it raw through salads practically everyday, but today decided to make a soup out of it... I've heard of



artificial colours being used in food to enhance colours and have been ever so against them but here I had got to see a pure beautiful purple colour, a colour I

never thought I would get so effortlessly and to top it all it was super duper healthy (literally farm to table.) Not just me, the kids believed it was a unicorn colour they had got and had their soup as well? Aai thank you for filling my Sunday with colour," she wrote.

A lot of Bollywood actresses have been utilising their lockdown days by engaging in organic farming. The list includes names like Shilpa Shetty, Raveena Tandon, Mouni Roy, Bhumi Pednekar and Juhi Chawla, among others. (Agencies)

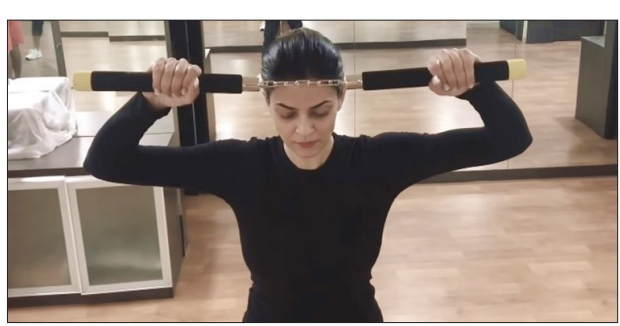
## Sushmita Sen reveals how she overcame Addison's disease

NEW DELHI, May 18: Sushmita Sen recently revealed that 'meditating with nunchaku' helped her heal after she was diagnosed with Addison's disease in 2014. In a video shared on her official YouTube channel, one can see Sushmita performing various moves with nunchaku or chainsticks.

The actor-model posted the video along with a note that gave an insight into her healing journey. Sushmita shared how 'meditating with nunchaku' helped her overcome the "dark times" that lasted four years.

It read, "After I was diagnosed with an Auto immune condition called Addison's

disease in September 2014, it left me feeling like, I had no fight left in me... A fatigued body filled with immense frustration & aggression. The dark circles under my eyes can't even begin to explain the dark times I endured for 4 long years :) To have steroids substitute cortisol & to live with its innumerable side effects took its toll. There is NOTHING more tiring than to live with a chronic illness. Enough was enough, I had to find a way of strengthening my mind, allowing my body to follow suit. I meditated with #Nunchaku :) Aggression out, fight back in & pain turned into an art form



:) I healed in time, my Adrenal glands woke up, no more steroids, no withdrawals & NO AUTO IMMUNE CONDITION as of 2019. :) Lesson: NO ONE KNOWS YOUR BODY BETTER THAN YOU, LISTEN TO IT. :) There is a warrior in all of us, never give up!!! Thank you to my Teacher Nupur Shikhare for

being my rock through this journey :) I love you guys!!! Sushmita Sen recently also shared a video where she was interviewed by her two daughters - Renee and Alisah. The former beauty queen was seen answering questions about love, life and fears, in what she called her 'most cherished interview'. (Agencies)

# Today's Zodiac

<p><b>ARIES</b></p> <p>Just when you're feeling good and solid in your plan, Aries, something or someone may step in to rain on your parade. It's as if you're taking one step forward and two steps back. Blame the global pandemic? why not? Even as a feeling of doubt creeps into your personal picture, try not to let these nagging, restrictive energies hold you back. Be confident about your abilities.</p>	<p><b>TAURUS</b></p> <p>Restriction might weigh heavily on you today, Taurus. Perhaps you're reminded that there are some critical details about health and finance that you need to take care of. Perhaps you'd be wise to adopt a more disciplined approach in your life. Is now a time for some restructuring? Don't be afraid of change, and don't let feelings of responsibility hold you down. Responsibility can be your best friend.</p>	<p><b>GEMINI</b></p> <p>Try not to worry too much today, Gemini. Take care of details and work to get things accomplished. When you can check items off your list, you'll feel much better about yourself and the direction you're headed. Keep your eyes open and try not to have tunnel vision on every issue. Give people the benefit of the doubt instead of the third degree. Concentrate on what you need to do.</p>	<p><b>CANCER</b></p> <p>Aspects of your life that you've neglected lately might haunt you on a day like today, Cancer. Make sure to keep up with all your responsibilities. Things may come to a dramatic climax at this time, and you could find yourself at an important crossroads. Nervous energy could send you running around frantically in search of the right path. Don't let indecision keep you from getting where you need to go.</p>
<p><b>LEO</b></p> <p>You might find it easier to connect with others at this time, Leo. It would behoove you to reconnect with friends or family members you may have lost touch with. Their energy can bring an entirely different perspective to your life, which could surprise you with its richness. The aspects are also good for meeting new people. You'll have to do it from a safe distance, of course, but it's still possible!</p>	<p><b>VIRGO</b></p> <p>Disciplined action is the best way to go about your day, Virgo. Stay focused on your path. You can accomplish many tasks at the same time if you play your cards right today. Remember, there's a difference between discipline and getting bogged down with details. Certain people will always make you worry, but don't let their negative energy get in the way of your progress.</p>	<p><b>LIBRA</b></p> <p>Decisions will be even more difficult to make than usual today, Libra. On the one hand, you may feel a need to stabilize and specialize, while on the other hand, it's hard to deny the energy raging in a million different directions as you crave new experiences and interactions. Try to adopt a plan that combines both of these energies. Nervous energy keeps you moving, and social distancing keeps you focused.</p>	<p><b>SCORPIO</b></p> <p>Feeling solidly grounded might also have you feeling less than energetic about getting the ball rolling, Scorpio. Don't be surprised if your sense of restriction and duty are weighing you down. Rest and reflection are very important in the natural cycle. Don't assume that you always need to be on the go in order to make progress. Put your warring nature aside today and take it easy.</p>
<p><b>SAGITTARIUS</b></p> <p>Things will go more and more in your favor over the next four weeks, Sagittarius, although today they might seem slow to get moving. If your body feels stressed or tense, that lack of get-up-and-go is understandable. Don't worry about your missing motivation. With the world on pause right now, many people are experiencing this. The feeling will pass and you'll be your old self again in no time.</p>	<p><b>CAPRICORN</b></p> <p>Discipline and duty have been major themes for you lately, Capricorn. It might seem as if someone has put the brakes on your current plan. Try not to see this as negative. In reality, now is an important time for you to slow down and think ahead. Many givens are shrouded in uncertainty these days. Use this period to organize your scattered energy. Focus and streamline your life while nothing else is going on.</p>	<p><b>ACQUARIUS</b></p> <p>Your ego and physical vitality should experience a boost today, Aquarius. Hone in on the solid, grounding energy that's encouraging you to come to terms with your emotions. Be aware of the fact that your recent gloomy attitude may be weighing heavily on the ones you love. Be careful that you aren't hurting someone just because you know that they'll forgive you.</p>	<p><b>PISCES</b></p> <p>It might be hard to find the exact direction you're looking for today, Pisces. Maybe there's a strong force urging you to slow down and be more practical with your energy. This may not be the advice you want to hear, but it's probably the advice you need to follow. Remember that the world doesn't revolve around you, regardless of how much you might like to think it does.</p>

