

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT MAY COME TO A HALT SUNDAY

# Businesses in Mumbai, malls in Delhi shut as daily cases spike



Migrant workers crowd the Pune railway station to board trains leaving the city Friday. Arul Horizon

63 cases in a day; essential services only in Mumbai, Pune; Section 144 in Haryana

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, NEW DELHI, CHANDIGARH, LUCKNOW, MARCH 20

A DAY after the Union government barred all international commercial passenger flights from landing in India for a week, state governments Friday tightened the lockdown to check the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases. This came even as the total number of cases climbed to 236, with 63 new cases being confirmed on Friday — the highest single-day jump so far.

While Maharashtra, which has reported the highest number of cases, imposed a complete shutdown — barring essential services — in some cities including Mumbai and Pune, the Delhi and Uttar Pradesh governments ordered closure of all malls. The Haryana government decided to impose Section 144 of the CrP to prohibit the assembly of large groups of people.

Ordering all shops and offices in Mumbai Metropolitan Region, Pune, Pimpri Chinchwad and Nagpur to shut down from

## Exodus from Mumbai, Pune as migrant workers pack trains headed East

**IRAM SIDDIQUE & AJAY JADHAV**  
MUMBAI, PUNE, MARCH 20

AS SHOPS and establishments prepared to shut down following a Maharashtra government order that all private businesses and companies must remain closed from Saturday until March 31, an exodus began in Mumbai and Pune with tens of thousands of workers in the unorganised sector, as well as auto-rickshaw and taxi drivers, thronging railway ticket

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Testing extended to all pneumonia cases: Govt

**ABANTIKA GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

FACING REPEATED criticism, India has decided to change testing criteria for COVID-19 to include all pneumonia cases, regardless of travel or contact history.

In an advisory to hospitals on Friday, the government said: "No suspected COVID-19 patient



should be turned away from any hospital and the admission of any such patient should be notified to NCDC (National Centre for Disease Control) or IDSP (Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme) immediately. Similarly, all pneumonia patients must also be notified to NCDC or IDSP so that they can be tested for COVID-19. Hospitals to ensure social distancing in their premises."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



## No train to run Sunday during Janata Curfew

**AVISHEK G DASTIDAR**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

IN AN extraordinary decision, Indian Railways announced Friday that it would stop its services across the country from 7 am to 9 pm on Sunday during the Janata Curfew called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

It, however, clarified that if long-distance and inter-city trains have good occupancy figures (since long-distance trains are booked in advance), the zonal railways may decide to run them. Officials said zonal general managers will assess the final situation Saturday.

The Railway Board, in its order to zonal general managers, said all passenger trains (about 2,400), will remain cancelled from Saturday midnight to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## INSIDE



## CURED OF VIRUS, TOURIST DIES OF HEART FAILURE

**GLOBAL TOLL HITS 11,000, UK TO PAY WAGES TO WORKERS**  
PAGES 3, 4, 8, 9, 14, 17, 19

tested positive was also there. Two other MPs, Anupriya Patel and Trinamool's Derek O'Brien, who came in touch with him, have gone into self-isolation.

An MP from Rajasthan, Dushyant was present at a party thrown by a nephew of former MP Akbar Ahmad Dumpy in Lucknow on March 15, also attended by singer Kanika Kapoor, along with his mother and former Rajasthan chief minister

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Four Dec 16 convicts hanged, mother says proud of daughter... finally, justice

**SOMYA LAKHANI**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

AT 5.30 am Friday, the four convicts in the Delhi December 16 gangrape and murder case, that shook the nation and led to sweeping changes in the country's rape laws, were hanged inside Tihar's Jail Number 3.

The hanging was carried out after a day of drama, lasting till early morning Friday, in three different courts — the Supreme Court, Delhi High Court and a lower court in the Capital. Each rejected their pleas seeking a stay on execution.

After the four — Mukesh (31), Pawan Gupta (24), Vinay Sharma (25) and Akshay Kumar Singh (33) — had been left hanging for 30 minutes, a doctor examined



The mother of the gangrape victim at her Delhi home on Friday. Praveen Khanna

DETAILED COVERAGE PAGE 6

them and declared them dead, Delhi Prisons DG Sandeep Goel said. Their bodies were sent for post-mortem before being handed over to their families.

Tihar Jail sources said the four spent a sleepless night, with at least 15 guards each keeping watch. "They kept pacing up and down their cells, enquiring if the court had sent a directive. At 4.45 am, the District Magistrate read out the death warrant to them, they were given a fresh set of clothes, and taken to the gallows," a source said.

The hanging came just two hours after the final pleas of the convicts were rejected by a Supreme Court bench. Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bhushan and AS Bopanna heard them out

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

# Congress govt falls in Madhya Pradesh as Kamal Nath resigns ahead of floor test

**MILINDGHATWAI**  
BHOPAL, MARCH 20

THE 15-MONTH-OLD Congress government in Madhya Pradesh fell on Friday when Chief Minister Kamal Nath chose to resign ahead of a trust vote ordered by the Supreme Court a day earlier to end the uncertainty in the state following the resignation of 22 Congress MLAs.

Announcing his resignation at a press conference at his official residence around noon, Kamal Nath accused the Opposition BJP of plotting to bring down his government from the day he took charge in December 2018. He then headed to Raj Bhavan to hand over his



Submits his resignation to Governor Lajmi Tandon. ANI

resignation to Governor Lajmi Tandon at 1.15 pm.

When the Assembly met at 2 pm, Speaker N P Prajapati said

the special sitting had been called to honour the Supreme Court order but its implementation was

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## EXPLAINED Not easy for next BJP CM

UNLIKE 2003, 2008 and 2013 when it rode to power with comprehensive wins, the BJP is set to return to power with a slender majority, cobbled with defections from the Congress. The new BJP CM will have to balance the ambitions of his party's behind-the-scenes managers with the interests of the Congress leaders who switched loyalty.

# Singer at party tests positive, fear travels from Lucknow to Parliament

**LIZ MATHEW & AVANEESH MISHRA**  
NEW DELHI, LUCKNOW, MARCH 20

THE THREAT of coronavirus infection reached Rashtrapati Bhavan and Parliament on Friday, with BJP MP Dushyant Singh announcing he was self-quarantining himself after attending a party in Lucknow where a Bollywood singer who later



Kanika Kapoor returned from UK on March 9. Express

# PK, the Prince Charming of Indian football, departs

**PAGE 1 ANCHOR**

**SHAMIK CHAKRABARTY**  
KOLKATA, MARCH 20

PRADIP KUMAR Banerjee, former India captain and one of the finest strikers the country has produced, passed away at a Kolkata hospital Friday after a massive heart attack. He is survived by his two daughters. He was admitted to the hospital on February 7. Gradually, sepsis and



PRADIP KUMAR BANERJEE 1936-2020

multi-organ failure due to pneumonia set in on the background of Parkinson's disease, dementia and heart problems.

It was his dead run down the right flank, powerful shooting and top-class heading that floored the fans. Fans and reporters adored him. He was a trailblazer, someone who brought the modern game to the Kolkata maidan. Till mid-1950s, Kolkata football was the home of the Pancha Pandavas — Ahmed Khan, Apparao, P Venkatesh, P B Saleh and Dhanraj. They played

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**TOP FIVE ROMANTIC K-DRAMAS TO BINGE-WATCH ON NETFLIX**

The shows are known for their ridiculously good-looking actors and entertaining plots. The best part? They almost always last only one season. So you don't have to worry about a series turning sour. Additionally, they are easy to binge-watch and don't require a lot of emotional investment, which is great for mindless viewing.

**VIDEO OF THE DAY**



**SAMSUNG GALAXY Z FLIP**  
Samsung Galaxy Z Flip is the first phone with a foldable glass



**CORONAVIRUS**

**STAYING MENTALLY HEALTHY**  
The WHO says we should be empathetic around this time

**EXPRESS AUDIO**  
Where did old phone brands like BlackBerry and HTC go?

**NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY**  
On this episode of the tech podcast Our Own Devices we take a look at old phone brands that have disappeared, or are attempting to make a comeback.

**FROM PAGE ONE**

**Testing extended to all pneumonia cases: Govt**

Earlier, testing was limited to symptomatic patients with travel or contact history, and symptomatic health workers with contact history. As part of sentinel surveillance, only random samples of pneumonia cases were being tested.

A senior Health Ministry official confirmed that "the testing protocol has been changed today". While health officials have maintained that there is no community transmission, they said the new testing protocol would provide conclusive evidence of whether or not it has happened.

The decision came on a day which saw the highest single-day jump of 63 new cases, taking the total to 236. While 23 have recovered so far, four have died.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), in a statement, said: "15,404 samples from 14,514 individuals have been tested for SARS-CoV-2 as on 20th March 2020 6 PM IST. 236 individuals have been confirmed positive."

Speaking in the Lok Sabha during Question Hour, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said there is no indication of community transmission so far.

Asked about a man who had travelled from Uttar Pradesh to Tamil Nadu by train and tested positive there, without any history of contact or travel, Dr R R Gangakhedkar, the head of epidemiology at the ICMR, said: "In these things, you have to trust the patient. We have also heard he has no contact history, we are trying to find out."

Although India has banned all commercial international passenger flights for a week starting March 22, the Health Ministry in a letter to state principal secretaries (health) said it has decided to expand screening for all passengers coming from Australia, the UK and USA.

The government has also decided to grant leave to officials above 50 of age who have conditions like diabetes, respiratory problems and renal disease up to April 4.

In a video conference meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and chief ministers and state health ministers, Dr Balram Bhargava, Secretary, Health, Research, and DG, ICMR, said India is currently in phase 2 of transmission, emphasising that it has a window to take action and minimise transmission.

Modi said the next three-four weeks are crucial, and the most important measure is social distancing.

Meanwhile, in a letter to RML, Safdarjung and Lady Hardinge hospitals in Delhi, the Health Ministry said OPDs should continue even if elective surgeries are suspended.

**Singer at party tests positive, fear travels far**

Vasundhara Raje. Kanika flew back from London a few days ago and tested positive on Friday, four days after the Lucknow party.

On Friday night, the Lucknow police registered an FIR against Kanika under sections dealing with disobedience to orders promulgated by a public servant, and acts likely to spread disease dangerous to life. Taj, Lucknow, where Kanika stayed, has been shut.

Dushyant, who has not been tested, was attending Parliament till Friday, and mingled with other parliamentarians in Central Hall as well as attended Standing Committee meetings. On Thursday, he was among the invitees to a breakfast for Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh MPs

hosted by President Ram Nath Kovind. Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Smriti Irani, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Mahendra Singh Pandey were among those present at the breakfast.

Sources said Dushyant Singh was also part of a private dinner hosted by an MP, in which a number of other young parliamentarians, including a junior minister, were present.

While Kovind appeared to have not come in close contact with any of the guests, sources said Rashtrapati Bhavan was looking at the medical protocols to be followed.

In Uttar Pradesh, state Minister of Medical Health & Family Welfare Jai Pratap Singh, who was also present at Kanika's party, went into self-isolation, as did three MLAs who were recently in contact with him.

Raje tweeted, "While in Lucknow, I attended a dinner with my son Dushyant & his in-laws. Kanika, who has unfortunately tested positive for #Covid19 was also a guest. As a matter of abundant caution, my son & I have immediately self-quarantined and we're taking all necessary precautions."

Anupriya Patel, who attended a meeting of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture along with Dushyant, tweeted, "I was present at an event yesterday. Associate Member of Parliament Mr Dushyant Singh was also present at the event. As a precaution, I am going to self-isolate."

O'Brien said on Twitter, "Am on self-isolation... as I was sitting right next to MP Dushyant for two hours at a #Parliament meeting on March 18."

Newly elected Rajya Sabha MP Deepender Hooda said he had also gone into self-isolation after coming in contact with Dushyant at Parliament House on Wednesday.

Dushyant is believed to have come in touch with a number of mediapersons on Parliament premises as well.

Kanika, who sang the hit Bollywood single *Baby Doll*, flew back to Mumbai from London on March 9, and two days later, went to Lucknow where her parents live. The family has claimed the 41-year-old was screened when she landed in India and allegations that she had dodged check-up were baseless.

Apart from her, three family members of an infected junior resident doctor at Lucknow's KGMU tested positive on Friday, taking the total number of cases in Uttar Pradesh to 23. Eight have recovered.

Talking to *The Indian Express*, Minister Jai Pratap Singh said the party had been hosted by Dumpy's nephew and that he didn't meet Kanika there. "Vaundharaji, her son and other family members, my wife and sisters were all present... However, we didn't know Kanika personally and did not meet her. As of now we are all asymptomatic, and have gone into self-isolation. Only if we have symptoms will our samples be taken for testing."

During the period under watch, Singh held a press conference in Gautam Buddha Nagar district, which was attended by Jewar MLA Dhirendra Singh, Noida MLA Pankaj Singh, Dadri MLA Tejinder Nagar, and the District Magistrate and Chief Medical Officer, among others. The three MLAs have gone into self-quarantine.

**Highest single-day jump, Delhi, Mumbai shops shut**

Friday midnight till March 31, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said only essential services, including food, milk and medicines, would be allowed. These are the areas which have reported COVID-19 cases in the state.

According to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare data, the state has reported 52 cases so far. Thackeray said government offices will operate at 25 per cent attendance, and banks will remain functional. He ruled out shutting down public transport in Mumbai, but urged people to stay at home.

In Delhi, where 17 cases have been reported so far, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted that "in view of the prevailing situation, we are closing down all malls (except grocery, pharmacy and vegetable shops in them)".

The government has also decided to discontinue its non-essential services till March-end, after which the situation will be reviewed. All non-essential staff are being directed to work from home.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) said several markets will remain shut for three days from Saturday. The Delhi Metro will also shut its services for a day on Sunday.

In Haryana, the government ordered district authorities to impose Section 144 of CrPC to prohibit the gathering of 20 or more people. "Adequate consideration may however be provided to movement of people in public transport (trains, buses etc) or in any other mode of transport,

specially in the eventuality of medical emergencies," it said. In Uttar Pradesh, which has reported 23 cases, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath ordered the closure of all malls and directed officials to sanitise Lucknow, Noida and Kanpur cities. Essential services will be allowed to remain open.

Earlier, the Lucknow district administration ordered the closure of all bars, cafes/lounges, hair salons, beauty parlours and eateries till March 31.

**No train to run Sunday during Janata Curfew**

10 pm Sunday. About 1,300 mail express trains will also not run from 4 am Sunday.

Local train services will be reduced to minimum in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Secunderabad.

The zonal railways have been asked to take a call on how many trains to run. Railway officials said the demand is relatively low on Sundays.

As a disincentive to travelling, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) has been asked to suspend operations in its food plazas, refreshment rooms, jan ahaar and cell kitchens.

No food will be served on ordinary mail/express trains. However, food will continue to be served on trains where the

ticket price includes the food component.

Railways has asked catering contractors to "take care of the staff on humanitarian grounds" during the time of closure.

The zonal general managers have been instructed to run special trains if there is crowding of stranded passengers at stations, "despite advance public notice".

Sources said the decision, approved by the Prime Minister's Office, is meant to aid the Janata Curfew.

So far, Railways has cancelled about 300 trains due to low occupancy and to discourage people from travelling. When trains are cancelled, the entire ticket amount is refunded without deducting the cancellation fee.

hotel, she did not attend any party there.

Lucknow airport Director A K Sharma denied any lapse on their part, pointing out that there was no directive to screen domestic passengers. "She (Kanika) had flown into Mumbai and from there to Lucknow. The responsibility to test her was of the airport she landed first in India... However, she is claiming that she was screened."

BMC officials who are screening passengers at Mumbai airport said they had been doing thermal check of passengers flying in from abroad since March 9, plus making them fill travel details and if they had any symptoms in a form. Those who showed symptoms were moved to isolation, and others asked to undertake home quarantine for 14 days.

In a statement, Kanika's father Rajiv Kapoor said, "Kanika came to India late March 9 and, after staying for a day in Mumbai, reached Lucknow on March 11. Since then she has been in Lucknow. Two days ago, she developed mild fever and cough. Friday morning we came to know she is positive. Doctors have advised isolation for at least four-five days, after which she will be tested again. There is no panic or worry."

Kapoor acknowledged that Kanika also attended at least three "small family holi gatherings" after arrival in Lucknow, on March 13, 14 and 15, as she had no symptoms. "Around 300 people might have come in contact with her. We have conveyed the information to everyone. In my family, other than Kanika, there is my wife, my mother and two domestic helps. We are all being tested."

Sources said the singer also paid a brief visit to an uncle in Kanpur, for a function with 50-odd people. Health Department sources said contact-tracing is also being carried out in the vicinity of the Kanpur residence. Neighbours expressed concerns that customers at a showroom run by the parents may have contracted the virus too.

In an Instagram post Friday, Kanika said, "My family and I are in complete quarantine now and following medical advice... Contact mapping of people I have been in touch with is underway as well. I was scanned at the airport... 10 days ago when I came back home, the symptoms have developed only 4 days ago. At this stage I would like to urge you all to practice self-isolation

and get tested if you have the signs. I am feeling ok, like a normal flu and a mild fever."

The development is likely to increase pressure on the government to adjourn the Parliament session, like the Opposition has been demanding. Addressing BJP MPs earlier this week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said the House would function till April 3, as scheduled.

Congress MP Karti P Chidambaram, who has been demanding that the House be shut, told *The Indian Express*, "My worst fears have come true."

To reassure the House, Speaker Om Birla conducted an inspection of measures at Parliament House Estate. Sources said the premises would be disinfected on Saturday and Sunday.

— WITH INPUTS FROM AMIL BHATNAGAR IN DELHI

**Exodus from Mumbai, Pune**

counters to return to their hometowns, mostly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

In scenes that were just the opposite of the government's advice to people to remain indoors, and will raise concerns among public health officials about cross-country transmission, people thronged inter-city stations in Pune and Mumbai and lined up at ticket counters for trains to take them home.

BMC Medical officer in Kurla, Dr Jeetendra Jadhav, said they were told about a huge crowd at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus, Sion, on Friday evening. "The railway police should have dispersed the crowd under the Epidemic Act. It does not come under our jurisdiction," he said.

As per the 2011 Census, Mumbai, which includes the districts of Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburban and Thane, has 46.44 lakh inter-state migrants and around 43.44 lakh intra-state migrants. Nearly 30% are in the informal economy.

Faced with the prospect of no earnings, most decided it was better to return to their homes. But thousands on Friday had to come back disappointed because of long waiting lists. Many said they plan to travel without tickets or on wait-listed tickets.

Shiv Kumar Patel, an auto-rickshaw driver in Mumbai since 2006, planned to travel on a wait-listed ticket to Varanasi, even if he had to pay a penalty. His daily earnings have dropped to Rs 300 a day.

Mohammad Idris, whose taxi business is at a near standstill, was hoping to buy a wait-listed ticket on the Kamayani Express to Prayagraj.

The Central Railways (CR) said it would run at least 15 special trains to east and north to clear the rush.

In Pune, there was a massive crowd with people ready to board trains such as the Pune-Lucknow Express, Pune-Jammu Tawi Jhelum Express, and Pune-Patna Danapur Express.

Pune railway division spokesperson Manoj Jhavar said extra trains would be run in the coming days. "We are asking passengers not to spit, carry hand sanitisers, wear masks," he said.

The city unit of CREDAI, the association of real estate developers, said almost 60 per cent of construction workers had either left the city or were leaving. Pune and suburbs have about eight lakh construction workers, mainly from Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Bihar. "We installed hand sanitisers in labour camps and given masks. But they were receiving regular calls from their villages. Given the panic, we could not ask them to stay back," Suhas Merchant, president of CREDAI Pune Metro, said.

**Four Dec 16 convicts hanged**

from 2.30 am to 3.30 am, after the Delhi High Court, sitting till midnight, rejected their petition against execution. In its order, the HC told the counsel for the accused: "We are very close to the time when your clients will meet God."

Welcoming their execution, the victim's mother said, "I am proud of my daughter. If she was alive, I would have been known as a doctor's mother. Justice was denied but, finally, it happened. I thank the judiciary, President, and our governments."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomed the hanging, saying "Justice has prevailed". "Together, we have to build a nation where the focus is on women empowerment, where there is emphasis on equality and opportunity," he tweeted.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "The whole country had been waiting for justice for the last seven years... We have to work together to address the loopholes in our judicial system that favour culprits." People started gathering outside Tihar Jail by 4 am Friday,

with the national flag and placards, in anticipation of the hanging. At 5.30 am, as news of the execution came, the crowd burst into chants of 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai'.

Six people were convicted of the brutal rape and murder of the 23-year-old physiotherapy student in a moving bus in Delhi on December 16, 2012. She died 13 days later at a hospital in Singapore of her injuries. The incident led to protests across the country, and the Justice Verma Committee set up subsequently recommended that all forms of sexual contact without consent, including non-penetrative, be regarded as sexual assault.

Of the six accused, one was a juvenile at the time and released after serving the maximum sentence of three years, while Ram Singh died of reported suicide in Tihar Jail in 2013. The Supreme Court first upheld the death penalty for them in May 2017.

In the appeal in the Supreme Court early Friday morning, advocate A P Singh sought "permission for the family of Pawan and Akshay to meet them". Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, after checking with officials, said the jail manual didn't allow a meeting at this late juncture.

Singh cited documents to claim that Pawan had been a juvenile at the time of the crime, and argued that "one convict of these four may not have been party to premeditated crime. He may have committed the rape but may not have been party to conspiracy to murder, and may have been bullied by others who were senior to him."

The hangman, Pawan Jallad, brought in from Meerut, was paid Rs 15,000 for each hanging. The last hanging was carried out in Tihar in 2013, of Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru. Friday was the first time four men were hanged together inside the prison complex.

The victim's mother said the family "will continue fighting for the daughters of India". "If such a crime happens to a woman in your family, then first extend support to the woman," she said.

**Kamal Nath quits, MP govt falls**

redundant because the government led by Kamal Nath had resigned. The proceedings lasted barely a few minutes before the Speaker adjourned the Assembly sine die. The apex court had ordered that the trust vote be concluded by 5 pm Friday.

The strength of the 230-member House came down to 205 Friday following the acceptance of 23 resignations (one of the BJP) and two vacancies caused due to death of members — the BJP had a strength of 107.

While BJP legislators were present in the House, Congress MLAs collected at the CM's residence, some raising slogans in his support.

"I have always followed politics of probity and given priority to democratic values. Whatever has happened in last two weeks is a new chapter in devaluation of democratic values," the CM said in his resignation letter.

Earlier, he told reporters: "The BJP will not succeed in its game. The party should not forget that today will be followed by tomorrow and the day after."

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the favourite among BJP contenders for the CM post, tweeted: "Satyameva Jayate."

Kamal Nath claimed the BJP did not like his campaign against the mafia, and could not reconcile with his "pro-poor" and "pro-people" policies or announcements like building 1,000 gaushalas, Ram Van Gaman Path, and a Sita temple in Sri Lanka. The Congress veteran said the BJP tried to plot and conspire against his government from day one.

"I did not want the Congress in a mahal (palace) but mahal in the Congress for people to become strong," he said, in an apparent swipe at Jyotiraditya Scindia, who switched from the Congress to the BJP. Scindia responded with a tweet in Hindi: "In Madhya Pradesh today, the people have won. I have always maintained that politics should be a medium to serve people but the state government had strayed from the path. Truth has prevailed again."

Kamal Nath said the Congress proved its majority thrice in the Assembly. Underlining that his government was never accused of corruption, he said he would take a certificate from the people, not the BJP. The BJP had accused his government of rampant loot by running a "transfer industry", and of posturing by cracking down on one criminal and collecting from others. He said the BJP was scared that scams like e-tendering, Bundelkhand package and Vyapam during its rule would be investigated.

There was a flutter ahead of the CM's press conference when Speaker Prajapati said he had accepted the resignation of BJP MLA Sharad Kol. The letter was dated March 6. However, Kol claimed he had been forced to resign and that he sent another letter on March 16, requesting the Speaker not to accept it.

The Speaker's announcement led to speculation that the Congress was trying to win over a few BJP legislators. Kol's resignation reduced the House strength from 230 to 205. The Speaker had earlier accepted resignations of 22 legislators and there were two vacancies due to the death of the members.

Four independents and two BSP legislators, among the seven legislators supporting the Kamal Nath government, changed their tune, suggesting that they would review their priorities because they were "committed to voters" in their constituencies and could support the new government.

**P K Banerjee**

for East Bengal and were Oriental in their styles. Pradipda or PK brought in power and speed, when he joined Aryan in 1954. "They (defenders) always chased shadows. My Achilles tendon was the worst sufferer," his face used to light up every time he recalled his halcyon days. PK's stories always had a few

coats of varnish. "The Rome Olympics organisers told us we must have a team theme song. We barely had a clue. I took the stage and started singing *Dhitang, Dhitang Bole* (a Salil Chowdhury composition). Within two minutes, the entire Olympic stadium joined the chorus." How do you justify 80,000 in Rome humming a Bengali song of the IPTA vintage? But that was the legend of the man.

He liked to boast his on-field exploits but he did it with dignity. There was never a hint of arrogance. It was the mastery of a master storyteller who revealed in holding court. Born in Jalpaiguri, in north Bengal, he did his schooling in Jamshepur and broke into the national reckoning when he played for Bihar in the Santosh Trophy.

Soon he was included in the national team for the 1955 Quadrangular Tournament in Dhaka. India won the tournament, defeating Pakistan 2-1 in the final and PK, along with goalkeeper Peter Thangaraj, shone the brightest. The 1956 Melbourne Olympics was where Indian football found its 'holy trinity' — Pradip, Chuni Goswami and Tulsidas Balam. Till date, they remain unmatched.

PK played an important role in India's 4-2 win over Australia in the quarterfinals, providing two assists. Although India crashed out of the competition after losing to Yugoslavia in the semi-final and Bulgaria in the third-place tie, the 1956 Olympics performance remains the benchmark for any Indian football team. The 1960 Olympics saw PK's stardom grow, as he scored a goal against France in a 1-1 draw. The 1962 Asian Games in Jakarta followed, which was the peak of PK's career. India went on to win the football gold under Goswami's leadership.

PK was one of a kind, for he never played for a big club. After starting at Aryan, he had a 12-year career for Eastern Railway, from 1955-1967. In 1958, Eastern Railway won the Calcutta League, trumping Mohun Bagan, East Bengal and Mohammedan Sporting. In 45 international appearances, PK scored 14 goals. At the club level, he scored 190 goals.

After hanging up his boots, PK took to coaching and became the country's most successful coach. Under his charge, East Bengal won four of their six consecutive Calcutta Football League titles during 1970-75. As Mohun Bagan coach, he presided over the club's treble — IFA Shield, Durand Cup and Rovers Cup — in 1977 apart from earning a 2-2 draw against Pele's New York Cosmos. In between, Banerjee and G M Basha coached Syed Nayeemuddin-led Indian team to the 1970 Asian Games bronze in Bangkok, the country's last podium finish at the continental stage. PK's coaching USP was his "vocal tonic". Those who played under him fell for his man-management skills.

Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaysia's founding father, was a big fan of PK's football, so much so that he had once offered Malaysian citizenship to the Indian star during the half-time of a Merdeka fixture. PK was one of the first recipients of the Arjuna Award in 1961. Padma Shri had been conferred in 1990. The International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS) nominated him as the Indian footballer of the 20th century. The FIFA Order of Merit came in 2004.

PK Banerjee was not just the 'Prince Charming' of Indian football, but a great human being.

**WEEKLY MARKETS SHUT TILL MARCH 31**  
**South Ex, Khan Market, Connaught Place shut**



At Connaught Place, Friday. Business at CP is down by 60-70%, traders said. Amit Mehra

**ABHINAV RAJPUT**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

CONNAUGHT PLACE, Khan Market, Defence Colony, South Extension, Sarojini Nagar, Central Market and several other prominent markets across the national capital will remain closed on Sunday, in line with the Prime Minister's call for a 'Janata Curfew' due to the COVID-19 outbreak. However, shops selling essential commodities like medicines and groceries will remain open.

On Thursday, PM Narendra Modi appealed to people across the country to follow 'Janata Curfew' on March 22 from 7 am to 9 pm and stay at home.

At some markets, shops will be closed on Saturday as well. Old Delhi markets such as Chandni Chowk and Khari Baoli are closed for three days, while wholesale cloth markets in Chandni Chowk are shut until Tuesday.

South Extension Part 2 and Sarojini Nagar will remain shut from Saturday till Monday. All weekly markets, meanwhile, are shut till March 31.

Sudhir Ahuja, general secre-

tary of South Extension Part 2, said that when the market re-opens on Tuesday, shops will only remain open from 12 pm to 6.30 pm. The market earlier remained open from 10 am to 9.30 pm.

Atul Bhargava, president of the New Delhi Traders' Association, said footfall is so low that people who have rented shops will be unable to pay the monthly amount.

"Earlier, the market was hit due to sealing, now this has severely affected the business here. If the situation persists, those who have shops on rent will start leaving the place," said Singh.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has also given a call to markets across Delhi to shut for three days.

CAIT secretary general Praveen Khandelwal said: "In the wake of rapidly growing threat of coronavirus, prominent trade leaders of different parts of Delhi decided to close business establishments for the next three days, beginning tomorrow, to prevent community transmission. Markets in Delhi will remain closed on March 21, 22, 23. Trade leaders will review the situation on the evening of March 23 and will decide the future course of action. CAIT has exempted chemist shops, dairy and general consumables from the shutdown for the convenience of citizens."

At a sports shoe outlet in Saket's Select Citywalk, an employee said footfall has decreased from around 350 people on an average daily to well under 100 people.

Inderjeet Singh, member of the Meher Chand market association, said footfall is so low that people who have rented shops will be unable to pay the monthly amount.

"Earlier, the market was hit due to sealing, now this has severely affected the business here. If the situation persists, those who have shops on rent will start leaving the place," said Singh.

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**On Janata Curfew, Metro won't ply Sunday**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

DELHI METRO rail services will remain suspended on Sunday, a measure aimed at encouraging people to stay indoors in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a "Janata curfew".

In a statement, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation said: "In the wake of 'Janata Curfew' this Sunday, it has been decided to keep Metro services closed. The move is aimed at encouraging



public to stay indoors and maintain social distancing, which is essential in the fight against COVID-19."

While the Metro shuts operations for a few hours on some festivals, this is the first time it will be shut completely for a whole day.

On Thursday, the Prime Minister asked all people to follow a self-imposed curfew between 7 am and 9 pm.

The Metro's decision to suspend all train services on March 22 also comes a day after it issued an eight-point advisory to the public, asking them to avail its services only for essential purposes.

It also put into effect a policy, urging commuters to maintain a gap of at least one metre among themselves, both inside the train and on the premises of stations spread across the capital and the National Capital

Region.

Meanwhile, the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) will be also discontinuing Metro and city bus services Sunday.

Officials said the step is a preventive measure to contain the spread of the disease, as cases continue to rise in the country.

NMRC earlier released a detailed sanitisation advisory on cleaning and hygiene measures at platforms and other premises.

**Will have to leave for our villages if situation continues, say vendors**

**ANANYA TIWARI**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

AS MARKETS across the capital shut shop or reduced operations amid the coronavirus outbreak, street vendors have found themselves dealing with the "lowest footfall in years". Many said if the curbs on movement of people last a while, they will have no option but to shut shop and return

to their villages.

A survey of street vendors, mandated by the Delhi government last September to provide legal vending rights and protection from illegal evictions, has also been put on hold.

Madan Kumar (37), who sells cosmetic products at Sarojini Nagar, said there have barely been any sales in the last 10 days. Sunita Gupta (42) who sells hairbands at the usually packed market, said, "For every 100 people who came to the market earlier, only five are coming now."

The same situation was found in Shankar Market and Connaught Place Friday. Mohit Valecha, president of the National Hawkers Federation, said, "We have been holding meetings and vendors keep saying they are making just Rs 200-300 a day. It's a very bad time."

**DELHI JAL BOARD REVENUE DEPARTMENT PUBLIC NOTICE**

**In view of ongoing Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and considering Public Health aspect, it has been decided that:-**

- > To control foot fall in Zonal Revenue Offices, Rebate Schemes for waiver of 100% LPSC and slab-wise waiver on accumulated arrears upto 31.03.2019, depending on categorization of colony in respect of all Domestic Consumers (Individual and Bulk) and 100% LPSC waiver for Commercial Consumers are **extended upto 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.**
- > Public Dealing in all Zonal Revenue Offices of DJB, except Cash Counters, will not be functional. Public dealing in ZRO Offices will remain suspended till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. Meter Reading during current billing round has also been stopped with immediate effect till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020 and left out consumers will be billed in the subsequent billing rounds.
- > Similarly, action for New Water/Sewer Connection, Mutation, Disconnection & Re-Opening shall also remain suspended till 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020.
- > Consumers are requested to avail all the online services available through DJB Customer Portal i.e., [www.djb.gov.in](http://www.djb.gov.in) e.g. Application for New Water/Sewer Connection, Mutation, Disconnection, Re-Opening & lodging of Grievance etc.

All consumers are requested to cooperate with DJB and avoid visiting ZRO offices unless absolutely necessary.

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)  
Advt. No. J.S.V. 936/19-20

Sd/-  
Director (Revenue)

**INDIRA GANDHI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
(A Super Specialty, Autonomous Institute Of Govt. Of Bihar)  
IGIMS Medical College, IGIMS Nursing College  
Sheikhpura, Patna-14, EPBX: 0612-2297099/2297631, Website: www.igims.org

**WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR SR. RESIDENT/TUTOR POSTS**

A Walk-in-Interview of eligible Indian citizen, for appointment on Sr. Resident/Tutor Posts in following departments of this Institute has been fixed from 07-04-2020 to 08-04-2020 in the office chamber of the Director, IGIMS, Patna-14 as mentioned below (Interested candidate must report : Up-to : 10-30 AM - Candidate reporting after 11-00 AM may not be allowed to appear) :

**SR. RESIDENTS/TUTOR UNDER 03 YEARS SR. RESIDENCY PROGRAMME:**  
Date of Interview 07-04-2020 to 08.04.2020 from 11.00 AM

Sr. No.	Department	Nos. of Post	Reservation	Date	Time
1.	Obs. & Gynaecology	02 (Two)	BC (Female)-01 & ST-01	07-04-2020	From : 11-00 AM
2.	Biochemistry	02 (Two)	BC (Female)-01 & U/R-01		
3.	Gastroenterology	03 (Three)	U/R (Female)-01, EBC-01 & BC (Backlog)-01		
4.	Pharmacology	01 (One)	SC(Backlog)-01		
5.	Dentistry	01 (One)	U/R-01		
6.	Anatomy	01 (One)	EBC(Backlog)-01		
7.	Chest & TB	01 (One)	EBC-01		
8.	Ophthalmology	01 (One)	SC(Backlog)-01		
9.	Physiology	01 (One)	BC(Female)-01		
10.	Skin & V.D.	01 (One)	SC-01		
11.	Nuclear Medicine	02 (Two)	U/R-01 & SC-01		
12.	<b>GENERAL MEDICINE - Sr. Resident of under-mentioned departments will be issued Experience Certificate of General Medicine Department.</b>				
A.	General Medicine	04 (Four)	BC(Female)-01, EWS-01, BC-01 & SC(Female)-01	08-04-2020	From : 11-00 AM
B.	General Medicine (Emergency)	03 (Three)	U/R(Female)-01, EWS-01 & U/R-01		
C.	Nephrology	05(Five)	EBC-01, BC(Female)-01, SC(Female)-01, EBC(Female)-01 & ST-01		
D.	Neurology	04(Four)	BC(Female)-01, U/R-01, EBC (Female)-01 & EWS(Female)-01		

Interested Indian citizen, who fulfills the essential qualification etc., are invited to participate in this Walk-in-Interview as mentioned above, along-with their application form in the prescribed proforma with requisite fee and copies of all supportive certificate/document and also bring all original certificate/documents, in proof of Age, Qualification/s, Registration, Caste etc (Please present original certificates/s, before the Interview Board).

