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WEATHER **Max:** 36.2°C

Min: 20.3°C **RH:** 46% Rain: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Rain likely. Max/Min temp. 36/21ºC

ASTROGUIDE

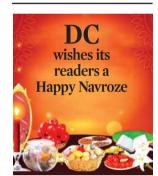
Vikari; Uttarayanam Thithi: Phalguna Bahula Dwadasi till 7.56 pm Star: Dhanista till 7.40 pm Varivam: 3.42 am to 5.29 am (next day) Durmuhurtam: 6.23 am to 7.59 am

Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am **HIJRI CALENDAR** Rajjab 25,1441 AH **PRAYERS** Fajar: 5.20 am **Zohar:** 12.33 pm

Asar: 4.44 pm

Maghrib: 6.33 pm

Isha: 7.41 pm **SUNSET TODAY 6.27 PM SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.18 AM MOONRISE** TOMORROW 4.30 AM MOONSET TODAY 4.08 PM



Many MPs opt for self-isolation

New Delhi: Several MPs on Friday went into selfquarantine following the announcement by BJP MP **Dushyant Singh and his** mother former Rajasthan CM Vasun-dhara Raje that they were self-isolating themselves after attending a party last week with singer Kanika Kapoor who has tested positive for Covid-19. Mr Singh was among the 100 MPs who attended a breakfast meeting hosted by President Ram Nath Kovind

Full report on Page 8

CITY.. PG2

Life remains the same for domestic helps CITY.. PG6

Coronavirus crisis hits I-T collections



Not food... please give me a mask or a soap!

All trains to come to halt tomorrow

India records 47 new cases in 24 hours; Modi holds video-conference with CMs

VINEETA PANDEY I DC with agency inputs NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

India would come a halt on Sunday as train services have been suspended for a day in view of the 'janata curfew' announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

All mail and express trains will stop services from 4 am to 10 pm on Sunday while all suburban train services will be reduced to a bare minimum as well.

"All passenger trains originating between mid-night of March 21/March 22 to 10 pm of March 22 (approximately 2,400 services) shall not be run. However, the passenger train services already on run at 7 am hours on the day will be allowed to run destinations. the Divisions should keep a watch and trains which are empty could be short terminated, if required," the railway order said. While IndiGo, the coun-

try's largest airline by flights, has decided to operate only 25 per cent of its services, GoAir has voluntarily suspended all flights on March 22.

The railways said people who find themselves stuck at stations due to the cancellation of connecting trains would be accommodated in waiting halls, waiting rooms and on the concourse.
With the number of pos-

• SEVERAL STATES suggested that the Centre urgently look at ways to augment testing facilities by roping in private labs and hospitals in

larger numbers

 CONSIDER ECONOMIC and other packages to support vulnerable sections, and advance the disbursement of funds for 2020-21 to the states.

itive novel coronavirus

cases multiplying fast in India — 47 fresh cases were recorded in the last 24 hours, taking the total positive cases to 223 -Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday held a meeting with the chief ministers of several states in which it was suggested that the Centre urgently look at ways to augment testing facilities by roping in private labs and hospitals in larger numbers, consider economic and other packages to support vulnerable sections, and advance disbursement of funds for 2020-21 to the

The meeting, held through video-conference, was attended by Union health minister Harsh Vardhan and top health ministry officials, was called to discuss ways to check the spread novel coronavirus, capacity building of the states and extending

states.

training to local health officials. Mr Modi said the next three-four weeks are crucial in the effort to contain the spread of the

virus, and the most

important measure of

containment is "social

distancing".

"We are in a critical phase of tackling spread of the virus. There is no need to panic... No stone should be left unturned in our common endeavours to fight Covid-19," Mr Modi said.

Mr Modi suggested that all chief ministers take steps to prevent black marketing and undue price rise of essential goods.

Dr Balram Bhargava, the director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), said that India is currently in Phase 2 of transmission and has the window to take action and minimise the risk of transmission to Phase 3. There was also a video

conference of global health experts, organised by China, that an Indian team from New Delhi attended, while foreign secretary Harsha Vardhan Shringla participated in a conference call with counterparts from the US, Australia, the Republic of Korea, Vietnam, New Zealand and Japan.

Page 7: 223 positive cases: lens on another 6,700

3 MORE POSITIVE CASES TAKE TS' TALLY TO 19

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

The unabated surge of Coronavirus (Covid-19) in Telangana continued, with the TRS-led state government on Friday reporting three more cases of the disease, taking the total cases so far in Telangana to 19.

Two of the three cases announced on Friday are from the 10-member group of Indonesian Islamic preachers who were brought to the city from Karimnagar. Eight other members of the group have already been diagnosed as Covid-19 positive before. The third positive Covid-19 case announced by officials on Friday is that of an 18-year-old girl, who recently returned from London.

The health department said that the girl was first admitted to a private hospital, that later referred her case to the government. After admitting her to the TB & Chest Hospital in the city, tests were conducted on her, which showed that she was a Coronavirus positive patient. "The public," the department said, "is requested to stay calm and not panic. State is taking all measures to contain the spread of the virus." The government, however, did not release any data on number of people tested on Friday, the number of pending results, something it has been doing from early days of discovery of the pandemic in the state.

■ Page 4: Residents' association traces contacts



Kamal Nath quits, lotus rises in MP

DC CORRESPONDENTS BHOPAL/NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

Curtains came down on 15-month old Madhya Pradesh as Chief Minister Kamal Nath on Friday resigned from his post hours before a floor test mandated by the Supreme

With the BJP gearing up to form its govern-ment in MP, former chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan seemed to be the front runner in the race for the post of chief minister.

Mr Chouhan, who played a key role in keeping his flock of BJP MLAs together in the face of the threat by Congress to split the BJP Legislature Party (BJPLP) to save the Kamal Ńath government after it was reduced to a minority, is billed to be elected leader of BJPLP in a day or two.

The Kamal Nath-led state government had been teetering on the verge of collapse after Scindia Jvotiraditva rebelled over a Rajya

• THE STRENGTH of the ruling Congress in the Madhya Pradesh **Legislative Assembly has** reduced to 92 following the resignation of 22 Congress MLAs. The BJP has 107 MLAs in the

Sabha seat and joined the BJP. Following this, 22 MLAs loyal to him, including six ministers holed up in Bangalore resigned.

The strength of the ruling Congress has reduced to 92 following the resignation of 22 Congress MLAs. The BJP has 107 MLAs in the House. "I wanted that the

Congress should not go to the palace (referring to Mr Scindia), but the palace should come to Congress. A Maharaja's hunger for power led to the collapse of my government", Mr Nath remarked while taking a dig at Mr Scindia for leaving the Congress. leading to the resignation of his loyalists from the House.

> Page 8: Kamal Nath strayed his path: Scindia

MARK DEATH OF 4 RAPISTS

SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

A large, boisterous crowd Thursday-Friday night to bear witness to the hanging of the four men convicted of the gangrape and murder of a 23-year-old paramedic student, referred to as Nirbhaya (fear-

Sources said bus clean-

CELEBRATIONS

less), in December 2012.

While a group of people chanted "death to rapists" outside, the executions were being carried out inside Tihar as per the guidelines under the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018.

ers Mukesh Singh (32) and Akshay Thakur (31), fruitseller Pawan Gupta (25) and gym instructor Vinay Sharma (26) — the four men convicted of the brutal rape and murder of Nirbhaya — didn't put up any resistance when they were being taken to the gallows. Jail officials said the convicts did not show any sign of anxiety the night before their execution, though they all skipped breakfast.

Full coverage on Page 9



Today's exam will take place as per schedule VIRUS | SCARE

SSC exams from Monday

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

The state government indefinitely postponed SSC examinations that were to be held from March 23 to 30, following a rebuke from the Telangana High Court on Friday. The exams on March 21 would take place

as scheduled.
The court direction came over concerns of the spread of the Coronavirus. "What is the point in taking the risk of holding SSC examinations when the entire world is going through panic due to the Coronavirus pandemic?" asked the division bench of Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice A. Abhishek Reddy, of the

I cannot imagine 30 stu-dents being confined for two hours in the examination hall... If a single child tests positive, leave the career and psychological impact, it will be the end for the child.

JUSTICE RAGHVENDRA SINGH CHAUHAN, CJ

state government.

The court was hearing a petition, as an urgent case, by Bala Krishna Mandapati seeking a postponement of the exams due to Covid-19.

'All educational institutions across the country are closed... CBSE and ICSE have postponed examinations. The Prime Minister, yesterday, appealed to peo-ple to follow 'Janata Curfew'. When the PM appeals to people to refrain from going out, how can the state hold SSC exams, jeopardising the lives of young children? This court has even advised counsel not to con-gregate in the court halls," the CJ said.

"In Karimnagar, seven positive Covid-19 cases were identified. If, God for-bid, one child is infected, what will be the fate of children and parents? If suppose a couple has only one child and that child is infected with the Coronavirus, what will be

the fate of the couple?" Advocate General B.S. Prasad said the state government had taken precautionary measures, like sanitisers and masks, in examination halls to ensure the safety of students. Students who had cough and cold would be segregated.

"The exams are underway," he said. "At this stage, if examinations are postponed, it will have a psychological impact on students and their careers will be hit. The state is well prepared to hold exams.' In response, the CJ said:

"I am sorry; Í cannot imagine 30 students being confined for two hours in the examination hall. If one child falls prey, then the lives of all 30 are at stake and I will not allow this to happen. If a single child tests positive, leave the career and psychological impact, it will be the end for the child.



SHORT TAKE

WORKERS WANT EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

As many as 50 crore workers are expected to suffer the impact of the economic slowdown caused by Covid-19 in India. The working people's charter (WPC), an alliance of trade unions and various organisations working mainly with informal but also formal and self-employed labour, based in Delhi, on Friday, demanded an emergency relief fund for workers and professionals of ₹50,000 crore and tax exemptions for the business class.

Workers from trade unions and representatives of various professional organisations in the formal and informal sectors are bearing the economic brunt of the infection, they

The WPC has asked the central government task force to create a ₹50,000-crore emergency workers welfare fund. The fund can be added to the state relief packages for the benefit of the people.

With Kerala announcing a relief package for workers in all sectors, Uttar Pradesh is to support migrant workers. Other states have not yet declared any funds due to their fiscal capacity and on-going

A member of the WPC drafting proposal said, "We want relief in the current situation to help workers through the crisis. There will be a cumulative effect. Economic vulnera-bility of all sections must be accounted for by the state and central governments. There is a need for direct benefit and also indirect economic support in terms of tax exemptions. Businesses are suffering during the wedding and festival season and losses are not recoverable in next season."

Daily wage workers, street hawkers, domestic, construction and agriculture workers must be provided a minimum package relief of ₹10,000 per month demanded the WPC. Their contention is that street hawkers and vendors who have been issued municipal challans must be tracked and offered relief as they are not in

records.

The WPC has appealed to the central government to provide concession on cooking gas cylinders that range from ₹800 ₹750 per cylinder and roll back prices on unsubsidised ones ranging from ₹1,450 onwards.

Utility bills of electricity. water and property tax are burdens on the middle class and relief of two months must be provided to them in the form of subsidised bills. Revised energy rates for high and middle class group and subsidise for middle and poor consumers is the demand.

The ripple effect of shut-down will be felt for the next three months and workers are going to have a tough time dealing with rents, fees of educational institutions, food and emergency health expenses, if any. The government providing relief was an urgent necessity and apart from the state ernment must work out a comprehensive package, urged the WPC.

CONCESSIONS SOUGHT

Fixed expenses for every household: rents, housing Loan, EMI, fees of educational institutions, utility bills of electricity, water, property and maintenance tax, food and health expenses.

Immediate relief must be provided in utility bills, tax exemptions, gas connections.

Other relief must be provided on a case-to-case basis.

₹10,000

per month proposed for economically backward classes, migrant workers and labourers who can be tracked through government schemes.

Employees rue work from home option

Many say distractions are inevitable. From the doorbell to kids playing, everything affects work

ADITYA CHUNDURU I DC

Working from home (WFH) is no cakewalk according to many private sector employees who find themselves forced to stay away from their office desks. Though they are happy about their employers giving them the option of working from their homes, many companies haven't done so yet, they note that it is not without its challenges.
For instance, Rishabh,

an IT employee from the city, said he has been having trouble with his productivity.

"My team has been working on an entirely new project since February. There are a lot of things were supposed to finalise by now. But since we can't meet physically, our communication has been affected. We are unable to convince each other on what our priorities are," he said.

Many people said distractions are inevitable. From the doorbell to the children playing outside on the street, everything affects work.

Karthik, an IT employee, said official conference calls are full of sounds of babies crying and barking by dogs. "My manager has started scheduling calls at 9 am so that we can avoid some of the noise. I am not used to waking up that early," he chuckled.

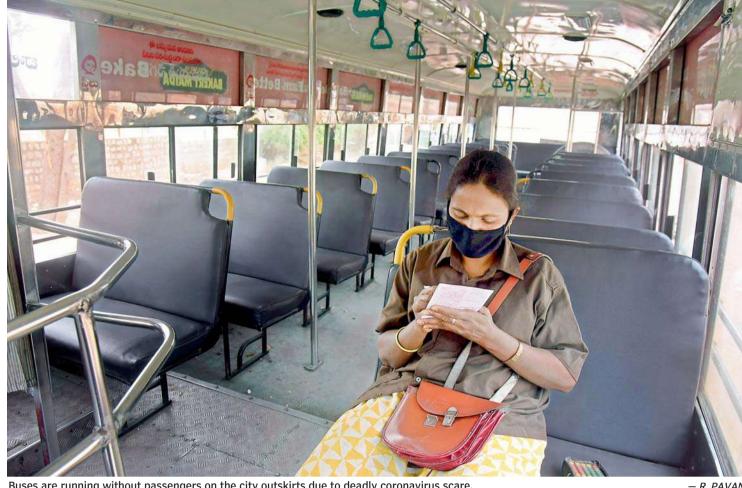
The Covid-19 outbreak has been rough on non-IT sector employees. Keerthi (name changed),

a company secretary, said, "Work from home is a misnomer for us. Without physical documents, we can't do anything. My employer has been kind enough to let us stay at home, but work has stopped entirely. In fact, we have an office assistant going around handing papers to team members to process every day." She said her employer is glued to the TV to see how bad the situation is and whether he should close the office down for a few weeks, even though it would cause a considerable loss. Sowmya (name changed), who works at a content writing firm, said her work has stayed the same, but it has been affected. Having dealt with anxiety and depression for a few years, she misses going to her office where she finds some peace.

"Earlier, I would work two-three times a week from home where I live alone and go to the office the rest of the week. It was nice being able to see my colleagues and share a meal with them. Now I feel extremely lonely. I wonder how long I can go on without interacting with people," she said.

For many female employees, life has been exceptionally tough. Already expected to lend a hand in household chores, their extra time at home has not been great for them.

Swetha (name changed), an IT employee, said, "My in-laws don't acknowledge that I actually have a lot of work and can't stay idle. But since they see me home all the time, they think I am just idling away and ignoring household work," she added, "God forbid, they don't catch me browsing my phone when I am on a break. That draws disgusted looks from them.



Buses are running without passengers on the city outskirts due to deadly coronavirus scare.

Life remains the same for domestic helps

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

While private employees are calling out their employees for not offering them work-fromhome options, they are simultaneously their house maids to report for work like clockwork. who Deccan Chronicle spoke to said that there is no change in their schedules.

Gayathri, a maid who works at three apartments in a complex in Nallakunta, said her work-

in the last 10 days. "All the people in these houses are staying at home the whole day. There are a lot more utensils to wash because of this," she said. It may be noted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his public address on Thursday night, appealed to people to not cut payments to domestic workers and daily wage labourers. However, this advice has, so far, gone unnoticed. Nagamma, another maid in the same area, said she had seen the prime minister's speech on TV. "I asked one of my

home for a week but she wouldn't be able to manage without me. However, I think I will stop working from Monday. It's okay if I lose my salary for that she said. Pallavi, another maid, said she was hoping her employers would take their health more seriously. "My husband (a security guard) told me some maids are infected with the virus in Mumbai. We are at a risk, and this is bad for our employers. I hope they let us skip work for a while,"

due to the fear of the virus and now with temples

closed, those who have

reached there are disap-

pointed. Some of them are

having problems return-

ing as airlines has given

last minute notice that

flights are cancelled on

this sector. These groups

have to now opt for road or

rail travel

Gain for Internet service providers

DC CORRESPONDENT

This is a great time to be an internet service provider (ISP). Due to thousands of private sector employees working from home in view of the Covid-19 outbreak, ISPs have been getting higher than usual requests for new connections.

Just a few days after the first Covid-19 positive case was found in Hyderabad, a major ISP announced it upgrading speeds of all customers for

SELF-QUARANTINE, FOUR IRANIANS TOLD

A senior employee of another major ISP said requests for new internet connections have risen three-fold in the last two weeks. "Most of these requests are from the ITsector dominated areas of Lingampally, Nallagandla and Hitech City," the employee said. She added that data usage figures have skyrocketed. "While it is too early to account for the numbers, we have been seeing consistently high usage by customers. This is the reason many upgrading

WINE SHOPS LIKELY TO SEE HUGE RUSH

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU I DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

government is repeatedly asking people to maintain social distancing and avoid large gatherings combating coronavirus, rush at liquor shops presents quite a contrary picture.
Usually, wine stores

throughout the state witness additional rush during weekends, particularly in Hyderabad. Storeowners are, however, anticipating larger crowds this weekend following Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for the janata curfew on

As it is, with the clo-sure of bars and restaurant, apart from permit rooms, the rush for purchasing liquor at wine shops is already high. With the summer setting with the summer setting in, there is heavy demand for beer. Telangana state has around 2,200 liquor shops, with Greater Hyderabad accounting for 204 of them.

Come weekends, these shops witness people jostling with one another to buy their quota of tipple, particularly towards the evening or night. Following the outbreak of deadly coronavirus in state and else where in India, barricades have been put up before liquor stores in Kerala and spaces have also been marked so that people can maintain "social distance" before they purchase the bottle. A wine store owner in Hyderabad city said having such a system in Hyderabad will not be

possible.

They have not made any plans to regulate customers

MASJIDS TAKE

CORONAVIRUS

HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

Imams invoked special

supplications for protection against the Covid-19

mosques, sermons were

delivered in Arabic and

not Urdu and only before

the Juma prayer, while imams shortened the

in

ATHER MOIN I DC

epidemic

prayers.

STEPS TO CHECK

Ugadi to be a low key affair due to Covid

KANIZA GARARI I DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

The month of March involves travel to temples, dargahs and native places for Ugadi but all of it stands cancelled as people have decided to stay at home due to the coronavirus pandemic. Ugadi is on March 25.

Ugadi is a major festival which involves a large movement of people from cities to their native homes to celebrate. However, this year Covid-19 has forced all of them to celebrate the festival at home.

The marriage of Ram, on the ninth day of Ugadi, celebrated in Bhadrachalm, has no bookings this year. The celestial marriage will be performed by priests in the temple according to the

Thousands of people congregate at Bhadrachalam during the wedding ceremony but this year people have been told not to come. Similarly, the closure of



Macca masjid on Friday. Despite directives issued by religious leaders to avoid large gatherings in view of Covid-19 alert, there was no decline in attendance at mosques.

Jagannath, Mangalore and Calicut have left tourists from the city disappointed

as they reached there to

of Rao Tours and Travels, says, "March is an off sea-

son yet there are senior cit-

izens who opt for travel to

pilgrimage spots. Bookings were minimal

P. Sudhakar Rao, director

find them closed.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

The Ramgopalpet police identified four Iranian nationals who came to Nallagutta mosque for religious purposes and after having them checked by doctors for any possible symptoms of Covid-19, asked them to be selfquarantined.

The four men, along with four women who came with them from Iran, are now under home quarantine.
They all came from Khurasan,

Iran to New Delhi on February 24 by flight.

Hyderabad."

made but

has seen its worst phase in

2020 and now they are experiencing the shutdown of public places and

temples making it more

difficult. For the month of

Badrinath, Gangotri and

bookings

people are

The Ramgopalpet inspector T. Chanchala Babu said, "We came to know that they reached Hyderabad on February 29 and stayed at Mallepally Bada Mosque. On the morning of March 18, they came to Nallagutta and have been staying at the Nallagutta Mosque since then. To rule out any suspicion of Covid19, we asked the Hyderabad District surveillance officer to check their health and found they don't have any symptoms." However, as a precautionary measure, they were asked to be self-quar-

antined, added Mr Babu. already calling in demand-ingrefunds. They are not sure if they want to con-The tourism industry

> and fear of the virus. Summer holiday bookings in January and February were made at discounted prices but peo-ple are keen on refunds as they have to stay home.

tinue with their plans this

season due to the spread

prayers.
Though people are taking precautions to avoid the spreading of Covid-19, there was no decline in the turnout of worshippers at mosques for jumma prayers. There was no impact

on the turnout of the worshippers at the his-toric Macca masjid, Shahi masjid at Public Garden, Jamia masjid, Azampura, Mallepally, Jamia masjid, Mushee-rabad, Jamia masjid, Secunderabad, Jamia masjid, Azizia, Mehdipatnam and other major mosques in Hyderabad.

However, this time, managing committees did not arrange prayer carpets on the roads and adjacent open places outside the mosques to avoid additional assem-bly. Unlike the usual practice, people avoided shaking hands after prayers.

People refrained from crouching at the feet of their mentors. Most of the people did their wuzhu (ablution) at home as requested by the ulema. In some mosques, the management committees provided hand sanitisers to the worshippers and distributed masks. The ulema and imams advised people to offer sunnan and nawafil (optional but spiritually beneficial) *rakats* at

Special trains for festival cancelled

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

Secunderabad Railway Station has never seen such a thin crowd a week before a major festival

like Ugadi.
There were only a few passengers on Friday going to their native villages to observe the festival. Most people are going to observe the festival in

South Central Railway operates more than 20 extra trains every year at this time of year. But this year there is no demand

and thus no special A senior SCR official said.

