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KERALA WORRIED AS NEW CASES POP UP IN GREEN ZONES
Between April 21 and April 27, the state saw 74 new COVID-19 cases added to its tally, taking by surprise doctors and health officials who had been keeping a watch on the situation.

VIDEO OF THE DAY



CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF IRRFAN KHAN
Khan owned every character he portrayed on celluloid

CORONAVIRUS



11 LESSONS FROM THE PANDEMIC
Every country has discovered that a shutdown is inevitable

EXPRESS AUDIO

Decoding India's withdrawal of rapid tests

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY
In today's episode of the 3 Things podcast, we look at why the government introduced and then withdrew rapid testing for the novel coronavirus

FROM PAGE ONE

Private hospitals

patients, or even the government's own ambiguity in co-opting the private sector.

But, fallen off the radar, they have.

Bihar, in fact, witnessed an "almost complete withdrawal" of the private health sector, which has nearly twice the bed capacity of public facilities.

"Forget COVID-19, even regular services have become unavailable," complained Bihar Principal Secretary (Health) Sanjay Kumar on April 19. The state, with India's third largest population, had to issue an order asking all hospitals to resume services.

This was particularly significant also because all three hospitals handling Covid cases in Patna are government hospitals. Vikash R Keshri, Senior Research Fellow, The George Institute for Global Health, said it was also "surprising" since the number of people relying on private healthcare over public for both outpatient and inpatient services in Bihar is "far higher". Private hospitals have 47,000 beds in the state compared with 22,000 of public hospitals.

"The public sector remains the mainstay of the Covid response. The private sector response has been variable. They have expressed interest but to what extent they are actually providing support required needs to be gauged," said K Srinath Reddy, President, Public Health Foundation of India.

Before the outbreak, the private sector accounted for nearly 70 per cent of critical procedures like chemotherapy and dialysis, according to Indu Bhushan, Chief Executive Officer, Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and National Health Authority. Yet, "a lot" of these private establishments treating even non-Covid cases had shut down in certain states citing increased costs and reduced footfalls, he said.

"States like Madhya Pradesh, currently struggling with lack of healthcare personnel, and Bihar could do with more private sector intervention here," said Bhushan. "This is the time that the private sector should be looking at a welfare maximisation model and not a profit-maximisation model. Hopefully, this will happen," he noted.

In Mumbai, the city with the largest number of Covid cases, and also the most deaths, *The Indian Express* has reported how patients were turned away from one hospital to another, and even Covid-positive patients have had to wait for hours before they could be admitted.

Maharashtra did not bar private hospitals from treating Covid patient but many would just not admit patients with Covid symptoms, fearing they would be seized by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (BMC).

"In Mumbai, BMC is managing 80 per cent load of patients; the private hospitals are handling 20 per cent," said Suresh Kakani, Additional Municipal Commissioner. Of the 4,574 active cases on Tuesday, 400 patients were admitted in private hospitals, whereas 1,600 were in public hospitals. The remaining 2,500-odd were asymptomatic, not requiring admission.

In fact, as on date, Maharashtra has 187 critical patients, of which Mumbai alone accounts for about 120-125, most of whom require just oxygen support. A split of patients requiring critical care between private and public hospitals was not immediately available.

In India, there are three levels of COVID facilities. The first level comprises quarantine facilities in stadia, hotels, schools and lodges, called Covid Care Centres. This is where most Covid-positive patients are kept. The second and third levels are hospitals with oxygen support, ventilators and ICU

Relaxations May 4 onward: Centre

Monday, Bihar, Jharkhand and Odisha, which comprise a large chunk of the migrant labour numbers, had expressed their inability to facilitate their return home without guidelines from the Centre in this regard.

Releasing the new guidelines, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla said the movement of those stranded should be arranged through mutually agreed terms between states, on sanitised buses, with required social distancing. Only asymptomatic people will be allowed to travel and a second assessment of their health would be done on their arrival in their home states. Based on this, they would be moved to

either home or institutional quarantine.

Existing lockdown guidelines make no allowance for inter-state movement, but the Centre had kept quiet as states recently moved ahead with arrangements to get back their students and migrant labour. Bihar had shot off a letter to the Centre at the time, saying the transportation was in "utter violation of national guidelines".

The latest guidelines, however, make no mention of trains, which were among the modes of transport states had suggested for large-scale movement of migrant workers.

The move comes as states

which apply to all institutions. In case they have to impart education, they are bound to comply with the conditions which are equally applicable to all. The regulations are necessary, and they are not divisive or disintegrative. Such regulatory measures enable institutions to administer them efficiently... The quality of medical education is imperative to sub-serve the national interest, and merit cannot be compromised. The Government has the right for providing regulatory measures that are in the national interest," the order stated.

The petitioners had said that unaided minority professional colleges have the fundamental right to choose the method and manner of admitting students, subject to satisfaction of the triple test of a fair, transparent, and non-exploitative process, and that NEET could not be the only parameter to determine the merit of a student.

Punjab extends lockdown by 2 weeks

Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Mohali — have been declared hotspots, the containment zones are: Jawaharpur in Mohali, Pathlawa village in Nawanshahar, Sujampur in Pathankot, New Jain Market in Rajpura and Kacha Patiala, Sabadli Gate in Patiala.

Earlier this week, the Punjab government had set up an expert committee to formulate a lockdown exit strategy.

Issuing guidelines for re-summing economic activity in non-containment zones, the

government said standalone shops, neighbourhood shops and shops in residential areas will be allowed to open on rotation, from 7 am to 11 am. Shops in market complexes and shopping malls as well as barber shops will remain closed.

All shops in rural areas registered under the Shops & Establishment Act, except those in multi-brand and single-brand malls, will also be allowed to open with 50 per cent staff strength, for four hours daily.

In Kolkata, Chief Minister

States to watch

of growth — measured by their reproduction numbers — in the country in the last few days. The reproduction number refers to the number of persons who are infected on average by an already infected person.

As of Wednesday, West Bengal had 696 confirmed cases of infection, while Bihar and Jharkhand had 383 and 107 cases respectively. Together, they accounted for less than 4 per cent of the national case load, which was close to 33,000 on Wednesday evening.

In contrast, Maharashtra had 9,915 confirmed cases; Gujarat, 4,082. Together, they made up over 40 per cent of the cases in the country.

"The absolute numbers in these states (West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand) are still quite low, so they do not seem to be an immediate problem. But I think they need to be taken over of West Bengal, in particular, stands out even among the three. At the end of March, the growth rate in West Bengal was showing signs of flattening, but now it seems to be on a completely different trajectory. In fact, if we just look at the growth curves in a non-rigorous fashion, it would appear that West Bengal is following the Maharashtra numbers with a lag of three weeks," said Sitabhra Sinha, who, along with his colleagues at IMS, has been tracking the disease numbers.

Incidentally, West Bengal also has the fastest doubling time among large states in India, as pointed out in a graphical analysis by The Indian Express on Wednesday. Doubling time refers to the time taken for the number of cases to double.

Sinha said that while the national reproduction number had fallen from nearly 1.83 before the lockdown began to about 1.29 now (for the April 20-27 period), West Bengal had a reproduction number of 1.52 (for the period April 18-27). That means that every 100 infected persons in the state has been passing on the virus to another 152 people. Bihar had a reproduction number of 2.03, and Jharkhand, 1.87.

Sinha said that thanks to the lockdown, there were only four states — Maharashtra, Gujarat, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh — that were continuing to show a "consistent" rise in growth over time periods longer than a week. Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh also continue to grow, but at slower rates.

"The lockdown has helped in considerably slowing down the growth of the epidemic. Had there been no lockdown, we could have been on a path to reaching a case load of about 1 lakh by the end of this month. Thanks to the lockdown, it seems the number of active cases would remain well within 30,000 by that time," Sinha said.

SAXENA, ASHISH ARYAN AND SHIVAPATEL IN NEW DELHI

Railways plan

and not a really viable transportation solution over long distances," an official said.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot tweeted on Wednesday: "Long awaited demand of movement of migrant workers has finally been accepted by the GoI. It is a welcome step but until Gol allows Indian railway to operate — practically it will not be possible to facilitate smooth and hassle-free transport to their home."

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said he had told Railways Minister Piyush Goyal that the state would need special trains to bring back its students and migrant workers. "We are thankful for the MHA order and we are deliberating on our resources. However, I had said earlier that the state is not capable of bringing them back on our own. I had a word with Piyush Goyal on this matter earlier," he said.