Details of posts, requisite qualification, experiences, upper age limit, pay-scale, reservation rule (Physically - Handicapped candidate will be given the benefit of reservation and relaxation as per rule of Govt. of Bihar). Reservation benefit shall be applicable to Bihar State Domicile candidate only etc., can be seen and proforma of application can be downloaded from Institute's website [www.igims.org](http://www.igims.org)

**NOTE : In-case of unavailability of eligible FEMALE candidate (Where applicable) MALE candidate of same category for respective Department, can be considered. In case of unavailability of eligible reserved category candidate, suitable candidate from other category as provided in the rule can be appointed on adhoc basis for a period of one year or till tenure appointment through open advertisement is made (whichever is earlier)**

Adv. No. 03/Sr. Resident-Tutor/IGIMS/Estt./2020  
Director  
IGIMS, Patna-14

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
Government of India

Help us to help you

**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

**When to Practise Home Quarantine?**

**IF YOU ARE ASYMPTOMATIC but have ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- Travel history to COVID-19 affected countries in last 14 days
- Physical exposure to COVID-19 case or body fluids or secretions or soiled items
- Living in the same household with a COVID-19 suspect who turned positive

**Do Follow Home Quarantine for 14 days**

- STAY** in a well-ventilated single-room
- FOLLOW** respiratory and hand hygiene
- MAINTAIN** 1 meter distance from co-inhabitants and stay away from elderly people, pregnant women and children
- WEAR** face mask, if you develop symptoms or you are caring for a suspect/confirmed COVID-19 case
- AVOID** sharing household items
- STRICTLY AVOID** visitors at home

Know the **Do's** and **Don'ts** of Home Quarantine for yourself and your family at [www.mohfw.gov.in](http://www.mohfw.gov.in)

**Together we can fight COVID-19!**

If you feel unwell (Cough, fever or difficulty in breathing) during home quarantine, immediately call the helpline numbers.

**1075 (Toll Free) | 011-23978046**  
Email to: [ncov2019@gov.in](mailto:ncov2019@gov.in), [ncov2019@gmail.com](mailto:ncov2019@gmail.com)

For further information:  
Call the State helpline numbers or Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India's 24x7 helpline numbers

[mohfw.gov.in](http://mohfw.gov.in) @MoHFWIndia @MoHFW\_INDIA mohfwindia

You may cut this out and paste in your office/public place/home

# 4 THE OUTBREAK THE CITY

**MALLS SHUT, GOVT'S NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES DISCONTINUED**

## CM points to sudden spike, Delhi cases at 20



A locked shop at V3S Mall in Laxmi Nagar, Friday. Amit Mehra

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

AS FOUR new cases of coronavirus were confirmed in the national capital Friday, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal ordered the closure of malls in Delhi.

He also met Medical Superintendents of Delhi government hospitals Friday and empowered them to appoint additional employees on contract for the next three months. The CM also asked to immediately procure all necessary supplies, such as medicines and ventilators.

He discontinued non-essential services of the government until March 31.

"We are in a critical phase now... We should ensure adequate medical facilities and equipment to deal with the corona crisis in hospitals. We have to ensure there are sufficient number of isolation beds and wards available," he said.

He directed the officers to ensure there is no shortage of medical supplies. "All the ventilators must be in a working condition. All the Medical Superintendents would also need to contact their suppliers as well as manufactur-



CM Kejriwal briefing the media, Friday. ANI

ers of the medical equipment to take note of the current stock of the ventilators that they have. We will procure all the stock of ventilators from those suppliers and manufacturers. We will conduct a Cabinet meet for that and will give approvals to you on an urgent basis," Kejriwal told the officers.

The CM allowed employees of non-essential service to work from home. "In essential services, employees above 55 years of age can also preferably work from home, which shall be decided by the head of the department," a statement issued by the government said.

Essential services include medical services, power and water supply services, sanitation services, public transport and

waste management, among others. The CM asked all department heads to prepare a list of staff who will be allowed to work from home. While employees above the age of 55 will be given the option to work from home, doctors will not have this option. The wages of permanent as well as contractual workers will not be affected by this decision, the chief minister said.

"There is a sudden spike in the number of coronavirus cases in Delhi in the last 24 hours. All the officials of the Delhi government and the people of Delhi have fought this battle very hard, because of which we have been able to contain the community spreading. But there is a need to expedite our efforts to combat the situation," he said.

Between Thursday and Friday, 10 people have tested positive.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain met a group of doctors on Friday. After the meeting, it was decided that the government will bear the treatment cost of doctors, nurses and paramedics staff, who are deployed for the treatment of COVID-19 patients at hospitals in case they fall sick. "Apart from these, in extreme circumstances, if any

health worker dies, the government will compensate the families as per the guidelines followed for soldiers and policemen," said an official.

"Many doctors, nurses and paramedics are worried about their health as well. But they can't avoid going to work as this is a crucial time for all of us. We raised this issue with the minister and he had agreed to both the requests we have made," said Dr Arun Gupta, president of the Delhi Medical Council (DMC).

With four people having tested positive for COVID-19 in Delhi Friday, the total number of confirmed cases in the capital rose to 20. On Friday, a 58-year-old man from North Delhi with a travel history to United Kingdom, a 32-year-old man from West Delhi with a travel history to Paris have been tested positive for the virus. Two people—a 35-year-old man and a 65-year-old woman from Jahangirpuri—who were in contact with a 38-year-old woman from Dilshad Garden who tested positive Wednesday, were traced and tested positive.

Meanwhile, the Gautam Budh Nagar administration ordered the closure of all malls, except shops selling essential items, till April 2.

## Sec 144 imposed, more than 5 can't gather in Gurgaon



Malls in the city have been shut since Wednesday. Amit Mehra

**SAKSHI DAYAL**  
GURGAON, MARCH 20

THE HARYANA government Friday imposed CrP Section 144 in the state "as a precautionary measure in response to spread of COVID-19".

"As a precautionary measure to keep a check on the spread of COVID-19, the Haryana government has decided to impose CrP Section 144 in both urban and rural areas of the state, restricting the assembly of 20 or more than 20 people in public places. In Gurgaon and Faridabad, the permissible gathering shall be up to five persons only," said a government spokesperson. The state has so far recorded six cases—four in Gurgaon, one each in Faridabad and Panipat. The first case in Faridabad was confirmed Friday after a 52-year-old woman who returned from Spain on March 12 tested positive.

The decision to impose Section 144 was taken at a meeting in Chandigarh chaired by CM Manohar Lal Khattar Friday. At the meeting, it was also decided the Gurgaon bus service will be "curtailed till further orders". In the context of Haryana Roadways, meanwhile, general managers have been authorised to take decisions with regard to reducing the frequency of intra and inter-state public transport.

The Gurgaon district administration has also started making

preparations to enforce the 'Janata Curfew', announced by the Prime Minister on Thursday, which is supposed to be in place from 7 am to 9 pm on Sunday. The state government also decided that public transportation in the state would remain suspended during this period.

"To ensure law and order is maintained during the curfew, assistant commissioners of police, station house officers and 39 duty magistrates have been deployed in the district; six more have been kept in reserve," said a spokesperson.

For the first time in three days, Gurgaon reported no new cases Friday. "Eighty-one samples have been sent for testing so far, of which 41 were taken today. Thirty-one people have tested negative and two tested positive. Results of the remaining are awaited," said Dr Jaswant Singh Punia, Gurgaon Chief Medical Officer.

As of now, Gurgaon has 22 isolation wards with a total capacity of 152 beds, and four quarantine centres with 900-bed capacity. These are likely to see increased security in the coming days, with Gurgaon Police chief Mohammad Akil Friday ordering that special task forces be created in each police district to guard the quarantine centres and isolation wards.

The state government also ordered all coaching centres in the state to be shut until March 31.

## 4 working with pvt lab under quarantine

**ASTHA SAXENA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

FOUR EMPLOYEES of a private lab in Delhi were suggested home quarantine after a woman who came to give her blood samples later tested positive for COVID-19, it is learnt.

Residents of Ashok Vihar, the employees said they have been sitting at their houses for more than 18 days now, even as their test results are still awaited.

"We were in a lab on March 2

when we received a call from the authorities at RML that a woman has tested positive for the virus and since we are a part of contact tracing, we need to give samples and home quarantine ourselves. It's been 18 days now but our reports are still not out. Everyone in our colony has been talking about the incident and we have nowhere to go," said a lab assistant on condition of anonymity.

Several other asymptomatic patients who have been quarantined at home are similarly waiting for the test results. In Delhi, a



total of 20 people have tested positive for the virus. Till earlier this week, only AIIMS and NCDC were authorised to test the samples collected at RML and Safdarjung for COVID-19.

"The load on both the labs is

extremely high as a large number of samples are coming for testing. Doctors are not collecting samples for all patients visiting the hospital; many are turned away and suggested home quarantine," said a senior health official.

On March 18, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Indian Council Of Medical Research (ICMR) constituted guidelines for private laboratories to conduct COVID-19 tests and urged private set-ups to conduct the tests free of cost. These private centres would

work under the domain of ICMR.

"We do not know whether we are positive or not. If we are, treatment should begin, and if we are tested negative, we would want to get on with our lives," said another lab assistant.

A senior NCDC official said: "We are trying to release the reports of as many patients as we can. On an average, the samples reports are out in 24 to 48 hours and then the patient is informed if they have tested positive for the disease. It may extend to two-three days."

## 'Janata curfew should be extended for two weeks'

**NEW DELHI, MARCH 20**

ASTHA SAXENA speaks to Dr Arvind Kumar, chairperson, Centre for Chest surgery, Sir Ganga Ram hospital.

**How exactly does coronavirus spread?**

There can be two ways of transmission—from droplets via air or droplets on surfaces, and by touching the eyes or mouth with our hands. If a person gets infected, he/she will not show symptoms for some time. This time is called the incubation period, when a person can infect others while talking or sneezing. The person then transmits infectious droplets that will settle on several surfaces like sofas, lifts, etc. Similarly, the virus can survive in the air for a few hours or days as well, like if someone coughs, depending on temperature or humidity. Someone who gets exposed to such surfaces or that air will get infected.

**How is India placed in terms of spread of the virus?**

There are three stages in an epidemic—first, when infection starts, second, when it infects near ones, and third, when it transmits to several people, called community transmission.



Dr Arvind Kumar

We are presently in stage 2 as per official data. If the number of infected is large, it can get converted into deaths subsequently.

**What's the way ahead?**

Unfortunately there is no treatment for the disease as of now and the only way to contain this is prevention. There are two ways of preventing the transmission—by washing your hands frequently and we all should stay inside home to avoid any type of droplets transmission. We are just inching towards the third stage and cases are expected to rise in the coming days.

**The PM has announced Janata Curfew for one day. What's your view on this?**

It's a wonderful step, but it should be extended for at least two more weeks. The govern-

ment should in fact start it from Saturday to see how people are responding. In a country like India with such a large population, one has to take stringent steps. Our population to ICU bed ratio, population to hospital bed ratio, population to ventilator ratio is much lower than Italy, England or the United States. It should be extended for two weeks. It may sound like overreaction but this is a situation where overreaction is the only correct reaction.

**What about those at home?**

Everyone at home should follow cough hygiene. Please wear masks or cough in a handkerchief or napkins or, as a last resort, sneeze into the inner side of your elbow so that you don't spread droplets. Thirdly, if there are elderly people, place them in a separate room everyone else must follow hand hygiene while visiting that room. Anything sent to their room should be sanitised... anyone with a cough or cold should not enter the room.

**There is a debate over whether we are testing enough**

We are under-testing. But I am personally not in favour of testing. That won't prevent infection. As a doctor, my focus would rather be on preventing than testing.

## Docs flag supply shortage in meeting with Ministry

**ANANYA TIWARI**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

COMPLAINING OF lack of medical supplies such as masks, sanitisers and personal protective equipment, including body-suits, in hospitals, resident doctors of hospitals in Delhi Thursday presented a list of demands to Health Ministry officials and Indian Council of Medical Research and suggested measures to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic. "In a majority of hospitals across Delhi, there is moderate to severe shortage of masks, sanitisers and PPEs, which came to light in the past two weeks as cases surge in Delhi. Earlier, no one raised this issue, but now

hospitals are sensing there is a shortage of masks, head gear and gowns," said Dr Sunil Arora, general secretary of the Federation of Resident Doctors' Association India.

Doctors said ministry officials promised to source products from Indian manufacturers to meet the demand. A resident doctor at RML said, "Though the quality of Indian manufacturers is not good, the government has assured us the shortage will be met soon." Among other measures suggested by the associations was better coordination between primary, secondary and tertiary health centres; isolation wards in all hospitals; and mandatory thermal scanning of all entrants to hospitals.

## All three Dilli Haats shut

**DIVYAA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

LEADING TO a shutdown of all tourism and leisure related activities in the capital, the Delhi government Friday ordered the shutting of all three Dilli Haats, and also suspended the HoHo (hop-on, hop-off) bus service till March 31.

The Delhi government's tourism department, which runs

the Dilli Haats at INA, Pitampura and Janakpuri, has cancelled all cultural programmes at these venues till further notice, said Sanjay Goel, Managing Director and CEO, Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC).

Goel said the DTTDC has also closed both coffee homes at Connaught Place and Laxmi Nagar, and all food courts and food stalls in Dilli Haats and the Garden of Five Senses, Saket.



## DDA shuts sports facilities

New Delhi: The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has shut down all its sports facilities till March 31. DDA owns 15 sports complexes.

## Shaheen Bagh protest to minimise

New Delhi: Starting today, the anti-CAA protest at Southeast Delhi's Shaheen Bagh will be a silent protest, with less than 50 women at any given time. A volunteer said, "Children and elderly are strictly not allowed. Each woman can sit at the site only for four hours. Sanitiser have been placed for the women."

## HC restricts functioning till April 3

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court Friday decided to extend till April 3 the restrictions on its functioning to contain the spread of COVID-19.

## Avoid large crowds, says Shahi Imam

New Delhi: In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shahi Imam of Jama Masjid Friday appealed to devotees to pray from local mosques instead of assembling in large numbers. ENS

## MANY SCHOOLS EXPLORE ONLINE CLASSES

# As fear spreads, educational institutions extend shutdown beyond March

**SUKRITA BARUAH**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

WITH THE number of coronavirus cases rising each day, educational institutions in the capital have begun further restructuring their academic calendars.

The Delhi government had ordered all educational institutions to remain closed till March 31. However, The British School took the independent decision to ex-

tend this period of closure till April 15. While the school has been continuing classes through virtual mediums, other schools such as those of the Amity group have decided to begin the new academic session via online classes.

Savita Mehta, Vice President (communications) of the group said it was too soon to decide if the period should be extended. "We are still seven working days away from the end of the current session. It will depend on how the situation shapes up in the

next week. However, we have begun classes for the new academic year online for senior classes. Starting Monday, we will commence it for other classes, including primary classes. Trainers are visiting teachers' homes to train them on how to conduct classes. Even activity periods will be conducted as per the time table through video," she said.

Other institutes have decided to completely restructure their academic calendars. Jindal Global University—which had sent stu-



dents on a break and decided to re-open on April 6—has now decided to re-open on May 6. The varsity began online classes for students, but has now decided scrap those as well.

"On March 18, we started classes online which were to con-

**Draw of lots for admission to Delhi gov't Schools of Excellence have also been postponed indefinitely.**

Praveen Khanna

tinued till April 5, 2020. We have taken cognizance of various concerns expressed in the process of such classes and related safety issues faced by the faculty. These classes were marred by disruptions in electricity at the houses of some faculty members and internet connectivity issues," read an e-mail by the varsity's registrar to students. The varsity has decided to split its customary summer break into two and treat this extended closure as the "first summer break" and have the

other half after classes and exams of the interrupted session are completed by June-end.

The admission processes of some schools have also been delayed. The draw of lots for admissions to the Delhi government's Schools of Excellence were scheduled to have taken place Wednesday, but have been postponed indefinitely. Entrance tests and draw of lots for The Jamia Millia Islamia School between March 23 and April 19 also stand postponed.



# Celebrating Womanhood

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Read. Engage. Deliver.

**INTERVIEW** | Dr Archana Dhawan Bajaj, Senior Consultant, Gynaecologist & Obstetrician, NURTURE IVF CENTRE

## A humane approach to treating infertility & IVF

*Companies are described in terms of USPs not human beings, and never its women. But, using that abbreviation Dr Archana Dhawan Bajaj, Senior Consultant, Gynaecologist & Obstetrician, NURTURE IVF CENTRE would describe herself. She says though she can describe her Unique Selling Propositions with so many other adjectives, she chooses USP as people understand it best. Though she deplores the comparative exit of sensitivity from the lexicon of human understanding, she nevertheless keeps her best foot forward in caring for her patients. With her phone ringing continuously, we bring to you a glimpse of the extremely busy life she leads. While The Indian Express is celebrating womanhood, we meet the lady who is splitting her precious time among her patients, whom she fondly calls, "beta", her colleagues, home and a hundred others. And, before we begin a conversation about her many and diverse roles, let's talk about her USP. Dr Dhawan never misses a phone call from her patients. If in emergency operating room, she makes it a point to call back as soon as she is out*

### Tell us of your role as a daughter

As a Class 5 student at St Mary's, Guwahati, I heard my father say to my mother "The girl next door got an NTSE scholarship. Do you think our girl will ever get it?" I was sensitive and heard my father's yearning voice. In Delhi, at Loretto, I completed my Standard 10 class and had topped the ICSE board. I was summoned to DPS and there I got to know of the NTSE.

Without informing my parents, I took the exam, got selected and then on a rainy day with my 70-year-old grandfather undertook a long journey for interview from Naraina to Hauz Khas. We reached drenched. That did not matter to me. What I did was to get the scholarship letter. And only when I made it did I share the happy news with my parents. I undertook challenges and converted them into opportunities.

At Maulana Azad Medical College, it was mostly easy going. I managed studies as I was always inclined towards it. I got married, and after that I recommenced my medical studies and practice. All of which sounds like a story on canvas, too true for an Indian household, but it has fortunately happened to me.

### What is your role at home?

I would say that with regard to my family, I have been very lucky. I have got a tremendously supportive family. I completed most of my studies after marriage. My new family, especially my mother-in-law, was the one who did allow me whatever time I needed. And not to mention, my husband, without whose sacrifices, my story would be incomplete. In the initial period at Nurture, he helped me with funding, staff, management and a whole host of uncertainties. Without his support in every walk of life, I would not find myself successful. He led me into doing all I liked. We lived, laughed and fought like closest of friends. Nevertheless, I think, I have given them less time and an unbelievable fact is we have never been on a family holiday except once.

### How do you see yourself as a mother?

Firstly, I am proud to have two best friends: my mother and my son. It is said that a woman knows a woman and this is true with my mother. My mother, Mrs Vinay Dhawan, gave me all the freedom to do anything I desired. My mother is one of the most respected anaesthetists in the city. We work together and she extends her love, care and warmth to me at all times.

My son is a hugely remarkable boy. At 25, the way he understands things, supports me and others is incredible. As a small boy at the age 10 when he was with me in UK for my studies, I got him enrolled at a school and he would cut down all his demands of a fancy life. This I mention to highlight the sensitivity with which children are blessed. Today, when he is in town, he waits for me to have dinner together even if it is late at night.

### Tell us of your role as a doctor.

I am pro-life. I would go great lengths to make the lives of my patients and the lives they bring into this world. My patients come to us at times, in a hapless situation, we feel more than responsible to do our best for them. It could be in the form of services rendered, not charging them on certain counts, relaxing the payments they need to make especially when patients have a genuine case but not the deep pockets for IVF.

Without taking names, I would like to tell you that one such female patient approached us and was very weary. She was completely terrified as she could not conceive. Even financially, she was in a very bad situation. She could not afford the expensive IVF treatment. Once she came to me and having heard her life story I could not have afforded to do nothing. I had to help her. Believe you me, we did everything for her in Rs 70,000 (as she could not afford any more). My staff would rebuke me but I knew I had to justify my profession.

As a doctor, I could be very good on some days and very bad on others. The latter happens if a situation arises in which a patient has got in some trouble. I despise it if they turn their situations to



then head towards her clinic to be with her patients. Such is her passion and dedication towards her work and care towards her patients. There's never a day when I don't feel blessed to have her in life. I realise it must not have been easy for her to balance work and family life with so much élan. She overcame all the hardships with utmost grace and patience. In my eyes, she's an embodiment of an industrious and a graceful lady.

their own disadvantage. Nevertheless to salvage situations, I act as their mother, in their best interests. My intent, sincerity, devotion comes to the fore.

During practice, it was difficult to do infertility as reputed doctors would tell me to work as a gynaecologist. I worked at three different workstations at Azadpur, Shastri Nagar, Pashim Vihar. Despite this, I got support of Dr Praveen Bhatia, Head of Bariatric Surgery at Sir Gangaram Hospital. At a time when the others laughed off the need to have another IVF specialist, he went on to encourage me.

### What is your role as a colleague?

During my days of practice some of the doctors snubbed me for my field of practice is a tough one and should be left to the veterans. Despite some such bad experiences, I did not lose faith in other women. I decided to lead from front and allow some patients be treated by new doctors who are very promising.

### How do you encourage co-workers?

By God's grace we have a very endearing staff. So, most patients feel at home here. I would like to share an instance here. We have a female staff member who is to get married shortly. She still keeps coming to work and leaves late at night. All of us here have pitched in some support for her wedding day. Like I am working it out that she gets her make-up done by a certain well-known beautician wherein I will be putting in the money. Likewise, there are others who are labouring on the sartorial fittings the would-be-bride could choose from. So, you see, we function like a family. This feeling of oneness is so very palpable that it becomes contagious.

### What are the challenges for women in the profession?

It could be numerous factors. In a country like ours, it could be the family, education and exposure, economics, and at times even people, of both the genders.

### Tell us about a situation which you found difficult to handle.

I needed my father's support especially training at the operating table. And at that time he passed away. That hurt me emotionally. Again, when I was in practice for only about five years, my brother passed away at the hospital. My mother was with him. I had three operations lined up that day. I decided I must not give up on life. I attended to my work. Only then did I go and perform my responsibilities and duties with regard to the deceased, my brother.

### You have been contributing a lot to the armed forces. What has driven you to take up the initiative?

We have been trying to contribute in our own little way to the lives of the defence personnel by providing them with infertility treatment on a no-profit, no-loss basis. We try and reduce the cost at every aspect. This applies for all the armed forces, police personnel, paramilitary and allied forces. The idea is to be able to contribute in some little way to the lives of those people because of whom we are able to spend our lives peacefully.

Part of the soft corner for the Armed Forces comes from the fact that I am a defence kid myself; to be precise my parents are from the Army Medical Corps. For anybody who has lived with defence personnel will understand the amount of hardships they go through. They lead a very hard life. There have been instances where the partners have frozen their sperms with us hoping that their wives will be able to get treatment when they are away. There have been unfortunate instances where these personnel could never see their children who took birth via ART procedure or frozen sperm. So, we feel fortunate if we can do even a small bit to make their family lives better.

*Things I do not give up on: My Availability, My Accountability, Timeliness, Devotion*

### ENCOURAGE

women to support each other. I have done that all my life. Women can support other women in a lot of ways and this encourages, promotes respect and the feeling of camaraderie. Women should not be viewing other women in tight compartmentalised roles (traditional roles only) but should encourage the other to venture into uncharted territories. My mother-in-law always supported me and let me pursue my dreams

### MY HUSBAND

says it sounds great when he hears from my patients or relatives that they are happy with services extended at Nurture Clinic. He also says I must not neglect my own life: that I must retire to bed on time, have my lunch and dinner on time. His support has been a very big factor in my success

# Tracked 381 buses and used scientific evidence to crack case: Probe officers

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

MONTHS BEFORE his retirement, ACP Rajender Singh Yadav felt a sense of relief early Friday morning after he received a call from his subordinate, informing him that the December 16 gangrape-murder case convicts — Mukesh Singh, Akshay Singh Thakur, Pawan Gupta and Vinay Sharma — had been hanged.

Recalling the night of December 16, 2012, Yadav, who was instrumental in the police probe, said they received a call from the South district control room to inform them of a "serious rape case" in the area.

"Minutes after receiving the call, all senior officers, including our then DCP (South) Chhaya Sharma, reached the hospital and were appraised about the brutal incident. The investigation teams were formed immediately and I started assigning tasks to all team members," he said.

Yadav said that with each passing minute, there was increasing pressure on the teams for a breakthrough.

"We were told by the complainant that it was a semi-deluxe bus and we, on the basis of her (victim's) call detail records, started tracking their location. After scanning footage from several cameras, we noticed that the bus took two rounds of the same road in Mahipalpur. We zeroed in on the vehicle and also observed that it had 'Yadav' written on it. Further,

the wheel cap of the front tyre was missing," said inspector Aishvir Singh, another member of the probe team.

Singh said the bus was traced along with one of the accused from RK Puram, after examining 381 white buses. "After arresting the first accused, we managed to get details of the others and picked them up," he said.

Yadav, who is set to retire in September, has also been involved in the probe into the murders of TV journalist Soumya Vishwanathan and liquor baron Ponty Chadha. "In most cases of my career, the accused was convicted. But I was always tense while waiting for justice to be delivered... This case will send a message to the society that those who commit such crimes will not be spared," he said.

The Supreme Court had appreciated the role of the Delhi Police for collecting unimpeachable scientific evidence to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt. "The investigation of our case was iconic as, for the first time, we relied on scientific evidence to prove the charges. We used evidence like bite marks, matched the DNA and also made a digital route of the entire incident," said inspector Pratibha Sharma, the investigation officer.

Chhaya Sharma, who was DCP then, said: "Totally, I feel all the challenges and problems were worth taking on. For me and my team, it's a moment when not only our faith in the judicial system, but also that of victims who look at us expectantly for justice, stands vindicated."

# DECEMBER 2012 GANGRAPE-MURDER CONVICTS HANGED Till last moment, convicts kept hoping for court miracle

**MAHENDER SINGH MANRAL & SOMYA LAKHANI**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

WITH LAST-MINUTE hearings at the Delhi High Court and Supreme Court going on till 3.30 am on Friday, the four convicts in the December 16, 2012, gangrape-murder case paced up and down in their respective cells inside Tihar Jail no. 3. They had only one question in mind: Whether any word had been received from the court.

A team of 15 guards each kept an eye on them and answered their queries till early morning, a little before the four convicts were taken to the gallows. At 5.30 am, Vinay Sharma, Mukesh Singh, Pawan Gupta and Akshay Singh Thakur were hanged simultaneously at the jail no. 3 complex.

"They were hopeful the execution would be stalled, and kept asking if any order had come from the court," said a jail official.

At 4.45 am, District Magistrate (West) read out the death warrant to the four men inside jail no. 3, after which they were escorted to the gallows. Mukesh and Vinay were kept in cell no. 8, Pawan in cell no. 1, and Akshay in cell no. 7, said a source.

"They had their last meal on Thursday — dal, roti, sabzi and rice. They did not ask for a special meal. They all had lunch but Akshay and Pawan didn't have dinner. Akshay had some tea. At 2 am, Mukesh, Akshay and Vinay asked for laddoos and noodles,



An ambulance transported the bodies from Tihar Jail to a hospital, Friday. Praveen Khanna

which the jail authorities provided... They didn't bathe or pray," said a jail official.

Jail officials said Pawan bit his hand in a possible last minute attempt to escape the gallows. After this, authorities scaled up his security.

Their last medical check-up was done at 11 pm Thursday, and a psychiatrist was also present to counsel them, said Delhi Prisons DG Sandeep Goel.

In the morning, convicts Vinay and Pawan refused to wear a new set of clothes given to them by the prison authorities. When it was time to take them to the gallows, "Vinay lay

on the ground, refused to go, cried and apologised. The other men, too, cried and kept apologising while being taken to the gallows," said a jail official.

Hangman Pawan Jallad, who had been called from UP's Meerut, was paid Rs 15,000 per hanging. Also present at jail no. 3 were the DM, jail superintendent, two assistant jail superintendents, a warden, a medical officer and Delhi Prisons DG.

A senior jail official said the men were asked who they would nominate to take the money they had earned in jail and their belongings.

"They were asked if they

wanted to file a will but no one did. Mukesh's last wish was that his organs be donated. That is not a call jail authorities can take, as the family has to decide that. Vinay, who used to paint inside the jail, made a sketch of Hanuman and said it should be given to his mother. There was also another incomplete sketch which he handed over to the jail superintendent. He wanted his Hanuman Chalisa and other belongings to be handed over to his mother. All four had Rs 2,000-Rs 3,000 in their accounts and that too goes to their families, as do their clothes and bedsheets," said a jail source.

# 36-year-old advocate backed family in fight

**ANAND MOHAN J**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20



Advocate Seema Kushwaha

WHEN THE death warrants were first issued by a Delhi court against four convicts in the December 16 gangrape case on January 7 last year, advocate Seema Kushwaha (36), the lawyer for the victim's mother, couldn't find space inside the packed courtroom. When she tried to move through the crowd, convict Mukesh's lawyer M L Sharma got into an argument with her following which Kushwaha elbowed him. Sharma grew furious and said, "Just because she is a woman does not mean she can do anything."

Kushwaha believes it is this aggression that helped her become a lawyer. "I'm a tough woman. As I come from a rural area, I channelled my aggression. In rural areas, female lawyers have faced tougher challenges," she told *The Indian Express*.

When the incident took place in 2012, she was living at Mukherjee Nagar and preparing for the IAS. The case changed her life — she got in touch with the victim's mother and eventually represented her during the hearing on the execution of death warrants at Patiala House Court. It was her first case. "Ten women had to leave the coaching centre as their fathers feared for their safety, but I did not," she said.

Kushwaha's father was a farmer who went on to become the pradhan of Uggarpur village in UP's Etawah. Her mother never

went to school. Kushwaha said she was the first girl in her village, which had 53 houses, to pass Class IX. "My school was 3 km away. My father allowed me to finish school despite pressure from the village."

She did a BA LLB degree from Kanpur University. In her first year, she took trains from Etawah to Kanpur as she did not tell her family she was studying law. She also did a Mass Communication course from an open university in UP and an MA in Political Science. She registered as a lawyer in 2006.

"I used to assist several senior lawyers while practicing in the Allahabad High Court. I also gave the Civil Judge exams, along with preparing for IAS. However, I exhausted my attempts and got involved with the parents of the December 16 victim. I knew that law was my calling."

After the Supreme Court had rejected the review pleas of three convicts, Kushwaha found that the victim's parents did not know about the status of the death warrants. She helped the victim's mother draft an application for transfer of the case from a vacant court. On what comes next, she said: "I will now look at cases in rural areas which are stuck and revive them."

# We were tired but never gave up, says her mother

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

WITH THE four convicts in the December 16, 2012 gangrape-murder case being hanged early Friday morning, the victim's mother said justice, though delayed, was not denied by the courts. Thanking the judiciary and the government, she said, "They dismissed all the pleas in the last 24 hours... this is a victory for all women and daughters."

The couple returned home Friday morning after the Supreme Court upheld the death warrant. Hugging her daughter's photo, the woman's mother said: "The convicts and their lawyers tried ma-

nipulating the law through different tactics. We were tired and struggled to keep up with their petitions but never gave up. I promised myself that I would not stop until I see the four men hanged. Today is that day... we will sleep peacefully now."

The couple said they will continue to help "other daughters who face issues with the legal system". "Seven years ago, we didn't know much about the law... We need stringent laws so that rape accused are immediately sent to jail or hanged," said the mother.

Her father said, "Though the last seven years were tough, I never stopped believing in the law. Lawyers, policemen and the media supported us a lot."

**राष्ट्रीय डिजाइन संस्थान**  
National Institute of Design  
एचयूपीएम मध्य प्रदेश  
An autonomous institution under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India.  
Acharjura, Eirt Khadi, Post Arwalya, Bhopal MP-462038

**Tender ID No. NIDMP/1-90/WKSP (TAD)/02/2019-20** Date 19.03.2020  
National Institute of Design, Madhya Pradesh invites Limited Tender Enquiry for following:

**TENDER NOTICE**

Tender Title	EMD Cost	Published on Website	Closing Date
Tender for Supply and Installation & Commissioning of Machinery & Equipment for Textile & Apparel Design Lab	50,000/-	19.03.2020	26.03.2020

Detailed terms & conditions can be viewed on website : [www.nidmp.ac.in](http://www.nidmp.ac.in)  
Registrar

**NMDC Limited**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)  
Donimalai Iron Ore Mine, Donimalai - 583 118,  
Dist : Bellary (Karnataka), CIN: L11000AP195801001674.

**OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Sealed tenders in two bid system are inviting from the competent and experienced bidder for the following work:

1. Tender No. CE/W/5(243)/2020 vide Date of notification 21-03-2020 and Name of work: "Attending works of day to day Complaints like Sanitary and Other various Miscellaneous works as per the Complaints received at Civil Maintenance Office for one year (Job Contract Basis)" with estimated cost of Rs.10.91 Lakhs and period of completion for work: 12 months (Including Monsoon Period) with EMD is Rs.10,92,00.00 and sale/download period from 21-03-2020 to 20-04-2020.

For accessing the tender document or download from NMDC Limited website <https://www.nmdc.co.in/nmcdtender/default.asp>. For any clarification bidders may contact DGM (Civil), by mailing to [diamcivil@nmdc.co.in](mailto:diamcivil@nmdc.co.in) or by fax message to 08395-274644 and also any corrigendum, amendment, clarification etc may please visit the above website For and on behalf of the NMDC Limited DGM (Civil)

**GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION**  
Solid Waste Management Department  
S.W.M.C.No. A7/0107/2020

**SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER - SECOND CALL**

Short e-Tenders are invited for the following work in Single stage two cover system as detailed below.

The Superintending Engineer (SWM), Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC), invites on-line tender for Maintaining the Micro Compost Centers and processing the wet waste provided by Greater Chennai Corporation at designated locations for a period of 3 years in North Region Zones (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) in Chennai City are available in online [www.tntenders.gov.in](http://www.tntenders.gov.in) From 21.03.2020 onwards.

Last Date and Time of Submission of Bid	16 <sup>th</sup> April, 2020 at 03.00 P.M.
Bid Opening Date and Time	17 <sup>th</sup> April, 2020 at 04.00 P.M.
Cost of Tender Documents and EMD	Cost of tender document: Rs.20,000/- + 12% GST. EMD: Rs.7.85 Lakhs

DIPR/1495/Tender/2020 Superintending Engineer / SWM

**DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN**  
Government of India, Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Financial Services  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK-248171

**PUBLICATION NOTICE IN O.A. No. 32 OF 2020**  
(SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993, READ WITH SUB-RULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME)

**Dy No. 203** Date: 16.03.2020  
Punjab National Bank Vs M/s S and N Life Style Infraventure Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. To.

1. M/s S and N Life Style Infraventure Pvt. Ltd. Registered Office, G-40, Gaurav Apartments, SFS DDA Flats Saket, New Delhi- 110017 through its Directors.  
**Second Address:** Local Address 268/618 2nd Floor, Rajpur Road, Dehradun, UK.  
**Third Address:** 111/2, Rajpur Road, Dehradun, UK.  
**Fourth Address:** Village Chalang PO Rajpur, Dehradun, UK. 248009

2. Sachin Upadhyay S/o P.D. Upadhyay, R/o 111/2, Rajpur Road, Dehradun, UK.  
3. Nazia Yusuf Izzaddin W/o Sachin Upadhyay, R/o 111/2, Rajpur Road, Dehradun, UK.  
4. Namitha Yusuf Izzaddin, R/o 111/2, Rajpur Road, Dehradun, UK.

Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted O.A No. 32 of 2020 against you for recovery of debts of Rs. 11,20,90,524.30/- in which Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to issue Summons/Notice U/s 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the Hon'ble Presiding Officer on 13.03.2020.

Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner before the Tribunal on 30.04.2020 at 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time before the Tribunal, the case shall be heard and decided in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

By order of Tribunal  
Registrar, Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun

**SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA, Stressed Assets Management Branch-1**  
12th Floor, Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan (STC Building), 1, Tolstoy Marg, Janpath, New Delhi-110001.  
Ph. No. : 011-23701070, 23701097, 23701157, 23701167, 23701195, Fax No. 23701202, E-mail ID : [sbi.04109@sbi.co.in](mailto:sbi.04109@sbi.co.in)

**E-Auction Sale Notice**

"APPENDIX-IV-A" [See proviso to rule 8 (6)] Sale notice for sale of Immovable Properties

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002**  
read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below mentioned Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor (State Bank of India), the constructive/physical possession mentioned below of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of State Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" Basis on 23-04-2020, for recovery of amount as mentioned below, due to the Secured Creditor from Borrowers, Guarantors and Mortgagors. The reserve price is mentioned below and the earnest money to be deposited is mentioned respectively.