SOUTH CENTRAL Railway operates more than 20 extra trains every year at this time of the year. But this year there is no demand and thus no special trains.

said that even the usual trains had to be cancelled as there were no book-

ings. "The Railways has never seen a phase like this. We operated empty trains last week. There are no passengers at all. Crowds are seen only when trains arrive," he



back to

People queue at the Secunderabad railway station on Friday to purchase tickets to travel to their native places in the wake of coronavirus pandemic. – DEEPAK DESHPANDE



Churches urged to close on March 22

Hyderabad: The Telangana United Christians' Association has appealed to the Bishop of Medak Rt Rev Dr A.C. Solomon to close all church services on Sunday, March 22, for the janata curfew. T. Vinod Kumar, general secretary of TÚCA, has asked that all churches to oblige and people to keep away to help control the

UoH hostels, mess closed till April 6

Hyderabad:The University of Hyderabad (UoH) has decided to lock down its hostels and messes from Monday to April 6. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Vice Chancellor, deans and heads of departments as a preventive measure to contain the spread of Covid-19. All shops, eateries and establishments on the campus will be closed during this period. Students have been asked to vacate their hostels by Monday morning. None of the hostels will have working water and electricity supply from March 24. The university announced that the academic activity, including examinations would be reviewed and rescheduled after April 6.

2 KGH NURSES AMONG 10 HOSPITALISED

K.M.P. PATNAIK | DC

Two staff nurses of the King George Hospital here are among the 10 admitted into various government hospitals on Friday for showing symptoms of Coronavirus (Covid-

One patient in Vizianagaram with a travel history of visit-ing Tanzania and other African countries, has been admitted into district headquarters hospital. Venu Gopal Reddy, joint collector, Visakhapatnam, said that reports of four patients are awaited, besides that of the patient from Vizianagaram.

The two staff nurses are the first health workers in Andhra Pradesh to show primary symptoms besides being the first women suspects. Before the duo was hospitalised, only men have been admitted into hospitals.

Besides those hospitalised. 1,100 persons have been recommended for home isolation, travelled abroad in recent

A survey is being conducted to identify people who travelled to foreign country to ensure they isolate themselves at home for 14 days, the joint

collector said.
In Vizianagaram, 66 persons have been told to isolate themselves at home, an official from the health department said. In all, 200 people arrived in the district, who have travelled abroad and returned during last three days.

J. Niwas, district collector, Srikakulam, said that as on Friday, 238 people are under home isolation. So far swabs of three suspected patients have been sent to the virology department in Tirupati, and all of them were found negative for Covid-19.

Mr Niwas said that 90 isolation beds have been created in different government and private hospitals in the district. In view of the Janata curfew scheduled for Sunday, the famous sun temple at Arasavilli, near Srikakulam, would remain closed, he

•1,100 PERSONS have been recommended for home isolation, including all people who have travelled abroad in recent times

Freeway



Telugu Talli Flyover sport's a deserted look as people avoide venturing outdoor due to coronavirus scare in

Govt fails to improve hygiene in fish market

No decision on importing fish from AP, Bengal, Maha

DEEKSHITH I DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

Even as researchers had found that the novel coronavirus had origispread and through wet markets in China, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) does not appear to have any plans to improve hygiene in fish markets in the city.

This apart, it has not taken any decision per-taining to the import of fish from neighbouring states including Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra and others where covid19 cases have been on the rise. On the flipside, fearing that the consumption of red meat, especially chicken, will spread covid19, citizens have been opting for fish. The average consumption during weekdays has increased from 120 tonnes to 160 tonnes and during the weekend. from 350 tonnes to about 500 tonnes. According to the official records of the Telangana state fisheries department, on an average about 120 tonnes of fish per day are exported to Hyderabad from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal and the livelihood of about 10,000 fisherpeople depends on the markets in the city.

have

thronging in huge numbers to fish markets since other meat markets began seeing a slump with fears of coronavirus infections. Surprisingly, the city has only two operational fish markets at Begum Bazaar and Monda market in Secunderabad, which were constructed by the City Improvement Board (CIB) in the 1930s, during the erstwhile Nizam rule.

Due to the lack of markets to sell fish, they are sold on the wayside and on bicycles travelling in the city's bylanes. While and sellers," GHMC com-missioner, D.S. Lokesh

reports in Wuhan suggest that the coronavirus spread like a wild fire from wet markets, the authorities in the city are still ignorant about the fact.

When queried whether the government was taking any measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus from neighbour-ing states through the import of fish, fisheries Talasani Srinivas Yadav told Deccan Chronicle that the government is yet to take a decision.

However, the minister said that the government would certainly stop imports from August or September. Commissioner of fisheries Dr C. Suvarna could not be reached despite multiple attempts to contact her.

"We have been already taking additional measures to curtail the spread of covid 19. However, we would have a special focus on fish markets

Kumar, said. He said that he would immediately hold a review meeting give necessary instructions to the corporation staff.

Interestingly, it was way back in February 2012, that ₹9.9 crore was sanctioned for construction of four modern fish markets at Begum Bazaar, Domalguda, Nacharam, and Kukatpally with the government asking GHMC to con-struct them within a

The National Fisheries Development (NFDB) had also assured GHMC that it would bear 90 per cent of the con-

struction cost.
The NFDB had also released 50 per cent (₹4.4 crore) of the amount. Six years have gone by but the corporation has yet to build even one opera-tional fish market. The only fish market for which construction began is in Begum Bazaar which is in its final stages of completion.

antined or not, their health condition and also that of A GHMC worker spraying their family. A special team is collecting information of people living in areas surrounding disinfectent in city. quarantine or where positive cases were identified. those where coronavirus-The GHMC's entomology positive patients were indentified. The Greater wing staff is spraying sodium hypochlorite in specific

deploying 125 spraying teams each consisting of 18 members. The Enforcement, Vigi-

areas in all 30 circles by

State collects data on all

foreign returnees to TS



The corporation has also advanced its 'property tax parishkarams (PTPs)', programmes to resolve problems with property tax, to be held on Sunday. "In view of the serious situation arising out of the spread of coronavirus (Covid-19), a call was given by the Prime Minister to adopt 'janata curfew' to restrain the spread of coronavirus. Therefore the PTPs in all circle offices from 9.30 am to 1 pm on Sunday has been advanced to Saturday," the

RAILWAYS SHUTS DOWN WAITING AREA TILL APR. 21

Municipal

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

Hyderabad

DC CORRESPONDENT

In order to check the spread

of coronavirus, the state

government is collecting the

data of Indians and foreign-

ers who have come from

abroad, irrespective of whether they are self-quar-

Corporation's entomology

wing has taken up spraying

of disinfectants in areas

where people are in self-

South Central Railway (SCR) announced that it would be shutting down retir-ing rooms and dormitories at all its stations from Saturday to April 21. Customers with existing books would be refunded.

SCR also announced several new measures to prevent the spread

of Covid-19. At Secunderabad station, its employees, stationed have started conducting thermal screening on travellers

At ticketing queues, floor markings have been painted to guide travellers to maintain a safe distance from each other while in queue. Meanwhile, cancel-

lation of trains continued en masse.



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Elusive Covid suspect from Indonesia held, nine isolated

D. SIVA RAMI REDDY | DC KURNOOL, MARCH 20

As news spread that an Indonesian, who is a Coronavirus (Covid-19) suspect, was missing, it led to tense moments to the police and health officials here on Friday, and instead it led to nine bus passengers, his cojourneymen, being taken to the isolation ward at Kurnool govern-

ment hospital.
Police at Veldhurti got information from RTC managing director that a Covid-19 suspect was travelling in a bus from

Dharmavaram to Kurnool. They were told to intercept the bus and detain the passenger. But the Indonesian passenger got down from the bus at Dhone, much before the cops could reach it. When a subpolice inspector intercepted the bus, it had nine passengers. All of them were taken to

the Kurnool government hospital for observation and kept in isola tion wards. They all said that the Indonesian suspect was sneezing and coughing.

The police intensified their search for him and learnt that he was travelling by the Sampark Kranti Express (Tirupati-Nizamuddin Delhi). They alerted the security at Kurnool rail-

way station to detain him. The health team and police nabbed him and took him in an ambulance to an isolation ward at a government hospital. Dr Rama Giddaiah, district medical and health officer, said that the suspect has been kept in an isolation ward. Dr Giddaiah said that as of now, 187 people have been kept under house observation. Nearly 300 foreign returned people have district, he said.

The remaining 123 had

either given a wrong address or were not available in the district, he said. A door-to-door survey was initiated across the district and all houses were being checked to account for foreign returnees, he said. Influx of religious preachers from Indonesia and Vietnam is proving to be a major problem in Kurnool district, was the refrain of

several officials. They said that mosques in the districts were regularly engaging services of Indonesiabased clerics to preach and indoctrinate the congregations of religious Islamic scholars.

It was learned that at least 10 Indonesian Vietnamese origin reliteachers were found to have visited masjids in Kurnool district in last few days. A health official said that they were kept in isolation wards created in

4 VIETNAMESE KEPT UNDER ISOLATION

VADREVU SRINIVAS | DC KAKINADA, MARCH 20

Magam villagers in Inavilli mandal Konaseema area in East Godavari district are living in fear after seeing four Vietnamese in the village. According to sources, the persons came to Magam from Vietnam on February 13 for erecting machinery for an aqua food pro-

cessing Unit.

In the wake of the coronavirus scare, and presuming them to be Chinese, the locals informed the district officials. After receiving information, local doctors and police rushed to the spot and enquired about them. They were told that they were from Vietnam and had come on work.

Incidentally, though they have been in the village for the past one year, they have been to their native place once or twice during the period. They are residents of Mummidivaram village, which is the mandal headquarters.

Sub-Inspector Pandu Dora advised the four not to move out from their room for 10 days.

The local primary health care (PHC) med-ical officer Dr Manga Devi said that they are healthy and people need not be worried. Coronavirus nodal off-

manepally

icer Dr Kiran said that when the returnees or foreigners stay beyond 14 days and are not having fever, cough or respiratory problems, there was no need to panic.



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Rapid Response Force's quick action saves many

PSRTC traces 7 from UAE

PATHRI RAJASEKHAR | DC **NELLORE, MARCH 20**

The Andhra Pradesh Rapid Response Team picked up seven youths who had returned from Abu Dhabi soon after they alighted at the RTC bus station in Nellore and shifted them to the quarantine ward in Government (Hospital in the city. General

According to joint collec-

THE YOUTH LANDED in Chennai from Abu Dhabi early on Friday and reached Nellore at about 10.30 am. RTC regional manager Seshaiah alerted Dr V. Vinod Kumar after inquiring about their travel history

tor Dr V. Vinod Kumar, the youth landed in Chennai from Abu Dhabi early on at about 10.30 am. RTC regional manager Seshaiah alerted Dr Kumar after inquiring with them and lerning that the group was returning from Abu

Friday and reached Nellore

The Rapid Response Force shifted them to the General Government Hospital after one of them was found with coron-

avirus symptoms such as

running nose and soar Dr Kumar said three among the youths belong to

Visakhapatnam and four to They had alighted at Nellore to board a bus to

Visakhapatnam. He said that medical officers were examining them and would take a decision on allowing them to proceed to their native places.

Convicted GHMC

staffer sacked

Hyderabad: A former GHMC assistant engineer who was convicted for taking a bribe was dismissed by the state government on Friday. The ACB said B. Kuppa Naik of GHMC Circle VI in

Rajendranagar was arrested in 2013 when he accepted a ₹35,000 bribe from one P. Sridhar Reddy to record the works carried out by him and send the file to sanction bills. Kuppa Naik was convicted on October 25, 2019

4 held for theft. ₹13.5L recovered

Hyderabad: Four persons involved in multiple thefts were arrested by Cyberabad and Rachakonda police in separate cases on Friday. Police recovered property worth about ₹13.5 lakh from them. At KPHB, the police arrested B. Ratnaraju, 31, K Sandeep Kumar, 42, and Y. Sai Kiran, 28, for seven burglaries. Ratnaraju was earlier arrested in 24 cases. At Neredmet, autorickshaw driver M. Pentya, 25, of Pahadishareef, who had fled with a bag containing gold ornaments of a passenger

2 fraudsters

was arrested, said Kushaiguda ACP K. Shiva Kumar.

arrested

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad cybercrime police arrested two fraudsters from city resident. Police said Mansur Ansari, 40, and Aslam Raja, 21, of Pipra village, Deoghar, Jharkhand, impersonated customer care personnel of Lime Road app, inspector D. Prashanth said. Police said one Arjun Singh Bhojak ordered a shirt online with a one-plus-one offer on Lime Road app but received only one shirt. He searched for the customer care number on Google and called the app personnel. His call was disconnected but he received a call from another number. The caller identified

TEEN JUMPS OFF SSC EXAM CENTRE, SAFE

himself as a customer care

assured a refund, and sought Singh's account details.

Within minutes, the fraudster

transferred ₹37,288 from the

complainant's bank account.

executive of the app. He

DC CORRESPONDENT

A 16-year-old student attempted suicide by jumping from the first floor of the SSC examination centre at Chandanagar on Friday morning. He suffered minor injuries and is admitted in a hospital for treatment.

According to Chandanagar police, Manas (name changed) is a resident of Papireddy Colony in Chandanagar and a student of Kalamanjireddy Vidyalaya School Madinaguda. The SSC exams started on March 19. Police said he was to write his Telugu Paper 2 on Friday.

Manas jumped from the first floor of the centre before the exam commenced. The staff at the centre shifted him to a pri-

vate hospital at Miyapur. Chandanagar inspector B. Ravinder said, "The boy seemed to be not interested in writing the exam. He did not write the previous exam well and was upset about it.

Mekala Jagadish Reddy.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our Client intends to purchase/acquire rights, title and interest over a agricultural land parcel, admeasuring Ac.4.10 Gts in Sy.No.145, Ac.4.34% Gts in Sy.No.144/B, and Ac.0.04½ Gts in Sy.No.146/B, together admeasuring Ac.0.9-09 Gts. ("Schedule Property") situated at Ponnal Village. Shameerpet Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgin District from its lawful owner Shameer.

The Schedule Property was originally acquired by Sri Mekala Jagadish Reddy under a Registered Partition Deed Dated 17.10.2015 bearing Document No.5507 of 2015 entered among his family members. Whereas Sri Mekala Jagadish Reddy being the owner of the schedule property had

nade an application for mutation his name in the relevant revenue record:

before the Tahsildar, Shameerpet Mandal, the then Ranga Reddy District Upon receipt of such application, the Tahsildar after conducting due enquin

had passed Orders Dated 22.03.2016 in File No.B/213/2016, mutating the

name of Sri Mekala Jagadish Reddy herein. In consequent of such mutation

proceedings, the Tahsildar had also issued Pattadar Passbook No.T06130220393 with Katha No.791.

Whereas, any Person, Firm Or Company, Banks having any right, title

interest or claim in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof and

disputing rights, title or interest of Sri Mekala Jagadish Reddy over the sam

are requested to notify their written objections to the undersigned along with

entary proof thereof within 15 (fifteen) days of this publication,

which it shall be deemed that no one has any right, title, claim or interest in the

Schedule Property except Sri Mekala Jagadish Reddy and our client shall proceed ahead with Transaction on the basis that the Schedule Property in

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land admeasuring Ac.4.10 Gts in Sy No.145

Ac.4.34½ Gts in Sy No.144/B, and Ac 0.04½ Gts in Sy No.146/B, togethe

admeasuring Ac.9-09 Gts, situated at: Ponnal Village, Shameerpe

Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgin District bounded on the North by: Agricultura

land of P. Balvanth Reddy, South by: Agricultural land of M. Pentaiah and

others, West by: 20 ft wide Road, East by: Agricultural land of M. Pentaiah

Covid fear: Resident locked in apartment

South Africa returnee had quarantined himself for a week

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU

HYDERABAD MARCH 20

In a sign of how things might turn out in the event of a localised outbreak of the Covid-19 disease, people living in an apartment complex in Filmnagar in Banjara Hills, locked up a person in his house fearing that he was infected with coronavirus on his return from abroad and would spread it in the community. This, even though the person Aditya Sambyal, a fashion designer, not developing any symptom since his return from South Africa on March 13.

Narrating his ordeal in on Twitter, Mr Sambyal said: "Residents in my building have locked my apartment from outside assuming that I am carrying Coronavirus, though I have no symptoms. I have been constantly monitored by health officials over WhatsApp, phone calls and through in-person

AYUSH FOR

Telangana

Congress

novel coronavirus

Mr Reddy, speaking in the Lok Sabha during

question hour, said the

ĀYUSH ministry had

issued an advisory pre-

scribing some medi-cines for the treatment of Covid-19. "When the WHO and Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi said

there is no preventive

medicine, how come the

Ministry of AYUSH has

issued an advisory to

the states that XYZ med-

icine will prevent coron-

avirus? This is in con-

tradiction to the advice

given by the health min-

Mr Reddy said based on AYUSH ministry advisory, the Telangana

state government had set up stalls to distrib-

treating coronavirus.

Some Yoga gurus were prescribing herbs. This

has not been contradict-

ed by anybody in gov-

Union minister of state for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik said

the medicines were pre-

scribed based on previ-

could boost the respira-

tory system and increase immunity. "We

did not call them medi-

cines," he said.

experience and

ernment.

he said.

PASSENGERS FORCE MAN FROM DUBAI OFF A BUS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

So great is the fear of the coronavirus that people are being socially boycotted on suspicion of

harbouring it.
A 22-year-old man from West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh arrived at Mumbai airport from Dubai on a Spicejet flight. After a medical examination at the airport, he was allowed to leave the airport and was directed to quarantine himself at home. The quarantine stamp was

clear on his hand. On Friday, he reached Hyderabad by bus and in the evening boarded an RTC bus from the Chintalkunta check post

Noticing the stamp on his hand, fellow passengers would not allow him

in LB Nagar to go to his

home in West Godavari

to travel with them even though he had been screened and found to be not infected. The matter was bought to the notice of the LB Nagar police, who took

him to Gandhi Hospital, from where he is expected to be sent to his home. Inspector V. Ashok Reddy said, "The passengers in the bus on noticing the stamp on the foreign returnee, opposed his travelling along with them on the bus. The man is in Gandhi Hospital until further arrangements are made.'

his

visits. But my society people instead of helping worse (sic)." Speaking about ravel history, these guys are making it

returned from South Africa on March 13. It has been a week in selfquarantine. Now, each time I need to receive a food or ration delivery I have to call these people first and they send someone to open door."

He added that he had lodged a complaint with the Banjara Hills police. They turned up at the apartment but didn't take action, he alleged.

His complaints on Twitter had the desired effect later in the day with the police saying that the situation has since been resolved. Banjara Hills inspector Kalinga Rao said: "We received a complaint through Dial 100 and our patrol reached the spot and explained to the other residents in the complex about the situation and cleared myths about the disease and asked them not to lock him up.

Mr Sambyal later tweeted that the issue had been resolved.

CM offers CCMB for virus testing S.A. ISHAQUI I DC

Chief Minister Chandrashekar Rao on Friday appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to utilise the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) in Hyderabad to test for the novel coronavirus virus infection.

Mr Rao was speaking at the videoconference on Friday evening conducted by the Prime Minister with the Chief Ministers of all states on the measures taken to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Mr Rao brought to the notice of Mr Modi that laboratory facilities at the CCMB can be utilised for conducting tests for a large number of patient's blood samples from any place in the country. He said that the CCMB

was under the Centre's control. "The CCMB conducts life sciences research. If an opportunity is given to conduct tests for the coronavirus, a thousand samples can be tested at one go at the CCMB," Mr Rao said.

From Page 1

The girl, learnt to be a

resident of Gachibowli, returned home on March

17. For the next two days

at home, she was in con-

tact with a maid, besides

members of her family and a driver. The resi-dents' association is trac-

ing secondary contacts in

the apartment complex

to ensure that everyone

gets checked for their

The Indonesian preach-

ers had arrived in New

Delhi on March 9, they

then travelled to Bhopal,

where they broke their journey. On March 14, they reached Karim-

nagar, travelling in the

Sampark Kranti Express

till Ramagundam, from

where they took a private

mosque near the collec-

torate in Karimangar for

two days and went

around the city. It was on

March 16 (their third day

in Telangana), that some

tial Covid-19 carriers and

stayed in a

vehicle to Karimnagar.

They

health. it was learnt.

measures taken by the Telangana state government and offered some suggestions to the PM on the measures to be taken. In this context, the CM spoke about the CCMB.

The CM said that in metropolitan cities like Delhi, Kolkata, Benga-luru and Hyderabad, passengers come from foreign countries in large numbers and they have to be checked.

He wanted more focus on the infrastructure to check for and treat coronavirus infection in these

He felt that since a large number of people in the country travel by rail, tests should be conducted at the railway stations and high sanitation should be maintained in the railway coaches and at the railway stations.

Mr Rao said all meas ures were taken in Telangana state to prevent people gathering in large numbers and festivals like Ramanavami, Jagne Ki Raat and connected celebrations were cancelled

Hospital for tests.

the state.

So far, according to the

government, all Covid-19

cases in Telangana were

of people who travelled

from other countries to

In an indication of how

things might turn, the GHMC on Friday said

that it had set up six

teams, each headed by a

senior corporation offi

cial, to contain the

been kept in reserve and

would be put into action

if need arises, GHMC

Lokesh Kumar said. These teams, he said, will

coordinate with the state

government and health

Meanwhile, health min-

ister Etala Rajendar

described the crisis as

"one that is tougher than

World War II. This dis-

ease can be contained

only with people's coop-

eration." He was speak-

ing at a meeting with

D.S

commissioner

department.

Two more teams have

spread of coronavirus.

Residents' assn

traces contacts

HC for virtual courtrooms DC CORRESPNDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

In view of the cases of novel coronavirus surfacing in the state, courts in the state have started 'virtual courtrooms' to hear urgent matters. Virtual courtrooms are created in every court complex by giving time slots to each individual court where the advocates and the prosecutors will

argue matters.
The High Court plans to hear urgent matters through virtual courtrooms from March 23.

