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**OPPN-RULED BENGAL, MAHARASHTRA, RAJASTHAN IN LIST, WITH MP**

## Centre steps in: Sends teams to monitor districts, with mandate to issue orders

### Rules being flouted, claims govt; 7 of 11 dists from Bengal, others are hotspots

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY & ABANTIKA GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

A DAY after it directed Kerala to rectify its lockdown relaxations saying some of the concessions diluted national guidelines, the Centre singled out more states, putting under strain the common exit strategy that the Prime Minister had urged states to help frame in the country's efforts against COVID-19.

On Monday, the Centre informed West Bengal, Maharashtra, Rajasthan — all ruled by the Opposition — and Madhya Pradesh that lockdown measures were being routinely flouted in their districts, and it was sending six newly-constituted Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) for on-the-spot assessment of the situation there.

The IMCTs, which will submit a report to the Centre, have been authorised to issue necessary directions to state authorities for redressal. Headed by

BUSINESS AS USUAL

By UNNY



Additional Secretary-rank officers from the Centre, the IMCTs will start the inspection visits within three days of the order.

TMC-ruled West Bengal's initial response was frosty, questioning the deployment of the IMCTs and suggesting that it "might not be consistent with the spirit of federalism".

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Work begins on Mankhurd flyover in Deonar, Mumbai, on Monday, the first day of easing of some restrictions. Prashant Nadkar



## Refrain at Manesar's auto hub: Partial opening makes no sense

SANDEEP SINGH & ANIL SASI  
MANESAR (HARYANA), APRIL 20

ON MONDAY, as the first tentative steps to ease lockdown restrictions at designated industrial zones across the country kicked in, the streets of Manesar — one of the biggest auto ancillary hubs on the outskirts of Delhi — remained deserted.

**TEST REPORTS FROM THE FIELD**  
TRACKING THE VIRUS, LOCKDOWN

Despite the Union Home Ministry's April 15 order that offered relaxations for scaled-down operations of industrial units, the

majority of the 2,000 units in the township appeared shut.

The only visible sign of activity was at a non-auto facility: Mankind Pharma's research centre on the Kasan Gaon Road, an arterial road that houses about a dozen industrial units on one side and Maruti Suzuki's sprawling factory on the other.

Maruti Suzuki's 700-acre main plant, operated by the country's biggest carmaker with

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A Central team at the Secretariat in Kolkata Monday. Express

## Bengal cases far below others in list, Mamata slams 'unilateral' move

KARISHMA MEHROTRA  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

WITHIN 30 minutes of West Bengal receiving the Union Home Ministry's order announcing the formation of Inter-Ministerial Central Teams to monitor coronavirus in districts, two teams flew into the state at 10 am Monday.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee pointed this out, along with the fact that she got a call from Union Home Minister Amit Shah only around 1 pm, to slam the Centre's "unilateral action". She also questioned the criteria on the basis of which seven Bengal districts had been picked for monitoring — of the total 11.

The Union Health Ministry's district-wise data for COVID-19 released over the weekend shows that the seven districts

have 224 cases, as compared to the four non-West Bengal districts selected, which together account for a quarter of the cases in the country, at 3,732.

While one Central team will look at Kolkata, Howrah, North 24 Parganas and East Medinipur districts, another would focus on Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Kalimpong (the last three had between them 15 cases as of April 18).

A comparison of the April 18 data for Kolkata (105 cases) against the four non-West Bengal districts underlines the wide gap. Mumbai had 20 times the number of cases (2,070) as the West Bengal capital; Indore seven times (707); and Jaipur, Pune roughly four times (485 and 470, respectively). Mumbai, Indore, Jaipur and Pune are among the worst-hit in the country.

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## Eateries to barbers: After Centre warns, Kerala limits relaxations

SHAJU PHILIP & DEEPTIMAN TIWARY  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

KERALA MONDAY rolled back some of the key lockdown relaxations it had decided to allow from April 20 in a phased manner, including the partial opening of restaurants, non-AC barber shops and bookshops, a day after it was warned by the Centre that they were in violation of the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In a letter, dated April 19 and sent to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's office, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla wrote: "I would urge you to rectify the guidelines... in line with the consolidated revised guidelines dated 15th April & 16th April 2020 without any dilution and to ensure strict compliance of lockdown measures."

On Monday, as confusion prevailed across Kerala with people turning out in streets and markets in large numbers, the state government discussed the MHA letter at a high-level review meeting and decided to adhere to the Centre's guidelines. By afternoon, the police forced shops selling non-essential items to down shutters and clamped down on movement of vehicles.

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## Govt preparing for a second wave towards May end as lockdown eases

ABANTIKA GHOSH  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

EVEN AS the Union government is looking at various options for "gradual" lifting of the lockdown post-May 3 and hopes that the doubling time of COVID-19 cases will increase to 12 days by then, sources said it is preparing for a second wave in late May or early

June, as restrictions are eased. On Monday, the Health Ministry said the doubling time — an epidemiological metric of how long an infectious disease takes for the number of cases to double — is 7.5 days, up from the 3.4 days before the lockdown. The government hopes that it will increase to 10 days by the end of the week, and 12 days by the first week of May.

## UAPA against Kashmir photographer for posts, journalist faces FIR

ADIL AKHZER & BASHAARAT MASOOD  
SRINAGAR, APRIL 20

THE J&K Police have booked a 26-year-old woman photographer under the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for allegedly uploading "anti-national posts" on her social media accounts. In a separate case, the police have filed an "open FIR" related to "a news story published in a national newspa-

per", alleging it was "fake news" — in a statement issued later, it named Peerzada Ashiq, *The Hindu's* Kashmir correspondent.

In the case against the photographer, police claimed that the Cyber Police Station in Srinagar received information on April 18 "through reliable sources that one Facebook user named Masrat Zahra is frequently uploading anti-national posts with criminal intention".

"The post by the users can

"At our worst, our doubling time was 3.4 days. We are expecting to touch 12 by April-end or early May, but after that, as we gradually start to open up — the lockdown will definitely not be lifted in one go — there will be a gradual increase (in cases). We are looking at a second peak in late May or early June, but now that awareness levels are high

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Friends dig pit as Chennai mobs attack family, stop burial of noted doctor

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, APRIL 20

THE LAST rites of the first doctor to die of COVID-19 in Tamil Nadu, prominent Chennai neurosurgeon and managing director of a hospital Dr Simon Hercules, were disrupted by mobs on Sunday night.

News that a coronavirus victim's body was coming for last rites brought residents to two burial grounds in Chennai, with sticks and stones. As they at-



The family of Nileshe Yelgade, who was among the three killed, at their home in Kandivali. Express RELATED REPORT P 7

## Lynchings in Palghar right under police nose, probe ordered

48 hrs earlier, another mob attack averted, same policemen involved

SRINATH RAO  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

THE LYNCHING of three men by a mob at Gadchinchle village in Palghar Thursday night happened right under the nose of a police team led by two officers — who should have known better.

For, barely 48 hours earlier, they had responded to a similar situation in the same district.

On Monday, the two officers, Assistant Police Inspector Anand Rao Kale and Police Sub Inspector Sudhir Katore of Kasa police station, were suspended

for their failure to prevent the lynching at Gadchinchle.

Two days earlier, on April 14, Kale and Katore were present at Sarni Patilpada village, 60 km from Gadchinchle, where a mob attacked a Thane-bound car with two doctors and their driver, allegedly on the suspicion that they were "thieves". In this case, though, police managed to drive the occupants of the car out of the area, which, according to the district administration, has been rife with rumours of thieves, organ traffickers and child kidnappers for the past three months.

Two days later, Kale, Katore and their team of 18 police personnel were again present but

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## China says new FDI norms violate WTO; officials say others put firewalls too

SHUBHAJIT ROY & PRABHA RAGHAVAN  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

TWO DAYS after the government tweaked its FDI policy to make its approval mandatory for firms in neighbouring countries to invest in Indian companies, China claimed Monday that this violates the WTO's "principle of non-discrimination". And hoped that India will "revise" its decision.

The government's move is seen as aimed at checking "opportunistic takeovers" of Indian firms hit by the ongoing COVID outbreak and lockdown.

New Delhi maintains the policy is not aimed at any one country but spokesperson for the Chinese Embassy in India Ji Rong made it clear its echo in Beijing.

**EXPLAINED**  
\$8 billion and high stakes

THE COVID outbreak has hit many businesses. The amendment is seen as a check against "opportunistic takeovers." The stakes are high: As of 2019, China's cumulative investment in India exceeded \$8 billion, more than that from all border countries put together.

"The impact of the policy on Chinese investors is clear. Chinese investment has driven the development of India's industries, such as mobile phone,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## One option left as Mallya loses extradition plea

ADITI KHANNA  
LONDON, APRIL 20

VIJAY MALLYA Monday lost a UK High Court appeal against his extradition, a major turning point that brings India closer to getting back the embattled liquor tycoon wanted on alleged fraud and money laundering charges amounting to Rs 9,000 crore.

The dismissal of the High Court appeal leaves Mallya with 14 days to apply for permission to appeal to the UK Supreme Court.

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Dr Simon Hercules finally buried with police help

tacked the ambulance drivers and family, the doctors' colleagues had to ready the pit by

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### ECONOMY

**U.S. OIL PRICE HITS HISTORIC LOW: ENTERS NEGATIVE TERRITORY**  
PAGE 13

PAGE 1 ANCHOR

GARGI VERMA  
RAIPUR, APRIL 20

JAMALO MADKAM, 12, left her house for the first time two months ago, going with some relatives and friends to work at a chilli farm in Telangana. On Sunday, she returned dead, trying to make her way back amidst the coronavirus lockdown.

Officials said the tribal girl died on April 18 due to electrolyte imbalance and exhaustion, having walked for over three days with 13 others, covering over 100 km and dying barely 11 km short of her home in Aded in Bijapur

district of Chhattisgarh. Jamalo was the only child of Andoram (32) and Sukamati Madkam (30), who barely survive on the forest produce they collect. It was the first time she had gone out to work. "She went to Telangana with some women from the village," Andoram said.

On Monday, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced Rs 1 lakh for Jamalo's family. Many among Chhattisgarh's tribal population go every year to farms in Telangana to earn money picking chillies.

Andoram said he last heard that Jamalo had left Peruru village in Telangana, where she

worked, on April 16 with a group. "They decided to come back after realising that the lockdown had got extended and they would not get any work."

The 13 with Jamalo included three children and eight women.

According to sources, Jamalo died around 8 am on April 18 when the group reached the border of Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh. The group could not inform the family as only one among them had a phone whose battery had died.

Finally, when the group reached Bhandarpal village in Bijapur district, they managed to call her parents. A resident of the



Jamalo Madkam's parents Andoram and Sukamati. She left to work at a chilli farm in Telangana two months ago. Express

village requesting anonymity said, "He asked if he could make a phone call to the girl's village."

The Bhandarpal villagers also alerted police.

Medical Officer of Bijapur district Dr B R Pujari said that when they got the news, they immediately rushed over. "Since Telangana had cases, we immediately sent our teams, but we couldn't find them," he said.

Chhattisgarh currently has 36 positive cases, of which 11 are in hospital. It is quarantining anyone arriving from outside the state. In Telangana, 872 positive cases have been reported. Finally, a medical team from

Bijapur managed to catch up with the group on the outskirts of Bhandarpal village. While Jamalo's body was taken to a morgue, the group was sent into a quarantine facility.

On Sunday evening, Andoram and Sukamati arrived to take their daughter's body.

Said Dr Pujari, "The girl is suspected to have died due to electrolyte imbalance and exhaustion, as the group had been walking three days. They walked through forests, and at one place, she also took a fall."

The day after she died, Jamalo's test results for coronavirus came. She was negative.

### CIVIL SERVICES DAY

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**LOCKDOWN: BARBERS LIVE ON RAZOR'S EDGE, SEE LIVELIHOOD SHAVED OFF**  
It might be true that hair salons will see long queues when the lockdown ends. But, at the moment, vulnerability is all that looms on the lives of innumerable barbers that groom the country of 1.3 billion



**VIDEO OF THE DAY**

**PEOPLE TURNING 'HUNGER HEROES'**  
New definitions of humanity being set by individuals, companies



**OPINION**

**CRISIS CALLS FOR NATIONAL GOVERNANCE**  
Government has to act, but system can become more broadbased

**EXPRESS AUDIO**

**Why the Centre is tussling with states over lockdown norms?**

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY**  
We unpack how certain states have been hauled up for not implementing lockdown measures and how the Centre plans to monitor these states

**FROM PAGE ONE**

**Palghar lynching**

this time as little more than eye-witnesses as the mob pulled the three men out of the police van and lynched them at Gadchinchle village.

On April 16, Mahant Kalpavruksha Giri (70) and Sushilgini Maharaj (35), had hired a driver, Nilesh Yelgade (30), to take them from Kandivali to attend a funeral in Surat, Gujarat.

As they neared Gadchinchle village, on the border with Dadra and Nagar Haveli, they were stopped by guards of the forest department and told to go back. Soon, a mob gathered at the spot and, accusing the occupants of the car of being thieves, attacked them. A team of four policemen from Kasa reached the spot, but by then, the mob had overturned the car. Another team of 16 police personnel reached the spot 45 minutes later and managed to get the three men to sit in two separate police vehicles. But the mob pulled them out of the police vans and lynched them.

A video of the lynching shows Giri pleading with a 56-year-old Assistant Sub Inspector, who is seen simply walking away while the mob attacks Giri. The video also shows some of the police personnel running away from the violence.

When asked about the video and the alleged inaction of the police, Kale, who is also the SHO of Kasa police station, said, "The video only shows half the story. It does not show that we first rescued the men and took them inside the van. One of our colleagues has health issues and could not have fought back. Twenty policemen could not have fought back against a mob of 500," said Kale.

On why only a four-member team went to the spot despite rumors in the area and the incident that occurred two days earlier, Kale said, "The forest guard who called us only said there is an incident and that a few people had gathered. As soon I got there, I called for a backup. At night, we do not have as many people on duty as in the day. Sixteen people rushed from Kasa police station and the SP and around 300 other policemen reached two hours later as they were in Palghar town," he said.

Palghar Superintendent of Police Gaurav Singh too defended Kale, saying he called for reinforcement when he assessed the situation on reaching the spot. "API Kale received the phone call at 10 pm and reached the spot 45 minutes later as it was quite a distance away. Initially, he was informed that only a small number of villagers had gathered around the vehicle. But by the time he and three other officials reached the village, the number had increased. After assessing the situation, he called for 20 more policemen," he said.

Police have so far arrested 110 people in the case. According to police, the victims had taken a route through villages to evade police check-posts where they would have been stopped for violating the lockdown, but the forest officials had forced them to turn back at the state border.

On Monday, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh announced that an investigation into the lynching would be conducted by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and directed Inspector General of Police, Konkan Range, Niket Kaushik, to investigate the role of policemen at the spot. In the earlier incident of April 14, a group of 200-250 men armed with sticks, stones, sickles and pickaxes had gathered at Sarni Patilpada village and attacked a car that was on its way to Thane.

**FDI norms**

household electrical appliances, infrastructure and automobile, creating a large number of jobs in

India. Chinese enterprises actively made donations to help India fight COVID-19 epidemic," Ji said.

China's FDI has grown five-fold since 2014 and, as of December 2019, its cumulative investment in India has exceeded \$8 billion. A Brookings India paper pegs the total current and planned Chinese investment in India as being over \$26 billion.

Ji said that the outbreak should make countries work together to bring their economies back on track. "(But) the additional barriers set by Indian side for investors from specific countries violate WTO's principle of non-discrimination, and go against the general trend of liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment," Ji said.

She added that New Delhi's decision isn't in tune with "the consensus of G20 leaders and trade ministers to... keep our markets open".

According to the amendments to India's consolidated FDI Policy, 2017, while non-resident entities can continue to invest in India, except in prohibited sectors or activities, firms in neighbouring countries will have to seek approval. "...an entity of a country, which shares land border with India or where the beneficial owner of an investment into India is situated in or is a citizen of any such country, can invest only under the Government route," stated the press note issued by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

This came days after China's central bank, the People's Bank of China (PBoC), raised its shareholding in Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) to over one per cent during the recent stock market slump.

Restrictions on investments by citizens or entities incorporated in Pakistan continue in the amended notification. "The amendments are not prohibiting investments. (We have) just changed the approval route for these investments. There are many sectors in India that are already subject to this approval route," a senior government official told *The Indian Express*.

Over the last two months, countries like Germany, Australia and Spain have tightened their foreign investment policies to prevent hostile takeovers by overseas investors.

**Kerala**

After the review meeting, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said public transport would not be allowed during the lockdown period. "The decision to allow managements of institutions to hire special buses for their employees was misunderstood. Barber shops will not be allowed to function until a further decision is taken (they were earlier allowed to open on Saturdays and Sundays). Dining would not be allowed in restaurants. Inspection of vehicles will be implemented stringently in hotspots," he said.

This is the first instance of the Centre objecting to a state's containment measures since the lockdown was first announced on March 24. But Vijayan said "there is no confrontation" between the state and the Centre.

"For certain relaxations, the permission of the Centre would be sought. There are minor changes in certain guidelines, which can be implemented as per the conditions of the states. We have prepared a red zone but not in the manner they (Centre) had suggested," he said.

The Centre's letter had pointed out that under the Disaster Management Act, the state cannot dilute measures stipulated by the central government, and that the Supreme Court had asked all states to abide by the Centre's directions to combat the coronavirus outbreak.

The *Sunday Express* had reported that the state's decision to allow buses within cities,

**Centre steps in: Sends teams**

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, taking to Twitter, said: "We welcome all constructive support & suggestions, especially from the Central Govt in negating the #Covid19 crisis. However, the basis on which Centre is proposing to deploy IMCTs in select districts across India including few in WB under Disaster Mgmt Act 2005 is unclear. I urge both Hon'ble Prime Minister @NarendraModi Ji & Home Minister @AmitShah Ji to share the criterion used for this. Until then I am afraid, we would not be able to move ahead on this as without valid reasons this might not be consistent with the spirit of federalism."

Incidentally, West Bengal and Maharashtra are among the handful of states where doubling time of COVID-19 cases is currently less than the national average of 7.5 days. Doubling time is an epidemiological metric of how fast an infectious disease is spreading.

On Monday, the Ministry of Home Affairs, in identical letters to West Bengal, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, identified districts which are problem areas. The justification for constitution of IMCTs is based largely on general observations such as "incidents of vi-

olence on frontline healthcare professionals; complete violation of social distancing norms outside banks, PDS shops etc, and in market places; movement of private and commercial vehicles with passengers in urban areas, and so on".

This text is identical in all letters, signed by Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla: "...in some of the districts of the country, a number of violations to the lockdown measures have been reported, posing a serious health hazard and risk for spread of COVID-19 which is against general interest of public".

The letters go on to state, "These incidents, if they are allowed to occur without any restraining measures in hotspot districts or emerging hotspots, with large outbreaks or clusters, pose a serious health hazard, both for the population of these districts and for that living in other areas of the country."

In the case of West Bengal, the MHA has identified seven districts — Kolkata, Howrah, Medinipur East, North 24 Parganas, Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Jalpaiguri — where it said "the situation is especially serious" in terms of "prevalence of such violations".

These districts, according to the Ministry of Health and

Family Welfare, cumulatively account for 224 Covid cases with Kolkata reporting the maximum (105), followed by Howrah (46) and North 24 Parganas (37). Darjeeling has the least number of Covid cases among these seven districts — three positive cases.

The MHA order said it is constituting two IMCTs for West Bengal which will "make an on-the-spot assessment of the situation, issue necessary directions to the State authorities for redressal of the situation, and submit their report to the Central Government in larger interest of general public".

Asked about the specific health circumstances in the identified West Bengal districts that necessitated such a move, Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Health, said: "When we identify areas of concern, there are primarily two major criteria: higher numbers, rate of growth is high or doubling time is low. This is primarily in areas where we need effective intervention so that they do not further lead to larger number of cases." Similar orders hold for the other three states regarding the role of IMCTs. The districts identified in Maharashtra are Mumbai and Pune. Together, they account for

over 2,500 cases in the state. In Rajasthan, the Centre has identified Jaipur while in Madhya Pradesh, Indore has been picked for lockdown violations. Jaipur has reported 485 cases while Indore has had 707.

The MHA order said that while the IMCTs air travel from Delhi will be managed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the states will provide logistics support to IMCTs "for their accommodation, transportation, PPEs and extend all cooperation for their visits to local areas". States are also supposed to cooperate in "production of documents/records as requested by IMCT".

On Mamata Banerjee's tweets, Purnya Sailla Srivastava, Joint Secretary in MHA, said: "The purpose of constitution of the teams is to provide support and assistance to the states in their endeavour to fight COVID-19. The teams have been very carefully constituted so that support can be provided from health administrative and disaster management aspects. I am sure the states will benefit from it. The order mentions SC (Supreme Court) directions but the orders have been issued under Section 35 of the Disaster Management Act."

**Refrain at Manesar hub: Partial opening makes no sense**

almost 22,000 people working on a normal day, has a sizeable presence in Manesar's industrial landscape and dovetails a number of ancillary units in its vicinity. On Monday, the only people who marked their attendance were around 100 workers entrusted with maintaining equipment and keeping essential services going at the plant. But for a fresh batch of security guards coming in, there was practically no other activity at the plant or the adjoining casting unit.

Kuldeep Janghu, general secretary, Maruti Suzuki Kaamgar Union, said that besides the security staff, only those required for essential services at the plant are working. Employees are getting salaries, he said. "But they are missing out on other incentives and benefits as the plant is under lockdown. We don't

know how long this situation will continue, and it is very bad for all including the workers," Janghu said.

An executive told *The Indian Express* that running the plant at 25 per cent capacity did not make sense as the stockyard was already close to being full. Unless the retail side of the auto business — dealerships and showrooms — were open, there was no point producing vehicles and filling up the yard further, the executive said.

Representatives of a number of large units in the area echoed that view. With Maruti Suzuki deciding against restarting operations, it was unviable for ancillaries to open their units. Shut since March 22, there are indications that the plant might carry out a test run to evaluate and prep for a restart over the next few days, with full-scale opera-

tions likely only after May 3.

While trucks could be seen idling in yards alongside the Delhi-Jaipur highway, an executive with an automobile manufacturer said the drivers are refusing to take the trucks with cars and other goods, and goods worth crores are stuck on roads.

Industry representatives indicated that Haryana's industries and commerce department and its labour department had held consultations with them late Friday evening, following which some Standard Operating Procedures for each industry were to be issued.

Apart from Maruti Suzuki and Mankind Pharma, the other industrial units based in Manesar include Riello Power, Alcatel-Lucent India, Baxter India, Denso, Hero Motors, Honda Motorcycle and Scooters India, Johnson Matthey, and

Samsung Telecommunications.

A state government official said the administration had made an attempt to get industry to restart limited operations. "District and block level committee are being constituted to process approvals and monitor containment requirements, including social distancing. These committees are being entrusted with the task of evaluating which factories or industries could be permitted to carry out operations," the official said.

On the ground, though, all of this did not seem to have convinced a majority of units to open. The problem of workers is another deterrent, executives said. Unit owners are not willing to take responsibility for getting back workers unless there is some guidance on how they can progressively scale up operations.

let two people travel in the back-seat of cars, and open restaurants, barber shops, electrical workshops and repair shops, had not gone down well with the Centre.

In Sunday's letter, the MHA referred to Kerala's April 17 order on "revised guidelines for lockdown measures" and said that the state "has allowed opening of activities which are prohibited" in the Ministry's order issued two days earlier. The Home Ministry said that this "amounts to dilution of guidelines issued...and violation of MHA order dated 15th April 2020 issued under the Disaster Management Act 2005".

The letter said that in its April 15 order, the Centre had specified that while states can tighten containment measures stipulated by it, they cannot dilute them.

The Kerala government had earlier divided the state into four zones: Red, Orange-A, Orange-B and Green. Relaxations in norms were allowed in non-red zones, including the plying of private vehicles on an odd-even registration basis from April 20 in some districts and April 24 in a few others.

However, on Sunday night, the government issued a list of 88 hotspots under local self-governing bodies. Accordingly, local bodies in Green, Orange-A and Orange-B zones, which had earlier reported positive cases or con-

tacts, were marked as hotspots.

But with most residents unaware of the late revision, a large number of private vehicles were seen on roads Monday morning, when some prominent markets also opened.

**Second wave**

and people are getting used to the idea of social distancing, masks etc, we do not anticipate the doubling time dipping to below 5 days at that point," said a source.

It is likely that the cases will be concentrated around urban and peri-urban areas, where COVID-19 management will be less challenging than in rural areas.

"However as Mumbai, Indore and Chandigarh have shown us, there are so many unforeseen developments in this battle. Sometimes cities that are expected to do well explode, while at other times cities where you expect a problem to happen somehow manage to hold it together," said the source.

There is a sense that area-specific lockdowns and relaxations will have to be the norm, depending on the rise and fall in cases, till September at least.

While the government hopes that the second wave will not touch the March high of 3.4 days doubling time, it will still mean a rise in fresh cases.

However, the medical infrastructure — including hospital beds, PPEs and ventilators — is expected to be better prepared in June than it was in March.

While there is no clarity yet on the criteria for lifting the lockdown post-May 3, the Health Ministry's classification of districts into red, orange and green is being carefully watched.