The state estimates over 9 lakh people from Jharkhand, including 6.43 lakh migrant workers, are stranded in various parts of the country.

In earlier interactions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had also raised the demand for special trains.

Officials from Odisha and Uttar Pradesh had also informally spoken to Railway officials on the matter. The Punjab government, too, had raised the demand.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar tweeted in support of the move on Wednesday. "This decision is appropriate and worth welcoming. This was our request and the central government has taken a positive decision," he said.

Welcoming the decision, senior Congress leader P Chidambaram sought "sanitised, point-to-point trains" for the purpose as, he said, buses would not be enough.

Irrfan Khan

magnetic-eyed person could transform, into anyone, with a particular kind of magic. He could go high, dive low, get intense, do

Space mission

Russian government-owned space business company, which signed a contract with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in June 2019 for the training of the Indian astronauts.

"The lockdown has strongly been recommended for the astronauts-elect, as well as for the GCTC personnel. The decision to resume the full-scale training will be taken after a thorough observation of the epidemic situation in the country," Loskutov said.

Russia's President Vladimir Putin had initially announced a lockdown until April 30, but extended it until May 11 on Tuesday, with the warning that the country had not yet reached the peak of infections, and "a hard and difficult path lies ahead".

Having started their year-long training in Russia in early February, the four fighter pilots have completed approximately a fourth of their course so far, Loskutov said. Their schedule of training has been met so far, even though the Russian authorities implemented the lockdown on March 28. "All astronauts-elect continue working according to their training plan," Loskutov said, adding that the four Indians had "successfully passed the exam on the knowledge of the onboard systems of the manned spacecraft". They are to take the exam in manned spacecraft flight theory, he said, and are "preparing for the exam independently".

Labour crisis

(government) normally release it around April 30, which will enable me to plant cotton," says the 43-year-old.

Shamsher Singh, from the same village, also plans to only grow cotton on his 8-acre holding, which was entirely under paddy until the 2019 kharif season. Jagdish Singh from Jhumba village of Bathinda district is going for cotton on four of his nine acres, again previously fully planted to paddy.

"The people who transplant paddy are from Bihar and UP. Nobody knows if they will come. Even if the lockdown is lifted on May 3, train services are unlikely to resume soon and I cannot take a risk. While local labourers can be used, they will demand Rs

4,500-5,000 per acre, whereas the migrant workers charge only Rs 2,500," he points out.

Southwest Punjab — mainly Mansa, Bathinda, Muktsar and Fazilka — was traditionally a cotton belt. Many farmers in recent times switched to paddy, thanks to assured minimum support price-based procurement and free power for groundwater irrigation during the cropping season.

This was further supported by the availability of migrant labour for transplanting paddy seedlings, which are first raised in nursery beds for 25-30 days before being uprooted and replanted in the main field.

CMC-NEET case

imposing reasonable restrictions in the national and public interest," the bench said.

Article 19 (1) (g) grants citizens the right to practice any profession, or to carry on any occupation, trade or business while Article 30 relates to the right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions.

"The rights to administer an institution under Article 30 of the Constitution are not above the law and other Constitutional provisions. Reasonable regulatory measures can be provided without violating such rights available under Article 30 of the Constitution to administer an institution," the bench ruled.

Writing for the bench, Justice Mishra said "the rights under Article 19 (1) (g) are not absolute and are subject to reasonable restriction in the interest of the student's community to promote merit, recognition of excellence, and to curb the malpractices. Uniform Entrance Test qualifies the test of proportionality and is reasonable. The same is intended to check several malpractices which creep into medical education, to prevent capitation fee by admitting students which are lower in merit and to prevent exploitation, profiteering and commercialisation of education. The institution has to be a capable vehicle of education".

"The minority institutions are equally bound to comply with the conditions imposed under the relevant Acts and Regulations to enjoy affiliation and recognition,

3 THE OUTBREAK THE CITY



CORONA WATCH

Doctors rue overcrowding at Safdarjung

New Delhi: Doctors from Safdarjung Hospital have complained to the medical superintendent claiming that there is overcrowding at the hospital due to unchecked referrals from other hospitals...

SDMC to reimburse hotel cost

New Delhi: South Delhi Municipal Corporation has announced that the civic body will reimburse the cost of stay in hotels for stranded employees...

3 new cases in Gurgaon, 4 in Faridabad

Gurgaon: Three healthcare workers tested positive for coronavirus in Gurgaon Wednesday, taking the total number of cases in the district to 54...

200 migrants heading home stopped over last week

New Delhi: Over 200 migrants and their families, who were heading to neighbouring states were stopped by police on Delhi's roads over the last week...

3 journalists test positive

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said only three of 529 journalists who underwent testing for coronavirus tested positive...

Noida hospital staff allege lack of PPEs

Noida: Health workers from Gautam Budh Nagar district hospital protested at the DM's office alleging lack of PPEs Wednesday...

SUB-INSPECTOR DEAD, 46 PERSONNEL POSITIVE; MHA SEEKS REPORT

CRPF's 5-day quarantine call may have led to Mayur Vihar outbreak

CRPF reduced quarantine for paramedical staff from 14 days to 5, one of them tested positive later

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

A REDUCED period of quarantine, in violation of guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, is being seen as a possible reason for the spread of COVID-19 in CRPF's Mayur Vihar camp...

On Tuesday, 55-year-old Mohammed Ikram Hussain, a sub-inspector with the force, succumbed to the infection at Safdarjung Hospital...



CRPF personnel pay their last respects prior to the burial of Sub-Inspector Mohammed Ikram Hussain, who died of COVID-19, at a graveyard in ITO Wednesday.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, sources said, has taken cognizance of the matter and sought a report by May 1.

Sources said that following the lockdown announcement on March 24, CRPF issued special orders reducing the quarantine period for paramedical staff from 14 to five days...

Notably, this contradicts CRPF's own COVID-19 containment SOPs issued mid-March, which mention a mandatory quarantine period of 14 days.

AT FARIDABAD'S ESIC HOSPITAL

Borders shut, staff at coronavirus testing lab suffer

SAKSHI DAYAL GURGAON, APRIL 29

AMONG THE unexpected fallout of the Faridabad administration's decision to seal the district's border from Wednesday was the government-run laboratory at the ESIC Medical College and Hospital in Faridabad...

With several of its staff living in districts outside Faridabad being turned away or delayed at the border, officials fear testing will suffer in the coming days...

As per officials, at least eight people from the microbiology department, which undertakes the tests, live outside Faridabad. "So far, they were able to travel using their IDs..."

In the latter category is Dr Charu Jain, Assistant Professor, Microbiology, who travels from East Delhi to work each day, leaving her seven-month-old baby with her mother-in-law...

Wednesday saw complete chaos at the Badarpur border as several people were turned away. Police personnel conducted temperature checks of each person and noted down their details before allowing them entry...

tion as I cannot bring my baby here," said Dr Jain. She said many of her colleagues, including the department head, were turned away at the border.

"We process almost 150 samples daily but we started late today. In addition, a lot of the staff have not come; we are doing such risky work while being understaffed, leaving scope for error..."

Faridabad Deputy Commissioner Yashpal, however, said a solution is being worked out: "COVID-19 hospitals are already in the special exemption category..."

Wednesday saw complete chaos at the Badarpur border as several people were turned away. Police personnel conducted temperature checks of each person and noted down their details before allowing them entry...

Yashpal said the sealing would be smoother in the coming days: "This was the first day; some issues were expected... I believe regulation will become easier..."



Police personnel check vehicles at the Faridabad-Badarpur border, Wednesday. The order to tighten movement at the Faridabad border was issued late Tuesday night.

5-yr-old reunited with parents after 40 days

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, APRIL 29

Five-year-old Divisha Lal, who was separated from her parents for nearly 40 days due to the nationwide lockdown, was reunited with them after Maharashtra Police provided her and three members of her family special permission to travel from Pune to Delhi amid the lockdown.



Divisha Lal had travelled from Delhi to Pune to meet her aunt on March 17

Divisha, her brother Tanmay (10) and their grandmother, all residents of Delhi, had come to Pune to meet Divisha's aunt Shalini on March 17. While they were supposed to return on March 23, their flight was rescheduled and the subsequent lockdown extended their stay in the city...

Divisha's mother Rachana thanked the Maharashtra government for taking a sympathetic stance on the issue.



24-year-old Aashis Ahirwar with his wife, daughter and nephew at the Delhi-Gurgaon border on Wednesday.