Earlier, the High Court had ordered subordinate courts to prevent people from coming to court complexes and asked counsel not to come to the court premises if they had no cases listed for hearing.

Cong: Shut all liquor shops

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee treasurer Gudur Narayana Reddy on Friday demanded that the state gov-ernment order the closure of liquor shops till March 31 as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

In a press statement, he said that the thousands of liquor shops pose a major threat to public health under the present circumstances.

He said, "unlike other

offices where the visitors can be checked and sanitized, the floating and fast-moving crowd at liquor shops cannot be checked. Therefore, all liquor shops are highly vul-nerable to Covid-19." Most liquor shops have illegal rooms where buyers assemble to consume liquor.

'Janata curfew' in mosques

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

All India Sufi Ulema Council has asked people to gather in mosques and perform repentance and seek forgiveness on Sunday in response to a call from Prime Minister for 'janata curfew'.

Council president Hakeem Sufi Syed Mohammed Khairuddin Quadri said "instead of spending time engaging in absurd activities at home, we should repent before our creator.'

He appealed to the managing committees of mosques to arrange special congregation of supplications and reciting of Quran and Darood. He also advised collective *itikaj* mosques. Itikaf means to be in isolation in the masjid or at home with the intention of solely dedicating time to the worship of the Almighty.

UTTAM FAULTS 'COVID CURE DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 20 Committee president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Friday highlighted the flaws in the approach adopted by Union ministry for AYUSH to combat the

The Lord Venkateswara temple complex in Tirumala wears a deserted look after the shrine was closed to devotees worship on Friday in view of the Covid-19 threat. Regular pujas are being performed at the world-famous temple.

City passengers stuck in London after flight ban

DC CORRESPONDENT **HYDERABAD MARCH 20**

The ban imposed by the Centre on flights from Europe has resulted in about 80 people getting stuck in London, who are complaining that they were not allowed to fly with the airlines they booked their tickets on. Habeeb Mustafa, a resi-

ANUDEEP CEREMILLA I

A man who arrived in

Warangal from France

to get married, set the

alarm bells ringing in

Warangal. Though he

did not show any symp-

toms of coronavirus, the

police told the family to

cancel the reception scheduled for Friday.

The Ramannapet resident, who returned from

WARANGAL, MARCH 20

ute those medicines, including at the airport. dent of Hyderabad and Mr Reddy said a numone of the passengers ber of persons, particularly from the BJP, had who reached London's Gatwick airport to catch a flight to India on been giving statements like cow urine and cow Friday, said they have dung being useful in

Indian High Commission in London to submit a memorandum about not being allowed to board the aircraft.

There are around 60 to 80 Indian passengers including a large number of students waiting to check in to travel back to India on a flight that was to take off at 9.40 am London time. The airlines staff said that check in was not possible because of travel restrictions imposed by

Wedding reception called off

France on March 12, got

married in a function

hall in Hanamkonda on

Thursday. About 1,000

guests attended the cere-

mony. When the police

came to know about this

on Friday, they went to

his house with a medical

team and told the family

Gandhi Hanumanthu

said the medical team

conducted tests on the

suspect person once

Rajeev

to cancel the reception.

Collector

Faheem Qureshi, an advocate at the Supreme Court, told DC, "All efforts by my son including contacting the ministry of civil aviation foreign affairs, and the High Commission in London and a representation from MP Asaduddin Owaisi to the tation Centre have not yielded

any result." The passengers also wrote an email to Prime Minister Narendra Modi narrating their ordeal Mr Mustafa said.

again on Friday which

However, the man and

his family members

have been quarantined

in MGM hospital.
Corporator Gundu

Ashritha Reddy said the

man had arrived a week

ago and had undergone

medical tests. Since

there were no symptoms

of coronavirus, the fami-

ly decided to go ahead

with the marriage. The

reception was cancelled.

Gov says observe 'janata curfew'

of the group members members of doctors and

were identified as poten- private nursing homes

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundarajan on Friday appealed to the people to observe the 'janata curfew' call given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from 7 am to 9 pm on Sunday. This will reflect our self-determination and dauntless resolution to fight Covid-19

Addressing a press conference, she said "to pay profound respects to the invaluable services rendered by the medical, paramedical staff, government servants and public transport person-

my family members and Raj Bhavan staff, will stand at the portico and clap for five minutes. I appeal to all people to do likewise as a gesture of gratitude."

Before the press conference, doctors tested body temperature of the Governor and media, who also cleaned their hands with sanitisers.

Listing out the precautions that are to taken by each individual, the Governor, a doctor herself, advised people not to panic and take precautions and if necessary consult a doctor.

20th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

K.C. SIMON
S/o K.K. Manoharam
DOB: 20-12-1916 DOD: 21-03-2000
Dad, we thank God for you were a blessing to us. Your memories are still fresh in our hearts. From: Mrs. Sandra Christopher Paul 8 Family, Children, Grand Children & Great Grand Children.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



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PRAVEENA, KANCHANA, KARUNA SHRUTI, POOJA, KARISHMA RISHABH, RISHMA, SAISHA EKTA

1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Late SRI SURESH TEKMALKAR S/o Late Sri Shankar Rao Tekmalkar DOB: 24/03/1942

On 20th & 21st March, 2020 To Be Held At Our Residence 4-5-601/3; 1st Floor, Opp: Durga Dairy Products, Badi Chowdi Hyderabad hesh Tekmalkar (Elder Son) (994999364) Madhavi Tekmalkar (daughter-in law) (9949993647) Omkar Tekmalkar (Grandson)

TRS MLA defies CM order on Covid have a ruling party MLA experts. "As far as public

DC CORRESPONDENTS ASIFABAD/HYDERABAD,

The TRS government was left red-faced when its MLA Koneru Konappa defied Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's directives that everyone returning from a trip abroad must mandatorily observe a 14-day home quarantine to ensure there is no possibility of such individuals spread-

ing the coronavirus (Covid-19) infection. Mr Konappa, who repre-Assembly constituency, had returned along with his wife from a trip to the United States on Wednesday. After arrival at the Rajiv Gandhi

Kagaznagar town. He then took part in a

municipal council meeting and some public events instead of observing home quarantine as mandated by the state government for all persons returning from international travel. As reported earlier, Mr

Rao had warned that anyone who violates the 14quarantine rule would face serious action from the government. It public safety at risk.

remains to be seen if Mr Rao would act against his own legislator for putting Mr Konappa also violated provisions of the Disaster Manage-ment Act, 2005, besides the state government orders

of March 14, and the

Government of India and

National Disaster Mana-

gement guidelines also issued on March 14. Asifabad medical offi-

cer Kumra Balu issued a notice to Mr Konappa on Friday to observe home quarantine for 14 days. Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha asked the ruling party MLA to follow the instructions of the health department.

Meanwhile, state BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar said that the TRS MLA's action was a reflection of the state government's approach to public health.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Mr Sanjay said, "on the one hand, we have KCR saying that anyone who returns from a foreign visit must selfquarantine, even if he or she has tested negative of Covid-19. On the other, we

moving carelessly among public after returning from abroad, which is highly condemnable. Former MP and senior

Vishweshwar Reddy said, "In times of crisis, we need to behave in a responsible manner. We need to be responsible not only for ourselves but our family, friends and society at large. Public representatives need to set an example by being extra careful. Public representatives who behave in an irresponsible man-

ner should not be tolerated, whichever a political party they may be from." State Congress president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said that the issue of coronavirus was best left to be dealt with

representatives are conbehave with extra caution and responsibility when the entire world is Congress leader Konda passing through a critical situation," he said.

It may be recalled that Mr Konappa was in the news in June last year after his brother, Koneru Krishna Rao, declared as the prime accused by state forest department in a case of attacking an on-duty woman forest range offi-cer Chole Anitha in Kagaznagar. Ms Anitha was leading a forest department team to plant trees as part of Haritha Haram, a high priority programme of the Chief Minister. Mr Krishna Rao was subsequently grant-

ed conditional bail

Sd/- A. ALAVENDAR GOUD, Advocate **Averlex Chambers** Plot No 59, Syndicate Bank Colony, West Marredpally, Secunderabad - 26. Mob: 9848049216 International Airport left he







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MEDCHAL | MIYAPUR | NACHARAM | NAGOLE | NALLAKUNTA | NIZAMPET | PATANCHERU | PET BASHEERABAD | PUNJAGUTTA | RAJENDRA NAGAR PILLAR NO 215 | RAMANTHAPUR |
RC PURAM | RTC 'X' ROAD | SHAH ALI BANDA | SHAMSHABAD | SR NAGAR | SUN CITY | TOLICHOWKI | VANASTHALIPURAM

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UoH prof's article gets recognition

Hyderabad: An article by an assistant professor at the University of Hyderabad has been selected as one of the top 100 downloaded chemistry papers on research journal Nature Scientific Reports' website in 2019. The paper titled 'Extended pi-conjugative n-p type homostructural graphitic carbon nitride for photodegradation and charge-storage applications' has been authored by Dr Murali Banavoth. In this article, Dr Banavoth's research team has designed and demonstrated a semiconductor that can help in pollution abatement and energy

World Sparrow Day celebrated

Hyderabad: World Sparrow Day which was celebrated on Friday at the Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad, with an objective of increasing awareness about and protecting sparrows. About 50 wooden nest boxes were installed in the zoo premises by the curator, N Kshitija. Kshitija said that World Sparrow Day is an international initiative observed on March 20 in collaboration with organisations across the world to celebrate sparrows, one of the most common passerine birds in the world. It aims to provide a platform for conservation, given the windling number of

THUNDERSTORMS DRENCH PARTS OF HYDERABAD

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

For the second consecutive day, the city witnessed light rainfall coupled with lightning and thunder, on Friday. According to the Telangana state development planning society (TSDPS), which manages rain gauges across the city, the highest rainfall was recorded at Rajendranagarat 5.8 mm.

This rainfall, touted to be the start of the pre-monsoon showers in the state, will now recur early next month, say meteorologists.

However, as per the Indian Meteorological Department's records, the city witnessed 13.8 mm of rain, between 8.30 am_on_Thursday to 8.30 am on Friday. This turns out to be the highest rainfall the city has received in the last five

It was back in 2015, when the city received 18.7 mm of rainfall in a span of 24 hours. The highest rainfall it received this month was on 31 March in

Justice over evil



Celebrating the culmination of the process of justice with the hanging of the four Nirbhaya convicts in New Delhi on Friday, an 11-feet "Rapasura" being burnt outside Chilkur Balaji temple.

Coronavirus crisis hits I-T collections

Overall tax receipts dips -4.4 per cent nationwide

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

Amid the coronavirus gloom, the income-tax department is racing against time to achieve its targets even as the economic slowdown has impacted income-tax collections across the country. As the financial year comes to an end in 10 days from now, the fig-ures so far present a grim picture of the econ-

omy.
Post March 15, the cutoff date for payment of advance tax, the all-India tax collection stands at a little over ₹9.70 lakh crore while the figure for the same period during the last financial year (2018-19) was over ₹10.14 lakh crore. The overall growth rate is down at -4.4 per cent.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has set an all- India target of ₹13.8 lakh crore for the I-T department for the financial year 2019-20, of which ₹7,60,000 crore was to be corporate tax and ₹6,07,200 crore, personal income tax. The target for 2018-19 was ₹11.5 lakh crore.

According to figures available with *Deccan* Chronicle (up to March 18 for the financial year 2019-20), Mumbai I-T region collected total corporate tax (CT) of ₹1.79 lakh crore and income-tax (I-T) of ₹1.08 lakh crore. The total net collection stood at ₹2.98 lakh crore while the figure during the same period (up to March 18) **AMBITIOUS TARGETS SET**

The target for each financial year that is set by the CBDT is unrealistic, some of the tax officials opined.



Corporate tax: Over ₹5.24 lakh cr. Income-tax: Over ₹4.33 lakh cr. **Net collections:** Over ₹9.70 lakh cr. **Last year:** ₹10.14 lakh cr. CBDT target: ₹13.8 lakh cr.

AHMEDABAD

₹24,477.2 (CT), ₹24,065.4 (I-T), ₹48,543.5 (net), ₹47,795.8 (previous year)

₹18,998.1 (CT), ₹22,468.5 (I-T), ₹41,485.1 (net), ₹41,883.2 (last year)

₹24,179.3 (CT), ₹15,051.5 (I-T), ₹39,234.8 (net), ₹41,665.9 (previous year)

in 2018-19 was ₹3.15 lakh crore. The growth was at minus-5.2 cent. Similarly, in Delhi, the net collection was over ₹1.41 lakh crore while in the last financial year it was over ₹1.53 lakh crore. The growth rate is minus-8

Coming to the south-ern states, Chennai collected ₹68,324 crore as against ₹69,248 crore last year (growth rate at minus-1.3 per cent); Hyderabad I-T region collected ₹54,096 crore, as against ₹53,320 crore last year, recording a growth rate of 1.5 per cent. Bengaluru fared

poorly with total net collections standing at over lakh crore as against ₹1.10 lakh crore the previous year, recording a growth of minus-5 per cent.

"The economic slowdown has had a huge impact on tax collections throughout last year. The overall tax collections are very poor. There are still 10 more days to go. We are keeping our fingers crossed, I-T officials said.

They also said that the target for each financial year that is set by the CBDT is unrealistic.

However, in order to get closer to the target of

₹13.8 lakh crore, all efforts are being made to collect taxes under the 'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme, which allows taxpayers to settle their dis-putes in various judicial fora by paying the tax amount without interest or penalties by March 31.

growth

Sources said that besides the economic the soft slowdown. approach of the incometax department towards corporations since July 31 (when Cafe Coffee Day founder V.G . Siddh-artha's suicide was rumoured to be due to 'tax terrorism") is what appears to have impacted the tax collection.

WIFE EN ROUTE RGIA TO RECEIVE HUSBAND DIES

JAYENDRA **CHAITHANYA I DC** HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

A 32-year-old woman who was going to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport from Jagityal to receive her husband flying in from Muscat, died in an accident and her two children and two others suffered injuries. The accident occurred

at Abdullapurmet on Friday, when Sanchari Madhavi, who lived in Jagityal, was travelling to the airport in a hired car to receive her husband S. Srinivas, and the driver rammed the vehicle into the rear of a

When the hired car reached the Balijaguda toll gate on the outer ring road, at Peddamberpet. the driver, Madan, lost control and the car rammed into a lorry. Madhavi suffered

critical injuries and died on the spot. The two children, both under 10 years of age, and two relatives suffered injuries. multiple They were to Amma admitted Hospital for treatment, where they are said to be stable.

Inspector S. Devender said that after the post-mortem the body was handed over to S. Sri-"Srinivas tested negative during the thermal screening at the airport, and was directed to home-quarantine himself," he added.



Wrecked car which met with an accident on Friday.

🔞 EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY 🔞 **E-TENDER NOTICE**

E-Tender Notice No. CE/2019-17, Date 18.03.2020. E-Open tender No 02196454SP to be closed on 08.4.2020,

. Name of the work with its location Manufacture & Supply of Comb. Metal Liner for use with ERC MK-V on PSC sleeper (RT-8527) suitable to 60 Kg (UIC) rails to RDSO Drg. No. T-8616 & T-8617 Alt. 1 (Qty. - 7,03,999 Sets). Location- Office of Principal Chief Engineer, East Central Railway Hajipur. 2. Approx. cost of the work : ₹6,44,44,068/-, 3. Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹12,88,890/-, 4. Date & Time for closing of tender : 08.04.2020, 11.30 Hrs. 5. Website particulars, where complete details of tender can be seen : Related tender documents can be seen or downloaded from website : http://www.ireps.gov.in.

Dy. CE/TSP/ECR/Hajipur PR/2459/HQ/Engg./T/19-20/28

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited Regd. Office: PSEB, Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-14700 (O/o CE/TS, B-1, Shakti Vihar, Patiala) Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813; Website: www.pspcl.in NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS Tender Enquiry No. 204/SS-II (D) MANUFACTURE, TESTING, SUPPLY Short Description & DELIVERY OF 66KV CURRENT TRANSFORMERS. Quantity 250 NOS Rs. 4,40,000/- (Maximum) Rs. 1,10,000/- (Minimum) **EMD** Start date for Downloading of Tender specification Last date of downloading of 21.04.2020 upto 11:30 Hrs. tender documents 21.04.2020 upto 11:30 Hrs. Last date of Bid submission Bid opening (Part-I&II) 22.04.2020 at 11:30 Hrs. Detailed Tender documents can only be down loaded from website https://eproc.punjab.gov.in Contact No. of e-tendering agency (M/s GePNIC) 0172-2970263, 0172-2970264

C-105/2020 RO: 678-C

CITY UNION BANK LTD. Administrative Office : No. 24-B, Gandhi Nagar, Kumbakonam - 612 001 Phone : 0435-2402322, 2401622 Fax : 0435-2431746

se-ss-design@pspcl.in

Dy. CE/SS (Design), PSPCL,Patiala.

RE-TENDER-CUM-AUCTION SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The following property/les mortgaged to City Union Bank Limited will be sold in Re-Tender cum-Public Auction by the Authorised Officer of the Bank, under Rule 8 (6) & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, under the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for recovery of a sum of Rs.87,40,635/- (Rupees Eighty Seven Lakh Forty Thousand Six Hundred and Thirty Five Only) as on 04-03-2019 together with further interest to be charged from 05-03-2019 onwards and other expenses, any other dues to the Bank by the borrowers I guarantors No.1) Sadath All Siddiqui (For Self and Legal Heir of Late Firdous Fatima), S/o. Mr. Mohammed Najabath Ali, H.No.10-4-35/2, Manzil Enclave, Humayun Nagar, Masab Tank, Hyderabad - 500 028. Also at:-Mr. Sadath Ali Siddiqui (For Self and Legal Heir of Late Firdous Fatima), S/o. Mr. S/o. Mr. Sadath Ali Siddiqui, H.No.9-4-86/275, Ground Floor, Salajung Colony, Tolichowki

Immovable Property Mortgaged to our Bank (Property Owned by Mr. Sadath Ali Siddigui, S/o. Mr. Mohammed Najabath Ali)

All that the Residential House bearing Municipal No.42-753/2 (Consisting of Ground, First and Second Floors), on Plot No 20 Part, in SyNo.359/1, admeasuring 190.00 Sq. yards or 158.84 Sq.mtrs. with a Plinth Area 3,521 Sq.feet R.C.C. (Ground-1,160 Sq.ft. First Floor - 1,399 Sq.ft., & Second -962 Sq.ft.), Situated at S.P. Nagar, Moula-Ali, under Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Malkajgiri Circle and Mandal,Ranga Reddy District and under Jurisdiction of Joint Sub-Registrar - 11, Malkajgin and District Registrar, Ranga Reddy (East) and bounded by North - Plot No 20 Part, South - 30'-00 Wide Road, East - 30'-00 Wide Road, West - Survey No.359/2 (Registered as Document No.4230/2006, Dated 22-09-2016 at SRO Malkajgiri).



09-04-2020

Hyderabad-Mehdipatnam Branch. No.10-3-110, Humayun Nagar, Opp. Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital, Mehdipatnam - 500 028 lephone No.040-23530386, Cell No.9392906472

Terms and Conditions of Re-Tender-cum-Auction Sale: (1) The intending bidders should be present in person for the auction and participate personally and give a declaration in writing to the effect that he/she is bidding for himself/herself. (2) The intending bidders may obtain the Tender Forms from The Manager, City Union Bank Limited, Hyderabad-Mehdipatham Branch, No.10-3-110, Humayun Nagar, Opp. Sarojini Devi Eye Hospital, Mehdipatnam - 500 028.

(3) The intending bidders should submit their bids only in the Tender Form prescribed in sealed envelopes addressed to The Authorised Officer, City Union Bank Ltd., together with a Pay Order / Demand Draft for an EMD of 10% of the Reserve Price, drawn in favour of "City Union Bank Ltd." on or before 12.00 Noon on the date of Tender-cum Auction Sale hereby notified, (4) For nspection of the property and other particulars, the intending purchaser may contact **Telephon** No.040-23530386, Cell No.9392906472. (5) The propertyles are sold on "As-Is-where-Is", "As-Is-what-Is" and "whatever-there is" basis. (6) The sealed tenders will be opened in the presence of the intending bidders at 01.00 p.m. on the date of Tender-cum-Auction Sale hereby notified. Though in general the sale will be by way of closed tenders, the Authorised Officer may, at his sole discretion, conduct an Open Auction among the interested bidders who desire to quote a bid higher than the one received in the closed tender process, and in such an event, the sale shall be conferred on the person making highest bid. The sale, however, is subject to confirmation of City Union Bank Limited (7) The successful bidder shall have to pay 25% (inclusive of EMD paid) of the Sale amount nmediately on completion of sale and the balance amount of 75% within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale, falling which the initial deposit of 25% shall be forfeited. (8) The Sale Certificate will be issued by the Authorised Officer in favour of the successful purchaser only after receipt of the entire sale consideration within the time limit stipulated herein. (9) The successful purchaser shall bear the charges/fees payable for conveyance, such as stamp duty, registration fee etc., as applicable under law. (10) The successful bidder should pay the statutory dues (lawful house tax, electricity charges and other dues), TDS, GST if any, due to Government, Government Underlaking and local bodies. (11) The Authorised Officer shall have all the powers to accept or reject the bids

or postpone or cancel the sale without assigning any reason whatsoever



INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(INDIAN RAILWAYS ORGANIZATION FOR ALTERNATE FUELS) Corrigendum-4

Place: Kumbakonam, Date: 19-03-2020

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) GLOBAL in order to develop Technical specifications for development and manufacture of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Powered Hybrid Distributed Power Rolling Stock (DPRS) with regenerative braking system, EOI (IROAF/CME(G)/FUEL CELL POWERED) invited on 03.01.2020.

The date of submission of EOI in the prescribed Format is extended from 27.03.2020 to 27.04.2020.

Please visit website IROAF https://iroaf.indianrailways.gov.in/—→IROAF Tenders—→Expression of Interest.