Name of Borrower (B) / Guarantor(s) (G) with address/es	Address of Security charged covered under Auction	Reserve Price(RP) EMD amount 10% of The Reserve Price Incremental Amount	Demand Notice Date & Amount Due	Date / Time of on-site Inspection of Property with name of Authorized Officer	Date & Time of E-Auction with auto extensions of 5 minutes each
M/s Arise India Ltd at Khasra No 24/13, Khewat No 17, Khasra No 30, Killa No 24 Industrial Sector - 29, Village Hasnabad, Sonapat, Haryana Also at: B-38, Jain Chowk, Mangalpur Palam, New Delhi - 110045. Sh Avinash Jain (Director/Guarantor) at A-37/1, Janakpuri New Delhi - 110058. Also at: B-38, 3rd floor, Jain Chowk, Mangla Puri, Palam New Delhi 110045. Sh Naresh Chand Jain (Director/Guarantor) at A-37/1, Janakpuri New Delhi - 110058. Also at: B-38, 3rd floor, Jain Chowk, Mangla Puri, Palam New Delhi 110045. Sh Amit Jain (Guarantor) at A-37/1, Janakpuri New Delhi - 110058. Smt Anju Jain (Director/Guarantor) at H-34/133, Sec 3 Rohini New Delhi - 110085. Sh Vikas Jain (Guarantor) at 1266/17, Ward No. 17, Agarsain Street, Railway Road, Gali Durad Wall, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana. Sh Pankaj Jain Prop M/s Vrinda Trading Company (Guarantor) at 1265-1266/17, Ward No. 17, Agarsain Street, Railway Road, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana. Smt Sneh Lata Jain (Guarantor) at 1266/17, Ward No. 17, Agarsain Street, Railway Road, Rohtak - 124001, Haryana and having registered office at RZ-226, Kaillashpuri, Palam, New Delhi - 110045	Land at Plot No 7, Bahastipura, Nr Ghanipura & Vaish Girls College Hostel Building, Near Jhajjar Road, Rohtak in the name of Kemflo Power Pvt. Ltd. measuring 813 sq yds Approx., Bounded by East - Other's Property, West - Gali, North - Open Land, South - Gali	₹ 207.00 Lac ₹ 20.70 Lac ₹ 1.00 Lac	SBI on 04.10.2017, IDBI on 17.10.2017, BOI on 10.10.2017, BOB on 16.09.2017, Axis Bank on 15.01.2018 & OBC on 14.03.2018 SBI is Rs 223,81,23,684.46/- as on 03.10.2017, IDBI is Rs 106,47,58,416/- as on 01.10.2017, BOI is Rs 99,18,46,227/- as on 10.10.2017, BOB is Rs 62,88,17,582.81/- as on 31.07.2017, Axis Bank is Rs 38,26,38,382.39/- as on 30.06.2017 & OBC is Rs 37,93,19,172.58/- as on 28.02.2018 Total Rs 568,55,03,465.24/-	15-04-2020 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.	23-04-2020 From 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon
1. M/s Allied Energy Systems Pvt. Ltd. Having its office at: DSM 103, DLF Tower, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi-110015 Also at: DSM-212, DLF Tower, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi-110015 Also at: DSM-241, DLF Tower, Shivaji Marg, New Delhi-110015 Also at: H-32, Fourth Floor, Vikas Apartments, West Enclave, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 2. Shri Tarun Sachdeva S/o Late Shri Sant Lal Sachdeva, C-2/139, West Enclave, Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, New Delhi-110034 Also at: H-32, Fourth Floor, Vikas Apartments, West Enclave, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 3. Shri Daljit Singh Duggal S/o Shri Kulwant Singh, B-32, Hill View Apartments, Vasant Vihar-I, New Delhi-110057, Also at: H.No.3F, Sarabha Nagar, Ludhiana-141001, Also at: 293, Kehar Singh Estate, West End Marg, Saidulajab, Saket, New Delhi 4. Smt. Krishna Sachdeva W/o Late Shri Sant Lal Sachdeva, C-2/139, West Enclave, Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, New Delhi-110034 5. Smt. Shalloy Sachdeva W/o Shri Tarun Sachdeva, C-2/139, West Enclave, Pitampura, Saraswati Vihar, New Delhi-110034. Also at: H-32, Fourth Floor, Vikas Apartments, West Enclave, Pitampura, New Delhi-110034 6. Mr. Amit Kumra, C-96, 1st Floor, Sector 54, Suncity, Gurgaon 7. Mr. Anil Kumra, C-96, 1st Floor, Sector 54, Suncity, Gurgaon	Residential Flat no. C1-101, 1st Floor, Block - C, Project "Diplomatic Green" Phase-I at Sector-110A and 111, Urban Estate in Village- Chouma Gurgaon, Admeasuring Total area 2950 Sq. Ft. in the Name of Smt. Shalloy Sachdeva Residential Building situated at GF, FF and SF at Plot No. 139, Block-C2, West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 Admeasuring Total area 84 Sq. Mtr. in the Name of Smt. Krishna Sachdeva Residential Building situated at GF, FF and SF at Plot No. 104, Block-C2, West Enclave, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 Admeasuring Total area 84 Sq. Mtr. in the Name of Smt. Krishna Sachdeva	₹ 200.00 Lac ₹ 20.00 Lac ₹ 1.00 Lac ₹ 408.00 Lac ₹ 40.80 Lac ₹ 1.00 Lac ₹ 405.00 Lac ₹ 40.50 Lac ₹ 1.00 Lac	SBI dated 01.05.2019 for Rs. 17,21,30,538/- As on 30.04.2019	15-04-2020 11.00 A.M. to 4.00 P.M.	23-04-2020 From 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon 23-04-2020 From 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon 23-04-2020 From 11.00 AM to 12.00 Noon

**Date and time for submission of request letter of participation, KYC Documents, PAN Card, Proof of EMD etc. On or before 21-04-2020 upto 4.00 P.M. and EMD through RTGS/NEFT.**

The intending purchasers / bidders are required to deposit EMD amount either through NEFT / RTGS in the Account No. 33108475877, Name of beneficiary : "THE AUTHORISED OFFICER, SBI, SAM BRANCH-1, NEW DELHI", IFSC Code: SBIN0004109 or by way of demand draft /Pay order in favor of State Bank of India, SAM Branch-1, New Delhi drawn on any Nationalized or Scheduled Bank.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE E-AUCTION ARE AS UNDER:**  
E-Auction is being held on "AS IS WHERE IS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and will be conducted "On Line".  
The auction will be conducted through the Bank's approved service provider M/s C1 India Pvt. Ltd. (Help Line No. : 0124-4302020/21/23/24, Mr. Vinod, Mobile No. - 9813887931 & Email: [support@bankeauctions.com](mailto:support@bankeauctions.com)) at their web portal <https://www.bankeauctions.com>; E-Auction Tender Document containing online e-auction bid form, Declaration, General Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in <https://www.bankeauctions.com>  
To the best of knowledge and information of the Authorized Officer, there is no encumbrance on the property/ies. However, the intending bidders should make their own independent inquiries regarding the encumbrances, title of property/ies put on auction and claims / rights / dues / affecting the property/ies, prior to submitting their bid. In this regard, the e-Auction advertisement does not constitute and will not be deemed to constitute any commitment or any representation of the bank.  
The Authorized Officer / Secured Creditor shall not be responsible in any way for any third party claims / rights / dues. The sale shall be subject to rules / conditions prescribed under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. The other terms and conditions of the e-auction are published in the following websites. 1. <https://www.bankeauctions.com> 2. <http://www.sbi.co.in>  
**STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002**

Date : 21-03-2020, Place : New Delhi Sd/- Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

**BRIEFLY**

**Man held for 'molesting' 3-year-old neighbour**

New Delhi: A 60-year-old man was arrested for allegedly molesting a three-year-old girl from his neighbourhood in Northeast Delhi. Police said the accused took the girl to his house and allegedly molested her Thursday. According to police, the man was caught by a neighbour. The girl's parents approached police and a case under sections of the POCSO Act and IPC was registered. The girl was taken to a hospital where a medical examination was conducted.

**Constable shoots self**

New Delhi: A 41-year-old CISF constable allegedly committed suicide by shooting himself on Thursday night. The constable was posted near Pragati Maidan when he allegedly killed himself. Police said that the man left a note saying that he was depressed due to family issues. He joined the CISF in 2002.

**2 gangsters arrested**

New Delhi: The Special Cell of Delhi Police have arrested two members of Parvesh Mann gang, who are involved in more than 11 cases of murder, attempt to murder and Arms Act. Police arrested them from Bhopal Wednesday. ENS



# ATTENTION!

## SHARING INFLAMMATORY MESSAGES ON WHATSAPP CAN LAND YOU IN JAIL FOR 3 YEARS

If any individual shares or forwards messages or videos on WhatsApp or any Social Media Platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc) which are inflammatory in nature or incites communal tensions then the guilty will have to serve jail term upto 3 years.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you find anyone sharing communally inflammatory messages or video on WhatsApp or any Social Media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc) then immediately send the screenshot or the video to us on the number given below.



### BECOME A PEACE - MAKER

If an F.I.R. is lodged on the basis of your complaint, then **YOU WILL ALSO GET A REWARD OF ₹10,000**

**WhatsApp no.  8950000946**

**Email: [DVSCcommittee@delhi.gov.in](mailto:DVSCcommittee@delhi.gov.in)**



**CORONA WATCH**



The closed Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati on Friday. PTI

**MHA extends visas till April 15**

New Delhi: In view of travel restrictions after the coronavirus outbreak, the home ministry has extended the visas of all foreigners in India till April 15. "Regular visa, e-visa or stay stipulated of all foreign nationals, which have expired or would be expiring during the period from 13.03.2020 to 15.04.2020, would be extended till midnight of 15.04.2020 on gratis basis after making online application by the foreigner. Exit of such foreign nationals, if so requested by them during this period, will be granted without levy of overstay penalty," the ministry said. **ENS**

**GUJARAT Home delivery for those in isolation**

Ahmedabad: Nearly 500 people suspected to be suffering from COVID-19 in Ahmedabad will get essentials delivered to their doorstep by an attendant while they remain in home quarantine, the city's municipal body said Friday. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) will provide logistical and support services, along with an attendant to deliver items such as milk, vegetables, grocery and medicines, free of cost. **ENS**

**MP No visits by inmates' kin till March 31**

Bhopal: Jail visits by families and friends of inmates have been banned in Madhya Pradesh till March 31, an official said. The order was issued Friday after an advisory issued by the health and general administration departments. Officials have been asked to counsel families and friends of these inmates on the coronavirus outbreak. Earlier, the state had announced that Class III and IV staff will work on alternate days till March 31. **PTI**

**Tourist free of virus dies of heart failure; panic in Bhilwara**

**HAMZA KHAN**  
JAIPUR, MARCH 20

RAJASTHAN'S FIRST coronavirus patient, a 69-year-old Italian tourist who had been declared cured, passed away due to heart failure at a private hospital in Jaipur. The news came even as the total number of positive cases in the state shot up to 17, with the addition of six from Bhilwara, including three doctors at a private hospital.

Curfew was imposed in entire Bhilwara district as state health officials, tracing the source of the infections, reached the hospital. As the discovery led to panic, police imposed a shutdown.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot admitted they were worried. "Till two days ago, the situation was under control, but our concern has increased with more cases coming to light as the state is passing through the phase of possibility of



Passengers being screened at Jaipur station. Rohit Jain Paras

community transmission."

A district official said that of the total 28 tested in Bhilwara so far, six are positive, 11 negative, and results for the rest are awaited.

In a statement, the Rajasthan Health Department said the 69-year-old tourist who died was a

chain smoker and had underlying medical conditions, including chronic bronchitis.

The tourist and his wife had been administered anti-HIV drugs as part of treatment, in a first for coronavirus in the country. Recently, the government cleared the

two anti-HIV drugs as part of treatment guidelines for COVID-19.

The Health Department said he had tested negative for coronavirus over two tests on March 14 and March 15, before being declared cleared of COVID-19. His wife too had been declared coronavirus negative the same day.

However, till March 17, he had been kept under observation.

On March 17, health officials said, doctors suggested insertion of a ventilation tube, which his wife refused, reportedly insisting on transfer to a private hospital. They said on March 19, a team arrived from the private hospital to transfer him. The patient was shifted only after he stabilised, and it was at the private hospital that he passed away, the department said.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health, Rohit Kumar Singh said they were preparing a list of all patients who may have come in contact with the Bhilwara doctors.

**Kerala reports 12 fresh cases, state's total now 40**

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 20

KERALA ON Friday reported 12 fresh cases of COVID-19 infection, taking the number of confirmed cases in the state to 40.

Six of the cases were reported in Kasaragod district and four of them are primary contacts of a person who had travelled to Dubai and has tested positive. Five others are UK citizens who have been a part of a 19-member group. The remaining one person hails from Palakkad district and had travelled to the UK.

After a review meeting, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the media that the situation in Kasaragod district is very serious. "All government offices in Kasaragod would remain closed for a week and all places of worship for two weeks. Shops and commercial establishments would function only from 11 am to 5 pm," he said.

Referring to the emergence of six cases from Kasaragod in one day, he said when those under home quarantine do not adhere to restrictions, it creates trouble. "The person from Dubai (who tested positive Thursday) landed in Kozhikode and stayed in the city for a day before proceeding to Kasaragod by train. For the next several days, he participated in many events and hosted functions. Two legislators in Kasaragod district who shook hands with him and hugged him are under observation," he said.

He said the state would fully cooperate with the Janata Curfew announced by the Prime Minister. "State-owned transport buses and Kochi metro would not operate on Sunday," he said.

The five UK citizens who tested positive in Kochi are part of a 19-member group. Last Sunday, one of them tested positive and is in isolation since then. The tourists tried to flee the country on Sunday after the 57-year-old tested positive while they were at a state-run resort at Munnar. They were offloaded from a Dubai-bound flight at Kochi airport.

**47-yr-old man who tested positive went to weddings; two MLAs quarantine self**

**SHAJU PHILIP**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 20

A 47-YEAR-OLD person who returned to Kerala from Dubai on March 11, and was found to be asymptomatic at the airport, roamed around freely till March 19, when results of the Covid-19 test turned out to be positive. Lapses of the health department and administration in not being able to ensure such persons remain in quarantine has snowballed into a health crisis in Kasaragod district.

Over the last seven days, the person mingled with hundreds of people and attended family and public functions, leaving the district administration now struggling to trace the primary contacts. In fact, two legislators M C Kamaruddin and N A Nellikkunnu, who were exposed to him, are now in self-quarantine.

After the frequent traveller landed at Kozhikode on March 11, he was screened and made to fill the mandatory form. "I was given a telephone number of the health department if required," he said.

He stayed in a Kozhikode hotel on March 11, and boarded a train to Kasaragod the next day. "I had developed sore throat and was coughing. At the behest of my relatives, I went to the government hospital in Kasaragod on March 14. During examination, I told the doctor I had returned from Dubai. She asked to me remain at home quarantine."

Meanwhile, people at his village Mogral Puthur alerted the primary health centre that he was moving around. On March 16, he got a call from the primary health centre, asking him to report at the Covid-19 desk at the district government hospital. Next day, he gave the samples and returned home. He continued to move

freely in his family and friend circles. Two days later, the results came, health officials asked him to reach the hospital by his car instead of sending an ambulance.

Kasaragod district medical officer A P Dinesh Kumar said there was delay in reporting at the health department, but the person should have remained in home quarantine. "We came to know about him on March 14 or 15. We did not get any information from the health desk at airport. We are looking into why this happened."

District collector D Sajith Babu said, "We have repeatedly asked persons who returned from Naif region in Dubai, where Covid-19 cases were reported, to inform the authorities. But many are yet to comply with the directions."

On not isolating the person at hospital after his throat swabs were collected, Sajith Babu said it was the medical board's decision. A health worker said, "Whenever we called, he said 'at home.'"

Kasaragod legislator N A Nellikkunni said he met the person on March 14 at a wedding. "I knew him well. During the function, we got a photograph clicked with the bride and the bridegroom. After giving him a hug, I left. Yesterday, I came to know he tested positive and I have decided to go into home quarantine," he said.

On March 18, another legislator M C Kamaruddin chanced upon the person. While Kamaruddin was in his car, the person flagged down the vehicle. He shook hands with the legislator and took a selfie with him. Kamaruddin also went into quarantine on Friday.

The person, now at a government hospital, said, "After collecting samples, I should not have been allowed to go. I never realised the seriousness of the issue. I met several persons and hugged many. I don't know whether I landed them all in trouble."



**CLEARING A MARKET**

Police ask traders to vacate a weekly market in Gujarat's Vadodara to prevent crowds as part of measures against the growing coronavirus pandemic. Bhupendra Rana

**ODISHA**

**AIIMS doctors accuse senior of hiding son's COVID-19 status**

**SAMPAD PATNAIK**  
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 20

DOCTORS AT the AIIMS in Bhubaneswar have accused the medical superintendent of willfully failing to disclose his son's coronavirus symptoms, an incident that has led to at least three doctors in self-quarantine and fears of exposure among others at the hospital.

The 19-year-old boy is the second positive case of the COVID-19 in Odisha after a research scholar tested positive following his return from Italy. "This young man returned from the UK. He is stable. His family has been ordered to be in home quarantine," government spokesperson Subroto Bagchi said.

A letter purportedly written on behalf of the Residents Doctors Association (RDA) of the AIIMS in Bhubaneswar has alleged, "The RDA would like to bring to your notice the gross negligence on part of the Medical Superintendent and

Isolation Unit in-charge while handling COVID-19 suspects. It has come to our notice that a patient, age 19 years, was brought to the isolation unit and kept in the Doctors' Room with his travel history concealed. Also, the patient was not admitted for 12 hours. When enquired about the case, the isolation unit in-charge said it was a high-profile case and did not disclose the details. He himself filled up the case sheet of the patient while hiding the relevant travel history."

"This patient tested positive on March 19 and is the second case of COVID in Odisha," the letter claimed, adding, "it was found that the patient was the son of the Medical Superintendent." Calling the incident a "medical and administrative negligence", the letter stated that "we feel betrayed by our own".

One of the doctors, who claimed to have written the letter, said on condition of anonymity, "The whole world is being advised to come forward. This is shameful behaviour by a senior doctor."

However, AIIMS-Bhubaneswar Director Dr Gitanjali Batmanabane said, "I met with the RDA to enquire about the letter. I was told it is unsigned. Someone has sent it mischievously. There has been lack of communication. There was no wilful suppression of the status and identity of the patient."

The *Indian Express* also spoke to two doctors who said they have taken leave because of "secondary exposure" to the patient through his father — the medical superintendent. One of the doctors said, "I have 78-year-old parents. I only came to know the superintendent's son has tested positive after I saw a message on our WhatsApp group. Though I have secondary contact with the father, I have been advised self-quarantine."

Dr Gitanjali Batmanabane said some doctors have requested leave but did not confirm that it was due to exposure.

The Medical Superintendent did not respond to requests for comment.



CM Mamata Banerjee at Nabanna on Friday. Express

**Bengal reports 2nd case; CM says govt will distribute free rice through PDS**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, MARCH 20

IN AN attempt to reassure people amid the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday announced that the state will distribute rice through the public distribution system (PDS) for free till September.

Rice was being sold at ration shops at Rs 2 per kg.

This came hours after West Bengal reported its second case of COVID-19. A 22-year-old Kolkata resident who recently returned from the UK tested positive for the infection, a state government official said.

The state government's decision to distribute rice is expected to benefit 75 crore people, who will also receive wheat for free, according to a government official. The Chief Minister announced this move along with other measures at a press conference at state secretariat Nabanna.

Banerjee also alleged that her administration was not receiving help from the Centre in tackling the virus. After a video conference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Chief Minister said, "I asked the Prime Minister why foreign flights had not been stopped yet. He did not give any assurance but took note."

Banerjee said international flights should be barred immediately instead of being allowed to land till March 22.

**Days after partying, visiting malls, Andhra man tests positive**

**SREENIVAS JANAYALA**  
HYDERABAD, MARCH 20

THE TELANGANA and Andhra Pradesh governments on Friday confirmed one fresh coronavirus case each.

In Andhra Pradesh, a person who returned to Visakhapatnam from the Gulf has tested positive. His case has worried officials as instead of staying at one place, as advised, he visited and stayed with friends and relatives, partyed, and went to shopping malls and restaurants in both Hyderabad and Visakhapatnam. Officials are now scrambling to get in touch with all the people he came in contact with, adding that the number of COVID-19 positive cases in the state has climbed to three.

Telangana health officials said that an 18-year-old who returned to Hyderabad from London tested positive at the TB and Chest Hospital. The patient is stable, said G Srinivas Rao, Director, Public Health, adding



A newly-wed couple undergo thermal screening at a temple in Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. PTI

that the number of persons who tested positive in the state has now climbed to 17.

In Warangal, the district administration is on high alert after a man, who returned from France, got married on Thursday, with over 1,000 people attending the wedding.

The administration has reminded the man and his family, and has cancelled the reception scheduled for Friday.

"This person returned from France 8-9 days ago and was advised 14-day quarantine at his flat in Hyderabad. He did not inform us that he was to get married on March 19. Without informing authorities, he travelled to Warangal and got married. Over 1,000 persons, including several political leaders, attended the wedding. When we came to know, we cancelled the reception. We are hoping that he does not test positive. If he does, it would be a nightmare," an official said.

On Friday, the Telangana government issued orders that any person who has returned from any foreign country or has been in transit shall be in home quarantine for 14 days from the time of arrival in India, irrespective of having any symptoms or not. The Andhra Pradesh government has also issued a similar advisory.

Meanwhile, the Telangana High Court on Friday directed the state government to postpone the SSC exams which began on Thursday.

**Case in a Mumbai slum: Officials hit tracking hurdle**

**TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA**  
MUMBAI, MARCH 20

"HOW CAN we get it, why are you here to test us... because we are poor and live in slums?" These were the words the son of the 68-year-old domestic help, who tested positive for COVID-19 on March 18, confronted civic officials with when they came knocking at his door in a 250 sqft home in a central Mumbai slum.

The first case perhaps in India where a slum-dweller has contracted COVID-19 infection has thrown open the challenges of community tracing in a dense slum where over 23,000 people are huddled in less than a square kilometre of land.

Tracing who the help met over 10 days in the vast slum since she was first exposed to

coronavirus is proving to be difficult, but what health workers find impossible is to trace each woman who used the public washroom where she bathed every day.

On March 7, a 49-year-old man returned from the US to his home in Mumbai's central suburbs. The 68-year-old help, who lives a lane away, cleaned his house every day. Ten days later, on March 17, he tested positive for COVID-19. His mother, the help, and two more close contacts were tested. The help was the only one to test positive.

While contact tracing remains a relatively easier task among the developed boroughs and localities of Mumbai, health officials are fighting suspicion and huge population as they undertake contact tracing in slum.

Dr Avdhoot Kanchan, a BMC official, said the woman was not



Marine Drive wore a deserted look, in Mumbai on Friday. Pradip Das

allowed to use cellphone in isolation ward, as Kasturba hospital staff feared if the phone was given to her son, the infection would transmit outside. "When Kasturba doctors asked her who her close contacts were, she couldn't reply properly. She was scared, didn't

understand what was happening, we think," Kanchan said.

So health workers reached out to her son, a daily-wager. Her son was not ready to get tested. "He kept saying he had no symptoms, questioned whether we were admitting him because he is a slum-dweller. We had to counsel him about how it spreads, the risk his family is in if they don't get tested," Kanchan said.

After persuasion, he spoke — his mother worked in three more flats apart from the 47-year-old's house. Civic officials managed to trace in total nine people — five from the help's family and two couples in two of the houses where she worked. All were sent to Kasturba hospital for testing. The third flat was locked — its owner currently in Jaisalmer.

The help's family of six lives in a tiny 250 sqft room. Like matchboxes, several houses stand next

to one another, each sharing a common wall. The houses were fumigated. Nearly 500 households were visited by officials to look for slum-dwellers with cough, cold or fever, but no symptomatic case was found. The 68-year-old used a public washroom to bathe, but civic officials say they can only hope nobody caught the infection from there. The bathroom is washed daily.

Contact tracing is a process to identify and manage people who may have been exposed to the virus. Eight more low-risk contacts who live nearby were advised home quarantine. "The challenge is to make them understand home quarantine without spreading panic in the slum," said Dr Bhupendra Patil, the ward medical officer. "We spoke with neighbours to check if they saw the woman with anyone. They gave few names. The con-

tact tracing process is on."

In a slum where the doors to each hutment are usually open, children run from one home to another, and meals are often shared, the BMC fears the woman could have exposed many others to the virus.

Signs of community transmission have started to emerge elsewhere in India. A 20-year-old hairdresser tested positive in Tamil Nadu after he travelled from Rampur to New Delhi and boarded a train to Chennai. He has no history of foreign travel or contact with a confirmed case.

By Friday night, the civic staffers breathed a sigh of relief. None of the nine close contacts of the help had tested positive. "The chances of the virus spreading beyond are slim if these people tested negative," hopes Suresh Kakani, additional municipal corporation, BMC.

**Restrictions on fliers to Ladakh after 3 cases**

**ADIL AKHZER**  
SRINAGAR, MARCH 20

AUTHORITIES HAVE barred the entry of most outsiders travelling by air to Ladakh after three fresh coronavirus cases were reported in the Union Territory in last 24 hours.

Ladakh's Commissioner Secretary (Health) Rigzin Samphel told *The Indian Express* that the latest case was reported Friday. "There is one positive case from Kargil today. Last night, we got reports of two positive cases in Leh. The total number of cases in Ladakh is now 11," he said.

Kargil Deputy Commissioner Baseer ul Haq said the Kargil patient is a family member of a person who has tested positive already. "We have kept him under isolation," he said.

**One positive case from Kargil and two positive cases in Leh, according to Ladakh Commissioner Secretary (Health)**

According to an order by Ladakh Divisional Commissioner Saugat Biswas: "...no commercial flights landing at KBR Airport, Leh shall carry inbound passengers to Leh other than the residents of Ladakh, civilian officers, and officers of uniformed forces serving in Ladakh or on duty, till further order."

Two days ago, the Ladakh administration had decided to restrict international tourist entry by all routes till 30th April and labourers' entry too was also put on hold till 31st of March.





**CORONA WATCH**



Police personnel near the Charminar in Hyderabad, Friday. PTI

**MP**

**Four test positive in Jabalpur**

**Bhopal:** Four persons, including three of one family, tested positive for coronavirus in Jabalpur on Friday, becoming the first cases from Madhya Pradesh. Three of them came from Dubai while one came from Germany via Delhi, a Jabalpur health official said, adding that the four have been kept in isolation in a hospital. They were tested on Thursday at the Jabalpur Medical College. **ENS**

**J&K**

**Doctors ask for masks suspend work**

**Srinagar:** Several doctors at Srinagar's Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) hospital on Friday morning refused to continue working, protesting the authorities' "failure" to provide them proper safety gear. However, they resumed duties after an hour when the hospital fulfilled their demand. "Junior doctors from the emergency department refused to carry on work because the administration was not providing them proper personal protective equipment. There was also dearth of proper masks," said a senior resident doctor. **ENS**

**WEST BENGAL Told to stay home, woman walks her dog**

**Siliguri:** A woman who recently returned from Spain to her hometown, Siliguri, disregarded a doctor's advice of home quarantine and went out to walk her dog on Friday, triggering panic in the area, a local councillor said. When the councillor and health department officials visited her house, the woman and her family members allegedly misbehaved with them. The woman, in her early 20s, is pursuing higher studies in Spain. The matter has been notified to higher authorities. **PTI**

## Govt speeds up approval for COVID-19 testing kits, drugs

**HARIKISHAN SHARMA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

IN ORDER to increase the supply of coronavirus test kits, the government has announced that it would process applications for their manufacture or import within seven days. It also said that applications for research and development of drugs or vaccines to treat COVID-19 would also be processed on high priority.

In a note, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) said, "Any firm having an In-vitro Diagnostic Kit already approved for COVID-19 in any other country can directly approach... through Public Relations Office regarding expedited review/accelerated approval for marketing in India."

The note also said that the data requirement for clinical performance evaluation etc for the

test kits may be "abbreviated, deferred or waived on case to case basis depending on type & nature of diagnostic kit, existing data on the product and evidence of available clinical performance evaluation data of such kit". The CDSCO will also provide guidance on the steps to be taken.

In a separate development, the Union Cabinet is believed to have approved a package for Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), essential in manufacture of medicines, and an announcement is expected on Saturday. Coronavirus-hit China is one of the main suppliers of APIs to the world. Under the proposed programme, drug parks will be set up across the country.

Last week, the government had said it would examine commercial testing kits for their "accuracy and validity". India is currently using diagnostic kits

developed by the National Institute of Virology (NIV) in Pune.

While the government data doesn't indicate any community transmission so far, India has to be ready for that eventuality, when it would require a substantially larger number of test kits.

Some public health experts also feel India must ramp up its COVID-19 testing. Currently, the country has testing capacity of a little over 6,000 a day, but is only doing about 1,000 tests daily. In all, India has conducted about 15,000 tests in 72 government laboratories. Private labs are not allowed to do tests still.

Globally, testing kits for coronavirus are manufactured mainly by American healthcare company Roche and some Chinese firms.

According to sources, the NIV and its associated labs have one lakh testing kits currently and the government has placed an

order to import 10 lakh probes, a key component used in the kits, from Germany. About five lakh are expected to reach soon.

In a separate notice on medicines and vaccines, the CDSCO announced similar easing, saying a firm that had approved drugs or vaccines for COVID-19 in any other country could directly approach the PRO for "expedited review/accelerated approval". It added, "Data requirement for animal toxicity study, clinical study, stability study etc may be abbreviated, deferred, or waived on case to case basis depending upon the type of vaccine, nature of drug, plant from which the drug is extracted."

The CDSCO will expedite applications for clinical trial permission and import or manufacture.

On Friday, the government also prohibited the export of ventilators, surgical/disposable masks with immediate effect.

## What states are doing to prepare for Janata Curfew tomorrow

**MAHARASHTRA**

State machinery will not be deployed to ensure that people comply with the Janata Curfew initiative. In Mumbai, BEST bus service will run as per regular schedule. However, metro services on the Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar route will not function Sunday.

**BIHAR**

Additional Chief Secretary (Home) Amir Subhani said the state government will appeal to people to self-enforce the Janata Curfew, as urged by the Prime Minister. "We are not going to use any force. It is an appeal and we can only appeal to people," said Subhani.

Police headquarters sources said there would be deployment of forces at key locations as a matter of law and order preventive measures.

**TAMIL NADU**

Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced that government bus services will be stopped on March 22. The Chennai Metro Rail Limited too will stop services for the day.

The Consortium of Indian Petroleum Dealers (CIPD), an organisation that represents 54,000 dealers, and the Tamil Nadu Hotels Association, that represents around 1 lakh restaurants in Tamil Nadu, were among the industrial bodies that declared support for the Janata Curfew on Sunday.

**GUJARAT**

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani has called for complete support for the Janata Curfew, with bus services to be suspended or scaled down. Chambers of commerce have also announced their support for the exercise.

**KARNATAKA**

The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited has announced the closure of metro services on March 22. The state government has also ordered the closure of all bars and sit-down restaurants, directing that



A fruit and vegetable market in Pune, which was voluntarily shut on Friday. Pavan Khengre

only food delivery services will be allowed to operate.

All liquor stores will be closed from Saturday night to Monday morning.

**ASSAM**

The state government has announced no special measures for the Janata Curfew, but Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has appealed to the people to follow the exercise.

Following PM Shri Narendra Modi's appeal, let us practice social distancing and take all precautionary measures to fight against #COVID19," Sonowal tweeted. He added, "I also urge all to express our thanks to all those who selflessly working in the frontlines to counter Coronavirus on Sunday at 5 PM."

**HARYANA**

Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has asked people to practice-self isolation and stay in their homes to observe the Janata Curfew. Transport Minister Mool Chand Sharma said Haryana Roadways buses shall remain off the roads on Sunday from 7 am to 9 pm.

**MANIPUR**

Chief Minister N Biren Singh has urged the people to extend their full cooperation to the Janata Curfew. "People should support the nationwide Janata Curfew announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi... During this curfew, no one should neither leave their homes, nor get onto the streets or roam about our

localities. This curfew will not be enforced using security personnel, rather it should be a 'self-curfew' which is being imposed by ourselves," he said.

**JHARKHAND**

A source in the government said that there are no instructions to enforce the Janata Curfew and it is up to the people to follow the exercise. Chief Minister Hemant Soren has not commented on the curfew. He, however, told media that the government is taking enough measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 in Jharkhand.

**UTTARAKHAND**

Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat has appealed to the public to cooperate and follow the Janata Curfew on Sunday. In a video conference with district magistrates Rawat also appealed to the elderly and children to stay at home. DG (Law and Order) Ashok Kumar said there is an appeal to follow the exercise "in the interest of nation, society and self-interest". He said the Janata Curfew will not be forcible.

**GOA**

Health Minister Vishwajit Rane announced that the state government is imposing CrPc Section 144 starting Saturday midnight. "The beaches too, everywhere in fact..." he told reporters. "No weddings either...No festivities. People should take these advisories because ultimately it will harm their life."



## GEARING UP

West Bengal officials at the Dumurjola indoor stadium in Howrah. The stadium is being converted into a quarantine facility due to the coronavirus outbreak. At present, it has only 110 beds, but has the capacity to accommodate 6,000 people. Partha Paul

**SCHOOLS CLOSED**

## Centre to states: Give mid-day meals or food security allowance

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE HUMAN Resource Development (HRD) Ministry asked state governments on Friday to begin providing hot cooked Mid Day Meals (MDM) or food security allowance to all students in classes 1 to 8 for as long as their schools remain closed to contain the spread of COVID-19.

The Union government had announced a nationwide shut-down of classrooms on March 16 in a bid to break the chains of transmission of the novel coronavirus. Some states such as Delhi and Kerala had closed schools, much before the Centre's announcement, till March 31.

Kerala is already providing hot-cooked meals to students at home. Emulating Kerala, West Bengal announced similar measures Thursday.

The ministry's order comes after the Supreme Court issued

**EXPLAINED**  
**What the rules say**

THE UNION government's Friday order draws power from the MDM Rules 2015, which envisage a situation when meals cannot be provided to students on account of unavailability of foodgrains, cooking cost, fuel or absence of cook-cum-helper. In such a situation the government expected to provide a food security allowance to each child consisting of foodgrains and cooking cost entitlement.

notices to all state governments this week to explain how they would ensure the midday meals reach the vulnerable while

schools stay shut.

"As the country is passing through difficult times of the Novel COVID-19 outbreak, the state governments and union territories are advised to provide hot cooked Mid Day Meal or Food Security Allowance, whichever is feasible, to all eligible children till such time their schools are closed due to Novel COVID-19," states the letter written by Joint Secretary R C Meena to all state government on Friday.

"The modalities for this purpose may be decided by the respective States and UTs, suitable to the prevailing circumstances," the letter says.

The MDM scheme covers all school students studying in classes 1 to 8 of government schools, government-aided schools, special training centres, including madrasas and maqtabs supported under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan. Currently, there are 9.17 crore students covered under this scheme.

**KARNATAKA**

## Officials say 5 patients to be discharged soon

**JOHNSON TA**  
BENGALURU, MARCH 20

KARNATAKA HEALTH officials on Friday said five people who had contracted COVID-19 are ready to be discharged over the next few days after testing negative following treatment at facilities around Bengaluru.

"P1 to P5 — the first five Covid 19 patients in Karnataka — are ready to be discharged soon," a health official said.

While two — the 47-year-old wife of the first coronavirus patient in Karnataka, and a 26-year-old global technology company worker — were declared ready to be discharged on Thursday, three others will be ready to be discharged soon,

state Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar said.