A journey from Haryana to MP comes to abrupt halt

SUKRITA BARUAH NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

FOUR DAYS into his journey, walking from Rohtak to Madhya Pradesh with his family, Aashis Ahirwar had to make the decision to retrace his steps because of Haryana tightening restrictions at its borders.

On Sunday, the 24-year-old had begun the journey with his wife, one-year-old daughter and six-year-old nephew. A daily-wage labourer, he said he had tried to put off this difficult trek to his village in Madhya Pradesh's Chhatarpur district...

"I had saved around Rs 10,000-12,000 over the years and my family made do with that for the last month, during which I had no work. But we have now reached the end of that and have nothing to support ourselves..."

night in a tent provided to police personnel for shelter by the main road in Rajokri. Aashis said the policemen had offered them some space there seeing his baby daughter. In the heat of the afternoon sun on Wednesday, she cried uncontrollably.

"We are just not being allowed to go forward. They have told us to go back to where we've come from and said the restrictions will be eased a little bit in five-six days and that we should try to make the journey then..."

The family was stopped at the Gurgaon-Delhi border on Tuesday afternoon and have been unable to move forward since then. Vigilance at the Delhi-Gurgaon border was increased on Tuesday after a spike in Jhajjar, which reported its first seven cases.

On Wednesday evening, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued an order allowing movement of migrant workers stranded in various places.

Delhi says testing delayed at Noida institute: Stop sending samples there

ASTHA SAXENA NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

WORRIED OVER the pendency of coronavirus test results at the National Institute of Biologicals (NIB) in Noida, the Delhi government has ordered all district commissioners not to send any more samples to the institute till May 3...

The decision comes a day after officials, in a meeting with Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, highlighted that around 200 test results are pending since April 16 at the institute.

"The sudden rise (in cases) happened because there were no results and people kept spreading the infection," said a senior official from the department.

As per officials, pendency in test results is affecting containment of the disease in several areas. "The samples shall be distributed among government and private labs to ensure the results are received within a day..."

Delhi has a testing rate of over 2,000 tests per million population. Officials said even government labs, including the one at Lady Harding Medical College, are overburdened.

the guidelines have changed and more samples are being sent from containment zones, the pressure on labs has increased. Our lab is running 24x7, we are also planning to increase capacity...

As per officials, an RT-PCR test takes around five-six hours to complete. At the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, there are two labs and around 350-450 samples are tested every day...

come out at one go. We are planning to enhance capacity at the lab. But, while testing is happening across centres, there is still a need to have rapid testing in the city..."

The department has also directed labs to provide reports to the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program. Testing and tracking of all fresh positive cases, as well as tracking of repeat samples, is critical to ensure immediate monitoring of all cases...

AFTER EMPLOYER TESTED POSITIVE

Quarantined inside shop at Azadpur Mandi, 17 men await test results

ANANYA TIWARI NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

SEVENTEEN WORKERS quarantined inside shops at Azadpur Mandi, including some whose swab samples were taken almost a week ago after their employer tested positive for COVID-19...

Expressing distress over the long delay in getting results — they were tested on April 23 — they said they were not even getting access to food or water inside the shop, which is also their home.

Last week, a 57-year-old vegetable trader — who shared a stall at the market with an apple trader — died of COVID-19 at Max Hospital, Saket, where he had been hospitalised. Seventeen of his employees have been quarantined inside that stall since his death...

A 24-year-old man, one of those quarantined, said it was they who informed the APMC of his death after they got to know of it on April 20. "We made a list of all our names and phone numbers and gave it to the security guard..."

The man said it was only on April 23 — three days after the death — that their samples were collected. "It was a struggle to even have our samples taken," he claimed.



North Delhi District Magistrate Deepak Shinde said the employees are still awaited: "The test results are awaited as of now. We got the report of the death of the trader on April 21, sent people for screening on April 22, and took their samples on April 23..."

So far, 11 traders from the market have tested positive in the capital.

Delhi. Two cases of vendors who came to Delhi from Jhajjar, and another who came from Panipat, have also tested positive. More than 30 employees in six shops have been quarantined in the market after the traders' results were positive.

On Tuesday in a review meeting between the Union and Delhi health ministry officials, the high number of pending tests was flagged as a problem that could potentially result in a situation where the case load becomes unmanageable as

till the results are received, contacts of a suspect are not quarantined and tested.

A 50-year-old employee said on Wednesday, "We are finding it difficult to get food. No one is paying us any attention..." Shinde acknowledged they had received complaints about distribution of food: "We did get some complaints of food but have sorted that out now..."

DELHI ADOPTS NEW PROTOCOL BY UNION HEALTH MINISTRY

Those with mild, no symptoms can self-isolate at home: Jain

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE DELHI government Wednesday said COVID-19 patients with very mild or no symptoms can self-isolate at home...

world, several countries are following a similar protocol. The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare...

care on a 24x7 basis," the ministry guidelines say. At present, of the 3,439 people who have tested positive, 749 are admitted to nine COVID-19 designated hospitals...

patient should have a separate toilet near the room. But those who can ensure this are welcome to isolate at home, said an official.

Two deaths after 3 days, 125 new cases

ABHINAV RAJPUT & ASTHA SAXENA NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

DELHI REPORTED two COVID-19 deaths Wednesday after a gap of three days, taking the toll to 56. It also saw 125 new cases, with the total count now at 3,439.

sent her to a government hospital." The nurse was admitted after she tested positive. Though her four primary contacts, including her husband who also works in the hospital...

In talks with states to let stranded migrants return home: Kejriwal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

THE DELHI government is in talks with other states regarding the Centre's decision to allow stranded migrants to return home, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said Wednesday.



The CM urged people to stay indoors till a plan is in place

incident, which had also sparked a political blame game between the AAP and the BJP. The Kejriwal government then notified around 111 government facilities, mainly schools, as shelters for migrants.



BEHIND THE SCREEN

A healthcare worker, in protective gear and behind a screen, tests a patient at a hotel-turned-testing facility in Hari Nagar, Wednesday. Amit Mehra

HC seeks govt stand on quarantine guidelines

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Wednesday sought the Delhi government's response on a plea by a photojournalist questioning its mechanism of implementing COVID-19 quarantine guidelines.

The man is a resident of one of the 72 houses that came in contact with a pizza delivery person, who had tested positive on April 14. In his plea, he said the quarantine notice pasted outside his house on April 15 said he was in quarantine from the midnight of March 24-25...

'Police didn't refer to riots, protests before seizing my phone'

ARANYA SHANKAR NEW DELHI, APRIL 29

ALL INDIA Students' Association (AISA) Delhi president Kawalpreet Kaur Wednesday alleged Delhi Police did not refer to any chat or conversation on her phone before seizing it, and she wasn't asked anything related to the anti-CAA protests...



Kawalpreet Kaur is AISA's Delhi unit chief. Police did not respond to her criticism

She added police did not "indicate anything" on when the phone would be returned. She also said police did not ask her anything about her student activists Safoora Zargar and Meeran Haider, who have been arrested.

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY, PRAYAGRAJ E-Tender Notice No.: Sr. DEE/RS/ELS/CNB/2019-20/RET-10 Dated: 27.04.2020

WESTERN RAILWAY-BHAVNAGAR DIVISION TENDER NOTICE FOR ROAD, ROOF & FLOOR IMPROVEMENT

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY निविदा सूचना No. M-03-2020-C&W-All

SAMAGRA SHIKSHA STATE PROJECT OFFICE, KBC BOYS HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS, OPP RAITHU BAZAR, PATAMATA, VIJAYAWADA, ANDHRA PRADESH

BRIHANMUMBAI MAHANAGARPALIKA Chief Engineer (Bridges Department) REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ) (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

परिचयांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि. विन्टोरिया पार्क, मेरठ अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा सूचना

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE (Single Packet System)

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Northern Railway, Moradabad for & on behalf of the president of India...

UP migrant who died after 2-week journey home tests negative

State govt procurement gets delayed, farmers in Rajasthan pay the price

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, APRIL 29

DEEP MUKHERJEE JAIPUR, APRIL 29

A 35-YEAR-OLD migrant worker who died on Monday after hitch-hiking 1,500 km from Mumbai to Uttar Pradesh's Shravasti district over two weeks has tested negative for COVID-19.

Insaf Ali's autopsy could not ascertain the cause of his death. Ali had reached Mathkanwa village on Monday morning. By noon, after complaining of stomach-ache, he was dead.

"His coronavirus test is negative. The post-mortem was inconclusive. His cause of death could not be ascertained," SP Anoop Kumar Singh told The Indian Express.