## HELICOPTER SERVICE

ARUNACHAL PRADESH HELICOPTER NON-SCHEDULE FLIGHT PROGRAMME OF MI-172 (SKYONE) HELICOPTER FOR NAHARLAGUN - GUWAHATI - TAWANG SECTOR W.E.F - 18.02.2017

DAY	STATION	DEPT. TIME	STATION	ARR. TIME	DAY	STATION	DEPT. TIME	STATION	ARR. TIME
MON	Naharlagun	08:30	Guwahati	09:50	FRI	Naharlagun	08:30	Guwahati	09:50
	Guwahati	10:30	Tawang	11:40		Guwahati	10:30	Tawang	11:40
	Tawang	12:00	Guwahati	13:10		Tawang	12:00	Guwahati	13:10
	Guwahati	13:55	Naharlagun	15:15		Guwahati	13:55	Naharlagun	15:15
TUE	Naharlagun	08:30	Guwahati	09:50	SAT	Naharlagun	08:30	Guwahati	09:50
	Guwahati	10:30	Tawang	11:40		Guwahati	10:30	Tawang	11:40
	Tawang	12:00	Guwahati	13:10		Tawang	12:00	Guwahati	13:10
	Guwahati	13:55	Naharlagun	15:15		Guwahati	13:55	Naharlagun	15:15
WED	Naharlagun	10:00	Guwahati	11:20	SUNDAY — OFF / MAINTENANCE				
	Guwahati	13:30	Naharlagun	14:50					
THU	Naharlagun	08:30	Guwahati	09:50	Flight Schedule of Alliance Air - ATR-42 to Pasighat from Calcutta/Guwahati				
	Guwahati	10:30	Tawang	11:40	Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Arrival Time at Pasighat Airport - 09:05 A.M. Departure Time - 09:25 A.M.				
	Tawang	12:00	Guwahati	13:10					
	Guwahati	13:55	Naharlagun	15:15					

NB:- 1. CONDITIONS APPLY (VIP MOVEMENT/ BAD WEATHER/ PATIENT EVACUATION/ TECHNICAL SNAG/PASSENGER AVAILABILITY AND EMERGENCY ETC).  
2. THE PASSENGER SERVICE WILL BE OPERATED TO ALL SECTORS SUBJECT TO FULFILMENT OF SAFETY NORMS & OTHER MEASURES DULY CONFIRMED BY THE CONCERNED ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES.