In her letter to the states last week, Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan had said: "Containment operation would be deemed over when there is no case reported in 28 days from an area after the last case tests negative. Hotspots (designated red zones) will be assumed to be undertaking effective containment activities if no case is reported in the next 14 days (designated orange zones), and will be deemed successful in containment if no case is reported for 28 days (designated green zones)."

The red zones are areas which account for 80% of the cases in the country, or 80% of the cases in a state, or where the doubling time is less than four days.

Currently, there are 321 districts with no cases; 77 have not reported cases for 7 days; 62 for 14 days; 17 for 21 days; and 3 districts (Mahe, Kodagu and Pauri Garhwal) have not reported cases for 28 days. However, officials

digging a pit at Velangadu, the mob hit the workers with wooden logs and pelted stones, injuring the ambulance drivers, recounted a doctor. "The family was also attacked. The corporation officials fled," the doctor said.

An hour later, with police protection, the body was buried.

**Vijaya Mallya**

If the does apply, the UK Home Office would wait for the outcome of that appeal. Otherwise, under the India-UK Extradition Treaty, it would be expected to formally certify the court order for the 64-year-old to be extradited to India within 28 days.

"We have held there is a prima facie case both of misrepresentation and of conspiracy, and thus there is also a prima facie case of money laundering," the High Court concluded.

In India, the businessman faces cases filed by the CBI and ED. He has been on bail in the UK since his arrest on an extradition warrant in April 2017.

The former Kingfisher Airlines boss had appealed to the higher court against his extradition ordered by the Westminster Magistrates' Court in London in December 2018, and signed off by then UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid last year, at a three-day hearing in February this year. PTI

**J&K scribe**

provoke the public to disturb the law and order besides glorifying the anti-national activities, etc. In this regard FIR No. 10/2020 under the relevant provision of law was registered at Cyber Police Station and investigation taken up," it said in a statement.

Srinagar-based Zahra's work has been published in various news organisations in India and abroad. When contacted by *The Indian Express*, she said that she mostly posted links to her work on her social media accounts. "I am shocked to see these allegations. I am a professional photojournalist. I have no political or social agenda. This is an attempt to muzzle journalists in Kashmir," she said.

Zahra said the police called her Saturday evening, asking her to report at the Cyber Police Station. According to her, she expressed her inability to reach immediately and informed the Kashmir Press Club, after which she came to know that the "matter has been sorted and I don't need to go".

Zahra said she came to know from colleagues Monday that she had been booked under UAPA. SP Cyber Cell Tahir Ashraf Bhatti told *The Indian Express*: "The case against (Zahra) was lodged for posting content on social media depicting fake news and also glorifying terrorism and terrorists." Police sources claimed Zahra's social media posts "demean security forces".

In the other case, the police claimed that it received information on April 19 "regarding a fake news item being published in the *The Hindu* newspaper by the journalist namely Pir Zada Ashiq, regarding an encounter at Shopian and subsequent developments".

On Sunday, a report by Peerzada Ashiq said that the Health Ministry's data for cases ("Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday allowed the families of two slain militants in Shopian to exhume their bodies from a graveyard in Baramulla" after "the police denied them permission"). The report also said that "Yasin Choudhary, Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, was not available for his comment".

In its statement, the police claimed: "The details reflected in the news item were found factually incorrect and the said news could cause fear or alarm in the minds of public. The said news was published without seeking confirmation from the District authorities." Police said that the correspondent was called to Anantnag for questioning. "The

investigation in both the cases is in progress," it said.

When contacted, Ashiq said: "I was questioned regarding a news item based on the interview of the family in Shopian. I told Cyber Police that I have a recording of the interview. I also shared screenshots of the messages I had sent on SMS, WhatsApp and Twitter to the DC Shopian to get the official version for the story. It is shocking to now term it as fake news." In a statement, the Kashmir Press Club condemned the police action and sought the intervention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and J-K Lt Governor G C Murmu.

**West Bengal**

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Banerjee questioned the "breach of established protocol" in not keeping the state in loop.

Earlier, in a tweet moments after the Home Ministry's announcement, the CM said, "We welcome all constructive support & suggestions, especially from the Central Govt in negating the #Covid19 crisis. However, the basis on which Centre is proposing to deploy IMCTs in select districts across India including few in WB under Disaster Mgmt Act 2005 is unclear."

There are several districts in Bengal which have more cases than Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling, including Paschim Burdwan and Nadia, which are not on the Central list. There are also districts with higher numbers than Kolkata outside West Bengal that are omitted, such as Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Thane, Chennai, Bhopal and Agra.

As of April 18, Darjeeling had three cases, from none earlier, while Jalpaiguri was at five (after 0 on April 1, and four on April 6 and April 12).

The CM cited similar data in her letter to the PM, writing, "It has been stated... that there have been number of violation of lockdown measures and situation is specifically serious in some of the districts. These observations are devoid of any facts... Kalimpong reported the last incident on April 2. Similarly, Jalpaiguri on April 4 and Darjeeling on April 16. It shows that the selection of districts and observations made unilaterally are nothing but a figment of imagination."

While one Central team arrived in Bagdogra, headed for Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Jalpaiguri, another visited Belgachhia and certain areas of Howrah in Kolkata before reaching the Secretariat in the evening for a meeting with the CM. The talks lasted almost an hour.

In her letter, Banerjee pointed out that while the Central order said the state should make arrangements for the teams, the latter had "approached Central forces like BSF, SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal) for logistics support and had already moved (into) the field without any consultation with the state government".

The TMC government has been in a war of words with the Centre as well as the BJP over its handling of coronavirus, particularly the state's case count. The Health Ministry's data for cases (339 vs 318) and deaths (66 vs 12) in West Bengal is higher than the state's. In another move in variance with the national protocol, West Bengal was the first in the country to start auditing deaths to certify if these were caused due to the virus or any co-morbidity.

The state has also been accused of not testing enough. West Bengal had 225 cases from 15 districts as of April 18. Kolkata had the highest share (108), and 17 on April 1, 29 on April 6 and 29 on April 12. In comparison, Indore, a hotspot, which started off at 12 on April 1 was up to 707 by April 18.

**WITH INPUTS FROM KOLKATA FULL REPORT ON WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM**



# 3 THE OUTBREAK THE CITY

## Patient's family claims negligence by hospital, AAP MLA intervenes

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE FAMILY of a coronavirus patient admitted to Lok Nayak Hospital Monday alleged he was not being provided proper care. In a video posted on Twitter, the daughter and wife of the patient sought help from the Chief Minister and Prime Minister.

The patient's daughter said that around 2 am on Thursday, her father fell unconscious for a few minutes and was taken to Fortis Healthcare Hospital at Shalimar Bagh. "Doctors tested him for coronavirus and it was positive. After that, without asking us, they shifted him to Lok Nayak Hospital, citing government orders," she claimed.

The Delhi government has declared Lok Nayak Hospital and Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital as two dedicated COVID-19 facilities where all cases are to be referred.

She claimed her father had to wait for two-three hours before being admitted, and was given food only next morning at 9 am: "He is a patient of sugar (diabetes) and hypertension. If he doesn't get food, his glucose level fluctuates. Today, on April 20, he

called at 5 am saying he has fever and is not able to get up. He told this to people and nurses in the ward but no one is responding."

On Monday evening, Timarpur MLA Dilip Pandey said the CM called him and asked him to look into the case. Pandey said he had spoken to a doctor leading the COVID-19 response team at the hospital, and was assured that all patients are being looked after properly. "I spoke to the patient's wife and said that a team of doctors have attended to him... it is being ensured that he is taken care of properly," he said.

Hospital director Dr J C Passey said, "I have constituted a fact-finding panel; the report is expected Tuesday. The patient concerned is stable and segregated. Another enquiry has been initiated by the Delhi government."

The family lives in G Block Jahangirpuri, which was marked a containment zone Monday.

In another video on Twitter Monday evening, the family said they spoke to doctors taking care of the man. His daughter said: "They said they would keep him under direct supervision and check on him. Help arrived from the Delhi government and other places... Tests of our family members will be done by Tuesday."

## ANOTHER HOSPITAL SET TO BEGIN THERAPY TODAY

# Man on plasma therapy improving: Docs

ASTHA SAXENA  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

A 49-YEAR-OLD coronavirus patient who was given plasma therapy has shown improvement and been taken off ventilator support. The man is admitted to Max Hospital in Saket. Two consecutive tests have returned negative, said the hospital in a statement.

"It is important to understand that it is no magic bullet. During his treatment, other standard treatment protocols were followed; we can say that plasma therapy could have worked as a catalyst in speeding up his recovery," said Dr Sandeep Budhiraja, Group Medical Director — Max Healthcare & Senior Director — Institute of Internal Medicine.

Another hospital in Delhi is set to begin plasma therapy starting Tuesday. The Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) received plasma from two young donors on Monday and will start looking for a recipient from today.

ILBS has also identified six more donors.

"They are good samaritans who recovered from COVID-19 and came forward to provide



Workers sanitising Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital on Monday.  
Prem Nath Pandey



their plasma. We will start the process from Tuesday and identify the recipient who fulfills all criteria," said Dr S K Sarin, head of ILBS.

"The only qualification we need from the donor is he/she should be between 18-60 years of age, having no diabetes or

blood pressure. He/she should have crossed three weeks and tested negative for COVID-19 twice. As far as we know, ILBS is probably the first to get approval for the trial in the country," said Dr Sarin.

On April 16, the Delhi government received a go-ahead from the Indian Council of Medical Research to use plasma therapy. The institute also gave its approval to Maulana Azad Medical College.

Plasma therapy uses antibodies found in the blood of people who have recovered from the infection (or convalesced), to treat infected patients.

## Rapid testing begins in capital, none positive out of 62 on Day 1

ASTHA SAXENA & MALLICA JOSHI  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE DELHI government Monday started community testing for coronavirus in containment zones. Nabi Karim is the first area where the rapid antibody tests, which produce results in around 15 minutes, were held. None of the 62 people who were tested were positive, said District Magistrate (Central) Nidhi Srivastava.

In the first half of the day, Srivastava said, officials were trained to conduct the test, for which a blood sample is required. "A team of six officials was trained in the first half and the testing was conducted in the second half. All guidelines suggested by the ICMR were followed. We are glad that none have come out positive," Srivastava said.

The city saw 78 new cases on Monday from 1,397 samples collected in 24 hours. Two people

admitted at Safdarjung Hospital succumbed to the disease, taking the toll to 47. Delhi has so far seen 2,081 cases, while 431 people have recovered.

On Monday, a three-member committee was formed by the health department to conduct an audit of COVID-19 deaths in the city. "The responsibility of the committee would be to audit each death daily, in which the COVID-19 test is positive in government and private hospitals, before releasing data. All government and private hospitals are directed to report all such deaths to the committee along with the copy of case sheet for death audit," stated an order from the health department.

The Delhi government has got 42,000 rapid testing kits and plans to use them for community testing in containment zones. On Monday, four more areas were added — two in Jahangirpuri, and parts of Trilokpuri and Tughlakabad Extension.

Officials have been carrying

out tests on neighbours of those who have tested positive in containment zones even if they are not displaying symptoms. Officials have so far taken 5,560 samples from these areas.

According to experts, the test detects antibodies that are produced if one has contracted the virus, and not the presence of the virus itself. "Once the virus enters the body, it will make antibodies against the viral antigen. These are IgM, produced in the acute phase, and IgG antibodies, produced when the virus starts clearing. They may take 3-7 days to develop. The test kits will be able to tell us if a person was affected acutely or if he has recovered. If the infection is acute or active, a person will have IgM antibodies; if they have recovered, they will have IgG antibodies. Unlike in the swab test, though, there is a lag between a person being infected and the antibodies being detected," said Dr SK Sarin, who heads Delhi government's committee on COVID-19 preparedness.

## 16 colleagues of pizza delivery man negative

MALLICA JOSHI  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

DAYS AFTER a pizza delivery employee in South Delhi tested positive for COVID-19, 16 of his co-workers, who he came in contact with, have tested negative.

The administration categorised contacts as high risk and low risk. While those he worked with were categorised as high

risk, those who he delivered food to were categorised as low risk. Only high-risk contacts have been tested so far.

According to South Delhi District Magistrate B M Mishra, these categories have been created by doctors. "Those who he delivered food to have not been tested so far and will have to remain under home quarantine for 14 days," he said.

According to officials, the others will be tested if they dis-

play symptoms of the disease.

The pizza delivery employee had tested positive on April 14. According to Mishra, he had been unwell for over three weeks, displaying symptoms such as a persistent cough and fatigue. After his symptoms did not go away, he went to Safdarjung Hospital, insisting that he be tested. After several requests, he was sent to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, where his swab samples were taken.

Officials said it is possible that he contracted the infection from someone who he delivered food to in Malviya Nagar or Hauz Rani (parts of both areas have been declared containment zones).

The patient delivered food in a 5-kilometre radius of the restaurant, located in Malviya Nagar, and 72 homes in Malviya Nagar, Saket, IIT-Delhi and Hauz Khas have been placed under quarantine.

## Man stabbed to death in front of his family

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

A 40-YEAR-OLD man was stabbed to death outside his Central Delhi home, allegedly during a scuffle over the accused's drinking habit. The incident took place at 4.45 pm Monday in Patel Nagar and was caught on CCTV. The victim, Krishna Shah, owner of a plastic moulding factory in Inderlok,



The victim, Krishna Shah

was killed in front of his family.

DCP (Central) Sanjay Bhatia said, "The victim had told a resident's landlord about his tenant's drinking habits. This enraged the tenant, Deepak, and he

gathered five-six men to beat up Shah. In the scuffle between both sides, one man stabbed Shah and ran away. The victim was rushed to a hospital, where he died of blood loss."

Bhatia said a case of murder has been registered and three men, including Deepak, have been arrested. The man who allegedly stabbed Shah has been identified as Shubham. He is on the run, said police.

In a 1.45-minute video, a few men and a woman can be seen beating up a shirtless man from Deepak's group with sticks and rods. Shah too is seen holding a stick, but tries to stop the others from beating up the man. Suddenly, a man in a white shirt runs towards Shah, stabs him near the abdomen, and flees. Deepak's men run away, and Shah falls on the ground. His family members can be seen holding him as neighbours stand afar.

ADVERTORIAL

# CIVIL SERVICES DAY

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## Saluting the civil servants

THE Government of India celebrates April 21 every year as 'Civil Services Day' as an occasion for the civil servants to rededicate themselves to the cause of citizens and renew their commitments to public service and excellence in work. This date is chosen to commemorate the day when first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalfe House, Delhi, he referred to civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'. The first such function was held in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on April 21, 2006.

As part of Civil Servant Day, Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration are presented to Districts/Implementing Units for implementation of priority programme and innovation categories. With participation from a large number of districts across the country in the Awards scheme, the scale of entire process is very large. These awards on the Civil Service Day each year bring together civil servants to connect with each other and learn the good practices being implemented across the nation in the field of public grievance. This annual affair is eagerly awaited by all public administrators to celebrate outcomes of work done in the entire year.



### Objective of National Civil Service Day:

- To motivate and appreciate the work and efforts of civil service officers.
- Central government uses this opportunity to evaluate the work of various departments under the civil services.
- The central government felicitates and provides awards to the best working individuals and groups.

On this day mostly all the officers of central and state governments are

awarded by the Prime Minister of India for their extraordinary services in the field of public administration. The function is organised by the Department of the Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

The 'Prime Minister Award for Excellence in Public Administration' is awarded in three categories:

**Category 1:** Which comprises eight North Eastern States and the three hill

**WE CAN'T IGNORE THAT CIVIL SERVICE IS THE PILLAR ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT RUNS THE VEHICLE OF POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES OF THE COUNTRY**

states namely Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

**Category 2:** consists of seven Union Territories

**Category 3:** Comprising rest of the eighteen states of India

Every year lakhs of candidates apply for the Indian Civil Service examination. But we can't ignore that civil service is the pillar on which the government run the vehicle of policies and programmes of the country smoothly. The contribution

of civil servants for the society, the nation as a whole can't be expressed in words. Therefore, April 21 is celebrated as Civil Service Day to encourage civil servants for their immense contribution to the nation.

### Leading the fight against COVID-19

The current health pandemic of COVID-19 has ravaged the world and has also stormed India in the past one month. It is this 'steel frame' which is leading In-

dia's fight against the COVID-19 as well. Whether it is the process of procurement of PPEs or to increase the availability of life-saving machines like ventilators, ensuring availability of necessary and essential items to general masses keeping in mind social distancing or smooth functioning of community kitchens, civil servants are to be applauded for their valiant and untiring efforts.



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Today as we celebrate the dedication & commitment towards the public service of Civil Servants across the country, the team at Vision IAS thanks them for the outstanding work they are doing for the welfare of the country and helping the citizens in fighting the pandemic that is affecting people globally. A salute to these unsung heroes of the nation.

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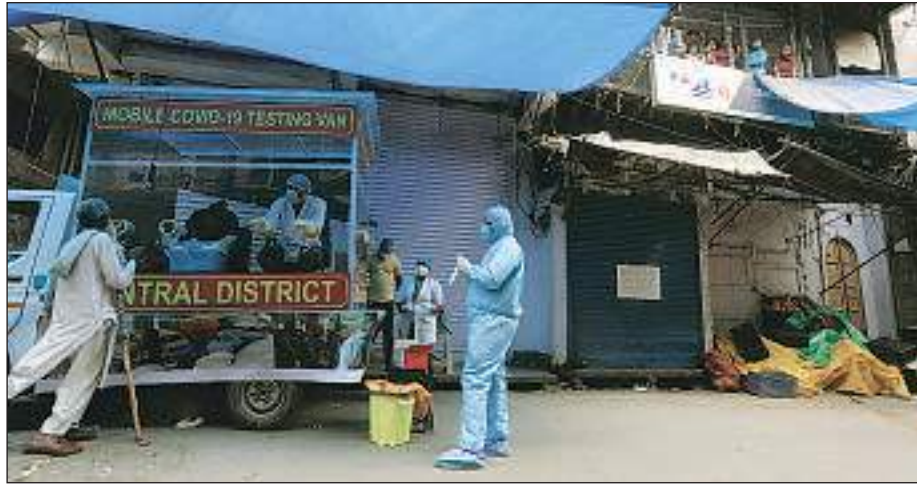
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# 4 THE OUTBREAK THE CITY

## SCENES FROM A CONTAINMENT ZONE



Healthcare workers carry out sanitisation and testing at Chandni Mahal, a containment zone, Monday. The mobile COVID-19 testing van, launched in Delhi's Central District Sunday, collected samples from residents and policemen in the area. Amit Mehra



## CM'S PET PROJECT

# Ration at doorstep in containment zones

SOURAV ROY BARMAN  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE DELHI government Monday issued an order launching doorstep delivery of ration across the city's containment zones, standing at over 80 across 11 districts, setting in motion a pet project of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. The development is significant as home delivery of ration was among the major "promises" made by the Aam Aadmi Party during the 2020 assembly election campaign. For now, the initiative will be rolled out at a limited scale only at the sealed zones.

The Department of Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs issued an order to this effect on Monday, detailing the rollout plan involving food supply officers, District Magistrates, Delhi Police, civil defence volunteers and the teams of "corona foot warriors" constituted by Chief Secretary Vijay Dev.

In March 2018, the Kejriwal Cabinet had cleared a proposal to launch doorstep delivery of ration to all 72 lakh PDS beneficiaries in the city. However, Lt Governor Anil Baijal had shot it down, advising the government to take the opinion of the Union government before taking a final call.

Before the 2020 elections, the CM had told *The Indian Express* that a fresh roadmap had been drawn, which was "at a very advanced stage", relating to the

home delivery proposal. "It should be implemented within six months of forming government," he had said.

While the coronavirus outbreak has brought activities of the government to a halt, the PDS home delivery is set to begin, with the disbursement of ration for the month of May to beneficiaries residing in those zones.

The order, seen by *The Indian Express*, states that the delivery will be carried out by civil defence volunteers with the assistance of area food supply officers (FSOs), inspectors (FSLs) and fair price shop dealers. They have been directed to complete the home delivery before the usual disbursement through the shops.

"The entitled ration of the month of May already allocated and delivered to the Fair Price Shops and additional allocation under PMGKY as per directions of the department should be distributed to beneficiaries in containment zones in the last week of April 2020 before opening of sale for regular distribution of specified food articles to other beneficiaries..." it says.

For now, the area FSOs and FSLs have been directed to identify beneficiaries as soon as possible. The identification process will have to be completed within three days of every new containment order, a special commissioner in the food department has directed.

"The FSO/FSL will share the copy of the plan with the SDM and also provide the copy to co-

rona foot warriors containment and surveillance teams for coordination and smooth distribution without any hindrance. The distribution in the containment zones shall be made by the concerned FSOs/FSIs and fair price shop licensee with the help of civil defence volunteers already deployed in their respective circles," the order adds.

In cases where beneficiaries are registered with fair price shops falling within sealed areas but reside in some other place, their cards will be temporarily attached with shops located in nearby non-containment zones so that their quota of food can also be home delivered.

The DCPs have also been asked to issue directions to police staff deployed in containment zones to ensure coordination with the circle FSOs for smooth rollout of the initiative. So far, the civil defence volunteers were tasked with delivering essential commodities, of which ration was not a part, to the doorstep of households in the red zones.

Under the National Food Security Act, each PDS beneficiary is entitled to 5 kg of grains per month. The allocation has been raised by the Delhi government to 7.5 kg per beneficiary, under the Prime Minister Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), to help socio-economically disadvantaged families tide over the coronavirus crisis and related lockdown which has robbed many of their livelihoods.

## 19 contacts of NDMC chief engineer traced, 5 families in isolation

ANANYA TIWARI  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

DAYS AFTER a chief civil engineer of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) tested positive for COVID-19, five people who came in contact with him, along with their families, have been quarantined.

"Currently there are 19 established contacts. Of these, 10 met him more than 14 days ago. Of the remaining nine, five are high-risk contacts and are being quarantined. The rest have been instructed to observe for symptoms," Tanvi Garg, DM (New Delhi), told *The Indian Express*.

One of the quarantined officials is an assistant engineer from Haryana, whose family has also been quarantined by the Haryana government. "These contacts include people from the department of civil engineering, his drivers, a pharmacist (as he visited the NDMC pharmacy) and some others," said Dr Vijay Shankar Patel, senior medical officer at NDMC's public health department.

After exhibiting symptoms such as dry cough on April 15, the 56-year-old chief civil engineer,



At the New Delhi Municipal Council office, Saturday

who worked at the Palika Kendra in Sansad Marg, was tested on April 16 at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. His test results came out on April 18 and he has been hospitalised since. On whether the Palika Kendra will be declared a hotspot, Garg said: "As of now only one positive case has been confirmed. Further action will be taken strictly as per protocol."

The engineer is a resident of Kundli, near Sonapat in Haryana. One of his drivers told *The Indian Express*, "He used to go to office from Kundli, and it often took more than an hour." His family, including his wife and son, are under home quarantine.

## To check price rise, Azadpur mandi to remain open 24x7

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE AZADPUR mandi will be open 24x7 starting Tuesday, said Development Minister Gopal Rai, describing it as a measure to arrest the rising prices of vegetables and fruits due to lockdown-related restrictions.

In an announcement on Monday, Rai said that since the lockdown was enforced, the Agricultural Produce Market Committee at Azadpur has implemented social distancing norms which, while successful, have led to some problems too.

On April 13, the government introduced a series of measures including staggered timings, coupons and odd-even to ensure social distancing at the city's mandis, frequented by thousands on a daily basis.

"But this led to two problems — we got reports that fruit and vegetable prices were increasing across the city, and that farmers were under duress as they were unable to sell their produce... To eradicate all such issues, it has been decided that the Azadpur mandi will remain open for 24 hours from Tuesday," said Rai.

He added that "three systems will be put into place to ensure social distancing".



Systems have been put in place to ensure social distancing at Azadpur mandi. Renuka Puri

First, produce will be sold at the market from 6 am to 10 pm. This window of 16 hours will be divided into four segments of 4 hours each. Only 1,000 people will be allowed in each segment. "Coupons will be given for this," said Rai.

Secondly, trucks bringing in produce will only be allowed inside the market from 10 pm to 6 am, and social distancing norms will be followed then as well.

Third, to ensure that people are scattered, norms are followed and the area is kept sanitised, 600 safai karamcharis have been hired and 900 civil defence volunteers have been allotted duties.

"Announcements will be made throughout the day. We have put up two cameras at the fruit and vegetable market to monitor activities of the traders," said the minister.

Any trader who does not follow social distancing norms will have his license revoked, said Rai. "We have held a meeting with the traders. We will provide the services and the facilities, but social distancing norms have to be maintained," said Rai.

## MCDs say cannot share more staff with Delhi government

ABHINAV RAJPUT  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

MAYORS OF Delhi's three municipal corporations have demanded that sanitation workers be exempted from further duty with the Delhi government as it will affect their primary job of sanitation and anti-mosquito operations. Mayor of South Delhi Municipal Corporation Sunita Kangra said the Delhi government had asked for 50 workers from each ward to tackle the coronavirus crisis.

There has been a long-standing conflict between the BJP-led MCDs and AAP-led Delhi government. The corporations accuse the government of not giving their fair share of funds, while the government alleges misappropriation of funds by corporations.