The 47-year-old has said that she will stay in hospital for a few more days, awaiting the discharge of her husband (46) and daughter (13) next week, the minister said.

As far as the 26-year-old is concerned, officials said, "The 26-year-old, who has been in quarantine since March 12, has tested negative and can be discharged, but he needs to spend a minimum of 14 days in quarantine, so the discharge has been pushed to early next week," officials said.

The fifth person on the verge of discharge is a 50-year-old IT professional who tested himself on March 8, after returning from the US via London.

## Goa zila panchayat polls postponed; HC pulls up govt, election body

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
PANAJI, MARCH 20

THE ZILA panchayat polls in Goa have been postponed, State Election Commissioner R K Srivastava confirmed on Friday.

Originally scheduled for March 22, the polls were initially postponed by two days after Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a Janata Curfew the same day. However, the elections have now been indefinitely postponed in view of the coronavirus outbreak.

A total of 203 candidates across 50 constituencies are contesting for the elections.

Also on Friday, the High Court of Bombay at Goa criticised the Goa government. The Advocate General told a bench of Justice M S Jawalkar and Justice M S Sonak that "as there is no guarantee whether the situation on COVID-19 will improve in future or not. Therefore this is the appropriate stage at which elections can be held and concluded".

The government further said that "there is no possibility of any mass gathering" since campaigning was over.

The State Election Commission told the court that it had gone by "the decision of the government in this matter".

The interim order by the court, borrowing phrases of the Prime Minister's speech, came down heavily on Goa government, saying, "We fail to see as to how the entire exercise involving almost half the population of the State of Goa does not constitute 'mass gathering' which, the directives issued by the Central Government, State Government and the WHO seek to regulate." Among the passages the Court heavily relied were words of Prime Minister Modi where he says, "...in these countries the spread of the disease has witnessed almost an explosion after the initial few days..."

The court also came down heavily on the State Election Commission, saying that the affidavit does not "indicate that there has been any serious and independent application of mind..."

**NAVJEEVAN GOPAL**  
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 20

THE PUNJAB government is planning to put up "home quarantine notices" outside the residences of those who have been isolated as suspected cases of COVID-19. The government plans to begin this drive from SAS Nagar, Mohali, where the administration has started putting details of such persons — names and addresses — online.

Speaking to *The Indian Express* over phone Friday evening, Punjab Health Minister Balbir Singh Sidhu said, "We will put

## WHAT CHIEF MINISTERS SEEK FROM CENTRE

**K CHANDRASEKHAR RAO** (TELANGANA)

Suggested screening of all passengers at railway stations, among others, as measures to contain the spread of coronavirus.

**PINARAYI VIJAYAN** (KERALA)

Urged PM to increase immediately the number of mandays under MGNREGA from the present 100 to 150 days, besides increasing the wages by at least by Rs 50.

**B S YEDIYURAPPA** (KARNATAKA)

Said he has pointed out to PM the need for reagents and opening testing labs at some places.

**AMARINDER SINGH** (PUNJAB)

Asked PM for a fiscal package to combat the virus and permission to get tests done at private hospitals and labs. Also urged PM to allow payment of wages to MGNREGA workers who could come to work as a preventive measure.

**NAVEEN PATNAIK** (ODISHA)

Sought quick steps by the Centre to expand testing facilities for coronavirus, payment of 50 days' wages to MGNREGA workers and special economic package for various sectors in view of the crisis caused by COVID-19.

**UDDHAV THACKERAY** (MAHARASHTRA)

Stressed the need to increase the number of coronavirus testing laboratories in the country.

## Ramkot ki parikrama in Ayodhya cancelled

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
LUCKNOW, MARCH 20

'RAMKOT KI Parikrama', scheduled to be held in Ayodhya on March 24, has been cancelled in view of preventive measures to check the spread of coronavirus, organisers said on Friday. The religious ritual, which sees hundreds of devotees participate, is held in the form of a yatra that goes around Ayodhya town.

A member of the Vikramaditya Mahostav Samiti, which organises the Ramkot ki Parikrama, said, "We did not want to risk lives of hundreds of people and hence cancelled it."

Meanwhile, Ayodhya district magistrate Anuj Kumar said the administration has started reaching out to sants in Ayodhya

and have appealed to them not to participate in the Ram Navami fair scheduled for April 2. The fair attracts an average of 10 lakh devotees to the temple town.

DM Anuj Kumar said, "The district administration does not call people for the Ram Navami festival. People and sants come on their own. We are speaking to sadhus and are appealing to them to not attend the event... we will probably issue an advisory in the coming days according to the situation..."

VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said the outfit would cooperate with the administration.

"We will follow the directives of the administration and health authorities and will help them in every possible way," said Bansal.

## Punjab to put notices on doors of those quarantined; addresses, names online

notices specifying home quarantine to make others aware. Such notices will be put outside the homes of everyone who has recently traveled abroad or come in direct or indirect contact with COVID-19 patients."

On Friday, a list of 152 persons quarantined at home with their names and addresses was uploaded on the official website of SAS Nagar district.

The list contains dates of commencement and end of quarantine.

There are presently approximately 200 persons under home quarantine in the district. SAS Nagar Deputy

Commissioner Girish Dyalan said the decision was taken following reports of people violating home quarantine guidelines and venturing out, posing a risk to others.

"We had cases where people jumped the home quarantine and came out. There should be no stigma attached to it. It is for the people to understand that in their neighbourhood, there is a person who is quarantined," Dyalan said.

He added, "If people are not aware, they might drop in, for instance, to have a cup of tea, in a quarantined neighbourhood, thereby exposing themselves to

suspected risk." Asked whether people had objected to this as a breach of privacy, the DC said, "Public interest is more important. The initiative was aimed at checking the movement of home quarantined people."

DC Dyalan said the list uploaded on Friday included 46 persons who came in direct or indirect contact with the patient tested positive for coronavirus at PGI Chandigarh.

He said persons with travel history or ones who came in contact with persons tested positive for the virus were quarantined at home.

# 10 GOVT & POLITICS

Delhi HC seeks Centre, DGCA reply on plea challenging travel ban

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE DELHI High Court Friday sought to know the position of the Centre and aviation regulator DGCA on a plea challenging the Union government's circular prohibiting passengers from the European Union, UK and Turkey from March 18 to contain the spread of COVID-19.

A bench of Justices J R Midha and I S Mehta issued notice to ministries of Health and Home Affairs and Directorate General of Civil Aviation, seeking their response to a plea by Ramesh Chandey Goyal, the father of an Indian student stranded in Scotland and unable to return to the country due to the travel ban, which also includes member nations of the European Free Trade Association.

The bench also arrayed the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) as party to the petition, after the Centre's Standing Counsel Amit Mahajan apprised the court that the travel advisory was issued by the Bureau of Immigration which comes under the MHA.

The court listed the matter for further hearing on March 25.

The urgent hearing of the petition, which sought setting aside of the March 16 circular, was initially mentioned before a bench headed by Justice Siddharth Mridul.

Justice Mridul, however, recused himself from hearing the matter as his daughter was stranded in the UK and directed that it be listed before another bench.

He also made an oral request to the Centre's counsel to consider evacuating Indian citizens stranded in other countries affected by COVID-19 as was done in China.

## Why there's a question mark over NPR exercise after Odisha says put it off

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

AMIDST CURBS to check coronavirus, a big question mark hangs over the update of the National Population Register (NPR), scheduled to begin on April 1. Sources said the exercise might be postponed, though a final decision has not been taken yet.

On Friday, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging that the NPR update be postponed. Patnaik, who supported the government on the Citizenship (Amendment)

Act but has expressed reservations over questions regarding the date and place of birth of parents in the 2020 NPR form, wrote, "We are all at present fighting against the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. All efforts of the state machinery are directed towards containment of COVID-19. As the mobilisation for Census and other concerned activities shall pose a great risk for field functionaries and people as well, I would rather suggest to postpone the scheduled Census and related activities in the country."

Sources said there were practical difficulties too as some states had not been able to complete the NPR and Houselisting Census training for enumerators due to COVID-19. There is hardly any time left now, with curbs declared till March 31.

It is the state governments that provide manpower for the Census exercise, with school-teachers enlisted as enumerators. They go door to door and seek information on family members in each household.

In his letter, Patnaik said, "I am apprised of the fact that 30 lakh enumerators and supervi-

sors in the country will be involved to collect data by visiting each household during the first phase. This has to be preceded by elaborate training, awareness campaign and related activities."

Multiple states ruled by the Opposition, as well as several NDA allies, have said they would not cooperate with the NPR process due to apprehensions associated with the CAA and fears that it is a precursor to a National Register of Citizens. West Bengal, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Puducherry Assemblies have passed resolu-

tions against the NPR process. The Bihar Assembly unanimously passed a resolution that it will only allow the NPR under the 2010 format.

While maintaining that no state can legally obstruct the Census process since it falls under the Central list and has statutory protection, the Modi government has been trying to reach out to states to allay anxieties. Registrar General of India Vivek Joshi too has met some states' representatives, including Chief Ministers. However, none of the opposing states has yet said it is on board for the NPR process.

## Under the spotlight: Feeble efforts by Congress brass to resolve MP crisis

MANOJ CG NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

WITH KAMAL Nath resigning as Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, the feeble crisis management efforts of the Congress high command have come under the spotlight. Many party leaders point out that there was a lack of visible and aggressive effort and intervention on the part of the top leadership to save the Congress government.

The party leadership, sources said, left the heavy lifting to Nath and Digvijaya Singh. This, they argued, was not a wise move as the two leaders were on one side of the factional feud and letting them handle the matter only alienated the other faction more. The Congress high command did send two observers — former Uttarakhnd Chief Minister Harish Rawat and AICC general secretary Mukul Wasnik — but that was clearly not enough.

Once Wasnik was back in Delhi because of personal reasons, the party rushed former Union minister Pawan Kumar Bansal to Bhopal. "The central leadership perhaps thought that we have two 'digvijay' (tall) leaders there and they will manage. I am not aware of any meeting held in Delhi to manage the crisis," a senior



Kamal Nath at a press conference in Bhopal. PTI

leader told *The Indian Express* when asked why top leaders and crisis managers like Ghulam Nabi Azad, A K Antony or Ahmed Patel were not sent to Bhopal and whether there was any meeting in Delhi to find a solution.

In July last year, when the JD(S)-Congress coalition government came under crisis in almost similar circumstances, Azad and B K Hariprasad were rushed to Bengaluru. The Congress had rushed Ahmed Patel, Kamal Nath, C P Joshi and Mukul Wasnik to Shillong in March 2018 to cobble up a coalition when the Assembly elections in Meghalaya threw up a fractured verdict.

Similarly, the top leadership of the Congress was directly involved in talks with the Shiv Sena and the NCP for formation of a government in Maharashtra. In fact, Patel had gone to Mumbai along with AICC general secretary KC Venugopal and Mallikarjun Kharge, AICC general secretary in charge of Maharashtra.

That involvement and aggression was missing in Bhopal. The AICC in-charge of Madhya Pradesh, Deepak Babaria, seen as

a lightweight and a novice when it comes to such crisis management, was in and out of Bhopal. He is in self-isolation in Ahmedabad now after he complained of fever, cough and sore throat.

Sources said the AICC did make efforts to reach out to the rebel MLAs. Babaria, sources said, tried to reach them over phone, via their relatives and through other channels.

"Why would the rebels believe the Congress when we did not show seriousness? Had any of the top leaders with a mandate from Mrs (Sonia) Gandhi flew into Bengaluru, perhaps they would have met him... why would they meet Digvijaya Singh who they see as a part of the problem," a senior party leader said.

While Singh and party leader Jitu Patwari travelled to Bengaluru, many Congress leaders said their visit was an attempt to play to the gallery. The statements of Nath and Singh were aimed at only sending a political signal that the BJP was destabilising an elected government.

"Of course, the BJP sensed a chance. But the crisis originated from within the Congress. Had the leadership taken matters into its hands, sent a senior leader with the mandate, perhaps the situation could have been salvaged," said a senior party leader said.

When contacted, Babaria said the Congress high command left no stone unturned to salvage the government, but declined to divulge the steps taken by the top leadership.

"I cannot tell all that to the media, but we did try our best," he said.



BJP leaders Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Gopal Bhargava and others celebrate after CM Kamal Nath's resignation. PTI

## For CM post, several names doing the rounds

MILIND GHATWAI BHOPAL, MARCH 20

WITH THE Congress government in Madhya Pradesh collapsing, several names are doing the rounds on who could lead the next BJP government as Chief Minister. Party sources said that while former CM and BJP vice-president Shivraj Singh Chouhan appears to be leading the race, the BJP leadership could also come up with a surprise choice.

On Friday evening, Chouhan cancelled a meeting of BJP legislators he had called at his residence, citing the coronavirus outbreak. Party leaders claimed that the meeting called at Chouhan's residence was informal and that the date of the official legislature party meeting would be announced later.

Earlier, there was speculation that the party would decide the Chief Minister's name on Friday, but by evening it was clear that the process would take a couple of days.

"If we wanted, we could have formed the government in 2018, but we are not in the game of installing or uninstalling governments," said Chouhan. The BJP

had polled more votes in the state polls than the Congress, but won five fewer seats.

Chouhan's decision to invite the party MLAs was seen as an assertion of his claim for the Chief Minister's post. On numerous occasions, he has made it clear that he is comfortable in state politics.

A section of party leaders is opposed to Chouhan being appointed again on the ground that he has occupied the chair for a long time and that the party lost the 2018 election.

Asked if Chouhan's name had been finalised for the Chief Minister post, former minister Narottam Mishra said the decision will be taken by the high command because "the organisation, not individuals, is the deciding authority". Mishra, too, is one of the contenders for the Chief Minister post. Union Minister Narendra Tomar, also believed to be among the contenders, claimed on Friday that he was not in the race.

Both Mishra and Tomar belong to the Gwalior region to which former Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, now the BJP candidate for Rajya Sabha from MP, belongs.



DELHI CONFIDENTIAL



A worker sanitises the doors of Parliament House on Friday. Prem Nath Pandey

## COVID-19 EFFECT

PARLIAMENT MAY not have curtailed the Budget Session amid the coronavirus outbreak, but the Houses are not untouched by it. Several leaders have chosen self-quarantine. Also, both Houses will start late on Monday as many Parliamentarians, who visit their constituencies over the weekend, may not be able to reach Parliament on time for the morning session as restrictions to curb the spread of COVID-19 has disrupted flights across the country. Both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha will forego the morning session on Monday and meet at 2 pm. But this concession is only for a day.

## TAKING NO CHANCE

FOLLOWING THE appeals by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the churches in Delhi have decided to avoid large gatherings. With the Christians observing Lenten season ahead of Good Friday and Easter Sunday, it is a when time the faithful flock to the churches. However, Archbishop of Faridabad diocese Kuriaackose Bharanikulangara issued a pastoral letter on Friday, announcing the closure of all churches for public worship till March 31. Instead, the priests will celebrate the Mass in the church daily and it will be live-streamed for people to watch online. But the archbishop asked the priests to be available on phone and email throughout the day.

## THE PERFORMER

KANIKA KAPOOR, who has been confirmed as a COVID-19 case and is suspected to have infected hundreds of people, was one of the lead performers at a diaspora event for Prime Minister Narendra Modi in London in November 2015. Kapoor, popular for singing hit numbers like *Baby Doll* and *Chittiyaaan Kalaiyaan*, was handpicked by the BJP's overseas cell for the performances before the Prime Minister's speech.

## Daughter of rebel MP Congress MLA dies, kin alleges dowry death: cops

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE JAIPUR, MARCH 20

THE DAUGHTER of a rebel Congress MLA from Madhya Pradesh was found dead in Rajasthan's Baran district on Friday, said the police.

According to police, the family of the deceased has accused her husband and in-laws of dowry death.

"We had received information today early morning that Jyoti Bai (24), was found dead in the house of her husband in

Baskheda village. Bai is the daughter of Suresh Dhakad, who is an MLA in Madhya Pradesh. Bai was married three years ago and her husband Jai Singh is a doctor. We had reached her house and there were marks on her neck," Nand Singh, station house officer, Kelwara police station, told *The Indian Express*.

"The family of Bai arrived today and they have submitted a complaint, accusing Bai's husband and three of his relatives. We are in the process of registering an FIR on the basis of their complaint," said Singh.

## COVID-19 Assam: Local polls deferred, passengers to be stamped

ABHISHEK SAHA GUWAHATI, MARCH 20

AMID THE coronavirus outbreak, the Assam state election commission on Friday indefinitely deferred the polls to the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC).

Polling for the 40 seats of the BTC was scheduled to be held on April 4 and the results were to be announced on April 8. The six remaining seats in the 46-member council are reserved for nominated members. State Election Commissioner Alok Kumar said, "We will give a new schedule after seeing the situation and discussing with different organisations and experts..."

Meanwhile, Assam Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday announced that all passengers arriving in Assam by air or train will be stamped, indicating that the person has volunteered to be home quarantined for a period of 14 days from the day of arrival.

Sarma also said the state government will provide \$2,000 as monetary relief to Assam residents who travelled abroad in the past 30 days and were now stuck there due to travel restrictions.

## Assembly hurdle over, BJP now awaits byelection test

MILIND GHATWAI BHOPAL, MARCH 20

IRRESPECTIVE OF when the BJP stakes a claim to form the next government in Madhya Pradesh, its longevity will depend on the outcome of bypolls — as and when the Election Commission announces their schedule.

Speaker N P Prajapati on Friday announced that he has accepted the resignation of BJP MLA Sharad Kol, taking to 25 the number of seats where bypolls could be held. However, Kol claimed that his resignation dated March 6 was taken under duress and that he had sent another letter and email later with a request not to accept his resignation.

While the new speaker will take a call on Kol's resignation, the bypolls necessitated by resignations of 22 Jyotiraditya Scindia loyalists, and the death of two legislators, will be key to the incumbent government's future.

Most of these seats are located in the Gwalior-Chambal belt, where Scindia holds sway. While the former Union minister was quick to join the BJP, the 22 legislators, who are yet to return to Madhya Pradesh from Karnataka, have not made it clear if they, too, would follow the suit. During their interaction with the media in Bengaluru two days



BJP activists celebrate at the party headquarters in Bhopal. PTI

ago, they remained non-committal to specific queries.

The Congress has already made its bypoll strategy clear. "Whoever is fielded by the BJP, we will run them down as traitor," said a party insider.

The former ministers in Kamal Nath cabinet — Mahendra Sisodia, Tulsiram Silawat, Imarti Devi, Govind Singh Rajput, Pradyumna Singh Tomar and Praburam Chaudhary — will be targeted in particular by the Congress workers.

A couple of BJP leaders put up a brave front to say they will have no choice but to campaign.

**G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment**  
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora - 263 643, Uttarakhand  
Tender Notice No.: GBPNIE/SECURITY SERVICES/19-20/2020/16  
Notice Tender Date Extension

Please refer to Institute's Tender notice No. GBPNIE/SECURITY SERVICES/19-20/2020/16 published in Indian Express (Delhi Edition) dated 17.01.2020 for Providing Security Services at GBPNIE Kosi Katarmal, Almora and its Regional Centres at Mohal-Kullu (Himanchal Pradesh) Upper Bhaktiyana, Srinagar (Garhwal) and Gangtok, Pangthang, Sikkim. The last date of receiving of Tender for security services is hereby extended up to 26.03.2020 at 03:00 p.m.

The documents shall be submitted online at <https://moefcc.eunivizarde.com>. The other terms and condition will remain as such. The full details of Document are available in the Institute Website <http://gbpnhed.gov.in> and <http://gbpnhed.in>.  
Administrative Officer  
E-mail: [ao@gbpnhed.nic.in](mailto:ao@gbpnhed.nic.in)

**TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD COIMBATORE CIRCLE**  
FORM OF CONTRACT "LUMPSUM" (TWO COVER SYSTEM)  
Tender Notice No. SCB/465/DB/2020 Dated: 20.03.2020

For and on behalf of Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, one sealed tender consisting of two separate sealed covers one for Pre-qualification with EMD to be enclosed in 'A' cover and another for price schedule with names of work duly prescribed to be enclosed in 'B' cover are invited from the registered contractors under Class - I and above in TNSCB / Government Departments / Government undertakings / Public Sector Undertaking, registered as a legal entity in India by the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, Selvapuram, Shivajaya Mahal (opp), Parur North, Coimbatore - 26, upto 3:00 PM on 08.04.2020 and the same will be opened at 3:15 PM on the same day in the presence of the Tender Scrutiny Committee.

S. No.	Name of Work	Tender Value including GST Period of contract Rs. in Lakhs	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Construction of 804 Nos of Multistoried Tenements (G+5) adopting T.D.No. HFA-14/ 2020, 14A/2020, 14B/2020 & 14C/2020 with internal water supply, sanitary and electrification including development works at Municipal Chattram in Erode Corporation under Housing For All CER.No. 83/HFA/2019 - 20.	5440.37 15 Months	2,741,000

The cost of tender, schedule and EMD should be drawn as Demand Draft or Banker's cheque/ fixed deposit from Nationalized / Scheduled Bank, payable at Tiruppur in the prescribed form in favour of Executive Engineer, Tiruppur Division, TNSCB, Tiruppur. The tender documents may be obtained from the office of the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle, TNSCB, Selvapuram, Shivajaya Mahal (opp), Parur North, Coimbatore - 26, upto 3:00 PM on 07.04.2020.

1. The conditions and other details may be seen in the tender documents and also the same will be made available on all working days in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Coimbatore Circle TNSCB, Coimbatore - 26.

2. The tender documents are also available at [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in) which can be downloaded at free of cost. The tenderer shall keep a watch over the web site till the preceding date of tender.

Conditions for participating in the tenders may be seen from the website [www.tenders.tn.gov.in](http://www.tenders.tn.gov.in). The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons therefor.

Selvapuram, Shivajaya Mahal(opp), Parur North, Coimbatore - 26.  
Superintending Engineer Coimbatore Circle

FROM THE GALLERY

FROM THE CHAIR RAJYA SABHA

“God bless you. Nothing will happen to me and to you.”

M VENKAIAH NAIDU, Chairman, to Congress member Anand Sharma, when the latter asked whether Parliament was exempt from the provisions of laws passed by it as the Epidemic Act enforced by the government restricts persons above 65 years to come out from their homes.

LOKSABHA

“The Prime Minister has appealed for Janata Curfew on March 22 and the House stands with him on this...”

OM BIRLA, Speaker, during Zero Hour.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Zoroastrian Parsi community... is celebrating New Year, and I am hoping that we can unite... to pray for better health of all our citizens...”

SMRITI IRANI, Minister of Textiles, in Lok Sabha

## COVID-19: Oppn seeks financial package, govt says pressing panic button not good

HARIKISHAN SHARMA & KRISHN KAUSHIK  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

WITH THE Opposition demanding a financial package to deal with the coronavirus outbreak, the government on Friday said that the infection has not yet spread into the community and “pressing the panic button is not at all good”.

Raising the issue in Lok Sabha, Congress leader in the House Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said that after the Prime Minister’s address to the nation, prices of essential commodities have risen. Food items are out of stock, masks are not available and the market has been captured by hoarders and middlemen, he said.

“Therefore, the government must declare a financial package that will include compensation for wage losses of employees who earn daily wages such as taxi and



PM Narendra Modi at Parliament House Friday. Prem Nath Pandey

auto drivers, agricultural labourers, construction workers, security guards, watchmen, domestic helps, street food vendors, cart pullers and others,” he said.

Reacting sharply, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi said, “From day one, the government of India, under the leadership of the honourable Prime Minister, has taken many steps. I just want to say that it is not good

to spread panic by saying that essential items are not available. Creating panic and pressing the panic button is not at all good. This is a national and international crisis.” Annoyed with the comment, the Congress MPs staged a walkout.

Earlier in the day, as soon as the House met, Chowdhury raised the issue of price rise of essential items, saying the “markets are on

fire” after the Prime Minister’s address. However, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla did not let him speak. The Congress also demanded that the Prime Minister should come to Parliament.

The BSP’s Ritesh Pandey asked why more people are not being tested. In response, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said, “There is a very well-defined protocol and scientific advice about who needs to be tested. Right now, the infection in this country is getting transmitted from one person to another. It has not yet spread into the community.”

During Zero Hour, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said, “The world is facing challenges due to coronavirus outbreak and India is also taking steps to deal with it. The Prime minister has addressed the nation and spoken about precautionary steps. The Prime Minister has appealed for Janata Curfew on March 22 and the House stands with him on this.”

The Rajya Sabha, meanwhile, again discussed on Friday if Parliament should continue to function. Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu said that TMC’s Sukhendu Sekhar Ray had sought leave of absence from the House “stating that... he has decided to remain in self-quarantine at home for the remaining part of the ongoing Budget Session”.

While Ray was granted leave of absence, several MPs said they too are vulnerable. Deputy Leader of Opposition Anand Sharma said the government had issued a notification. “... all people above the age of 65, as per the government’s notification, should not come out. I am above 65. Hon. Chairman is above 65. There are so many Members above 65. So, what example is Parliament setting about the respect for the laws of the land and government’s notification?” he said. Naidu responded, “God bless you! Nothing would happen to me and to you.”

5 QUESTIONS

During Zero Hour in Lok Sabha, DMK member KANIMOZHI demanded assistance for cab drivers, auto drivers and daily wage earners in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak. She speaks to HARIKISHAN SHARMA.



Kanimozhi

and try to figure out how to provide economic support to the informal sector.

What kind of assistance do you want?

Some (state) governments have said that MGNREGA workers, cab and auto drivers and domestic help etc., in the informal sectors will be taken care of, and they have already allotted funds... The Central government can take that as an example... Their income will become nil in few days’ time when there is a lock down...

Do you want any moratorium on loan repayments or tax cut?

Yes, people will... not be able to repay loans, especially those who are salaried workers... Definitely, their jobs will be at stake and they might not be able to pay the loans or whatever it is. So, all that has to be taken into consideration.

What issue did you raise?

This is about the people working in informal sector who will be losing their incomes like cab drivers, auto drivers, daily wage earners and people working in restaurants. In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, their incomes will be greatly reduced, and in many cases, they could even lose their jobs. I said the government should take this into consideration and provide (assistance) for those people.

What kind of assistance you want for these people?

The PM has promised an Economic Task Force. So, the Task Force has to take this into consideration, as it’s a priority...

What could be the number of people who might need such assistance?

The government has to reach out... to the state governments

## Ruckus in RS over BJP MP’s Shaheen Bagh remark

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

ADISCUSSION on a private member’s resolution, asking the government to bring an Employment Guarantee Act to address unemployment crisis among the educated youth, saw a joint opposition targeting the Centre.

The proceedings were disrupted and the House had to be adjourned minutes before its scheduled closing after BJP MP G V L Narasimha Rao hit out at the Opposition MPs for using incomparable data on employment, calling it a “statistical Shaheen Bagh”.

When the Opposition members objected to his remark, Union

Minister Giriraj Singh intervened. His remark, which was not audible, angered the Opposition more after which Congress members came to the Well and started protesting. Eventually, the House was adjourned.

Moving the resolution, CPI’s Binoy Viswam asked the government to present a comprehensive and holistic report on the state of unemployment among educated citizens and come out with a plan of action to address it. He demanded that a joint Parliamentary Committee be set up to work with stakeholders and develop an Employment Guarantee Act.

Targeting the government, he claimed that unemployment rate in the country is the highest in 45

years. Viswam said the government, which came to power after promising two crores of jobs every year, is now asking the people to “go and make pakoras or jalebis.”

“A government solemnly serving the growth of FDI cannot find jobs for the youth because investors from foreign countries are concerned only about their profits, not about India’s progress, not about Indian youth. So, it is an FDI-driven government... Swadeshi government serving the interest of the videshis,” he said.

The Congress’s Kumar Ketkar supported Viswam’s resolution and said India is sitting on a ticking bomb. “And that ticking bomb in the economy will be triggered, or the fuse will be lit by the unem-

ployed youth,” he said.

Several Opposition members, including DMK’s T K S Elangovan and RJD’s Manoj Jha, supported the resolution.

Samajwadi Party member Ram Gopal Yadav demanded 365 days of work under MGNREGA and urged the government to boost agriculture and MSMEs in the country which have huge employment generation potential. The CPM’s K K Ragesh said data of the National Sample Survey Organisation reveals that unemployment is at a four-decade high. He said the government is blind towards growing unemployment in the country and demanded that it provide unemployment allowance to the jobless youth.

Hitting back at the Opposition, Rao said the “very premise of the resolution is flawed” as it is quoting statistics about unemployment which is “contentious and problematic”. He alleged that the Opposition members have “selectively quoted” the periodic labour force survey of the NSSO to defame the country and the government and mislead the people.

He said the current data and earlier data were not comparable as there was a sea change in the methods of data collection and the estimation procedures. He said that if the Opposition members are using the statistics for political propaganda despite knowing the facts, “I can only call it a statistical Shaheen Bagh”.

## LS passes Bill for ‘national importance’ tag to 5 more IITs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE LOK Sabha on Friday passed a Bill conferring Institution of National Importance (INI) status on five more Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs).

These five IIITs are located in Surat, Bhopal, Bhagalpur, Agartala and Raichur. They will be brought under the IIIT (Public-private Partnership) Act, 2017, and, along with 15 other IIITs established under the PPP mode, will now be able to confer Bachelor of Technology (BTech) and Master of Technology (MTech) degrees as

well as doctorates.

The Bill is expected to enable the institutes to attract enough students required to develop a strong IT research base in the country.

Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal said many of these institutes have recorded 100 per cent placement, with overall placement at 70%.

Clarifying the apprehensions raised by some members of the House, he said these institutes also follow the reservation policy announced by the government as the same is enshrined in the laws governing these institutes.

## NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



The facilities of Disinfection of Public Service Vehicles (**Auto Rickshaw, Gramin Sewa, Phat-Phat Sewa, Maxi Cab, Eco Friendly Sewa**) in the DTC and Cluster Bus Depots under Transport Department, Government of NCT of Delhi **free of cost** to the vehicle operators/owners have **now been made available from 10 AM to 6 PM**. Operators/ Owners of these vehicles are advised to avail this facility.



## Get Your Vehicle Disinfected

**Timings: 10 AM to 6 PM**  
**All DTC and Cluster Depots**  
**All Days (Monday to Sunday)**





## The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY  
RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

# Going regional

Covid-19 nudges India to pursue regional cooperation through both SAARC and BIMSTEC



SHYAM SARAN

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi signalled a change in India's rejection of SAARC as a platform for regional cooperation by inviting all heads of state and government of SAARC countries to a video summit to promote a region-wide response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The video summit was attended by all SAARC leaders, except for Prime Minister Imran Khan of Pakistan, who deputed his special assistant for health to represent him. SAARC has been in a virtual deep freeze since India conveyed it would not attend the 19th SAARC summit, to be hosted by Pakistan in 2017, in the wake of the cross-border terrorist incidents at Pathankot and Uri. Other SAARC leaders also declined to attend. The summit was indefinitely postponed. Since then India has downgraded SAARC as an instrument of its "Neighbourhood First" policy and shifted the focus to the Bay of Bengal.

Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) instead.

BIMSTEC includes all SAARC countries except Afghanistan and Pakistan and two ASEAN countries, Myanmar and Thailand. For his swearing-in ceremony in 2014, PM Modi had invited leaders of all SAARC countries including Pakistan. For the swearing-in ceremony in 2019, it is BIMSTEC leaders who were the invited guests. Soon after taking over as external affairs minister, S Jaishankar referred to SAARC having "certain problems" while BIMSTEC was described as having both energy and possibility and "a mindset which fits in with that very optimistic vision of economic cooperation that we want." Against this backdrop, Modi's initiative in convening a SAARC video summit, instead of a BIMSTEC video summit, conveys a deliberate political message.

At the conference, Modi gave a call for the countries of SAARC "coming together and not going apart." A SAARC Covid-19 Fund has been proposed with India committing US\$10 million. Modi referred to the role which could be played by an existing SAARC institution, the Disaster Management Centre, in enabling a coordinated response to Covid-19. Suggestions were made by several leaders, including the Pakistani representative,

for a SAARC Health Ministers' Conference to follow up on the summit. This is likely to be convened soon.

Covid-19 has proved to be an opportunity for reviving SAARC, but it remains to be seen if this prospect becomes a reality. The government has been cautious in describing such expectations as "premature".

Modi's initiative has put Pakistan on the defensive. So far, it was India which was seen as undermining SAARC in which other South Asian countries have a keen interest. While there has been readiness on their part to participate in BIMSTEC, they do not consider the latter as an alternative to SAARC. In taking this initiative, Modi may be responding to these sentiments. If Pakistan now drags its feet, then the onus will be on her for weakening the Association. There is a new situation as a result of the abrogation of Article 370 relating to Kashmir, which has been denounced by Pakistan. It would be difficult for the latter to accept cooperation with India under SAARC because this would compromise its stand on Kashmir. This dilemma was obvious in the remarks which the Pakistani representative made on Kashmir during the video summit, which were rightly ignored by Modi.

It is also a fact that the focus on BIMSTEC has not yielded the results India may have expected. Current trade among its members is US\$40 billion, though the potential was set at \$250 billion. India's Act East policy, which involved a key role for India's Northeast, has stalled. The Northeast is in political turmoil while India has opted out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which would have added substance to BIMSTEC.

Today it is difficult to see BIMSTEC as a credible and preferred alternative to SAARC. In any case, it makes better sense for India to pursue regional economic cooperation both through SAARC as well as BIMSTEC rather than project them as competing entities. If the argument is that regional cooperation involving Pakistan is a non-starter due to its ingrained hostility towards India, then being part of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), where both are members, becomes a somewhat contradictory position.

In determining its position towards SAARC, India must also take into account the significant inroads that China has been making in its sub-continental neighbourhood. With the exception of Bhutan, every South Asian country has signed on to China's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). A number of Chinese infrastructure projects are already in place or are being planned in each of our neighbours. With SAARC becoming inoperative and BIMSTEC not living up to its promise, China is likely to become a key economic partner for South Asia and India's hitherto pre-eminent role will be further eroded. On this count, too, it is advisable for India to advance regional cooperation both under SAARC as well as BIMSTEC. Both are necessary.

Despite the frustration in dealing with Pakistan, India should not give up on its western neighbour. Relations with Islamabad will remain adversarial for the foreseeable future but still need to be managed with two ends in mind. One, to ensure that tensions do not escalate into open hostilities and, two, to reduce leverage which third countries may exercise over both countries on the pretext of reducing tensions between them. This does not in any way compromise our firm stand against cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. Revival of SAARC could be an added constraint on Pakistan's recourse to terrorism as an instrument of state policy.

Finally, revival of SAARC would also support the Ashraf Ghani government in Kabul in navigating through a difficult and complex peace process involving a Pakistan-sponsored Taliban.

While these are essentially tactical considerations, there is a compelling reality which we ignore at our peril. Whether it is a health crisis like the Covid-19 or climate change, the melting of Himalayan glaciers or rising sea levels, all such challenges are better and more efficiently dealt with through regional cooperation. The Indian Subcontinent is an ecologically integrated entity and only regionally structured and collaborative responses can work.

The writer is former Foreign Secretary and Senior Fellow, CPR

## LONG ROAD TO JUSTICE

Guilty of December 16, 2012, have been hanged. That's their punishment, but the crime is still to be fully confronted

THE "FEARLESS ONE", as she was memorialised in death, was just another young woman in Delhi, out with a friend in the dying days of the year, to watch a film, and then take a bus back home. For the family to whom she did not return that night, for whom December 16, 2012 brought unspeakable pain and injustice, for whom there is little reparation possible for the loss of a daughter, there is, perhaps, finally closure. More than seven years after the mortal sexual assault on the 23-year-old paramedic, four of the six men convicted for the horrific crime were hanged to death on Friday morning — after a legal process that saw them appealing against the verdict of capital punishment in the lower court, High Court, and Supreme Court. The parents of the young woman, especially her mother, have not flinched in seeking justice. Remarkably, in a society steeped in notions of patriarchal shame and honour, they pitched themselves in the public eye, in all their anger and anguish, and refused to let their daughter remain another unnamed rape victim. For them, the judicial execution of the convicted men offers a reprieve from a long nightmare.

