

# Team Air India flew into an eerily quiet Wuhan rescue

## Meticulous preparations marked the operations to evacuate Indians from 'a ghost town'; a Boeing 747 aircraft used

JAGRITI CHANDRA  
NEW DELHI

An eeriness greeted the crew on-board Air India's Boeing 747 aircraft as it approached Wuhan on a mission to rescue the first batch of 640 Indians from the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak. The pilots on-board the plane remember the city as "a scene from an apocalypse movie", a "ghost town".

"Initially it was like any other flight and airways were busy. But when we started descending, the silence started creeping on us. The airport was absolutely silent. All the aircraft were parked and sealed. The streets were empty and it felt like a ghost town," recalled Captain Amitabh Singh, Director of Operations of Air India and in-charge of the 34-member rescue team.

Five pilots and 15 cabin crew were sounded off about a mission to evacuate Indians from Wuhan "2-3 days" before the scheduled departure. A day before the flight,

the pilots and cabin crew underwent detailed briefing on the mission, including from doctors on the disease. The airline also procured medicated suits, protective shoes, gloves, N-35 masks, glasses and caps for the crew and the support staff.

**VIIP aircraft**  
A Boeing 747 aircraft, usually kept on standby for use by VVIPs, took off from Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport at 12.30 p.m. on January 31 for the first rescue flight along with extra fuel, spare parts, and sufficient food and water.

The aircraft, known as jumbo, was chosen for its seating capacity as the twin-deck plane can accommodate 423 passengers. Another pilot, who requested anonymity, said he chose not to inform his family about his role in the mission.

After a four-hour long flight, the jumbo landed at Wuhan and what followed was an anxious wait of nearly



**Heroes all:** Captains Amitabh Singh, Kamal Mohan, Sanjay Achalkar, S.H. Reza and Bhupesh Narain. \*SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

eight hours for passengers to start boarding the flight. The Chinese authorities allowed students to depart from their hotels and hostels for the Indian Consulate only after the Air India plane took off from the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

The students were then allowed to travel to the airport only after the aircraft reached Wuhan, resulting in the long ground halt, explained Captain Singh,

# All 645 evacuees test negative for coronavirus

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**  
All 645 evacuees from Wuhan, China, have tested negative for novel coronavirus, the Union Health Ministry said in a release on Thursday.

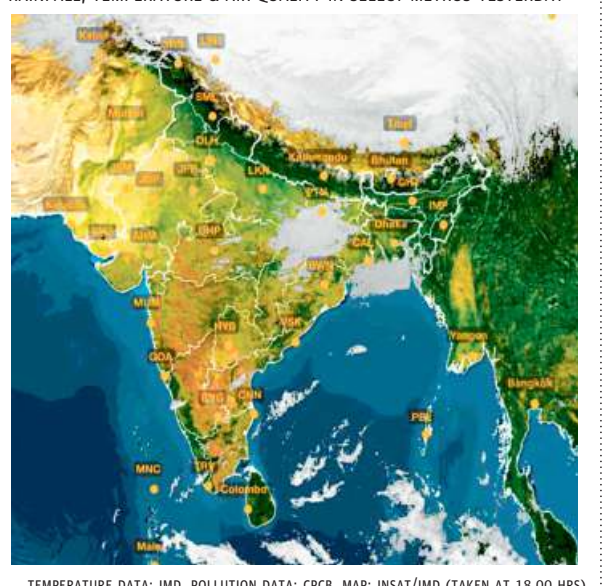
It said 1,38,750 passengers from 1,265 flights had been screened as on February 5.

Furthermore, 510 samples had been sent to laboratories, and all had tested negative, except for the three already tested positive.

The Ministry of External Affairs, meanwhile, said 10 Indians in Wuhan had failed the screening process and could not be evacuated.

Delhi at 7.30 a.m. on February 1, where the officials of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and personnel from the Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police were waiting. Passengers were then offloaded, medically checked, and escorted to the buses waiting to take them to the camp. But many on Team Air India returned to the drawing board to prepare for the second rescue flight.