Kangra has written to Lt-Governor Anil Baijal seeking exemption for South MCD workers from other duties. She said several sanitation workers are engaged in cleanliness and sanitisation in containment zones, but the government asked for an additional 50 workers in each ward. There are 272 municipal wards in Delhi.

"The government has engaged our workers in food distribution at government shelters and quarantine centres but are not engaging their own school staff and civil defence volunteers. Now the mosquito season is upon us and there is a fear dengue will be widespread this year," she said.

Domestic breeding checkers (DBC)s are busy tackling the virus spread and officials are apprehensive of a vector-borne disease outbreak. Around 3,500 DBCs are employed across the North, South and East MCDs.

Mayor of North MCD Avtar Singh also wrote to the Lt-G, demanding that no additional duties be assigned to the available municipal staff. He said the North body has exempted employees who are more than 55 years of age from regular duties.

East MCD mayor Anju Kamla Kant said that additional sanitation staff should not be deputed for other roles as it will hamper anti-mosquito operations.

Meanwhile, Sanjay Goel, who is the coordinator of corona foot warrior teams, said the district magistrates concerned have been assured by the SDMC that required staff will be provided.

## AIIMS plans to restart elective surgeries

New Delhi: One month after AIIMS curtailed its elective surgeries, the institute is planning to start the services soon. "Discussions are going on. We will start it in a gradual manner so that care of both COVID-19 patients and others can be given properly," said Dr DK Sharma, medical superintendent, AIIMS.

## New cases: 3 in Noida, 6 in Ghaziabad

Noida: Six fresh cases were reported in Ghaziabad while three persons in Noida were found positive for coronavirus on Monday. The total cases have touched 100 in Noida and 48 in Ghaziabad.

## Rapid testing in Gurgaon

Gurgaon: Testing for coronavirus in Gurgaon will be faster from Tuesday, with the district health department receiving 750 rapid testing kits Monday.

## Examine domestic violence: HC

New Delhi: The Delhi HC has directed the Centre and state to look into the issue of protection of domestic violence victims and file a status report by April 24.

## Ensure food, amenities: HC

New Delhi: The Delhi HC Monday directed the Centre and State to ensure "food, potable water, electricity and sanitation" in the area where inhabitants of Yamuna Pushta have been relocated. **ENS**

## NARELA INDUSTRIAL AREA

# In basti of toy makers, children have new duty: Get food home

ANAND MOHAN J  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD SAHIBA does not understand the dangers posed by coronavirus, nor does she know why her parents have not left their house at Mayapuri Industrial area for a month.

All she knows is that if she is not among the first ones in line, her family will skip breakfast. The enormity of the weight she bears on her tiny shoulders is something she understands well: "My parents will go hungry if I don't get food."

Sahiba's parents are toy sellers living in Kanchan Basti, which has several others from the same profession. The residents of the slum have been sending their children to collect food and water, since the dal-chawal distributed in a local school is barely enough to feed two people.

Kanchan Basti in Narela Industrial Area, nestled between scrap markets, has around 3,000 houses in an 8-km stretch between Mayapuri police station and Delhi Cantt railway station. It comprises migrants from Lucknow, who have been staying here for over three generations, selling toys and balloons. They buy the toys in bulk from Sadar Bazaar and sell them at middle class neighborhoods in West Delhi, making Rs 300 or more per day.

Some also make kitchen appliances by reworking metal collected from the scrap market. Rajesh Kumar, the General Secretary of IFTU, a trade union, said, "When compared in the ecosystem of labourers in the Mayapuri Industrial Area, they are at the bottom. Their juggles are demolished by railway authorities when they extend to the railway property. They are only remembered during elections."



Wait for food at Mayapuri slum, Monday. Renuka Puri

The main source of food these days is an MCD school nearby. The children know the school well since they study there too, and were dependent on mid-day meals served at the school before the lockdown. Apart from the

school, which is a Delhi government hunger relief centre, some local policemen have also been distributing ration by spending their money. But residents say it still falls short.

Outside the school, around

12.30 pm, Pitu (12) is busy ordering other children to make a line. They discuss among themselves and choose Gulgul (9) to enter the school first. Gulgul carries a steel plate in her hand, beaming, as Pitu makes her wear a face mask. The children use the same mask among themselves. Minutes later, Gulgul emerges from the school, her plate filled with dal-chawal. She hands over her face mask to the next child, waiting in line.

However, their day starts much earlier, around 6 am. They carry small buckets to a DJB tanker, and it sometimes takes one family almost five hours until their turn arrives. The children then line up outside the school at 10 am and wait for over two hours to get their first meal. They make several trips to the school to collect more portions for their families. School authorities said they feed around 600 people every day. "Children come for sec-

ond and third portions sometimes. We don't stop them," an official said.

After collecting food they return to their homes, usually a 6x6 foot room tied together with a tarpaulin sheet for a roof and garbage bags filled with empty bottles stitched around it to fill yawning gaps. Some rooms have 10-15 people. The nearest toilet is next to a police station nearby.

Sahiba hands out her plate to her father, Dilshad (28), a toy seller who takes a few mouthfuls of the rice and hands over the plate to his wife, Sunita (25). Dilshad has been without work since the lockdown was announced.

His neighbour, Jaggish (28), a balloon seller, has four children between 5 and 7 years of age. They too have been surviving on food distributed in the school and do not have a ration card. With the situation worsening,

Jaggish said he has now started sending his children out to beg, something they have never done before.

In a nearby house, toy seller Raju's daughter, Pooja, flashes a wide grin as she hands over a jar filled with dal to her father. She earns a pat on her back and goes to bed, a discarded cement packet lying on the floor. The family doesn't have soap, and instead rubs ash from their *chulla*, thinking it kills germs, before they eat lunch.

A few steps away, Ranjit (50) sits inside his home staring at air-guns, miniature tea cups and goggles propped up on a wall. The father of five children spent Rs 10,000 before the lockdown to procure these toys and managed to sell some for three days, earning Rs 2,200, which is over now. "I am waiting for work to begin again, the kids won't have to stand in line then."



# 5 THE OUTBREAK NATION



**CORONA WATCH**



A health worker in Jammu. *PTI*

## WEST BENGAL

**20 cops injured in clash with locals over 'bid to dispose body'**

Alipurduar/Malda/Kolkata: At least 20 police personnel were injured in a clash with a mob which alleged authorities were secretly disposing the body of a person who died due to COVID-19 in Alipurduar. The incident happened on the banks of the Teesta river in Salkumarhat early Monday, police said. Locals alleged a police team arrived with an earth mover to secretly dump the body of a person who died of COVID-19. During the clash, police opened fire, injuring a youth, locals alleged. Denying the allegations, SP Amitava Maity said a case has been lodged and they are trying to identify those behind the incident. *PTI*

**ANDHRA PRADESH**  
**Man 'assaulted' for lockdown violation, dies**

Hyderabad: A man died after allegedly being assaulted by the police for violation lockdown norms in Sattenapalle village of Guntur district on Monday. The 28-year-old man was reportedly out buying supplies when he was assaulted at a checkpoint. He collapsed at the checkpoint and was shifted to a hospital where he succumbed. Guntur Rural SP V Vijay Rao said the policeman who allegedly thrashed the man was suspended, pending inquiry. *ENS*

**RAJASTHAN**  
**Newborn tests positive for COVID-19**

Jaipur: A newborn baby has tested positive for coronavirus in Rajasthan's Nagaur district, an official said Monday. "The baby born on Saturday is coronavirus positive. Her mother, father and other family members too are COVID-19 patients," Nagaur chief medical and health officer Dr Sukumar Kashyap said. The test report of the baby came on Sunday. *PTI*

## 80% patients asymptomatic, but no need to change testing protocol: ICMR

**ABANTIKA GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

WHILE IT said that about 80 per cent of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) patients are asymptomatic, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) maintained on Monday that there is no need to change the testing protocol.

According to the government's strategy for RT-PCR tests, only symptomatic people with travel or contact history, health-care workers who develop symptoms while caring for COVID-19 patients, all hospitalised patients with Severe Acute Respiratory Illness, asymptomatic direct and high-risk contacts of a confirmed case, and all patients with symptomatic influenza-like illness are tested.

Responding to a question at the daily briefing, Dr R R Gangakhedkar, head of epidemiology and infectious diseases at the ICMR, said: "I have explained that 80 per cent people will have infection without symptoms. They will be asymptomatic but if you test them, there is a chance that they will be positive... We need to understand that the RT-PCR test comes positive after a



West Bengal government on Monday started conducting rapid antibody tests as per ICMR directives in red zone areas of the state. *Partha Paul*

person is symptomatic. People take time to be symptomatic. This means if I test him/her when asymptomatic, the chances of him/her testing positive are small."

Stating that the test has "limitations", he said: "This is a new disease, people are learning. We are intervening, taking quick steps based on our evolving understanding of the disease. As for testing strategy, your chances of testing positive become less as you near the infection time

point. It comes positive when there are symptoms, so keeping in mind the cost effectiveness and risk-based approach, your yield will become less the sooner you test. Even to think about changing the testing strategy now... I cannot say."

He said in hotspots, people with influenza-like illness are being tested. "How much we need to change the testing protocol, time will tell, based on the progression of the disease and the evolution of the tests," he said.

Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary in the Health Ministry, clarified that 80 per cent patients are "either asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms". "Our testing criteria is detailed and takes into account asymptomatic high-risk contacts as well as people with severe acute respiratory illnesses," he said.

He emphasised that it is always possible to make a clinical assessment of whether testing is required or not, based on the patient's history.

With 1,540 fresh cases and 40 deaths being reported in the last 24 hours, the total tally has now gone up to 17,656 cases (2,842 recovered) and 559 deaths.

The average doubling time has increased to 7.5 days, from 3.4 days a week before the lockdown. The doubling time is more than the national average in some states and Union territories. Among these are: Delhi (8.5 days), Karnataka (9.2), Telangana (9.4), Andhra Pradesh (10.6), J&K (11.5), Punjab (13.1), Chhattisgarh (13.3), Tamil Nadu (14), Bihar (16.4), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (20.1), Haryana (21), Himachal Pradesh (24.5), Chandigarh (25.4), Assam (25.8), Uttarakhand (26.6) and Ladakh (26.6). Two states have a doubling time of more than 30 days: Odisha (39.8) and Kerala (72.2).

Three districts — Mahe (Puducherry), Kodagu (Karnataka) Pauri Garhwal (Uttarakhand) — have not reported any fresh case in the last 28 days. In the last 14 days, 59 districts, spread across 23 states and UTs, have not reported any fresh case. The six new districts in this list are: Dungarpur and Pali in Rajasthan, Jammu and Morbi in Gujarat, North Goa and Gomati in Tripura.

## Health workers stopped in Bengaluru hotspot, 54 arrested

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, APRIL 20

FIFTY-FOUR PEOPLE were arrested from a Bengaluru locality identified as coronavirus hotspot after they allegedly protested against health workers trying to quarantine secondary contacts of a COVID-19-positive patient, and for resorting to violence. The incidents occurred in Padarayanapura, which was sealed after 14 people tested positive in the area in recent days — the highest for any locality in the state.

On Sunday night, health workers went there with police escort to bring into quarantine a few secondary contacts of a patient who has tested positive but were prevented by local residents, who claimed that the authorities were targeting one community in their battle to combat the pandemic.

After a brief clash, in which

youths removed police barricades put up to seal the area, the police brought the situation under control.

On Monday, Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said some local residents resorted to "goondaism" and tried to stop police, BBMP and health officials in Padarayanapura and tried to remove road barricades. "They indulged in hooliganism without understanding that the government is trying to protect their lives and health; 54 people have been arrested. We cannot tolerate such acts; they must not recur."

He also said, "There is no question of (differentiating between) Hindu, Muslim or Christians — action must be taken against whoever violates the law."

In a Cabinet meeting on Monday, the state government decided to promulgate an ordinance on the lines of laws created in UP and Kerala to punish people preventing health workers.



## BACK TO WORK

Employees undergo thermal screening at Parliament House while reporting for duty on Monday, as Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha secretariat resumed work. *Anil Sharma*

## 5 states ready to get students from Kota, one tests negative after scare

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, JAIPUR, DEHRADUN, APRIL 20

EVEN AS one of the students brought back from Kota tested negative for coronavirus in Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot said that the Union government has agreed to allow states to make arrangements for students from Kota to travel back to their home states.

The CM also said that after UP and Uttarakhand, now Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, West Bengal and Assam have agreed to take students back.

The student who tested negative on Monday is among those who were brought back to Uttar Pradesh from Kota. On Sunday, she was found to have high viral

load in her rapid test at Ghazipur, her native place, and kept in institutional quarantine along with 27 others including students, policemen and the driver who travelled in the same bus. Now, after her negative report, all of them are being sent for mandatory 14-day home quarantine.

"In the rapid test, a girl was found to have high viral load. Her throat and nasal swab was sent for final testing to BHU, Varanasi. The report was confirmed negative Monday," said District CMO Dr GC Maurya.

SP Om Prakash Singh said that 257 students were brought to the district and all of them tested negative. "Earlier, the 28 who were on that bus were kept in institutional quarantine. Now, as the report is negative, they will be sent to home quarantine," said the SP.

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Awanish Kumar Awasthi told the media 10,500 children were brought from Kota in 250 buses in three days. "They were screened at Agra and Jhansi, and ADM-led teams again examined the students after they reached their respective districts," he said.

UP buses also transported 411 students belonging to Uttarakhand to Haldwani and Rishikesh on Monday. The Uttarakhand government will pay UP for ferrying its students.

Kota's Additional District Magistrate, Administration, Narendra Gupta, said that 12,500 students have been ferried to their home towns across UP and Uttarakhand by 400 buses. He said that buses from MP are expected to start arriving Tuesday to ferry 3,000 students.

## ADITYANATH'S FATHER DIES

### 'Can't attend last rites due to corona work'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, DEHRADUN, APRIL 20

UTTAR PRADESH Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's father Anand Singh Bisht, who was undergoing treatment at AIIMS in Delhi, died on Monday morning. He was 89.

Adityanath expressed his helplessness in attending the funeral, as he is in the middle of working out a strategy to combat the spread of coronavirus in the state. In a statement, he said that he has requested his mother and family members to complete the last rites, with the attendance of minimum possible people.

Adityanath said he would then visit once the lockdown is over. In a statement, he said, "...He gave me *sanskar* to work with honesty, selflessness and with complete devotion as a child. I

wanted to see him (a last time) but could not visit him because of my responsibility towards 23 crore people of UP in the fight against coronavirus pandemic..."

Uttar Pradesh's Additional Chief Secretary Awanish Awasthi told the media that Adityanath received information about his father's demise while he was holding a review meeting with senior officials for coronavirus control and management.

In Dehradun, Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat said Anand Bisht, who was a native of Panchur village in the state's Pauri Garhwal district, was associated with the BJP, had served as the party's mandal unit president in Yamkeshwar block (of Pauri Garhwal), and his work as a party worker and active social worker will be remembered by the people.

## ARAB OUTRAGE AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA

### Delhi envoy reminds Indians in UAE: Discrimination against moral fabric

**SHUBHAJIT ROY**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

AMID OUTRAGE from prominent Arab citizens over Islamophobic comments from some Indians in the Gulf region, Indian envoy to the UAE Pavan Kapoor on Monday sought to remind Indians in the UAE that discrimination is against the Indian moral fabric and rule of law.

Kapoor tweeted, "India and UAE share the value of non-discrimination on many grounds. Discrimination is against our moral fabric and the rule of law. Indian nationals in the UAE should always remember this."

He was sharing a tweet by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in which he said, "COVID-19 does not see race, religion, colour, caste, creed, language or borders before striking. Our response and conduct thereafter should attach primacy to unity and brotherhood. We are in this together."

Bilateral ties between India and the UAE have deepened in recent years, especially in counter-terrorism.

Over 2 million Indians live in the UAE and about 8 million Indians in the Gulf region. A possible backlash against Indians in the UAE in particular, and in the region in general, appears to have prompted the tweet by the Indian diplomat.

On Sunday, Dubai-based businesswoman Noora Al Ghurair called out BJP MP Tejasvi Surya for a tweet about Arab women that he had shared in 2015. Sharing the tweet, Noora Al Ghurair said

she pitied Surya's "upbringing". Last week, Princess Henda Al Qassimi, a member of a UAE royal family, warned that "anyone that is openly racist and discriminatory in the UAE will be fined and made to leave the country."

She also slammed Dubai-based Indian expat Saurabh Upadhyay who had put out several tweets targeting Muslims.

Meanwhile, the *PTI* has reported that a prominent Indian businessman in the UAE has apologised for "unintentionally hurting religious sentiments" through his poem, according to a media report.

In related development, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation's Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (OIC-IPHRC) Sunday urged India to take "urgent steps" to protect rights of the Muslim community.

Following this, Pakistan PM Imran Khan compared the Indian government's treatment of Muslims to "what Nazis did to Jews in Germany".

The Ministry of External Affairs, which has not commented on the OIC comments, issued a statement against remarks by the Pakistani leadership.

MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said: "...Instead of concentrating on fighting COVID-19, they are making baseless allegations against their neighbours. On the subject of minorities, they would be well advised to address the concerns of their own dwindling minority communities, which have been truly discriminated against."

## Aarogya Setu integration ensures high-risk people not issued travel e-pass

**KARISHMA MEHROTRA**  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

IN THE first integration between the central government's Aarogya Setu mobile app and e-passes, the programme has checked 10,000 travel passes with its self-assessment and positive case data to make sure positive and high-risk people are not issued a pass, the application's technology developers told *The Indian Express*.

Aside from this data, the developers of the app are also working to check the usefulness of their contact history algorithms. In conjunction with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), "on-ground checking" of Aarogya Setu data will be used to assess how many people deemed high-risk by the mobile app tested positive for the coronavirus.

If the proportion of people testing positive based off of the application is higher than the current proportion of positive

cases out of tested samples (roughly 4 per cent), then it is a "reasonable risk" to use the information in prohibiting high-risk users from receiving e-passes, the developers said.

The integration related only to corporate passes so far, not individual ones, and is spread across seven states. The application currently has 67.5 million users.

The app is also collecting more specific information about a user's potential symptoms, such as degree of fever. It will be integrating various tele-medicine providers soon.

On April 11, *The Indian Express* had reported the various databases that are integrated with the application at the backend, including location history of positive cases held by the ICMR, NCDC and the National Disaster Management Authority.

Along with the self-assessment, the app tracks a user's GPS coordinates and Bluetooth data about other users in the vicinity. This data is sent from the phone to the server when a user registers, or when a user is deemed high-risk or COVID-19 positive.

## Lockdown to continue, Karnataka to review opening of some sectors

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
BENGALURU, APRIL 20

THE LOCKDOWN in Karnataka will continue till May 3 but a review for opening up some sectors will be held in three to four days, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa said on Monday after a meeting of the state cabinet.

The state government has decided to stick to MHA guidelines for opening up of sectors and will await further guidelines.

"The lockdown will continue and we will review it in three to four days. We considered relaxation for some sectors but if we relax for rural industries or any other sector, people will move around and it may cause problems," the

CM said after the meeting.

While restrictions on agriculture and horticulture are being eased, other sectors will be relaxed only after a review under new guidelines issued from the Centre, officials said. "We may take a call in 3-4 days however," Karnataka Education Minister S Suresh Kumar said.

The state government is planning to promulgate an ordinance to prescribe punishment for persons attacking health workers and for people who wilfully hide the knowledge that they are infected, the minister said.

The medical education system in the state is now conducting large-scale online training of health professionals as part of a Covid-19 preparedness strategy.

## 25 corona patients wait at Gujarat hospital for 6 hours, admn says miscommunication

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
AHMEDABAD, APRIL 20

AT LEAST 25 people from an Ahmedabad locality, who tested positive for COVID-19, allegedly waited outside the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital for nearly six hours due to "miscommunication" between the authorities. They were admitted only after a video of one of the patients speaking about the issue went viral on Sunday.

In the video, a patient claimed that the 25 tested positive on Sunday. She said they were waiting outside the Civil Hospital since the afternoon but were not admitted.

The dedicated COVID-19 hospital on the civil hospital premises has 1,200 beds and was opened in the last week of March.

"We are ill and no one is responding. We have not been given food or water. So many cases are coming in to the hospital and there is only one staffer here to register them," the patient said in the video. After the video went viral, the patients were admitted around 9 pm.

COVID-19 hospital incharge Dr MD Gajjar said it was due to a "communication gap". Civil Hospital superintendent in charge, Dr J V Modi, "There was a communication gap at the management level... the hospital received the test reports only by 6.30 pm while the patients were dropped off sooner."

Another patient told *The Indian Express*, "We were brought to the civil hospital around 3 pm. We were told that the staff in charge was busy in the emer-

gency ward... at around 8.45 pm, all 25 of us were admitted in the D-2 ward on the second floor. Most of us are asymptomatic but those above 70 years have reported weakness and fatigue."

Principal Secretary Health, Jayanti Ravi, said, "We received information on Sunday evening and immediately got in touch with our team of health commissioner, additional director of medical education and others. They (25 patients) were immediately accommodated and a video of the patient expressing their satisfaction with our action has also been shared. We got to know that there was some communication gap in the data entry for admissions... Senior officials, including the health commissioner, visited them at night and their comfort was en-

sured. We've put systems in place that such incidents don't take place in the future."

In another video that went viral on Monday morning, one of the patients requested for basic facilities such as clean toilets, medical attention and timely meals. The patient later told *The Indian Express*, "I called for an ambulance and got myself admitted to Civil Hospital around 12.30 am. It is 2.30 pm now and no doctor has come to check. There is only one latrine here which was clogged. After the video went viral, the hospital administration got cleaned... We were not even given water bottles. There is one water jug for around 60 patients."

On the complaints, Dr Modi said, "We have been fixing the issues since morning..."



# 6 THE OUTBREAK NATION

## ZERO TO OVER 1,000 IN 3 WEEKS, CRISIS IN MADHYA PRADESH

### 'Confident we will win this battle, Indore will emerge as a model'

MADHYA PRADESH Chief Minister SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN speaks to LIZ MATHEW on the state's response to the pandemic. Excerpts:

#### How are you tackling the coronavirus spread in Indore?

Indore is the prime commercial centre and densely populated city of the state. It is a place from where a large number of people travel abroad for business... Initially, such people hid their travel histories and came into contact with others, resulting in the spread of infection. Now, we are putting special attention on the cases here. I am confident we will win this battle soon and Indore will emerge as a model. I have reviewed the situation in Indore and elsewhere in the state through video conferencing. I have also directed effective implementation of the strategy to identify, isolate, test and treat in all districts.

#### Senior health officers have been accused of carelessness and are quarantined. Why has no action been taken?

It is too early to label them with terms like callous approach. We are fighting an epidemic in which infection spreads very rapidly... Our officers, health workers and administrative personnel were at the forefront of this war... unfortunately, they were infected. I have asked for a detailed report, without knowing the real facts, it would not be right to say what went wrong. They are all



THE EXPRESS  
INTERVIEW  
WITH  
SHIVRAJ SINGH  
CHOUHAN  
MADHYA PRADESH  
CHIEF MINISTER

government officials and were performing their duties... their contact history is being investigated... Further action will be taken by district authorities after obtaining information based on protocol.

#### Former CM Kamal Nath has alleged that the state failed to take required measures in time as BJP was busy toppling his government.

I do not agree with him. Medical facilities and important measures have been taken since I took charge. Prior to this, medical facilities were less in numbers, we have gradually increased them... If Mr. Kamal Nath was aware of

these facts, why didn't he take measures to overcome these things when he was Chief Minister, it is a matter of concern, they are hiding their failure by making such statements. I feel this is not a right time to put blame, instead of making political comments, they should contribute part in this fight...

#### You took oath on March 23, but your Cabinet continues to be a one-man army. Why?

It is right that the cabinet plays a crucial role. Council of Ministers work together as a team for the betterment of state and being together helps during the challenging times... but this time, the situation is like never before, it is global pandemic; as soon as I took charge, I put everything into this. Our primary focus was to prepare for this battle... I am continuously coordinating with MLAs and MPs.

#### The state still does not have adequate testing capacity. When will this improve?

No, it is not true now. When I was sworn in as CM, these facilities were very less in number... Today, our medical system is stronger than before... At present, tests are being conducted in nine labs in the state. About 5120 samples have been collected in Indore and 1,000 of them have been sent to Delhi... There has been an increase in daily checks, the process to start more labs is in progress. Testing kits are available and are being supplied continuously.

#### Many, including some in your party, have admitted that the spread of fake news led to hostility towards health workers. Did you find fake news a hurdle in this battle?

We have asked people to stay away from information which creates anxiety... we are trying our best, local administrative bodies have also repeatedly appealed at their level... We are trying to counsel such persons... yet, such things happen, which is very unfortunate... Those who were involved in Indore are behind the bars under the provisions of National Security Act. Recently, such incidents happened in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra... in my opinion, strict action should be taken against culprits. I have instructed the authorities that if anyone goes against the law or does not cooperate or is found spreading fake news should be booked under strict penal provisions of law. They are social enemies of the state.

#### What is the lockdown's impact on state economy?

It is a fact that it is going to disturb the economical wheels of the state... The state is facing a monthly loss of around 2-3 thousand crores and we are concerned about it.