For the rest, however, the answers are not as simple. Many political leaders have proclaimed that "justice has finally been done". But the moral and ethical argument against capital punishment remains undimmed. Its tendency to be wielded disproportionately against the poorest and most marginalised and the lack of evidence that it acts as a deterrent against sexual crime blunt this easy, complacent idea of justice. The impatience that greeted the appeals of the convicted, as they exhausted all their legal options against their death sentence, from the public as well as the political class, reflects a longing for "quick", populist justice that imperils the checks and balances in the legal system.

The gangrape and murder of the 23-year-old was a defining moment for Indian women and their survival in a deeply patriarchal society. For the thousands of women who turned up on Delhi's streets on those December days to protest against the crime, it was as if they were marking their rage at a personal violation, at a long-silenced history of being reduced to shadowy citizens, policed at home and violently silenced in public. That roar of outrage was loud enough to force a government to pay heed. It also led to an examination of the many insidious ways in which patriarchy stains social life, from the language that routinely demonises women's desires to the pernicious ways personal relationships hold them in check. It led to the setting up of the Justice Verma Committee, whose recommendations — from a repeal of AFSPA to the criminalisation of marital rape to advising against the death penalty for sexual crime — exhorted the nation to choose systemic change over vengeful laws. That road, if taken, could have led to a much-needed confrontation with hard questions which have been evaded in the spectacle of the execution. A cursory glance at data or headlines in these last seven years will reveal, India is nowhere close to preventing sexual crime against women, nor understanding what toxic breakdowns in society create men willing to violate, maim and rape.

## COLLAPSE IN BHOPAL

Congress cannot seem to hold together, out of power or in it. Madhya Pradesh drama shows BJP in poor light too

IN THE END, it turned out to be a tame Friday in Madhya Pradesh, with Chief Minister Kamal Nath sending his resignation to Governor Lalji Tandon, instead of taking the floor test as directed by the Supreme Court. Evidently, Congress managers failed to win back the 16 MLAs who won on a Congress ticket but chose to stay with Jyotiraditya Scindia when the latter shifted loyalty to the BJP earlier this month. The unseemly and now frequent drama of vaulting ambitions and political hubris staged, mostly behind closed doors, in the backdrop of luxury resorts and speculation of cash rewards, offers a dim view of democracy at work.

The recent events in Bhopal are yet another example of the extreme listlessness and seemingly unstoppable drift in the Congress party. Its leaders, particularly its top leader in MP, Kamal Nath, need to own the blame for this crumbling of a Congress government in a politically crucial Hindi heartland state in a time when Congress governments are a dwindling entity. The BJP may have wooed and won Scindia, but did the Congress leadership, which was surely aware of the disquiet in the MP unit, even try to put its own house in order, especially when the government had a wafer-thin majority? When confronted by a BJP that is ruthless in wresting power even after it has failed to win the mandate, the Congress appears both unprepared and unwilling to do battle. The party has shown a dismal lack of political, organisational and ideological resources to convince its own legislators that it is a party of the future. But as it prepares to take over the reins in MP, the BJP, too, is tarnished. Its predatory behaviour aimed at forming governments in states where it has not won the election — Goa, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh — hurts its claim to be a party with a difference, or principle.

The developments in MP also reveal the limits of the anti-defection law. Ever since the recent Supreme Court ruling in the context of events in Karnataka, a legislator who wants to change sides only needs to fight a by-election to re-enter the House in the same term. Just 15 months after a new assembly was elected, MP will now need to conduct at least 23 by-polls soon. They will be a burden on the exchequer, even as they further dent public trust in the political process.

## REMEMBERING PK

Pradip Kumar Banerjee defined Indian football of a different time, first as player, then as coach

PRADIP KUMAR BANERJEE, recognised by world football's governing body, FIFA, as the greatest Indian footballer of the 20th century, passed away Friday after a prolonged illness at 84. PK, as he was known, belonged to an era when Indian football was still relevant on a global stage; when the salaries were small but the crowds were big; when the players kicked a heavy leather ball on harsh, uneven grounds; when local heroes were revered and European stars weren't household names. It was a different time and PK defined it, first as player, then as coach.

Mostly self-taught, the eldest of seven children of a government employee made his international debut in 1955, aged 19. PK was the first player to be used as an inverted winger in the national team, when Syed Abdul Rahim paired him along with Tulsidas Balram and Chuni Goswami. He could cut in from the wings and score, or stay wide and create chances for the other two. The trio, in the early 1960s, led the Indian national team to arguably one of its best phases. After retirement, PK continued his association with football as a coach, winning every domestic trophy with East Bengal and Mohun Bagan through the '70s, '80s and '90s. A raconteur, he motivated his players, using stories and analogies, and became popular with his man-management skills and ability to read the game.

His exploits as a player — the goal against mighty France at the 1960 Olympics — and as a coach — his Mohun Bagan side holding Pele's New York Cosmos to a draw — will remain part of Indian football folklore. Even after his health deteriorated, PK did not stop caring about Indian football. As a commentator, he continued to lament the rapidly-declining state of local football and constantly suggested ways to reinvigorate it. His demise leaves Indian football a poorer place.



MADHU TREHAN

AS PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi gave his speech and called for a "janata curfew" and clapping in unison, I read comments from young people. On the curfew, "what's this gimmick?", on the clapping, "this is absurd". "Government is checking how much we obey". "Exactly. An obedience test". "Are we obedient cattle?" "Savvy political move to show how everyone listens to Modi".

Speeches, when a leader demands behaviour change from his people, have become pivotal moments in history. PM Modi's was a classic leadership speech: It had inspirational rhetoric a la Winston Churchill before the world war, and a dash of Mahatma Gandhi's call to collective action. Modi knows he's facing the Herculean task of convincing us to follow rules. What he introduced to the nation is a unique and radical concept for Indians. If there are rules, our first instinct is to figure out how to break them. A red light is optional. A queue sets into motion ideas on how to jump it. If entry is barred, there's a way to get in. The government banned spam messages, but it took only two days for companies to find their way around it.

Amazing ways to cheat in exams have been found. Dodging taxes has been the norm. Stealing from your company has been normal. During demonetisation, wealthy people opened accounts in their domestic helps' names. Black money or taxes too high for you? Become an NRI.

## A TIME FOR DISCIPLINE

PM Modi has taken on the Herculean task of convincing us to follow rules

Obedience is anathema to us, particularly this generation, and is taken as curbs on personal freedom. Obedience is also anathema to the wealthy and privileged. Both groups like to be "special". Obeying and doing one thing together makes both groups feel reduced and feel like sheep. We have seen irresponsible behaviour — running away, hiding, and infecting other people. Modi has taken on the impossible task of bringing obedience and discipline to our culture. In war and crises such as this one, making people obey rules is essential.

Hinduism does not have the Ten Commandments or fatwas. Hinduism does not have a founder. We do not have to obey. Hinduism is left for every Hindu to interpret, which accounts for the common occurrence of two priests fighting at a wedding ceremony. The Bhagavad Gita is a dialogue and an argument. There are many interpretations of it and it is left for us to decide who is right. The Vedas set no rules. At their crux is philosophy and lifestyle suggestions. There is a strong Hindu tradition of questioning authority. If there is a debate on Hinduism, it is rare to find a space where all agree. We have an innate culture of individualism, and for centuries, we have learned how to beat a crippling bureaucratic system as a means of survival.

Now, Modi has demanded a behaviour change from us in reference to social distancing in his call for a "janata curfew" on March 22. His second move, asking the nation to clap together, is to demand that we function in unison in a disciplined manner.

Obedience is anathema to us, particularly this generation, and is taken as curbs on personal freedom. Obedience is also anathema to the wealthy and privileged. Both groups like to be "special". Obeying and doing one thing together makes both groups feel reduced and feel like sheep. We have seen irresponsible behaviour — running away, hiding, and infecting other people. Modi has taken on the impossible task of bringing obe-

dience and discipline to our culture. In war and crises such as this one, making people obey rules is essential.

What he has also asked us to do is practise, which is another thing we hate. Why practise? We'll just do it when the time comes. Guess what? Maybe it's not about you this time. Maybe it's about doing everything like everyone else and not feeling that you are losing your individuality or freedom. The larger good means celebrating being ordinary and like everyone else. Your freedom and individuality can be used for unusual methods of social distancing and making creative sounds while clapping.

The clapping call is about learning how to do something together in unison without feeling diminished or silly for obeying. Yes, clapping is silly. But, therein lies the teaching and the lesson. Do it because you've been asked to, like everyone else, even if you're not a Modi fan.

With the economy heading for a battering, job losses, and businesses closing down, Modi is preparing the nation for when he will ask for sacrifices from the people. A sense of nationalism inspires sacrifice, just as when a nation is at war. That's what he's setting the ground for. And maybe people will now listen. With due respect to Arundhati Roy; this is not the time for a Republic of One. This is the time for One Republic.

The writer is a senior journalist



## MARCH 21, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

DECIDING THE CUT-OFF HOME MINISTER ZAIL Singh declared in the Rajya Sabha that the government had no intention to go back on the national consensus on the cut-off date for identifying and deporting foreigners from Assam. The consensus, arrived at an all-party meeting the prime minister had convened in the first week of March, was that 1971 should be the cut-off date. Singh's statement contradicted the earlier statement of minister of state for home, Yogendra Makwana, who had said that the date was negotiable.

BENGAL PROTEST STUDENTS ALL OVER West Bengal abstained

from their classes protesting against "eviction of non-Assamese people" from Assam. The boycott was held jointly by the Chhatra Parishad (I) and the Students' Federation of India. The boycott was peaceful. The final law examination, however, continued undisturbed at various centres including Calcutta University. The West Bengal Congress (I) president, Ajit Panja, urged his partymen to see that nothing was done to prejudice negotiations initiated by the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, in solving Assam problems. He said that everybody in West Bengal was agitated over Assam incidents but the agitation must be peaceful. Janata leader P C Sen said that the West Bengal Yuba Janata has

planned a "peace march" to Assam to bring unity among different linguistic groups.

NUCLEAR FUEL OPTIONS THOUGH ALTERNATIVE AVENUES for obtaining nuclear fuel for the Tarapur Reactor exist, the Union government feels that the time has not yet come to use those alternatives. Neither has any decision been taken to abrogate the contract under which the US supplies nuclear fuel to Tarapur. External Affairs Minister P V Narasimha Rao rejected the suggestion of the Lok Dal leader George Fernandes in Parliament that the government should tell the US to "go to hell, we are not interested in your fuel".

# Let's be frank on secularism

Minorities, too, are fed up with this facade of secularism, with all state institutions tilting towards one religion. Perhaps some kind of Hindu rashtra can bring peace — but the fanatics won't be impressed



FAIZAN MUSTAFA

THE SO-CALLED HIGH and impregnable walls between state and religion are now collapsing in India. Slogans like "goli maro," and "Hindus are under threat" are catching the people's imagination. So, let us be frank, we are losing patience with Nehruvian secularism. In his victory speech after the Lok Sabha election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi mocked his opponents by saying that no political party could muster the courage to even mention the word secularism while campaigning.

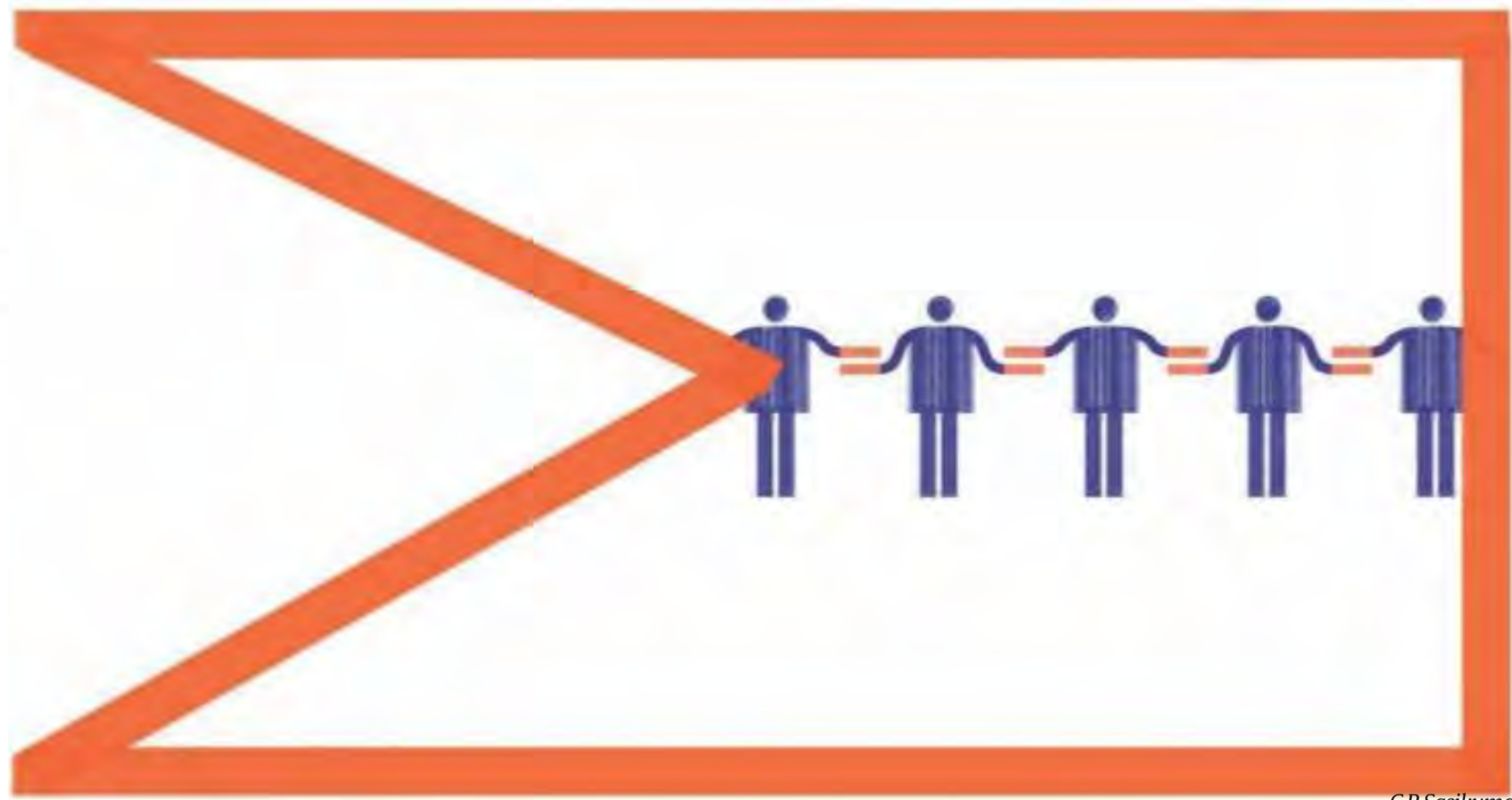
After the systematic targeting of religious minorities, increase in lynching cases, the partisan attitude of police during communal riots, the use of religious symbols in public discourse and the raising of slogans, "Jai Shri Ram" and "Allah-o-Akbar", in Parliament, we have now, for the first time, added a religious test to the procedure of granting citizenship.

Secularism demonstrates modernity and remains the best option for any progressive nation. Is it not a fact that it made us a global power and Pakistan a failed state? Nepal saw merit in it and has become a secular state. But if Hindus really feel threatened from Muslims and Christians, we must address their concerns and not shy away from discussing the possibility of a Hindu rashtra. Minorities, too, are now fed up with this facade of secularism, with all state institutions tilting towards one religion. Perhaps some kind of Hindu rashtra can help us bring peace and save the country from the path of self-destruction.

We have several models from modern democracies to choose from, such as the Christian states of England, Ireland, and Greece, the Jewish state of Israel, Muslim states like Pakistan and Bangladesh and the Buddhist state of Sri Lanka. A Hindu rashtra will certainly sound the death knell of the idea of India that celebrated diversity and will lower our international standing, but minorities should not worry too much about it. Just like several other modern theocracies, a Hindu rashtra could guarantee substantial rights to religious minorities. It will not be based on the Manusmriti and will uphold modern ideas of human rights, particularly the right to equality and non-discrimination.

Hindutva fanatics will be hugely disappointed to know that the Hindu rashtra will not be entirely different from the current secular state. It will neither disenfranchise religious minorities nor will it take over their religious places or deny them the right to property, nor will it deport Muslims to Pakistan. Legally speaking, the declaration of a Hindu rashtra would merely require a 15-judge Supreme Court bench to overrule the basic structure limitation on the Parliament's power to amend the Constitution.

Many experts have been writing that since India has not seen religious wars and the church-state conflict, secularism was an alien concept. Indians are essentially religious and, therefore, the wall that separates the state and church is inappropriate for us. In fact, that's why Indian secularism talks of equal respect for all religions. There are two models of secularism — the non-establishment or the separation of the church and state model (USA, France) that India adopted and the jurisdiction model of England, Ireland and Greece. Nehruvian secularism intended to achieve the former. Under the sep-



CR Sasikumar

aration model, the state and church are expected to be hostile to each other but in the jurisdiction model, the two may co-exist — therefore, it is possible to have a Hindu rashtra even under the secular model.

Since we are dissatisfied with the separation model, the European jurisdiction model could be our first option, if we want to become a Hindu rashtra. The Anglican Church is the official Church of England and the queen is the defender of faith. We, too, may declare Hinduism to be the official religion of the state and, like England, give equal rights to all citizens ensuring freedom of religion and prohibiting discrimination on the basis of religion. The Irish Constitution offers another model. The preamble begins with the name of the most holy trinity. But the state cannot endow any religion or discriminate on religious grounds. The 1937 Constitution did give a special status to the Catholic church, but the same was deleted in 1972.

Article 3 of the Greek Constitution declares the Greek orthodox church as the "dominant religion". The opening words of the preamble are - "In the name of Holy, Consubstantial and Undivided Trinity". Article 33 requires that the President and MPs shall take oath in the name of Holy Trinity. But, Article 4 talks of the right to equality. Article 5(2) guarantees right to life, liberty and honour without any discrimination on the basis of religion and accords freedom of religion to all faiths. The Muslims of Western Thrace have, in fact, the right to elect their own mufti (religious and judicial officer) and their disputes are resolved in accordance with Islamic law. They have an option of going to civil courts or sharia courts.

Israel does not have a written Constitution. But its basic law guarantees human dignity, liberty, equality and freedom of religion. The Jewish Democratic state has an arrangement to unite the synagogue with the state. In its original form, Zionism was all about civic nationalism. By the 1970s, Israeli identity was converted into Jewish identity. Interestingly, it has achieved secularisation without secularism. It gives a number of rights to its minorities. All religious groups have their own religious laws and courts. Arabic is the second state language. In fact, Sharia courts have more powers than Jewish, Christian and Druze courts and their decisions are executed like verdicts of civil courts. Arabs are mentioned as Arab-Israeli citizens.

One hopes that we will not prove Shashi Tharoor right and go Pakistan's way. Pakistan's Constitution starts with "In the name of Allah, the most beneficent, the mer-

citul". Article 2 declares Islam as the state religion. Only a Muslim can occupy high constitutional office. But even its Constitution, in the preamble itself, lays down that "adequate provision shall be made for the minorities to freely profess, practise their religion and develop their culture". There is a provision that laws that are inconsistent with the state religion are to be struck down as unconstitutional, but Article 227(3) exempts the personal law of minorities from this repugnancy provision. Thus, Pakistan can never enact a Uniform Civil Code. Moreover, Article 36 says that the state shall safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of minorities, including their due representation in federal and provincial services. Accordingly, the Constitution reserves seats for them. If we go the Pakistan way, will we agree to such a reservation?

Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are much better options. Even though secularism was one of the fundamental principles of Bangladesh's original constitution, it was deleted in 1977 by General Ziaur Rahman. Islam was declared the state religion in 1988. But in 2010, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh restored secularism as one of the basic features of the Constitution. In 2011, the Constitution was amended and the term "secular" was reinserted.

Though Article 9 of the Sri Lankan Constitution falls short of declaring Buddhism as the state religion, it does give "Buddhism" the "foremost place" and puts an obligation on the state to protect and foster, "Buddha Sasana". It not only guarantees freedom of religion, but, unlike India, Article 10 gives "freedom to have or adopt a religion or belief of his choice". Minorities are governed by their personal laws and sharia courts function within the premises of regular courts.

If we are really fed up with the separation model of secularism and want to adopt the jurisdiction model with India being declared a Hindu rashtra or giving Hinduism the status of dominant spiritual heritage, we must ensure that it brings with it genuine liberalism, substantive equality, modernity and, above all, state responsibility towards religious minorities with the guarantee of freedom and cultural autonomy. If even this cannot bring to an end the project of hate and polarisation, we have no option but to strengthen our original concept of secularism and work towards the emancipation of state from religion.

Hindutva fanatics will be hugely disappointed to know that the Hindu rashtra will not be entirely different from the current secular state. It will neither disenfranchise religious minorities nor will it take over their religious places or deny them the right to property, nor will it deport Muslims to Pakistan. Legally speaking, the declaration of a Hindu rashtra would merely require a 15-judge Supreme Court bench to overrule the basic structure limitation on the Parliament's power to amend the Constitution.

The writer is vice chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad

## WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"An extension to the [Brexit] transition period will surely have to be sought. Only obsolete doctrine and the prime minister's vanity are against it. Those obstacles can and must be set aside."

— THE GUARDIAN

# Get a step ahead of the virus

Coronavirus could become endemic after pandemic recedes. Healthcare system should be prepared to prevent that



T JACOB JOHN

THE RAPID spread of the zoonotic (transmitted from animal-to-human) coronavirus infection in Wuhan in China — several hundreds every day — in December 2019 and January 2020 was a clear signal that COVID-19 is drastically different from its nearest relative, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) coronavirus, and its distant relative, the Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) coronavirus. The former spread slowly among humans in 2002-2003. It was checked globally within nine months by screening passengers and quarantining travellers from infected countries. There have been no cases since July 2003. MERS coronavirus is, by and large, an inefficient spreader — it has been confined to the Middle-East.

In contrast, COVID-19 has assumed a pandemic form. In less than three months, it has reached more than 180 countries and claimed more than 10,000 lives. The disease has claimed more people in Italy than in the country of its origin. Travel bans, screening travellers and quarantines are necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19. However, there is a limit to the utility of these measures. When the infection becomes widespread, screening procedures will become inefficient — the virus will spread stealthily. Indigenous transmission — the virus spreading within communities — has begun in many countries. This is typical of viruses that spread from human to human through the respiratory system.

How should India's health management system minimise the disease burden and deaths due to communicable diseases — endemic or newly emerging? How do other countries address epidemics? Countries like China, Japan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Malaysia have transplanted modern medicine, a European cultural product, without any local cultural misgivings. Medicine consists of three components — universal healthcare, public health, and research to constantly contextualise solutions to local problems. Many of us in India believe that disease is a matter of fate or karma and disease prevention is not always in human hands — we only react after falling ill. So therapeutics and surgeries — healthcare interventions — are valued much, but not disease prevention and control.

Attitudes and cultural beliefs do matter. If victims are somehow regarded as responsible for their maladies, universal healthcare is perceived as an optional service — not mandatory. There are good reasons for such thinking to change. Every person who contracts a communicable disease stands the risk of spreading it to others. At the same time, the state, too, is responsible for the spread of diseases by not mitigating the environmental and social risk factors or determinants. Prevention of disease is the state's duty.

Healthy people create wealth. For example, every year, uncontrolled tuberculosis drains India's economy of the equivalent

of the GDP of roughly 2 million people. Investment in health, therefore, can have implications for the country's economy. But Indians have never really demanded an effective public health system. Healthcare has never become a political slogan. That's one reason for the sorry state of India's public health system.

The country does have international obligations to control TB, malaria and leprosy, and eliminate polio. In the absence of an effective public health system, the country has depended on fulfilling these obligations through ad hoc measures that are targeted towards one disease. Robust public health systems are needed to prevent typhoid, cholera, dysentery, leptospirosis, brucellosis, water-borne hepatitis and influenza.

The absence of an effective preventive element means that healthcare services in the public sector are over-burdened with uncontrolled communicable diseases. This encourages private sector healthcare providers to step in, which brings in problems related to unregulated profits. Questions are often raised over the quality of service. Moreover, uncontrolled communicable diseases vie with the non-communicable ones for the healthcare provider's attention. The COVID-19 outbreak could compound the system's problems.

The SARS and Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala in 2018 were crises that required short bursts of professional activity. Our healthcare systems coped with them. But endemic diseases, even influenza, that has a vaccine, require sustained interventions. Herein lies the test for the country's healthcare system. It has often been seen that the system is not able to sustain its initial momentum. There is a possibility that COVID-19 could follow the path taken by the H1N1 influenza - after the epidemic died down, the disease became endemic. The country's healthcare system has to prepare for that. In other words, it has to be one step ahead of the virus.

Every district hospital must be equipped to diagnose infections caused by serious communicable diseases — these affect the lungs, brain, liver and kidneys. The system should also ensure that healthcare personnel do not get infected. The country needs to allocate 5 per cent of the GDP to the health budget to have a health management system that can take care of public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 outbreak — and its aftermath.

A unified command and control machinery, under the prime minister's guidance, to control the spread of COVID-19 is overdue by at least six weeks in the country. The tasks of the Directorate-General of Health Services, National Centre for Disease Control, Indian Council of Medical Research, National Health Mission and state health ministries must be clearly defined. Most importantly, a mechanism for coordination between these agencies should be set up to deal with the COVID-19 threat.

The COVID-19 pandemic has repercussions beyond the biomedical sector — it impinges on industry, transport, finance, banking and education sectors. All of them must act in unison.

The writer is a former head of the Indian Council for Medical Research's Centre for Advanced Research in Virology and an emeritus professor at the Christian Medical College, Vellore



KHALED AHMED

# Still second-class citizens

In 21st century Pakistan, women continue to be denied agency, rights

ON MARCH 8, women took out a procession in Islamabad on International Women's Day under a banner saying, "My Body My Choice" (Mera Jism Meri Marzi). The march, called Aurat March, was attacked by a crowd of men aligned with the religious parties and the infamous Red Mosque of Islamabad. Some protesting women were injured but the event created the sort of repercussions they wanted. They wanted their right to come out from the tyranny of men, especially regarding their bodies.

The government of Prime Minister Imran Khan got scared and stayed away, saying the reference to "body" in the slogan offended Islamic edicts. Among most Muslims, reference to the female "body" (jism) only means fornication. Misogyny is rampant in Pakistan and the Islamic world. In the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Gender Gap Index Report 2020, Pakistan is ranked 151 out of 153 countries, indicating a dismal record on human rights for women. It is placed at the very bottom of the seven South Asian countries included in the Index.

Women are called "aurat", which means "something shameful" in Arabic, which is perhaps why the Arabs don't use the word

any more. In Iran, where the clergy rules, their status is pathetic. Lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh, who had dedicated her life to defending Iranian women punished for removing their hijabs in public, and was in the crosshairs of Iran's theocratic government for years, has been sentenced to a total of 38 years in prison and 148 lashes by a court presided over by a bearded cleric in 2019. (It was a "secret trial".)

In Pakistan, most women living away from big cities have to survive in a hostile environment. Almost half of Pakistan's 225 million population comprises women, which means half of Pakistan is getting a raw deal in the 21st century. The story of Qandeel Baloch from South Punjab, who was murdered by her brother in 2016, is soul-searing. She was a model and TV actor from a region infested with madrasas and nonstate actors fighting Pakistan's illegal wars. She was not actually Qandeel Baloch. She changed her name from Fauzia Azeem to Qandeel. She leaned on sexual provocation to become popular. She appeared in seductive videos that became viral on the internet till she got included in Google's list of the "top ten Pakistanis most searched for online" in 2015.

Qandeel was born in 1990 in the family of a peasant in village Shah Sadar Din in Dera Ghazi Khan district of Multan division. She had many brothers and sisters growing up in an environment described by the Asian Development Bank as "the least developed division of Pakistan, with more than 50 per cent of the population below the poverty line".

She had hardly started going to school when she was married off at the age of 12 to an oaf who beat her to validate his manhood until she was forced to leave him and her born-between-beatings son. In time, she ran away from Shah Sadar Din, deciding to survive the challenge of her foredoomed life. She became rebellious, refusing to accept passively the values she was expected to uphold as a receptacle of honour in a dehumanised culture.

A brother rang from the Gulf telling her other brother Waseem to get rid of her because she had dishonoured the family. Yet, her humanity made her send her mother Rs 10,000 every month, in contrast to her brothers who let the old couple starve. She helped her sisters and bought them expensive gifts with the money she earned from showbiz. When Waseem strangled her to death in July

2016, her parents didn't stand with him. Both spoke to the police in her favour, praising her humanity and caring nature and were not convinced that she had violated their honour.

That year, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan announced that there were 326 honour killings in Pakistan, of which 312 victims were women: The most common motive appeared to be retribution or punishment for illicit relations and ignoble marriage choice. It declared: "Of the 326 murders, 67 were committed by a husband or ex-partner; 64 by siblings; 41 by parents; 30 by other relatives; 15 by in-laws; and 10 by the deceased's son or daughter."

In 1947, a Muslim girl had half a right in the witness-stand and inherited half of what her brother inherited. She was better off than the Hindu girl who inherited nothing. Then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru changed the law: The Hindu girl inherited equally with her brother, but the Muslims stuck to their sharia and refused the reform. Today, a Hindu girl in India is legally a full citizen; a Muslim girl remains a second-class citizen.

The writer is consulting editor, Newsweek Pakistan

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### WELCOME INITIATIVE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Why the Azad Samaj Party' (IE, March 20). The social churning following the Mandal agitation expanded the support base of parties like the BSP, SP and RJD. However, these parties could not grow beyond a point because they also failed to promote those castes who are either lower in the hierarchy or thinly distributed. The Azad Samaj Party's attempts to bridge this gap will be worth watching in the coming days.

L.R. Murmu, Delhi

### THREE APPEALS

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'The prescription' (IE, March 19). PM Narendra Modi made three sensible appeals to the nation. He urged firms to not deduct wages of employees. He asked people to avoid contact and suggested that families to take care of the elders. The PM has also called for a Janata curfew. These steps should mobilise the nation against the pandemic.

Adish Bohra, Ujjain

### INDEPENDENT?

THIS IS REFERS TO the article, 'Protesting too much' (IE, March 20). The writer has suggested that the appointment of for-

### LETTER OF THE WEEK

#### HOPE FOR VALLEY

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Incomplete step' (IE, March 16). The release of former J&K CM Farooq Abdullah after seven months of detention is welcome. The Centre has not offered any reason for its decision, but the move could be seen as part of a strategy to deal better with the situation that has emerged after the scrapping of Article 370. This calls for the release of all detained leaders and engagement with them.

Amjadullah Abuzar, Bajpatti

mer CJI Ranjan Gogoi to the Rajya Sabha will add to the quality of law enacted by the House. The article notes that Gogoi will be an independent MP. On the face of it, this is correct. But the process of appointment of independent MPs is different. The President does so with the advise of the Council of Ministers. So, which Council of Ministers will recommend the name of a person who is likely to oppose a decision of the government?

Srikant Mannur, Pune

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

# How far are we from COVID-19 drugs, vaccine?

Scientists around the world are looking for a vaccine and drugs to combat the novel coronavirus. What are these various approaches and the signals so far?

**ABANTIKA GHOSH**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

AS THE world cocoons itself against the novel coronavirus, scientists are at work around the world for development of vaccines and therapeutics.

**How soon can a drug or a vaccine be expected?**

We are still months away from a vaccine. In a recent interview to *The Indian Express*, WHO chief scientist Dr Soumya Swaminathan said: "if everything goes really well, we would probably have a vaccine in the next 12-18 months but even after that there would be the question of availability of sufficient doses. We are probably looking at an 18-24 month window for that."

Drug and vaccine development is an elaborate process. Zeroing in on a candidate drug or vaccine may take years. Once a new drug has passed testing in animals, clinical trials kick in. Over three phases, its safety and efficacy have to be tested as per protocols. A fourth stage involves collection and analysis of post-marketing data.

However, the novel coronavirus is from a family on which work is already being done

worldwide after SARS and MERS. "A lot of existing vaccine development efforts can be modified a little bit so we are not exactly starting from scratch... However on the vaccines it may be at least six months before the first data starts coming in - there is always a probability that it will not be a success also. On the treatment side, there may be some news about the ritonavir- lopinavir combination (both are anti-HIV drugs) any time now. The idea is to wait for the data on efficacy of existing antivirals and see how much better we make them," said Dr Anurag Agarwal, director, CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology.

**Where are we in the hunt for a drug?**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced SOLIDARITY, a multi-arm, multi-country clinical trial to look for the best treatment against COVID-19. It will test the antiviral drug remdesivir; a combination of HIV drugs lopinavir and ritonavir; lopinavir and ritonavir plus interferon beta; and the antimalarial drug chloroquine. So far Argentina, Bahrain, Canada, France, Iran, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, and Thailand have signed up.

**REMDESIVIR:** According to Dr Swaminathan, the most promising trial is the

one on remdesivir under the aegis of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH). Trials have begun on adult patients with COVID-19 hospitalised at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. "The first trial participant is an American who was repatriated after being quarantined on the Diamond Princess cruise ship that docked in Yokohama, Japan and volunteered to participate in the study," the NIH said. Remdesivir, developed by Gilead Sciences Inc, was previously tested in humans with Ebola virus disease and has also shown promise against MERS and SARS.

**LOPINAVIR + RITONAVIR:** India has had its own experience with a combination of these second-line HIV drugs - 12 people recovered without antivirals (one later died; this is not being officially counted as a COVID-19 death). Around the world, trials are under way. In a paper in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, Chinese researchers reported a mortality of 22% in severely ill patients who had been administered the lopinavir-ritonavir combination, higher than the 11% to 14.5% mortality reported in initial descriptive studies. The researchers concluded: "No benefit was observed with lopinavir-ritonavir treatment beyond standard care."

**CHLOROQUINE:** In a paper pending peer

review, researchers from China's Sun Yat-sen University reported an ongoing study using the lopinavir-ritonavir combination along with chloroquine. The drugs are being administered to eligible patients between February 12 and May 31. "Earlier studies have shown that chloroquine can inhibit coronavirus replication through multiple mechanisms. Our previous use of chloroquine to treat patients with SARS-CoV-2 (novel coronavirus)-infected pneumonia has a higher negative rate of nucleic acid in throat swabs within 5 days after administration than that using lopinavir/ritonavir," the researchers said.

**FAVIPRAVI:** This is a drug used in Japan to treat new strains of influenza. Media quoted China's science and technology authorities as saying the drug, developed by a subsidiary of Fujifilm, appeared to be effective in coronavirus patients. Patients given the medicine were reported to have turned negative after a median of four days, compared with a median of 11 days for those not given the drug.

**NEW POSSIBILITIES:** Efforts are also on to develop a drug from scratch. At the Quantitative Biosciences Institute in the University of California, San Francisco, researchers are identifying proteins inside the cell that the virus uses to set its replication

machinery rolling. They are now exploring if targeting any of these proteins would halt the march of the virus.

**How far has work on a vaccine progressed?**

**US:** A Phase 1 clinical trial has begun in Seattle, funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). "The open-label trial will enroll 45 healthy adult volunteers ages 18 to 55 years over approximately 6 weeks. The first participant received the investigational vaccine today," the NIH said in a statement. The vaccine, mRNA-1273, was developed by NIAID scientists and collaborators at the biotech company Moderna.

**CHINA:** Researchers at the Academy of Military Medical Sciences, affiliated to China's People's Liberation Army, have received approval for vaccine trials, which will recruit 108 people between March and December. It will be partnered by Hong Kong-listed firm CanSino Biologics. According to an article in the *People's Daily*, scientists are exploring options such as using the virus minus its potent elements, or using other attenuated (rendered harmless) vaccines, to introduce the virus into the body to generate a natural immune response against an actual infection.