Contact person:

Chief Mechanical Engineer/BD,

Indian Railways Organization for Alternate Fuels (IROAF),

Government of India, Ministry of Railways

4th Floor, Railway Office Complex, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi-110002 Telephone no.:-011-23379107, Fax no.:-011-23379083

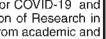
Email: cmebdiroaf@gmail.com

876/2020

SERB DEA

Science and Engineering Research Board **Department of Science and Technology** Government of India

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



SERB announces a special call for proposals designed for COVID-19 and related respiratory viral infections under IRHPA (Intensification of Research in High Priority Area) program. Research proposals are invited from academic and research institutions in the following areas through suitable collaborative efforts:

- New or repurposed antivirals against valid viral targets; viricidal coatings
- Affordable diagnostics for symptomatic and asymptomatic respiratory
- viral infections Investigational vaccines against respiratory viruses
- Development of disease models for respiratory viral infections
- Studies on immune response and immunity during respiratory viral
- Epidemiology of COVID and other respiratory viral infections

The eligibility, nature of support, selection & mode of application, instructions for online submission and documents required are available in the website, www.serbonline.in

The last date for submitting application through SERB online portal is March 30, 2020 (17:00 Hours).

5&5A, Lower Ground Floor, Vasant Square Mall, Sector-B, Poket-5, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi-110070

davp 36207/11/0003/1920

ANDHRA PRADESH

SEC to get CRPF security after letter reaches Centre

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

Union minister of state for home affairs G. Kishan Reddy has acknowledged that the home ministry has received a letter from AP state election Commissioner (SEC) Nimmagadda Ramesh Kumar. Based on the letter, the union home secretary has asked AP Chief Secretary to provide CRPF security to the SEC. Speaking to media in Delhi on Friday, Kishan Reddy said they believe that the letter has been written by SEC Ramesh Kumar. Though the issue is matter of an internal Andhra Pradesh, the centre has to interfere sometimes. He maintained that it is improper to threaten any official who is only discharging his duties. If any such threats are made by anyone, the central government will not keep quiet, Union minister warned. He disclosed that the home secretary is in regular touch with AP

Kishan Reddy pointed out that SEC Ramesh Kumar is presently at Hyderabad. Sufficient CRPF security has been provided to the commissioner on central government's directions.

chief secretary to get infor-

mation on the matter.

SEC's email not sent from official mail id

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS I DC VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 20

The controversial letter purported to have been written by N. Ramesh the AP State Kumar, Election Commissioner, is said to have reached the Union ministry of home affairs from a personal mail ID and not from the SEC's official mail ID.

The mystery over who authored the letter, however, remained unsolved. Ironically, both the SEC

and state government have chosen not to pursue this issue and allow the political potboiler to continue, compromising the sanctity of Constitutional institutions.

"We have authentic information that the mail was sent from a personal mail ID carrying the name of Mr Ramesh Kumar. It did reach the MHA which immediately acted on it without taking into consideration the origin of the mail," top government sources told *Deccan* Chronicle.

to have obtained the activity log in the SEC office post Supreme Court verdict upholding the SEC decision to defer the polls on Wednesday. This included Mr Ramesh Kumar dictat-

ing to his staff the letter

lifting the model code and

his meeting with impor-

tant SEC officials which lasted for one-and-a-half It was also noticed that the contentious letter went viral sometime after the meeting and police had zeroed in on the source of media leak. A PR agency representative was actively involved in spreading

the letter through social

media platforms.

silence of Ramesh Kumar on the letter is intriguing amidst reports that he denied writing any letter to the Centre. As the ruling YSR Congress leaders contended, the SEC should taken stringent action and volunteered to register a case with the state police.

HOUSE PATTA PROGRAMME POSTPONED TO APRIL 14

DC CORRESPONDENT VIJAYAWADA, MARCH 20

The Andhra Pradesh government postponed its programme for distribution of house pattas, scheduled on March 25 to coincide with the Telugu New Year's festival of Ugadi, to April 14. The way was cleared for

for poor) scheme, with the granting of permission by State Commission (SEC) on Friday, after the Supreme Court in its judgment on Thursday lifted poll restrictions imposed by the model code of conduct the YSR Congress govern- (MCC).

ment to distribute house

site pattas under the Pedalandariki Illu (house

KONKAN RAILWAY CORPORATION LTD.

(A Government of India Undertaking) **NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER** Chief Engineer, Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd., invites Open Tender in Single bid system through E-Tendening on IREPS Portal from eligible contractors for the following work. Tender Notice No.: KR-W-01-58-2019-23. Name of Work: Radial Cement Contact Grouting and Seepage Prevention Arrangement at Old Goa Tunnel between Thivim-Karmali Section of Konkan Railway in Goa State. Estimated Cost : ₹ 324.71 Lakhs excluding GST. Closing Date/Time: 03/04/2020 up to 15:00 Hrs. for submission of online offers/bids. Completion Period: Six months including monsoon. Manual offers

DIRECTORATE OF SERICULTURE M.P. LOWER BASEMENT, SATPURA BHAVAN, BHOPAL (M.P.)

shall not be accepted. Please visit www.ireps.gov.in website for details/participation

Corrigendum/addendum will be hosted in this website only.

Phone: 0755-2552118 No. DS/1/6/6/CDP/2019-20/ 4-5 Bho Bhopal Dt. 13-03-2020

TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited through e-procurement portal http://mptenders.gov.in from Manufacturers, Authorised Dealers and Authorised Suppliers for two Multi end Silk Reeling Machine (100 Ends) and one Silk Twisting Machine (480 Spindle). Other details & conditions may be seen in the detail on website http://mptenders.gov.in.

Commssioner, Sericulture





Sd/- (Kavindra Kiyawat)

SHORT TAKES

FAKE HAND SANITIZERS WORTH ₹56 LAKH SEIZED

M.K. ASHOKA | DC BENGALURU, MARCH 20

The Central Crime Branch sleuths have arrested two chemical businessmen for manufacturing duplicate hand sanitizers and hand rubs as there is sudden spike in their sales due to Covid-19. They seized duplicate hand sanitizers and other material used for manufacturing them worth ₹56 lakh.

The two have been identified as Raju (43), Chandu (64), Bhaskar Rao, Commissioner of Police said.

The police have conducted raids on two godowns owned by Jyothi Chemicals and Swathi and Co. They have seized 8,500 bottles of hand sanitizers packed in 100 ml, 120 ml, 200 ml and 500 ml plastic

They have also seized 8 cans of Isopropyl Alcohol containing 35 litres each, 4,500 empty bottles and 4.500 stickers.

The accused used 15 ml to 20 ml of Isopropyl Alcohol about one and half spoons and 10 to 15 ml of Brilliant Blue coloured to create 50 litres of hand sanitizers and hand rubs. Bhaskar Rao said that the chemical combination was hazardous for health. The accused sold 100 ml bottle for ₹170, 200 ml for ₹325, 500 ml for

KERALA CANCELS SSLC, CLASS 12 **EXAMINATIONS**

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 20

The Kerala Government has decided to postpone SSLC (matriculation) and higher secondary examinations in the state in the wake of Covid–19

The examinations of eighth and ninth standard have also been cancelled. Earlier the government had cancelled exams of first standard to seventh standard.

The SSLC and Class 12 exams were under way with only three exams left for each class. However, in view of the rising number of cases of Covid-19 in the state, the government decided not to take any risk.

The decision was taken at a high level meeting presided over by Kerala Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Friday. Some of universities in

Kerala have also postponed its

Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kannur University postponed all the examinations scheduled to be held from March 21. Examinations scheduled to be held on Friday afternoon session were also postponed till further notice.

Earlier, only the Kerala Agricultural University had

cancelled examinations. Though the Central government had directed UGC on Wednesday to postpone all exams till March 31, the state government had not taken a ing held on Thursday, the government took the position that there was no need for cancelling the exams at this stage.

ODISHA REPORTS 2ND CASE, 19-YEAR-OLD HIT

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO |

BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 20

Odisha on Thursday night Coronavirus case after one of the 14 samples sent for testing yielded a positive result. State health and family welfare department of the Odisha government took to Twitter to inform about the second positive case in the state.

According to sources, 14 samples were sent to Regional Medical Research Centre Bhubaneswar for testing out of which one came out positive for Coronavirus.

As per the health and family welfare department, the second Coronavirus positive patient, a 19-year-old student, has a travel history to England.

Soon after the case was detected, steps were initiated to trace 46 persons who have come in contact with the patient. The state surveillance unit has initiated contact tracing, the health and family wel-

fare department tweeted. As per data provided by Subrat Bagchi, Odisha government's chief spokesperson for Covid-19, the 19-year-old youth was admitted to Capital Hospital here and he was doing well.

223 positive cases; lens on another 6,700

Centre has clarified that the death of an Italian tourist in Jaipur on Friday cannot be linked to Covid

From Page 1

On Friday, the total positive cases in India stood at 223, out of which 196 cases are active and 22 have been cured. Four deaths have been reported while one person, a foreign national, has migrated to his

country.
Out of this 223, 191 are
Indians and 32 foreign nationals. Health agencies are monitoring 6,700 contacts of positive cases while adding that contact tracing is a constant effort"

In Bhopal, BJP workers crowded at party headquarters raising questions on the efficacy of government advisories on lockdowns and social distancing.

The Union health ministry has clarified that the death of an Italian tourist in Jaipur on Friday cannot be linked to Covid. The tourist was among the 16 who had tested positive for Covid. "He was cured and discharged from hospital after testing negative twice following his treatment. This man was a chain smoker and he died of cardiac arrest during treatment for his heart ailment," said Union health ministry joint secretary, Lav Aggarwal.

The health ministry is also trying to ascertain how one patient with no foreign travel history contracted Covid. They, however, dismissed con-cerns of community transmission of the virus. Mr Aggarwal added that since the number of cases are on the rise, states with higher number of cases are being helped by teams from the Centre. Several states have warned shopkeepers and distributors of criminal action if they hoard masks and sani-

The government has given test license to 14 private companies for evaluation of the quality of Covid-19 testing kits. All these companies will evaluate the quality of testing kits and submit their data to the Drug Controller General of India. Star Health and Allied Insurance has launched a benefit policy to cover all those who test positive for novel and require hospitalisa-

Meanwhile, in the runup to the "Janta Curfew" that is to be observed this Sunday, Delhi Metro announced that its services will remain closed and Delhi government said all its Delhi Haats and HoHo bus services of tourism department will remain shut till March 31.

The Delhi government issued an advisory for the private sector to allow their employees to work from home till March 31, while the government directed PSUs to enforce work from home for half of their non-executive staff with immediate effect.

Maharashtra reported three fresh cases of Covid-19 on Friday, chief minister Uddhav Thackeray announced shutdown of including private offices in Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur metropolitan regions effective midnight on Friday.



People wearing protective masks shop at Kendriya Bhandar against the backdrop of coronavirus pandemic in New

Pray from your homes only, VHP tells devotees

YOJNA GUSAI | DC

Cancelling Ramnavami Pakhvada celebrations, including shobhabyatra and other events across country, in the wake of Covid-19 scare, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has asked devotees to perform pujas and other rituals at their respective homes and local temples.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on Thursday appealed the nation to refrain from social gatherings to check the spread of the virus, which has so far infected more than 220 people and leaving four people dead.
After the Supreme

Court's verdict on the politically sensitive Ramjanambhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit, grand celebrations planned across the counplanned across the country — especially in Ayodhya for the 'Shri Ram Mahotsav' — from March 25 to April 8.
Ramvavami is on April 2. On March 25 — the open of austricials

2. On March 25 — the onset of auspicious Chaitra Navratri — Ramlala idols in Ayodhya will be shifted from the makeshift temple to a nearby building, where they will be kept in a fibre class structure. Farlier glass structure. Earlier, the shifting of the idols ceremony was to be celebrated in a big way where minister Yogi Adityanath was to be present. But now, the celebrations have been curtailed in the wake of coronavirus. Also, the UP gov-ernment has already banned mass gathering events in the state.

Though the chief minister will be present on the

The Prime Minister had on Thursday appealed the nation to refrain from social gatherings to check the spread of the virus, which has so far infected more than 220 people.

priests will perform the rituals and representatives of the apex court mandated Ramianambhoomi trust will be present for the ceremony at wee hours on March 25.

However, the UP government is yet to officially issue a separate notice against celebration on Ram Navmi in Ayodhya, an annual event where lakhs of devotees visit from across the country.
The VHP has also roped

in seers and head priests to appeal to devotees to avoid social gatherings.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to the nation, the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh affiliated VHP on Friday issued an official statement asking its cadre and Hindu devotees to refrain from hosting any social gathering or holding any procession to celebrate Mahotsav. Asking devotees to pray at home or at a nearby temple, the VHP has also asked them to chant 'VijayMahaMantra' and hoist saffron flags atop their homes.

Asking Rambhakts to follow cleanliness and hygiene and all health related instructions as issued by the Centre and the state governments, the VHP has appealed to its karyakartas to "protect the health of the society along with theirs."

ARMY OFFICERS

TOO TO WORK

NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

Indian Army Chief Gen

M.M. Naravane on

Friday reviewed Army's

preparation to contain Covid-19 within its

ranks and issued a slew

of instructions including reducing the

strength of personnel working at headquar-

At Army Head-quar-

ters, 35 per cent officers

and 50 per cent JCOs and

other ranks will work

from home, adhering to

home quarantine for one

week from March 23.

Next group will proceed

on home quarantine on

March 30. Intermixing

of groups will be avoid-

FROM HOME

Another WB teen roams around with infection

DC CORRESPONDENT **KOLKATA, MARCH 20**

Another young Kolkata resident has been found with deadly Covid-19 virus, taking the total number of confirmed cases to two in West Bengal. Like the female bureaucrat's teenaged son who had returned from the UK recently, the second patient also roamed around the city for days till he was admitted to Infectious Diseases (ID) Hospital in Beliaghata on Thursday, only after the police alerted the state health department following a tip-off. His swab samples tested positive on

Friday.
The 22-year-old son of a santitaryware businessman from south Kolkata's Lake Road in Ballygunge is getting quarantined at an isolation ward. At least 10 members of his family have been kept in isolation at a quarantine centre in Rajarhat, according

Returning from London, the second Covid-19 patient landed at the

Kolkata Airport on March neighbours 13, five days ahead of the arrival of the first patient

of the state. Rattled by the trend of avoiding treatment and callous attitude of infected people, chief minister Mamata Banerjee warned that her government can now force suspected Covid-19 patients roaming freely to undergo quarantine. "As many people are not taking it seriously, a notification has been issued. They may not have

the knowledge," she said.
"The Central government's notification has become a law now. Anyone can be in-home surveillance or isolation. They should not step out of home unless it is emergency. We do not want it to spread," she added.

The second victim was advised to stay in isolation at home by the team of doctors during his screening. But he roamed around the premises of the vast residential complex where he stays with his family, apart from visiting a restaurant and a shopping mall, one of his

revealed

neighbours anonymously. ment has the power to admit anyone in its quarantine centre on a complaint that the person, being a suspect does not in self-isolation.' Returning from London the second patient landed at the Kolkata Airport on March 13.

A senior Congress leader, who is a Member, Mayor-in-Council of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and lives in the same highdisclosed requests to the youth for taking precaution went in vain. Later the youth was seen at two shops of his father: one at S P Mukherjee Road and another Ishwari Ganguly Street in Kalighat.

On Thursday local residents alerted the Kalighat police station after growing suspicious about him to be a Covid-19 patient for coughing. The cops dialled the state health officials who convinced the suspect's family to admit him to ID Hospital.

Patient's father faces IMA music

RAJIB CHOWDHURI I DC **KOLKATA, MARCH 20**

In a landmark decision, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) has permanently terminated the membership of the doctor-father of West Bengal's first Covid-19 patient for his "severe negligence" and "suppression of facts" about his teenaged son's infection of the deadly virus

Cracking a whip, the IMA has also suggested to the Medical Council of India (MCI) to cancel the pediatrician's registration which is mandatory for any doctor for prac-tice. West Bengal state secretary of the IMA Dr Santanu Sen, who is also Trinamul Congress Rajya Sabha MP, told this newspaper about the decision on Friday evening.

"The IMA has taken a decision to terminate the membership of the doctor permanently. The process has been started. The IMA has also sent a proposal to the MCI to consider the cancellation of his registration for his negligence," he said, adding that the decision was taken on Thursday evening and it would be conveyed to the doctor based at Krishnanagar in Nadia soon.

The IMA's decision came after the 18-year-old boy's father gave a clean chit to his son and also himself about taking precautions.

On the counts of negligence, Dr Sen, who is also the immediate past president of the IMA, underlined, "It is a severe negligence on the doctor's part because he knew that his son was affected since he had come from abroad with a history of being contracted. While knowing it fully well, he never disclosed it."

"Rather the doctor suppressed the fact. Not only this, he also went back to his place at Krishnanagar after meeting his son. He pediatric patients. All of them are now in deep trouble. This is a serious offence. He can not do it.

In order to avoid crowding at entry and exit points, personnel attending office will adhere to staggered timings (0900 hours -1730 hours and 0945 hours-1815 hours).

ters.

To prevent the spread of the virus, leaves of all Army personnel, who are already on leave, has been extended till April 15. The Indian Army has taken several measures to counter the growing threat of coronavirus in India. These measures come after a jawan of the Ladakh Scouts regiment tested positive in Leh earlier this week.

No army officers on foreign assignment or on leave will come back to country till April 15. Posting of all personnel has also been deferred.

All conferences and seminars have been postponed till 15 April 2020. Service personnel attending courses which end before April 15, 2020, will be retained at the respective training institution. Temporary duty of all ranks will be rescheduled or cancelled till April 15, 2020.

Awareness campaigns will be run and precautions will be taken within the Army.

WELCOME | MOVE | Air quality improves as people work from home, schools and colleges closed

Less pollution is a byproduct of lockdown

SHILPA P | DC BENGALURU/MYSURU, MARCH 20

The partial lockdown of the city as mitigation measure against Covid-19 has resulted in clean air. With schools, malls closed and employees being asked to work from home, the density of traffic in the last 10 days in the bustling areas like Silk Board, BTM and city railway station, which often register a surge in the Air Quality

itoring by the Central Pollution Control Board shows the downward spi-

raling of the AQI.
The AQI of Silk Board went from 111 on March 8 to 90 on March 20. Silk Board is notorious for long traffic snarls.

Out of the 10 air monitoring stations by the CPCB, the city railway station is the only one that is in the moderate range of

The BTM layout that houses maximum number Index (AQI) have registered 'satisfactory' air of paving guest accommodations witness huge trafmetro construction huge number of vehicles plying in the area recorded the AQI at 54 on March 20. A scientific officer at the

KSCPB said, "Transportation is a major contributor to bad air quality. More than 40% of the air pollution is due to this sector in Bangalore. With a partial lockdown the natural ramification was clean air as the roads are empty and major construction projects by the government are

also kept on halt.' The AQI between 0-50 is termed satisfactory and it people

on health, 51-100 is deemed satisfactory that may cause minor breathing discomfort to sensitive people, 101-200 is moderate and the health implication could lead to breathing discomfort to the people with lungs, asthma and heart diseases, 201-300 is poor causing breathing discomfort to people with prolonged illness, 301-400 is very poor and may result in respiratory illness on prolonged exposure, and 401-500 is severe

that may affect healthy

and seriously

impacts those with existing diseases Also, of the 202 people, who are being quaran-

tined in Mysuru city, 39 persons persons are foreign nationals. Interestingly, the rest 162 persons are one who have returned from foreign destinations. along with Mysuru.

foreign tourists, receives a large number of foreigners coming to learn Yoga. The 39 include the tourists as well as those who came to learn Yoga in

Mysuru, according to dis-

Covid-19 cases, the results Among them, 26 persons have completed 14 days quarantine period and 13 are continued to be quarantined. Mysuru DC Abhiram G Shankar who happens to

be the chairperson of Mysuru Palace Board, has passed an order to continue the closure of Mysuru Palace till 31 of this month. Mysuru Palace has been closed from March 15. Mysuru Palace receives an average of over 65,000 trict administration. The foreigners a year.

SHORT TAKES

TN SHUTS BORDER WITH OTHER STATES

Chennai, March 20: The Tamil Nadu government on Friday said its borders with neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala will be shut till March 31 from Saturday for road traffic except for transportation of essential commodities.

The government, as part of its measures to prevent spread of coronavirus, said only vehicles carrying essential commodities — milk, petrol, diesel, vegetables, medicines and LPG cylinders — will be allowed into Tamil Nadu and go beyond the state's boundaries.

Also, ambulances, individuals travelling in light motor vehicles like cars for unavoidable reasons like death, and cargo trucks shall have to and fro access, an official release

Only limited number of buses will be operated by the government to facilitate inter-state travel by the general pub-lic for essential purposes, the release added.

All inter-state vehicles will be sanitised and people will be screened at the borders, the government said and appealed to the public to cooperate.

BUSES FROM MAHA TO K'TAKA **SUSPENDED**

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, MARCH 20

All public as well as private buses travelling from Maharashtra to Karnataka and Karnataka to Maharashtra have been sus-pended. The Karnataka administration on Friday did not allow public buses from Maharashtra to enter the bor-

Maharashtra has the highest number of Covid-19 cases in India. As a precautionary measure neighbouring state of Karnataka has stopped bus Maharashtra.

Announcing this after a review meeting on Thursday, Deputy Commissioner Y.S. Patil said that all private and government buses travelling to Maharashtra or coming from Maharashtra will stay off

the road. On Friday, Karnataka police stopped buses coming from Maharashtra at Jat, Taluka in Sangli. Around 16 Covid-19 patients have been found in Karnataka.

On Thursday, Maharashtra Road Transport Corporation had issued a notice to carry only 25 passengers in one bus and passengers will not be allowed to enter if all seats are occupied.

In Mumbai, number of Brihanmumbai Supply and Transport commuters have dropped from 32 lakh per day to 22 lakh.

LOW-COST HAND SANITISERS DEVELOPED

Kolkata, March 20: With the demand for hand sanitizers rising in the wake of the coronavirus scare, two higher educational institutions in the city have made low-cost sanitiser claiming they met WHO guidelines.