We have formed a state-level committee to discuss measures to reboot the economy and regain the financial momentum when this crisis ends.

FULL INTERVIEW ON  
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## DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



### LINING UP ONLINE

FOLLOWING THE path of several other government proceedings now shifting to the digital world, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has permitted online meeting request from Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology chairman Shashi Tharoor. With some days of physical standstill, now several public institutions are grappling with an online lifeline. Supreme Court hearings have trialed video-conferencing, the Prime Minister's most urgent meetings are now virtually-held, and the National Informatics Centre has started allowing the e-filing system to work from home. Congress MP Tharoor applauded the "welcome precedent" on Monday.

### FULL AGAIN

AFTER FUNCTIONING with a few judges for the last couple of weeks on account of the lockdown, the Supreme Court will see near-full attendance of judges on Tuesday, with 30 of 33 of them taking up matters for hearing. While there will be only one virtual court headed by Justice N V Ramana to hear urgent matters via video conferencing, he and the others will also take up review and curative petitions in their chamber.

### TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT

IT WAS supposed to be a graded opening of government offices from Monday. However, the sheer crowd at offices — of public servants coming back to work — has stumped officers. The familiar struggle to find a place to park in official car parking was, unexpectedly, back. Many staff were spotted coming to work on two-wheelers, with colleagues riding pillion. Many officers in internal groups were found discussing that stricter rules needed to be applied for relaxation of government working if social distancing needed to be maintained.

### Haryana lab barred from Covid testing

**Panchkula:** One of the five private labs in Haryana authorised by the Centre to conduct COVID-19 tests was barred on Monday from any further testing after lapses were found in four cases that the lab tested positive. Health Minister Anil Vij on Monday said, "Since four tests have been found wrong, all the tests that this lab has conducted so far shall be re-tested in the government's lab." All four people whose tests were under the lens are still under quarantine, in accordance with the Centre's guidelines, he said. **ENS**

### Moradabad doctor succumbs to corona

**Noida:** A doctor in Moradabad died of a coronavirus infection on Monday, officials said. The 40-year-old doctor, earlier posted at a health centre in Tajganj, is the third fatality in the district. "The doctor developed symptoms between April 7-8th and was admitted to the hospital. In the last 3-4 days, his condition worsened... He eventually died of a cardiac arrest on Monday," said CMO Dr MC Garg. According to the screening and contact tracing team from when the cases were first reported in the state. **ENS**

### MP farmer dies after police assault, 6 cops suspended

MILIND GHATWAI  
BHOPAL, APRIL 20

THREE DAYS after he was allegedly beaten up by police for violation of lockdown restrictions, a 50-year-old farmer in Jabalpur died on Monday. This has led to suspension of six policemen.

DIG (Jabalpur) Manohar Varma said a probe has been ordered into the death of Banshi Kushwah. Varma added that a video in which the victim named the policemen has been included in the probe. In the video, the victim alleged the policemen asked him about a gambling den and beat him up when he said he did not know about it. It is alleged that the farmer was on his way home after attending to cattle in his field on April 16 when the police stopped and assaulted him. Banshi's family members have not filed any complaint, but have claimed that they called up the police control room after the alleged assault, but to no avail.

ASP Sanjeev Utkay said the police had reached the area after a tip-off that some people were gambling there. "The police personnel were not justified in beating up the farmer... The family members have demanded that a case of murder be registered but that can happen only if the post-mortem establishes that the death was caused due to injuries," the ASP said. Tweeting the video, former CM Kamal Nath termed the incident "barbaric".

### In MP, a series of unexpected events

MILIND GHATWAI  
BHOPAL, APRIL 20

AMID THE COVID-19 outbreak, Madhya Pradesh is seeing a series of unexpected events set off in motion by an incident of stone-pelting at a police constable in Indore.

After stones were thrown at the constable trying to enforce lockdown restrictions in Indore's Chandanagar locality on April 7, four people were booked under the National Security Act (NSA). Once NSA is invoked, detainees are sent to jails far from their

home district. The administration decided to send two detainees to Jabalpur and two to Satna and they travelled on the same vehicle from Indore.

According to police, after a 30-year-old detainee sent to Jabalpur showed symptoms, he and the detainee with him were taken to an isolation ward at a government hospital. The other two reached Satna jail and were kept in a separate barrack. The 30-year-old tested positive for COVID-19 on April 11, forcing authorities to test policemen involved in the arrests and transport, said police.

The two in Satna jail tested

positive and because the district does not have any COVID-19 facility, they were shifted to Rewa, police said. Rewa had reported no cases and did not want the two patients in their hospital. So, the authorities shifted them all the way to a hospital in Bhopal. Many guards and prisoners in Satna jail were quarantined. On Sunday, the 30-year-old escaped from NSCB College, Jabalpur. He was arrested a day later from Narsingpur and he said he fled because he was left alone in the ward for a while and he was scared, police said.

FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

### ASKS HOSPITALS TO RESUME USUAL SERVICES

## Bihar accuses pvt hospitals of pulling back from Covid fight

SANTOSH SINGH  
PATNA, APRIL 20

THE BIHAR government has expressed its anger over private hospitals "completely withdrawing" from the fight against the COVID-19. The state government has asked all private hospitals and clinics to take up usual services so that government hospitals are not overburdened. The government also offered a cost-sharing plan for private hospitals if they took up COVID-19 cases but private hospitals in the state are yet to come forward.

An order issued on Monday by the Principal Secretary of Bihar's Health Department stated, "All heads/in-charges/managers of the private sector (including trust

and charitable institutions (hospitals)/ nursing homes/clinics/pharmacy, diagnostic centres are directed to resume their services."

While there were no specific instructions for private hospitals to treat coronavirus cases, hospitals willing to do so were asked to maintain screening and travel history of COVID patients.

However, private hospitals have said they are not taking coronavirus cases since they do not want to put their non-COVID patients at risk. Most private hospitals either remain shut or function partially during lockdown. The cumulative bed capacity in the private health sector is about 80,000 beds.

Bihar Principal Secretary (Health) Sanjay Kumar earlier tweeted, "#BiharFightsCorona

the almost complete withdrawal of private health sector in the state is palpable and thought provoking. private sector has 48k beds as compared to 22k in public and does almost 90% of all opd's. forget covid-19, even regular services have become unavailable."

"We cannot force them. But what hurts is their complete disinterest and withdrawal in times of Corona crisis... We do not expect them to take risks but to come forward and discuss how they could help," he said.

"We are not taking COVID patients because we have to take care of other patients," said Dr Asif Rahman, Medical Superintendent of Paras HMRI Hospital. Another functionary of a private hospital said stakeholders should sit together to work out a plan.

## Officials: Indore testing lower than required

DIPANKAR GHOSE & KAUNAIN SHERIFF M  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

SENIOR MADHYA Pradesh officials have admitted that COVID 19 testing capacities in Indore were not "what it should have been", and that it was likely that there were "undetected cases" much before March 24 when the first case was detected.

The officials said there were "initial setbacks", but the state has since taken steps to ramp up testing and is now in a good position to tackle the number of cases. They added that there were at least 40 cases where "100 per cent contact tracing" has not been possible, indicative of possible local community transmission.

Additional Chief Secretary Mohammad Suleman, who has been given charge of the Health Department, told reporters over video-conference on Saturday, "It is a fact that our testing capacity was way lower than what it had to be. We have a backlog. We are trying to run three shifts in the labs and have given additional machines. Delay in testing does result in some kind of uncertainty. But we are ensuring that those whose test results are pending are either in home isolation or institutional quarantine."

He added, "Initially our testing and sampling capacity was very low. In March, we tested 150 samples per day in two labs. Now we are testing over 1,200 samples per day. By the end of the month our target is 2,000, and 5,000 by May. We have ramped up sample collection. In Indore alone we have collected 5,000 samples. We are ensuring that all suspected people in quarantine facilities are tested on priority. Additionally, 2,000 teams are doing surveillance to identify high-risk patients."

The Additional Chief Secretary said that while



Security personnel being thermal scanned for corona symptoms. PTI file

Indore's first case was identified on March 24, the numbers since then — close to 900 now — show that it is probable that there were cases that went undetected earlier.

"The growth has been very fast, and no mathematical modelling can explain this. Therefore, while nobody can say for certain, it does seem like there were cases before the first one was detected," he said.

Dr Lokendra Dave, a health official from the state government, said the high mortality rates in the initial stages of cases emerging in Indore showed that patients were turning up late for treatment, and that they had comorbidities.

Suleman added that for those that have died, the average hospital stay was three and a half days, indicating that most came to hospital with little time left for treatment.

"Now we are also admitting suspected cases in hospitals so that we can monitor them more efficiently," he said.

The senior officials also expressed confidence that there was sufficient health infrastructure, and even in Indore, not close to a crisis point. The officials said that ramping up of medical infrastructure in the last month has meant that in Indore 19 per cent isolation beds are being used as opposed to the state average of 28 per cent.

## Rapid antibody test helps Chhattisgarh find Patient Zero in hotspot

GARGI VERMA  
RAIPUR, APRIL 20

USING RAPID antibody test kits, the Chhattisgarh Health Department has managed to find the source of infection in the only hotspot in the state, Katghora, in Korba district, officials said on Monday.

The 22-year-old man (or the source), identified as "Patient 0", was found to have antibodies through the rapid test, even though his swab test had come back negative. Earlier this month, a 16-year-old boy was first found with the virus in Katghora. Given laxity in the quarantine process, as many as 25 confirmed cases soon emerged in Katghora, after which it was declared a hotspot in the state. While the state Health Department was involved in containment in the area, its other priority was to find the source of infection. "The boy had come from Kamptee,

Maharashtra. He had neither gone to Nizamuddin markaz (of Tablighi Jamaat), nor were any of his contacts found positive. So he did not know how he contracted the virus," an official said.

On Monday, the mystery was solved after one of his friends was found to have COVID antibodies during rapid testing. "The man (friend) had traveled to Nizamuddin. He had then traveled with the 16-year-old from Gondiya to Katghora; they stayed together," the official said.

The man, who had also been quarantined, had had the infection and became a carrier, before he was cured, a source privy to said. "Since he had travel history to Nizamuddin, he was under observation. But now we can be sure (that he was the source), as his body shows presence of antibodies against the virus," a local Health official said.

Chhattisgarh currently has 4,500 rapid-testing kits and is set to get 75,000 more from a South Korean firm in the next few days.

State Health Minister T S Singh Deo said: "Rapid tests give us three indicators: either you don't have the virus infection, or you had it and have now recovered, or you are positive. The kits are currently being used at the hotspot. Based on the results, we can start spacing them out, checking larger groups faster. We have started testing from Sunday with these kits, and as and when more come we will deploy them across the state."

**BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD (Irrigation Wing)**  
Corrigendum-II NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER  
NIT No. 602/20/TS  
Name of Office : Sr. Executive Engineer, BC & Township Division, BBMB, Nangal Township, Distt. Ropar-140 124 (Punjab)  
Name of work : Construction of Museum and National Training Hydrology Centre at Nangal Township  
Last Date / Time of Sale / Availability of Documents  
Download end date and time 20.05.2020 at 11:00 hrs.  
Last Date & time of Online Bid Submission 20.05.2020 at 11:00 hrs.  
Date & time of online Bid opening 20.05.2020 at 11:30 hrs.  
For detailed NIT/Terms & Conditions etc. please visit / download BBMB website [www.eproc.punjab.gov.in](http://www.eproc.punjab.gov.in) & [www.bbmb.gov.in](http://www.bbmb.gov.in)  
1109-PR-BHAKRA DAM-6 For Your Better Tomorrow Save Energy Today

**HARYANA GOVERNMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
Sr. No. : 01  
NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH: GMDA GURUGRAM  
NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER: DESILTING OF 900MM DIA MASTER SEWER LINE BY HIGH POWER SUPER SUCKER MACHINE FROM ATUL KATARIA CHOWK TO PARKASH PURI CHOWK.  
OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME): 18.04.2020 06.05.2020  
AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES: 2 LACS  
WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH: <https://www.gmda.gov.in>  
NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL: [sen3infr@2.gmda.gov.in](mailto:sen3infr@2.gmda.gov.in)  
Sr. No. : 02  
NAME OF BOARD/CORP/AUTH: GMDA GURUGRAM  
NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER: DISMANTLING PROVIDING AND FIXING OF SLUICE VALVE IN EXISTING PIPE LINE OF FILTRATION UNIT OF WAKE IVC NASKI  
OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME): 18.04.2020 09.05.2020  
AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES: 14120/-  
WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP/AUTH: <https://www.gmda.gov.in>  
NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL: [sen3infr@2.gmda.gov.in](mailto:sen3infr@2.gmda.gov.in)  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT:  
[www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in](http://www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in) or [www.etenders.hry.nic.in](http://www.etenders.hry.nic.in)  
806879HY.

**कार्यालय नगरपालिका धारूहेड़ा। अधिसूचना**  
नगरपालिका, धारूहेड़ा द्वारा सभी आमजन को सूचित किया जाता है कि कोरोना वायरस के खतरे को आकलन करने के लिए भारत सरकार ने एक ऐप लॉन्च किया है, जिसका नाम आरोग्य सेतु (Aarogya Setu) है, जो हमें अपने आस पड़ोस को कोरोना से संक्रमित व्यक्ति के नजदीक जाने से हमें सतर्क करता है। पूरे विश्व में कोरोना वायरस का खतरा मंडरा रहा है। जिससे विश्व में लाखों व्यक्ति संक्रमित हो चुके हैं व काफी लोग जान से हाथ धो चुके हैं। भारत सरकार ने इस संक्रमण से बचाने के लिए आरोग्य सेतु ऐप को लॉन्च किया है। आरोग्य सेतु ऐप को आप गूगल प्ले स्टोर से व IOS user Apps Store से डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। जो कि बहुत ही सरल प्रक्रिया है। ऐप डाउनलोड करने के उपरान्त कुछ सवालियों के जवाब देकर आप खुद भी जांच कर सकते हैं कि कहीं आप कोरोना से संक्रमित तो नहीं हैं। टेस्ट करने का बाद ऐप द्वारा स्वयं ही आपको पता चल जाएगा कि आपको संक्रमण है या नहीं, साथ ही ऐप में कुछ सुझाव दिए गए हैं। जिनका पालन जरूर करें और अपने ईद-गिर्द अधिकतम लोगों को इसके बारे में बताएं। ऐसा करने से ना केवल आप अपितु आप अपने परिवार, मैहल्ला व पूरे शहर को संक्रमण से बचा सकते हैं। अतः आप सभी से अनुरोध है कि अधिक से अधिक लोगों को आरोग्य सेतु ऐप डाउनलोड करने बारे जागरूक करें।  
हस्ता./- सचिव, नगरपालिका, धारूहेड़ा।  
806909HY.

**Government of Jharkhand Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society Department of Health, Medical Education & Family Welfare Namkum, Ranchi. Notice**  
Request for Proposal for Covid-19 RT-PCR testing at private laboratories Date: 20.04.20  
Notice No.: IDSP/2020/154-119 (IDSP) Mission Director, Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Jharkhand, Namkum, Ranchi, invites proposals from ICMR approved Private Labs for conducting Covid-19RT-PCR test as per ICMR guidelines.  
Objective: In compliance with the various orders of competent authorities and to supplement and complement the efforts of the government and to utilise the capacity of ICMR empanelled private laboratories to enhance the number of COVID-19 tests to the maximum without any compromise on protocol or quality of testing, towards mitigation and management of COVID-19 Pandemic, the present 'Request for Proposal (RFP)' has been envisaged. Under this RFP, ICMR approved Private Labs shall be empanelled for the following modes:  
a. Collection of samples (as facilitated by district administration) and testing thereupon  
b. Pick-up & testing of samples already collected by the districts  
c. Collection of samples and testing thereupon against individual payment by the person tested.  
Detailed operational model for the above options & other terms & conditions can be obtained through website <http://rhms.jharkhand.gov.in> and proposal should be submitted through e-mail on [nrmj@jharkhandfmr@gmail.com](mailto:nrmj@jharkhandfmr@gmail.com) only.  
Sr. No. Particulars Details  
1 Name of the work COVID-19 RT-PCR testing  
2 Date / time for receipt of proposals on email Upto 24th April by 12 Noon  
3 Contact Person for queries Narsingh Kumar Khalkho-8986912295 Pratik Mittal- 9570171514  
Sd/- Mission Director Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society

**Classifieds PERSONAL**  
I, Sunil Mittal R/o A-3/47-48, Sector-16, Rohini, Delhi-110089, have changed my minor son's name from Yanshu Mittal to Veer Mittal for all future purposes. 0040536846-1  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to all that my clients Shri Kishan Singh S/o. Shri Ram Dhan & Smt. Veena Rani W/o. Shri Kishan Singh both are R/o. 332/12, Jawahar Nagar, Gurgaon (Hr.) have severed their relations with their son Paras R/o. Sec. 45 Gurgaon (Hr.) due to his unpleasant acts and misbehaving conduct towards my clients. My both clients have disowned him from their movable and all immovable properties owned by them, with immediate effect. My clients will not be responsible in any manner for any act committed or omitted by him in future.  
TR. SHARMA ADVOCATE B-27, B.G.S. BLOCK, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI-110054

उत्तर प्रदेश यावर ट्रान्समीशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड ई-निविदा शुद्धि-पत्र एतद्वारा इस कार्यालय के पत्रांक 704 दिनांक 08.04.2020 द्वारा प्रेषण रजिष्ट्र क्षेत्र आगरा के अन्तर्गत विद्युत परियोजना खण्ड, पृथ्वी आगरा के अन्तर्गत 200 केवी चयनकेंद्र बाह हेतु 5 के.एस. वोल्ट स्टोरिज टैंक क्रय किये जाने हेतु प्रकाशित की गई सामान्य ई-निविदा को ई-निविदा संख्या टी-08/मु0अ0(पा0द0प0)/आगरा/20-21 के स्थान पर सामान्य ई-निविदा संख्या टी-07/मु0अ0(पा0द0प0)/आगरा/20-21 पत्रांक 704/मु0अ0(पा0द0प0) के स्थान पर प्रकाशित किया जा रहा है। मुद्रण अधिमत्या (पा0द0प0), उद्योग यावर ट्रान्समीशन कारपोरेशन लिमिटेड विकट अमर उज्जाला प्रेस, ककरदा रोड, आगरा-282007 'राष्ट्र' डिवा में बिजली प्रयोग' पत्रांक:747/मु0अ0(पा0द0प0)अ0/ई-निविदा शुद्धि पत्र/20-21/दिनांक:20.04.2020



# 7 THE OUTBREAK NATION

## Where does one go when cops turn spectators: wife of Palghar deceased

ABHAGORADIA  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

"THEY HAD not set out on a picnic. Despite my concerns, I let my husband go because it was a good deed to help Kalpavruksh Maharaj attend his guru's funeral. They didn't have permission but it was the police's duty to protect them. When the police keeps watching like helpless spectators amid a ghastly act, where does one go for justice?" asked Pooja, the wife of Nileshtelgade.

On Thursday night, Telgade was at the wheel of the car when it was surrounded by villagers in Gadchinchale in Palghar district, and he and his two passengers — Kalpavruksh Maharaj and Sushil Maharaj — were pulled out and beaten to death.

Telgade is survived by his mother, wife, two daughters and his brother's family. His two daughters, Sanika (7) and Shalini (5), are not aware of how their father died.

Telgade used to live close to the Pimpaleshwar Mahadev Temple in Kandivli East's Hanuman Nagar area, where Kalpavruksh Maharaj (70) performed his duties. He was close to the priest. Kalpavruksh Maharaj's home was a small room attached to the rear of the temple. Sushil Maharaj (35) was a priest at a temple in Jogeshwari.

"Kalpavruksh Maharaj desperately wanted to attend the funeral of his guru Ramgiri Maharaj. The police refused permission, but he was adamant on going and felt it was urgent. He said 'we will find a way'," recounted Diwakar Gupta, who helped the priest in looking after the temple.

"He (Kalpavruksh Maharaj) asked me to look after the temple as was the norm whenever he had to travel," Gupta said.

On Monday, the temple located on the main road remained shut with photographs of the



Photographs of the three victims outside the temple

three victims, and tributes written on a blackboard by local residents.

The management of the Varanasi-based Shri Panch Dushnam Juna Akhada, which runs the temple in Hanuman Nagar, has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Signed by Mahant Premgiri Maharaj, the letter narrated the events asking Shah why the police remained mute spectators despite the trio being in their custody. "Many sadhus in the akhada are angered over the incident. We request you to constitute a high-level inquiry committee to take action against the guilty," the letter stated.

Local residents said the three had left for Surat on Thursday afternoon. "We heard they were stopped by the police and asked to return at some point, but they tried to take another route leading from the forests," said Gupta.

"We spoke to the akhara pramukh, and told them that we didn't have anyone to conduct last rites. They collected the bodies of the sadhus from Palghar and took them to Trambakeshwar," said local resident Raj Alma.

## SLOW START ON DAY ONE

# Few hands on deck, some units restart

6 firms reopen in Sanand hub

VAIBHAV JHA  
AHMEDABAD, APRIL 20

EVEN AS the Union and state governments have granted permission to partially open industrial units, just about six companies in the Sanand Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) became operational on Monday. The reason is a massive shortage of workforce, industrialists said.

"Out of 8,000 workers, only 3,500 remained in the village and GIDC area since the lockdown was announced. They too are not staying by choice. They want to return to their native places after May 3. Therefore, the coming times will be challenging for industrial units to remain operational," said Ajit Shah, head of Sanand Industries Association.

At least 70 industrial units were given permission to operate at Sanand GIDC on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, but only six — mainly from the engineering sector — were operational.

Another factor that can hamper normalcy in Sanand GIDC is the lack of skilled workers. While Sanand GIDC hosts majority of the migrant workers who are unskilled, the skilled workers stay in Ahmedabad. While Ahmedabad has seen hundreds of positive COVID-19 cases, Sanand taluka has none. Industrialists said they have been warned by the district administration that if any worker tests positive, then police action can be initiated against the owner of the unit for negligence.

Meanwhile, the state government issued a statement on Monday that 6,000 units with 40,000-45,000 workers restarted operations in Gujarat.

The sectors that started operations include the ceramic industry in Morbi, chemical industries in Bharuch, oil millers and engineering units in Rajkot, and engineering units in Kutch and Ahmedabad.

WITHENS AHMEDABAD



At an industrial unit in Sanand GIDC near Ahmedabad on Monday. Express

## No relief, TN industries seek Centre aid

ARUN JANARDHANAN  
CHENNAI, APRIL 20

THE TAMIL Nadu government on Monday announced that the prohibitory orders enforced in the state to contain the spread of coronavirus will continue till May 3. This has led to the industrial and manufacturing sector in the state to appeal to the Centre for a "helping hand" by providing financial aid to the sector.

On Monday, a number of

leading industry players and associations of manufacturers said they will approach the Central government for financial aid. A Shanmugavelayutham of the Tamil Nadu Small and Tiny Industries Association said the consortium was preparing a petition to send to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking financial aid to manage the situation.

Manufacturers in the state have already approached the Union Finance Ministry, stating that there should be policy ini-

tiatives for small and micro industries during the lockdown.

A letter addressing Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that the MSME sector was "struggling for our concrete revival" even before the lockdown. With the lockdown, the letter said, all units have been closed and that they do not know about the status of raw materials, semi-finished products and machinery.

The state has among the highest number of industries in India.

## In Goa, data sheets, thermal guns ready

SMITANAIK  
VERNA, APRIL 20

ON SUNDAY, a Defence Ministry flight carrying Mos Shripad Naik from New Delhi to Goa also ferried two consignments of good-quality thermal guns, identified as a "crucial" catalyst to open Goa's industries during the lockdown.

"Without them, these industrial units wouldn't be allowed to function," said a top official in the government.

While 1,000 thermal guns were for government-run essential services, another 400 went to industrial units across 24 estates in Goa.

By Monday, a Google Sheet went live, with data shared with the office of the Collector, industrial units feeding details of their employees and vehicle numbers, and the collector's office facilitating coded vehicle pass, in accordance with MHA guidelines. Another live sheet was for registration with details of industrial

units intending to open shutters.

"Around 1,200 have opened in the second phase. We have big pharmaceutical industries working for two weeks, so we are using the same mechanisms that they used to exit lockdown," said Damodar Kochkar, president of Goa State Industries Association.

Goa accounts for 11 per cent of India's pharma exports, including hydroxychloroquine.

FULL REPORT ON  
[www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

## No communal angle in lynching incident: Uddhav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

CHIEF MINISTER Uddhav Thackeray on Monday ruled out any communal angle in the Palghar mob lynching incident, in which two sadhus and a driver were killed, while warning that strict action will be taken against those who are igniting communal hatred through social media.

Uddhav, who has received phone calls from both Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to inquire into the incident, added that he had told Shah that there is no communal angle in the incident.

"Since there were curbs on the main roads due to the lockdown, the two sadhus were going to Gujarat from a remote area. They were stopped at the border of Dadra Nagar Haveli and asked to return. On their way back, they were attacked



Uddhav Thackeray

due to a misunderstanding and killed unfortunately," Uddhav said while addressing the state through webcast on Monday.