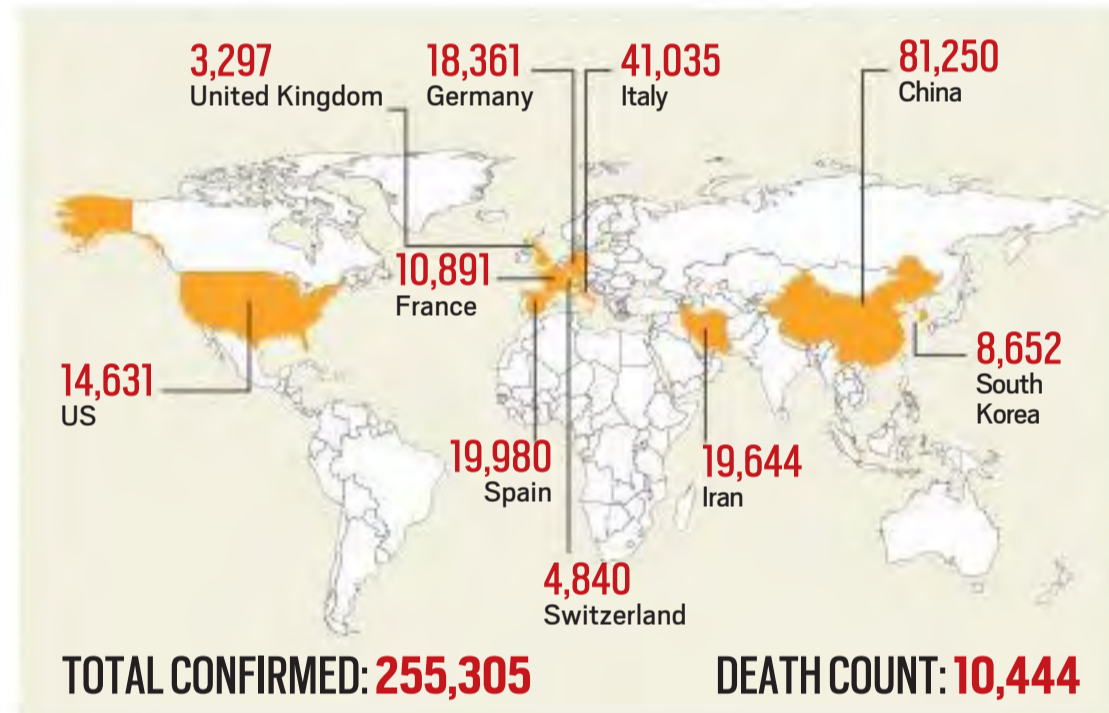
**What has been India's experience?**

Last week, doctors at the SMS Hospital in Jaipur administered the lopinavir-ritonavir combination on an Italian couple, aged 70 and 69, after they had been put on ventilators. Both were discharged after testing negative twice for the virus, as per the established protocol. The man died on Friday. Replying to a question, Lav Agarwal, joint secretary in the Health Ministry, said: "The Italian tourist who died in Jaipur was a 70-year-old chain smoker; he had tested negative for the coronavirus twice. He died of cardiac arrest while getting treatment for other ailments in another hospital. How can he be counted as a COVID-19 case?"

The government has revised its clinical management guidelines for COVID-19: "The use of Lopinavir/Ritonavir in PEP regimens for HIV (4 weeks) is also associated with significant adverse events which many a times leads to discontinuation of therapy. In light of the above, Lopinavir/Ritonavir should ONLY be used with proper informed expressed consent on a case to case basis for severe cases, within the under-mentioned framework along with supportive treatment as per need." The combination is to be used in patients who have hypoxia, hypotension, new onset organ dysfunction (one or more) and also in certain "high risk groups".

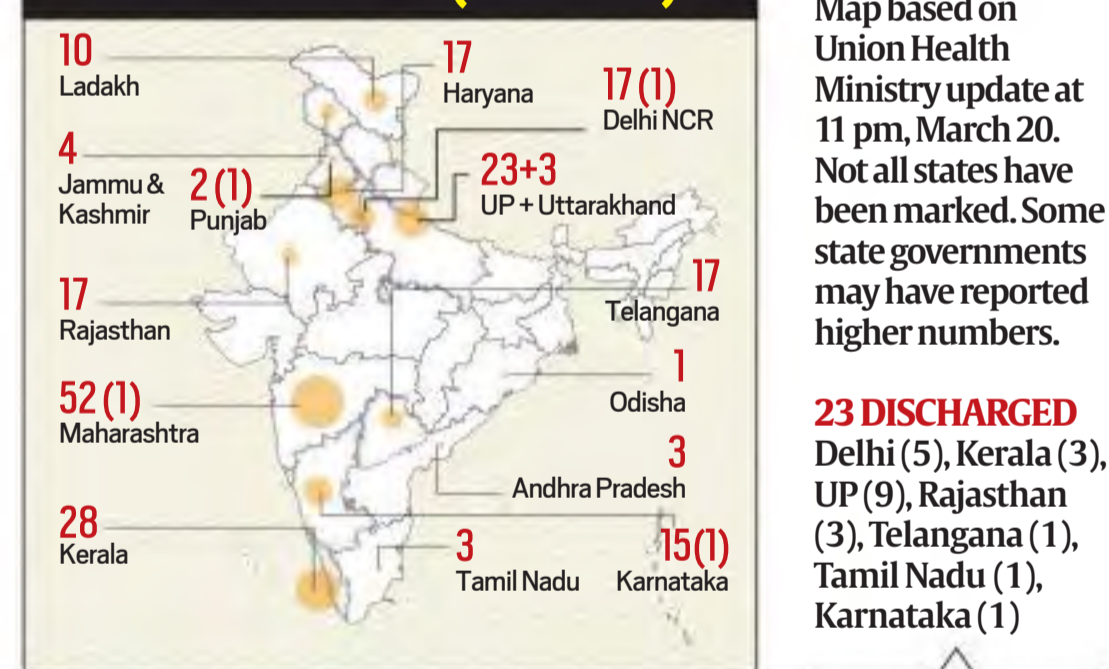
**CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK**

DAILY GLOBAL AND INDIA COUNTS



Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11 pm on March 20

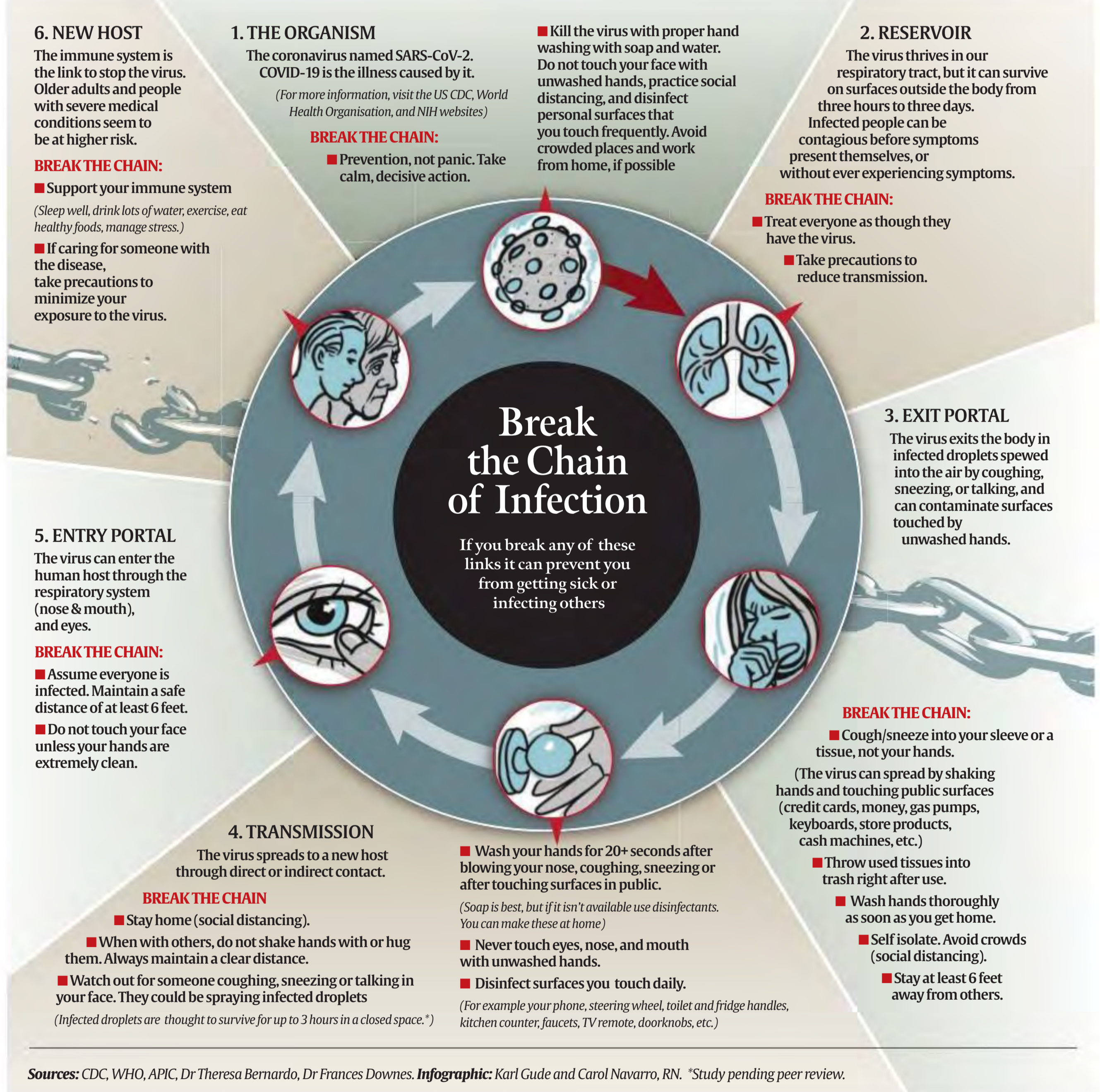
**CORONA COUNT: 223 (4 DEATHS)**



Map based on Union Health Ministry update at 11 pm, March 20. Not all states have been marked. Some state governments may have reported higher numbers.

**23 DISCHARGED**  
Delhi (5), Kerala (3), UP (9), Rajasthan (3), Telangana (1), Tamil Nadu (1), Karnataka (1)

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



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# In health & healthcare, where India stands among countries hit by COVID-19

**KARISHMA MEHROTRA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE COVID-19 outbreak has put the spotlight on several country-specific health indicators. A look at how India stands on pre-existing health conditions, age, and healthcare capacity:

**Pre-existing health conditions**

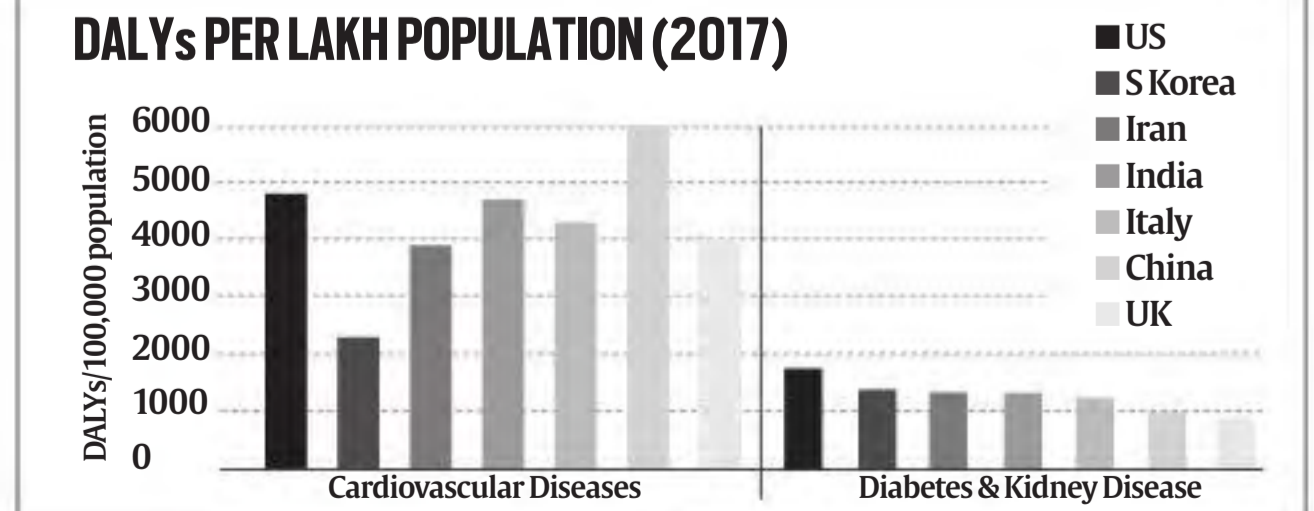
EARLY RESEARCH from Italy and China suggests that COVID-19 patients who died those countries were more likely to have had pre-existing health conditions, namely diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and cardiovascular diseases. While experts have not yet finally concluded how exactly country-wide indicators interact with the spread of the outbreak, one factor may be these underlying diseases.

In comparison to six of the countries significantly affected by the outbreak - China, South Korea, Iran, Italy, the United Kingdom,

and the United States - India has a higher burden of cardiovascular diseases than four of these countries, but lower than China and the US. For diabetes and kidney disease, India has a higher burden than Italy, China, and the UK, but lower than Iran, South Korea, and the US.

The Global Burden of Disease data measure the burden in terms of "disability-adjusted life years (DALYs)", which is defined as the number of years of healthy life lost. According to research body Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation,

India's cardiovascular disease burden in 2017 was 4,716 DALYs per 100,000 population, way behind China (6,020) and close to the US (4,814). India is followed by Italy (4,350), UK (4,005), and Iran (3,911). South Korea has a very low burden with cardiovascular diseases, at 2,340 DALYs per 100,000 population. It was also one of the countries to experience heavy contraction of COVID-19 but not as many deaths as in the other hardest hit countries.



For diabetes and kidney disease, India was at 1,340 DALYs per 100,000 in 2017. Countries with a higher burden are the US (1,779), South Korea (1,447), and Iran (1,356), while Italy (1,266), China (1,068), and the UK (913) have a lower burden than India. More than two-thirds of the deaths from COVID-19 in Italy, whose healthcare systems

cardiovascular disease, and diabetes." Research from Wuhan showed patients who developed acute respiratory distress syndrome after contracting COVID-19 had a mean age of 61 years and were more likely to have diabetes, chronic kidney disease, and cerebrovascular disease.

**Indians are younger**

There is varying research about the age distribution of those hospitalised for COVID-19. According to the research in *The Lancet*, the mean age of patients who died due to COVID-19 in Italy was 81 years. Again, of 1,590 hospitalised patients from across China, the mean age was 48.9 years.

The first descriptive research about COVID-19 patients in the US, released by the CDC, found that fatalities were highest amongst those above 85 (10 to 27 per cent). Nearly a third of all cases, 45 per cent of hospitalisations, and 80 per cent of deaths were of patients above 65. Six per cent of India's population is above

65 and more than a quarter is 14 or below. Iran has a similarly young population, with 5.4% above 65 and a little less than a quarter below 14. India's under-14 population is the higher than the other six countries, World Bank data show.

Italy (23%), UK (18.5%), and US (15.4%) have a high population share of the eldest category. South Korea (13.9%) and China (10.6%) too have heavier elderly populations than India.

**Healthcare capacity**

The World Health Organization tracks country-wise data on hospital beds per 10,000 people. India stands at the lowest among the seven countries, at seven. Iran has 15, UK 28, US 29, Italy 34, China 42, South Korea 143. There are currently 15,980 isolation beds and 37,326 quarantine beds available in India, according to the Ministry of Health. In other words, there is one isolation bed for every 84,000 Indians, and one quarantine bed for every 36,000 Indians.

# Defence ministry out with new draft procurement policy

**KRISHNA KAUSHIK**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE DEFENCE Ministry on Friday released a draft of its new procurement policy, which, for the first time, allows for lease of defence equipment, pushes for more indigenous content and brings in after-sales support under the contract of capital acquisition.

The draft Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2020 aims to increase indigenous manufacturing and expedite procurement of defence equipment.

Unveiling the draft, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said, "Our aim is to make India self-reliant and a global manufacturing hub. The government is constantly striving to formulate policies to empower the private industry including MSMEs in order to develop the eco-system for indigenous defence production."

"The defence industry of India is a strategically important sector having huge potential for growth. It needs to be the catalyst for India's economic growth and realisation of our global ambitions," he added.

"With the experience gained by the industry and the Ministry of Defence, it is now time to take further steps to strengthen 'Make in India' initiative, refine life cycle support of procured equipment and platforms and hasten the defence acquisition process by further simplifying the procedures & reducing the overall procurement timelines," Rajnath said.

The Draft Defence Procurement Procedure 2020 will increase the indigenous content for various categories of equipment by 10 per cent. It has also introduced a new category of Buy Global-Manufacture in India, under which a minimum

of 50 per cent indigenous content on cost basis of total contract value will be necessary. The Defence Ministry said that "only the minimum necessary will be bought from abroad while the balance quantities will be manufactured in India" and manufacturing will happen in India.

It will also have a 'price variation clause' for any project worth Rs 1,000 crore or more, with a delivery schedule of 60 months or more "to cater for the escalation of price from the last date of submission of bids till the finalisation" of the negotiations. The leasing model, included for the first time, will help substitute huge initial capital outlays with periodical rental payments and will be useful for equipment like transport fleets, trainers etc that are not used in warfare. The Lessor could be Indian of a global entity, the draft said.

Another chapter in the draft is for procurement of software and systems-related projects because in projects like these "obsolescence is very fast due to rapid changes in technology and flexibility in the procurement process is required to keep up with the technology".

The other significant addition is the Post Contract Management, which will provide clear guidelines for issues arising during the contract period as typically defence contracts last for a long period. The capital acquisition contract will also include support for five years beyond the warranty period.

A high-level review committee headed by DG Acquisition and created in August 2019 had recommended these changes based on the recommendations of stakeholders, including from the private industry. The ministry has uploaded the draft, seeking further suggestions within April 17.

# 'Mumbo-jumbo': HC quashes Kamra plea against flying ban

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE DELHI High Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea by stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra against the flying ban imposed on him by Indigo, Vistara and other airlines. The court disapproved his conduct on the flight and observed that it "cannot be permitted on an airline".

Justice Naveen Chawla also said that it was not going to entertain Kamra's matter, as multiple causes of action had been raised in the petition before it.

The court further declined the comedian's counsel's oral prayer for an interim direction permitting him to fly on any of the airlines, as irreparable damage would be caused to him if he is unable to travel for a show, family occasion or a medical emergency, especially in the current scenario, when even rail travel has been restricted due to coronavirus.

Justice Chawla declined to issue any interim direction and observed that the petition was not maintainable as there was an alternate remedy available of approaching the appellate authority and his behaviour in the flight was "not allowed".

The judge said: "If you ask me, it is certainly not allowed. You cannot heckle passengers like this. Due to your actions, other passengers left their seats to come and see what was go-



The Delhi High Court disapproved of Kunal Kamra's conduct.

ing on."

The court further said the petition had mixed up several causes of action, like challenging Indigo's internal committee decision and also Vistara's decision, leading to it becoming a "jumbo-mumbo".

"This petition appears to be interested in something else. If he was interested in flying, he would have come in a proper manner. It appears to be done to get publicity," the court remarked.

Sensing the mood of the court, Kamra's counsel sought permission to withdraw the petition and approach the appellate authority against the three-month flying ban by Indigo's internal committee.

Allowing the same, the court said if there was a delay by the appellate authority in addressing their petition for an interim relief, the comedian can move the High Court.

# Apex court stays Kerala HC order restraining recovery of dues, taxes

**PRESSTRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE SUPREME Court Friday stayed a Kerala High Court order asking authorities not to levy taxes and recover bank dues from people till April 6 in view of the coronavirus pandemic.

A bench, headed by Justice A M Khanwilkar, took note of the submissions of Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who was appearing for the Centre, that the Kerala High Court order needed to be stayed as there cannot be a blanket order.

Restraint on recovery of taxes will put the government at prejudice due to the closure of financial year on March 31, Mehta said, adding that there is a mechanism

for making online payment of taxes. There is no need at all for the high courts to pass such an order, which effectively stops people from paying taxes, he said.

Mehta contended that even people who would have volunteered to pay the taxes and file returns will stop doing so in wake of the high court orders. He said they have exceeded their jurisdiction and encroached upon the powers of the government to take policy decisions.

The top court, while issuing notice to the petitioners before the high court, directed the registry to accept the Centre's appeals against the judgment and order(s) passed by the Kerala and Allahabad High Court. "In the meantime, there shall be ex-parte ad-interim stay of the impugned

judgment and order(s) passed in the aforesaid writ petitions and of further proceedings before the High Court(s)," the bench said.

The top court recorded the submission of the Solicitor General that the government is fully conscious of the prevailing situation due to coronavirus and would itself evolve a proper mechanism to assuage concerns and hardships of everyone.

In its plea, the Centre said: "The order passed by the high courts is in violation of the doctrine of separation of powers in as much as it encroaches upon the functions of the Executive and is opposed to the basic framework of the Constitution of India."

It said the directions of the high courts amount to judicial legislation in as much as the na-

ture of broad directions passed are purely in the realm of a policy decision, which can be taken only by the government of India in consultation with various experts of the relevant fields.

The Centre in its plea also said that the high courts have failed to consider that if banks cannot recover loans, the cash problems that occur later would limit their capacity to give further loans and will have far reaching consequences on the economy.

The plea said the high courts failed to consider that there is no legal ground behind deferring all recoveries since many of the taxes are required to be paid online without human contact. It said that the decision to defer recoveries will lead to severe cash flow and liquidity crisis.

# Dharamshala owner booked for lodging foreigners, not informing police

**MANISH SAHU**  
LUCKNOW, MARCH 20

MATHURA POLICE have booked the owner and manager of a dharamshala for allegedly failing to furnish information about 20 Russian nationals who were staying there for the last five days. Police said the manager also allegedly failed to produce legal documents required to operate the dharamshala.

The foreigners were tested for the novel coronavirus and allowed to leave Mathura after reports turned out to be negative. All of them were carrying valid documents, police said.

The dharamshala's owner Ramesh Chandra Agarwal and manager Ram Prakash Tiwari — residents of Madhya Pradesh — were booked under Section 7 of the Foreigners Act in a case filed at the Goverdhan police station. Goverdhan SHO Lokesh Bhati said the local intelligence unit (LIU) lodged an FIR stating that they were informed about an illegal dharamshala being run from a house located in the push locality of Parikrama Marg.

No arrest has been made, the illegal structure has not been sealed, and police are waiting for Ramesh Chandra to record his statement, Bhati said. He said they are yet to verify the year when the dharamshala was set up.

Police said a team from the medical department later sanitised the building.

"They (foreigners) were allowed to go only after their medical report confirmed that they are fit," said Goverdhan Circle Officer Jitendra Kumar.

When the police reached the dharamshala on Wednesday, the manager told them they have 12 rooms and 10 were occupied — each at a cost of Rs 500. Police checked the room and found 20 foreigners — all from Russia — were staying there since March 15.

# HP reports first two virus cases

**Shimla:** Himachal Pradesh on Friday confirmed its first two cases of coronavirus from Kangra district.

A 32-year-old man from Harchakkian tehsil and a 64-year-old woman from Dohabe village in Shahpur subdivision have been found suffering from coronavirus.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur said here on Friday. The man had come from Singapore and while the woman returned from Dubai a few days ago, he added. PTI



Essentials provided by the Indian Embassy to fishermen in Kish, Iran. Source: @India\_in\_Iran

# Stranded in Iran, Indian fishermen await rescue

**ARUN JANARDHANAN**  
CHENNAI, MARCH 20

MORE 700 Indian fishermen in coronavirus-hit Iran are desperately seeking a flight home as Covid-19 cases have begun spreading to the ports where they are stranded, said a representative of a fishermen's body here.

The fishermen, who were sent food and provisions by the Indian embassy in Iran on Friday, hail from Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka. "They are stranded at smaller places... They have no clear information except that many (Iran) government officials have been affected in the outbreak. Now they fear getting affected by the virus. They want to come back," said Justin Antony of the International Fishermen Development Trust, who is in touch with the fishermen.

Antony said the fishermen are stranded in different parts of Iran such as Kish, Kangam, Lavan, Mogham, Zero, Chiruyeh, Bhuskar, Sharak and Alshoor. "They were all working on boats owned by Dubai-based and Iranian owners. The owners had threatened them against aban-

doning the boats on the Iranian coast. The provisions they received on Friday will last for a maximum of two days. These small pockets of Iran, too, have now started reporting coronavirus cases. The government should take immediate steps to bring them back," Antony said.

A senior government official in Tamil Nadu said the Chief Minister's office was in touch with the Ministry of External Affairs to provide food and provisions for 721 stranded men. "We will raise it with Delhi again if they want to come back," said a senior government secretary. On Friday, Indian embassy in Iran tweeted photos of their men supplying essentials to "(around) 1,000 Indian fishermen from Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Kerala in Iran's southern provinces of Bushehr and Hormozgan".

# Roads shut

The government of Tamil Nadu on Friday decided to shut all roads connecting Tamil Nadu with neighbouring states, including Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh until March 31. Other vehicles carrying items such as food, provisions, fuel, gas cylinders and ambulances, and a limited number of government buses, will be allowed to ply.

# No protests: HC

The Madras High Court on Friday said no protests, mass gatherings, including anti-CAA agitations, will be permitted in Tamil Nadu until COVID-19 outbreak is contained. The court order followed a batch of petitions seeking an order against such protests.

# 3 students drown in Andhra

**Machilipatnam:** Three students drowned in a stream in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh on Friday evening, police said.

They said a group of eight students had gone to the Katleru stream at Damuluru village of Nandigama Mandal to take a bath when the incident took place. Five of them survived. PTI

# Govt okays change of land use for Central Vista development

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE UNION government has approved change of land use in the Delhi Master Plan 2021 for the Central Vista redevelopment project, based on the recommendation of the Delhi Development Authority, it announced Friday.

"This paves the way for the construction of the new Parliament building and other projects in the prestigious Central Vista. This decision will ensure that the green areas and public-semi-public spaces are adequately compensated or enhanced," the government said in a statement.

The approval comes after DDA submitted its recommendations to the Centre after considering nearly 1,300 objections and suggestions from the public on the proposed land use change. The Supreme Court is currently hearing writ petitions challenging the redevelopment project.

The Central Vista of New Delhi consists of iconic buildings

such as the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament House, North and South Blocks, and India Gate, which were constructed before 1931.

The government statement said, "Other office buildings were built on various plots subsequently to address the office requirements of Central ministries and departments in an unplanned manner. Parliament House building came up in 1927 and is declared heritage building.

"Its facilities and infrastructure are inadequate to meet the current demand. Therefore, there is an imperative need to construct a new state-of-the-art Parliament building in close vicinity. This proposal may address not only the space requirement but may result into an iconic structure as a symbol of democracy," the government said.

The government at present, said there is "unnecessary travel leading to congestion and pollution" as the offices are spread over different locations, affecting inter-departmental coordination.

# WB: College student arrested for 'LeT link'

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
KOLKATA, MARCH 20

A 21-YEAR-OLD student has been arrested by the Special Task Force of West Bengal Police for her alleged links with terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). Tania Parvin was arrested from her residence at Baduria in North 24 Parganas on Thursday.

"We have filed a case under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act sections. She was produced in Bashirhat subdivisional court, which remanded her in 14-day police custody. Our investigation is on," said a senior police officer.

Police said the girl, who is an MA final-year student of a Kolkata-based college, was influenced by the terror outfit

through social networking sites. She had watched documents and videos posted by LeT on social media. Later, she got in touch with LeT members and also made calls to people in Pakistan, they added.

"We have seized several Pakistani SIM cards from her possession. We have also learnt that she had created several WhatsApp groups and discussed sensitive issues. The members of these groups also exchanged videos of Lashkar training and literature. We primarily traced her through social media. She has influenced men as well as several young girls in Bengal with the ideology of Lashkar. We are interrogating her," said a senior police officer who is connected with the case.

**SAINIK SCHOOL GHORAKHAL,**  
NAINITAL, UTTARAKHAND- 263156

**WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR THE POST OF HOSTEL WARDBOY AND MATRON (CONTRACTUAL)**

- Walk-in-interview for the posts of Hostel Wardboy (02) and Matron (01) on contractual basis will be held in Sainik School Ghorakhal on 07 Apr 2020 at 9.00 AM.
- Essential Qualifications** - Matriculate or equivalent and should be able to converse fluently in English. **Desirable** - Graduation, achievements in the field of Sports/Art/Music. Mature lady without encumbrances and with experience of handling children with affection will be preferred for the post of Matron. **Age limit** - 18 to 50 years as on 30 Apr 2020.
- Pay & Perks** - As per Sainik Schools Society Rules & Regulation (except vacation period) with rent free accommodation and free meals with cadets.
- Candidates having requisite qualifications may appear in Walk-in-Interview alongwith their resume and school certificates. No TA/DA will be admissible. **Phone : 05942-220051 PRINCIPAL**

**SCRAP FOR SALE (E-AUCTION)**

E-Auction forms are invited from intending buyers for disposal, strictly on "As is Where is" basis, of damaged/fire effected Dumper TDJM 0252 FMX440 19.5 Volvo 6x4 Ch. 6-933200 (UP 64T 8774) excluding taxes. Salvage belonging to M/s Montecarlo Limited, 7/06, 7th Floor, Ship Building, Nr. Municipal Market, C.G. Road, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)-380009. Dumper can be inspected at repairers workshop at VE Commercial Vehicles Ltd., Kolkata (W.B.) between 21.03.2020 to 02.04.2020 after taking prior appointment from Mr. Chardan Singh-9516752194. E-Auction date/time: 03.04.2020 between 03:00 PM to 04:30 PM. Interested buyers/bidders have to deposit an SMD (D.D.) of Rs. 2 Lacs in favour of "M/s Montecarlo Limited" payable at Ahmedabad to participate in the e-auction. One or all bids/offers can be cancelled without assigning any reason. E-Auction forms can be obtained from the Auctioneers **Salvor Settlers Pvt. Ltd., 511, 5th Floor, Usha Kiran Building, Commercial Complex, Azadpur, Delhi-110033. Contact Mr. Jitender Thakur : 8744013008, 9654772277**

**B.S. CHAWLA & Co.**  
(SURVEYORS & VALUERS) Delhi/Allahabad  
Mob. 09415218645, 09810108428 e-mail : bschawla.c@ gmail.com

**JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE**  
**DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS JAMMU**  
Phone No. 0191-2561578 (O), 0191-2547807 (F)  
E-Mail: sspjammu@jppolice.gov.in  
**LOOK OUT NOTICE**

SP City South, Jammu vide communication No. Rdr/SPS/J/20/4402-03 dated 17.03.2020, that one un-identified male dead body was recovered near Lemon Hoti Out gate railway Head Jammu on 02.03.2020. Accordingly, an Inquest proceeding U/S 174 Cr. PC vide DDR No. 22 dated 02.03.2020 was initiated at P/S Bahu Fort, Jammu and dead body was shifted to mortuary room of GMC, Jammu.

For the identification of unidentified male dead body below description roll is required to be published on daily newspapers for identification / Public in general having any clue related to the unidentified dead body, kindly communicate the same on the below mentioned contact/Telephone numbers.

**Description Roll:**

**Name of deceased** : Unknown male  
**Age** : About 50/55 years  
**Height** : Approx. 5 ft 5 inch  
**Eyes** : Brown  
**Complexion** : Wheatish  
**Body** : Thin  
**Dress** : Shirt (White wit Brown lines) & Pant (Brown)

**Contacts/Telephone Numbers:**

- DPO, Jammu : 0191-2547807, 0191-2561578
- SSP Jammu Mail ID : sspjammu@jppolice.gov.in
- PCR Jammu : 0191-2542000
- SP City South : 0191-2430002
- SDPO City East : 0191-2474700
- P/S Bahu Fort : 0191-2475133
- SHO P/S Bahu Fort : 94191-81063

IC CPO DPO Jammu  
For Sr. Superintendent of Police,  
Jammu  
DIPJ-15385

**CHAUDHARY CHARAN SINGH UNIVERSITY, MEERUT (U.P.)**  
(A State University Established by the Uttar Pradesh State Universities Act 1973)

**RECRUITMENT NOTICE**

Online Applications are invited from Indian citizens for appointment against following posts of Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors in the University:-

Advertisement No.	Post	Number of Posts & Department	Level
Academic 1185/01/2020	Professor	Economics (SC-1), Mathematics (SC-1), Sociology (OBC-1), Microbiology (SC-1)	14
Academic 1186/02/2020	Associate Professor	History (UR-1), English (SC-1), Psychology (SC-1 & UR-1), Botany (EWS-1), Statistics (OBC-1)	13A
Academic 1187/03/2020	Assistant Professor	Genetics & Plant Breeding (UR-1), English (OBC-1), Physics (UR-1), Political Science (OBC-1), Education (SC-1), Sociology (UR-1)	10

The Last date of online submission of application form is 21/04/2020.  
Last date of submission of the printout of online filled form (downloaded) is 27/04/2020.  
Link for the form and other details : <http://www.ccsuuniversity.ac.in/ccsu/recruitment>

**Registrar**

**SBI STATE BANK OF INDIA**  
Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, 2nd Floor, 2 Tilak Marg, Opposite National P.G. College, Lucknow-226001, Ph.: 0522-4342302, 4342303

**POSSESSION NOTICE [for Immovable property under Rule 8 (1)]**

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorized officer of the State Bank of India, Lucknow under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in the exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a 13(12). The Bank issued demand notice on the date mentioned against account and stated herein after calling upon them to repay the amount mentioned, within 90 days from the date of receipt of said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers/Guarantor and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the Property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rule on the date mentioned against the account.

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of State Bank of India, Lucknow for the amount and interest thereon. Details of properties where possession had been taken is as follows:

S. No.	Name & Address of the Borrower	Description of The immovable Property mortgaged	Amount O/s (as per u/s 13(2))	Date of Demand Notice / Possession
1	<b>Borrowers:</b> 1. Shri Aquil Ahmad S/o Shri Jameel Ahmad, R/o Mastan, Ward No. 7, Kasba-Richha, Baheri, Bareilly.	1. P&M of Rice Mill at Khasra No. 166, Dandi Haameer, Richa, Bareilly &	₹ 2,95,85,824.75 up to 18.11.2019 + interest & cost & other expenses (w.e.f. 19.11.2019)	20.11.2019 18.03.2020
	2. Shri Laik Ahmad S/o Mohd. Suleman, R/o Mastan, Ward No. 7, Kasba-Richha, Baheri, Bareilly.	2. EM of factory land and building in the name of M/s Insaf Rice Mill, Richha. Through its Partner Shri Laik Ahmad Adm.Area: 2530.32 sq.mtrs. the property is situated at Khasra No. 166, Dandi Haameer, Richha, Baheri.		
	3. Smt. Tasleem Bano W/o Mohd. Akir, R/o Mastan, Ward No.7, Kasba-Richha, Baheri, Bareilly.	<b>Boundaries: East:</b> Khet of Kalu, West: Rasta, North: Gram Sabha Land, South: Chak Road.		
	4. Shri Shakeel Ahmad S/o Shri Jameel Ahmad, R/o Mastan, Ward No.7, Kasba-Richha, Baheri, Bareilly.	3. Ext. of EM charge over residential house situated at Moh-Mastan, W.No. 6, Riccha, Bareilly standing in the name of Vakeel Ahmad S/o Shri Jameel Ahmad.		
	5. Smt. Akhtari Begum W/o Shri Shafiq Ahmad, R/o Mastan, Ward No.7, Kasba-Richha, Baheri, Bareilly.	<b>Boundaries: East:</b> Rasta, West: Rasta, North: H/o Shri Mohd. Irfan, South: H/o Shri Rais Ahmad.		
	6. Smt. Farzana Begum W/o Mohd. Mubeen, R/o Mastan, Ward No. 7, Kasba-Richha, Baheri, Bareilly.			
	7. Smt. Nazrana Begum W/o Mohd. Saleem, R/o Mastan, Ward No. 7, Kasba-Richha, Baheri, Bareilly.			
	<b>Guarantor cum Mortgagor: Shri Vakeel Ahmad S/o Shri Jameel Ahmad, R/o Moh-Mastan, Ward No-6, Kasba-Riccha, Teh-Baheri, Distt. Bareilly &amp; Guarantor: Mohd. Islam S/o Mohd. Suleman, R/O-Moh-Mastan, Ward No-9, Kasba-Riccha, Teh-Baheri, Distt.-Bareilly.</b>			

Date: 18.03.2020  
Authorized Officer, State Bank of India

Karnataka amends law to allow industries to sell converted agricultural land

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE BENGALURU, MARCH 20

THE BJP government in Karnataka has passed an amendment to a key section of the Karnataka Land Reforms Act, 1961, to allow industries to sell agricultural land converted for industrial purposes.

with the industry. The Karnataka Land Reforms (Amendment) Bill, 2020, allows industries to sell agricultural land converted for industrial use by the government after a period of seven years of the industry's operation for the purpose of continuation of the same enterprise.

tries on agricultural land that has been converted for industrial use often have no options if the industry becomes sick after a few years, and that allowing sale of land for the industry to continue will help the investor avert bankruptcy.