A top state health department official said sanitisers should have over 60 per cent alcohol content and prepared

by qualified chemists.
"We have been told about the hand sanitisers made by Surendranath College and Jadavpur University. We welcome such move and we wish to test their samples very soon to decide if their products can be used on a mass scale," the official said.

Jadavpur University Pro-Vice-Chancellor Chiranjib Bhattacharya said that the Chiranjib pharmacy department has already developed a hand sanitiser with 70 per cent alcohol content, sourced from herbal

sanitisers have been made by following World Health Organisation (WHO) specifications, Bhattacharya claimed.

"Already 200 bottles, weighing 100 ml each, have been produced and are being distributed free of cost among our staff, local rickshaw pullers. auto drivers and shop keepers. Bhattacharya, who is from the Chemical Engineering depart-

ment, said. said the Bhattacharya Faculty of Engineering & Technology Students Union of JU also separately produced a low-cost hand sanitiser under the supervision of the faculty "meeting all WHO specifications.



BJP leaders Shivraj Singh Chouhan, V.D. Sharma, Gopal Bhargava and others celebrate in Bhopal after Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath

Raj, Maha may face trouble

Sachin Pilot likely to flex muscles against Ashok Gehlot in Rajasthan

SREEPARNA CHAKRABARTY | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

Barely 15 months ago, when the Congress wrest-ed states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh from the BJP, the Grand Old Party was seen to be on a comeback trail in the Hindi heartland. But with the fall of the MP government on Friday, all eyes are now on

Rajasthan and Maharashtra, where the party has formed a coali-tion government with NCP and one-time ideological rival Shiv Sena. The only exceptions are Chhattisgarh where the

Congress has a full majority, and Jharkhand, where JMM-Congress alliance has got a majority. In fact, Rajasthan, where a plot similar to Madhya Pradesh is being played out in the rivalry between

chief minister Ashok Gehlot and his deputy and PCC chief Sachin Pilot could be the next hunting ground for the BJP. Mr Pilot's muted reac-

tion to Jyotiraditya Scindia jumping ship, sources said, indicated that he was also ready to flex his muscles to get what he thought was due.

In the latest development, Mr Pilot opposed the chief minister over sending diamond mer- recent announcement by chant Rajiv Arora to the Rajya Sabha. Mr Arora was seen to be close to Mr Gehlot. Mr Pilot has been critical on many issues, including the deaths of children in Kota hospital.

The Congress has a razor-thin majority in the state and is surviving with the support of rebel BSP MLAs who have joined the party and have been accepted by the Speaker. The current strength of the Assembly is 200, out of which Congress has 112 MLAs with three of CPI(M) and one of RLD supporting it. The BJP has 80 MPs.

The support of 20 MLAs could change the game in its favour. Move

Maharashtra, where the coalition government was fraught with challenges, to

Though during negotiations, the Congress managed to include the word secularism in its common minimum programme, the Shiv Sena has been true to its Hindutva votebank, demanding Bharat Ratna for Savarkar and chief minister Uddhav Thackeray pitching for the

Ram Temple in Ayodhya. Sources said the political differences between the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), alliance part-ners of the Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra are starting to impact the

functioning of the state

government. The differences between Shiv Sena and the NCP-Congress have come to the fore once again with the chief minister Thackeray that the contentious exercise of the National Population Register (NPR) will be carried out in the state. The Congress and the NCP are both opposed NPR and Citizenship Amendment

Kamal Nath strayed from his path, says Jyotiraditya

From Page 1

As both the BJP and the Congress approached the Supreme Court, the apex court mandated a floor

test on Friday before 5 pm. Mr Nath announced his decision to step down as chief minister at a press conference called at his official residence in Bhopal and then left for Raj Bhawan to tender his resignation to Governor

Laji Tandon. Mr Scindia said the duty of people's representa-tives was to serve the peo-ple and the Kamal Nath government had strayed from the path (of serving the people). "Truth pre-vails," he tweeted while reacting to the collapse of the Kamal Nath govern-

N.P. Prajapati, the Speaker of MP Assembly, had accepted the resigna-tions of the 16 rebel Congress MLAs a little past midnight on Thursday following the Supreme Court's order, dimming the chances of

the survival of the Kamal Nath government. Prajapati

Act, or CAA. However, the Shiv Sena has been supportive of these measures and had even voted in

sprang a surprise when he nations of these MLAs accepted the resignation of BJP MLA Sharad Kol, leaving the BJP here anx-

The ruling Congress here had been giving the impression that the chief minister still has some tricks up his sleeve when state minister Sajjan Singh Verma said that there was no question of avoiding floor test and that his Congress was confident of surviving the trust vote with the support

of some dissident BJP MLAs. However, suspense over the fate of the Kamal Nath government ended when Mr Kol released a letter written by him to the Speaker earlier, requesting him not to accept his

resignation. Announcing his resigna-tion, Mr Nath blamed the "hunger for power" of rebel Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia who joined the BJP recently, as well as a conspiracy by the BJP, for the collapse of his government.

'Who took the Congress MLAs to Bengaluru and who was behind the resig-

"CAA and the National Register of Citizens are

different and NPR is dif-

reminding me every now and then in the last 15 months that my government will go after 15 days," he said.

will be known in coming

days", he said and accused

the BJP of conspiring to

topple his government from the very day he took over as chief minister of

"The BJP leaders were

the state.

Mr Nath said the BJP was scared of him because he had initiated steps for the development of the state as well as the weaker sections in the state in his short tenure of 15 months.

He dropped hints that he

would bounce back soon. "Tomorrow will come and day after tomorrow will come after tomorrow. We should wait (for opportunity)", he said, indicating that the new BJP government in the state may face challenges to provide a stable government in view of its strength in the

Shivraj Singh Chouhan denied charges that the BJP had any role to play in the fall of Kamal Nath government.

mented. NRC is not there and will not be implemented in the state,"

worry if CAA gets imple-

Shivraj likely to be back in saddle soon Narendra Singh Tomar ing obeisance in a Shiva

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, MARCH 20

Shivraj Singh Chouhan is the front runner in the race for the post of chief minister with BJP gearing up to form its government in Madhva Pradesh following collapse of 15-monthold Kamal Nath regime in

Chouhan who had played a key role in keeping his flock of BJP MLAs together in the face of the threat by Congress to split BJP Legislature Party to save the Kamal Nath government after it was reduced to minority following res-

Congress legislators from assembly, is billed to be elected leader of the legislature party in a day or "Top BJP leadership will take the call on the matter. The BJP legislators will meet here in a day or two to elect their leader", former minister and senior party leader Narottam Mishra who was said to be the architect of the collapse of Kamal Nath government said here on Friday.

"BJP high command will decide who will be the chief minister in the new government in Madhya Pradesh", Union minister

said in Delhi on Friday minister after chief Kamal Nath resigned from his post. Sources said the party

high command was send-

ing a three-member-team of the party comprising Union ministers Tomar and Dharmendra Pradesh senior leader Jyotiraditya Scindia who joined BJP recently, to Bhopal on Saturday to begin the exercise of choosing the leader of the

Interestingly, Chouhan released a photo in social media showing him pay-

legislature party on con-

temple barely a few minutes after outgoing chief minister Kamal Nath announced his resignation, indicating that he is

Lok Sabha.

race for the top post. Chouhan announced to host dinner for party MLAs which was cancelled later due to threat of Coronavirus outbreak. He also released a video

the front runner in the

message for the people urging them to take preventive measures to save them from Coronavirus infection.

Chouhan was also seen leading the BJP legislators to the assembly where a floor test was supposed to be conducted for the Kamal Nath government to prove its majority on Friday. The resignation of

Kamal Nath saw a further reduction Congress's footprint in the

country.
With the fall of its government in Madhya
Pradesh, the grand old party now rules only in five states — Punjab, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, besides Jharkhand and Maharashtra, where it is in power with the help of its allies and is a fringe player — and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Vasundhara, son Dushyant, Derek self-quarantine

New Delhi, March 20L Former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara is putting us all at risk. The PM says self-isolate yourself but Parliament minister Vasundhara
Raje said on Friday that
she and her son BJP MP
Dushyant Singh have
gone into self-quarantine
after attending singer
Kanika Kapoor's party.

Kapoor has become the first Bollywood celebrity to test positive for coronavirus in the country and says she's under complete quarantine and medical

There were reports that the singer landed in Lucknow from the United Kingdom and was admitted in a city hospital after

she showed signs of flu. In a statement released on Instagram, the 41-year-old *Baby Doll* singer said she developed signs of flu in the last four days.

Raje tweeted that she and Dushyant were going

into self-isolation.
"While in Lucknow, I attended a dinner with my son Dushyant and his inlaws. Kanika, who has unfortunately tested posi-tive for Covid-19 was also a guest. As a matter of abundant caution, my son and I have immediately self-quarantined and

we're taking all necessary precautions," she tweeted. Dushyant was present at the party. After that, he also went to Parliament.

Reacting to the news,

according to the Union Health Ministry.
District Magistrate Applishek Prakash ordered closure of Taj Mahal hotel in Lucknow till further orders Though the gave no reason, sources

is on. I was sitting next to

Dushyant the other day for 2.5 hours. There are

two more MPs who are in self-isolation. The session should be deferred."

Later, O'Brien himself

Anupriya Patel, a leader

went into self-quarantine.

of Apna Dal, said she was also present at an event on Thursday which was

also attended by Singh.
Patel said, "I attended

an event on Thursday. Fellow MP Shri Dushyant Singh was also present at

the event. As a precau-

tionary measure, I am

self-isolating. I will follow

the directions issued by the government."
A total of 223 coron-

avirus cases have been reported in the country so

far and more than 6,700

people who have come in

contact with them are under surveillance,

under

said Kanika had attended a party at the hotel. According to Kanika's father Rajiv Kapoor, she attended a few parties Trinamool Congress MP between March 13 and 15. Derek O'Brien said in a Nearly 300 people attend-

2 Kerala MLAs in self-isolation

tweet, "This government" ed these parties. -PTI

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala went in self quarantine after they came in contact with a person infected with Covid -19.

The person with whom they came into contact, was tested positive for Covid–19 and had also participated in a marriage function held on March 14. The district administra-

tion is preparing route map of the infected per-

According to one of the affected legislators M.C. Kamrudheen, the person had approached him for taking a photograph. He stopped his vehicle on the way to take the picture. "Considering the health

department's standing instructions, I decided to opt for self-quarantine. I humbly request people who are under surveillance or quarantine to stay indoors till their tests are found negative," he told mediapersons. The district authorities

said that this particular individual had attended a marriage ceremony which made the issue more complicated.

A number of people who might have come into close contact with him have to be traced now. After giving his samples

for test, the person had gone out in the public which was highly irresponsible behaviour. Kasargod MLA N.A. Nellikunnu told media

persons that he met the same person at a weeding. "He is a known social and political activist of the

UP HEALTH Two MLAs belonging to the Muslim League in MANTRI TAKES **COVID TEST**

Noida, March 20: Uttar Pradesh Health Minister Jai Pratap Singh on Friday took a test for coronavirus coronavirus as it emerged that he was at a party thrown by celebrity singer Kanika Kapoor who is now suffering from Covid-19, while three BJP MLAs who met him on Thursday went into self-isolation, sources said.

Noida MLA and BJP

state general secretary Pankaj Singh, Jewar MLA Dhirendra Singh and Dadri MLA Tejpal Nagar took to Twitter to say they are going intoself isolation as a precautionary measure as they had met the health minister on Thursday in Greater Noida. "The Greater Noida. "The health minister has undergone a test for coronavirus and its result is

area. That's how I met him and gave handshake as well. He is also visits Dubai frequently," he added.

Meanwhile, Kasargod collector Sajith Babu has issued strict instructions on Friday directing all people who returned from foreign countries after February 20 to report to the nearest health authorities, PHCs or CHCs.

The people who returned from Naif, a locality near Deira in Dubai and Umrah should mandatorily report to the health officials.

TROUBLED I TIMES Peter was arrested in the murder case in which his former wife is accused

Mukerjea released from jail after four years

said.

Mumbai, Mar 20 (PTI) way After spending more than four years behind the bars in the 2012 Sheena Bora baron Peter Mukerjea walked out of Arthur Road Prison in Central Mumbai on Friday

evening. The Bombay High Court had granted Mukerjea bail in February, but stayed the order for six weeks so that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) could file an appeal. The stay ended on Thursday.

The Central agency did not file appeal in the dence to infer that Peter Supreme Court, paving the Mukerjea was involved in

release. Peter was arrested on November 19, 2015, in the case, in which his former wife Indrani Mukerjea is the main accused. He was lodged in the Arthur Road jail since then. In March last year, while in jail, he underwent a heart bypass surgery. His 17-year-old marriage to Indrani also ended during the period of incarcera-tion as the two got divorced in October 2919. The high court in its bail order noted that prima facie there was no evidence to infer that Peter



the commission of the

"Except for statement of the approver in the case, Shyamwar Rai, there is no reference Peter Mukerjea in any evidence.

on November 19, 2015, in the case, in which his former wife Indrani Mukerjea is the main accused. HE WAS lodged in the Arthur Road jail

PETER WAS arrested

since then There is no other evidence to show his involvement in the conspiracy," the court

"There is also no explanation put forth by the CBI as to why Peter Mukerjea was arraigned as accused in the case six months

other accused (Indrani and her former husband Sanjeev Khanna)," the court said. "The applicant is in jail

since more than four years and has recently undergone a bypass surgery. Considering these circumstances, this court is granting bail," the order had said.

According to the CBI, Peter Mukerjea, Indrani Mukerjea and Sanjeev Khanna entered into a criminal conspiracy to kill Sheena Bora (24), Indrani's daughter from an earlier relationship, in April 2012.

after the arrest of the Financial disputes as well as Indrani's opposition to Sheena's relationship with Rahul, Peter's son from earlier marriage, were the motives for the killing, the agency said.

The killing came to light three years later, in 2015, when Indrani Mukerjea's driver Shyamwar Rai, who had helped them dispose of the body, was arrested in another case.

Rai later turned an approver in the Sheena case. Sanjeev Mukerjea and Khanna are lodged in jail since their arrest August 2015.

WILL OPERATE ONLY 60 PC FLIGHTS: INDIGO

New Delhi, March 20: IndiGo said on Friday that it will be operating 60 per cent of its domestic flights on Sunday 'Janta curfew would be in force.

Moreover, as the air-line has seen reduction in demand due to the pandemic, it will be operating 25 per cent less domestic flights for On Thursday, Prime

Minister Narendra Modi had urged citizens to observe Janta curfew by not going out of their homes from 7 am to 9 am on Sunday.

HUBCAP HELPED PROBE

New Delhi, March 18: A missing hubcap on a wheel and a white colour bus — these were the clues that led the police to zero in on the vehicle where a 23-year-old physiotherapy intern was gangraped on the fateful evening of

December 16, 2012.
The woman, who succumbed to injuries as a result of the brutal assault, was waiting with her male friend at the Munirka bus stand. A white bus with yellow and green stripes came near them with a young boy shouting out for passengers going towards Dwarka and Palam Mod.

They boarded the bus but little did she know, it would turn out to be her last bus journey and one that would haunt the city forever.

Inside the bus, her male friend was attacked while the woman, who came to be known as 'Nirbhaya', was brutally gangraped by the six occu-

Tracing the bus was the first step in the investigation. One of the investigating teams woke up Delhi Transport Department officials in the early hours to get details of all white buses registered with them. Soon, the police had the details of 320 white buses. Their search was further streamlined after some other teams scanned the CCTV footage from all hotels and guest houses on the NH.

PEOPLE CHANT 'LONG LIVE NIRBHAYA'

Delhi, March 20: Hundreds of people, carrying the national flag and shouting slogans of 'long live Nirbhaya and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', gathered outside the Tihar Jail since early hours of Friday with some of them distributing sweets after the four convicts in the Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case were

Security was beefed up outside the Tihar Jail Number 3 where the four convicts -Mukesh Singh (32), Pawan Gupta (25), Vinay Sharma (26) and Akshay Kumar Singh (31) - were hanged at 5.30 am.

Among the people who gathered outside the jail was social activist Yogita Bhayana. She held a poster which read 'Nirbhaya has got justice. The other daughters still await'.

Justice has been delivered finally," she said, adding it was a victory of the legal system.

Some people distributed sweets after the convicts were hanged. They raised slogans o 'long live Nirbhaya' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and waved the national flag.

Akash Deep, who has been associated with her family, said he was there to witness the victory of a long-fought legal battle that continued for over seven years.

"It was a tough fight. However, the justice won today," he said.

Divya Dhawan, who came from Subhash Nagar, said, "The decision is good but it could have been better if the justice was delivered earlier on time."

RANGA, BILLA ALSO EXECUTED **IN TIHAR IN '82**

New Delhi, March 20: Thirty-eight years ago, in 1982, two hardened criminals were hanged inside Tihar Jail in a case that was strikingly similar in brutality to the rape and murder of Nirbhaya.

Even decades after their execution, the notoriety of Ranga and Billa is cited to make a dis-

In 1978, Ranga and Billa had kidnapped two siblings, who had hitched a ride with them in the heart of Delhi, for ran-som. But when the criminals came to know that the brothersister duo Geeta and Sanjay Chopra were the children of a naval officer, they panicked and killed them after torturing them. Geeta was raped before she was killed.

Kuljeet Singh alias Ranga Khus and Jasbir Singh alias Billa were awarded the death penalty and executed four years later.

In November last year, the counsel for Congress leader P Chidambaram mentioned the names of the criminals while seeking bail for his client from the Supreme Court in the INX

Media money-laundering case. Making a plea for bail for Chidambaram, who was then in jail since August 21, 2019, counsel Kapil Sibal referred to the Delhi High Court verdict which said if the leader is granted bail then a wrong message would go to the nation.

After 7 long years, justice served

Nirbhaya convicts didn't put up any resistance when taken to the gallows

SANJAY KAW | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

A large, boisterous crowd had assembled outside Tihar Jail in Delhi on the intervening night of Thursday and Friday to bear witness to the hanging of four men convicted of gangrape and murder of a 23-year-old para-medic student, referred to as Nirbhaya (Fearless), in December 2012.

While a group of people chanted "Death to rapists" outside, inside Tihar the executions were being carried out as per the guidelines prescribed under the Delhi Prison Rules, 2018.

Sources said bus cleaners Mukesh Singh (32) and Akshay Thakur (31), fruit-seller Pawan Gupta (25) and gym instructor Vinay Sharma (26) — the four men convicted of the brutal rape and murder of Nirbhaya — didn't put up any resistance when they were being taken to the

gallows.

Jail officials said the convicts did not show any sign of anxiety the night before their execution, though they all skipped breakfast on Friday

As per prison rules, all the four convicts were marched to the scaffold with their hands pinioned behind their backs. A cotton cap with a flap was then put to their face just before they entered the enclosure with the

Vinay was reported to have cried before he was hanged until death along with the three others at 5.30 am on Friday in Asia's largest prison which houses more than 16,000 inmates. The executions took place in the presence of the jail superintendent, district magistrate and a medical offi-

Director general of prisons, Tihar, Sandeep Goel, sent a one-word text message to the assembled media outside the prison at 5.35 am: "Hanged".

All the four convicts were hanged together by Meerut-based hangman, Pawan Jallad.

The solemnity of the occasion was lost in the din as the crowd assembled outside the prison burst into celebration and burnt alive.

distributing

sweets. Hundreds of police personnel had been deployed to control the crowd that had assembled hours before the hangings to celebrate the execution. While a group of people

chanted "Death rapists", many waved placards and thanking the judiciary. The hangings, the first such mass death sentence carried out in Tihar and the first capital punishment carried out in India in five years, closed a painful chapter of the brutal rape and murder that had seared the country's soul.
The crime, which took

place in a private bus that moved through crowded areas of South Delhi on the night of December 16, had sparked widespread protests across the country, a massive global outrage and led to the tough-ening of laws against sex offenders in India.

The hanging of the four was carried out as per schedule, just two hours after a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court rejected the final plea by the convicts' lawyer, A.P. Singh, to stay their execution in a late-night hear-ing. After losing the last legal battle, Singh had to face the wrath of some women activists in the premises of the apex court for raising a ques-tion over Nirbhaya's character.

"Ask her (Nirbhaya's) mother why she didn't know where her daughter was till midnight, with whom and in what condi-tion," he said.

At her Dwarka residence, the victim's mother said she hugged her daughter's photograph and told her, "We finally got justice." Nirbhaya's

Badrinath Singh said that his "faith in the judiciary

has been restored".

On December 21, 2012, eight days before she died, Nirbhaya had, in dying declaration made in front of a magistrate, stated: "I want them (convicts) to be hanged so that no other criminal can do this kind of torture and ill-treatment to any other girl. In fact, such criminals should be



Nirbhaya rape and murder case victim's parents react at Dwarka in New Delhi on Friday after four men convicted of the crime were executed inside Tihar jail.

MOST CRITICAL CASE IN 37 YEAR CAREER: EX-COP

New Delhi, March 20: Neeraj Kumar, who headed the Delhi Police when Nirbhaya gang-raped and murdered in 2012, on Friday said it was the "most critical" case in his 37year career.

Expressing relief at the outcome of the case after the four convicts were hanged in Tihar Jail, the 1976-batch IPS officer said his reputation was at stake with the case that caught the attention of the entire

Had this case not been brought to its logical conclusion, "all that I had done in my professional career would have been negated", he said.

Kumar, who is credited with many successful investigations include deportation of dreaded terrorist Aftab Ansari, said the case was all the more important for him as there was a vociferous demand for his resignation and the world suddenly started

"baying for my blood". The incident was shocking and hearts of everyone from the police probe team were bleeding as more sordid details about the case surfaced one after another, he said.

'It's inhuman was my first reaction and the focus was to catch the culprits as soon as possible," Kumar said.

"It became the most critical case of my life because my reputation was at stake. Had this case not been cracked, charge-sheeted and brought to logical con-clusion, all that I had done in my professional negated," he said. — PTI

TROPHIES SHE won in schools remind us of her. She excelled in studies in school and would come in top bracket of her class year after year

shared by states under the Right to Information Act

According to the Project 39A data:

AT LEAST 750 EXECUTIONS SINCE 1947

India has carried out at

least 720 executions since

Independence, nearly half

data collated by a National

of them in UP, as per the

Law University.