The police handed over the body to the family. The burial was scheduled for Wednesday evening. After Ali's death, his family was quarantined in a school for touching his body. They were allowed back home on Wednesday after the test report came back negative.

THREE DAYS after returning from the Krishi Upaj Mandi in Rajasthan's Sriganganagar city, 48-year-old farmer Gurpreet Singh Sandhu still can't stop ruing his loss — he had to sell most of his mustard produce of 75 quintals for much lower than the minimum support price (MSP).

"I suffered a loss of Rs 900 on each quintal after selling the mustard at just over Rs 3,500 a quintal at the mandi. Last year, I had sold my produce to the government at MSP of Rs 4,200 a quintal," says Sandhu, a resident of 8NN village of Sriganganagar.

For this year's rabi season, the Centre has fixed Rs 4,425 a quintal as MSP for rapeseed and mustard. However, with the delay in government procurement due to the lockdown, farmers in most areas of Rajasthan are unable to sell their produce at MSP.

The Rajasthan State Co-operative Marketing Federation Ltd (RAJFED) is procuring mustard and gram at MSP of Rs 4,425 and 4,875 per quintal, respectively, but procurement is functional only in a few districts in Kota division, leaving farmers from other districts like Sriganganagar with no option but to wait or sell their produce at throwaway prices to private players at mandis.



Farmers at the Kishanganj tehsildar office in Baran district after submitting a memorandum requesting an increase in the quantity of wheat and number of tokens issued. Express

Government data shows that as of Tuesday, the average price of mustard in the Sriganganagar-Jaitsar, Padampur, Sadulshahar and Sriganganagar mandis was Rs 3,640, Rs 3,801, Rs 3,711 and Rs 3,765 respectively, much lower than the MSP of Rs 4,425. Ranvir Singh Chahar, Sriganganagar regional officer, RAJFED, told The Indian Express

that procurement of mustard in the district would start from May 1.

"I couldn't wait till procurement starts. Kharif sowing has started and I need money immediately to purchase seeds and pay labourers for sowing cotton. We have no way of recovering our losses," says Sandhu, who had sown mustard on 16 acres.

Sanjay Pathak, general manager, RAJFED, told The Indian Express that this year, in a period of three months, the government has a target of procuring 10.46 lakh metric tonnes of mustard and 6.17 lakh metric tonnes of gram at the MSP. He added that there was a delay of around 15 days in starting the process due to the lockdown.

A total of 2,72,795 farmers are registered with RAJFED to sell their produce at MSP. Online registration was stopped after the lockdown was announced. Among those registered, only 7,547 farmers have been allotted dates for purchase of produce.

Officials said that online registration will begin again from May 1.

Farmers say the delay has hit them hard. At Sodhana village in Baran district's Kishanganj tehsil, 58-year-old Mukesh Paliwal is reluctant to sell 80 quintals of his wheat produce to private players for less than the MSP of Rs 1,925 per quintal. But Ajay Singh Choudhary, another farmer from Kishanganj tehsil, says that due to his urgent need for cash, he couldn't wait. "I needed cash urgently for labourers and other expenses, so I had to sell 500 quintals. The wheat was sold for Rs 1,743 and Rs 1,661 per quintal — lower than MSP," says Choudhary.

FCI general manager (region) Sanjeev Bhasker told The Indian Express that FCI has a target of procuring 17 lakh metric tonnes of wheat in Rajasthan till June 30. "Till Monday we procured 74,720 metric tonnes of wheat," said Bhasker. FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com



REACHING OUT

RAJYA SABHA Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu has reached out to nearly all members of the Upper House, former Indian Presidents, Prime Ministers, present and former Chief Justices of India, Governors and Chief Ministers of nearly all states, leaders of various political parties and even mediapersons, asking after their health and safety during the lockdown. Part of his "Mission Connect", Naidu has already spoken to 241 Rajya Sabha members, including those who have retired and those recently re-elected. He has spoken with former Presidents Pranab Mukherjee and Pratibha Patil as well as former Prime Ministers Manmohan Singh and H D Deve Gowda. He has held several video-conferencing calls with Governors to assess the situation during the pandemic in these states. Naidu has also reached out to CJS A Bobde, and his predecessors Deepak Misra and Ranjan Gogoi, now a Rajya Sabha MP.

FOLLOW NO MORE

ABOUT THREE weeks after the White House followed Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Ram Nath Kovind and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on Twitter, the official handle of the White House has unfollowed them all. Around April 10, the White House followed the personal Twitter handles of Kovind, Modi and the PMO. With this, Modi and President Kovind became the only world leaders who were followed by the White House on Twitter. But no more. Besides the three handles, the White House has also unfollowed the Indian Embassy in Washington and the US Embassy in New Delhi. By Wednesday evening, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi took an apparent dig at the government by tweeting about the de-facto — he expressed "dismay" and asked the MEA to look into it.

MAPPING MOVES

THE MHA'S order on inter-state movement of migrant workers and students has created an interesting buzz in the power corridors. Many bureaucrats are saying that the Centre has for the first time displayed the "true spirit of cooperative federalism". They say this is perhaps the only occasion when the Centre has followed a lockdown relaxation model already exercised by a state. The reference is primarily to Uttar Pradesh, which had begun extracting students and migrant workers in large numbers from other states much before the MHA's latest order. Many also pointed to the apparent cue provided in a report in RSS mouthpiece 'Panchjanya', which hailed the way Yogi Adityanath is managing the state during the ongoing pandemic.

Bihar welcomes govt order on migrants, mum on next steps

SANTOSH SINGH PATNA, APRIL 29



Bihar CM Nitish Kumar

WHILE BIHAR welcomed the Centre's order on Wednesday allowing movement of labour, students and tourists stranded away from homes across the country, there was no word from it on whether it would arrange for the return of people from the state.

In a statement, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said, "The MHA (Union Ministry of Home Affairs) order is apt and welcome. We will comply with the Central government's protocols on migrants' movement."

Top sources in the Chief Minister's Office told The Indian Express that the government was unlikely to send vehicles to other states, but would arrange to take those who reach its borders to quarantine centres at the block level in their districts.

An estimated 10 lakh people from Bihar are believed to be stuck in other states, mostly Haryana, Gujarat, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. As states like Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh last week started making arrangements for the return of students and labour from the state, Bihar had come under pressure to do so.

However, the state government had said it couldn't do the same as the Centre's lockdown guidelines forbid it.

Welcoming the Home Ministry's order on Wednesday, Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi said, "We have been asking for this for long. CM Nitish Kumar had also taken this up with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the recent video-conference meeting. We had been asking for clarity and will now work accordingly."

Bihar DGP Guptaeshwar Pandey said while the return of around 10 lakh people, including "around 1,000 students from Kota alone", would be a challenge, they were ready for it. "We have made arrangements to quarantine about 2.5 lakh people. It would be expanded further. We would like the states from where they are coming to conduct screening or COVID tests of all. We can conduct a second test at our quarantine centres."

Lok Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan said he had also taken up the matter with the PM, while the RJD claimed the Centre had acted on the "constant pressure put by leader of Opposition Tejashwi Prasad Yadav".

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Hours before testing negative, quarantined railway staffer kills self

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE LUCKNOW, APRIL 29

A 59-YEAR-OLD Railway employee admitted to a hospital quarantine facility in Firozabad district committed suicide late on Tuesday night, hours before his second sample tested negative for COVID-19.

The police said Om Prakash, a Group-D staffer, may have killed himself because of stress. He had been admitted to the facility on April 20 after a colleague tested positive.

"The employee's body was found hanging in his room at a hospital quarantine room at SH Hospital under the Tundla police station on Wednesday morning. He ended life by hanging himself on Tuesday night. The reason for the suicide is likely to be stress regarding the coronavirus," said Superintendent of Police Sachindra Patel.

An official said Prakash's first sample had been sent for testing last week. "Then on Monday, it was again sent for the coronavirus test. The result came today [Wednesday] afternoon, and it showed he had tested negative for the virus. His sample had to be sent twice to a facility in Saifai for some technical reasons."

A police official said Prakash's body was kept at the mortuary as his family was yet to arrive.

"The two sons are on their way to Firozabad. They have got permission to travel. After they come, we will hand over the body to them for cremation," said Kumar.