## WEATHER WATCH



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18:00 HRS)

**Forecast for Friday:** Thunderstorm accompanied with gusty winds (speed reaching 30-40 kmph), hail and lightning very likely at isolated places over Odisha; with hail and lightning at isolated places over Chhattisgarh and with lightning over Vidarbha and West Bengal.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN		
Agartala	...	27.1	...	09.7	Kozhikode	...	35.2	...	24.6
Ahmedabad	...	27.8	...	13.4	Kurnool	...	35.5	...	20.8
Aizawl	...	18.1	...	08.3	Lucknow	...	23.5	...	07.8
Allahabad	...	25.8	...	08.5	Madurai	...	34.0	...	22.2
Bengaluru	...	30.3	...	17.7	Mangaluru	...	34.3	...	22.6
Bhopal	...	24.3	...	10.5	Mumbai	...	29.2	...	17.6
Bhubaneswar	...	02.2	...	21.3	Mysuru	...	31.9	...	19.4
Chandigarh	...	19.6	...	06.4	New Delhi	...	20.0	...	07.1
Chennai	...	32.1	...	20.8	Patna	...	24.4	...	09.8
Coimbatore	...	32.7	...	20.8	Port Blair	...	29.5	...	21.4
Dehradun	...	22.0	...	05.4	Puducherry	...	31.6	...	21.2
Gangtok	...	09.2	...	05.6	Pune	...	31.7	...	15.7
Goa	...	31.4	...	21.2	Raipur	...	18.1	...	10.6
Guwahati	...	25.4	...	08.9	Ranchi	...	23.2	...	10.6
Hubballi	...	31.0	...	18.0	Shillong	...	15.1	...	03.3
Hyderabad	...	33.0	...	19.4	Shimla	...	11.0	...	00.7
Imphal	...	22.4	...	05.4	Srinagar	...	09.3	...	-3.2
Jaipur	...	23.7	...	10.6	Thiruvananthapuram	...	33.8	...	23.5
Kochi	...	31.6	...	25.0	Tiruchi	...	33.3	...	21.2
Kohima	...	15.0	...	06.4	Vijayawada	...	33.2	...	20.6
Kolkata	...	26.3	...	15.6	Visakhapatnam	...	29.4	...	22.8

## IN BRIEF



**Pondicherry University students protest hike**  
PUDDUCHERRY  
Hundreds of students of Pondicherry University on Thursday boycotted classes and staged a sit-in protest in the administrative building and the Vice-Chancellor's chambers on the campus to mark their protest against the fee increase and transport fees introduced for day scholars.

**CBI searches 23 locations in ponzi scheme case**  
NEW DELHI  
The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted searches at 23 locations in connection with a multi-level marketing and ponzi scam involving a Kolkata-based company. The searches were conducted in West Bengal, Tripura and Chhattisgarh.

**SIT to probe TNPS recruitment scam**  
CHENNAI  
The Crime Branch-CID (CB-CID) of the Tamil Nadu police will form a special investigation team to investigate the scam in various recruitments conducted by the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (TNPS). With new cases of fraud being reported each day, the agency decided to form the SIT for a more focused probe, officials said.

# India, African countries resolve to fight terror

## Lucknow Declaration urges need for stronger international partnership

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW**  
India and several African countries on Thursday pledged to deepen cooperation to combat the growing threat of terrorism and preserve maritime security by sharing information, intelligence and surveillance, in a joint declaration adopted at the first India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave at the ongoing Defexpo.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said India was geared to provide a range of military hardware to Africa.

"We condemn, in the strongest terms, the growing



**Strong ties:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh speaking during the first India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave. \*PTI

threat of terrorism and acknowledge that it constitutes a major threat to peace and security in the region. We urge all countries to take resolute action in rooting out terrorism in all forms and manifestations, terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, disrupting terrorist networks and eliminating financing channels and halting cross-border movement of terrorists. We understand

the need for all countries to ensure that all territory under their control is not used to launch terrorist attacks on other countries in any manner," the Lucknow Declaration said, emphasising the need for stronger international partnership in countering terrorism, including through sharing of intelligence.

The Declaration also called for strengthening the UN Counter-Terrorism mechanisms and to ensure strict compliance with the UN Security Council sanctions regime on terrorism.

# India, U.K. to sign pact on jet engine

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
LUCKNOW**  
India and the U.K. are exploring options for collaboration on joint defence projects and are close to signing a government-to-government agreement on jet engine technology development, U.K. Minister for Defence Procurement James Heappey said on Thursday.

"The two governments have decided to collaborate in the development of a jet engine," Mr. Heappey said.



**IRHL for localisation of Ka-226T helicopter production in India.**  
"The Defence Ministry has sought details regarding the localisation of the helicopter. We have submitted fresh details on that addressing the clarifications," Mr. Srikanth said, adding the revised techno-commercial bid was now with the Ministry and may come up before the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) at its next meeting.