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

HOSPITALS	APST BUS SERVICE																																																																											
<p><b>General Hospital</b> 0360-2246677 (Casualty Wing) / 0360-2244293 (O) CMO 0360-2244156 (O) Med. Supdtt. / Ambulance General Hospital 0360-2244479</p> <p><b>R.K. Mission Hospital:</b> 9485231263 &amp; 2212263 Admission &amp; Enquiry/Ambulance: (8:00 am to 8:00 pm), 9485231263 Emergency/Ambulance: (8:00 pm to 8:00 am) 9485231259 NICU &amp; Dialysis unit 9436631237 Office</p> <p><b>Y.J Ambulance Service</b> 9402073264, 8131820481</p> <p><b>Heema Hospital:</b> 8794236321, 2291094</p> <p><b>NIBA HOSPITAL, PAPUNALLAH:</b> 0360-2244574, 2351200</p> <p><b>Raj Bhawan Dispensary:</b> 0360-22122402</p> <p><b>Hospitals in Guwahati:</b> GNRC Hospital - 0361-2227701, 2227702, 2227703 Down Town Hospital - 9864101111, 9864102222 GMC Hospital - 0361-2528417, 2529457 International Hospital - 0361-2347700, 2347701 B. Barooah Cancer Institute - 0361-2472364</p> <p><b>POWER HOUSE ENQUIRY</b> <b>ITANAGAR:</b> C Sector- 2212241, Central Power House- 2212251, MOWB-II- 2212260, RK Mission- 2212269, Chandra Nagar- 2290409</p> <p><b>NAHARLAGUN</b> <b>Power House-</b> 2244173, 22440038, <b>Nirjuli-</b> 2257577, 2257546, <b>Banderdewa-</b> 2266246, <b>Doimukh-</b> 2277243</p>	<p><b>ITANAGAR: (9774034571/8729868842)</b> <b>NAHARLAGUN: (03602351490)</b></p> <p><b>A NIGHT SERVICES</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>1 Itanagar-Shillong</td><td>4.00 pm</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>2 Ita/Nlg-Daporijo</td><td>12 noon</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>3 Itanagar-Khonsa</td><td>1.00 pm</td><td>Monday &amp; Thursday</td></tr> <tr><td>4 Itanagar-Namsai</td><td>1.00 pm</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>5 Itanagar-Bomdila</td><td>4.30 pm</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>6 Itanagar-Aalo</td><td>2.30 pm</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>7 Itanagar-Dimapur</td><td>3.00 pm</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>8 Itanagar-Liromoba/Kamba</td><td>1.00 pm</td><td>Daily</td></tr> </table> <p><b>B DAY SERVICE</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr><td>1 Itanagar-Guwahati</td><td>6.00 am</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>2 Itanagar-Pasighat</td><td>6.00 am</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>3 Itanagar-Pasighat</td><td>11.00 am</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>4 Itanagar-Aalo</td><td>6.00 am</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>5 Itanagar-Lilabari</td><td>3.30 pm</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>6 Itanagar-Bomdila</td><td>6.00 am</td><td>Alternate day (Except Thursday)</td></tr> <tr><td>7 Itanagar-Jote</td><td>6 am &amp; Daily</td><td>(Except Sunday)</td></tr> <tr><td>8 Naharlagun-Leporiang</td><td>7.00 am</td><td>Alternate day (Except Saturday)</td></tr> <tr><td>9 Nlg-Pakke-Kessang</td><td>6.00 am</td><td>Alternate day (Except Sunday)</td></tr> <tr><td>10 Naharlagun-Sonajuli</td><td>11.00 am</td><td>Daily (Except Sunday)</td></tr> <tr><td>11 Naharlagun-Balijan</td><td>1.00 pm</td><td>Daily (Except Sunday)</td></tr> <tr><td>12 Naharlagun-Hawa camp</td><td>12 noon</td><td>Daily (Except Saturday)</td></tr> <tr><td>13 Naharlagun-Kakoi</td><td>1.00 pm</td><td>Daily (Except Sunday)</td></tr> <tr><td>14 Naharlagun-Gogamukh</td><td>1.00 pm</td><td>Daily (Except Friday)</td></tr> <tr><td>15 Itanagar-Roing (Sumo)</td><td>6 AM</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>16 Itanagar-Koloriang (Sumo)</td><td>6 AM</td><td>Daily</td></tr> <tr><td>17. Seppa-Itanagar</td><td>6 AM</td><td>Daily</td></tr> </table>	1 Itanagar-Shillong	4.00 pm	Daily	2 Ita/Nlg-Daporijo	12 noon	Daily	3 Itanagar-Khonsa	1.00 pm	Monday & Thursday	4 Itanagar-Namsai	1.00 pm	Daily	5 Itanagar-Bomdila	4.30 pm	Daily	6 Itanagar-Aalo	2.30 pm	Daily	7 Itanagar-Dimapur	3.00 pm	Daily	8 Itanagar-Liromoba/Kamba	1.00 pm	Daily	1 Itanagar-Guwahati	6.00 am	Daily	2 Itanagar-Pasighat	6.00 am	Daily	3 Itanagar-Pasighat	11.00 am	Daily	4 Itanagar-Aalo	6.00 am	Daily	5 Itanagar-Lilabari	3.30 pm	Daily	6 Itanagar-Bomdila	6.00 am	Alternate day (Except Thursday)	7 Itanagar-Jote	6 am & Daily	(Except Sunday)	8 Naharlagun-Leporiang	7.00 am	Alternate day (Except Saturday)	9 Nlg-Pakke-Kessang	6.00 am	Alternate day (Except Sunday)	10 Naharlagun-Sonajuli	11.00 am	Daily (Except Sunday)	11 Naharlagun-Balijan	1.00 pm	Daily (Except Sunday)	12 Naharlagun-Hawa camp	12 noon	Daily (Except Saturday)	13 Naharlagun-Kakoi	1.00 pm	Daily (Except Sunday)	14 Naharlagun-Gogamukh	1.00 pm	Daily (Except Friday)	15 Itanagar-Roing (Sumo)	6 AM	Daily	16 Itanagar-Koloriang (Sumo)	6 AM	Daily	17. Seppa-Itanagar	6 AM	Daily
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**POLICE STATION**  
Itanagar- 0360-2212233, Naharlagun- 0360-2244329, Banderdewa- 0360-2266236, Nirjuli (OP)- 0360-2257220, Doimukh- 0360-2277220. **FIRE SERVICE:** Itanagar- 0360-2212640|Naharlagun- 0360-2244399

**CHILDLINE 1098**

# Front runners Bayern edge hapless Union Berlin 2-0 in Bundesliga



**BERLIN, May 18:** Robert Lewandowski's 26th goal of the season helped Bayern Munich to maintain their four-point advantage at the top of the standings after beating newly promoted Union 2-0 in the 26th round. The hosts grabbed a bright start against the German giants as Marius Bulter forced goalkeeper Manuel Neuer into action in the fifth minute before Anthony Ujah pulled over the bar two min-

utes later on Sunday. Bayern thought they had opened the scoring with 18 minutes played but Thomas Muller's goal was ruled offside by the video assistant referee. As the match progressed, the Bavarians gained the upper hand and eventually broke the deadlock in the 40th minute when Neven Subotic felled Leon Goretzka in the box, allowing Lewandowski to slot home the opener from

the penalty spot. After the restart, the visitors remained in control and pressed Union into defence. However, the German record champions lacked in accuracy as Muller and Benjamin Pavard missed the target from promising positions. Hansi Flick's men remained on the front foot though and put the result beyond doubt in the 80th minute after Pavard headed home Joshua Kimmich's corner kick.