Rajasthan State Road Development And Construction Corporation Ltd., JAIPUR No. NIT/2019-20/34786-94

G.B. PANT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HIMALAYAN ENVIRONMENT (NIHE) (Formerly Known as G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development)

TENDER NOTICE No. - GBNPHESD/Institute Central Laboratory/2019-20/21 Please refer to Institute's Tender notice No. GBNPHESD/Institute Central Laboratory/2019-20/21 published in "Indian Express" (Delhi edition) dated 05.02.2020 for supply of Refrigerated-Heating circulatory water bath equipment under institute central laboratory.

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited Regd. Office: PSEB H.O., The Mall, Patiala - 147001 (O/C CE/TS, B-1, SHAKTI VIHAR, PATIALA)

RAILWAY RECRUITMENT BOARD/CHENNAI 5, Dr. P. V. Cherian Crescent Road (Behind Ethirai College), Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 Ph: 044-28275323

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1 E-Tender No. RRBCHENNAI - CEN01-2019-ECA In view of preventive measures to be taken to contain the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the date of pre-Bid conference is revised and the following corrigendum is issued:

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE Office of the Executive Engineer C.V. Ramannagara Division, 1st Cross Road, 2nd H Main Road, Kasturinagara, Bengaluru

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Two Document Tender) (Through GoK e-Procurement Portal only) The Executive Engineer, C.V. Ramannagara Division, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP invites tenders from eligible contractors for the below mentioned construction work.

COVID-19 Raipur admin relaxes curbs, residents still in panic

GARGI VERMA RAIPUR, MARCH 20

A DAY after Chhattisgarh government imposed curbs in some parts of Raipur following the first COVID-19 case in the state, the District Collector on Friday relaxed some of the restrictions.

Police on Thursday closed roads within a 3-km radius of Samta Colony, Choubey Colony and Gudhjar after a local resident tested positive for COVID-19.

Residents of the area are in panic. "We are all indoors, with the doors and windows closed. My husband had to go out to buy groceries and milk. He covered his face with three layers of cloth. We are worried about the spread of the virus despite fumigation and other steps," Samaira Munshi, a resident of Choubey colony said.

The railway authorities in Raipur and Durg have increased platform ticket prices from Rs 10 to Rs 50 to discourage people from gathering at the station.

सार्वजनिक सूचना सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि ग्राम पंचायत किरकी खेडली के चंगला के पास एक तालाब की खुली बोली 06 अप्रैल 2020 को सामुदायिक मचन किरकी में दोपहर 2 बजे तक 30 मिनट पर लम्बाई जाएगी।

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, IInd CONSTRUCTION DIVISION (E/M), U.P. JAL NIGAM, 4/4 SANJAY PALACE, AGRA-282002 Letter No.: 408/ NIVIDA/43 Dated : 29.02.2020 E-TENDER NOTICE Digitally signed e-bids are invited on the behalf of Chairman, U.P. Jal Nigam for the execution of A. "Construction of T.W. by D.C. Rig Machine in District Agra"

HARYANA GOVERNMENT CORRIGENDUM NOTICE Table with 6 columns: Sr. No., Name of Board/Corp./Auth, Old Reference/NIT No., Nature of Corrigendum, Website of the Board Corp./Auth, Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

HARYANA GOVERNMENT TENDER NOTICE Table with 6 columns: Sr. No., Name of Board/Corp./Auth, Name of Work Notice Tender, Opening Date Closing Date (Time), Amount / EMD (Approx.) in Rupees, Website of the Board Corp./Auth, Nodal Officer/Contact Details/Email

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in



PANDEMIC WATCH



Yuval Noah Harari

ISRAEL

Harari criticised for dictatorship remark

**Jerusalem:** Noted Israeli historian Yuval Noah Harari, who accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of imposing 'coronavirus dictatorship' referring to measures that have put the country in a near shutdown mode, has evoked sharp rebuke from Netanyahu's son, Yair, who said "clever professors can be stupid about politics". Netanyahu has copped criticism for allegedly exploiting the coronavirus outbreak to trample democratic institutions. Harari on Thursday tweeted "coronavirus has killed democracy" in Hebrew and "the first coronavirus dictatorship" in English.

SINGAPORE

40 new cases flagged, total count now 385

**Singapore:** Singapore on Friday confirmed 40 new coronavirus cases, including 30 imported infections, taking the total cases to 385. Many of the imported cases had travelled to the UK, followed by Indonesia and the US, said the Health Ministry. Of the 30 imported cases, 22 are Singapore citizens or permanent residents. Seven others have long-term passes while one of the new patients has a short-term visit pass. The 10 remaining infections are local cases, the ministry said. All events and gatherings with 250 or more people must be suspended, said the ministry.

PRAGUE

Chinese plane with a million masks lands

**Prague:** A plane from China carrying more than one million face masks for the Czech Republic landed in Prague on Friday, the government said. The Czech government has come under fire over a shortage of medical material which has led thousands of Czechs to make face masks at home as the state banned people from leaving home without their noses and mouths covered. "The plane behind us contains 1.1 million FFP2 respirators which will be distributed immediately to hospitals..." Interior Minister Jan Hamacek said.

AUSTRALIA

Death toll reaches 7

**Melbourne:** An 81-year-old woman died in Australia's New South Wales after contracting coronavirus, becoming the seventh victim in the country as the confirmed COVID-19 cases jumped to 785, health officials said on Friday. Prime Minister Scott Morrison on Thursday announced closing borders to all non-citizens and non-residents. "The entry ban takes effect from Friday, March 20, 2020, at 9 PM (local time) with exemptions only for Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family including spouses, legal guardians and dependants," he said.

# Toll rises: 11,000 dead, 250,000 cases

## In 'unprecedented measure', UK to pay workers' wages as economy shuts down

REUTERS & PTI LONDON, MARCH 20

UK CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak, who had pledged to do "whatever it takes" to save people's jobs and livelihoods through the coronavirus pandemic, on Friday unveiled an "unprecedented" wage boost to his COVID-19 rescue package. Britain's Indian-origin finance minister announced that the UK government would pay 80 per cent of wages for employees not working, up to 2,500 pounds a month.



**When this is over, and it will be over, and remember the many small acts of kindness done by us and to us. We want to look back on this time and remember how we thought first of others and acted with decency."**

RISHI SUNAK CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER

behind you and I'm asking you to do your best to stand behind our workers..."

Moments earlier, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson told cafes, pubs and restaurants across the country to close on Friday night and to stay shut indefinitely to help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

"We are telling cafes, bars and restaurants to close tonight as soon as they reasonably can and not to open tomorrow," Johnson told reporters in Downing Street.

Another 39 people have died in England after testing positive for the coronavirus, bringing the total number of confirmed deaths to 167, the National Health Service said Friday.



DISINFECTION DRIVE: Spanish Emergency Army Unit soldiers disinfect terminals at the airport in Barcelona, Spain. AP

## Italy records 627 deaths in a day, taking total toll past 4,000; in Spain, 235 dead

AGENCIES MARCH 20

THE DEATH toll from an outbreak of coronavirus in Italy has leapt by 627 to 4,032, officials said on Friday, an increase of 18.4% — by far the largest daily rise in absolute terms since the contagion emerged a month ago.

The death toll rose to 1,002 in Spain on Friday after 235 people died in 24 hours, and the number of cases approached 20,000, the health ministry said.

There have been at least 256,296 infections reported in 163 countries and territories, and 11,015 deaths.

### EXPLAINED Testing limited, 'real figures' may be higher

EVEN AS the death tolls and cases in Europe continue to grow, limited testing suggests that the "real numbers" could be much higher. Reports from Italy, Spain and other countries suggest that the capacity for testing is yet to catch up with suspected cases. Thus, many cases — and deaths — caused by the virus are yet to be classified as such. This, experts said, highlighted the need for more testing, in order to be better equipped to understand and combat the pandemic.

On Thursday, Italy overtook China as the country to register most deaths from the highly contagious virus. Until Friday,

Italy had never recorded more than 475 deaths in a single day. The total number of cases in Italy rose to 47,021 from a previ-

ous 41,035, an increase of 14.6%, the Civil Protection Agency said.

The spiralling number of infections has propelled Spain into the top four worst-hit countries in the world — with the figures growing as the country steps up its capacity for testing.

Since the last update around midday on Thursday, another 2,833 infections have been confirmed, taking the overall number of cases to 19,980, the ministry's emergencies coordinator Fernando Simon said.

But he said it was "very likely that the figures underestimated the overall number" of people with the virus, saying the testing laboratories were "overwhelmed".

## Nepal orders shutdown, India offers to send specialist team

YUBARAJ GHIMIRE KATHMANDU, MARCH 20

EVEN AS Nepal gears up to combat COVID-19 by restricting people's movements and shutting down almost all government offices, India offered to send a Rapid Response Team comprising doctors and specialists.

Although the country has not flagged a confirmed COVID-19 case so far, the Nepal government has suspended all international flights except from India, Singapore and Thailand, effective from midnight, for 10 days. It also decided to shut down all government offices, as well as the judiciary, for the same period. The government has declared a ban on entry of people of all nationalities, including Nepalis living abroad, inside the country.

Nepal's Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawal on Friday thanked his Indian counterpart, S Jaishankar, for the Indian offer to send a Rapid Response team.

A government press release said the two sides agreed to maintain a smooth supply of goods and medical items, coupled with effective surveillance at borders, to minimise the risk and vulnerabilities associated with COVID-19.

## NEW YORK, CALIFORNIA LOCK DOWN

# US, Mexico close borders to non-essential travel

NEW YORK TIMES MARCH 20

AT A White House briefing on Friday, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said that border closures to non-essential travelers from Canada and Mexico would go into effect at midnight on Saturday.

Pompeo also reiterated that the State Department had implemented a Level 4 travel advisory warning Americans against traveling abroad. He said US citizens "should arrange immediate return" unless they intend to remain abroad for an extended time. "If you choose to travel, it may well be fairly disruptive," he said.

President Trump suggested that immigration would strain health care systems. "During a global pandemic they threaten to create a public storm that would spread the infection to our border agents, migrants and the public at large," Trump said, referring to people seeking to enter the country.

Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said that there was a "fundamental public health reason" for closing the northern and southern borders.



Chinatown, in New York, nearly deserted. Reuters

"Understand that: There's a public health reason for doing that." Governor Andrew M Cuomo told New Yorkers to stay indoors as much as possible and ordered all nonessential businesses to keep all their workers home in a wide-ranging executive order, as the number of confirmed coronavirus cases in the state jumped to over 7,000.

California extended its "shelter in place" orders to all 40 million residents of the state, saying people should leave their homes only for essential business.

The State Department warned Americans not to leave the country, and said that citizens who are already abroad should either return home or stay where they are.

## TWO STATES, TWO LOCKDOWNS

### CALIFORNIA

Residents asked to head out only for essential reasons

500 National Guard troops to help distribute food, supplies

Trump asked to dock Navy's 1,000-patient Mercy ship in the port of Los Angeles

### NEW YORK

Non-essential businesses closed, gatherings banned

Civil fines to be handed out to anyone violating quarantine

People asked to exercise alone, avoid public transport unless 'urgent, necessary'

## 149 more dead in Iran, leaders strike upbeat tone

REUTERS & PTI DUBAI, TEHRAN, MARCH 20

IRAN'S SUPREME Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in a speech on state television for the Persian New Year, praised Iranians for their "dazzling" sacrifices in fighting the coronavirus outbreak in the worst-hit country in the Middle East.

The country's leaders on Friday announced 149 more fatalities, bringing its death toll to 1,433 amid nearly 20,000 confirmed cases. It has been widely criticised for its slow response.

Khamenei, Iran's highest authority, said it had been a tumultuous year for Iranians who have endured US sanctions, floods, and the coronavirus.

"These acts of sacrifice were made by medical groups, physicians, nurses, assistants, managers and the staff working in hospitals," said Khamenei, who looked healthy despite rumours that he had been infected with the new coronavirus.

Officials close to Khamenei, contacted by Reuters on Wednesday, denied the rumours.

Nowruz is an ancient celebration and the most important date in the calendar, when families gather and exchange gifts. But the coronavirus has overshadowed the celebrations.

"Last year was a tumultuous year for the Iranian nation," Khamenei said. "It was a year that began with the floods and that ended with the coronavirus...but we will overcome all hardships with unity."

## Trump trying to shift blame, says China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA BEIJING, MARCH 20

BEIJING ACCUSED US President Donald Trump on Friday of trying to "shift the blame" for the global coronavirus pandemic in an escalating row between the two powers.

Trump charged 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. "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."

Beijing also said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was "lying through (his) teeth".

In an interview on Fox News, Pompeo said Beijing "wasted valuable days" after identifying the coronavirus by letting "hundreds of thousands" leave the epicentre of Wuhan.

## Pakistan flags third death as cases jump to 464

SAJJAD HUSSAIN ISLAMABAD, MARCH 20

PAKISTAN PRIME Minister Imran Khan on Friday asked people to self-quarantine for at least another 45 days as the country reported its third coronavirus death and the total number of confirmed cases rose to 464.

The third death was reported from Sindh Province where the number of confirmed cases rose to 238, according to provincial spokesman Murtaza Wahab.

Already two patients died in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa where the number of positive cases has increased to 23, provincial health

minister Taimur Jhagra said.

At least 16 more cases were reported in Punjab where the tally touched 96, according to a notification issued by the provincial health department spokesperson Qaiser Asif.

Prime Minister Khan said in Islamabad on Friday that people should self-quarantine for at least another 45 days.

Khan said, "Our strategy is a little different from a complete lockdown, considering Pakistan's socio-economic realities". "Pakistan isn't a rich country like Italy, where people can get through a sustained period without economic activity," he was quoted as saying by Express Tribune. PTI

## IN SYRIA, THE VIRUS MAY ALREADY BE SPREADING IN PACKED DISPLACEMENT CAMPS

# 'Wash our hands? Some people can't wash their kids for a week'

EVAN HILL & YOUSURAL-HLOU MAARAT MISRIN, MARCH 20

IN NORTHWESTERN Syria, where 1 million people who have fled the civil war are sheltering in muddy tent camps and abandoned buildings, the spread of the coronavirus could wreak untold disaster on a devastated region.

Forget hand washing and social distancing, the preventive measures recommended by health authorities around the world. There is little to no running water in the camps, and up

to a dozen people often live in the same tent.

"You want us to wash our hands?" asked Fadi Mesaher, the Idlib director for the Maram Foundation for Relief and Development. "Some people can't wash their kids for a week. They are living outdoors."

Syrian doctors believe the virus has already swept into the camps, with deaths and illness that bear the hallmarks of the outbreak. But the international response has been slow to non-existent, according to more than a dozen experts and Syrian medical professionals.



A COVID-19 training session for nurses, ambulance drivers. NYT

The World Health Organisation has not yet delivered coronavirus testing kits to the opposition-held northwest, despite making its first delivery of such kits to the Syrian government more than a month ago.

"We currently have cases that are similar, and we've had people die," said Dr. Mohamed Ghaleb Tennari, who manages the Syrian American Medical Society's hospitals in the region. "But unfortunately because we don't have the test, we can't confirm that these cases are truly corona or not."

In Idlib City, a lab at Idlib Central Hospital is ready to test

for the coronavirus but lacks the test kits, said Dr. Naser Almhawish, the surveillance coordinator for the Early Warning Alert and Response Network of the Assistance Coordination Unit, an independent group.

Syrian doctors have asked for more protective equipment, like masks and gloves, but the first new shipment from the WHO arrived Tuesday. "Unfortunately, we don't have areas of quarantine available in north Syria," said Abd al-Razzaq Zaqqouq, a media assistant for the Syrian American Medical Society at the hospital. "If there is any case of corona in north

Syria, the situation will be tragic." Doctors in the region estimate that 1 million people in Idlib province could contract the virus, that 100,000 to 120,000 could die, and that 10,000 will need the help of ventilators. There are 153 ventilators in the province now.

"You may have seen countries like Italy and China — countries that have a quarantine system — and even they couldn't handle the pressure of all of these cases," Tennari said. "Imagine, then — we're in a state of war, and we don't have a proper health care system. It's crippled." NYT



# 19 ECONOMY

SENSEX: 29,915.96 ▲ 1627.73 NIFTY: 8,745.45 ▲ 482.00 NIKKEI: 16,552.83 ▼ 173.72 HANG SENG: 22,805.07 ▲ 1,095.94 FTSE: 5,248.24 ▲ 96.63 DAX: 8,964.59 ▲ 354.16

<b>GOLD</b>	<b>RUPEE</b>	<b>OIL</b>	<b>SILVER</b>
₹41,705	₹75.20	\$26.15	₹38,100

\*Indian basket as on March 19, 2020

## SECTOR WATCH AVIATION

### Air India to renegotiate lease, hotel agreements; push cargo sales to maximise revenue

**PRANAV MUKUL**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE GOVERNMENT'S decision to put a blanket ban on international commercial scheduled flights is expected to severely hurt national carrier Air India, which sees nearly 60-70 per cent of its revenues from foreign operations. This has made Air India take a series of measures to mitigate the stress arising from the COVID-19 crisis, including beginning renegotiation of lease contracts, renegotiation of hotel agreements, reduction in salaries, and an aggressive push to increase cargo sales at a time when passenger loads are minimal.

"In the wake of recent global developments and the serious impact of COVID-19 pandemic, which has adversely impacted aviation industry both in the domestic as well in the international front there is an insurmountable dip in the revenue which calls for stringent measures to reduce our costs. All airlines have taken drastic steps to survive the current crisis and an urgent need is felt to take steps to curtail costs to mitigate the current financial crisis," an Air India office order, listing 21 financial and personnel measures, noted.

On Thursday, the government announced that no incoming scheduled international commercial passenger aircraft shall be allowed to disembark passengers on Indian soil after 1:31 am of March 23 till March 29. The move will result in full cancellation of international flights to and from India.

On a daily basis, around 300 international flights fly to

### The government has banned commercial international flights to India from March 22 for a week

airports across India, a number reduced to almost 100 due to curtailment of schedules over the past three weeks.

"In view of reduction in passenger load due to COVID-19, cargo sale to be aggressively taken up for optimal utilisation of available space/load to ensure maximum revenue," the Air India order said.

Further, with the international flight ban, India's air cargo segment is also expected to be severely hit. According to aviation industry sources, nearly 60 per cent of international cargo volumes come from underbelly cargo space, while the remaining comes from freighter aircraft. While freighter aircraft will continue to operate, cargo volumes are expected to plummet.

Suspension of foreign operations has deeply affected ground-handling players like Celebi Aviation, which is almost entirely dependent on international flights for revenues. The company has, so far, seen almost 80 per cent of its revenues compromised.

"There has been a steep fall in the number of flights being handled. It's almost negligible now. With a workforce of over 8,000, we might have to take up some extreme decisions like 'leave without pay' and other measures as an alternative to try and secure our market viability," said Murali Ramchandran, CEO-India, Celebi Aviation.

## INDEX CLOSES SESSION AT 29,915; DOWN 12.27% DURING THE ENTIRE WEEK

# Relief rally: Sensex jumps 1,628 pts on stimulus hopes

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, MARCH 20

DOMESTIC MARKETS on Friday staged a smart recovery on hopes of a stimulus package to revive the coronavirus-hit economy and a global equity rally. After opening up 2,485 points, the BSE Sensex zoomed 1,628 points or 5.75 per cent higher to 29,915.96. The NSE Nifty zoomed 482 points, or 5.83 per cent, to close at 8,745.45.

However, the Sensex plummeted 4,187.52 points, or 12.27 per cent, while Nifty sank 1,209.75 points, or 12.15 per cent, during the week. Analysts said the special COVID-19 economic task force announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to work on an economic package for the sectors most affected by the outbreak as also people working in the informal sectors. India Inc has already sought steps like relaxation in NPA norms, deferral of tax payments and announcement of income support to the people working in the unorganised sector.

### EXPLAINED Recovery due to global cues, unsold positions

MARKETS MANAGED to gain nearly 6 per cent on Friday due to the rebound in global indices and hopes of a stimulus package from the government. In line with the benchmark index, sectoral indices ended higher and the broader market, too, closed with modest gains. Friday's surge could just be a recovery due to oversold positions and sustainability would be difficult at higher levels.

The news flow on the spread of coronavirus continues to be mixed with exponential jump in new cases in US though there is improving trend in China. Thus, the volatility could persist in the near term.

According to Ajit Mishra, VP-research, Religare Broking, markets managed to gain nearly 6 per cent on Friday, thanks to the rebound in global indices and hopes of the stimulus package from the government. In line with the benchmark index, sectoral indices ended higher and the broader market too closed with modest

### RBI plans OMOs of ₹30,000 cr

Mumbai: The RBI has decided to pump more liquidity into the market by conducting purchase of government securities under Open Market Operations (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 first OMO purchase auction will be conducted on March 24, 2020 for Rs 15,000 crore through a multi-security auction using the multiple price method. **ENS**

## Forex reserves decline for first time in 25 weeks

At \$481.89 bn— down \$5.35 bn— from record high of \$487.23 bn

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

FOLLOWING A sharp outflow of funds by foreign portfolio investors from the Indian securities market over the last couple of weeks, after the global scare around the spread of the coronavirus, foreign exchange reserves witnessed their first weekly decline in 25 weeks, or six months. For the week-ended March 13, forex reserves stood at \$481.89 billion and it fell \$5.35 billion from the all-time high of \$487.23 billion in the week-ended March 6, 2020.

The decline is primarily driven by sharp outflow of funds by FPIs over the past three weeks. According to data sourced from CDSL and stock exchanges, FPIs have sold net holdings worth Rs 1.13 lakh crore, or \$15.3 billion, in March (till Friday). The outflow has also led to a steep fall in the stock markets as the Sensex has lost 8,383 points, or 21.2 per cent, this month.

Between September and February, FPIs invested a net of Rs 58,337 crore or nearly \$8 billion.

According to the data released by the Reserve Bank of India, while foreign exchange reserves fell by \$5.35 billion in the reporting week-ended March 13, the decline in reserves was mainly on account of a decrease in foreign currency assets, which fell \$3.8 billion to \$447.35 billion from a high of \$451.13 billion, a week back.

Despite the decline in reserves over the week-ended March 13, forex reserves are, anyway, up by \$53 billion since September 20, 2019.

Since September 20, when the Finance Minister announced a cut in corporate tax rates, forex reserves have been rising week-on-week and shot up to an all-time high of \$487.23 billion in the week-ended March 6, 2020.

A sharp decline in global crude oil prices, however, has been a blessing in disguise for India during this period. As crude oil amounts for almost 20 per cent of India's import bill, crude prices coming down to levels of \$28 per barrel over the last couple of weeks provides comfort on the current account front. It has also given central government the headroom to raise the duty on petrol and diesel prices by Rs 3 per

### STATUS OF FOREX RESERVES

Week ended	Forex (\$ bn)
Sep 20	428.57
Sep 27	433.59
Oct 4	437.80
Oct 11	439.70
Oct 18	440.75
Oct 25	442.50
Nov 1	446.09
Nov 8	447.80
Nov 15	448.20
Nov 22	448.50
Nov 29	451.08
Dec 6	453.40
Dec 13	454.49
Dec 20	454.90
Dec 27	457.46
Jan 3	461.15
Jan 10	461.21
Jan 17	462.15
Jan 24	466.69
Jan 31	471.30
Feb 7	473.01
Feb 14	476.09
Feb 21	476.12
Feb 28	481.54
Mar 6	487.23
Mar 13	481.89

Source: RBI

## '53% of India Inc sees impact on operations'

In wake of the coronavirus outbreak, 53 per cent of Indian companies see impact on their operations and nearly 80 per cent have witnessed a decline in cash flows, as per a Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry survey



Need to maintain liquidity at surplus levels and provide special liquidity support for any companies/NBFCs/banks that come under strain due to intensifying risk aversion in financial markets

### 53% OF BUSINESSES INDICATE THE IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC ON BUSINESS OPERATIONS EVEN AT EARLY STAGES

### REASONS

- Direct impact on demand and supply of goods and services
- Reduced cash flows due to slowing economic activity,

80% report a decrease in cash flow

### SPILLOVER EFFECTS

Impact on all payments including to those for employees, interest, loan repayments and taxes

### 60% OF RESPONDENTS HAVE SEEN IMPACT ON THEIR SUPPLY CHAINS AND EXPECT THE SITUATION TO WORSEN FURTHER

### WAY OUT

A combination of monetary, fiscal and financial market measures is needed to help the businesses and people cope with the crisis

### 100-BP CUT

The Reserve Bank of India needs to support the Indian industry and economy at this juncture by bringing down the cost of funds further through reduction in policy rates, say, by close to 100 basis points

### Banks should be given a flexibility to reschedule payment terms without the need for provisioning

Source: Ficci/PTI

## Will compile all suggestions, take decisions 'as soon as possible': FM

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE FINANCE Ministry will be compiling all the suggestions and take decisions "as soon as possible" to help various sectors.

Detailed discussions were held with the four ministries and these inputs will aid the proposed Economic Response Task Force in deciding steps to alleviate economic stress.

Many sectors are also telling the government constraints they are facing in work from home and how the government can facilitate that, she said. "Other ministries are also sending their inputs other-

wise... The work we are doing will go into the task force's assignment also," she said.

To a query on whether government will announce steps for the financial sector, Sitharaman said: "Today the Sebi has come up with a list of regulations, which will also sort of keep the markets a bit stable I would think. But what are doing today I can't pair it out to say I am doing this for markets but I am doing that for the unorganised sector like that. At the moment we are at the critical stage of collecting everybody's inputs and also ministry is working in detail about all the inputs that have come."

After a meeting with the FM on Friday, Union Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Giriraj Singh said various relief measures for the sector were discussed.

"Livestock industry has been hit badly because of the coronavirus outbreak. We discussed various kinds of measures, including loan restructuring, that can help people engaged in this sector," Singh said after the meeting, as per a PTI report.

Sitharaman also held a meeting with Minister for Aviation and Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, as the aviation sector has been one of the worst impacted. Aviation industry ranging from airlines to ground handling companies and airports are facing financial crunch due to the clampdown on flights to contain coronavirus spread. Stakeholders from the aviation industry in India have demanded government support to help them sail through these headwinds.

While private airport operators have asked for a special cess on passenger tickets to help them deal with additional costs on account of various measures undertaken, ground handling companies have sought support in form of waiver of airport charges, moratorium on statutory and bank payments to help lower the burden.

Airlines, on their part, have made representation to the government to relax the minimum slot-use rules to ensure that they do not have to fly empty aircraft in order to maintain their airport slots in the next schedule.

## Airlines join tomorrow's Janata curfew, curtail ops

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

RESPONDING TO Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pitch for a Janata curfew on Sunday, airlines have curtailed the number of flights they will operate on March 22. While IndiGo, SpiceJet and Vistara will be operating a reduced schedule, budget airline GoAir has suspended all of its flights on Sunday.

India's largest airline IndiGo will be operating only 40 per cent of its flights on Sunday,

### IndiGo will be operating only 40 per cent of its flights on Sunday, while SpiceJet will be operating a limited number of flights depending on load factors for those flights. GoAir has suspended all flights

while SpiceJet will be operating a limited number of flights depending on load factors for those flights.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday addressed the nation and called for a Janata Curfew on Sunday, March 22. He said this curfew will be "for the people and by the people of India" and will be from 7 am to 9 pm on Sunday. PM Modi said it will apply to everyone and urged all citizens to stay inside their homes. He said those in emergency and essential services should do their regular duties.

While Sunday will witness

### FIGHTING COVID-19

- Fitch cuts growth to 5.1%**  
New Delhi: Fitch Ratings has cut India growth forecast to 5.1 per cent for FY21, saying supply disruptions due to the outbreak are likely to hit investment.
- Gold prices zoom ₹1,395**  
New Delhi: Gold prices jumped Rs 1,395 to Rs 41,705 per 10 gram in the national capital following rally in the international prices of the precious metal, as per HDFC Securities. **PTI**
- CII writes to PM seeking stimulus**  
New Delhi: CII on Friday pressed for a fiscal stimulus of Rs 2 lakh crore besides a slew of tax cuts and reduction in interest rates to combat the impact of coronavirus on the industry as well as the economy.
- Walmart to hire 1,50,000 workers**  
San Francisco: Walmart plans to hire 1,50,000 people to meet increased demand during the coronavirus crisis and will pay out \$365 million in bonuses, the US retail giant said. **AFP**

## Oil gains on stimulus, but Wall Street shaky

**REUTERS**  
WASHINGTON/LONDON, MAR 20

OIL PRICES rose on Friday as the world's richest nations poured unprecedented aid into the global economy to stop a coronavirus-driven recession and US President Donald Trump hinted he may intervene in the price war between Saudi Arabia and Russia. The US Federal Reserve continued to roll out emergency support on Friday as it enhanced efforts with other major central banks to ease a global dollar funding crunch and backstopped market essential for US state and local government finances.

Brent crude futures were up \$2.12, or 7.4 per cent, at \$30.59 a barrel by 1012 GMT.

Wall Street's main stock indices rose over 1 per cent, as dramatic intervention by US policymakers halted the worst monthly selloff in US equities in three decades. However, it gave up its early gains.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 31.52 points, or 0.16 per cent, to 20,055.67. The S&P 500 lost 11.84 points, or 0.49 per cent, to 2,397.55.

In a coordinated statement with other central banks, the Fed said it would enhance the permanent US dollar liquidity swap line arrangements it has with the Bank of Canada, Bank of England, Bank of Japan, European Central Bank and Swiss National Bank.

## Cos, LLPs to file form to show corona readiness

**ENSECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

COMPANIES AND Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) will soon have to file a web form to confirm their readiness to deal with the threat from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Corporate Affairs Ministry, which is set to launch the form on March 23, has advised all companies and LLPs to allow employees to work from home till March 31.

Companies and LLPs are requested to report compliance to the CAR (company Affirmation towards Readiness towards COVID-19) form, which must be filed by authorised signatory of the firm on the day the form is launched.

## HUL cuts sanitiser, handwash prices; commits ₹100 cr

Mumbai: Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) on Friday said it has committed Rs 100 crore to help in the fight against coronavirus and announced a 15 per cent cut in the prices of Lifebuoy sanitisers, Lifebuoy Liquid handwash and Domex floor cleaners.

"We are commencing production of these reduced priced products immediately and these will be available in the market in the next few weeks," it said.

HUL said it will partner medical institutions that are providing testing and care facilities to affected people and provide them free supplies of sanitation and hygiene products such as hand sanitisers, bar soaps and floor cleaners. **ENS**

## 'Will ensure full payments to workers'

Mumbai: Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran on Friday said Tata group companies will ensure full payments to the temporary workers and daily wage earners who are working in its offices and sites in India for the months of March and April 2020.

He said the payments will be made even if these workers are not able to work due to either quarantine measures, site closures, plant shutdowns or other reasons due to the coronavirus pandemic. **ENS**

**ADANI POWER, VEDANTA, JINDAL STEEL AMONG COS BOOKED**  
**CBI books 4 Mahanadi Coalfields officials, 25 companies for causing 'loss of close to ₹97 crore' to PSU**

**DEEPTIMANTIWARAY**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE CBI has booked 25 companies — including the Adani group of companies, Vedanta Ltd, Jindal Steel, IFFCO as well as Ballarpur Industries Ltd (BILT) — and four government officials for allegedly causing a loss of close to Rs 97 crore to PSU Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL).

The public officials, according to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), allegedly extended favours to these companies in terms of allowing delayed payments, not charging interest on delayed payments and allowing coal supply despite previous dues not being cleared.

The public officials, all MCL Kolkata officer bearers, have been identified as Kaberi Mukherjee, the then chief manager (finance); Anil Kumar Bhowmik and Deba Jyoti Chatterji, the then senior managers (finance); and Srivalli Veerangam, the then deputy manager (finance).

The companies arranged as accused include Adani Power Ltd, Unit 1 and Unit 3 of Adani Power Maharashtra Ltd, Talwandi Saboo Power Ltd, Vedanta Ltd, Aarati Steels Ltd, SESA Sterlite Ltd (IPP)

“... the accused public servants abused their respective official positions by allowing supply of coal to the said accused coal consumers without adhering to the provisions/terms and conditions of the FSAs...”

**FIR BY CENTRAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

(Now Vedanta Ltd), Haldia Energy Ltd, Atitib Industries Co Ltd., Haldia Steels Ltd, BILT Graphic Products Ltd., JK Paper Ltd, JSL Ltd, Jindal Stainless, Jindal Steel & Power Ltd, Aryabrata Trading Pvt Ltd, Kohinor Paper & Newsprint (P) Ltd, MSP Sponge & Power, MSP Steel and Power, IMFA Utkal Manufacturing & Services Ltd, IFFCO, Emami Biotech Limited and Factor Power Ltd.

According to the FIR filed by CBI, the public officials “entered into criminal conspiracy, during years 2013-2017, with 25 accused coal consumers and unknown others, with an intention to defraud MCL in the matter relating to supply of coal by MCL through rail rake under Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) between MCL & said coal consumers.”

The FIR has alleged that “the accused public servants abused their respective official positions by allowing supply of coal to the said accused coal consumers without adhering to the provisions/terms and conditions of the FSAs, falsified the records/data of MCL, and did not recover due performance incentives/compensation from the aforesaid accused coal consumers and thereby, the aforesaid accused persons have caused undue/wrongful loss to the tune of Rs 97 crore (approx) to Mahanadi Coalfields Limited and corresponding undue/wrongful gain to themselves.”

According to CBI, the accused officials did not serve compensation and proforma invoice dues in time. In the event of non-payment, the officials did not even initiate any proceedings against the defaulting companies.

Officials also did not take any action on recovery interest over delayed payments, the agency has alleged. The FIR said that “undue favours were extended to the coal consumers by supplying coal to them ... in spite of having inadequate/non-sufficient/negative ledger balances of the coal consumers with the MCL.”

**REVISES POSITION LIMIT IN F&O SEGMENT**

**Sebi hikes margins to check short-selling, market volatility**

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, MARCH 20

CAPITAL MARKETS regulator Sebi on Friday announced an increase in margins in the cash market and position limit in the futures & options (F&O) segment, in a bid to ease market volatility and make short-selling of shares tougher.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said that margin rate in the cash market will be increased to a minimum 40 per cent in a phased manner. Accordingly, it will be raised to a minimum of 20 per cent from March 23, 30 per cent from March 26 and 40 per cent from March 30.

The proposed margins would only be applied in cash market. Derivatives contracts on these stocks will continue to be charged margins as per the extant framework.

“The proposed margins rate may be applicable for a period of one month,” Sebi said.

During the week, the 30-share Sensex plummeted 4,187.52 points, or 12.27 per cent, while the broader Nifty sank

**MARGIN RATE TO BE HIKE TO 40%**

■ The Securities and Exchange Board of India said that margin rate in the cash market will be hiked to a minimum 40% in a phased manner. Accordingly, it will be raised to a minimum of 20 per cent from March 23, 30 per cent from March 26 and 40 per cent from March 30.

■ For stocks in F&O segment, MWPL will be revised to 50% of the existing levels if the average daily price high-low variation percentage is more than or equal to 15%, or average MWPL utilisation percentage (during last five trading days) is more than or equal to 40%

1,209.75 points, or 12.15 per cent.