The IRHL is a joint venture between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Russian Helicopters (RH), which will assemble the Ka-226T helicopters in India.

Mr. Srikanth said the localisation plan would be spread over four phases.

# India to work with Russia on copters

## Issues over production of Ka-226T being resolved

**DINAKAR PERI  
LUCKNOW**  
Issues concerning the production localisation of Ka-226T light utility helicopters are in the process of being resolved, N.M. Srikanth, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indo-Russian Helicopters Limited (IRHL), said on Thursday. The final deal for manufacturing the helicopters in India has been held up for a while.

At the ongoing Defexpo 2020, Russian Helicopters (RH) signed a road map with

# U.K. court clears Dawood aide's extradition to U.S.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
LONDON**  
Pakistani-national Jabir Moti, described as a "top lieutenant" of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim's D-Company, lost his fight on Thursday against being sent to the U.S. to face drug trafficking and money laundering charges. A U.K. court has ruled there are no bars to his extradition.

Judge John Zani handed down his judgment at Westminster Magistrates' Court in London in two parts - one open to the public and another partly closed and classified, due to "sensitive" evidence presented to the court during the course of the extradition trial last year.

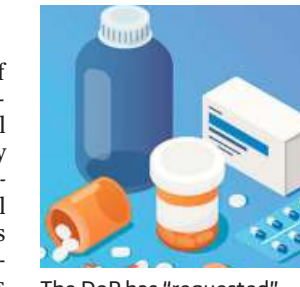
# Centre persists with 'toothless' pharma codes

## Compliance should be compulsory: experts

**HINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN  
NEW DELHI**  
Despite several instances of breach of the voluntary Uniform Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP) by pharma companies, and the demand from the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and doctors to make it mandatory, the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), which comes under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, has yet again "requested companies to abide by UCPMP" - in a written communication on February 4 - after the announcement of two more planned events.

In its letter, the Department has noted that it has "received a grievance alleging that pharma companies arrange hotels, accommodation in five star hotels, local sight-seeing, etc. in conferences conducted by doctors. Similar annual national conference of Indian Psychiatric Society 2020 will be conducted in Kolkata and in 2021 at Vishakhapatnam".

"Pharma associations are requested to make sure that the pharma accompanies adhere to the provisions of UCPMP and no



The DoP has "requested" companies to abide by the UCPMP. \*GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

unethical promotion of pharma products be done during the conference," concludes the letter.

**'Unenforceable UCPMP'**  
Speaking about the move, health research and member of the All India Drug Action Network Malini Aisola noted that rather than taking steps towards instituting statutory regulation of unethical marketing and promotion, the DoP is still requesting companies to abide by a toothless, unenforceable UCPMP.

"We cannot understand why the DoP is refusing to make compliance under the UCPMP compulsory," she added.

# SC bats for just compensation in accident cases

**LEGAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**  
The Supreme Court has held that compensation payable to a road accident victim should not be assessed neither "very conservatively" nor too liberally that it transforms into a bounty for the claimant.

A Bench of Justices L. Nageswara Rao and Deepak Gupta also reinforced guidelines laid down by the court in 1994 for motor accidents tribunals to intervene and safeguard the "frittering away" of road accident compensation amounts in cases in which the victims are children or illiterate persons or widows or disabled persons.

**Appeal filed**  
The judgment came on an appeal filed by the parents of a young girl from Haryana who was left with 100% disability when a rashly driven truck hit the tractor in which she was travelling in 2007. She is bed-ridden. Ordering compensation of over ₹50 lakh in her case, Justice Gupta acknowledged that it is "impossible to equate human suffering and personal deprivation with money. However, this is what the law enjoins upon courts to do."

**TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD  
CHENNAI CIRCLE-III**

**Tender Notice No. SCB / 1313 / HD / SE (CC-III) / 2019** **NOTICE INVITING TENDER** Dated: 06.02.2020

For and on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, one sealed tender consisting of two separate sealed covers one for Pre-qualification with EMD and other one for Price bid with names of work details supported in both covers are invited from eligible Contractors who are in the field of Construction Industry and are registered contractors of TNSCB under Class-I and above or Government Departments / Government undertakings / Government / Semi Government Bodies / Quasi Government / Public Sector undertakings / Housing Boards / Corporate Undertakings / CPWD and registered as a legal entity in India, by the Superintending Engineer, Chennai Circle-III, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, No. 5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 600 005 upto 3.00 PM on 10.02.2020 and the same will be opened at 3.30 PM on the same day in the presence of the Tender Security Committee and bidders / their authorised agents.