2004,

rape

convict

Chatterjee was

executed after

about 7 years

since the last

execution.

New Delhi, March 20: An

embedded glass cabinet in

Nirbhaya's parents' house

in Dwarka area here con-

tains a collection of academic excellence trophies,

portraits of her grandpar-

ents and a blue coffee mug

that the 23-year-old young

woman held dear in her life

before it was tragically cut

The mug now occupies a

place of pride on the top

shelf sitting next to the tro-

phies she won in school, points her uncle Pawan

The horrific gang rape

and murder of the physio-

therapy intern had sent

Kumar Singh.

short in December 2012.

living room of

Dhananjoy

a period of

In

2013.

February

Parliame

convict

hanged

Guru was

Afzal

PAWAN KUMAR SINGH, Nirbhaya's Uncle

shockwaves across the country and triggered nationwide protests and a global public outcry. The four men convicted in the case were hanged in the darkness of pre-dawn on Friday, ending a terrifying chapter in India's long history of sexual assault that

Grieving kin hang on to Nirbhaya's memories had seared the nation's

5 each in

Jammu and

Odisha and 🚤

"These trophies she won in schools remind us of her even when she is gone. She excelled in studies in school and would come in top bracket of her class year after year. And, that blue coffee mug was her favourite, she used it often," Singh said.

The cabinet also has various citations presented to her mother or father by various entities. On Friday, when the TV channels were presenting news on the hanging of the four convicts, the screen of the television reflected on a citation that read 'Woman of

the Year' presented by a noted TV network. In a way Devi who fought relentlessly to get justice for her

daughter A framed poster hung on the wall carrying the image of a single flame, with a caption 'In Loving Memory Nirbhaya Braveheart'

Sunita Singh, 48, said, "My niece was a very simple girl. She liked studying and was very committed about it. She did not have much hobbies, but, she was spiritual. Today, if she can hear us, we want to tell her that we finally got justice,"

SAFDARJUNG DOCTORS REMEMBER NIRBHAYA AS A 'BRAVE WOMAN'

New Delhi, March 20: the medical superinten-Doctors at Safdarjung Nirbhaya in 2012 remembered her as a "brave woman" and said that with the hanging of the four convicts law had taken its course.

Nirbhaya was admitted to Safdarjung Hospital before being airlifted to Singapore for treatment where she succumbed to

Ďr BD Athani, who was

dent of Hospital when Nirbhaya was treated, said they have got "closure".
"I was involved in the

medical management part of it. It was a very heinous crime that committed. Law taken its course. We had referred the patient to Singapore. We have got closure as far as this patient is concerned," he

JUSTICE HAS PREVAILED, TWEETS MODI DC CORRESPONDENT Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said justice has prevailed as his senior . Cabinet colleagues and women groups wel-comed the hanging of the four convicts in Nirbhaya gangrape and murder case. Justice has prevailed. It is of utmost importance to ensure dignity and safety of women, he said in a tweet, with-out mentioning Nirbhaya's case. Union women and child development minister Smriti Irani said that the hanging will send out a strong message to criminals that they cannot escape the law. "I have seen Nirbhaya's mother's struggle over the years, though it took time to get justice but it has been done finally. It is also a message to people that you can run away from law but cannot finally avoid it. I'm happy that justice has been done. I greet this day with aplomb that justice has finally been done to Nirbhaya. The hanging is a message for every criminal that one day law will catch up with you," said Irani.

MUKESH SINGH WANTED TO DONATE ORGANS

New Delhi, March 20: Minutes before they were hanged in the Nirbhaya case, Mukesh Singh said he would like to donate his organs while Vinay Sharma wanted his paintings to be given to the jail superintendent and his 'Hanuman Chalisa' to his family, an official said on Friday.

However, none of the four convicts — Mukesh, Vinay, Pawan Gupta and Akshay Kumar Singh recorded any will, the official said.

'Vinay said his paintings should be given to the jail superintendent and his copy of 'Hanuman Chalisa' to family," the official said. Vinay used to draw paintings in jail, the official added.

Death row convicts are asked about their last wish before hanging.

Less than an hour before their hanging, jail officials and West Delhi DM Neha Bansal visited the four convicts in their

respective cell. As per prison manual any documents, including the will of the prisoner, can be signed and attested in the presence of the jail superintendent and the district magistrate or additi-

onal district magistrate. Bodies of the four convicts were handed over to their respective families for last rites on Friday after the postmortem was conducted at the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital here, jail

DOWN MEMORY I LANE Nirbhaya excelled in academics, had fondness for a special coffee mug

10 in West Delhi **Bengal** Rajasthan Project 39A data figures gathered are based on records

Case saw clapping, judge fainting

PARMOD KUMAR | DC NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

Curtains were drawn on the legal remedies available to the death row convicts in Nirbhaya, now hanged, case after Supreme Court in a late night sitting that commenced at 2.30 a.m. and concluded at around 3.30 a.m. rejected Pawan Gupta's petition challenging the rejection of his mercy petition by the President Ram Nath Kovind.

Nirbhaya case will be remembered not only for the protest that was triggered at Vijay Chowk — just below the Raisina Hills — seat of the gov-President House, but also that this case saw both clapping and a judge momentarily fainting in

While Justice Bopanna came to be the part of the three-judge bench recently, Justice Banumathi and Justice Bhushan are associated with the hearing of the matter ever since the appeal by four convicts who have now been hanged – challenging the Delhi High court confirming their conviction and death sentence.

While this case saw Banumathi Justice momentarily fainting while dictating order in one of the matters relating to the case on February 14, 2020, this is a case which saw visitors and lawyers present in the court room clapping when Justice Dipak Misra on May 5, 2017 pronounced judgment upholding the conviction and death sentence of the

Pak police posts attacked, 2 killed

Peshawar: Some unidentified militants armed with automatic weapons attacked a police checkpost in Pakistan's northwestern tribal region, killing two police-men, officials said on Friday.

The militants struck the police checkpost in Mamozai area of Upper Aurakzai tribal district, district police officer Nisar Ahmed said. Frontier corps troops retaliated, leading to a gunfight which left two policemen dead. Later,

several policemen rushed to the spot and conducted a search operation to nab the militants.

30 Mali soldiers killed by jihadists

Bamako: "Around 30" Malian soldiers were killed and five more injured in a suspected jihadist attack on Thursday in the north of the country the Army said. The attack took place early on Thursday at a military camp in Tarkint, north of Gao, an army official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The toll in the attack of #Tarkint (#Gao) has risen to around 30 deaths and five wounded," Mali's armed forces wrote on Twitter. Earlier, the Army had said that its camp in Tarkint was the target of a "terrorist attack", putting the initial toll at two dead and 10 injured. It is the deadliest attack on the Malian amry in four months.

HYPERSONIC MISSILE TESTED, **SAYS PENTAGON**

Washington, March 20: The United States announced Friday it has successfully tested an unarmed prototype of a hypersonic missile, a weapon that could potentially overwholm whelm an adversary's defense

The Pentagon said a test missile flew at hypersonic speeds
— more than five times the speed of sound, or Mach 5 — to a designated impact point. The test followed the first joint US Army and Navy flight experi-ment in October 2017, when the prototype missile demonstrated it could glide in the direction of a target at hypersonic speed.

"Today we validated our design and are now ready to move to the next phase towards fielding a hypersonic strike capability," Vice Admiral Johnny Wolfe said in a statement.

Hypersonic weapons can take missile warfare, and particularly nuclear warfare, to a level: they can travel much faster than current nuclearcapable ballistic and cruise missiles, at different altitudes and with the maneuverability that makes them difficult to defeat with current missile defense systems.

NEW AI SYSTEM CAN PREDICT AIR POLLUTION

London, March 20: Scientists have developed a new artificial intelligence (AI) system which they say can predict air pollution levels hours in advance.

The technology is novel for a number of reasons, one being that it has the potential to provide new insight into the environmental factors that have significant impacts on air pollution levels, said researchers at Loughborough University

The project focuses on using AI to predict PM2.5 — particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns in diameter — that is often characterised as reduced visibility in cities and hazylooking air when levels are

Particulate matter is a type of air pollutant and it is the pollutant with the strongest evidence for public health concern. This is because the particles are so small they can easily get into the lungs and then the bloodstream, resulting in cardiovascular, cerebrovascular and respiratory impacts,

the researchers said. There are systems that already exist that can predict PM2.5 but the new research looks to take the technology to the next level, said Yuanlin Li Loughborough

University. The system predicts PM2.5 levels in advance — giving pre-dictions for the levels in one hour to several hours' time, the researchers said. It interprets the various factors and data used for prediction, which could lead to a better understanding of the weather, seasonal and environmental factors that can impact PM2.5, they said.

24 Afghan soliders die in attack on their base

Taliban insurgents opened fire on sleeping comrades

ast two dozen Afghan sec-urity forces were killed Friday in an insider attack on their base in southern Afghanistan, officials said, as fighting raged in the war-weary country while efforts to start talks with the Taliban stalled.

The pre-dawn attack in Zabul province comes as Afghanistan is grappling with several crises including an increase in Taliban violence that has thrown a supposed peace process into turmoil, mounting coronavirus cases, and a political feud that has seen two men claim the presi-

The attack in Zabul saw several "infiltrators" open fire on their comrades as they slept, according to provincial governor Rahmatullah Yarmal, in one of the deadliest attacks since the US signed a withdraw-



US Army shows large tents established by The 82nd Airborne Division to provide accommodations for up to 600 soldiers at Fort Bragg.

al deal with the Taliban last month.

The pre-dawn raid targeted a joint police and army headquarters near Qalat, the provincial capi-Afghan army forces and 10 policemen were killed," Zabul provincial council chief Ata Jan Haq Bayan

said. He added that four other Afghan service members were missing. 'The attackers had connections with the Taliban insurgents," Bayan said.

They fled in two military Humvee vehicles, along with a pickup truck, weapons and ammunition.

request for comment. Zabul province, bordering Pakistan, has long been an insurgent stronghold and was the holdout for former Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar, who died in

The Zabul attack comes just a day after Afghan Defence Minister Asadullah Khalid called on the Taliban to commit to a ceasefire as a way of tackling the novel coronavirus, which observers fear is spreading unchecked through the impoverished country. Khalid also said Afghan forces should assume a more aggressive "active defence" posture against the Taliban, who have continued attacks across the country since signing a deal with the US on February 29.

-AFP

Pak doc who helped ISIS held in US for terror plans

Washington, March 20: A Pakistani doctor on Friday was arrested for allegedly trying to help ISIS and expressing his desire to conduct 'lone wolf' terrorist attacks in the US, officials said.

Muhammad Masood, 28, made several statements to others between January and March, including pledging his allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Al-Sham (ISIS) and its leader, and expressing his desire to travel to Syria to fight for the terrorist group, according to Assistant Attorney General for National Security John Demers and Attorney Erica MacDonald for District of Minnesota.

Masood also expressed his desire to conduct 'lone wolf' terrorist attacks in the US, they said. He was arrested at Minneapolis-St Paul International Airport and made his iniappearance before Magistrate Judge David Schultz in the US District Court in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He has been ordered to remain in cusdetention hearing, which is scheduled for March 24.

Masood is a licensed medical doctor in Pakistan and was formerly employed as research coordinator for a medical clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, under an H-1B

Mexico are working on a

plan to close their border

to non-essential travel due

to the coronavirus pan-

demic, the State Depar-

The move comes as simi-

to come into force along

the northern border with Canada by Saturday. Secretary of State Mike

Pompeo and Mexico's

Marcelo Luis Ebrard

Casaubon spoke on "coor-

Secretary

tment said on Thursday.

US, Pakistan agree to boost defence ties

Washington, March 20: US Defence Secretary Mark Esper on Thursday held a telephonic converwith Pakistan chief General sation Qamar Javed Bajwa, and reaffirmed America's commitment to a long-term, mutually beneficial security partnership, the Pentagon said.

Esper expressed his appreciation Pakistan's support to the Afghanistan reconciliation process following the February 29, US-Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Joint Declaration and signing of the US-Taliban

visa. On February 21, Masood purchased a plane ticket from Chicago, Illinois to Amman, Jordan, and from there planned to travel to Syria.

Masood made a new plan to fly from Minneapolis to Los Angeles to meet up with an individual who he

US, Mexico to shut border

our shared border in

response to the COVID-19

pandemic," State Department spokeswoman

Morgan Ortagus said.
"The two leaders dis-

cussed the importance of

creating a uniform North

American strategy to reduce public health risks

to our communities and

more effectively address

Pompeo tweeted that he

had been working closely

with Ebrard "on travel

rising challenges jointly."

for 'non-essential travel'

Washington, March 20: dinating a plan to restrict The United States and non-essential travel across

Pentagon Spokesperson
Jonathan Hoffman said.
During the call, Esper
reaffirmed the depart-

ment of defence's commitment to a long-term, mutually beneficial secu-rity partnership with the government of Pakistan, Hoffman said in a readout of the call.

The US-Taliban peace deal, aimed at bringing lasting peace in war-torn Afghanistan and allowing American troops home America's longest war, was signed in Doha on February 29.

use Jordan closed its borders to incoming travel due to the coronavirus pandemic, according to the complaint.

believed would assist him with travel via cargo ship to deliver him to ISIS territory, it alleged. On Thursday, he travelled from Rochester to Minn-On March 16, 2020, his eapolis-St Paul Internboard a flight bound for Los Angeles, California.

Upon arrival at MSP, Masood checked in for his flight and was subsequently arrested by the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, officials said.

restrictions that balance

protecting our citizens from further transmission

"Together, we can reduce

public health risks and

prioritize essential cross-

border commerce and

trade." In a tweet, Ebrard

said he would reveal more

details of the closure on

Friday. The measure follows similar US moves to

bar visitors from most of

Europe, China and other

of Covid19.'

5.9-MAGNITUDE QUAKE HITS TIBET NEAR NEPAL BRIM

Beijing, March 20: A 5.9-magnitude earthquake struck China's remote Himalayan region of Tibet close to Nepal on Friday, authorities said. The epicentre of the quake was located 28.63 degrees north latitude and 87.42 degrees east longitude, with a depth of 10 km, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre.

Tremors were felt in Tingri county of Xigaze city in Tibet near Mount Everest at 9:33 AM, the local government said. adding that no house collapse or disruption of traffic and communications were reported.

The county government has sent officials to villages and towns to collect more information, state-run Xinhua news agency reported. Tingri borders Nepal

to the south. Most areas of the county belong to the Mount Everest National Nature Reserve, it

ing his bride Baraa Amarneh after she left the beauty salon on Friday in the Palestinian Deheisheh refugee camp near the West Bank city of Bethlehem. The couple celebrated their wedding wearing masks and gloves as caution measures during the corona virus COVID-19 pandemic. Nikki Haley resigns from Boeing

Palestinian groom Imad Sharaf (R) wears gloves and a face mask while accompany

Washington, March 20: Indian-American Nikki Haley has resigned from the Boeing's board of directors over the major airline manufacturer's pursuit of federal assistance to mitigate its financial crisis due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Wedding cover

Two-term governor of South Carolina and former US Ambassador to the UN, Haley resigned from the board on March 16, according to a Boeing filing before the US Security and Exchange

Commission (SEC). Haley had joined the Boeing board on April 29 last year. She served on the Finance and Audit Committees.

HALEY HAD joined the

Boeing board on April 29 last year. She served on the Finance and Audit Committees.

"A variety of approaches are currently under discussion among policy makers in the administration and the Congress, as well as the private sector, to address the near-term liquidity needs of the

aerospace, travel, and

other sectors affected by the current COVID-19 cri-sis," the Boeing said in its filing before the SEC. "The Company is partic

ipating in those discussions and has informed the board about the options currently being considered. Ambassador Haley informed the company that, as a matter of philosophical principle, she does not believe that the company should seek support from the federal government, and therefore decided to resign

Korean Air 'nut rage' heiress fights brother in bitter succession feud

Seoul, March 20: The "nut rage" heiress who forced a plane to turn back over her macadamias is fighting a bitter battle with activist shareholder support — against her brother for control of the family airline, highlight-ing resistance to reform in South Korea's chaebols.

Cho Hyun-ah, 45, whose family control the Hanjin group that includes flagcarrier Korean Air, made headlines worldwide with her furious reaction when she was served nuts in a bag instead of a plate in first class.

A series of scandals centring on abuse of subordinates rapidly made the Chos the South's most vilified billionaires. But now her struggle against bro-ther Cho Won-tae could mark a watershed moment for the family-controlled conglomerates known as chaebols that dominate business in the world's



Cho Hyun-ah

12th-largest economy. She has joined forces with an activist investment fund, Korea Corp-Governance Improvement (KCGI), which says better chaebol management will improve engagement, and share-

holder returns. Cho Won-tae inherited the chairmanship of the conglomerate's holding company Hanjin Kal after the siblings' father Cho Yang-ho — who led the

CHO HYUN-AH, whose family control the Hanjin group that includes flagcarrier Korean Air, made headlines worldwide with her furious reaction when she was served nuts in a bag instead of a plate in first class.

 KOREAN AIR has lost 1.74 trillion won (\$1.4 billion) in five years, according to KCGI's Lee, who accuses Cho Won-tae of "repeated strategic mis-

successful bid for the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics — died last year. But "you can't just run a company because you happen to be a grandson of its founder", said Lee Seunghoon, KCGI's head of global business. Many chaebol families retain only a small ownership stake in maintain control through

complex webs of cross shareholdings between subsidiaries, and rapid promotions for family members. Lee said "Many are under the delusion they have 100 percent owner-ship." The Hanjin group was in financial trouble long before the coronavirus outbreak wreaked havoc on airline finances worldwide — subsidiary Hanjin Shipping was once one of the world's top 10 container lines, but went bankrupt in 2017.

Korean Air has lost 1.74 trillion won (\$1.4 billion) in five years, according to KCGI's Lee, who accuses Cho Won-tae of "repeated strategic mistakes". As Hanjin Shipping was collapsing, he added, the group sold valuable shares in profitable petroleum refiner S-Oil Corporation to try to prop it up. Like many chaebols, there was no scope for dissent at the top of Hanjin, he said. — $AF\overline{P}$

UNIREPORT People here enjoy a high quality of life with rates of inequality and poverty among the lowest

Finland found to be world's happiest nation again

reels under a global pandemic, but experts at the United Nations on Friday declared Finland to be the world's happiest nation for

the third year running.
Researchers for the
World Happiness Report asked people in 156 countries to evaluate their own levels of happiness, and took into account measures such as GDP, social support, personal freedom and levels of corruption to give each nation a happi-ness score. As in each of shared trust reduces the burden of hardships, and

Helsinki, March 20: the previous seven repo-Good cheer may feel in short supply as the world ed the top ten, along with ed the top ten, along with countries such as Switzerland, New Zealand and Austria. Luxembourg also edged into the tenth spot for the first time this year.

The happiest countries are those "where people feel a sense of belonging, where they trust and enjoy each other and their shared institutions," John Helliwell, one of the report's authors, said in a statement. "There is also more resilience, because

thereby lessens the inequality of well-being."

Meanwhile, the countries at the bottom of this year's ranking are those afflicted by violent conflicts and extreme poverty, with Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Afghanistan classed as the world's least

happy countries. Finland's top spot in the happiness list has previously been met with raised eyebrows in the country whose population of 5.5 million is said to shy away from spontaneous demonstrations of joy, valuing instead the quiet and soli-

tude of the country's vast forests and thousands of lakes. The northern country's long dark winters were reputed to be behind high levels of alcoholism and suicide, but a decadelong public health drive has helped cut rates by more than half. Finland's residents enjoy

a high quality of life, security and public services, with rates of inequality and poverty among the lowest of all OECD countries. The data for this year's World Happiness Report was collected in 2018 and 2019, and is there-

fore not impacted by the widespread restrictions imposed by many coun-tries to stem the spread of the new coronavirus. However, the report's

authors predict that the lockdown conditions many of the world's residents are now living under could, paradoxically, boost happiness in future. "The most frequent explanation seems to be that people are pleasantly surprised by the willingness of their neighbours and their institutions to work in harness to help each other," the team said. -AFP



Finnish people with their national flag.

SHORT TAKES

US SUSPENDS ALL ROUTINE VISA SERVICES

Washington, March 20: The United States said on Friday it was suspending all routine visa services around the world due to the global coronavirus pandemic. The State Department said in a travel advisory US embassies and consulates would still consider emergency visas if they have

adequate staff.

Meanwhile, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has temporarily suspended the premium processing for H-1B visas, mostly given to technology professionals intending to work in

the country.
This has been done ahead of the start of the April 1 annual season for H-1B petitions. The temporary suspension is similar to last year's suspension and will help us to reduce overall H-1B processing times, the USCIS said on Thursday.

Petitioners filing FY 2021 cap-subject H-1B petitions will not be able to request premium processing when the USCIS begins accepting capsubject petitions on April 1, a notification by the agency

Until premium processing resumes for FY 2021 cap-sub-ject H-1B petitions, the USCIS will reject any Form I-907 concurrently filed with a cap-sub-ject H-1B Form I-129, it

IMRAN SAYS PAK CANNOT AFFORD FULL LOCKDOWN

Islamabad, March 20: Prime Minister İmran Khan on Friday said Pakistan cannot afford to implement nationwide lockdown to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the country. Earlier in the day, Pakistan reported its third Covid-19 death and the total number of confirmed cases rose to 464. The third death was reported in the country's biggest city Karachi, the capi tal of Southern Sindh province which has reported the highest number of coronavirus cases in the country. "Lockdown means curfew-like situation, which will create unrest in the country and we cannot afford that. It would make poor people more vul-nerable," Khan told reporters here. He, however, said lockdown could be implemented in specified clusters, if needed, and hoped that the masses would self-quarantine and help the government to fight the virus menace.