He added that while the incident took place in Palghar district, the location was around 110 km away from Palghar, near the border of Union Territory of Dadra Nagar Haveli.

Uddhav said that there were rumours that the thieves were roaming in the area. "Some people are trying to ignite communal hatred in the incident. There is no Hindu-Muslim angle or any communal angle in it," he added.

Uddhav also indirectly blamed the authorities of Dadra Nagar Haveli for turning the two sadhus back in the night.

## Bihar: Farmers unable to get maize seeds

SANTOSH SINGH  
MADHUBANI, KHAGARIA,  
APRIL 20

SAROJ KUMAR, a farmer from Madhubani's Pandaul with three bighas of land, is in a fix if he should wait for the lockdown to end to be able to sow high quality maize seeds in his field or go ahead with the local inferior variety for the kharif season.

Asking why rules have not been relaxed to enable farmers to go out for agricultural purposes, he said, "Transportation is not allowed during lockdown... most maize companies are finding it difficult to supply seeds."

Sudhir Yadav, a farmer from Khagaria's Beldaur, said he may switch to soyabean because of the delay in maize seeds. "I cannot leave my plot barren," he said.

Farmers in 11 districts, wanting to sow maize for the kharif season have not been able to sow high quality seeds as 35 firms and dealers are not being able to supply seeds. The yield with good quality seed is about 40-45 quintal per bigha as against 30 quintal with inferior variety.

Amar Kothari, a dealer with Kanhaiya Trading Company in Khagaria, said, "Though I have been able to get maize for kharif season with some difficulty, farmers are not being able to reach us... They will have to delay sowing of good quality maize seed or go ahead with any local variety available at village level."

Deepak Kumar, Bihar manager for Manjira Seeds, said, "Some 35 companies, including us, are in high quality seed supply business. But our movement is restricted. We hope relaxation also covers seed supply transportation."

## 53 journalists test positive in Mumbai

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

WITH 466 new COVID-19 cases reported on Monday, Maharashtra has now recorded 4,666 cases, with Mumbai accounting for 308 of these new cases. Twelve deaths were reported in the state, with the overall toll reaching 232.

Of the new cases in Mumbai, 53 were mediapersons, who had been recently tested by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The 53 journalists, all asymptomatic, have been moved to a hotel in suburban Goregaon and kept in isolation.

The BMC had last week tested 167 media professionals who were reporting from the field.

Mayor Kishori Pednekar went into self-quarantine Monday after coming in contact with some journalists who have tested positive. "I was present during the check-up of the journalists. My driver's and my report is negative but some journalists whom I met in the last five days (since the tests were conducted) have tested positive, so I have decided to isolate myself," Pednekar said.

Thirteen staffers in ENT hospital and two staffers in Sewri TB Hospital also tested positive. More than 200 health workers have now tested positive for coronavirus in Mumbai. Pune on Monday recorded 87 new cases.



700 Armymen arrive in Jammu by a special train. Express

## Army personnel rejoining posts to undergo quarantine

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE INDIAN Army on Monday announced that all its personnel who are set to rejoin their posts — either after leave or after finishing their courses — will undergo a 14-day quarantine.

The Army said its personnel will be categorised into three groups — green, yellow and red. All those who need to undergo the quarantine will be classified as yellow, while those who have completed their quarantine will be classified as green. Symptomatic individuals who require isolation and treatment in a COVID-19 hospital will be put in the red category.

Further, anyone reporting

## Railways targets 1 lakh coveralls by May 31

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

INDIAN RAILWAYS has set a target to make 1 lakh coveralls by May 31, even as it races to complete 60,000 of this critical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) item, raw material for which has already been distributed among its various zones.

India is tackling a shortage of PPEs for its frontline staff, like doctors and others from the medical fraternity, battling the COVID-19 outbreak. Railways' samples were passed by the DRDO lab in Gwalior, and after that it has picked up material from four government-authorised suppliers of raw material for PPEs. Railway staff have also been infected or suspected to be infected in many places while carrying out essential duties outdoors.

While raw material for 60,000 coveralls is already distributed among all zonal railways, the same for another 40,000 has been requisitioned and will reach by April-end so that the figure touches 1 lakh by end of May. The coveralls made by Railways will cost Rs 447 per piece including GST, whereas the ones available in the market are for Rs 808.50, officials said.

## From blood to PPEs, 'Setu' parcel trains for doorstep delivery

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

GIVING A boost to the supply chain amid the lockdown, a new mechanism is connecting district magistrates and local railway officers to ensure doorstep delivery of essential items, medicines and parcels on special trains running 24x7.

'Setu', which was launched on Sunday, has a round-the-clock all-India helpline number — 8448848477. It has facilitated the delivery of 30 tonnes of items within 24 hours of launch.

Among the items being transported are medicines from pharmaceutical companies to district hospitals and essential items from wholesalers to retailers. What's more, the team has transported camel milk and human blood on specific requests by individuals. The delivery is door to door, not station to station — giving shape to a new business model for Railways.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi indicating that some areas less affected by the COVID-19 outbreak might see relaxations in restrictions after April 20, officials said that coordination with district-level officers and their counterparts in nearest railheads would be vital to keep the supply

chain working. Through its 68 divisional commercial managers and divisional operations managers, the Railways is also facilitating the passes and permits for trucks used to deliver the items from stations to their destinations.

As many as 204 "COVID-19 Parcel Special" trains are operating in about 63 routes across the country at present. "On Tuesday, we supplied 60 kg of medicine from Prayagraj to Banda after the local authorities called the helpline and indicated the requirement," said Sanchit Tyagi, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Prayagraj division in Uttar Pradesh.

The helpline is being managed from a training institute in Udaipur and is being overseen by an officer in UP's Tundla. It is relaying messages to 68 divisions across India. The helpline managers have instant fare calculators so that the moment a query comes, the fare can be instantly conveyed, doing away with the complicated process of the customer calculating the figure as per distance, taxes etc.

"The mechanism is connecting us with different mandi associations for agriculture produce and the pharmaceutical sector for PPEs, masks etc.," said Sanjay Kumar, Assistant Traffic Manager, Tundla.

**GUJARAT MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LIMITED**  
(A Government of Gujarat Undertaking)  
Regd. Office: Block No. 14/1  
Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhawan Sector-10 Gandhinagar  
☎ 079-23250767, 23250766, 23257696

**COVID-19 URGENT PURCHASE NOTICE : 02/2020-21**

Quotations are invited for Medical Equipment/ Instrument/surgical item / Consumable / Drugs & other miscellaneous Industrial product through E-Mail. Interested manufacturer/company/authorized dealer are invited to send Quotations of Items containing warranty and comprehensive maintenance details, Product Literature/Brochure and delivery time (with quantity) on [mgsmc@gujarat.gov.in](mailto:mgsmc@gujarat.gov.in) till 22/04/2020, 16:00 Hrs. Detailed Notice is available on website <http://mgsmc.gujarat.gov.in> of this office notice board.

INF/21/20-21

**TAMIL NADU ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
(Government of Tamil Nadu Undertaking)  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, LLA Building, No.735 Anna Salai, Chennai-02.  
Email: [ridc2005@yahoo.co.in](mailto:ridc2005@yahoo.co.in) Phone No:28520000.

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

Consultancy Services for Monitoring Land Acquisition and Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Section II and III  
EOI Notice No. 1/CPRR/ADE/2020-2021 dated. 20.04.2020.

The Executive Director invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from the qualified experienced consulting firms with all supporting documents substantiating qualification to perform the service experience in similar assessments for Implementation of Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation plan under Chennai Peripheral Ring Road Section II and III so as to reach the office of Executive Director, TNRIDC, Chennai for no later than 4.00 pm (office clock) on 22.05.2020.

The full text Expression of Interest can be seen at [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)

Place: Chennai  
Date: 20.04.2020

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
TNRIDC.

**Government of India**  
**Department of Atomic Energy**  
**CORRIGENDUM**

Advt.No.02-R/IMSc/2020 Date: 20.04.2020

Reference indicative Advt.No.01-R/IMSc/2020 Dated 20.03.2020 inviting applications for the post of **DIRECTOR, IMSC, Chennai (Level - 15 under 7th CPC)** which appeared on all leading Newspapers.

Due to COVID-19 Lock Down the last date for receipt of applications, is extended up to **May 31, 2020**.

Other terms and conditions as explained in the detailed advertisement appearing on the following websites remain same.

i) [www.dae.gov.in](http://www.dae.gov.in) under "Vacancy Notices"  
ii) [www.imsc.res.in](http://www.imsc.res.in) under "other positions"





## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY

RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Spotlight on the states

Management of lockdown, its aftermath, will shape balance of power between Centre and states



SANJAYA BARU

## FIGHTING TOGETHER

Centre and states must sidestep conflict in crisis, agree on a common minimum programme on containment strategies

IN THE BATTLE against COVID-19, in which survival depends on a unity of purpose, governments can ill afford to play up differences and divisions on the smaller details, or allow them to take centre stage. Among the points of difference, and contention, between New Delhi and Thiruvananthapuram over the relaxation of controls in the second phase of the lockdown, is the wisdom of opening up barbershops, restaurants, bookstores. The Ministry of Home Affairs had written to the government of Kerala on April 19, protesting that the permissions announced by it for April 20 were at variance with the central order, issued under the Disaster Management Act. State Tourism Minister Kadakampally Surendran, who looks after the interests of the sector hit worst by the novel coronavirus, admitted that unlocking was a novel exercise and attributed the incident to a "misunderstanding". So far, so good.

The first difference of opinion between the Centre and the states on containment strategy does not necessarily represent conflict. It is a learning process, and an opportunity to reaffirm the federal spirit. But what is gleaned subsequently depends on the manner in which the problem is addressed. While the prime minister made a visible effort to marshal the states against the coronavirus — holding extensive consultations with all chief ministers ahead of the extension of the nation-wide lockdown — the Centre has constituted six inter-ministerial teams which will assess the situation on the ground in West Bengal, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. This can be read as a lack of faith in the state administrations. Both the Centre and the states need to appreciate what is at stake, and to understand that any points scored off each other may come to nothing — the final political reckoning will only count the lives and livelihoods lost. In a battle that is being waged on multiple fronts, by various strategies, the question of legal jurisdiction must not be overemphasised or allowed to come in the way.

COVID-19 presents different realities according to geography. What is good for Kerala is not necessarily good for Maharashtra, and vice versa. Each state has its own disease map and its own scatterplot of the resources that can be mobilised against it, whether it is respirators or self-help groups, and the value of local knowledge cannot be stressed enough. The prime minister had himself acknowledged that states should have the elbow room to craft their own exit strategies, but, at the same time, it is also clear that stakeholders must agree on a common minimum programme. Let it consist of goals and broad guidelines. The details may be left to the states.

## LAWLESS IN PALGHAR

Lynching of three men in Maharashtra points to shocking police failure. Culprits must be urgently brought to justice

THE LYNCHING OF three men in Palghar district, Maharashtra, in the midst of the coronavirus crisis is a shocking case of police failure. More than a hundred people suspected to be involved in the incident have been arrested and the police personnel who evidently failed to prevent the crime from being committed have been suspended. Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has ordered a high-level probe and assured that the culprits will be brought to justice. He needs to urgently deliver on his promise.

The incident that took place last Thursday night, a video of which went viral subsequently, was allegedly triggered by suspicion that the men, including two sadhus and the driver of the car in which they were travelling from Mumbai to Surat to attend a funeral, were thieves. The villagers, belonging to a tribal community, had formed vigilante groups, apparently following rumours that organ-harvesting gangs, child-lifters and thieves were roaming in the area. By all accounts, the forest guards, who initially apprehended the travellers, and the small police team that later arrived in the village, failed to intervene or prevent the mob from taking the law into its own hands. The incident represents a terrible failure of the law and order machinery. The government must take exemplary action against the police brass responsible for this shameful abdication and surrender to mob justice.

Especially in times of heightened fear and anxiety such as these, amid a lockdown necessitated by the fight against the coronavirus, it is incumbent on the law and order machinery to be alert and vigilant and to counter rumour and prevent suspicion from gaining ground through sustained outreach to the people. In times such as these, the administration needs to visibly and firmly send out the message that the rule of law will prevail — not the mob. Any failure to do so can prove to be costly — as has been seen earlier, in other contexts and settings, in the lynchings in UP, Jharkhand or Rajasthan, for instance, over suspected illegal cattle trade. Action must be taken quickly and firmly against those in the police force who failed to take action against the culprits, or were complicit in the crime committed at Palghar, lest the people's trust in, and respect for, the authority of the state is eroded. There must be no delay, much is at stake.

## CIVILISATION, DREDGED UP

Shipwrecks discovered in Levant Basin may be changing the idea of 'western civilisation'

BEYOND BORDERS AND under the sea, a British-led team of scientists and archaeologists discovered 12 shipwrecks in the Levant Basin in the Mediterranean Sea in 2015. Now, amidst a halt on the movement of people and goods forced on the world by the coronavirus, the first findings from what promises to be one of the most rewarding archaeological sites are being published. And the Enigma Shipwrecks Project (ESP) is already changing ideas of "civilisation" and "sophistication".

The dozen ships span a large swathe of history — spanning Hellenistic, Roman, early Islamic and Ottoman vessels. The largest among these is a 17th-century Ottoman merchant ship, "an absolute colossus", at least twice the size of the other vessels. Its cargo from 14 civilisations ranges from ancient Chinese artefacts and includes cups repurposed for drinking coffee and spices from India. According to the ESP, this ship reveals a previously unknown "silk route" and also goes some way in establishing the degree of cosmopolitanism in Islamic societies at the time, and how much of what the West values as its civilisational heritage is owed to Asia and Africa.

"Europe may think it invented notions of civility, but the wrecked coffee cups and pots prove the 'barbarian Orient' was a trailblazer rather than a backwater," according to Sean Kingsley, director, ESP. The fact that much of what is seen as "western civilisation" is a result of contact with the Islamic, Asian and African worlds is not a part of public knowledge, even over 70 years after decolonisation. In fact, much of the contemporary criticisms of globalisation and openness to trade stem from a fear of that cultural and economic asymmetry. On the cultural front at least, boats from 2,000 metres under the sea can address these insecurities. It turns out, openness and internationalism create and nurture civilisations — they do not threaten them.

THE TELUGU DESAM supremo, N T Rama Rao, once famously declared, "the Centre is a conceptual myth." If Prime Minister Narendra Modi had not made his repeated post-lockdown appearances on television, most citizens dealing with the threat of COVID-19 and the challenge of the lockdown may well have felt the same way. From ensuring supply of water, food, electricity and health care to law and order, the government that a citizen deals with is the state government. Only in Delhi the police are under the Centre's charge. The management of a sub-continental lockdown has brought into focus the role of state governments, their uneven capacities and capabilities and varying quality of provincial leadership — both political and bureaucratic.

There is a growing body of opinion that in the post-COVID world most countries will see governments playing a larger role in shaping people's lives and determining their livelihoods. The return of big government and the prospect of a potentially larger role for the state in the economy raises the question, certainly in India, of what it would mean for Centre-state relations, and for national and provincial politics. The central government's role will no doubt be important in the handling of the economic and financial aftermath, in reviving inter-state movement of people and goods, in re-negotiating international economic treaties to make them relevant to the new situation and so on. However, the immediate challenge of public health and medical care, as well as the continued supply of necessities, will remain the responsibility of state governments.

The manner in which the central and state governments resolve the problem of inadequate fiscal resources, given falling revenues due to the slowdown and rising claims on the public exchequer, will be a key issue in Centre-state relations. Several chief ministers have been complaining about the Centre's lack of fiscal nerve, resolve and imagination in helping states. Kerala Finance Minister Thomas Isaac has dubbed it "crazy macroeconomics" ("Ahead of the Covid curve", IE, April 17). The Fifteenth Finance Commission, already given an extension and saddled with additional terms of reference, may have to look de novo at many new issues in federal finance given the fiscal imperatives of a post-COVID economy.

In his first term, Prime Minister Modi was able to keep national attention focused on his foreign and economic policy initiatives as well as on national security and defence — all areas within the purview of the Centre and offering the PM the space to act. Modi's second term got off to a wrong start with public attention focused on law and order, questions of citizenship and personal health. These issues have opened up political space for provincial leadership. Not only has the profile of non-BJP chief ministers like K Chandrashekar Rao and Pinarayi Vijayan gone up, but even BJP chief ministers like K Chandrashekar Rao and Pinarayi Vijayan gone up, but even BJP chief ministers like Yogi Adityanath seem to have acquired a political personality of their own.

Given the constitutional division of responsibilities between the Centre and states, one issue that has fallen between two stools is the entire question of internal migration and the economic and social interests of domestic migrant labour. Historically, both home and host states have not acted responsibly in dealing with the welfare of migrant labour. Many states have, in fact, discriminated against migrant labour. The COVID lockdown has brought their welfare to the fore. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ill-advisedly dissolved the National Development Council, but the problem of migration and migrant labour, especially in the current context, is a fit subject for a federal forum like the NDC to discuss.

Indian politics today presents a balance between the centripetal pull of the BJP's Hindu nationalism and the centrifugal pull of regionalism. The management of the lockdown and its aftermath will determine the balance of power not just between Centre and the states, but between alternative political platforms. If chief ministers succeed in demonstrating their competence and compassion to their constituents, they can weaken the national base of a populist PM. Modi would surely be aware of this. In part, his media outreach may well be defined by his need to occupy public mind space at a time when most citizens are, in fact, turning to local political leadership for liberation from the lockdown.

In his first term, Prime Minister Modi was able to keep national attention focused on his foreign and economic policy initiatives as well as on national security and defence — all areas within the purview of the Centre and offering the PM the space to act. Modi's second term got off to a wrong start with public attention focused on law and order, questions of citizenship and personal health. These issues have opened up political space for provincial leadership. Not only has the profile of non-BJP chief ministers like K Chandrashekar Rao and Pinarayi Vijayan gone up, but even BJP chief ministers like Yogi Adityanath seem to have acquired a political personality of their own. Ideally, at a time like this, any PM would

want to shift public attention back to foreign affairs and national security to burnish his national image. However, the current economic and fiscal situation at home and globally offers little space for significant diplomatic initiatives. Most governments will remain focused on domestic affairs and policies. This policy context opens up the space for provincial leaders.

During the "era of coalitions" — from 1989 to 2014 — Centre-state relations were shaped by the decentralised politics of that period in which prime ministers were dependent on chief ministers both for their survival in office and to ensure delivery of public services and national initiatives. The arrival in office of a single party government, that too one headed by a domineering personality who has centralised governance while advocating "cooperative federalism", suggested for a while that Indian politics was moving in the direction of greater centralisation of policy initiative.

Ironically, however, the ability of regional parties to retain their base and the resurgence of the Congress party in some states, thanks to provincial leaders rather than the party's First Family, has created a dual power structure wherein chief ministers have become powerful functionaries once again. It used to be like this in the early 1950s and later in the early 1970s when, first under Jawaharlal Nehru and then under Indira Gandhi, the country saw a powerful PM working with powerful CMs. Since the 1990s, a succession of relatively weak PMs have had to work with relatively powerful CMs. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh handled this situation by frequently interacting with CMs and regularly convening CMs' conferences. It was the COVID crisis that finally forced Modi to engage the CMs in an organised manner.

In the coming months, the focus of public policy will perforce shift to areas where state governments and provincial leaders will have to play a larger role. The only way in which the central government can re-assert its developmental role would be through massive public spending and investment. How competently that is done will have its own consequences for economic growth, political stability and Centre-state relations.

The writer is a policy analyst and former media advisor to prime minister of India



CHAKSHU ROY

## MOVING HOUSE ONLINE

How crucial legislative work could continue in crisis

EARLIER THIS MONTH, 12 MPs created history when they met virtually in their official capacities. These MPs are members of the joint committee on salary and allowances. Lok Sabha MP Rita Bahuguna Joshi heads the committee, which has nine other Lok Sabha MPs and five Rajya Sabha MPs. On April 6, an online meeting of the committee took place. There were two sittings of 15 minutes each, by the end of which, they recommended a 30 per cent reduction in the constituency and office allowances of MPs. Despite its membership being made exclusively of MPs, the joint committee is not like other parliamentary committees. It was set up in 1954 under the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act. But if MPs can meet online to discuss issues under a particular law, can they also assemble online to do legislative work?

Our parliamentary rules do not require MPs to meet physically at the Parliament House. Discussions have taken place on multiple occasions for holding its session outside Delhi. The only requirement for a duly constituted sitting of a house is that it be presided over by the chairman/speaker or any authorised MP. The rules also give full discretion to the Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla when it comes to running the houses. On matters which are not ap-

parent in the rules, both of them have the residuary power to decide on them. The Speaker also has the discretion to allow the parliamentary committees to meet outside the House, which he has allowed on multiple occasions. As the next session of Parliament is a few months away, it gives the parliamentary secretariat time to draw up plans for holding an online session should the need so arise.

It is the stoppage in the work of parliamentary committees which needs immediate attention. Two committees are scrutinising pending bills on issues related to labour and regulation of personal data. Both these issues are important and have gained prominence during the ongoing pandemic. Committees invite stakeholders to appear before them and share their viewpoints on the bills. Perhaps an initial step towards resuming the work of parliamentary committees could be to hear the testimony of stakeholders through a video conference. Since there are only 30 MPs in each committee, it might be easier to conduct a pilot meeting for these committees. The added advantage could be that the committee could get to hear a wide range of stakeholders who might otherwise find it difficult to appear in-person before the committees. Speaker Om Birla is considering such a move. Across the world, legislatures are using a

combination of technology, physical separation and reduced physical presence to continue their work. The Brazilian parliament passed a resolution to work remotely during the public health emergency. The Chilean Senate has passed a law to allow it to meet remotely using appropriate video conferencing technology. In Indonesia and Maldives, a sitting of the parliament has happened remotely. In the UK, the House of Commons Commission has suggested a hybrid model of virtual and physical presence. It has recommended that 120 MPs can participate in certain house proceedings via video conferencing and 50 of them can be in the house physically under social distancing guidelines. The committees of parliaments of more than 15 countries are working online.

Many of our MPs are already interacting with their constituents and party colleagues via video conferencing. Therefore, the switch to a virtual meeting for their legislative work might be easy. What will require work is the setting up of protocols for ensuring participation, security and robust technology. It is time that our Parliament leverages its technological ability and steps up to fulfil its constitutional duty.

The writer is head of legislative and civic engagement at PRS Legislative Research



## APRIL 21, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

GANGA WATER TALKS INDIA AND BANGLADESH are to make yet another attempt to resolve the deadlock over their discussions on the sharing of the Ganga waters. The Joint Rivers Commission of the two countries has met 18 times without throwing up an agreement. Given the vastly divergent positions of the two countries, the fate of the JRC meeting, slated to take place on Saturday in Delhi, is likely to be no different. This week's JRC meeting will, however, be crucial as another failure to reach an agreement can even put the Indo-Bangladesh River Waters Agreement the two countries signed three years ago in jeopardy.

JANATA CONVENTION THE NATIONAL CONVENTION of the Janata Party concluded in Bombay with a determination to effectively meet the challenge posed by authoritarian forces. In his concluding remarks, party president Chandra Shekhar expressed the hope that with the confidence of the youth and the guidance of the veterans, the party would march ahead towards its goal of rebuilding India as conceived by Mahatma Gandhi and Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narayan.

ASSAM AGITATION THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE marched towards the Narengi oil installation, 15 kilometres

away from Guwahati, which was barricaded by the Army and the CRPF after arresting some 8,000 picketers who had stayed overnight, after an abortive attempt to seal the routes. The Narengi area has been put under curfew. Armed CRPF men protected the barricades.

US PLANNED IRAN COUP THE NEW YORK TIMES quoted senior Carter administration officials as disclosing that the administration attempted to lay the groundwork for a military coup in Iran against Ayatollah Khomeini, but the rapid disintegration of Iran's military forces made the plans unworkable.