GURU GHASIDAS VISHWAVIDYALAYA (A Central University established under the Central Universities Act, 2009, No.25 of 2009) KONI, BILASPUR-495 009 (C.G.) INDIA

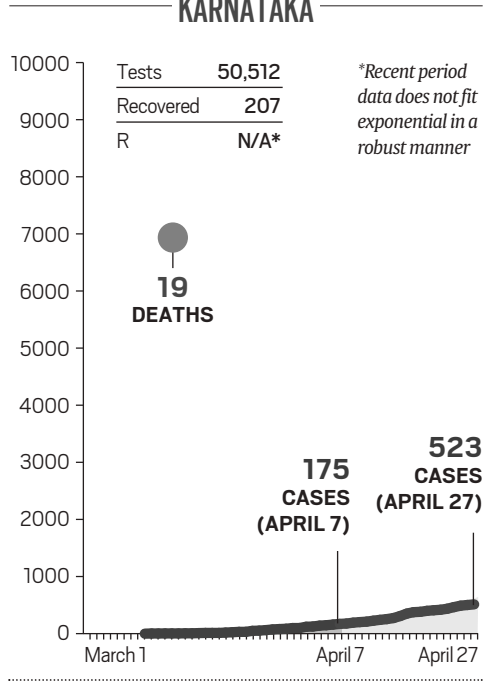
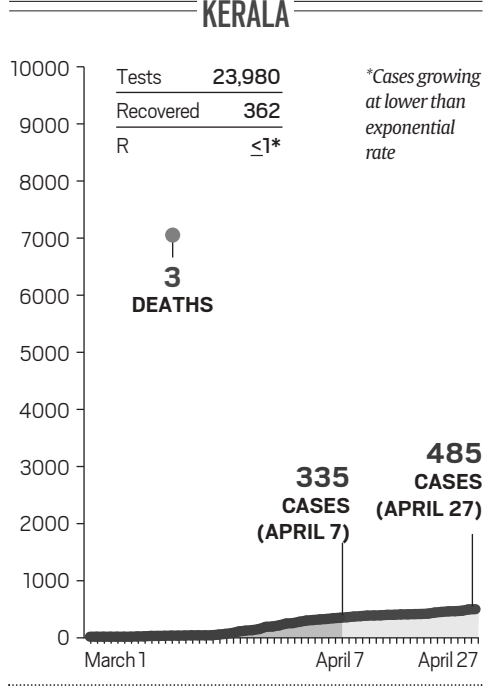
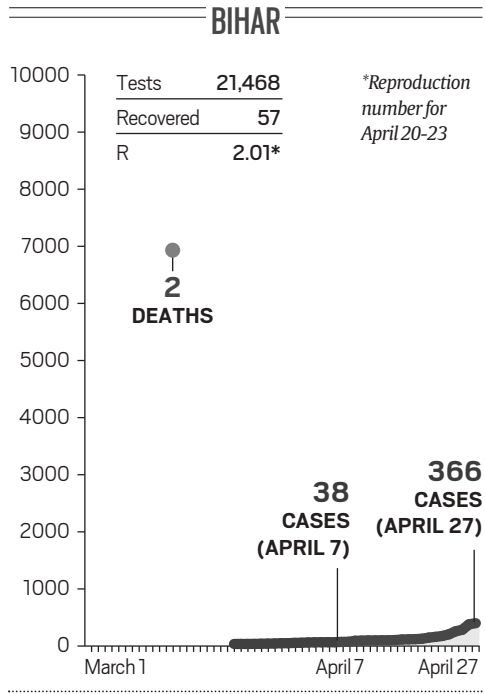
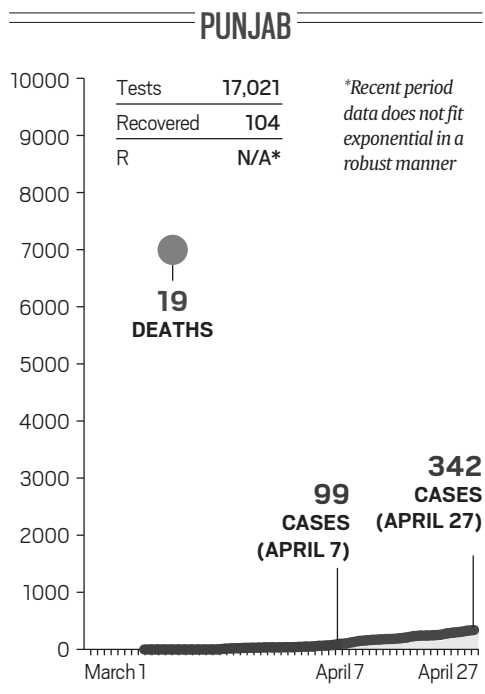
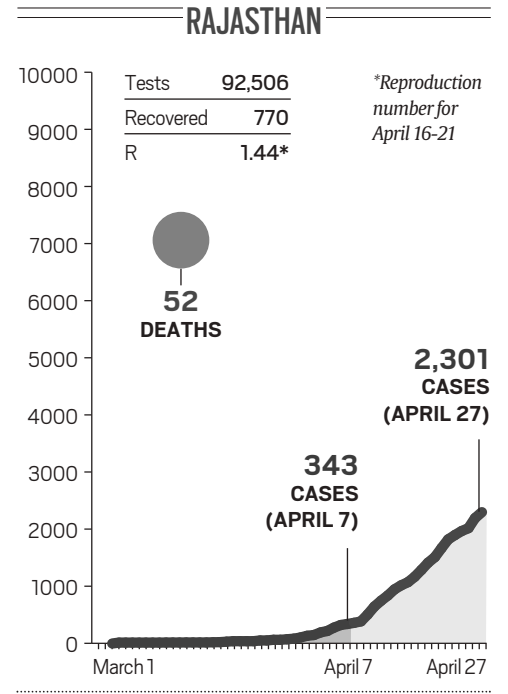
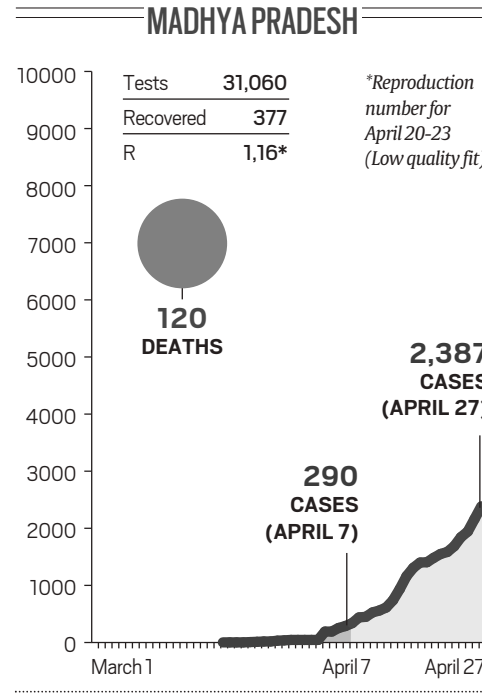
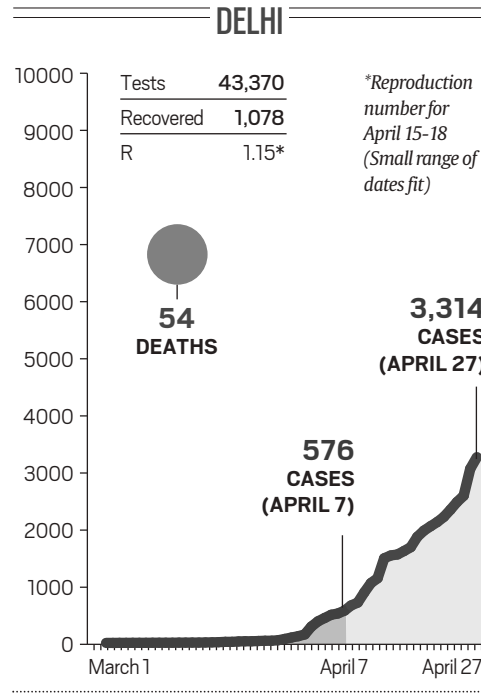
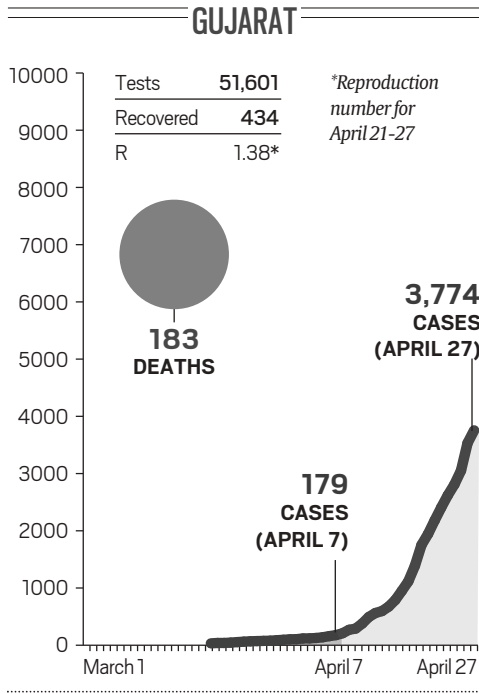
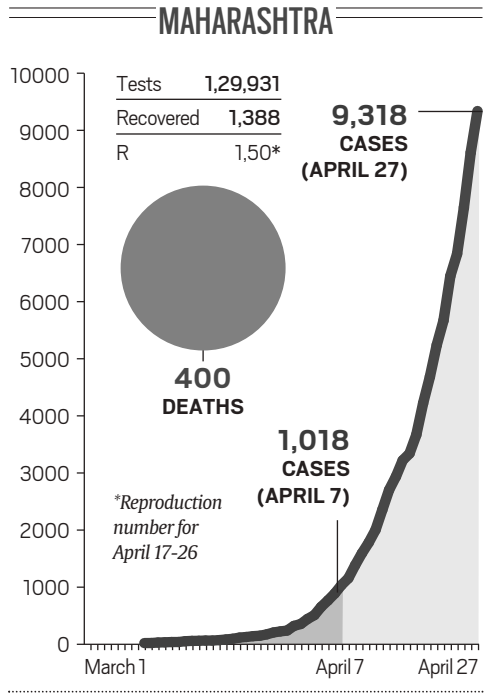
HIMACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Notice INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Classifieds PUBLIC NOTICE All general public hereby informed that my client Dayanand Sio Late Sh. Sumatra, R/o K-52, Dakshin Puri, New Delhi-110062 has disowned his sons