With the 18th victory of the season Bayern Munich retook their four point lead atop the standings meanwhile Union Berlin slip to the 12th position after suffering the 14th defeat of the season. "It was a tough piece of work but in the end we won deservedly. My team staged a focussed performance over ninety minutes and I am of course delighted with the result," Bayern coach Hansi Flick said. "We made Bayern's life

difficult and were also able to work out a few chances," Union assistant coach Markus Hoffmann said. Elsewhere, Mainz bounced back from two goals down against Cologne and snatched a two-all draw by courtesy on the second half goals from Taiwo Awoniyi and Kunde Malong. Relegation threatened Werder Bremen face Bayer Leverkusen to conclude the 26th round on Monday. (Xinhua)

# Dream is to see my students win 10 Olympic gold medals: Malleswari

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** Karnam Malleswari made history at the 2000 Sydney Olympics by becoming the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal. To get there however, she had the challenge of dealing with societal taboos that come with being a woman in a sport like weightlifting apart from maneuvering the challenges that came in her sport itself. "For a woman in a sport like weightlifting, I would always get a backlash from my relatives," said Malleswari on 'The Medal of Glory' programme. "Even today weightlifting is seen by some as a man's sport. People would say that I will have health problems in the future that I won't be able to bear children. But my mother never paid heed to anyone

and let us pursue our dreams. She was the biggest pillar of strength in my journey." Malleswari said that she had got into weightlifting because her sister was a lifter herself. "There was a gym close to the school that we used to go to and our district Srikakulam was already very famous for weightlifting. My elder sister was into athletics and the weightlifting coach there told her that her physique is good for the sport," she said. "So she started weightlifting and I used to go there with her. I also became interested in the sport and told my coach that I would like to take up the sport. But he told me that I was not fit for weightlifting, that I was too thin and I should just help my mother

in her household chores. "From my childhood I have had a lot of self-confidence so I felt pretty insulted when he said that. I felt how can anybody decide what I can or cannot do. So I decided now I have to excel in this sport and show him." The 44-year-old retired after the 2004 Athens Olympics and has since opened up her own academy. She says that her dream is to see one of her trainees go and win an Olympic gold. "I am already running an academy and I am now making a residential academy that will hopefully be of international standard that can house upto 300 students. My only dream is that my girls go and win 10 Olympic golds for the one that I missed in Sydney," she said. (Agency)

# Another step towards return as Spanish sides begin to train in groups

**MADRID, May 18:** The return of football to Spain moves a step closer on Monday as the teams in Spain's Liga Santander and Liga SmartBank (first and second divisions) are able to begin training in groups. Up to now the players have only been able to train as individuals, making it difficult to carry out anything other than the most basic routines. Now they will be able to work in groups of up to 10 players, although they will still have to maintain the recommended social distance of two-meters. Players will no longer have to arrive at their training

grounds already changed as dressing rooms will also be opened up for use, although they will have to be disinfected every day. La Liga President, Javier Tebas welcomed the move, saying that the "the confirmation that training in groups has arrives is important." All of the teams in Spain are able to move to working in groups after the Spanish government altered an earlier decision that teams would not be able to work in groups until the region they lived in progressed to the second stage (Phase 1) of the plan to relax lockdown measures. With Madrid and Barcelona metropolitan area still in

Phase 0, for at least another week, that would have left sides such as FC Barcelona, Espanyol, Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid, Getafe, Leganes, Rayo Vallecano and Alcorcon at a disadvantage with other teams in other parts of Spain. "It is very important that teams can progress together and we have to be grateful that is the case," commented Tebas. Although the date for the return of action has not been confirmed, Tebas has commented that he wants to see football return on June 12th with teams playing every three days to finish the remaining 11 games of the season. (Xinhua)

# World Skate unveils updated Olympic qualification process for Tokyo 2020

**PARIS, May 18:** World Skate has announced the updated qualification process for the postponed Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. The original qualification schedule was thrown into disarray after the coronavirus pandemic forced the Tokyo 2020 to be rescheduled to July 23-August 8, 2021 and numerous qualifiers to be canceled or postponed. World Skate has extended the current Olympic qualification period to June 29, 2021. The best four results during this time will count towards qualification. Yet these proposals are subject to approval by the International Olympic Com-

mittee Executive Board before they are implemented. There will be no change to event tiering, the points system, points already acquired or the quota system. World Skate left open the possibility of having World Championships in both 2020 and 2021. The World Skate SLS World Championship of Street Skateboarding in London had been due to take place from May 19 to 24, while the World Skate World Championship of Park Skateboarding in Nanjing was scheduled for May 26 to 31. Both have been postponed. Skateboarding is due to make its Olympic debut at Tokyo 2020. (Xinhua)

# NRAI to firm up plans to resume training and competition after MHA order

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** The National Rifle Association of India on Monday said it will "firm up" plans to resume outdoor training of shooters after the home ministry permitted reopening of sports complexes during the fourth phase of the COVID-19 lockdown. The national federation had locked the gates of all the shooting ranges in the country with the enforcement of the nationwide lockdown in March to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. NRAI president Raninder Singh sounded optimistic a day after the Ministry of