# 9 THE IDEAS PAGE

## Putting world together again

Strategic cooperation, focus on human security, will be the key to global recovery. But trust deficit between great powers will make that a hard task



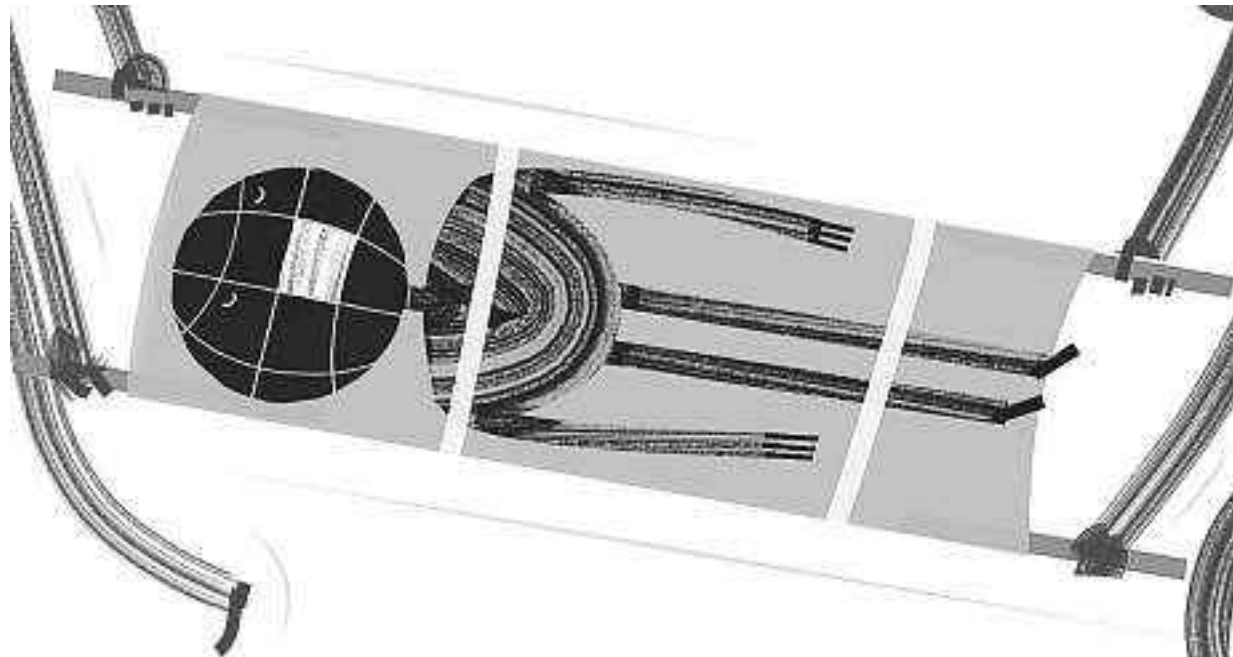
SYED ATA HASNAIN

THE CURRENT FOCUS in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic rightly remains on the medical management, economic fallout and impact on social harmony due to the mass displacement of migrant labour — all aspects of human security. I would not hazard a guess at the final comprehensive impact of the coronavirus on India or the world. Human imagination is finding it difficult to fathom how this will pan out.

It's the post-pandemic strategic environment that will dictate how soon the world recovers from this unexpected shock. It must start with the international geopolitical angle, with many assumptions. With some clarity in this domain, we can prepare ourselves better for the recovery phase of a near post-war situation. In his essay titled "The World after Coronavirus", Israeli historian and celebrated author Yuval Noah Harari writes: "The decisions people and governments take in the next few weeks will probably shape the world for years to come. They will shape not just our healthcare systems but also our economy, politics and culture. Yes, the storm will pass, humankind will survive, most of us will still be alive — but we will inhabit a different world." Shortly, even as the world continues to reel under the pandemic threat, there will be more endeavours on enhancing human security through better strategic management of the world. So, what will all that be about?

In 1921-22, the great powers came together for the Washington Naval Conference. It was a time when the world was also trying to deal with the global effects of a pandemic and an age of great power competition after the Great War. A moratorium on aspects such as enhanced naval deployment and restrictions on the size of battleships followed but nothing more. The strategic effects of the Treaty of Versailles escaped attention. A century later, the level of trust between great powers is even less. Individual nations or blocs of nations are bound to see opportunities for strategic gain. The situation is similar to the elusive efforts towards the creation of a new world order after the end of the Cold War in 1989. Will the world consider a major conference with the agenda being a revival after the coronavirus? The 2015 Paris Summit of the United Nations, which was convened to save the world from the rapid impact of climate change, could not muster a consensus. Will a potential 2020 "pandemic conference" succeed in getting big powers to jettison their geopolitical ambitions?

The US-China rivalry will remain the core issue, with several other regions and nations jostling to clamber on to the one who can bring them short to medium-term advantages. Contingent upon how badly the US is finally affected, its current confused leadership is unlikely to inspire and its efforts at internal stabilisation may compromise US power. I see a major turn in political fortunes in the US and its stumbling on pandemic management could throw open opportuni-



C.R. Sasikumar

ties for others to exploit. The US will perceive itself as far more insecure than it was even after 9/11.

There is likely to be a huge effort to slander China — accusing it of being the originator of the scourge — and isolate it economically and politically. The allegations on the use of biological warfare are the ones which will cause turbulence in relationships. Ironically, China is also in a unique position to help the world bounce back. Against the backdrop of these accusations regarding culpability, we need to be ready for changes in the norms of international cooperation and behaviour.

A cold war of sorts could well be on the cards for some time, hampering a full recovery. It will be brutal in the cyber world — fake news on social media will prevent international cooperation in crucial fields such as scientific research, patents and perhaps even slow down the ability to prevent the next pandemic. China is reported to be having leadership issues, but a steadfastness of purpose has always been China's strength. Its ambitions for 2035 and 2050, so succinctly expressed by the 19th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, could well be advanced sensing a moment of opportunity.

Subject to the US's economic capability after the pandemic, the ability to find a consensus to put on hold defence spending for the sake of human security will be the key. But the trust deficit between nations will probably hamper this to a great extent. The key anchor of globalisation — the US-China trade relationship — will change even more. China cannot be replaced by the US as a major industrial producer (even for the US market). Other countries or blocs — ASEAN, Bangladesh and India — will all chip in but that will still not be enough. Nor can any country buy as much grain from the US as China does. So, an economic relationship will continue but will be politically fractured as both parties search for alternatives, which don't exist on a scale that both of them need.

China's recovery is likely to be the fastest. Its ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) may now go uncontested by the US-led efforts to create alternatives. The Chinese abil-

Subject to the US's economic capability after the pandemic, the ability to find a consensus to put on hold defence spending for the sake of human security will be the key. But the trust deficit between nations will probably hamper this to a great extent. The key anchor of globalisation — the US-China trade relationship — will change even more. China cannot be replaced by the US as a major industrial producer (even for the US market). Other countries or blocs — ASEAN, Bangladesh and India — will all chip in but that will still not be enough. Nor can any country buy as much grain from the US as China does. So, an economic relationship will continue but will be politically fractured.

ity to influence politics among smaller nations in Asia and Africa could bring it strategic advantages, but it is unlikely to be enough to replace America unless the recession-hit US remains defensively oriented. Knowing the US propensity to bounce back, China's efforts will have to remain energetic and that is where the potential for conflict is likely to rise. Of course, it is not as if the US would abandon its interests for an era of only-inward economic healing. Its eye on the future will remain firmly in place.

The UN has lost credibility with the World Health Organisation taking the worst hit any UN agency has suffered in years. However, its future is contingent upon how it manages the geopolitical fallout of the pandemic. The sooner it can get the world leaders on board, the better.

Some traditional hot spots could yield temporary space. Iran has been hit badly and with the US unrelenting on sanctions, its economy could collapse with frightening results as far the Middle East is concerned. A big nation in instability mode with internal turbulence and leadership challenges could spread greater threats of an undefined kind. The US may abandon Afghanistan with less commitment towards keeping its economy sustainable — a sure recipe for internal instability, which could see the Islamic State emerge a major player. Everything in the Middle East points towards Russian advantage and domination.

Is this an opportunity for India? Economically hit but probably one of the few nations without a recession, India's strong central leadership could be a big advantage. Prime Minister Narendra Modi would need to use all his influence to cobble together international cooperation to pull the world from the abyss it could sink into. His credibility is already higher than most international leaders and could spell a leadership role for India not in conflict with China but in cooperation with it. It is India's established multilateral foreign policy that could eventually come to the assistance of the world.

The writer, a former corps commander of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps, is chancellor, Central University of Kashmir

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"If the United States gets it right, coronavirus testing will eventually become available in community centers and parks, at mobile clinics and sports arenas." — THE NEW YORK TIMES

## The drift to the left

The corona crisis threatens to write the obituary of global capitalism. It will have a lasting impact on national economic strategies and politics



RAJA MANDALA

BY C RAJA MOHAN

THERE IS a Chinese joke from the mid-1990s about US President Bill Clinton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Russian leader Boris Yeltsin and the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, Jiang Zemin driving down a road to arrive at a fork. Clinton turned right without signalling, Blair tagged along, Yeltsin, who was blindly following the Anglos, was not looking for choices. A tentative Jiang looked back to ask his lone passenger, "which way?" Deng Xiaoping, in the back seat, said: "Signal left and turn right."

The imagined story tells us a lot about global transformation in the last four decades. It was about historic political changes within major economies and between them. China was an integral part of this story. Deng gave a huge booster shot to global capitalism while helping China rapidly elevate its international standing.

This extraordinary transformation was running out of steam in the last few years and the corona crisis threatens to write its obituary. The reversal of the great rightward drift since the 1980s has begun.

But first to the four men on the road. In the US, Clinton moved the Democratic Party away from its working-class roots and embraced the Reagan revolution — domestic deregulation and free trade. In pushing the party to the right, Clinton ended the political wilderness of the Democrats in America. In Britain, Blair did much the same by rebranding a working-class party as the "New Labour" to end nearly two decades of Tory rule under Margaret Thatcher and John Major. The socialists in France and Europe demurred at the "Anglo-Saxon" capitalist excesses but had no choice to adapt.

As Yeltsin buried the Soviet Union and turned to the Western model, the newly-liberated members of the Warsaw Pact embraced economic openness and joined the political project on European integration. It was Deng, however, who provided the "piece de resistance" of the era by opening up China to Western capital.

After the Tiananmen Square events in 1989, there was a brief moment when China flirted with closing its economy. In his famous "southern tour" in early 1992, Deng ordered renewed economic reform that propelled China political fortunes. Deng was convinced that "leftism" was a bigger danger than "rightism". But the right turn had to be masked with a left signal in a country that was avowedly communist. So the CCP maintained a relentless emphasis on socialism, even if it was with "Chinese characteristics". Cynics have named it "red capitalism" or "capitalism with Chinese characteristics". It did not matter what the CCP called it, but the global consequences were profound.

The new Washington consensus led to booming international trade, super-profits for Western capital, prosperity for China, and benefited many parts of the developing world, including India. The emergence of the internet economy reinforced the

proposition that a world without borders was just around the corner. But the "losers" from globalisation, especially in the West, showed up to ruin the party.

In Britain, the Brexiters successfully mobilised against the integration with Europe in the 2016 referendum. In the US, Trump whipped up passions on trade to squeak through to White House in the 2016 elections. Trump argued that globalists had outsourced American jobs to China and vowed to bring them back. Trump's success has turned the rich men's Republican Party into a champion of the working people fighting against the inequities perpetrated by a globalist elite. In politics, surprises never cease.

Boris Johnson won a massive mandate in 2019 by reaching out to the working class and breaching the Labour's "red wall" in the north. Both Johnson and Trump are now actively undoing the Thatcher-Reagan consensus on neoliberal economics. Some of the core elements of that era — free trade, fiscal prudence, downsizing the state, marginalisation of the working class and partnership with China — are all unravelling today.

The uncritical support for free trade is being replaced by arguments about "fair trade". London and Washington are doling out large sums for protecting the paychecks of the working people as the economy undergoes a massive contraction. The Republicans who had voted against bailing out Wall Street during the 2008 financial crisis are now letting trillions of dollars flow out of the Congress.

Meanwhile, the presumptive nominee of the Democratic Party, Joe Biden, is pivoting to the left on economic issues, partly in response to the pressure from Bernie Sanders, who has suspended his campaign but wants a big say in the party's platform for elections this year.

We do not know if Biden is merely signalling left for electoral purposes or genuinely reclaiming the old working-class base of the Democratic Party. Democrats are also under pressure to respond to Trump's charges that the party and Biden are complicit in letting China gain the economic upper hand over the US through free trade and refusing to see the emerging political challenge from Beijing.

As Trump ties China, globalism, and Beijing's responsibility for the pandemic with Biden and the Democrats, there are growing prospects for the decoupling of "Chimerica" that emerged in the 1990s. Democrats can attack Trump as fiercely as they want to, but they can't afford to be seen as weak on China.

The Western imperative to separate from China has been reinforced by Xi Jinping's abandonment of the Deng line on keeping an open economy and a low international profile. The perception that China, the biggest beneficiary of globalisation, has taken advantage of the West has been reinforced by the corona crisis. If the rightward shift had transformed the global political economy and international affairs in the last four decades, the drift to the left — de-globalisation, big government, the focus on re-dressing inequality and new political weight of the working class — is likely to have a powerful and lasting impact on national economic strategies everywhere and the politics among nations.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express



BHUPENDER YADAV

HUMANS HAD started to believe that they had become invincible with technological advancements. Now, an organism that is one-thousandth the width of an eyelash has forced about seven billion people across the world to not only stop flying, but to also stay within the confines of their homes.

Many are optimistic that a vaccine will soon be found and we will return to life as we knew it. This misses a larger point: There are limits to technological advancements. Defeating the coronavirus doesn't obliterate the risk of emergence of new viruses. With rapid deforestation and climate change, many new viruses are emerging even as we race to find a vaccine for COVID-19. And there are no instant vaccines for them.

While viruses are as old as human existence, climate change has only aggravated our vulnerabilities. In 2014, a virus frozen in the Siberian permafrost for 30,000 years was revived in a laboratory and was still found potent enough to infect an amoeba.

With glaciers melting, floods ravaging countries and earthquakes bringing down the sturdiest of human creations, the coronavirus, could well be the trailer for what is to come. If we want to come out of our houses and live with the freedom to move around, we need to course-correct.

For starters, we must redefine human development goals and prioritise sectors which need more attention. Both villages and cities will have to be treated in a way that factors in the sustainability of their development. We can no longer turn a blind eye to the specific

requirements of our villages and cities; we need to make both self-sufficient and non-exploitative when it comes to using natural resources. Catchment areas and floodplains will have to be freed from construction and commercially exploitative activities. Smart cities must be complemented with smart villages that are not just provided electricity, sanitation and water, but are also digitally connected. The move towards green energy, including solar and wind has to be made.

While we do need to augment medical education with more doctors and better healthcare facilities, India also needs to give a big push to medical research. Research is not only needed in the field of allopathy, but also in the field of traditional medicine such as ayurveda. Together, the two can prepare us for the challenges of tomorrow.

Market demand cannot be allowed to dictate economic models on which countries are run. Market demand initiated a relentless assault on nature with resources being extracted without caring for the future of the planet. An important question to ask is the role that politics will play in this effort to prevent environmental degradation that exposes mankind to threats like viruses and bacteria.

Human history shows us that some of the most seemingly insignificant things have ushered in some of the most significant changes in the world. In *Sapiens*, Yuval Noah Harari describes how wheat production changed the course of human evolution. Harari says, "We did not domesticate wheat. It domesticated us." In *Against the Grain*, po-

litical scientist-anthropologist James C Scott said that wheat cultivation is responsible for the arrival of what we now understand as state power, and with it, bureaucracy and inequality.

No political party can afford to ignore the significance of a virus. Irrespective of their ideological moorings, parties will have to come together to formulate a uniform, transparent and implementable policy to tackle such threats to human existence that know no territorial boundaries.

Political parties have to work together to develop an agenda for human development that focuses not just on GDP growth but also on enhancing livelihood security by generating sustainable occupations. The virus is just one aspect. We must be able to foresee the socio-economic disruptions that will take place as a result of such changes. In a federal system such as in India, it is important for both the Centre and the states to have a minimum agreed "path of growth" which is sustainable and reduces dependence on international market forces.

We must realise that the corona pandemic is not a temporary disruption. The virus will run its course, but India needs to prepare itself for the economic impact that will hit the country because of rising sea levels, more cyclones, floods and melting glaciers. In 2018, the World Bank estimated that the current trajectory of carbon emissions will result in sharply diminishing the living conditions of 800 million South Asians. We can debate the numbers, but we cannot de-

bate on whether it will happen.

The current pandemic has seen the country act as one unit: Almost the entire country has responded responsibly to the call of staying indoors during the lockdown. States, too, are working in coordination with the Centre to fight the virus. Future challenges need to be met in a similar manner.

Another question is how the economy will change after the threat of the pandemic recedes. All assessments show that there will be an economic meltdown. The exact nature of the impact will depend on how long it takes for us to take control of the situation. The current crisis has exposed the vulnerabilities of the global economic and trading systems. There is thus a need to review the sectors which are disproportionately dependent on international market forces.

Sectors such as aviation and tourism may well be hit the hardest. But the rush to fix the economy cannot discount the aspect of sustainability. Financial packages for an economic revival should be carefully planned to ensure that they are directed towards activities which provide greater scope for sustainable livelihood security, as opposed to those which are dependent on the global economy.

We need to devise better models for our existence so that we can overcome not only the challenge at hand, and are never again held hostage by a virus. The good news is that it is totally doable.

The writer is national general secretary, BJP, and member of Rajya Sabha

## Future, post-COVID-19

In India, to meet challenges ahead, emphasis must be on livelihood security

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### TRUTH AND FREEDOM

THIS REFERS TO THE article, 'Virus and the one-party State' (IE, April 20). The notion that the high-handedness of authoritarianism trumps the soft demeanour of democracy is false. One cannot vouch for the veracity of the data of an authoritarian state, democracy, however dysfunctional, allows freedom of press to a certain degree. The Chinese grass might look greener, but it mostly is a mirage.

Abhishek Kumar Anshu, Patna

### SURVIVAL FIRST

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Resetting balance' (IE, April 20). The knee-jerk tweaking of FDI rules to prevent China from taking advantage of the pandemic is arguably an act of playing to the gallery, given the rise of anti-China sentiment across the globe. At this critical juncture, India should avoid bad blood with any country. We are heavily dependent on China for live-saving drugs (APMs). The first priority is survival of humanity and not to settle the scores.

Deepak Singhal, Chennai

### RIGHT RESPONSE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Mapping a civic response', (IE, April 20). The standard response to any modern-day health crisis is to generate public awareness by leveraging ICT tools. The dissemination of essential information on

### LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to [editpage@expressindia.com](mailto:editpage@expressindia.com) or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

preventive care has made people more conscious about their health.

Sudip Kumar Dey, Kolkata

### A CASE FOR SWARAJ

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Rethinking the modern' (IE, April 20). In the Gandhi's way of life society, economy and politics are linked. The article makes a case for an economy based on swadeshi and a society based on sarvodaya, but it is silent on swaraj, which is the political realm of Gandhi's thought. Swaraj is basically a decentralisation of power. It empowers the people. Without swaraj, neither swadeshi nor sarvodaya are possible.

Suchak D Patel, Ahmedabad



**TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF TELANGANA LIMITED**  
**e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

The Transmission Corporation of Telangana Limited invites bids through tenders on e-procurement platform for the following works: **Specification No. (1) TST-CONST- e - 15 / 2019-20 of CE(Construction)** :- Supply, Erection, Commissioning of (i) 220KV DC line (Twin Moose) from proposed 400/220KV SS Damaracherla to existing 220KV SS Miryalaguda SS in Nalgonda District (ii) 2 Nos 220KV Bay Extensions at 220KV Miryalaguda SS on turnkey basis in Nalgonda District - Reg. **Specification No. (2) TST-CONST- e - 17 / 2019-20 of CE (Construction)** :- Supply, Erection, Testing & Commissioning of (i) 220KV DC line (Single Moose) from proposed 400/220KV SS Damaracherla to existing 220KV SS Huzurnagar SS in Nalgonda District (ii) 2 Nos 220KV Bay Extensions at 220KV SS Huzurnagar on turnkey basis in Nalgonda District. Further details can be seen @ <http://www.tender.telangana.gov.in> PHONE: 040 - 23396000, Ext: 3356, 3508, 3643, FAX: 040 - 23336171.

R.O.No.03/20 Sd/- CHIEF ENGINEER, CONSTRUCTION (OSD)

Government of Jammu and Kashmir  
**SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
**SOURA SRINAGAR-190011**  
E-mail: [ammoimports@skims.ac.in](mailto:ammoimports@skims.ac.in) Fax No.: 0194-2403403

**IMPORTS SECTION**

**Subject: Procurement of Virtual Bronchoscopic Navigation System with Fused Fluoroscopy on proprietary basis from M/S Bronchus Medical U.S.A.**

SKIMS Intends to procure Virtual Bronchoscopic Navigation System with Fused Fluoroscopy (Model: Archimedes) from M/S Bronchus Medical USA for the Department of Internal & Pulmonary Medicine SKIMS being their proprietary item as claimed by the company.

In this connection, objections (if any) from companies manufacturing/ marketing, such equipment capable of delivering the same result as intended from the above equipment, regarding the proprietary nature of the above item should be communicated within 15 days on the above mentioned email ID/Fax after which the claim of the company who has claimed for the proprietorship of the said item shall be accepted.

Sd/- Asstt. Material Management Officer,  
Imports,  
No. SIMS-324-Virtual Bronchoscopic-2020-1482-87-4512-14  
Dated: 20.04.2020

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
**GURU HARGOBIND THERMAL PLANT, LEHRA MOHABBAT**  
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813  
e-Tendering website: <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**  
(Through E-tendering)

Tender Enquiry No.: 77/GHTP/MM-I/HHM-50(V) dated: 20.04.2020  
E-tenders are invited from reputed and registered Firm/Contractors for the following work:-

**SHORT DESCRIPTION OF WORK**

Routine, Preventive and Breakdown maintenance of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery, i.e. Loco Shunters, Bulldozers, Poclain including Grabber Loader Machines, AUGER Machine and Coal Compactor etc. and Re-railment of minor derailments of Wagons & Loco Shunters in CHP of GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat as per tender specifications.

EMD: Minimum Rs. 1,22,000/- (Rupees One Lac Twenty Two Thousand only)

Last Date & Time for bid submission: 20.05.2020 upto 11.30 hrs.  
Date & time of opening of Fee stage bid: 21.05.2020 at 12.00 hrs.  
Detailed NIT and tender specifications can only be downloaded from website: <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in> from dated 22.04.2020 onwards.

**NOTE:-**

- The prospective bidders can obtain clarification regarding tender specifications from this office. For registration of Digital Signatures and uploading of tender, information may be sought from <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.
- It is informed that in case the tender process is not completed due to any reason no Corrigendum will be published in Newspapers. Detail regarding corrigendum may be seen on website i.e. <http://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

Sd/- Dy. Chief Engineer,  
Mechanical Mtc. Circle-I, O&M,  
GHTP, PSPCL, Lehra Mohabbat, Distt. Bathinda (Pb.)-151111.

Government of Andhra Pradesh  
**REVENUE (DM) DEPARTMENT**  
**ANDHRA PRADESH DISASTER RECOVERY PROJECT**  
WORLD BANK CREDIT No. 5694-IN

**INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)**

IFB No. 01 to 2/APDRP/APSDHA/2020 Dated 20.04.2020  
The Government of India has received credit from the International Development Association (IDA) for an amount equivalent to US\$ 201.38 million towards the cost at Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project (APDRP) and intends to apply a part of the proceeds of the credit to cover eligible payments under the contract for which this Invitation to bid has been issued. The bidders from India as defined in the IDA and IBRD Guidelines are eligible to bid for the project. Bidders are advised to note the eligibility and qualification criteria specified in the Bidding Document to qualify for the award of the contract.

The Project Director, PMU, APDRP invites "on line e-bids" from eligible bidders for the Activities shown below, through website of Central Public Procurement Portal <http://procure.gov.in> from 22/04/2020. The IFBs are also available at the website [www.apdrp.ap.gov.in](http://www.apdrp.ap.gov.in) and UNDB web site [www.devbusiness.com](http://www.devbusiness.com)

| IFB No               | Activity No In STEP | Activity Name   | Bid Security in Rs. Lakhs | Period of contract in months |
|----------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 01/NCB/ APDRP/ PSDMA | 152622              | Procurement and Setting up of In-House Data Centre for Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority | 11.00                     | 40                           |
| 02/RFQ/ APDRP/ PSDMA | 163911              | Procurement of Vehicle Tracking and Management System for Emergency Service Departments in Andhra Pradesh | NIL                       | 39                           |

Sd/-  
Project Director, APDRP  
Release Order No 14PP/CL/ADVT/1/1/2020-21

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS  
**RAILWAY RECRUITMENT BOARD, AJMER**

**Corrigendum No. 3**  
**E Tender No. RRB-All-Tender-CEN-03-2019**

**Name of Work: RRBs-Engaging Exam Conducting Agency (ECA) to conduct Computer Based Tests (CBTs) and all related activities like processing of Results and Panels etc for Recruitment of various Ministerial and Isolated categories in Indian Railways notified in Centralized Employment Notification (CEN) 03/2019.**

In view of preventive measures to be taken to contain the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and extension of nationwide lockdown for further 19 days i.e. up to 03.05.2020 announced by Government of India, the date of Pre-Bid Conference, Closing and Opening dates of bids/offers which were indicated vide Corrigendum 2 are hereby revised further and also revised on IREPS as under:  
**Date & Time of Pre bid conference - 14.05.2020 @ 15.30 Hrs at RRB, Ajmer. Last date & time of online submission of Tender - 08.06.2020 at 15.00 Hrs. Date & time of opening of Technical bids - 08.06.2020 at 15.30 Hrs.**

The same may be further revised as per the prevalent situation and No further newspaper advertisement will be released in this regard. You may logon to [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for any further revision in dates/updates. Depending on the prevalent situation, the Pre-Bid Conference may be held through video conferencing, if required. All other terms and conditions will remain the same.