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



FACT CHECK, GROUND REALITY

Revisiting virus curve, to read lockdown effect

On April 9, *The Indian Express* analysed the national and state-wise COVID-19 growth curves. How have these shaped since? In updated curves, trends during last 3 weeks of lockdown

AMITABH SINHA
PUNE, APRIL 28

ON APRIL 9, we had published the growth curves of the novel coronavirus epidemic in various states. Covering data until April 7, we had showed how, just over a month after the outbreak began in the first week of March, the trajectory at the national level and in many states had begun to resemble what is so typical of the spread of an infectious disease — an exponential curve.

With less than a week to go before India steps out of a national lockdown, and into the next phase of the containment strategy, we revisit those growth curves here, in an attempt to illustrate the impact of the lockdown, or at least look at what happened during this period. The national lockdown imposed at midnight of March 24 — often described as the biggest human quarantine ever — was aimed at slowing down the rate of growth of the epidemic, so that the number of patients needing urgent medical attention could remain at manageable levels while government and local authorities would ramp up health infrastructure and prepare themselves to deal with larger number of people at a later stage. As we move towards the end of that period, the lockdown does seem to have resulted in a significant slowdown of the epidemic.

"I don't think there is any doubt that the lockdown did manage to achieve a considerable slowdown in the growth of the disease," said Sitabha Sinha, a scientist at the Chennai-based Institute of Mathematical Sciences, who has been studying the spread of the epidemic in India through computer modelling.

Sinha had told *The Indian Express* on April 12 that, according to a study he had been carrying out with his colleague Soumya Easwaran, the number of confirmed infected cases was likely to remain below 20,000 by April 20. This, he had said, was a direct impact of the lockdown, in the absence of which, computer models showed, the number would have reached 35,000. The number on April 20 was 18,465, well within the prediction.

The reproduction number (R) we mention here — a reference to the average number of persons infected by an already infected person — are those calculated by Sinha's team.

There has been a significant change in the growth curves of the states from the last time. Some states, such as Kerala, have done well to contain the epidemic, winning global acclaim for their efforts, while others, like Maharashtra and Delhi, have seen a steady rise in numbers.

Some other states, like Gujarat, which had a modest case load at that time, have emerged as fast-growing hotspots. And states such as West Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand have just begun to show signs that they could potentially turn into trouble zones over the next few days, although their current case load is not very high.

ALL INDIA COVID 19 CASES & DEATHS

CONFIRMED CASES	31,286
CONFIRMED DEATHS	918

■ Since April 7, when India had recorded 5,321 cases and 167 deaths, the counts for both have grown over fivefold. While we have plotted 918 as reported by the state governments until April 27, the total nationwide has crossed 1,000 since.

TOP 7 STATES INFECTED BY COVID 19

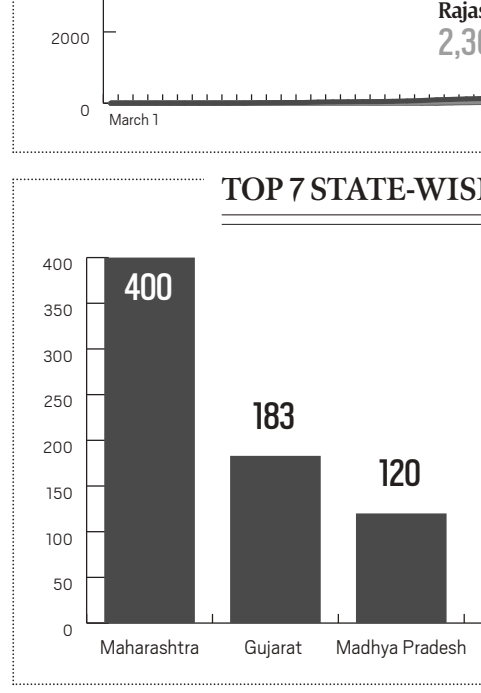
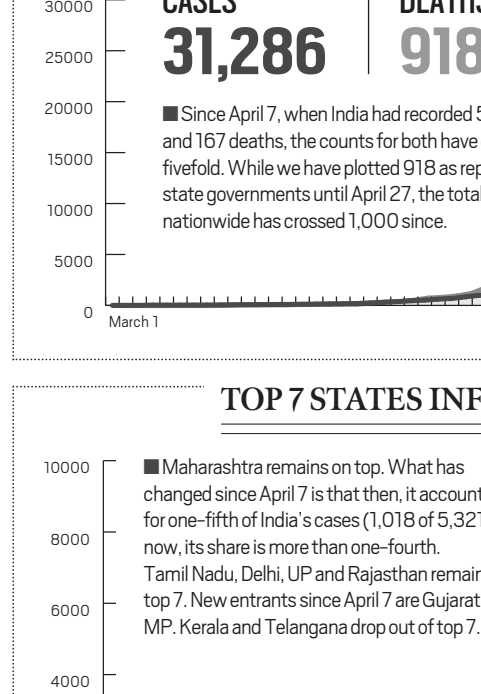
■ Maharashtra remains on top. What has changed since April 7 is that then, it accounted for one-fifth of India's cases (1,018 of 5,321); now, its share is more than one-fourth. Tamil Nadu, Delhi, UP and Rajasthan remain in top 7. New entrants since April 7 are Gujarat and MP. Kerala and Telangana drop out of top 7.

Maharashtra	9,318
Gujarat	3,774
Madhya Pradesh	2,387
Uttar Pradesh	2,053
Tamil Nadu	2,058
Delhi	3,314
Rajasthan	2,301