Home Affairs guidelines permitted reopening of sports complexes and stadia. "We shall firm up plans to resume athlete training and competitions accordingly soon," Raninder told. "Having said that, whatever is done will be done keeping the health of our athletes, coaches and staff as top priority," added the federation's top official, under whose leadership the shooters blossomed into world-beaters. Raninder welcomed the move, weeks after he saw the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi, origi-

nally scheduled to be held in March, cancelled due to the unprecedented global health crisis. "We welcome the new MHA guidelines permitting the opening up of sports complexes and stadia." The pandemic, which originated in the Chinese city of Wuhan in Hubei province, has also led to the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics, where the Indian shooters were primed for success. But all that is history now and the NRAI boss is trying to look ahead with optimism after the latest order. (Agency)

# Sri Lanka eager to host India, Bangladesh in July

**COLOMBO, May 18:** If things go well, cricket is likely to be held in Sri Lanka in July as India and Bangladesh are expected to join the forthcoming series. However, neither the BCCI nor the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) have confirmed the tours, which will have to involve substantial logistical challenges, including having player quarantine measures in place, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. "We have made inquiries from both the India and Bangladesh boards and are awaiting a response from them," SLC CEO Ashley de Silva told ESPNcricinfo. "As of now, those series haven't been postponed." India were due to visit Sri Lanka in June for three ODIs and three T20Is, followed by Bangladesh who were scheduled to play three Tests which are part of the World Test Championship. Sri Lanka's government will have to get involved in lifting travel restrictions and providing bio-secure environments for the players, if the series are to go ahead. BCCI treasurer Arun Dhu-

mal has said that until the Indian government gives teams permission to travel, the board cannot do much. BCB CEO Nizamuddin Chowdhury, meanwhile, told ESPNcricinfo, "We have to look at traveling restrictions in Bangladesh, and the quarantine protocols in both countries. We are in discussion [with the SLC], so all the factors will come into play. We have to be mindful of the players' readiness, too, but that's going to happen. The players will get back to training, but we have to figure out other details about this tour." Sri Lanka has already postponed two home tours - a two-Test series against England, which may now take place in January next year, according to de Silva, as well as limited-overs series against South Africa. However, within Sri Lanka itself, curfews have begun easing, and the SLC believes their mid-year series are viable. There are fewer than 500 active cases of Covid-19 in the island - that number having remained steady for roughly two weeks. (UNI)

# Pakistan skipper Babar Azam praying pandemic won't scupper World Cup

**KARACHI, May 18:** World number one Twenty20 batsman Babar Azam said Monday he was praying the coronavirus pandemic would not scupper his first T20 World Cup as Pakistan skipper. Australia are due to host the seventh Twenty20 World Cup in October and November but organisers face challenges of providing appropriate bio-security and quarantine measures for 15 international teams. Lingerling travel restrictions could also hit the event, where forty-five matches are scheduled to be played in seven cities. "It will be my first World Cup as skipper so I am praying for it and keeping fingers crossed," Azam said in a virtual press conference. The International Cricket Council will discuss the event at its board meeting in Dubai next week. Azam said he would not mind if cricket was played in closed stadiums, without fans. "It would be tough to play without fans because they



cheer along and back you up, but who knows better than Pakistan how to play without crowds," said Azam. Pakistan were forced to play before sparse or no crowds in the UAE, their neutral ground, in the aftermath of the 2009 terrorist attack against a visiting Sri Lanka team in Lahore. International cricket returned gradually to Pakistan from 2015 but it was only last year that the side managed to stage a Test at home after a gap of ten years.

The one-day international captain also vowed to improve Pakistan's rankings. "We are now fourth in Twenty20, sixth in ODIs and seventh in Tests which is not acceptable and I want to see improvements in that," Azam said. Pakistan topped the Twenty20 rankings from January 2018 to until last week. Pakistan T20 captain Babar Azam said he was keeping his 'fingers crossed' that this year's Twenty20 World Cup would go ahead in Australia. (Agency)

# Premier League clubs to return to training in 'small group' from Tuesday

**MANCHESTER (England), May 18:** Premier League clubs will return to training on Tuesday after agreeing to allow "small group" sessions to begin. The league held a conference call for all 20 clubs on Monday where the move was given unanimous backing. It is the first step in the league's 'Project Restart' plans to restart play in the league which has not held a game since March 9 due to the novel coronavirus pandemic. "Premier League Shareholders today voted unanimously to return to small group train-

ing from tomorrow (Tuesday) afternoon -- the first step towards restarting the Premier League, when safe to do so," the league said in a statement. "Step One of the Return to Training Protocol enables squads to train while maintaining social distancing. Contact training is not yet permitted," it added. The league said the decision had been taken in consultation with players, managers, Premier League club doctors, independent experts and the Government. "Strict medical protocols

of the highest standard will ensure everyone returns to training in the safest environment possible," it added. "The health and wellbeing of all participants is the Premier League's priority, and the safe return to training is a step-by-step process. "Full consultation will now continue with players, managers, clubs, the PFA (Professional Footballers' Association) and LMA (League Managers Association) as protocols for full-contact training are developed," the statement concluded. (Agency)

# Colombia's Sara Lopez wins first archery Lockdown Knockout

**PARIS, May 18:** Colombian world No 2 Sara Lopez beat Norway's world youth champion Angers Faugstad 146-144 to clinch the title of the first Lockdown Knockout, a live remote international archery tournament organized by World Archery during the COVID-19 pandemic. "I'm really happy because I knew it was going to be hard. I knew that he was going to shoot incredibly,"

said Lopez on Sunday after the win. "I'm really happy also to be part of this. It is part of history being able to shoot with all these incredible archers and represent all the women out there," she added. Lopez, the reigning World Cup winner, produced a two-point lead after three ends and managed to keep it until the last arrow of the match.