20.04.2020 Chairman/RRB/Ajmer

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

**शुद्धि-पत्र**  
इस कार्यालय द्वारा जाति शुद्धि निविदा सूचना संख्या डब्ल्यू/118/1/निविदा/वार्ड(समूह) जयपुर/इली. दिनांक 17/03/2020 में निविदा सं. इजी./जय/2020-21/4, 5 व 7 जो दिनांक 09.04.2020 को खोले जाने की शुद्धि पत्र संख्या डब्ल्यू/118/निविदा/वार्ड(समूह) जयपुर/निवे दिनांक 07.04.2020 जारी करके दिनांक 20.04.2020 को खोली जानी है उपासक सभी निविदाओं अथवा दिनांक 05.05.2020 को खोली जायेगी। अन्य बातें यथावत रहेगी।

मण्डल रेल प्रबन्धक (निर्माण लेखा)  
387-DT/20 जयपुर

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

**CORRIGENDUM-I**  
**Name of work :** Development of Rail Museum at Ajmer-Mechanical (non BSR) Works in connection with Rail museum at Ajmer. The amendments made in E Tender No. M-2-EnHM/2020 are as under: Sr. No.: 1, Description: Date & time for submission of E-Tender, Existing date: 21.04.2020 at 15.00 hrs., Modified date: 12.05.2020 at 15.00 hrs. Note : Other Terms and conditions will remain the same.

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**KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD**  
(A Government of India Undertaking)

**OPEN E-TENDER (SINGLE PACKET SYSTEM) INVITATION NOTICE**  
**Name of Work :** Comprehensive Maintenance of Train Lighting (TL) Systems and its Equipments for Conventional type AC & non AC passenger coaching stock and Annual Maintenance contract for LHB type AC & non AC coaching Stock at Madgaon Coach Care Center of Konkan Railway of Karwar region. **Notice No:** KR/KW/EL/AMC/T/23/19 Dated: 21/04/2020. **Period of Completion :** Two Years. **Estimated Cost :** Rs.2,24,72,307/- (Excluding GST). **EMD :** Rs.2,62,400/- **Last Date & Time for Online Submission of Tender :** 12/05/2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. **Opening of Tender :** On 12.05.2020 at 15.30 Hrs. **Amendments/Corrigendum if any, would be hosted on IREPS website only. Submission of Tender Documents :** Through IREPS. Manual tender documents shall not be accepted.

**TAMILNADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION**  
Head Office: 12, THAMBUSAMY ROAD, KILPAUK, CHENNAI-600 010.  
Ph.No.(044) 26426773 Email id: [tnscs.tn@nic.in](mailto:tnscs.tn@nic.in)

**Short e-Tender Notice**

No. : Com1/014050/2020 Date: 20.04.2020

Short e-Tender No. : TNCSC/20-21/ET-2

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites online electronic Short e-tender for "PURCHASE OF 60,000 MTS. OF S-30 grade SUGAR for Public Distribution System (To be supplied at TNCSC Godowns in 33 regions). Season 2018-19 (or) 2019-20".

Complete Short e-Tender document can be viewed and downloaded through <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprochome/tnscs> and also available in [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in)

The bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III. For Registration and further details contact MSTC LIMITED, Phone: 25222842/25251910/25261005 e-Mail: [mstcsro@mstcindia.co.in](mailto:mstcsro@mstcindia.co.in)

Last Date for Online Submission : 06.05.2020

DIPR/1657/Tender/2020 MANAGING DIRECTOR.

DIPR/1657/Tender/2020

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**Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences**  
Saifai, Etawah-206130(UP) Website: [www.upums.ac.in](http://www.upums.ac.in)  
पत्रांक संख्या: 113/UPUMS/MM-Deptt-20





@ieExplained  
 #ExpressExplained

If there are questions of current or contemporary relevance that you would like explained, please write to explained@indianexpress.com

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

# How Kasaragod has fought virus

In Kerala, where COVID-19 growth has been much flatter than the national average, Kasaragod stands out with a progressive decline in active cases. What is the Kasaragod model, being showcased by the Centre?

ABANTIKA GHOSH  
 NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

KERALA HAS bucked the national trend for novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) with a doubling time of 72.2 days — which means that the number of cases in the state doubled in that many days — against a national average of 7.5 days. Last week, the Centre showcased the contact tracing and containment model of Kerala's Kasaragod, one of the earliest spots on India's COVID-19 map, as one of the success stories of the containment exercise.

A look at the Kasaragod model, and how it differs from some of the other models across the country that have generated interest.

**Why showcase Kasaragod?**

Kasaragod reported the third case of COVID-19 in the country — a student airlifted from Wuhan on February 3. The district administration mounted a massive exercise to trace the 150-odd contacts of that one student.

According to figures uploaded by the Kerala government, Kasaragod has had 169 cases and zero deaths until April 19, a unique achievement in itself, given the fact that a large proportion of the district's population have settled abroad. Of those infected, 123 people have recovered so far, leaving only 46 active cases among the original 169.

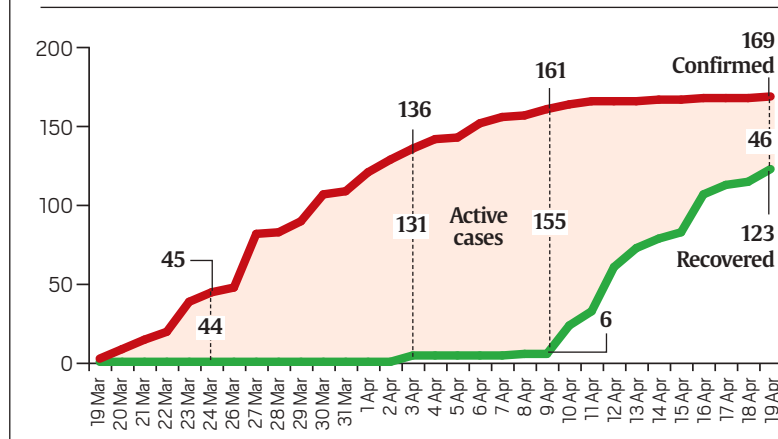
In the initial days of the epidemic, almost all index cases were people who had caught the virus during their travels abroad (about 15.38%). The second wave in the district happened after people started coming back from the Middle East from March 16.

**Under what circumstances was this containment achieved?**

The district is far from major cities, so that the isolation exercise was smoother. Kasaragod is Kerala's northernmost district, far away from capital Thiruvananthapuram. However, this distance also presented an additional challenge. When expatriates returned in large groups, they landed in various airports and took various public transport options — railways, road etc — to reach home, which had the potential to leave contacts all along the way.

Health Ministry officials said that while Kasaragod has been showcased, the success of Kerala as a whole is a story essentially of the strength of the state's healthcare system rather than one of the immediate measures taken. "It is not for nothing that it leads in all

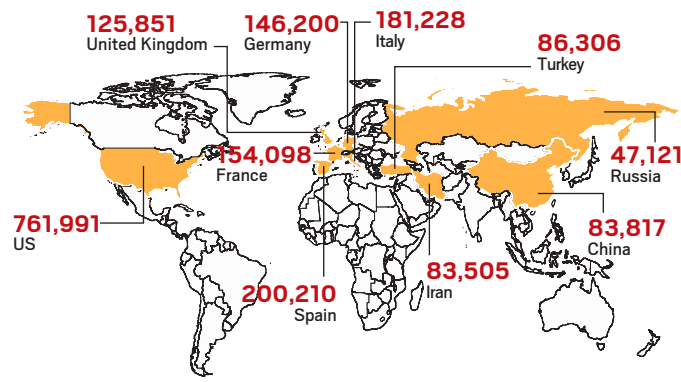
**FEWER & FEWER ACTIVE CASES**



Kasaragod's first case, reported on Feb 3, had recovered by the time the second case was reported on March 16; the graph plots trends from March 19. The gap between the two lines (shaded) represents active cases. Data source: Government of Kerala



**CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK**  
 YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED DAILY



TOTAL CONFIRMED: 2,435,876 DEATH COUNT: 167,369  
 Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on April 20

## What are the coronaviruses that can infect humans?

MEHR GILL

THE VIRUS SARS-CoV2, which causes the disease COVID-19, is called a "novel coronavirus" because there are other coronaviruses that are not "novel". A look at various coronaviruses, how they infect, and what the adjective "novel" means:

**CORONAVIRUS:** A coronavirus is a family of viruses, which are surrounded by a fatty layer, on the surface of which is a "spike" protein that gives the appearance of a crown or "corona". There are hundreds of coronaviruses that infect animals, but only seven kinds have been known to infect humans. Coronaviruses are subdivided into groups called alphacoronavirus, betacoronavirus, gammacoronavirus and deltacoronavirus, depending on their evolutionary history.

**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS:** A coronavirus is called "novel" when it is a new strain that was not previously known to infect humans. SARS-CoV2 was named only this year, after infection with it started in late 2019.

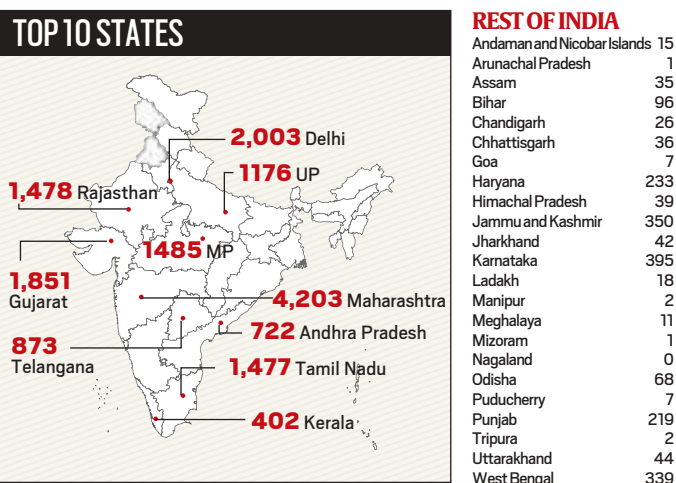
**ANIMAL INFECTION:** In animals, coronaviruses can cause diarrhoea in cows and pigs, and upper respiratory tract disease in chickens. The first coronavirus was isolated in 1937; it was the infectious bronchitis virus (IBV), which infected chickens. Cats

are vulnerable to feline coronavirus attacks. Bats are known to be infected by a variety of coronaviruses and have often been the source of transmission to humans, usually via an intermediate host. When a coronavirus infection is transmitted from human to human, it is after undergoing a mutation that enables this.

**HUMAN CORONAVIRUSES:** Before SARS-CoV2 struck, there were six known human coronaviruses — 229E, NL63 (both of which are alphacoronaviruses), OC43, HKU1, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV (all four betacoronaviruses). The coronaviruses 229E and NL63 cause the common cold; NL63 causes more severe upper respiratory tract infection; HKU1 infects both the upper and lower respiratory tracts. MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV, which caused the MERS and SARS outbreaks respectively, and now SARS-CoV2 have emerged in the last two decades. These have been seen to be much more aggressive than the four coronaviruses previously known.

**ROOTS OF THE NAME:** In 1965, scientists D J Tyrrell and M L Bynoe were the first ones to identify a human coronavirus, which they isolated from the nasal washing of a male child who had symptoms of common cold. The strain, B814, was of the coronavirus OC43. In 1968, the term "coronavirus" was accepted.

**INDIA COUNT: 17,656 (559 DEATHS)**



Union Health Ministry update as of 11 pm, April 20. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states with the most cases are listed above. 2,842 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 28 STATES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Have a question on the COVID-19 outbreak and what you should/should not do? Write to explained@indianexpress.com

## Why disinfectant must not be sprayed on humans

ABANTIKA GHOSH  
 NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

IN THE immediate aftermath of the nationwide lockdown being announced last month, when countless migrant workers started walking hundreds of kilometres in the hope of reaching their villages or towns, visuals emerged from various parts of the country, including Bareilly in UP, of migrants being sprayed with disinfectant solution.

As the country prepares for some relaxations and industries get ready to start functioning with strict conditions including housing labourers on the premises, the Health Ministry has issued a detailed advisory against spraying humans with disinfectants.

**What does the order say?**

The order dated April 19 says, "Spraying of individuals or groups is NOT recommended under any circumstances. Spraying an individual or group with chemical disinfectants is physically and psychologically harmful. Even if a person is potentially ex-



Screen grab of a solution being sprayed on migrants in Bareilly on March 30. PTI

posed with the COVID-19 virus, spraying the external part of the body does not kill the virus that has entered your body. Also there is no scientific evidence to suggest that they are effective even in disinfecting the outer clothing/body in an effective manner."

The advisory has been issued, officials say,

to prevent a rerun when labourers start returning to industries that qualify for relaxation. Home Ministry guidelines require them to be housed on the premises but "disinfection" at entry is a very real danger.

**How is "disinfection" carried out?**

Disinfection for the SARS-CoV2 virus is usually done using a solution of sodium hypochlorite, commonly known as bleach. It is a harsh chemical. "It (disinfectant) refers to substances applied on inanimate objects owing to their strong chemical properties. Chemical disinfectants are recommended for cleaning and disinfection only of frequently touched areas/surfaces by those who are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19," the advisory lays down.

**What is the problem with spraying people with this solution?**

It can be harmful. Besides, the act itself is pointless. This is because there is a specific time that the disinfectant takes to act on an area, and as per the disinfection protocol, any place that has been disinfected has to be kept

shut overnight. "There are very clear norms for this. You disinfect with sodium hypochlorite and then the place remains closed overnight. If during that time anybody enters the place, regardless of whether that person is carrying the infection or not, the process has to be repeated," explained a senior official of the National Centre for Disease Control.

**What are the possible harmful effects?**

The solution of sodium hypochlorite is unstable and quickly breaks down to release chlorine. Chlorine can have several harmful effects, the Health Ministry said. "Spraying of chlorine on individuals can lead to irritation of eyes and skin and potentially gastrointestinal effects such as nausea and vomiting. Inhalation of sodium hypochlorite can lead to irritation of mucous membranes to the nose, throat, respiratory tract and may also cause bronchospasm. Additionally use of such measures may in fact lead to a false sense of disinfection & safety and actually hamper public observance to hand washing and social distancing measures," says the advisory.

# How COVID-19 is hurting the rupee's exchange rate with other currencies

UDIT MISRA & NUSHAIBA IQBAL  
 NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE ECONOMIC disruption due to the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) over the past few months has adversely affected various aspects of the Indian economy. But is the impact on India more than the impact on other economies?

There are different ways to answer this question. One could look at the growth rates of gross domestic product and gross value added. Or, in the absence of such data, one could treat other high-frequency data like sales of automobiles etc. as a proxy.

In this regard, the exchange rate of the rupee can also be an apt marker on the state of the Indian economy's competitiveness.

on the relative demand for the goods and services of the two countries. If the US dollar is stronger than the rupee, then it shows that the demand for dollars (by those holding rupee) is more than the demand for rupees (by those holding dollars).

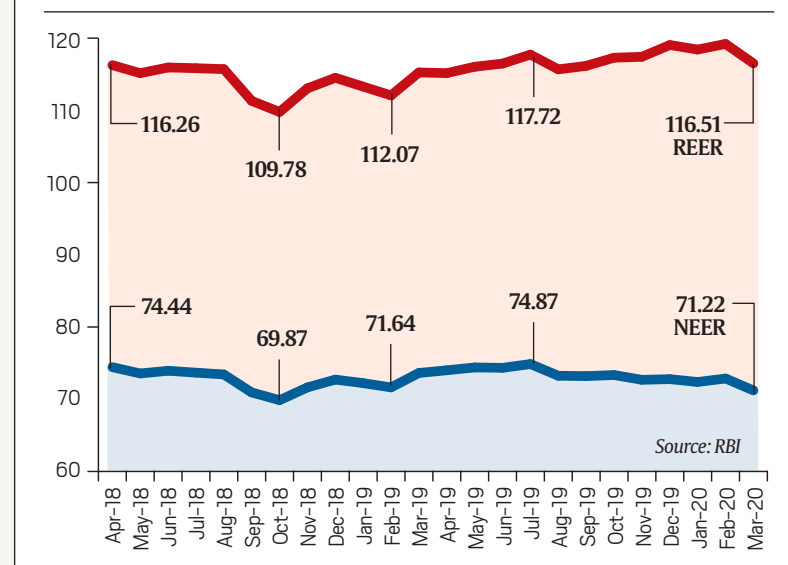
Typically, stronger economies have stronger currencies. For instance, the US economy is relatively stronger than India's and this is reflected in one US dollar being equal to around 76 rupees. The rupee has been losing value (or depreciating or weakening) against the dollar over the past few months.

But the US is not the only other country in the world; India trades with many other countries. To have a better understanding of the Indian economy's overall competitiveness, one should look at how the rupee is behaving with its major trade partners.

**What measures should we look at?**

The Reserve Bank of India tabulates the rupee's Nominal Effective Exchange Rate (NEER) in relation to the currencies of 36 trading partner countries. This is a weighted in-

**NOMINAL & REAL EFFECTIVE EXCHANGE RATES**



dex — that is, countries with which India trades more are given a greater weight in the index. A decrease in this index denotes depreciation in rupee's value; an increase reflects appreciation.

As the chart shows, in NEER terms, the rupee has depreciated to its lowest level since November 2018. The rupee has been steadily losing value — showing the Indian economy's reducing competitiveness — since July 2019. The dip in March was likely influenced by the net outflow of foreign portfolio investments from the Indian equity and debt markets — they stood at \$15.92 billion in March as against net inflows of \$1.27 billion in February.

There is one more measure that is even better at capturing the actual change. This is called the Real Effective Exchange Rate (REER) and is essentially an improvement over the NEER because it also takes into account the domestic inflation in the various economies.

**And how does inflation affect exchange rates?**

Many factors affect the exchange rate be-

tween any two currencies ranging from the interest rates to political stability (less of either results in a weaker currency). Inflation is one of the most important factors.

Here's how. Imagine that the Re-\$ exchange rate was exactly 1 in the first year. This means that with Rs 100, one could buy something that was priced at \$100 in the US. But suppose the Indian inflation is 20% and the US inflation is zero. Then, in the second year, an Indian would need Rs 120 to buy the same item priced at \$100, and the rupee's exchange rate would depreciate to 1.20.

**What does REER show?**

Even in REER terms, the rupee has depreciated in March and fallen to its lowest level since September 2019. As the graph shows, the difference between trends of NEER and REER was due to India's domestic retail inflation being lower relative to the other 36 countries. As domestic inflation started rising, the REER, too, started depreciating like the NEER.



## PANDEMIC WATCH



At a hospital. Reuters

SPAIN  
200,000 cases; infection rate dropping 'a lot'

Madrid: The spread of the coronavirus in Spain seems to be slowing despite more than 200,000 people now having been infected, officials said on Monday. With 200,210 recorded infections, Spain is second only to the US in terms of confirmed cases, according to Reuters data. But Health Emergency Chief Fernando Simon said the rate of new infections continues to fall despite an increase in testing, suggesting the overall prevalence of the disease could be lower than expected in the population. "Fortunately occurrence is falling a lot, even more than we had thought," he said.

AUSTRALIA  
Cases at record low in many parts of nation

Melbourne: Many parts of Australia have registered record low in new COVID-19 patients, with some states even reporting nil case in the last 24 hours. Australia has so far reported 6,619 coronavirus cases, including 71 deaths. South Australia, Western Australia and Queensland have reported zero cases in the past 24 hours, health officials said. While Queensland and Western Australia reported no new diagnoses for the first time in over two months, South Australia has recorded its third consecutive day of zero new cases despite an "unprecedented" number of tests.

UNITED KINGDOM  
Govt hits back at reports over slow response

London: Downing Street has dismissed as "falsehoods and errors" a UK media report which alleged the government's response was slow and that British Prime Minister Boris Johnson missed emergency meetings in the early stages of the outbreak that has killed over 16,000 people in the country. "This article contains a series of falsehoods and errors and actively misrepresents the enormous amount of work which was going on in government at the earliest stages of the coronavirus outbreak," a UK government spokesperson said in a statement.

## More countries begin easing lockdowns

As Germany allows small stores to reopen, Merkel says not out of woods yet

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BERLIN, APRIL 20

CHANCELLOR ANGELA Merkel urged discipline in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, warning that Germany is not "out of the woods" even as the country took small steps in easing curbs imposed to slow contagion.

With small shops opening on Monday for the first time in a month, Merkel said the authorities can only allow such small cautious steps each time to avoid a devastating relapse.

"We must not lose sight of the fact that we stand at the beginning of the pandemic and are still a long way from being out of the woods," she told journalists after chairing a cabinet session on the coronavirus battle.

It would be a "crying shame if we were to stumble into a relapse with our eyes wide open," she added. Merkel and regional state premiers announced the decision to reopen last week — but were careful to cast it as a cautious first step.

From florists to fashion stores, the majority of shops smaller than 800 square metres (8,600 square feet) were allowed to welcome customers again in much of Germany, in a first wave of scaling back lockdown measures introduced last month.

Merkel said loosening restrictions too hastily could be counterproductive as the effects of the first steps would only be seen in two weeks.

"We must remain vigilant



Angela Merkel

## MEASURES IN OTHER COUNTRIES

**DENMARK**  
Hair salons, dentists, physiotherapists and even tattoo parlours were allowed to reopen in Denmark, with precautions in place.

**IRAN**  
The country began opening intercity highways and major shopping centres Monday to stimulate its virus-hit economy

and disciplined," she stressed. Germany currently has 141,672 confirmed coronavirus cases and 4,404 deaths.

Widespread lockdown measures were rolled out last month, restricting non-essential outings and closing most shops except for supermarkets and pharmacies.

Record 1,426 new cases in Singapore, foreign workers mostly affected

GURDIP SINGH  
SINGAPORE, APRIL 20

SINGAPORE ON Monday reported a record 1,426 new coronavirus cases, out of which 1,410 are foreign workers, including Indians residing in dormitories, health officials said.

With the fresh cases, the total number of coronavirus cases in the city-state stands at 8,014, the Ministry of Health (MOH) said. "We are still working through the details of the cases, and further updates will be shared via the MOH press release that will be issued tonight," said the Ministry in a statement.

A total of 18 foreign worker dormitories have been gazetted as isolation areas, as the number

of COVID-19 cases continue to rise. As of Sunday, the cluster at S11 Dormitory at Punggol remained the biggest, with 1,508 confirmed cases. The next biggest cluster was at Sungei Tengah Lodge, with 521 confirmed cases.

Though the dormitories are being disinfected and bedding accommodation re-arranged, most of these were overcrowded, leading to a large number of cases as foreign workers are now undergoing screening and testing.

The Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) noted that while the recent rise in the number of foreign workers infected with the coronavirus has mostly been concentrated in dormitories, there have been cases at construction worksites. PTI



Workers at a dormitory in Singapore on Monday. Reuters



OUT AND ABOUT: A packed shopping street in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, after stores were allowed to open on Monday. AP

South Koreans return to offices, crowd parks, malls as social distancing rules ease

HYONHEE SHIN & HEEKYONG YANG  
SEOUL, APRIL 20

SOUTH KOREANS are returning to work and crowding shopping malls, parks, golf courses and some restaurants as South Korea relaxes social distancing rules amid a continued downward trend in coronavirus cases.

A growing list of companies, including SK Innovation and Naver, has ended or eased their work from home policy in recent



In Seoul on Monday. Reuters

weeks, though many continue to apply flexible working hours and

limit travel and face-to-face meetings.

Parks, mountains and golf courses brimmed with visitors over the weekend, while shopping malls and restaurants were slowly returning to normal.

South Korea's ongoing recovery from the first major coronavirus outbreak outside China paints a stark contrast to many other countries where metropolises remain sealed off and sweeping stay-at-home orders are in place.

"I'm a member of a commu-

nity football club and we went out to play on Saturday for the first time in two months," said Kim Tae-hyung, a 31-year-old power plant engineer living in Seoul. "We were wearing a mask while we played, still worried about the coronavirus, but the weather was nice and I felt so refreshed."

South Korea extended its social distancing policy for another 16 days on Sunday but offered some relief for religious and sports facilities previously subjected to strict restrictions. REUTERS

Nothing hidden from US on virus: WHO chief

AGENCIES  
GENEVA, APRIL 20

WORLD HEALTH Organisation chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus insisted on Monday that the UN agency had not hidden from the United States any information it had about the pandemic.

He said the presence of embedded US government seconded workers at the WHO headquarters in Geneva "means there is nothing hidden from the US, from day one", adding: "There is no secret in WHO".

He also warned that "the worst is yet ahead of us", raising new alarm bells about the pandemic just as many countries are beginning to ease curbs.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus didn't specify exactly why he believes that the outbreak could get worse. "Trust us. The worst is yet ahead of us," he said. "Let's prevent this tragedy. It's a virus that many people still don't understand."

Tedros alluded to the Spanish flu in 1918.

"It has a very dangerous combination and this is happening... like the 1918 flu that killed up to 100 million people... But now we have technology, we can prevent that disaster, we can prevent that kind of crisis," he said.

Governors criticise Trump over lack of testing, gear as lockdown protests continue

NEW YORK TIMES  
NEW YORK, APRIL 20

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump said Sunday night the administration was preparing to use the Defense Production Act to compel an unspecified US facility to increase production of test swabs by over 20 million per month.

The remarks came during his Sunday evening news conference, after he defended his response to the pandemic amid criticism from governors across the country who have said that there had been an insufficient amount of testing — and a shortage of tests themselves — to justify reopening the economy any time soon.

"We are calling in the Defense Production Act," Trump said. He added, "You'll have so many swabs you won't know what to do with them."