TOP 7 STATE-WISE COVID-19 DEATHS

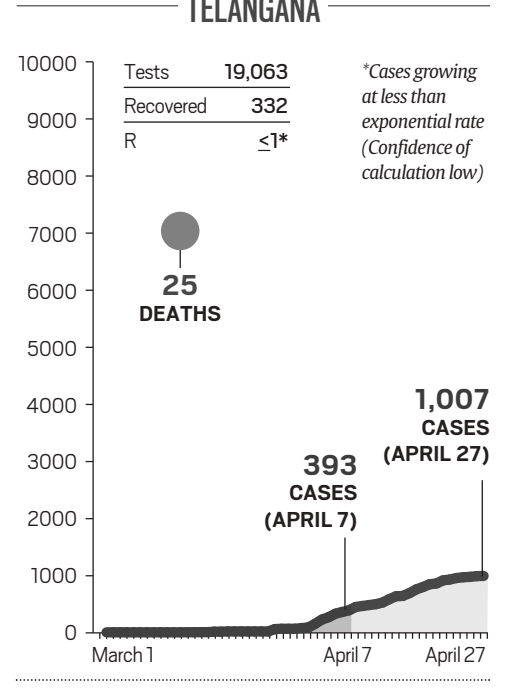
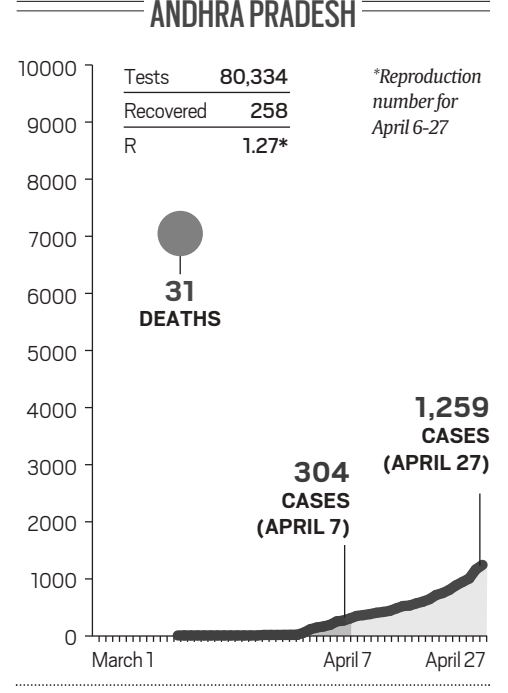
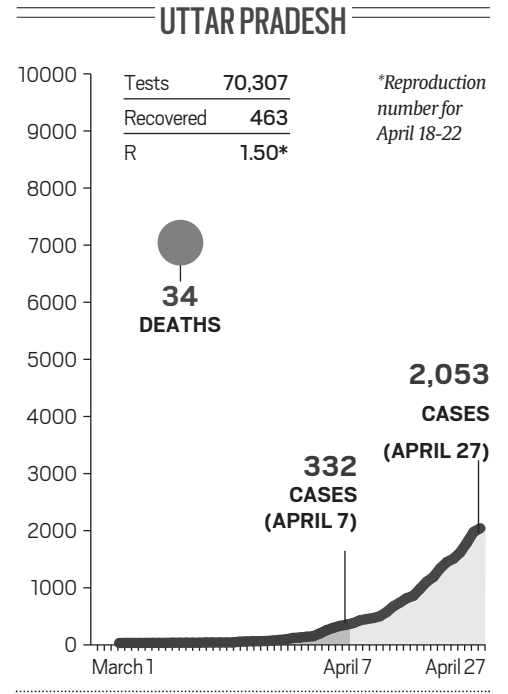
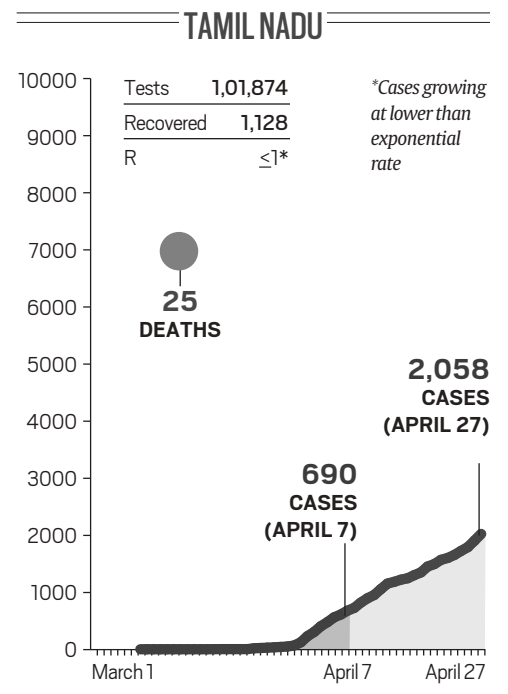
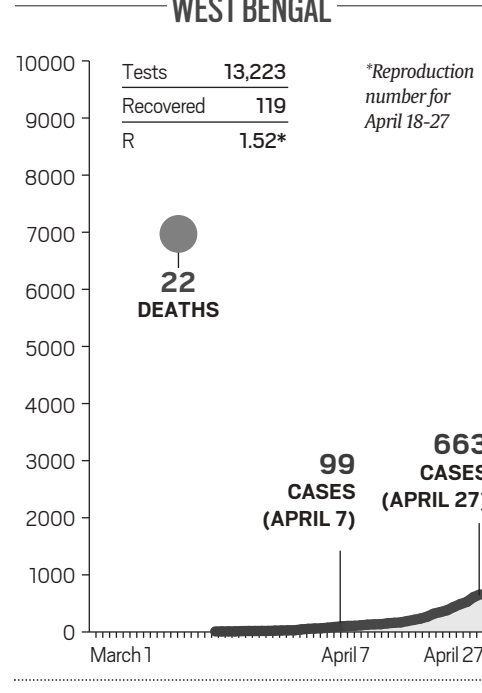
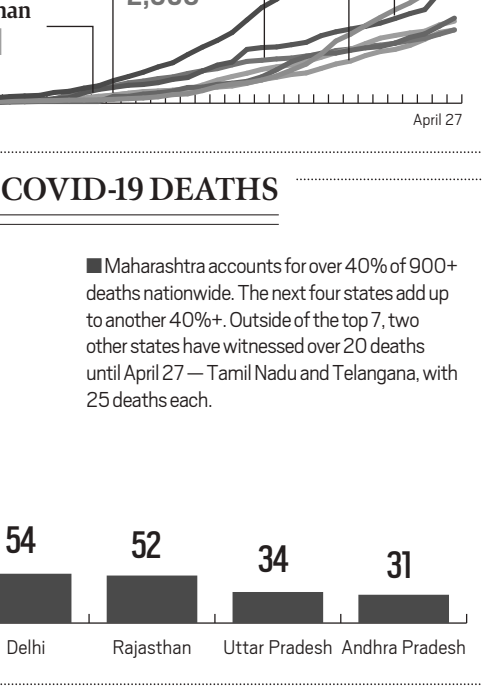
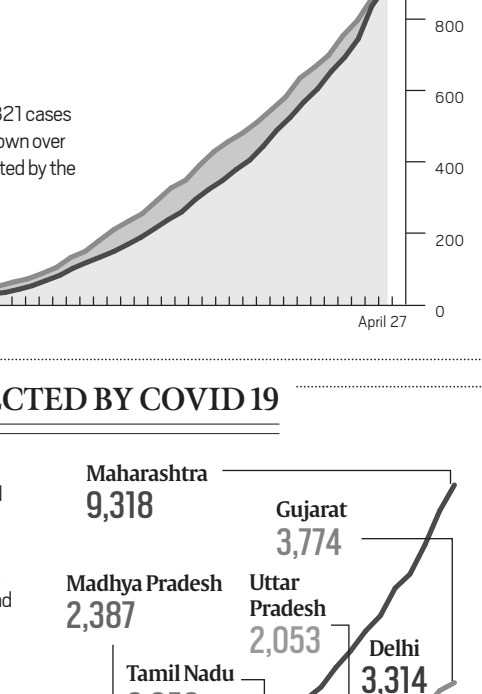
■ Maharashtra accounts for over 40% of 900+ deaths nationwide. The next four states add up to another 40%+. Outside of the top 7, two other states have witnessed over 20 deaths until April 27 — Tamil Nadu and Telangana, with 25 deaths each.

Maharashtra	400
Gujarat	183
Madhya Pradesh	120
Delhi	54
Rajasthan	52
Uttar Pradesh	34
Andhra Pradesh	31



OTHER STATES

State	Cases	Deaths	Recoveries
Andaman	10	0	10
Arunachal	1	0	1
Assam	37	1	27
Chandigarh	56	0	17
Chhattisgarh	37	0	32
Daman	1	0	0
Goa	7	0	7
Haryana	308	4	224
Himachal	41	2	25
Jharkhand	105	2	19
Ladakh	20	0	18
Manipur	2	0	2
Meghalaya	12	1	0
Mizoram	1	0	1
Odisha	118	1	37
Tripura	2	0	2
Uttarakhand	54	0	34





LASTING MEMORIES

Among Irrfan's last social media posts is a photo he had tweeted of the cast and crew of his last film *Angrezi Medium* catching up over a Zoom call, which included actors Radhika Madan, Pankaj Tripathi and Deepak Dobriyal, among others.