S. No.	NAME OF WORK / ESTIMATE NO.	Approximate Tender Value (including GST @12%) (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)	To whom EMD / Tender Security cost to be drawn
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
	Construction of 72 tenements as per T.D. HFA-46/2018 (G+5 storied) including internal water supply, sanitary and electrification arrangements with development works at Adambakkam Phase A & B scheme in Tender/Estimate No. SCB/2019/20.	605.00	3,13,000/-	Executive Engineer / Division-I / TNSCB / Chennai-III

The EMD should be drawn as Demand Draft or Banker's cheque or FDR / Bank Guarantee from any Nationalised / Scheduled Banks, payable at Chennai in favour of Executive Engineer, mentioned in Column (5). The tender documents can be obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer, Chennai Circle-III, TNSCB, No. 5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai - 600 005 on written requisition along with cost of the tender documents to a value of 18,000/- (Non-Refundable) in the form of Demand Draft or Banker's Cheque upto 3.00 PM on 09.02.2020 drawn in favour of the Executive Engineer mentioned in Column (5).

Note: 1. Detailed tender notice, conditions for participating in the tender and the tender documents are also available at [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) which can be downloaded at free of cost. The tenderer shall keep a watch over the web site till the prevailing date of tender for any modifications.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor.

No. 5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai-600005 **DIPR/782/TENDER/2020** **SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, CHENNAI CIRCLE-III**

**All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Raipur**  
Tatibandh, G.E. Road, Raipur, C.G.-492099

No. Admin/Rect./Con./Med. Phys./2020/AIIMS.RPR/794 Date 01.02.2020

**RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

AIIMS, Raipur will conduct walk-in-interview for application to the 03 (UR) posts of **Medical Physicist in the Department of Radiotherapy** on contractual basis for a period of 11 months with the Consolidated Remuneration of **Rs. 50,000/- per month**. The upper age limit for applying to the post mentioned above, is 35 years. The walk-in-interview will be conducted in AIIMS, Raipur on **22.02.2020 at 10:00 A.M.** For detailed terms and conditions, please visit [www.aiimsraipur.edu.in](http://www.aiimsraipur.edu.in).

**Director, AIIMS Raipur**

**KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LTD - E-TENDER NOTICE**

Office of the Chief Engineer, Distribution Central - Ernakulam

**Tender ID: 2019\_KSEB\_323809\_1** \* Constructing HT overhead line with ABC of size 3x120sqmm +1 x 95 sqmm (insulated messenger wire) on existing PSC pole/A pole supports under DYUTHI scheme on TURNKEY basis in Electrical Sections under the jurisdiction of Distribution Region Central \*

**PAC : Rs. 40,60,00,000/- \* Extended Last Date : 12-02-2020**

Visit [www.etenders.kerala.gov.in](http://www.etenders.kerala.gov.in) & [www.kseb.in](http://www.kseb.in)

Ref. PR/MC1 / E 180/E-Tender/2020

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
**CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY**  
KANKE, RANCHI-834006 (JHARKHAND)

**Corrigendum**

Refer to our advertisement published in the issue of 21.01.2020 of this News Papers the last date of submission of tender has been extended to 10.02.2020 till 5.00 PM as 09.02.2020 is Sunday. Subsequently the date and time for opening of Technical Proposal & Pre-qualification Evaluation will be 11.02.2020 at 3.00 PM instead of 10.02.2020. The other terms and conditions of the tender will be same.

**Sd/- Director**  
CIP, Kanke, Ranchi-834006

**Be authentic, be consistent and have a purpose beyond money**

**What do you need to win in the marketplace - better technology or better ideas?**

It is always ideas that win, and technology is just an enabler, always. When you look at marketing, it is both a science and art. But I believe that it is more of an art first. So, you need to have a great idea, you need to have a great brand promise. And then technology will help you communicate it in the most efficient manner to your customers.

**Anika Agarwal**  
Director and Head - Marketing, Digital and Direct Sales, Max Bupa Health Insurance

To watch the video or read the full interview, scan the QR Code.

This article is part of a brand initiative by The Hindu BusinessLine to profile marketing professionals from across India.

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