Khan requested citizens to limit their movement and remain inside their homes for period of one to two months He also urged people to adopt social distancing as a precautionary measure. He said the coronavirus situation in the country is being monitored on daily basis and experiences of various countries, especially China, will be taken into account to combat the crisis.

ther spike, five per cent people may need hospitalisation.

CANNES FILM FEST TO BE PUT OFF TO **JUNE, JULY**

Cannes, March 20: The spread of the coronavirus. The event, which was scheduled for May 12 through 23, might be shifted to June or July, the organisers said.

"Several options are considered in order to preserve its running, the main one being a simple postponement," the organisers' statement said. "As soon as the development of the French and international health situation will allow us to assess the real possibility, we will make our decision known, in accordance with our ongoing consultation with the French Government and Cannes City Hall as well as with the Festival's Board Members, Film industry professionals and all the partners of the event," they added.

The festival was expected to attract about 40,000 attendees, including delegates to the film market that operates alongside the screening schedule.

Filmmaker-activist Spike Lee, who was selected as the first black president of the festival's jury, welcomed the organisers' decision.

The stuff that we love has to take a back seat: movies, TV sports, the NBA is a global sport, baseball. So many things have been postponed, and I agree with this move," Lee told *Variety*.

The director added that if the festival happens on another date in future he would be available to take on his role as jury president.

Californians told to stay home indefinitely

Quarantine not to be enforced by police as 40 million residents to venture out only for essential jobs, errands

Sacramento (US), March 20: California's 40 million residents should stay home indefinitely and venture outside only for essential jobs, errands and some exercise, Governor Gavin Newsom said on Thursday, warning that the coronavirus threatens to overwhelm the state's medical

The move, the most sweeping by any state in the US so far, was an exclamation point at the end of a week of increasingly aggressive moves meant to

keep the virus in check by forcing people to stay away from each other as often as possible. "I can assure you home isolation is not my preferred choice, I know it's not yours, but it's a necessary one," Newsom said at a news conference streamed on social media.

He assured residents that they "can still take your kids outside, practicing common sense and social distancing. You can still walk your dog.' Restaurant meals can

still be delivered to homes.

CALIFORNIA'S INFEC-**TION** rates are doubling every four days in some

• 56% OR over 22 million people of the state could contract the virus over the new eight weeks

The announcement came after the release of a letter to US President Donald where Newsom warned the virus was spreading quickly and eventually could infect more than half the state's population. A spokesman later clarified that the figure did not take into account the aggressive mitigation efforts that were made. The governor said he doesn't expect police will be needed to enforce his stay-at-home order, saying "social pressure" already has led to social distancing through-

out the state. "I don't believe the people of California need to told through law enforcement that it's appropriate just to home isolate," he said.
The Democrat who is

barely a year into his first term also called up 500 National Guard troops to help distribute food. The move comes after panic buying led to massive lines at some grocery stores. He said the state has

taken over a 357-bed bank-rupt hospital in the San Francisco Bay Area, soon will announce the purchase of a similarly sized hospital in Southern California and may use dormitories at the state's public colleges and universities.

He also asked Trump to dock the Navy's 1,000-patient Mercy hospital ship in the Port of Los Angeles. The coronavirus is spread through sneezes and coughs. There are at least 1,030 confirmed cases in California and 18 people have died, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Newsom's statewide order came after counties and communities

covering about half the

Beijing, March

Beijing accused US President Donald Trump on Friday of trying to

'shift the blame" for the

global coronavirus pan-

demic in an escalating

state's population already had issued similar edicts.

He said the restriction is "open-ended" because it could raise false hopes if he included an end date. However, he did offer a glimmer by saying he did-n't expect it would last "many, many months."

Just before Newsom's statewide declaration, Los Angeles announced what officials there called a "Safer at Home" order that carried the same restric-



A woman looks out at the Atlantic ocean in Biarritz, southwestern France on Friday. French citizens are only allowed to leave their homes for necessary activities like shopping for food, going to work or taking a quick walk due to coronavirus in the country.

THE PANDEMIC'S WORLD TOUR

10,000

people have now died in a coronavirus pandemic that has swept from China throughout



deaths across the European continent mostly in Italy with 3,405 fatalities.

hours in Europe

• 1,002 toll in Spain after 235 people died in 24 hours and total number of cases approached 20,000

NASA SUSPENDS

MOON MISSION

DUE TO COVID-19

Washington, March 20:

Nasa said it has suspend-

ed work on building and

testing the rocket and

capsule for its Artemis

manned mission to the

Moon due to the rising

number of coronavirus

cases in the community.

The space agency is shutting down its Mich-

oud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, where the

Space Launch System

rocket is being built, and

the nearby Stennis Space

Centre, administrator

Jim Bridenstine said late

Thursday. "The change

at Stennis was made due

to the rising number of

Covid-19 cases in the

community around the centre, the number of

self-isolation cases with-

in our workforce there,

and one confirmed case

among our Stennis team," he said. "Nasa

will temporarily suspend

production and testing of

Space Launch System

and Orion hardware. The

Nasa and contractors

will complete an orderly

shutdown.

Germany's biggest state Bavaria became the first region in the country to order a lockdown for two weeks, imposing "fundamental restrictions" on going out.

Colombo, March 20: Sri • THE CURFEW was

announced after the

uled for April 25.

Election Commission post-

election which was sched-

• IT IS believed the gov-

ernment wants to restrict

few with effect from 6 pm

(local time) tonight until 6

am (local time) on Mon-day, President Rajapaksa's

office said. Although there

were no reasons given for

the announcement, it is

believed that the govern-

ment is keen to see

movement of people

poned the Parliamentary

Lankan has imposed a

nationwide curfew from

Friday until Monday to

combat the fast-spreading

coronavirus pandemic

that has claimed over 9,000

lives globally, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's

The curfew announce-

ment comes a day after the

country's Election Comm-

ission announced the post-

ponement of the Parliam-

entary election which was

The Commission said a

decision on the new date

would be taken after March 25. The country is

to be placed under a cur-

scheduled for April 25.

office has announced.

confirmed

cases in

Pakistan

700 cases have been reported across Africa 4,000 people were fined on Netflix and the first day of

its confinement YouTube said they have expein France as rienced a surge ministers in demand since branded those breaking the lockdowns rules as "idiots" began

 Accurate figures are difficult to come by as many of those who die are suffering from other illnesses and infection rates are uncertain because of a lack of testing in many countries.

Anti-malarial drugs are

being fast-tracked by the US

for use as a treatment against the virus

trillion US emergency relief package to combat the economic turmoil.

billion euros in bonds will be bought by European Central

poor. Sri Lankan police had previously restricted the curfew to night time in

the western coastal areas.

a move aimed at tracking

down Italy returnees who

were avoiding compulsory

The police said despite

the curfew people were engaging in social activi-

ties, defying the need to

maintain social distanc-

ing. Countries around the

world are sealing their

borders and banning trav-

el to stop the fast-spread-

ing Covid-19 pandemic

that has claimed over

10,000 lives and infected

more than 232,650 people in 158 countries. — *PTI*

quarantine process.

Bank to tide over the cri-Lanka imposes nationwide curfew

report but has stressed

China says US is 'shifting blame'

row between the two powers. Trump charged on Thursday that the world is "paying a big price" for China's lack of transparency on the outbreak when it emerged in the central city of Wuhan late last year.

China has been criticised for suppressing information and punishing whistleblowers during ing the early stages of the contagion, which an AFP tally shows has now killed nearly 10,000 people with more than 232,000 cases worldwide.

'Some people on the US side are trying to stigmatise China's fight against the epidemic, and shift the blame onto China," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said.

"This approach ignores the great sacrifice made by the Chinese people to safeguard the health and safety of humankind, and slanders China's major contribution to global public health." Geng said China has shared data CHINESE FOREIGNministry spokeswoman Hua Chunving tweeted against US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo for 'lying through (his) teeth" that China wasted "valuable days" after identifying the virus

with the US throughout the health crisis. The exchange marked an escalation in the bitter war of words between China and the US over the past week. China's announcement

this week of mass expulsions of American journalists sparked a media freedom row that coincided with Trump's rampedup usage of the term "Chinese Virus", which he claimed was in response to Chinese misinformation suggesting that the virus originated in the US. In recent days, Chinese state media has been heavily critical of Trump. The nationalistic Global Times claimed in several op-eds that his rhetoric is fanning the flames of global xenophobia and anti-Chinese sentiment. Trump has defended his description

of the virus, saying it was

Church forgives sins of virus-hit

Vatican City, March 20:
The Catholic Church on OFFICIALS FIND Friday granted forgiveness -- under certain conditions -- for the sins of the faithful struck by the novel coronavirus.

A decree published by the Vatican also covers healthcare workers and those who pray for their wellbeing. Relatives who care for their sick family members may also be forgiven. The conditions include the sick saying a certain number of prayers or following important celebrations from a distance. Those who pray for the caregivers' wellbeing must also read the Bible "for at least half an hour". The decree was issued one day after Italy overtook China for the most number of deaths from the new illness. The pandemic has killed more than 3,400 people in the Mediterranean country. Vatican City itself has confirmed one infection. Pope Francis was reported to have been tested for the virus as a precaution after coming down with a cold last month. The Vatican has never confirmed or denied the

KEEPING ITALIANS AT HOME TOUGH

March Rome, Confined to their homes for over a week, some Italians are getting restless. More than 53,000 people have been fined for flouting the rules, as the government fires on all cylinders, hoping to convince them to stay at home.

According to the decree announced by Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on March 9, outings are only allowed for professional, health or food shopping Offenders can be imprisoned for up to three months or fined up to 206 euros (\$220). The police is everywhere and carry out checks every day to make sure that all trips outside are justified.

repeatedly that the 83year-old pontiff does not have Covid-19.

VIRUS IMPACT

Decision necessitated after countries sealed borders and banned global travel

in 158 countries.

G-7 summit to be held via video conference

Washington, March 20: US President Donald Trump has scrapped this year's in-person G-7 summit set to be held in the US in June due to the coronavirus crisis and will instead hold the high-profile event through video-conference, the White House

The decision comes as countries around the world seal their borders and ban travel to stop the fast-spreading Covid-19 pandemic that has claimed over 9,000 lives so far. The G-7 summit is the latest high-profile event to be

cancelled as anxiety over coronavirus puts an end to political gatherings, sports events and musical festivals around the world.

In view of the ongoing coronavirus crisis that has gripped the entire world in an unprecedented way, the G-7 summit scheduled to be held at Camp David from June 10-12 has been cancelled so that leaders of these countries can devote their time and energy in addressing the public health challenge, the White House said on Thursday. "In order for each country to focus all of

• WHITE HOUSE said the event was cancelled so that leaders of the G-7 countries could devote their time and energy in addressing the public health challenge

the people in order to pro-

mote social distancing in

the face of a looming threat posed by the Covid-

The national centre

tasked to prevent COVID-

19 infections said out of

the 66 confirmed cases so

far, 25 were returnees

from overseas. It said 22 of

them were from Italy

while two from the UK and

Over 2,400 people are going through quarantine which includes 27 foreign

President Rajapaksa has

refused to lockdown the

entire country, citing eco-

19 outbreak.

one from India.

nationals, it added.

restricted movement of nomic hardships for the

its resources on responding to the health and economic challenges of Covid-19 and at President Trump's direction, National Economic Council director and US Sherpa for the 2020 G-7 Larry Kudlow has informed his Sherpa colleagues that the G-7 Leaders' Summit the US

was set to host in June at Camp David will now be done by video-teleconfer-White House deputy press secretary Judd Deere said. "The White House also informed the other G-7

members that in order to continue close coordination, the President will convene the leaders' via video teleconference in April and May just as he did this week," Deere said. Early this week, Trump had a video-conference call with G-7 leaders, whose members are the US, Canada, France, Ger-

many, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom. In a joint statement, after

the video-conference, leaders of G-7 acknowledge that the Covid-19 pandemic was a human tragedy and a global health crisis, which also posed major risks for the world economy. "We are committed to doing whatever is necessary to ensure a strong global response through closer cooperation and enhanced coordination of our efforts. While current challenges may require national emergency measures, we remain commit-

ted to the stability of the global economy," they The leaders expressed

their conviction that the current challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic needed a strongly coordiinternational approach based on science and evidence, consistent with democratic values, and utilising the strengths of private enterprise. The G-7 leaders said they were committed to marshalling the full power of their governments to coordinate public health measures to protect people. — *PTI* protect people.

SATURDAY | 21 MARCH 2020 | HYDERABAD

quick

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	29,915.96	5.75
Nifty 50	8,745.45	5.83
S&P 500*	2,405.92	-0.14
Dollar ()	75.20	-0.11
Pound Sterling (')	88.29	-1.97
Euro ()	80.53	0.13
Gold (10gm)* (')	41,705▲1,395	3.34
Brent crude (\$/bbl)	* 27.20	-4.46
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.259	-2.397
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	d* 1.006	-10.895
* As of 9:30 pm IS	Γ	

AirAsia's **Fernandes** returns as boss

AirAsia boss Tony Fernandes has returned to his post after being cleared by an independent probe, the Malaysian carrier said, weeks after stepping aside amid a \$4 billion Airbus graft scandal. AirAsia founder and CEO Fernandes and executive chairman Kamarudin Meranun left their roles last month after Airbus settled a court case in **Europe and allegations** emerged the plane-maker paid bribes to win contracts.

Forex reserves fall by \$5.35 bn to \$481.89 bn



Foreign exchange reserves fell for the first time in almost six months to \$481.89 billion in the week ended March 13, declining by \$5.35 bn, after touching a record high of \$487.23 bn, RBI data shows. The last time forex reserves declined was in the week to September 20, when it had fallen by \$388 mn to \$428.58 bn. In the reporting week, foreign currency assets declined by \$3.78 bn to \$447.36 bn.

IDFC First Bank chief sells ₹58 cr worth shares

IDFC First Bank said its MD & CEO V. Vaidyanathan has sold 2.75 crore shares for about Rs 58 crore to close ESOP loan availed of by him. IDFC First Bank said in a BSE filing. "He has explained that with this sale he will have nil ESOP loan, and will not need to sell any more shares in the foreseeable future," the bank said. "I would like to clarify that I still hold 4,23,47,144 shares (0.88 per cent)." Vaidvanathan said

Maruti drives in updated Dzire at ₹8.8 lakh

Maruti Suzuki India said it has launched an updated version of the Dzire priced in the Rs 5.89 lakh-Rs 8.8 lakh range. The manual variants are priced between 5.89 lakh and Rs 8.28 lakh, while automated gear shift ones come at Rs 7.31 lakh to Rs 8.8 lakh. "2020 Dzire offers next generation K-series engine with segment first idle start-stop technology," executive director (marketing and sales) Shashank Srivastava said.

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■ China resuming production, global stimulus boost stocks

Short covering lifts Sensex by 1,627 pts

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, MARCH 20

Bargain buying in blue-chips after the heavy selling through the week narrowed the weekly losses for the market benchmarks helping Sensex and Nifty 50 gain 5.75 per cent on Friday, aided by positive global cues as there was short-covering in equities worldwide

On the whole, the Indian stock market witnessed one of its worst weeks since the 2008 market crash, to end down by 12

per cent, on a weekly basis. On Friday, The Sensex climbed 1627 points, up 5.75 per cent, at 29915 while the Nifty-50 Index gained 5.83 per cent, or 482 points, to close at 8745.45.

China reported resumption of production in factories and no fresh cases of coronavirus, which has led to some recovery in the global markets.

Shrikant Chouhan, executive vice-president, equity technical research at Kotak Securities, said, "The main reasons for the positive close of equity markets are the precautionary measures taken around the world against the coronavirus and fiscal stimulus announcements by the central banks. After 10 days, India VIX has taken a

Sebi unveils measures to curb market volatility

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) on Friday came out with a slew of regulatory measures to curb mar-ket volatility, including limiting short selling by both institutional and retail investors. The regulator also announced revising market wide position limit for stocks in the derivatives segment, flexing dynamic price bands and other measures

for one month starting from March 23. These measures come amidst the sharp meltdown in stocks and continued volatil ity in the wake of the coronavirus pan-

Among other steps, revised positions limits would be applicable in equity index derivatives (F&O) and flexing in dynamic price bands in the futures & options segment will be allowed only after a cooling period of 15 minutes after fulfilling cer tain criteria, the Sebi said.

It said mutual funds, foreign portfolio

and clients can have exposure in equity index derivatives on the basis of certain conditions. Short positions in index derivatives should not exceed, in terms of notional value, the holding of stocks of these entities. In the four-page statement, the Sebi said

it would revise the market-wide position limit (MWPL) for stocks in the F&O segment to 50 per cent of existing levels, subject to certain conditions.

Stock exchanges and clearing corporations have been asked to check on intraday basis whether any member or client has exceeded their existing positions or have created a new position in the scrips.

An increase in margin would be allowed for stocks meeting certain criteria. The margin rate in cash market would be raised to a minimum of 40 per cent in a phased manner. The minimum 20 per cent level would be effective from March 23, 30 per cent from March 26 and 40 per cent from March 30.

breather. From 22, it jumped to 73 but closed at 66.75 on Friday, which shows the market is showing signs of exiting the uncertainties. Large-cap stocks have risen and if the market closes at the level of 8,900 on Monday, then Nifty

may rise further or else the index may fall to 8500 to 8300 levels again.

heavyweight Index Reliance Industries surged 11.24 per cent on Friday, lifting both Sesnx and Nifty. Other big gainers included ONGC (18.58 per cent), Ultratech Cement (13.01 per cent), Hindustan Unilever (11.75 per cent), TCS (9.90 per cent) and ITC (8.40 per cent).

by Rs 6.33 lah crore as the BSE's market cap rose to Rs 116.09 lakh crore.

Germany mulls

half-trillion euro

support fund

Frankfurt, March 20: Germany is considering a half-trillion-euro fund

to support companies

thrown into payments difficulties by the coron-

avirus crisis. The fund

will be able to guarantee

liabilities or even inject

capital when needed,

Der Spiegel reported on

Friday. The plan is one of

several being consid-

already promised liquid

ity support to businesses

and introduced meas-

ures making it easier to

ered.Ministers

Investors are now richer

said Ethan Harris, head of global economics at BofA. "We now expect Covid-19 to RBI to add ₹30K cr

FC BANKING BUREAU

RAHUL KARUNAKAR & SHRUTEE SARKAR BENGALURU, MARCH 20

The global economy is already in a recession as

the damage to economic

activity from the coronavirus pandemic has become more widespread,

according to economists

More than three-quarters

of economists based in the Americas and Europe polled this week, 31 of 41,

said the current global eco-

nomic expansion had

"Last week we concluded that the Covid-19 shock would produce a global recession as nearly all of

the world contracts over

the three months between

February and April," noted

Bruce Kasman, head of global economic research

"There is no longer doubt

that the longest global expansion on record will

end this quarter. The key outlook issue now is gaug-

ing the depth and the dura-

tion of the 2020 recession.'

Covid-19 has triggered

'forecast leap frogging,'

with economists and

strategists repeatedly low-

ering their forecasts. Among the big three economies, the US and the

euro area will see negative growth, while Chinese growth is expected to come

in at a paltry 1.5 per cent,'

"The evolving news on

polled by Reuters.

already ended.

at JP Morgan.

The Reserve Bank of

20.
"With the Covid-19 relat-

Gandhi, Ananth Narayan to join Yes Bank board

Management Research-with from March 26 for a period of two years.

management will take over from March 26 and term ends then.

added.

Fitch, Crisil lower India's **FY21 growth forecast**

New Delhi, March 20: Fitch Ratings and Crisil on Friday cut India's FY21 growth forecast to 5.1 per cent

and 5.2 per cent, respectively.
Fitch also said with global GDP falling, the world is in "recession territory" and halved its baseline global growth forecast for 2020--to just 1.3 per cent from 2.5 per cent projected in December.

Fitch also lowered its oil price forecast to \$41 per barrel (Brent) for 2020 (annual average) from \$62.5 in December. In its Global Economic Outlook 2020, Fitch said the number of people affected by coronavirus in India will keep rising in the coming weeks but that the outbreak will remain contained. However, there are downside risks to this scenario. "Supply-chain disruptions are expected to hit business investment and exports," it said. Fitch had in December 2019 projected

India to grow at 5.6 per cent in 2020-21. Crisil noted that the faster spreading of the pandemic having hit more than 155 nations--has cast a long shadow over a much-anticipated mild recovery in the domestic economy in FY21. Accordingly, it slashed its forecast by 50 bps to 5.2 per cent.

cause a global recession in 2020, of similar magnitude to the recessions of 1982

Global economy already

in recession: Reuters poll

The global economy was forecast to expand 1.6 per cent this year, about half the 3.1 per cent predicted in the January poll, and the weakest since the global financial crisis of 2007-09. Forecasts for 2020 global GDP ranged from -2 per cent to 2.7 per cent.

"As cases of coronavirus spiral upward, disruptions to the global economy are increasing. We have cut our global GDP growth forecast to 1.25 per cent for

the year --less severe than the deep recessions of 1981-82 and 2008-09, but worse than the mild recessions of 1991 and 2001," noted Goldman Sachs' economics research team.

"Consistent with this, our economists now expect recessions in Europe, Japan, Canada and possi bly the United States

The US economy was almost certain to enter a recession this year, if it is not in one already, according to a poll published on Thursday and taken after the Fed's emergency move on Sunday.

Rana sent

to judicial

custody

FM begins consultations on economic package

MADHUSUDAN SAHOO NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation Thursday night on the economic fallout of the spreading coronavirus infection, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman acted swiftly on Friday and met ministers and officials to explore support measures for affected sectors like micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME), tourism, aviation and animal husbandry.
Officials said the govern-

ment debated the need to take immediate steps to help sectors like MSME, diary and livestock on a priority. For the MSME, officials said, "The government is mulling allowing late repayments of loans

and other liabilities."
The MSME ministry is concerned about the nonpayment of nearly Rs 6 lakh crore dues to the sector by the government and large private firms. The ministry sought various measures to help the sector tide over the crisis.