Lockdown Knockout is an invitational event set by the world archery governing body which saw eight compound athletes from around the world compete remotely. The win also secured Lopez a prize money of 1000 CHF, which she has said she will donate to charities combating the COVID-19 pandemic in Colombia. Anders receives 500 CHF for second place. (Xinhua)

**ARUNACHAL PRADESH**  
**OFFICE OF THE PROJECT DIRECTOR::DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**  
**PAPUMPARE DISTRICT :: YUPIA**  
NO. DRDA/PP/MGNREGA/NIT/2020-21 Dated Yupia, the 18th May '2020  
**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
The DC-cum-DPC, MGNREGA, Papumpare District, Yupia Arunachal Pradesh invites Sealed Item rate Tender from APPWD registered contractors/supplier for supply of materials under MGNREGA programme for various CD Blocks of the District during the current FY 2020-21. Interested Firm can purchase the Tender paper from the Office of The Project Director, DRDA, Papumpare District, Yupia on all working days by submitting an Application and on payment of Rs. 2500.00 Cost of Tender Paper in cash (non-refundable) from 20-05-2020 to 26-05-2020 (up to 1400 Hrs).  
Sd/- (Pige Lugu)  
DC-cum-DPC [MGNREGA]  
District Rural Development Agency  
Papumpare District :: Yupia  
DIPR/ARN/10056-57/2020

## BCCI cautious before organizing skill-based training camp: Arun Dhumal

**MUMBAI, May 18:** The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has made it clear that it will wait further before organizing a skill-based training camp for its contracted players and will work with State Cricket Associations to chalk out a programme for skill-based training at a local level.

Earlier, on Sunday Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had issued guidelines stating that Sports complexes and stadia will be permitted to open, however, spectators will not be allowed as lockdown was further extended till May 31.

"Taking into the account the restrictions on air travel and movement of people till May 31, the BCCI will wait further before organizing a skill-based training camp for its contracted players," BCCI Treasurer Arun Singh Dhumal said in a statement on Monday.

"In the meantime, the BCCI will study guidelines at the state level and will work in sync with State Cricket Associations to chalk out a programme for skill-based training at a local level," he said.

The BCCI Office-Bearers will continue their interactions with the team management and draw up a suitable plan for the entire team once the situation further improves.

"The Board reiterates that the safety and well-being of its athletes and support staff is paramount and will not rush into any decision that can hamper or jeopardize India's efforts in containing the spread of the virus."

In India the pandemic has taken lives of over 3,000 and 95,000 people have been infected so far. (UNI)

## Sports Ministry gives go-ahead to resumption of training as per MHA guidelines

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** The Sports Ministry on Monday gave its go ahead to the resumption of training in its complexes and stadia after the government permitted them to reopen in the fourth phase of the coronavirus-forced lockdown.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju said activities will be conducted in sports complexes and stadia strictly in accordance with Ministry of Home Affairs guidelines.

"I'm happy to inform sports persons and all concerned that sports activities will be conducted in sports complexes and stadia strictly in accordance with MHA guidelines and that of the States in which they are situated," Rijiju tweeted.

"However, use of gyms and swimming pools are still

prohibited," he added.

In the guidelines for the fourth lockdown, sport continued to be listed alongside the functions, gatherings, and large congregations that were not allowed.

The only big-ticket event that was to happen in India at this time was the Indian Premier League, which was postponed indefinitely in April due to the health crisis.

The lockdown originally came into effect in mid-March and the Tokyo Olympics-bound elite athletes, who are based at SAI complexes in Patiala and Bengaluru, have been demanding resumption of training for the past couple of weeks.

The Olympics has been postponed to 2021 owing to the deadly pandemic. (Agency)

## Assam players bring out video in honour of Corona warriors

**GUWAHATI, May 18:** A video brought out by Assam Olympic Association (AOA) in honour of those warriors who are leading a brave front against novel coronavirus pandemic was released by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal here today.

The video, conceptualised and designed by Rajib Prakash Baruah, featured athletes like Hima Das, Shivangi Sarma, Lovlina Borgohain, Ankushita Boro and others and voice was lent by singers Sangita Kakati, Anirban Das and Anoushka Baruah.

Thanking General Secretary, AOA, Lakhya Konwar for bringing out the video, Sonowal said the video produced to acknowledge the unrelenting endeavour of the frontline personnel in the fight against COVID 19 will instil a sense of positivity among the athletes as well as others.

He said when the corona virus pandemic cast a pall of gloom over several sections of people, the video thus produced will create positive vibes and dispel corona virus inflicted negativity from the society.

He also asked AOA to work to lift the morale of the athletes and find innovative ways to engage the athletes in daily practice adhering to social distancing norms prescribed by the Health and Family Welfare department.

Member Secretary of State Level Advisory Committee for Students and Youth Welfare Lakhya Konwar, Commissioner and Secretary to Sports and Youth Welfare Dr M Angamuthu, member, core committee, AOA Pranay Borodoli, swimmer Shivangi Sharma, boxer Shiva Thapa and few others were present on the occasion. (UNI)

## Kohli is the Best across formats: Ian Chappell

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** Former Australian skipper Ian Chappell has rated India captain Virat Kohli the best batsman in the world across formats of the current generation of cricketers due to his incredible fitness and leader that doesn't fear defeat.