IRRFAN 1967-2020

'Gone too Soon'

Film industry and fans come together to mourn Irrfan, Indian cinema's finest actor

ALAKA SAHANI

HIS NUANCED acting, his eyes that spoke and a dialogue delivery that was so uniquely his, won him much love and admirers during his versatile career, but on Wednesday, actor Irrfan left the world quietly. As everyone came together online to mourn, few could attend his burial at the Versova cemetery due to restrictions imposed in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. While media persons stood beyond the barricades outside, present for his last rites were his wife Sutapa Sikdar, sons Babil and Ayan, and 15-20 relatives and friends, including filmmakers Tigmanshu Dhulia, Vishal Bhardwaj, Abhinay Deo and singer Mika Singh.

The 54-year-old was admitted to Mumbai's Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital on Tuesday for a colon infection. An official statement on his passing away said: "Irrfan was a strong soul, someone who fought till the very end and always inspired everyone who came close to him. After having been struck by lightning in 2018 with the news of a rare cancer, he took life soon after as it came and he fought the many battles that came with it."

Irrfan, who received the National Award for Paan Singh Tomar (2012) and Padma Shri in 2011, was diagnosed with neuroendocrine tumour in 2018, for which he underwent prolonged treatment in the UK. In between his

treatment, he played the role of a loving father in *Angrezi Medium* (2020), his last release.

After the news of his death became public, social media was flooded with posts by many of his colleagues in the film industry and his admirers. Filmmaker Vishal Bhardwaj, who has worked with him in *Maqbool* (2003), *7 Khoon Maaf* (2011) and *Haider* (2014), told *The Indian Express*: "I feared that he (Irrfan) will be gone much before his time but didn't expect that it will be so devastating and ravaging to me personally. It feels as if I am torn into two parts. A part of me has died with him."

Vidya Balan tweeted she couldn't stop crying because Irrfan's performances affected her in "a personal way". Calling him "an incredible talent and gracious colleague", his *Piku* (2015) co-actor Amitabh Bachchan said his passing away was the "most disturbing and sad news". Actor Shah Rukh Khan, who was the producer of Irrfan's *Billu* (2009), called him "my friend, inspiration and the greatest actor of our times".

Making an immense contribution to the world of cinema, Irrfan remains one of the most successful crossover artistes, with movies such as *The Lunchbox* (2013), *Slumdog Millionaire* (2008), *Life of Pi* (2012), *The Amazing Spiderman* (2012) and *Jurassic World* (2015). Many international personalities, including director Ava DuVernay, paid tribute to him. "Gone too soon. When he is on screen, you can't take your eyes off him. He lives on in his films," tweeted DuVernay.



Cinema's Chameleon

TANUJACHANDRA

IRRFAN THOUGHT long and hard before accepting my offer (for *Qarib Qarib Single*, 2017). He was uncertain if he would be received well in a romantic role at this stage of his life because romance was more of a playing field for the young, he said. If people didn't approve, he wouldn't have anyone to share the flak with other than his own misplaced choice of subject.

Then one morning, while reading the lines of a scene, Irrfan found what he had been looking for. The scene had Yogi call his driver to fetch him after a dinner date. He carried packed food for him and it hit Irrfan, who often shared meals with his staff, that here was a man who cared for people. Yogi loved people, it didn't



Irrfan in a still from *Qarib Qarib Single*

matter what they did for a living. This became the reason Irrfan agreed to do the movie.

In the editing room, I discovered something magical. I discovered that Irrfan's performance had a dynamic quality. It changed upon each viewing. The cinematic frames hadn't shifted,

the lines hadn't been altered, the character, the locations, the costumes, they were all the same, and yet, a tiny movement, a fleeting look, the quietest gesture, one hadn't seen before would reveal itself.

This was the reason one never tires of seeing this actor on screen, this was the reason that even though his work often has tell-tale signs of 'classic Irrfan', each performance varies.

The loss of this magnificent actor is an incomparable one for Indian cinema. He had crossed only some part of his journey of sublime acting. There was so much more for him to explore within himself, to discover. He would have had no dearth of remarkable scripts coming to him for the next couple decades. We can only imagine the kind of beauty he would've brought to our screens. It will be a longing left unfulfilled. But it's no small thing that all he leaves behind will be cherished for a long, long time.

Chandra is the director of *Qarib Qarib Single*

The Quietest Boy in Class

Irrfan's friends from NSD remember the actor

DIPANITA NATH

IN THE corridor that students of the National School of Drama (NSD) take to reach the main auditorium, Abhimanch, a row of photographs used to hang, until a year or so ago, of past graduates. Whether these were meant to celebrate achievements of pass-outs or goad the current crop towards future excellence was never clear but the displays did offer a glimpse of a number of stalwart performers in their early days. In this gallery was a rare black-and-white shot of Irrfan on stage. The actor had cut his teeth in acting in the halls of this famous Delhi institute.

A lanky boy with a head of curly hair, Irrfan



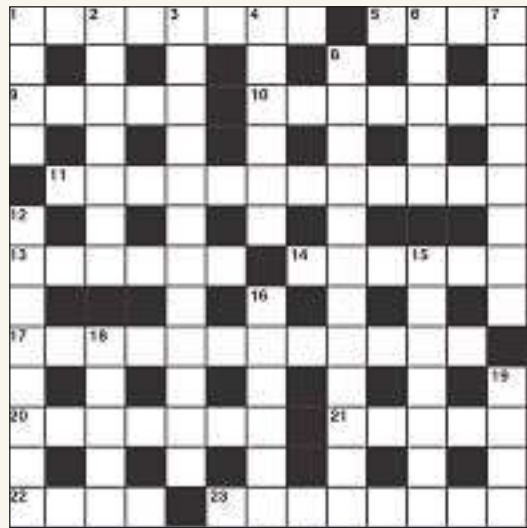
Irrfan from his NSD days NSD Archives

was one of the quietest students in the class of 1987. His classmates, such as Bharti Sharma, founder of Kshitij Theater Society in Delhi, used to wonder, "Pata nahin yeh itna chup kyun rahita hai?" "He never missed any class but he also did not participate in discussions. It was only when he performed that we understood that Irrfan was a person who believed in listening rather than speaking. He had absorbed everything we were taught and was implementing it in his performance," she adds.

Dinesh Khanna, who was a year senior to Irrfan and his close friend, says the actor, who was shy in person, was always trying to push the envelope on stage. His best friend was a studious girl from his batch, Sutapa Sikdar, who would become his wife.

"There was a seriousness about him that's well known but he also had a sense of mischief which we see in his roles," says actor Mita Vashisht.

CROSSWORD 4105



ACROSS

- 1 He may act well, but he paints badly (8)
- 5 A girl is after one, right (4)
- 9 Trace misdirected supply (5)
- 10 Rattle caused by a loose ratchet (7)
- 11 It won't keep you fully occupied (4-4-4)
- 13 Battle suit (6)
- 14 A dynamic proposition (6)
- 17 Sporting event that has its ups and downs (12)
- 20 Sped too much, and went over the limit (7)
- 21 Concerning a morning's papers (5)
- 22 Lockers A to G perhaps (4)
- 23 Call for a rising (8)

DOWN

- 1 Staple food (4)
- 2 Passage taken from a pamphlet (7)
- 3 Contenders for the high jump (12)
- 4 Pole position (6)
- 6 At heart an oration shows a sense of proportion (5)
- 7 Imposing corporal punishment (8)
- 8 Don't take legal action for nothing (4,2,6)
- 12 Every year one may await its return with added interest (8)
- 15 After this month there's everything to put in (7)
- 16 Occasion when spirits are called for (6)
- 18 Three points go to my opponent (5)
- 19 Offshore spot I stole away to (4)

Solutions Crossword 4104: Across: 1 Desertion, 8 Arena, 9 Mailbag, 10 Rig out, 11 Athens, 12 Flaggings, 15 Sanskrit, 18 Emigre, 20 Averse, 21 Tarnish, 22 Elite, 23 Tailorless. Down: 2 Exact, 3 Eileen, 4 Transfer, 5 Naming, 6 Deposit, 7 Castigate, 11 Apostates, 13 After all, 14 Inherent, 16 Kismet, 17 Dinner, 19 Rests.

OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



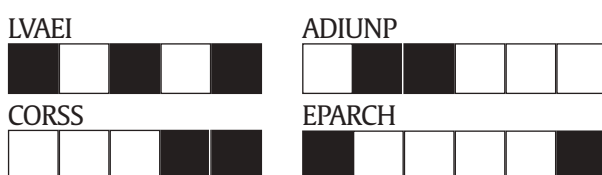
MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



JUMBLD 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.

...is ideal, it is the work of the imagination. - Marquis de Sade (9)



SUDOKU 4195

Difficulty Level 3s

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 4194