S. Korea readies \$39 bn to help small biz, boost economy

Seoul, March 20: South Korean President Moon pledged 50 trillion won (\$39 billion) in emergency financing for small businesses and other stimulus measures to prop up the country's coronavirus-hit economy. The package is the latest in a string of steps Seoul has taken in recent days to curb pressure on Asia's fourth-largest economy, including an interest rate cut, an extra 11.7 trillion won budget and more JS dollar supplies.

The government is to issue loan guarantees for struggling small businesses with less than 100 million won in revenue to ensure companies can easily and cheaply access credit, Moon said on Thursday.

Local commercial banks and savings banks would also allow loans to roll over for small businesses if they cannot afford to pay off the loan when it is due, he said."We've decided to take the measures to prevent small and medium-sized firms, and merchants and the self-employed, from going bankrupt and ease anxiety in the financial sector." Moon told an emergency economic policy meeting.

"As the situation unfolds, we will scale them up if

Later, addressing the press, Sitharaman said an economic package for the coronavirus-hit sectors will be announced "as soon as possible", but she did not give any timeline for doing so.

"I had a meeting with

tourism, MSME, civil aviation, animal husbandry sectors. These ministries presented assessment of

their sector," she said. The ministry will hold an internal meeting on Saturday to firm up the action plan to deal with

reduce working hours rather than lay off workthe crisis, she added. About the package in the making, she said "it will be

difficult to give timeline but it will be done as soon

as possible."

She said the task force announced by Mr Modi is yet to be constituted.

Kubota picks

10% in Escorts

Japan's

more into system

India (RBI) on Friday announced that it would purchase government securities worth Rs 30,000 crore through open mar-ket operations (OMO) in two tranches this month. This is the second big OMO announcement by RBI in two days. The central bank concluded a Rs 10.000-crore purchase programme for dated government securities on March

ed dislocations, stress in certain financial market segments is still severe and financial conditions remain tight," the RBI said in a release.

"Accordingly, on a review of the current liquidity and financial conditions, the Reserve Bank has decided to conduct purchase of government securities under OMOs for an aggregate amount of Rs 30,000 crore in two tranches of Rs 15,000 crore each in the month of March 2020. The auctions would be conducted on March 24, 2020 and March 30, 2020," the apex bank

government has approved

de-notification of 101 spe-

for SEZ space and change

economic zones.

Mumbai, March 20: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday appointed two additional directors on the board of Yes Bank--- R. Gandhi, former deputy Ananth Narayan Gopalkrishnan, associate professor at S P Jain Institute

effect The new Yes Bank

administrator's

Under the latest OMO scheme, the RBI will purchase government securi-2022 and 2029. The securities were issued with a coupon rate of 6.84 per cent, 7.72 per cent, 8.33 per cent and 7.26 per cent.

Mumbai, March 20: Yes Bank founder Rana Kapoor, arrested in a money laundering case, is "easily susceptible" to getting infected by the coronavirus in prison, his lawyer told a court

here on Friday. Kapoor, arrested by the

Enforcement Directorate (ED) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act_earlie this month, was remand ed to judicial custody till April 2 as the investigation agency did not seel his further remand. The CBI, meanwhile,

obtained a production warrant against him in another case. As his remand ended

the ED produced Kapoor. before the court here.

When the judge asked if he had any complaints, Kapoor said he has been suffering from asthma, has low immunity, and he was in acute depression.

His lawyer, said a person with low immunity is "easily susceptible" to catching coronavirus.

Govts offer lifelines to airlines, but at a price

Sydney/Washington, March 20: Shattered air lines were left counting the cost of government support as countries from the United States to New Zealand set out conditions for bailouts needed to absorb the shock of the coronavirus pandemic. Conditions include provisions that loans may convert to government equity stakes, while US airlines cannot increase executive pay or provide "golden parachutes" for two years. Air New Zealand's bailout also depends on the company suspending its dividend and paying interest rates of 7 to 9 per cent.

New Zealand on Friday offered its national carrier a NZ\$900 million (\$510 million) lifeline, which finance minister Grant Robertson said would help it survive after the government banned all non-resident

arrivals to the country. "That puts us in a very good position over the next several months," Air New



Zealand chief executive Greg Foran told reporters of the loan, which it will not draw down immediate-"We would expect the airline industry will look different at the end of this. Not all airlines are going to survive.

Under the \$58 billion US proposal for passenger and cargo carriers, the US Department could receive warrants, stock options, or stock. "We are not bailing out

the airlines or other indus-

tries – period," US Senate

appropriations committee

chairman Richard Shelby

"Instead, we are allowing the treasury secretary to make or guarantee collateralised loans to industries whose operations the coronavirus outbreak has jeopardised.' Norway will back airlines

with credit guarantees worth up to 6 billion Norwegian crowns (\$537 million), half of them to Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA. Conditions include raising money from commercial banks and the equity market. Finland, which owns a 56

per cent stake in Finnair. said it would guarantee a 600 million euro (\$645 million) loan for the state carrier. The firm said it was implementing a funding plan that included drawing on available credit lines, sale and leasebacks of planes. I

The International Air Transport Association has forecast the industry will need up to \$200 billion of

—Reuters

101 SEZs de-notified in last 12 years: Govt

MICHAEL GONSALVES SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, MARCH 20

Japanese tractor maker Kubota Corporation will acquire a 10 per cent equity stake worth Rs 1,041 crore in Escorts, India's third largest tractor-maker, on a post capital reduction basis, the company said.

preferential

Escorts will issue and in fiscal incentives. allot 12,257,688 equity Between April 2008 and shares through a prefer-February 2020, the Board of ential issue to Kubota at Approval (BoA) on SEZs approved 101 cases of dean issue price of Rs 850 notification, government per equity share, subject to shareholders' and regudata showed. latory approvals.

However, the de-notifica-Simultaneously with the tion was subject to the developers refunding all Escorts will acquire a 40 duties and tax benefits availed of by them and per cent stake in Kubota state government issuing Agricultural Machinery India, the marketing and 'no objection' certificates. sales company of Kubota After the enactment of

SEZ Act, 2005, many private developers had in India. vate developers had approached the govern-The existing 60:40 joint venture between Kubota and Escorts, namely Escorts Kubota India will ment seeking approval to set up SEZs. Prior to 2005, there were only 7 central



government SEZs and 12 state/private sector SEZs. After 2005, 421 proposals received formal approval. At present, 354 SEZs are notified, out of which 240

SEZs are operational. The government had constituted a committee to study SEZ policy in 2018. It has implemented some of the recommendations of the committee, which include relaxing the mandatory usage require-ment that stipulated that the de-notified land shall be used for SEZ purpose only. All existing and

to be multi-sector SEZs. Services that enable manufacturing like R&D services, design and logistics services could be part of the SEZs. The minimum land area requirement for setting up a multi-sector SEZ also was relaxed from 500 hectares to 50 hectares. The period to construct minimum built-up area

was extended beyond 10 years. The SEZ approval also can be transferred from one co-developer to another co-developer. According to government, it has also taken a

few measures to enable

ease of doing business at Now, Commi-Development ssioner has the authority to shift a unit from one SEZ SEZ units. Work from

to another. Setting up of cafeteria, gymnasium, creche and other similar amenities were allowed in Home policy also has been revised for SEZ.

SHORT



Majid Haq **Ex-Scottish player**

Haq tests positive

Paris: Former Scotland offspinner Majid Haq has announced on Twitter that he is recovering after testing positive for Covid-

The 37-year-old posted the news on Friday morning, saying he was being treated at Royal Alexandra Hospital in the Paisley area of Glasgow. "Looking forward to potentially getting back home today after testing positive with Coronavirus," Haq tweeted.
"Staff at the RAH in Paisley have been good to me & thank vou to everyone who has sent me messages of support. Insha Allah the Panther will be back to full health soon. #covid19UK" Haq, who logged 54 ODIs and 21 T20Is for Scotland, last played for his country at the 2015 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand. He was Scotland's all-time leading wicket-taker in ODI cricket with 60 wickets until being passed in 2019 by fast bowler Safyaan Sharif. However, Haq has still been active in domestic cricket in Scotland, most recently captaining Royal High Corstorphine CC in the Cricket Scotland League Eastern Premiership for

Multiple charges

the 2019 summer.

of breach on Umar

Karachi: Controversial Pakistan batsman Umar Akmal has been charged on Friday for two separate breaches of the Pakistan Cricket Board's Anti-Corruption Code. Umar, who was provisionally suspended on February 20 and barred from playing for his franchise, Quetta Gladiators in the Pakistan Super League, has been charged for failing to disclose corrupt approaches to the

PCB Vigilance and Security Department (without unnecessary delay). He was issued the charge sheet on March 17 and has been given time to respond until March 31. This was a breach under 2.4.4 for PCB's

anti-corruption code. According to the Anti-Corruption Code Article 6.2, the range of permissible period of ineligibility for those charged and found guilty for a violation of Article 2.4.4 is a minimum of six months and a maximum of a

lifetime. — PTI

Boards brace for losses

Cricket bodies stand to lose money if they don't allow cricketers into IPL in wake of Corona outbreak

New Delhi, March 20: When the mighty Indian cricket board decided this week that only the chief among its national selectors would travel business class, it merely confirmed straitened times for the game amid the coronavirus outbreak.

uncharacteristic austerity by the world's richest cricket board follows its decision earlier this month to halve the winner's purse at this year's Indian Premier League (IPL), a cash cow with a brand value of \$6.8 billion.

franchise-based Twenty20 league was scheduled to begin on March 29 but has now been postponed until April 15. To many, a condensed

tournament, possibly without foreign players, later this year looks like a more realistic prospect.

A curtailed or cancelled tournament would mean significant losses for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), which gets around 40 billion rupees (\$532 million) annually from broadcaster STAR India and its cen-

tral pool of sponsors. "The loss at this stage is notional. The biggest loser in any economic dynamics is always its biggest gainer, which is BCCI in this SportzPower cofounder Thomas Abraham, whose company monitors sports business

in India, told Reuters. 'For STAR India, it's also a loss of opportunity. It was building the India launch of its Disney+ OTT (streaming around the IPL." service)

A truncated tournament would necessitate renegotiation with Disney-owned STAR India, which was not available to share how it plans to dovetail the launch of its new platform with the IPL. Chinese smartphone maker Vivo, which bagged the 2018-22 title rights for 219 million rupees, is unlikely to suf-

"They would have been preparing for new launches around IPL. They can still do it," Abraham said. Vivo did not elaborate if

the truncation had disrupted their plans to leverage their tournament

"In light of the global Australia.



A file photo of IPL chairman Brijesh Patel (second from left) and Sourav Ganguly discussing with the league sponsors.

completely support BCCI's decision to postpone the series," Nipun Marya, Director of Vivo India's Brand Strategy, said in a

statement. 'We shall continuously evaluate the situation as it

MONITORING SITUATION

The BCCI and IPL franchises also pay 20 per cent of a player's annual fee to his home board, which stands to lose that money if it does not allow the cricketer into the IPL due to fears about the coronavirus for example.

A shorter tournament will mean a smaller share from the shrunken central pool of revenues for the eight IPL franchises, not to mention a reduction in gate receipts.

Further afield, the Women's Twenty20 World Cup narrowly escaped the health crisis but the outbreak has cast a shadow over the men's event in

Cricket Council (ICC), which runs the tournament, said it was monitoring the situation.

'We are planning for the event to go ahead as scheduled," it said on the tournament website.

Cricket Australia stands to lose some A\$300 million (\$174 million) should the coronavirus outbreak derail their home test

series against India. "We're in uncertain times, and it's difficult to project precisely what will transpire over the next number of months," CA chief executive Kevin Roberts said this week.

IN THE BALANCE

In England, the fate of the inaugural 'The Hundred' championship hangs in the balance after the epicentre of the pandemic moved from Asia to Europe, shutting down most sport on the conti-

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) have invested heavily in pro-

the 100-ball format, which scheduled to begin on

"It is clear that every industry, including crick-et, will be impacted by this unprecedented situation, Tom Moffat, chief executive of the Federation of International Cricketers Associations (FICA)said.

'It's more important than ever for the cricket industry to work together collaboratively at this time.

Individually, top players from outside India risk losing IPL contracts worth millions of dollars if they are unable to travel or their boards deny them permission to play.
As far as FICA is con-

cerned, Moffat said, the wellbeing of the players while the world deals with an international health crisis is far more important than cash.

"Governing employers, and leagues owe a duty of care to provide players with a safe workplace," he added.

Kohli and Anushka bat for self-isolation

New Delhi, March 20: India's cricket captain Virat Kohli and his actor wife Anushka Sharma on Friday issued a joint appeal for self-isolation to combat the dreaded Covid-19 pandemic.

Kohli and Anushka posted a video message on Twitter, appealing everyone to stay at home, a day after Prime Minister

the nation to advocate self-isolation. "We all through a very difficult time," Kohli said. "And the only way to stop the spread of Coronavirus is by acting together," urged

As they took turns to speak, Kohli said, "We are staying at home for our safety and for everyone



New Delhi, March 20: Former England captain Pietersen Friday urged Indian citizens to follow government directions on selfisolation to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, posting a message in Hindi with some help from his former IPL teammate Sreevats Goswami.

The 39-year-old took to "Greetings India. Everyone is united in the fight against coron-avirus and that everyone should listen to their government's instructions and stay at home for a few days. This is

time to be smart.
"Namaste India, hum
sab corona virus ko harane mein ek saath hai hum sab apne apne sarkar ki baat ka nirdes kare aur ghar me kuch Dino ke liye rahe , yeh samay hai hosiyaar rahene ka. App sabhi ko der sara pyaar," Pietersen tweeted in Hindi.

He credited Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Goswami for teaching him Hindi. Both have played for Royal Challengers Bangalore in the IPL.
Earlier this month,

Pietersen visited the Kaziranga Park in Assam to shoot a documentary on rhino conservation

He had lauded India's efforts in a series of tweets. "The rhino population in India is BOOM-ING! Africa should take note! Face with monocle. Saving these iconic species CAN be done and IS being done here! Bravo, India!" — *PTI*



TRUST DISPUTE

KEY DATES

Pay by 31st March, 2020 to avail higher benefits

ELIGIBILITY

- Appeals/writs filed on or before 31.01.2020 and pending
- Orders for which time for filing appeal has not expired on 31.01.2020
- Cases pending before Dispute Resolution Panel (DRP) on 31.01.2020 Cases where DRP issued direction on or before 31.01.2020 but no order
- has been passed Cases where assessee filed revision (Section 264) on or before
- 31.01.2020 Search case if the disputed tax is less than Rs. 5 Crore in a year
- The appeals/writs filed by taxpayers or the department
- Disputes where the payment has already been made shall also be eligible Cases in arbitration in India or Abroad

DISPUTES COVERED

- All disputes, subject to some exclusion, in relation to the
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 - Disputed penalty
 - Disputed interest
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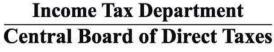
Payment made on or before	Appeal relates to disputed tax	Appeal relates only to disputed penalty or interest or fee
31st March, 2020	100% of the disputed tax (125% in search cases)	25% of the disputed penalty or interest or fee
End date (30th June, 2020)	110% of the disputed tax (135% in search cases) such that it does not increase	30% of the disputed penalty or interest or fee

If an issue in taxpayer's pending appeal already decided in his favour by appellate forum or if Department has filed appeal on an issue, amount payable is 50% of aforesaid amounts.

O,









total demand



Kolkata, March 20: Pradip Kumar Banerjee, a foot-balling colossus of his time and a raconteur for life, died here on Friday aged 83, having dribbled and dazzled for a good part of his mind-bog-gling 51 years of service to the game.

He was suffering from respiratory problems due to pneumonia and had an underlying history of Parkinson's disease, dementia and heart problem. Banerjee, who was on life support at a hospital here since March 2, breathed his last at 12.40 pm.

He is survived by daughters Paula and Purna, who are renowned academicians, and younger brother Prasun Banerjee, a sitting Trinamul Congress MP.

Born on June 23, 1936 in Moynaguri on the outskirts Jalpaiguri in West Bengal, Banerjee's family relocated to his uncle's place in Jamshedpur in Jharkhand (then Bihar) before partition.

The 1962 Asian Games gold-medallist's best days as player coincided with Indian football's golden era. PK, as he was known, scored 65 goals in 84 appearances for the national team.

His contribution was duly recognised by FIFA which rated him as India's greatest player of the 20th century, bestowing him with the Centennial Order of Merit

From his debut for Bihar in the Santosh Trophy as a 16year-old in 1952 to a stint as Mohammedan Sporting coach 51 years later, Banerjee takes leave as one of India's greatest.

A member of the holy trinity, that also included Chuni Goswami and Tulsidas Balaram, Banerjee was the last surviving scorer of the 1962 Asiad gold-winning team.

Another one his bright moments with the national team was a fourth-place finish at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, where India beat

Australia 4-1. In the final of the 1962 Asiad, India prevailed in front of a hostile crowd angered by chef de mission Guru Dutt Sondhi's remark that it was 'Jakarta Games', for barring countries like Taiwan and Israel.

Banerjee scored the opener

He was captain of the



P. K. Banerjee

From his debut for **Bihar in the Santosh** Trophy as a 16-yearold in 1952 to a stint as Mohammedan **Sporting coach 51** years later, Banerjee was one of India's greatest.

He was captain of the Indian team that last played the **Olympics in Rome**

He retired as a player in 1967 and then went on accumulate a staggering 54 trophies as a coach.

He pulled off a heist as Mohun Bagan coach when they famously held **New York Cosmos 2-2** in an exhibition match starring Pele in 1977.

Indian team that last played the Olympics in Rome 1960. He retired as a player in 1967 after being laid low by recurring injuries. But then

went on accumulate a staggering 54 trophies as a coach. He pulled off a heist as Mohun Bagan coach when they famously held New York Cosmos 2-2 in an exhi-

bition match starring Pele in 1977. The star of Indian football when the sport was at its peak, Banerjee never played for Mohun Bagan and East representing Bengal. Eastern Railways all his life.

Having struck gold as a player, Banerjee was made a

coach who had a knack of explaining the strategy in a detailed manner. He was the one

team when I played for the national side. - VICTOR AMALRAJ ex-Indian football captain

who handed me the cap-

taincy at Mohun Bagan in

get that. PK da was also

the coach of the Indian

the 1980s, I can never for-

I am very sad that Indian football has lost a legend. The Telangana Football Association expresses its condolences

- G. P. PALGUNA TFA secretary

It was so much fun to be around him, to listen to his stories. He was always cool and composed.

- BHAICHUNG BHUTIA ex-Indian football captain

Heartfelt condolences on the passing of the great Indian footballer PK Banerjee! Have fond memories of meeting him on a few occasions and the positivity he spread. May his soul Rest In Peace!

SACHIN TENDULKAR Former Indian cricketer

Lost a very dear person today .. someone who I loved and respected enormously.. someone who had so much influence in my career when I was a 18 year old boy .. his positivity was infectious .. may his soul rest in peace.

- SOURAV GANGULY **BCCI** president

joint India coach with G. M. Basha, and they delivered a bronze at the Bangkok Asiad in 1970.

Within a year at the helm, Banerjee guided India to a joint triumph at the Singapore Pesta Sukan Cup

East Bengal won five CFL titles on the trot under his tutelage.

He also delivered at Mohun Bagan, guiding them to a treble — IFA Shield, Rovers Cup

and Durand Cup — in 1977. He was coach of the Mohun Bagan that famously held the then Soviet Union team, Ararat Yerevan, in the 1978 IFA Shield final. -PTI

PK Banerjee passes away after 51 years of football Flame Game as torch in Tokyo scale it down, giving priority to their safety," said mobbed Hollywood actor

Olympic flame arrived in Japan to a scaled-down welcoming ceremony Friday as doubts grew over whether the Tokyo Games will go ahead on schedule with the coronavirus pandemic causing around the world. chaos

As the flame, enclosed in a special lantern, landed on a charter flight, a Japanese Olympic Committee member broke ranks to call for a postponement and Olympics chief Thomas Bach admitted "different scenarios" were under consideration.

"Of course we are considering different scenarios, but we are contrary to many other sports organisations or professional leagues in that we are fourand-a-half months away from the Games," Bach, the International Olympic Committee president, told the New York Times.

"For us, (postponement)



Japanese Olympic gold medallists Saori Yoshida (left) and Tadahiro Nomura light a Tokyo 2020 Olympic cauldron in Higashimatsushima with the Olympic flame, after it was transported from Greece on Friday.

would not be responsible now and it would be premature to start speculation or make a decision at a time when we do not have any recommendation from the task force," he added.

Reflecting the uncertainty caused by Covid-19, the arrival flame's Matsushima Air Base in Japan's north was a muted

affair after organisers were forced to cancel plans to invite 200 schoolchildren.

Former Olympic judo champions Saori Yoshida and Tadahiro Nomura lit a ceremonial cauldron in front of a few dozen officials and guests.

"Children had planned to welcome the Olympic flame, but we decided to

ty to their safety," said Tokyo 2020 chief Yoshiro

The nationwide torch relay begins on March 26, starting from the J-Village complex Fukushima that was used as a base for workers during the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disas-

OLYMPICS 'SHOULD

Speculation has been growing over the Games, scheduled to start on July 24, after the Covid-19 outbreak closed sports competitions around the world and paralysed many countries, along with international travel.

The coronavirus has already disrupted the early stages of the torch's journey in Greece, with the lighting ceremony in ancient Olympia taking place without spectators.

Organisers then had to scrap the Greek leg of the Gerard Butler as he lit a cauldron in the city of

Sparta. With borders shut in Europe Tokyo officials did not travel to collect the torch, with former Olympic

swimmer Naoko Imoto rep-

resenting Japan at the offi-cial handover. As the flame landed, there are increasing clouds over the Games, with some athletes attacking the IOC for insisting there's no need for "drastic" action such as postponement or cancella-

Japanese Committee executive board member Kaori Yamaguchi, a former Olympic judoka, was the latest prominent figure to call for a post ponement, citing the difficulties faced by athletes.

'It should be postponed under the current situation where athletes are not well prepared," Yamaguchi told the *Nikkei daily*. — *AFP*



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