Between Kohli, Steve Smith, Kane Williamson and Joe Root, Chappell said that Kohli is the best batsman. "Of that group, Kohli is the best in all three forms.

That's unquestionable. His record in all three forms is quite unbelievable, particularly his record in the shorter forms," Chappell said on The RK Show, which is hosted by sports broadcaster Radhakrishnan Sreenivasan on YouTube.

Kohli, from 70 centuries has scored more than 20,000 runs, averages above 50



across formats.

"Rating Kohli as the Best Chappell said, I like his approach to batting. We did an interview with him last time India were in Australia, and one of the things he talked about was why he didn't play the fancy shots, the innovative shots of particularly T20 cricket.

"He said he didn't want those to creep in his batting in the longer form of the game. The best short-form player in the time I played was Viv Richards, and he just played normal cricket shots but he placed the ball so well he was able to score at a very fast rate. And Kohli's the

same. He plays traditional cricket shots, and he plays them really well.

"The other thing that stands out about Kohli is his fitness and running between the wickets. The way he pushes himself, he's incredibly fit. Some of his performances are quite amazing," said former

Australian skipper.

Chappell also expressed his admiration for Kohli's captaincy and said he liked the Indian's desire to win cricket matches as the leader of his team.

"The one thing that stands out to me is that Kohli is the one (captain) that doesn't fear defeat. He's prepared to lose a game in trying to win it. You've got to be that way as a captain in my opinion. I like that approach.

"I thought when he took over the captaincy that he was so emotional, it might affect his captaincy adversely but I think he has reined that in a little bit. He has made that work for him in his captaincy rather than work against him. He's a pretty smart cricketer," the legendary skipper said. (UNI)

## TTFI asks players to join training camp following lockdown relaxation, they say it is 'too early'

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** The Table Tennis Federation of India on Monday sought written consent from its top 16 players to join a training camp after the govt allowed sports complexes to open but wary paddlers said they would prefer to wait a while.

Most players, including India's leading players Sharath Kamal and G Sathiyan, said they were not comfortable travelling anytime soon amid the COVID-19 pandemic. TT camps are held at NIS Patiala, Sonapat and Kolkata.

"We were asked to join camp at the end of the month but I feel it is too early for that. Cases continue to rise and travel restrictions are in place. Training can wait until situation improves significantly," world number 31 Sharath, who is based in Chennai, said.

"Anyway, all ITTF (international body) activities are suspended till end of June. There is no event planned in the near future. It would be nice for the whole team to be together

again but not anytime soon." The players have been confined to their homes ever since the lockdown was enforced almost two months ago. The government on Sunday extended the lockdown till May 31 with more relaxations.

Like Sharath, world number 32 Sathiyan is based in Chennai and said he would rather train in his hometown given the current situation. "It is not safe to travel in the given situation. I would prefer to train in Chennai at Raman TTHPC along with my coach (S Raman) and a few sparring partners post the lockdown.

"Also, I have a great set-up here with the necessary fitness training regime under Ramji Srinivasan (former Indian cricket team trainer). Hope I will get the necessary permission from the authorities," said Sathiyan.

TTFI secretary general M P Singh wrote to the players on Monday morning, seeking their availability for the training camp following government's announcement.

"We have written to the players (8 men and 8 women) to check their availability for the training camp as early as next week. If they are ready to resume training, we can organise something by next week or end of the month," Singh told.

However, with travel restrictions in place, it remains to be seen how willing players assemble at one place.

While Sharath and Sathiyan are in Chennai, star women paddler Manika Batra is in Pune.

"Since, the government announced the opening of stadiums and complexes, it must have thought about how it would reopen sporting activity in the country. It can only answer on how it plans to assemble the players at one place. Either of the three centres -- NIS Patiala, Sonapat and Kolkata -- will be fine with us," said Singh. (Agency)

## Two kids talking about growing up in 90s: Chhetri on chat with Kohli

**MUMBAI, May 18:** They are superstars in their own right. But when Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli caught up with national football skipper Sunil Chhetri, the 90s' kid in them took centre stage.

Chhetri, who was playing the host in his show 'ElevenOnTen' on Instagram on Sunday, asked Kohli about the 90s' era when they both grew up in New Delhi.

"Just two kids talking about growing up in the 90s," India's record goalscorer Chhetri said in a tweet on Monday, sharing that part from their long conversation where they spoke about things they used to watch during that decade.

"You should never forget where you came from," Kohli said while talking about his 90s' days. "My childhood has been spent living in a proper West Delhi society. So one thing I have learnt is that whenever I meet some friend from my society, I talk to him in the same manner as I used to when I lived there.

"To me that is the biggest



marker that you are never away from who you are," Kohli added.

Chhetri agreed as the pair had a gala time. During the chat, Kohli also expressed his admiration for batting legend Sachin Tendulkar.

Kohli, who is often referred to as Tendulkar's second coming in Indian cricket, spoke about the Master Blaster's iconic knock against Australia in Sharjah in 1998.

"The one knock in international cricket you wished you had played?" Chhetri asked.

"1998 desert storm," Kohli answered straight away.

"Which one, the first one in the semi-final or the final?" Chhetri further asked.

"The first one where we qualified for the final," Kohli clarified. (Agency)

## Ricky Ponting is the best coach I've ever met: Ishant Sharma

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** Pacer Ishant Sharma has said that former Australia skipper Ricky Ponting is the best coach he has ever met in his life. Ishant was doing an Instagram live session on the official handle of the IPL franchise Delhi Capitals where the pacer was asked to talk about Ponting.