Multiple governors had said on talk shows earlier on Sunday that a shortage of tests was among the most significant hurdles to lifting restrictions in their states. "We are fighting a biological war," Governor Ralph Northam of Virginia said on CNN's "State of the Union."

"We have been asked as governors to fight that war without the supplies we need." The gov-



Healthcare workers stand against people calling for a stay-at-home order to be lifted in Colorado. Reuters

ernors bristled at claims from Trump administration that supply of tests was adequate.

Meanwhile, Trump defended protesters who were rebelling against the restrictions, threatening to undermine the efforts of his own administration's public health experts.

"These people love our country," Trump said Sunday evening after a day filled with scattered protests around the country. "They want to go back to work."

Trump attacked Democratic governors and took up the slogan of protesters who claim to want to "liberate" their states.

■ China on Monday rejected Trump's demand to allow an American team into Wuhan to probe origins of the virus.

■ "We spoke to them a long time ago about going in. We want to go in. We want to see what's going on..." he said.

■ "Like any other country, China is attacked by this virus. China is a victim instead of culprit," a Chinese official said. PTI

Belgium says COVID-19 peak passed, looks at ending restrictions

MARINE STRAUSS  
BRUSSELS, APRIL 20

BELGIUM'S IMMEDIATE coronavirus crisis appears to have passed its peak as the number of people admitted to hospitals with COVID-19 fell to its lowest level in a month, health officials said on Monday.

Belgium, with one of the highest per capita rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases and related deaths in Europe, announced that 232 people were taken into hospital on Sunday, the lowest level since March 19.

"There are several indicators that are going in the right direction and that continue to go in the right direction," Emmanuel Andre, spokesman for the country's COVID-19 council, told a news conference. "And so yes, by definition, we are going towards what is called de-confinement. That is to say a progressive enlargement of the safety zone around us so now we're thinking about how to organise this."

Belgium's national security council is due to meet on Friday to discuss an easing of restriction measures from May 4.

Officials added that the country may also be beyond its peak for deaths. Belgium recorded 168 new deaths on Monday, bringing the total to 5,828 deaths. Just over half have been in nursing homes, the vast majority of them in which COVID-19 is suspected but not confirmed. REUTERS

Lanka drops plan to relax curfew after sudden spike in virus cases

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
COLOMBO, APRIL 20

THE SRI Lankan government on Monday dropped its decision to relax the nationwide curfew and extended it to April 27 following a sudden spike of 41 coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours.

The island nation has been under a 24-hour curfew since March 20 to combat the deadly viral infection. On Sunday, the government announced to partially lift the curbs from Monday to boost economic activity.

Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi had said the government was able to tackle the community spread of the deadly virus and was, therefore, looking at the need to revive the economic activity, stalled due to the lockdown since mid-March.

However, following the 41 COVID-19 cases reported in the last 24 hours, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's offices said the planned easing of the curfew won't happen and it has been extended till April 27.

Following the curfew extension, a meeting of the Election Commission scheduled for Monday afternoon to decide on the date of the parliamentary election has also been postponed.

## OTHER TOP GLOBAL STORIES

18 killed in Canada mass-shooting

ILIANA MAGRA & IAN AUSTEN  
NEW YORK, APRIL 20

THE AUTHORITIES on the east coast of Canada were searching for a motive on Monday after a gunman who appeared to be dressed as a police officer and was driving a vehicle that appeared to be a Nova Scotia police car killed at least 18 people in one of the country's worst mass shootings.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada implored his nation, which like many others is reeling from the coronavirus pandemic, to stand together despite this new shock, "no matter



Workers remove a body from the attack site in Nova Scotia. AP

how evil, how thoughtless or how destructive."

Gabriel Wortman, who ran a denture clinic in Nova Scotia, be-

gan the massacre in the town of Portapique on Saturday night and did not stop until he died 12 hours later at a gas station in Enfield, 22 miles away, the authorities said. The police have not said how he died.

The police said that while the killings appeared to be targeted at the start, they became random as the rampage through Nova Scotia progressed.

"One man's action can build a wall between us and a better day, no matter how evil, how thoughtless or how destructive," Trudeau said. "As families grieve the loss of a loved one all Canadians are standing with them." NYT

Israel: Netanyahu, Gantz announce deal to form 'emergency' govt, ending paralysis

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
JERUSALEM, APRIL 20

ISRAELI PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his chief rival announced Monday that they have forged a deal to form an "emergency" government, ending months of political paralysis.

The deal averts what would have been a fourth consecutive election in just over a year. Terms of the agreement weren't immediately announced. But Israeli media said it called for a three-year period with Netanyahu

EXPLAINED  
Coalition faces questions of credibility, stability

THERE ARE questions of how long the alliance can be stable. A main factor uniting Gantz's group had been its opposition to Netanyahu. When talks began, Gantz faced criticism for "abandoning" his vow to not serve in Netanyahu's government, with many already leaving his party. Experts said his credibility as a leader took a hit because of this. In addition, the corruption charges Netanyahu is facing may leave the alliance in a precarious position.

After the last vote on March 2 ended in a stalemate, Netanyahu and former military

chief Benny Gantz agreed late last month to try to form a unity government. The talks have dragged on and stalled several times since.

The deal likely required major compromise by both men. During three bitter campaigns over the past year, Gantz and his Blue and White party vowed never to serve in a government under Netanyahu so long as he faces corruption charges. Netanyahu, meanwhile, would likely be forced to step aside and allow Gantz to serve as prime minister for part of the time.



SECTOR WATCH  
ONLINE NEWS

## Australia to come up with law asking internet platforms to pay media for content

KRISHN KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE AUSTRALIAN government has said it will soon come up with a law that will mandate internet behemoths Facebook and Google to start sharing advertising revenue with local media groups. When the law is passed, it will make Australia the first country in the world where internet companies will have to pay media groups for the content they share.

According to Reuters, Australia Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said on Monday Australia's competition watchdog, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), has been asked to come up with a code of conduct for media outlets and digital platforms like Facebook and Google, saying that code will be mandatory. The draft code is likely to be ready by July.

Reuters mentioned that Frydenberg wrote in an opinion piece that there is no progress on the issue of payment for content. "On the fundamental issue of payment for content, which the code was seeking to resolve, there was no meaningful progress," he wrote in *The Australian* newspaper. It is in this context that he said "the government has taken the decision to move from a voluntary to a mandatory code, the preparation of which will be led by the ACCC."

"The code will include a number of provisions, including those related to value exchange and revenue sharing; transparency of ranking algorithms; access to user data; presentation of news content; and the penalties and sanctions for non-compliance," he said, adding "it is only fair that the search engines and social media giants pay for the original news content that they use to drive traffic to their sites".

ACCC Chairman Rod Sims reportedly told the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation* that the "problem with that is that some of that information they

**When the law is passed, it will make Australia the first country in the world where internet firms will have to pay media groups for the content they share**

are providing consumers for free has come from people who have invested a lot of money in journalism and the case of media to provide that content."

The announcement by Frydenberg comes nearly 10 days after the French competition regulator has demanded that Google should start paying media for sharing their content, as its practices had caused serious harm to the press sector. The French regulator had asked, in an order on April 9, to "negotiate with publishers and news agencies the remuneration due to them under the law relating to neighbouring rights for the re-use of their protected contents". However, it was an interim decision, and the regulator is yet to decide if Google has actually breached competition rules of France.

The French competition regulator had said in its order earlier in April that "Google's practices caused a serious and immediate harm to the press sector, while the economic situation of publishers and news agencies is otherwise fragile, and while the law aimed on the contrary at improving the conditions of remuneration they derive from content produced by journalists".

Both these developments, acting as precedents, provide hope for large and small media businesses across the world who have been hoping to increase their advertising revenue. Media businesses in India have been severely hit recently, with dwindling advertising and subscriptions revenues, and have taken further beating since the disruption caused by COVID-19 pandemic.

ACCC Chairman Rod Sims reportedly told the *Australian Broadcasting Corporation* that the "problem with that is that some of that information they

## RBI asks banks, NBFCs to carry out money laundering risk assessment periodically

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

THE FINANCE Ministry on Monday said it has sanctioned Rs 46,038 crore for the devolution of states' share in central taxes and duties for April.

In a tweet, the Ministry said to assist states effectively address situation arising out of COVID-19 pandemic, as a special dispensation, the calculation of net proceeds of shareable taxes has been kept unchanged as per Budget 2020-21. The Budget had projected the share of the states in taxes at Rs 784 lakh crore for FY21.

The 15th Finance Commission had recommended the share of

states at 41 per cent of the divisible pool and 1 per cent for the newly-created union territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The 14th Finance Commission had recommended the states be given 42 per cent share in taxes. "Ministry of Finance has issued sanctions for April instalment of Devolution of States' Share in Central Taxes and Duties amounting to Rs 46,038.10 crore today," the Ministry tweeted.

THE DELHI High Court Monday stayed invocation and encashment of the eight bank guarantees of a firm, which expressed its inability to develop three oil blocks within the deadline, observing the lockdown, which came into place on March 24, was "prima facie in the nature of force majeure".

"Such a lockdown is unprecedented, and was incapable of having been predicted either by the respondent or by the petitioner," Justice CHari Shankar said in its interim order, while restraining Vedanta from invoking bank guarantees of Halliburton Offshore Services Inc.

It further observed the situa-

## ENTERS NEGATIVE TERRITORY ON STORAGE CONCERNS

## US OIL CRASHES 300%

REUTERS  
NEW YORK/LONDON, APRIL 20

TRADERS FLED from the expiring May US oil futures contract in a frenzy on Monday, sending the contract into negative territory for the first time in history, as barely any buyers are willing to take delivery of oil barrels because there is no place to put the crude.

May US crude futures plunged to a depth never before seen, settling on the day at minus \$37.63 a barrel, a decline of some 305 per cent, or \$55.90 a barrel. Prices set a low of negative \$40.32.

With demand down 30 per cent worldwide due to the coronavirus pandemic, and the main US storage hub in Cushing, Oklahoma expected to fill up in a matter of weeks, very few want to be stuck with oil barrels that they have to take delivery on at some point during May.

"The people who are long are desperate to get out," said Phil Verleger, a veteran oil economist and independent consultant. "If you don't have storage you have to get out."

Major oil-producing nations have agreed to cut output and global oil companies are trimming production, but those cuts will not come quickly enough to avoid a massive clog.

The difference between the expiring May US West Texas Intermediate crude contract and the coming June contract widened to a record at more than \$22 a barrel. That yawning gap emerged because owning the May contract

when it expires on Tuesday means that buyer is obligated to take those barrels, which few want to do.

"For many investors or people using these contracts for hedging this is really a big pain," said Edward Moya, market analyst at OANDA in New York. "There's no place to put it - we're running out of space to store oil."

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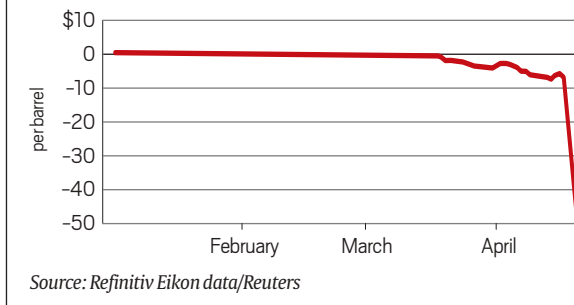
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## OIL FUTURES CONTRACTS SHOW HUGE GAP

The spread between the current US crude May futures contract and the June contract has widened to more than \$45 a barrel, widest in the contract's history



## Wall Street drops

New York: Wall Street fell sharply on Monday after US crude futures turned negative for the first time in history, underscoring the chaos the coronavirus pandemic has unleashed on the global economy.

TAT 2:26 p.m. ET, the

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Available storage space is dropping fast at the Cushing, Oklahoma hub, where physical delivery of US oil barrels bought in the futures market takes place. Four weeks ago, the storage hub was half full - now it is 69 per cent full, according to US Energy Department data. "It's clear that Cushing is going to fill and it will stay full for the next several months," said Andy Lipow of Lipow Oil Associates. "Because producers have been lagging in their production cuts we're seeing an overwhelming amount of crude oil looking for a place to go around the world."

Crude stockpiles at Cushing rose 9 per cent in the week to April 17, totaling around 61 million barrels, market analysts said, citing a Monday report from Genscape.

The world's major oil producers agreed to cut production by 9.7 million bpd in an attempt to get world supply under control as demand slumps, but those cuts do not begin until May. Saudi Arabia is ramping up deliveries of oil, including big shipments to the United States.

Worldwide oil consumption is roughly 100 million barrels a day, and supply generally stays in line with that. But consumption is down about 30 per cent globally, and the cuts so far are far less.

US exchange-traded funds are also playing a role in the action, analysts said. The US Oil Fund LP, the largest crude oil ETF, said on Thursday that it would start moving some of its assets into later-dated contracts earlier in the life of the monthly contract.

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## RBI hikes Centre's Ways &amp; Means Advances limit to ₹2L cr from ₹1.2L cr

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, APRIL 20

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has hiked the limit of Ways and Means Advances (WMA) facility of the central government, allowing it to borrow up to Rs 2,00,000 crore from the central bank to meet the short-term liquidity requirements.

This is the second hike in WMA limit by the RBI in the last one month. On April 1, the WMA limit - the ceiling on its temporary loan facility with the RBI - for the central government was raised to Rs 1.2 lakh crore from Rs 75,000 crore, a 60 per cent increase. According to the RBI, the limit for WMA for the remaining part of first half of the financial year 2020-21 (April 2020 to September 2020) will be revised to Rs 2,00,000 crore "to tide over the situation arising from the outbreak of the pandemic".

On April 17, the RBI enhanced the limit on WMAs to the state governments from 30 per cent to 60 per cent, enabling them to raise more funds from the RBI. On April 1, the RBI increased the WMA limit by 30 per cent from the existing limit for all states and Union Territories to enable them tide over the situation arising from the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

WMA is a short-term liquidity arrangement facilitated by the central bank, which enables the government to borrow money up to 90 days from the

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EXPLAINED  
Greater financial comfort for Centre

THE HIKE in Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit is expected to provide greater comfort to the government for undertaking COVID-19 containment and mitigation efforts, and to plan its market borrowing programmes better.

Considering the expected fiscal slippage, total borrowings of the Centre and states are now estimated to be around Rs 20 lakh crore.



Novak Djokovic has said he would be against a compulsory coronavirus vaccination if it became a requirement for tennis players to travel to tournaments. "Personally I'm against vaccination. I wouldn't like that someone forces me to get a vaccine in order to be able to travel," the world number one said late Sunday.

## BRIEFLY

## ICC to discuss T20 World Cup future

The ICC Chief Executives' Committee (CEC) meeting - via conference call on Thursday - will explore contingency plans for the T20 World Cup, scheduled to be held in Australia in October-November. The Covid-19 outbreak has cast doubt on the tournament taking place as per schedule; especially after Australia closed its borders to all foreigners for six months. ICC has been weighing up alternatives and it is learnt that deferment, too, is an option. The CEC will also discuss the future of the ongoing World Test Championship. "The CEC will discuss the approach to rescheduling postponed series and the need for collectively reviewing the FTP through to 2023 as well as the World Test Championship and Cricket World Cup Super League. They will also receive an update on the continuing contingency planning for all ICC global events, including the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020," an ICC release stated. ICC Chief Executive Manu Sawhney added: "In relation to ICC events, including the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, we will continue to take advice from experts and authorities, including the Australian government." **ENS**

## Son begins 3-week military training

Tottenham forward Heung-min Son started a three-week period of military service in his native South Korea on Monday. The 27-year-old Son reported to a Marine Corps unit on the southern island of Jeju, according to South Korea's Yonhap News Agency, and will be in camp until May 8. He is fulfilling requirements of the military service exemption he earned by winning the gold medal for South Korea in the soccer tournament at the Asian Games in 2018. Without the exemption, he would have been required by law to serve 21 months. Son, who recently recovered from a broken arm sustained in a match in February, is doing his service while the Premier League is indefinitely suspended because of the coronavirus pandemic. **AP**

## Gruelling 2022 season for athletics

Track & field stars face possible burnout as rescheduled Worlds, CWG, and Asiad slated for mid July-September slot

NIHAL KOSHIIE  
NEW DELHI, APRIL 20

ELITE INDIAN track and field athletes will be in for a hectic time in 2022 with three major competitions lined up one after the other over two months. The postponement of the Tokyo Olympics has resulted in a situation where the World Athletics Championships, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games will all be held in the July-September time slot. The Worlds, to be staged in Oregon in the United States, will be on from July 15-24, quickly followed by the CWG in Birmingham (July 27-August 7). After a brief respite, the fortnight-long Asian Games begin in Hangzhou, China from September 10.

With Indians eligible for all three events, the tight scheduling will present a challenge to the athletes, especially those like javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who will be eyeing the podium at all three competitions.

"It will be challenging because you have three big competitions in one year and that too within two months. In my case, I hope the experience of participating in the Diamond League series (up to three competitions a month), which I have got used to, helps," the reigning Asian Games and CWG gold medalist told *The Indian Express*. "Diamond League competitions also take place within about a month. I have participated in about 10 competitions a year, including the Diamond League. But the schedule for 2022 calls for proper planning in terms of training if I want to peak and win medals in all three competitions."

single phase of competition period," AFI president Adille Sumariwalla told athletes and coaches over the group video call. "With 'micro-planning' and targeted focus, Sumariwalla believes Indian athletes will be able to deal with the congested calendar two years from now.

"We have to plan correctly and look at events in which a particular athlete will focus. For some people, who don't qualify for the World Championships, the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games will be the main focus. There are certain events in which we are strong at the Commonwealth Games and there are certain events in which we are strong

at the Asian Games. Accordingly, we will have to plan and for one set of athletes the main focus will be the Asian Games, for another set it will be the Commonwealth Games. "The Federation's responsibility is to plan the whole thing and give them build-up competitions and prepare schedules. And those who don't qualify for World Championships, their training will be planned towards peaking for the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games (if the current schedule remains unchanged)," the AFI president said. Indian athletes won 20 medals, including eight gold, at the previous edition of the Asian Games in 2018 but won only three at the



## 2022 ATHLETICS CALENDAR

| World Cup                     | European Cup                            |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Oregon, July 15-24            | Munich, Aug 11 to 21                    |
| CWG Birmingham, July 27-Aug 7 | Asian Games Hangzhou, Sept 10 - Sept 25 |

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NEERAJ CHOPRA  
JAVELIN THROWER

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## Tokyo Games 'not likely' in 2021, believes Japan expert

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE  
TOKYO, APRIL 20

A JAPANESE expert who has criticised the country's response to the coronavirus warned Monday that he is "pessimistic" that the postponed Olympics can be held even in 2021. "To be honest with you I don't think the Olympics is likely to be held next year," said Kentaro Iwata, a professor of infectious diseases at Kobe University.

Japan and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) agreed last month to delay the Tokyo 2020 Games until July 2021 after pressure from athletes and sports federations. But in recent days, as the coronavirus pandemic continues to spread worldwide, there have been questions about whether even a year-long delay will be sufficient.

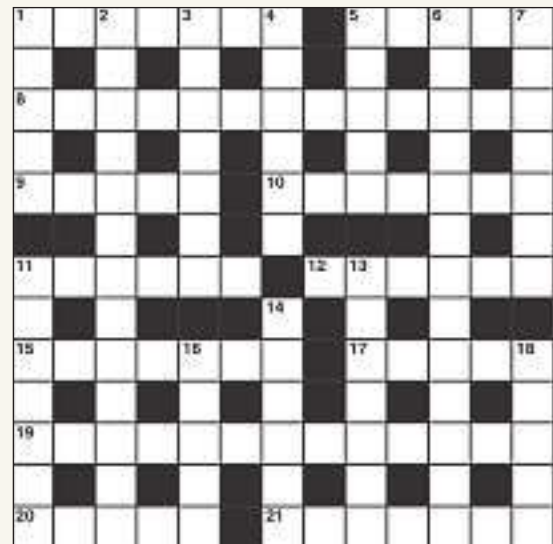
Iwata told a press briefing that the virus would have to be under control at home and abroad for the Games to take place "because you have to invite the athletes and the audience from all over the world".

"Japan might be able to control this disease by next summer, I wish we could, but I don't think that would happen everywhere on Earth, so in this regard I'm very pessimistic about holding the Olympic Games next summer," Iwata said he could only see the Games being held next year if they were significantly altered, "such as no audience, or very limited participation".

Iwata made headlines earlier this year for his public criticism of Japan's handling of the coronavirus-wracked Diamond Princess cruise ship that docked off the country's coast. Japanese officials opted to carry out an on-ship quarantine, but more than 700 people on board ended up contracting the virus, and 13 died. The decision to postpone the Olympics is unprecedented in peacetime, and followed a wave of complaints from athletes facing travel bans and lockdowns.

The postponement is a huge undertaking, but organisers have insisted they are working towards the new opening date despite ongoing uncertainty about when the pandemic will be over.

## CROSSWORD 4097



## ACROSS

- Stay to drink wine? (7)
- Mince pies having a brown colour? (5)
- How an unrepeatable offer is made available to everyone (4,3,3)
- Monster fish? (5)
- Leaves to dress for dinner? (7)
- Witness at a trial? (6)
- I'm left with something from abroad? (6)
- Resulting effect of reduction in fare? (7)
- Dragged to the altar? (5)
- An attack that's mounted? (7,6)
- German town in a profitless enterprise? (5)
- Sid sets out, but doesn't go on? (7)

## DOWN

- It's not for long one is lacking money? (5)
- Fifty-two knaves? (4,2,7)
- They gave advice that was made so clear? (7)
- An early walk? (6)
- Look out for a helpful lad? (5)
- Pun, or a charade perhaps (4,4,5)
- Ilament about disorder? (7)
- What one may write about a recital? (7)
- Forms a union for striking? (7)
- Extremely ragged? (6)
- Hose in New York left running? (5)
- Suit oneself? (5)

Solutions Crossword 4096: Across: 1 Stamp, 8 Obtained, 9 Pride, 10 Coughs up, 11 Diary, 12 Ebb, 16 Putter, 17 Around, 18 Egg, 23 Skies, 24 Half-moon, 25 Waste, 26 Emigrant, 27 Stays. Down: 2 Terminus, 3 Moderate, 4 Absorb, 5 Cargo, 6 Angst, 7 Adept, 12 Ere, 13 Bag, 14 Rock salt, 15 Ancestry, 19 Ground, 20 Cheek, 21 Slain, 22 Smart.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry &amp; T Lewis



## CALVIN &amp; HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## JUMBLED WORDS

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

Without the \_\_\_ there would be no \_\_\_ on Earth. - Peter Benchley (6,...4)

MNAEE



INSULT



ASIOS



DEORCF



Answer: Without the **OCEANS** there would be no **life** on Earth. - Peter Benchley

## SUDOKU 4186

Difficulty Level 2s  
Instructions  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Difficulty Level  
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy;  
3s = Medium; 4s = Hard;  
5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius



## SOLUTION SUDOKU 4185



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

## ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)

Today's stars are a direct extension of yesterday's, indicating that there will be few new developments to cope with. If you're starting to run into the mud at work, don't worry; take the opportunity to have some time off and get a fresh perspective on your life.

## TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)

If you have ever wondered why you experience bouts of financial indecision, it's because it's all in the stars! Actually, there is a way out if you would just put your fears and worries to one side and stop allowing your feelings to interfere with your good sense.

## GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

The Moon's continued alignment with your sign is a direct indication that the world lies at your feet, speaking metaphorically of course. The fact is, though, that a mighty act of self-sacrifice may be necessary if you are to make the most of partners' support.

## CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Your mystical aspirations are being stirred up and this process creates a sort of 'divine discontent' leaving you deeply ambitious. You're reluctant to settle for anything less than the best - but you should consider whether a temporary compromise would be a good idea.

## LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)

A number of very powerful alignments have remained in vital areas of your chart, in spite of the fact that the main gaggle of planets has moved on. You should therefore keep up your guard and resolve never to be caught out again, at least, not by the same person.

## VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)

If there are choices to be made, try to clarify your ideas today, and recognise that change may not only be necessary but also desirable. Devote additional time to professional responsibilities, and don't shrink from taking on new tasks. Do your best.

## LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)

The Moon makes a helpful relationship to your sign, and it should be responsible for a fair amount of emotional support. It may therefore not matter that you might forget a couple of important engagements or promises. After all, it's about time that other people shared the responsibility.

## SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)

Social stars do seem to be strong and growing stronger, an indication that you can find solace in other people's arms. The one condition seems to be that old friends will prove a good deal more reliable than new. You're so much happier with people you can trust.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)

Professional commitments will soon take over, but even though there are definite indications of hard work ahead, you are about to change your mind. You might decide that you have better things to do than waste your time on people who don't deserve it.

## CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)

There is still every sign of the need for hard work, which may not be very exciting but is no less necessary for all that. Mercury, planet of the mind, will soon make you realise that traditional values were always the best, in spite of what you thought.

## AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)

As sober Saturn gradually shifts its position, so your grip on certain vital ties and commitments may weaken. However, this may be no bad thing if it enables you to start all over again with a fresh plan. The main point to remember is that all future actions must be firmly rooted in the past.

## PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Don't listen to what partners say, watch what they do. If you can separate thought from action and word from deed, you'll realise that there is an internal consistency in their actions, even though they're completely unaware of it. In spite of appearances, it will soon all seem to make good sense.