"Ricky Ponting is the best coach I have ever met. I was very nervous when I was returning to the IPL last season. I was almost feeling like a debutant walking into the camp the first day but he gave me a lot of confidence," Sharma said during the live chat.

"He told me you are a senior player and you should help the youngsters. Don't worry about anything you are my first choice," he added.

Ishant and Ricky Ponting were involved in an intense battle during India's tour of Australia in 2008.

The pacer went on to bowl a memorable spell to Ponting during his debut Test



and he ended up taking former Australia skipper's wicket in the second innings of the Test match.

"People still talk and ask me about the Perth Test, and the spell I bowled to him. Later that year when Australia visited India too, I was in great form," Ishant said.

The pacer was last seen in

action during India's Test series against New Zealand earlier this year.

He would have been in action for the Delhi Capitals if the IPL had commenced on March 29.

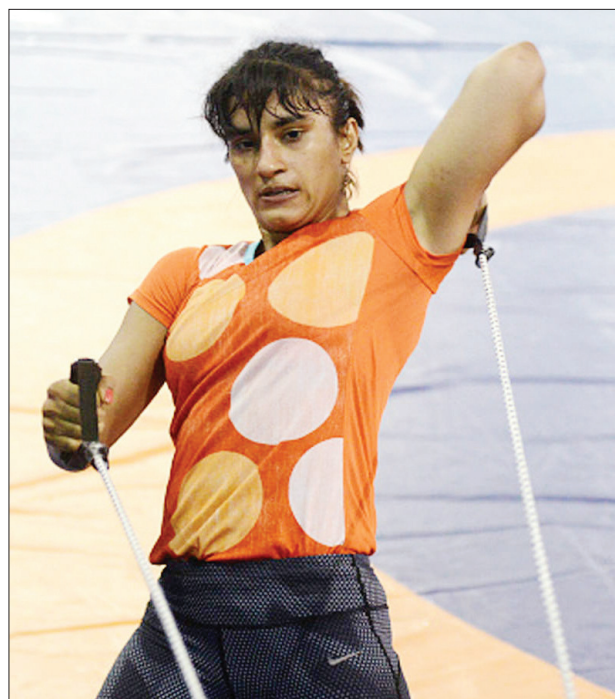
However, the tournament has been postponed indefinitely due to the coronavirus pandemic. (Agency)

## I hope some sort of training plan comes up: Vinesh Phogat

**NEW DELHI, May 18:** Opening of stadiums and sports complexes for athletes was among the latest guidelines issued by the government on Sunday while announcing an extension of the nationwide lockdown that is in place to stem the spread of coronavirus. And ace wrestler Vinesh Phogat believes that stadiums had to be opened up for training sooner than later as sports persons would otherwise start getting frustrated at home.

However, there is still uncertainty over a number of topics -- it is yet to be made clear as to whether the complexes are open for competitions or training and the fate of contact sports like wrestling is yet to be ascertained. Vinesh feels that regardless of all, there hopefully is a decision soon enough for resumption of training at some level.

"At the moment it really is not possible to know till what time this pandemic is going to go on and we can't stop our lives for it," Vinesh said on Monday. "Yes, we have to be careful but something has to be done, till when can athletes just sit in one place.



"The situation is now getting a little desperate because there is no training. We can think about competitions later but there is even no training and that is very frustrating."

Vinesh has been training at home with her sister for a sparring partner. "But without a mat it is not the same. At the same time, I can't really do anything else. I can go to the place where I usually go to train, no one comes there but that is a risk, so I

am avoiding that. Plus there are no competitions and so I am not pushing myself too much either. I am just using the time to keep myself fit," said the 2018 Asian Games gold medalist.

Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju had said that the resumption of training will begin in a phased manner with those who have qualified for the postponed Tokyo Olympics and those who are close to qualification being given preference. Vinesh is one of

the most prominent athletes in this category, having qualified for the Games at the 2019 Wrestling World Championships and is seen as a medal contender.

She was in the home run of her preparations for Tokyo 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic took the world by storm and the Games itself got postponed by a year. Like most people, the 25-year-old initially thought that the lockdown, which was first imposed in March, will be over in just over a fortnight.

"No one knows how long this is going to take so we can't continue to sit at home and train. What if it all comes to an end by the end of the year and it becomes absolutely sure that the Olympics will take place in July next year. You can't prepare for an Olympics in such a short time period, so I hope some sort of a training plan comes up. For now, my coach keeps sending me training plans for the entire week and I follow it."

The risk of the virus, however, has hardly gone away from the country -- over 96,000 cases of infections have been reported and more than 3000 have died. "The

complexes may be opened but obviously, entry should be restricted," said Vinesh.

"It's not like the virus has disappeared so now anybody and everybody can enter the stadium. Yes, spectators can't come but even among athletes, only those who truly need to train for big competitions, should be given priority," she said.

"Plus those that come with us, the coaches and others, all of them need to be taken into consideration. A lot of planning needs to be done."

Vinesh said that the training routines at home is as much a help for her mental health as it is for her body.

"The thing about athletes who are at this level is that, if we are kept away from training for a prolonged period then that mindset and mentality that is needed to perform goes away," said Vinesh.

"I am not used to staying at one place like this at all. That's why I am continuing to train as much as possible or else I'll be punching the wall in frustration. That is one of the main reasons why I am training at home, to keep myself calm and focussed." (Agency)