Indian markets had witnessed huge swings on a daily basis in the last two weeks, in line with the global sell-off triggered by the coronavirus pandemic. In the case of non-F&O stocks in the cash market with price band of 20 per cent and witnessing an intra-day (high-low) price movement of more than 10 per cent for six or more days in last one month, minimum margin rate will be increased in a phased manner to 40 per cent from March 26.

For stocks in F&O segment, market wide position limit (MWPL) will be revised to 50 per

cent of the existing levels if the average daily price high-low variation percentage (during last five trading days) is more than or equal to 15 per cent, or average MWPL utilisation percentage (during last five trading days) is more than or equal to 40 per cent.

If MWPL utilisation in a security crosses 95 per cent, derivative contracts enter into a ban period wherein all clients and trading members are required to trade in the derivative contracts of said scrips only to decrease their positions through offsetting positions.

Accordingly, stock exchanges

**DoT holds meeting as industry seeks waivers to keep biz running**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) on Friday met telcos and associations to discuss critical issues around business continuity of communication networks, as industry sought the government's intervention for allowing movement of essential field staff and sought other waivers to keep services up-and-running amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Representatives from industry bodies like COAI and Tower and Infrastructure Providers Association (TAIPA) as well as telecom operators like Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, Reliance Jio and state-owned telcos attended the meeting called by senior DoT officials.

“We are grateful to the DoT for convening a meeting today (Friday) to address various issues highlighted by the industry in the light of challenges faced by the industry relative to COVID-19. The DoT was clear that they were keen to work with the industry to ensure our networks remained available 99.99 per cent of the time and customers were not inconvenienced, especially those operating now from their homes,” Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) director general Rajan Mathews said.

The industry is also pitching for additional spectrum both access and backhaul microwave on a temporary basis to augment capacity given that bigger data pipes will be needed as people work from home.

In a letter to Telecom Department on Friday, COAI urged the Department of Telecommunications “to also instruct term cells to provide necessary relaxations to telecom service providers.”

**Companies world over hit pause button as virus infects economy**

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE**  
PARIS, MARCH 20

LAYOFFS, COST cuts and scrapped dividends... companies scramble to adapt as the coronavirus emergency hits demand while draconian measures to contain it undercut production.

With the economic impact of COVID-19 threatening the very survival of many firms, governments have pledged hundreds of billions to help them limp along — or failing that, to bankroll rescues or outright nationalisation.

Several industrial giants, in particular in the automobile industry, have reduced or even halted production.

America's “Big Three” car-makers — General Motors, Fiat Chrysler and Ford — are temporarily halting operations throughout North America

through the end of the month, the companies said in conjunction with the auto workers union.

Most European carmakers, including Daimler, VW, BMW, Renault, Peugeot Citroen and Fiat Chrysler have shut down most if not all of their manufacturing lines. Nissan and Ford have also shut facilities in Europe. Sweden-based Volvo Cars said Friday it was closing its European and US factories, but has reopened its factories in China.

Truckmakers Scania and Volvo AB are halting most European production following disruptions in the supply chain.

Tyre giant Michelin is halting production in Spain, France and Italy for at least a week.

Airbus said it was suspending work at its French and Spanish plants for four days to improve workplace safety. High-end fashion giant Gucci,

part of the Kering group, is closing all sites until March 20, while Hermes is shutting its manufacturing sites until the end of March.

A slew of American retailers have shut some or all of their outlets, including Nike, Macy's and Gap.

The iconic Saks Fifth Avenue flagship store in New York is closed, and Apple has shuttered all its stores outside China.

Adidas has shut its stores in Europe and North America.

The situation is especially catastrophic for the travel industry, with US hotel giant Marriott shutting down some of its properties and furloughing tens of thousands of workers.

Airlines have been hit by a double-whammy: plunging demand and sweeping travel restrictions imposed by governments.

**COVID-19 EFFECT**

**Tata Motors to temporarily shut down operations at Pune unit**

**PARTHA SARATHI BISWAS**  
PUNE, MARCH 20

TATA MOTORS on Friday announced it was preparing to temporarily shut down its operations at its Pune plant from March 24 “if the situation warrants”. The announcement by the auto manufacturer, which makes trucks and passenger cars at its Pune factory, came on a day on which Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray called for a complete lockdown in Mumbai, Pune and Nagpur to halt the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

“We have been monitoring the situation closely and all data seem to point out that Maharashtra has been the most impacted. In the interest of

safety of our employees in the state, we have decided to rapidly scale down activities at Pune site to get to skeletal operations by end of Monday, 23rd March 2020, and be ready for plant closure by end Tuesday March 24th, 2020 if the situation warrants,” a statement by Tata Motors read.

The lockdown decision has unnerved the large number of manufacturing units in the city, mainly small and medium sector enterprises who are also facing the prospect of an immediate closure of operations. Industry leaders said they had sought some time from the administration to wind up their operations. During a telephonic meeting with the chairman of Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation, where most of these industries are located, the industry leaders put forward the

and clearing corporations should put in place effective mechanism to monitor whether the market-wide open interest for scrips meeting the criteria exceeds 95 per cent of the reduced market wide position limit.

Further, the stock exchanges and clearing corporations should check on an intra-day basis whether any member or client has exceeded his existing positions or has created a new position in the scrips in the new ban period. The new framework will be applicable from March 23 for one month.

“In the recent past, world over, the stock markets have been quite volatile owing to concerns relating to COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant fear of economic slowdown. The movement in the Indian stock market has been broadly in tandem with the other global markets,” the markets regulator said.

“On account of our existing robust risk management framework, despite significant movements in the market, there has not been any disruption in the settlement cycles of the stock exchanges and clearing corporations,” Sebi added.

**BRIEFLY**

**NRI stake in Air India: DPIIT notifies decision**

New Delhi: The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has notified a decision of the union cabinet to allow non-resident Indians (NRIs) to control up to 100 per cent stake in disinvestment-bound Air India. The FDI policy earlier permitted NRIs to take only 49 per cent stake in the airline. In its press note, the DPIIT said: “Foreign investments in Air India including that of foreign airlines shall not exceed 49 per cent either directly or indirectly except in case of those NRIs, who are Indian Nationals, where foreign investment is permitted up to 100 per cent under automatic route”.

**Jan: Mining, quarrying sector up 4.4%**

New Delhi: Production of mining and quarrying sector grew by 4.4 per cent in January, the Mines Ministry said Friday. The cumulative growth for April-January 2019-20 over the corresponding period of the previous year has been 1 per cent, it said. “The index of mineral production of mining and quarrying sector for the month of January 2020...at 124.3, was 4.4% higher as compared to the level in the month of January 2019,” the ministry said in a statement. In January, the production of coal was 750 lakh tonnes, lignite 45 lakh tonnes, natural bauxite 2,146 thousand tonnes and chromite 445 thousand tonnes among others, it added.

**IDC names Vasant Rao MD for India**

New Delhi: International Data Corporation (IDC) on Friday said it has appointed Vasant Rao as managing director for India and South Asia with effect from March 18. Rao will be based out of IDC's Bengaluru office and will be reporting to Eva Au, managing director, IDC Asia/Pacific, according to a statement. Prior to joining IDC, he held multiple global leadership roles during his stint at Cognizant. PTI

**Merz stays on as CEO of ThyssenKrupp**

Frankfurt: Martina Merz, who took over as interim chief executive of ThyssenKrupp, will remain in the job until 2023 after successfully selling the group's elevator unit on Friday. Merz, who swapped her chairman role for chief executive officer after the resignation of former boss Guido Kerkhoff last year, was originally meant to stay in the job until the end of September. The supervisory board's personnel committee on Friday recommended appointing Merz for a three-year term starting on April 1, 2020. REUTERS

**Secretary-level meetings with stakeholders on national e-comm policy**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

A SERIES of meetings have been organised at the secretary-level with various stakeholders on the proposed national e-commerce policy, Parliament was informed on Friday. In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that the formulation of the policy is under consideration of the government. The draft policy seeks to create a facilitative regulatory environment for the growth of e-commerce sector.

“A series of meetings have been held at the level of Secretary, DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) with different stakeholders, including major e-commerce com-

**Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said the formulation of the policy is under consideration of the government**

panies, start-ups, industry associations, think-tanks, academicians etc. as well as data centre providers, logistics companies, export promotion councils to discuss the issues facing the sector and the provisions contained in the draft,” he said.

Goyal added that since e-commerce is a new issue, it has necessitated detailed consultations over the last few months to ensure that the policy is crafted in a manner that interests of all stakeholders are taken into account.

**COVID-19 crisis: 'Offer immediate liquidity to services sector'**

Calling for urgent liquidity support to the worst-hit services sector, *Crisil* in a report said that only a mix of monetary and fiscal boosters can help the economy tide over the deepening impact of the COVID-19 pandemic



**\*Normalcy in supply chain only by May: Supply chain normalisation is possible only by end May provided the rate of new COVID-19 cases continues to fall in China**

**~48%: SHARE OF THE EUROZONE, CHINA, AND THE REST OF ASIA-PACIFIC WITH INDIA'S TOTAL EXPORTS**

**Segments in high-risk category that need immediate short to mid-term liquidity support:**  
■ Airlines ■ Hotels  
■ Malls ■ Multiplexes  
■ Restaurants ■ Retailers

**LITTLE POLICY FIREPOWER:** The government has little policy firepower to give a meaningful push to growth and the pandemic is making it more difficult; thus, a mix of monetary and fiscal policy measures necessary to cushion demand fall

**15: COUNTRIES FACING NEAR RECESSION-LIKE SITUATION, WHICH ACCOUNT FOR 45% OF INDIA'S EXPORTS**

**STATUS OF INDIA'S THREE LARGEST TRADING PARTNERS:**  
■ Share in India's total exports  
■ Share in India's total imports



**Liquidity vital for servicing debt: Near-term liquidity is vital to ensure timely servicing of debt as businesses adjust to the environment**

Source: *Crisil/PTI*

**AirAsia founder Tony Fernandes returns as CEO after Airbus probe**

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 20

AIRASIA BOSS Tony Fernandes has returned to his post after being cleared by an independent probe, the Malaysian carrier said Friday, 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 case in Europe and allegations emerged the plane-maker paid bribes to win contracts. They denied any wrongdoing but stepped aside while the matter was probed.

Airbus had agreed to pay \$4 billion in fines to regulators to settle the case, but the scandal was further illuminated by Britain's Serious Fraud Office (SFO) releas-

**Fernandes and AirAsia executive chairman Kamarudin Meranun left their roles last month after Airbus settled a case in Europe and allegations emerged Airbus paid bribes to win contracts**

ing the names of several airlines allegedly involved — including AirAsia and its long-haul unit AirAsia X.

But in a statement Friday, AirAsia said that independent reviewer BDO Governance Advisory found the airline had “robust” aircraft procurement processes.

The review found that AirAsia's “aircraft acquisition was justifiable and at prices favourable to (the airline)”, the statement said. The airline's sponsorship of a sports team also followed proper procedures and was not related to purchases, the review found, said

AirAsia. Court documents had linked sponsorship payments to AirAsia's decision to order 180 Airbus aircraft. Fernandes and Kamarudin used to own a Formula One team, but have denied that it was involved in any bribery scandal.

The pair had disclosed their interests to AirAsia's board and abstained from decisions related to the sponsorships, the review found. AirAsia's board had accepted the review findings and decided to reinstate Fernandes and Kamarudin to their executive positions, the airline said.

**R Gandhi, Ananth Narayan on board of Yes Bank as additional directors**

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
MUMBAI, MARCH 20

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) on Friday appointed former deputy governor R Gandhi and Ananth Narayan, associate professor, S P Jain Institute of Management and Research, on the board of Yes Bank as additional directors for two years. The central bank said these appointments are effective March 26.

Narayan was earlier at Standard Chartered Bank as its regional head of financial markets for ASEAN and South Asia, while Gandhi was appointed on Yes Bank's board in May as an additional director till May 13, 2021 and is being reappointed after its board was superseded by the RBI on March 5.

Meanwhile, Yes Bank shares fell 15 per cent to Rs 45.90 on the

BSE following reports that the banking regulator has opened an emergency line of credit of around Rs 60,000 crore to Yes Bank to meet any liquidity crisis in paying back its depositors after the private lender resumed normal operations from Thursday.

The credit line is in accordance with Section 17 (4) of the RBI Act and also is a reaffirmation of Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das' statement on Monday that the central bank was ready to provide all necessary liquidity support to Yes Bank.

As of December 2019, the bank incurred a quarterly loss of Rs 18,564.25 crore and a period to date loss of Rs 19,097.78 crore. Subsequent to this period, the bank's deposit base has seen a further reduction to Rs 1,37,506 crore.

Earlier this week, the government reconstituted the board of Yes Bank with former Punjab National Bank non-executive chairman Sunil Mehta as the non-executive chairman, along with Mahesh Krishnamurthy and Atul Bhedra as non-executive directors under the reconstruction scheme proposed by RBI.

Prashant Kumar, former chief financial officer and deputy managing director of State Bank of India and currently the Administrator of Yes Bank, has been appointed as the new managing director and chief executive officer of the private lender.

On May 5, the Reserve Bank superseded the board of directors of troubled Yes Bank for a period of 30 days “owing to serious deterioration in the financial position” of the private bank and capped the deposit withdrawals at Rs 50,000 per depositor.

**Rana Kapoor sent to 2-day judicial custody; CBI seeks warrant in separate case**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE**  
MUMBAI, MARCH 20

YES BANK founder Rana Kapoor, arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) under provisions of the PMLA earlier this month, was on Friday sent to judicial custody till April 2 by a special court. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), however, sought a production warrant against him in a separate case where he has been named an accused as well.

The former MD and CEO of Yes Bank, who was arrested on March 8, was produced by the ED before the special court on Friday, with the Directorate submitting before the court that his custody was no longer needed and he could be sent to jail.

Kapoor told the court that he was suffering from various ailments, including asthma and depression for the past 18 months.

His lawyer, Abad Ponda, submitted that as he is a senior citizen and has ailments including respiratory problems, he is “particularly vulnerable” to COVID-19 and hence care should be taken that he is kept in a special ward at Arthur Road jail.

ED counsel Sunil Gonsalves told the court that since Arthur Road jail was full, Kapoor may be taken to the jail in Talaja, Navi Mumbai. The court directed the jail authorities to take appropriate care. Kapoor was arrested by the ED, which claimed that he and the companies belonging to his family had benefitted from loans disbursed by Yes Bank during his tenure at the helm of the bank.

**CORRIGENDUM NOTICE**

**SUBJECT: Tender No. OP2/14/2019-20- DNIT for the replacement of obsolete and old 11 VCB and allied items at 66 Grid Sub Stn. Industrial Area, Phase-I & II and 33 KV Grid Sub Stn. Industrial Area, Phase-I, Chandigarh.**

The subject cited tender which was due to be opened on dated i.e. 20.03.2020 at 03.00 P.M. is hereby extended upto 14.04.2020 at 02.00 P.M. with opening date i.e. 15.04.2020 at 03.00 P.M. for granting extra time to the firm for uploading the tender in the light of Krona Virus Crisis.

**Sd/-**  
**Executive Engineer,**  
**Electricity (OP) Division No. 2,**  
**Chandigarh, U.T.**

**RAJASTHAN STATE GRANULATED SUGAR MILLS LTD.**  
Regd. Office: 4th Floor, Nehru Sankar Bhawan, Bhiwani Singh Road, Jaipur-302006.  
Ph: 0141-276841 FAX: 0141-276876 E-mail ID: RSGM@rediffmail.com  
NIB. NO. RSGM/RML-CL/CG/2020-21/Pur/64 Date: 18.03.2020

**Short Notice Inviting e-Bid**

E-bids are invited from firms located in Rajasthan, holding valid licenses and running distilleries/ bottling plants for procurement and supply of Rajasthan made liquor (RML) and country liquor at the depots of RSGM up to 6.00 p.m. of 26.03.2020. Details may be seen in the bidding document on <http://rajexco.gov.in/> or <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>. This bid shall be processed through e-procurement portal <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> of Govt. of Rajasthan. Further updates about the bidding will be available only on above websites; therefore, interested bidders are advised to visit above websites regularly for updates. **UBN No:- GSM1920GLRC90454**  
Raj.Samwadi/C19/6272 **Dy. General Manager (Purchase)**

**Head Office**  
"Lokmangal", 1501, Shivajinagar, Pune-05

**CORRIGENDUM**

With reference to RFP No. 03/2019-20 for Empanelment of Advertising and Media Buying Agencies published in newspapers on 27/02/2020, in view of COVID-19 outbreak, the last date for Bid submission stands revised as **Saturday 04/04/2020** and the interested bidders are requested to submit their applications by POST / COURIER.

**Note:** The new dates of opening of proposal bids and other information, if any, will be made available on Bank's website [www.bankofmaharashtra.in](http://www.bankofmaharashtra.in)  
**Pune, 20/03/2020 Assistant General Manager, Marketing & Publicity**

**Head Office**: Lokmangal, 1501, Shivaji Nagar, Pune - 411005

**CORRIGENDUM**

With reference to RFP No. M & P/Printing of Notices for AGM & Annual Report 2019-20, Printing of Notices for AGM & Annual Report 2019-20 published in newspapers on 13/03/2020, in view of COVID-19 outbreak, the last date for Bid submission stands revised as Saturday 04/04/2020 and the interested bidders are requested to submit their applications by POST / COURIER.

**Note:** The new dates of opening of proposal bids and other information, if any, will be made available on Bank's website [www.bankofmaharashtra.in](http://www.bankofmaharashtra.in).  
**Date: 20/03/2020**  
**Place: Pune**

**Assistant General Manager,**  
**Marketing & Publicity**

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**Open E-Tender Notice**

For and on behalf of the President of India, the Chief Engineer/Bridges, Lms/NoP Western Railway, Jaipur (single packet) open E-tendering system (Single packet) for the following works on prescribed electronic terms. **E-Tender No. : Dy. CE Brdgs, lms/19-20-15** Name of work with its location : Metelizing, Painting and repairment of locomotives/locomotive sheds of Major and Important Bridges in Jodhpur & Bikaner Division. **Approx. Cost of Work : Rs. 1,06,57,879.58 Earnest Money to be deposited : Rs. 2,03,300.00 Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) Months Date & Time of submission of on line E-Tender :** On line e-tender for works tender in electronic form will be submitted up to 08.04.2020 at 15.00 hrs. respectively. Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen : The complete information along with tender document shall available in prescribed electronic form in Indian Railway E-tendering website [www.reps.gov.in](http://www.reps.gov.in) 307-2020  
Please join us on **f/e/NWR**

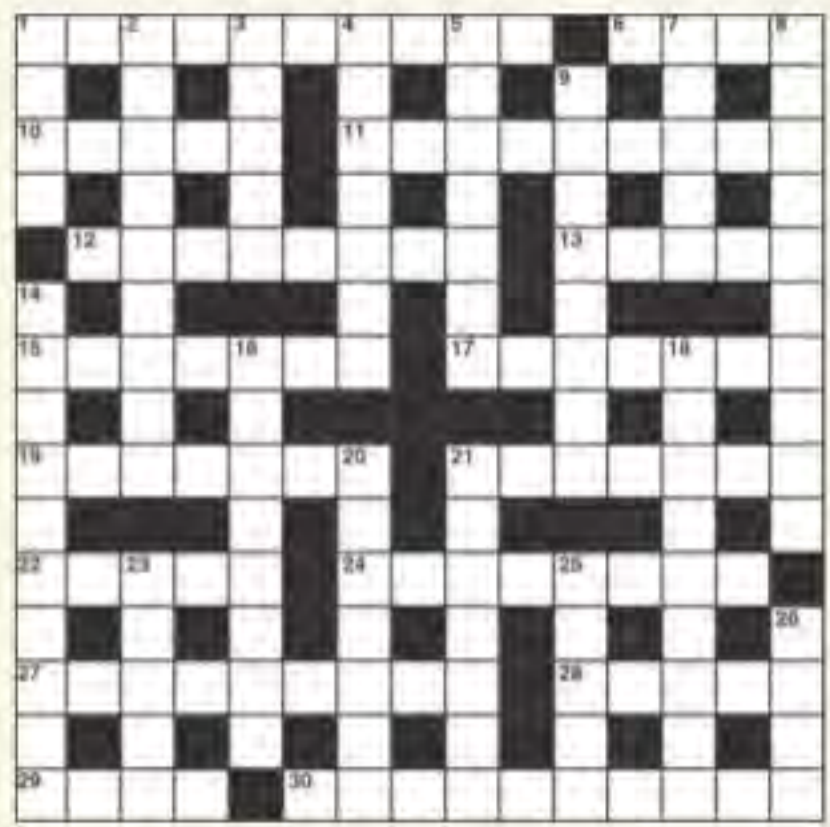
**MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.**

**GOLD AUCTION NOTICE**

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below auctions is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16/04/2020 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-  
BHIWANI, BHIWANI, 119170700020530, 0928, 0932, 2012, 2421, 2535, 2571, 2658, 2856, 2872, 2890, 2924, 2966, 3008, 3011, 3031, 3039, 3060, 3073, 3076, 3108, 3135, 3145, 3179, 3184, 3213, 3231, 3662, 3805, 3912, 3934, 3954, 3956, 3961, 3966, 3978, 3980, 3981, 3990, 4002, 4007, 4011, 4025, 4037, 4063, 4079, 4094, 4097, 4100, 4103, 4104, 4112, 4122, 4123, 4165, 4179, 4187, 4195, 4200, 4204, 4208, 4214, 4219, 4224, 4238, 4250, 4251, 119170700010919, 1981, 1982, 1983, 2135, 2161, 2175, 2182, 2202, 2204, 2205, 2207, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2267, 2269, 2300, 2305, 2316, 2321, 2323, 2347, 2349, 2352, 2354, 2355, 2377, 2399, 2408, DINOD GATE BHIWANI, 13857070000098, 0107, 0108, 0121, 13857070000065, FARIDABAD, BALLABGARH, 122540700018005, 9464, 9719, 9761, 9765, 122540700020130, 0226, 0280, 0281, 0409, 0988, 1051, 1167, 1212, 1277, 1301, 1302, 1313, 1318, 1327, 1329, 1343, 1344, 1352, 1360, 1361, 1363, 1366, 1367, 1385, 1387, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1396, 1404, 1415, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1430, 1431, 1439, 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1166, 1167, 1168, 1169, 1170, 1171, 1172, 1173, 1174, 1175, 1176, 1177, 1178, 1179, 1180, 1181, 1182, 1183, 1184, 1185, 1186, 1187, 1188, 1189, 1190, 1191, 1192, 1193, 1194, 1195, 1196, 1197, 1198, 1199, 1200, 1201, 1202, 1203, 1204, 1205, 1206, 1207, 1208, 1209, 1210, 1211, 1212, 1213, 1214, 1215, 1216, 1217, 1218, 1219, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1226, 1227, 1228, 1229, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1235, 1236, 1237, 12

## CROSSWORD 4071



- ACROSS**
- Study discipline in a moral sense (10)
  - Fruit that grows feathers with age (4)
  - Asong from Cyril (5)
  - Peevishness I shall shortly moderate (3,6)
  - Yet he stands at the head of the board (8)
  - Erect a place to live in the Mediterranean (5)
  - Conduct unusual in a Scot (7)
  - Soaked in the deepest concoction (7)
  - Presumably they have good reasons for being late (7)
  - Control may rest in the wrong position (7)
  - Deck or dock (5)
  - Authorise credit on account (8)
  - Billy took forty winks - that's novel (9)
  - Italian city in sea storm (5)
  - Regretted being audibly discourteous (4)
  - Wind instrument (10)
- DOWN**
- Gun may be mounted (4)
  - A leading light in astronomy (5,4)
  - Naturally they raise awkward points in public activities (5)
  - Megan is confused by riddles (7)
  - Date for Roman candles to be ordered (7)
  - Failure in circuits, it's said (5)
  - When goods are sold out (6,4)
  - Young trainers coming from the races (8)
  - His boss gets outside jobs for him (10)
  - Games period (8)
  - As the top man at this moment I should be inside (9)
  - Increase keenness? (7)
  - Roadmaker sees woman about the bill (7)
  - Deposit for a house (5)
  - A course that may have salt added (5)
  - Quite good show (4)

**Solutions Crossword 4070:** Across: 1 Traffic, 5 About, 8 Appraiser, 9 Fed, 10 Tide, 12 Prospero, 14 Malice, 15 Little, 17 Regional, 18 Lees, 21 Own, 22 Apologise, 24 Irene, 25 Rattled. Down: 1 Toast, 2 Asp, 3 Flan, 4 Castro, 5 Acrostic, 6 Off-centre, 7 Tadpole, 11 Diligence, 13 Accolade, 14 Marconi, 16 Favour, 19 Steed, 20 Foot, 23 Ill.

## OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



## CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



## MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



## DAY TODAY

BY PETER VIDAL

- ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)**  
A word about your physical well-being: you seem to be in danger of pushing yourself hard and wearing yourself out. You are particularly susceptible to excess and indulgence, which includes fanatical dieting. Remember the golden rule — all things in moderation.
- TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)**  
Your romantic stars are strong, and you are inclined to group a number of feelings under the general heading of 'being in love', but you may not be right. You have other desires which must now be met, such as the need for material security and emotional certainty.
- GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)**  
Circumstances beyond your control now require improvements at home. The pressure to move to somewhere more spacious or luxurious will soon be intense, much of it coming from your personal irritation with close partners. However, if you take the necessary decisions then other people's opinions and actions will cease bothering you.
- CANCER (June 22 - July 23)**  
The legacy of the past, perhaps only of recent days, may be keeping you busy. The warning not to overdo it stands, but nobody can question the amount you have on your plate. Perhaps assistance will be more readily forthcoming when you mix with new people rather than the same old faces.
- LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)**  
As the hours pass, your planetary picture begins to look increasingly mature and responsible, and less concerned with 'having fun'. That's why your entertainment requirements may therefore veer towards the highbrow or cultural, and an expensive evening out could be a fine idea.
- VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)**  
If you are to seize the moment, you must be in the right place at the right time. Your biggest asset at the moment is enthusiasm, the greatest failing is complacency. Deal with children and younger people in a firm but fair manner, offering them appropriate encouragement whenever you can.
- LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)**  
Not a single emotional compromise or concession should be made until family members have been consulted, and that might not be possible until another few days have passed. You can begin to consider the potential of a possible new financial venture, consulting the experts whenever necessary.
- SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)**  
Venus, planet of love and of victory in war, is now forming a fresh alignment with your sign, giving you the edge in all personal considerations. Save some time for serious discussions over long-term family matters, as people you live with need to hear your opinions.
- SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)**  
The whole situation is looking considerably more certain than even a short while ago. At least now you should have the confidence to move ahead, perhaps because the financial situation will soon be more secure, but also because someone who was critical will soon soften their tone.
- CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)**  
Hidden truths are about to be revealed. A mystery will soon be solved, a lost item found, and a rumour proved false. You may also soon realise just how a dream may be put into practice, although precise plans may have to be left until later.
- AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)**  
Venus, planet of love, now shifts the emotional goal posts. It looks as if you will be making more demands on people, perhaps because you are ambitious on their behalf, perhaps because you wish them to live your life for you. Don't be surprised if they don't see eye-to-eye.
- PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
There is much to be said for giving other people a wide berth, particular authority figures, or worse, people who imagine they are in authority. Your social stars pick up when the Moon adjusts its position, and you may even be on course for an unexpected invitation.

## JUMBLLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given quip.

I don't like to commit myself about \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ you see, I have friends in both places - Mark Twain (6, 4)

**CMEEE**      **DEIRHN**

**ALLOY**      **DIOSHV**

both places - Mark Twain  
Answer: I don't like to commit myself about heaven and hell - you see, I have friends in both places - Mark Twain

## Difficulty Level 4s

**Instructions**  
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

## Difficulty Level

1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

**SUDOKU 4154**

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

**SOLUTION SUDOKU 4154**

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

**भारतीय कंटेनर निगम लिमिटेड**  
**CONTAINER CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD.**  
एक सार्वजनिक कम्पनी (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम)  
A Navratna Company (A Govt. of India Undertaking)  
ICD, Tughlakabad, New Delhi - 110 020

**NOTICE FOR DISPOSAL OF UNCLEARED/UNCLAIMED IMPORTED CARGO & EMPTY CONTAINERS AT ICD/TKD**  
Below mentioned nine (9) import loaded containers are lying unclaimed/uncleared at ICD/Tughlakabad, New Delhi, since long time. Concerned shipping lines, carriers, importers etc. are not contactable. Container Corporation of India Ltd. shall be arranging disposal of these unclaimed/uncleared imported cargo and empty containers. All shipping lines, carriers, importers, including Government Undertakings/Departments etc. whose containers/goods are lying unclaimed/uncleared and falling in the appended list, because of any dispute, stay by Court/Tribunal/others or any such reason may accordingly inform the Executive Director/CONCORD, Northern Region, as well as Commissioner of Customs ICD/TKD, New Delhi, and file their objections/claims regarding disposal of such goods within 7 (Seven Days) of this notice, failing which the goods & empty containers will be disposed of, as per Rules, without any further notice.

Shipping Line	Container Number	Size	Date of Arrival	Shipping Line	Container Number	Size	Date of Arrival
W/W SHIPPING AGENCIES	TEXU011179	20	29.10.2004	HANJIN SHIPPING CO. LTD.	HUCU2280475	20	28.11.2011
PVT LTD	TOLLU3236136	20	29.10.2004	HUCU4009740	40	04.07.2008	
VICTOR AND CO	WHLU2406026	20	23.01.2014	SATURN SHIP AGENCIES PVT LTD	CRXU1221658	20	02.03.2003
DRAGON SHIPPING PVT. LTD	TRLU3014833	20	26.09.2004	TRITON LOGISTICS AND MARITIME PLTD	CRXU1970548	20	20.07.2009
BARWIL FORBES SHIPPING SERVICES LTD	DYRU1329288	20	08.03.2004				

Executive Director, Northern Region

**THE RAJASTHAN STATE COOPERATIVE BANK LTD.**  
DC-1, Opposite Nehru Baloyan, Tonk Road, Jaipur  
Phone : 0141-2744703, Fax: 0141-2744816 e-mail : rscb.leaders@rajasthan.gov.in

**e tenders are invited from eligible bidders for e-Tender**  
Notice No. RSCB/Oracle/19-20/1 dated 21.3.2020

Supply & Installation of Oracle Software Products (Single Source Procurement). Bid starts 21.3.2020 at 10.00 AM and end 27.3.2020 at 3.00 PM. Bids will be opened on 27.3.2020 at 5 PM.  
Tender document is available at websites of <http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in>, <http://rscb.org.in>, <http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in>.

Managing Director

**PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited**  
Regd. Office: PSEB H.O., The Mall, Patiala - 147001  
O/o CE/MM, Room No. 215, 2nd Floor, Multi Story Building,  
PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala, Phone: 0175- 2213047,  
Mob: 96461-22954, 96461-11034, E-mail: potransformer@gmail.com,  
(CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813. Registration Number: 33813, website: www.pspcl.in  
e-tendering portal : <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER**

Tender Enquiry No. O- 3990/20-21/PO-T/CE-MM  
Scope/Short Description Procurement of 10500 Nos. EEL-2, ISF Marked, 11/3 KV/250V, 10 KVA, Single Phase, 50 cycles, outdoor type, oil immersed, naturally cooled, core or Shell type, Stack/wound core type construction aluminium wound, CROGO/ Amorphous core distribution transformers complete with fittings as per PSPCL specification & conforming to IS 1180 Part-1(2014) & 2026 (with latest amendments)

Start Date for Downloading of Specification/Tender Document from website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> 18.03.2020  
Last Date for Downloading of Specification/Tender Documents from website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in> 17.04.2020 upto 11.00 A.M.  
Last Date of Bid Submission 17.04.2020 upto 11.00 A.M.  
Bid Opening Date 23.04.2020 at 11.00 A.M.

For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.  
**NOTE:** It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspaper. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on website <https://eproc.punjab.gov.in>.

Sd/-  
Chief Purchase Officer,  
Central Purchase Organization, PSPCL, Patiala.

C-98/2020  
635/PB

**HIMACHAL PRADESH JAL SHAKTI VIBHAG**  
"NOTICE INVITING TENDER"

Online Bids on Item Rate Basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division No. 1, Kasumpti Shimla -9 (HP) on behalf of Governor Himachal Pradesh in Electronic System in Two Covers for the under motioned work from Contractors/Firms of Appropriate Class enlisted with HP Jal Shakti Vibhag.

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money	Time	Cost of Form
1.	Prov LIS Lakhoti Rahud and Adjoining Area from Giri River in Tehsil & Distt Shimla HP (SH:- C/O Sump Well 5000 ltrs. Cap Pump House, RCC Delivery Tank, Laying and Jointing of Distribution System in HDPE Pipe of various dia, C/O RCC Outlet/ BP Tank, Prov Laying and Jointing of Rising Main for Booster and Main Storage 125mm dia and S/E of Centrifugal Pumping Machinery with Allied Accessories)	Rs. 48,96,037/-	Rs. 80950/-	12 Months	Rs. 800/-
2.	Prov LWSS from Bag Nallah to village Pagog, Parechi, Shanan, Moti Bag etc. in G.P.Pagog Tehsil and Distt. Shimla.HP.(SH:-Site Development, C/O RCC Intake tank, Sedimentation tank and filter bed, Sump well cum Storage tank 40000 ltrs. Main Storage tank 80000 ltrs at Node No.2, RCC Sub-Storage tank 5000 ltrs. cap. at Node.3 & 4, RCC Storage tank 7000 ltrs. cap. at Node.5. Pump house cum attendant qtr. Barbed wire fencing, distribution system, Rising main 80mm dia, Pumping Machinery).	Rs. 1,30,67,621/-	Rs. 1,63,180/-	1 Year	Rs. 1,500/-
3.	LWSS Guthan Stage-II to vill. Baha in G.P.Kalind Tehsil Theog, Distt.Shimla.HP.(SH:-C/O shed for pumping machinery at 2nd stage, Prov. laying of Rising main 40mm dia, C/O Main storage tank of 5000 ltrs. cap. S/E of pumping machinery with automation and laying and jointing of G.I.Pipe of various dia in distribution system).	Rs. 14,46,412/-	Rs. 28,950/-	1 Year	Rs. 400/-
4.	LWSS to P.C.Habitat in Block Theog in Chopal constituency covered under JUM in Tehsil Theog Distt. Shimla.HP.(SH:-Prov. laying and jointing of Rising main 150mm dia for Booster, Ist, 2nd stage, augmentation of Dawada Khad and Booster Augmentation, Anchor block in Jeev Nallah to protect the Rising main, Supply and erection of pumping machinery at Booster, Ist, 2nd stage, augmentation of Dawada Khad and Booster Augmentation and Installation of automation for Ist and 2nd stage (Phase-2nd).	Rs. 5,86,84,044/-	Rs. 5,00,000/-	18 Months	Rs. 2500/-
5.	LWSS to P.C.Habitat in Block Theog in Chopal constituency covered under JUM in Tehsil Theog Distt. Shimla.HP.(SH:-C/O 35 Mtr. long head weir over Bashari Khad and 25 mtr. long at Dawada Khad, retaining/breast wall in front of pump house and WTP, RCC Sump well 267000 ltrs at Bashari Khad and 245000 cap at Dawada Khad, Main Storage tank 363500 ltrs. in IInd stage near GHS Kishore, Main Storage tank 331000 ltrs. cap. at Jathari top near Temple, RCC Sector storage tank 162200 ltrs. cap. at Gagai, RCC Sector storage tank 19200 ltrs. cap. at Aildhar, RCC Filter bed 334000 ltrs cap. at Bashari Khad, RCC filter bed 306000 ltrs. capacity at Dwada Khad, RCC Sedimentation tank 67000 ltrs at Bashari Khad and 62000 ltrs. cap. at Dwada Khad, Pump house Ist stage at Bashari Khad and 2nd stage near GHS Kishore, Prov. and fixing barbed wire fencing around civil structure, Prov. and Installation of FHOTC, Laying and jointing of Distribution system, Approach road at Ist and 2nd stage, 45 Nos intake chamber, Prov. Installation testing and commissioning of 5 M.T. Crane at pump houses (Phase-2nd).	Rs. 7,09,71,102/-	Rs. 5,00,000/-	18 Months	Rs. 2500/-

**3. Key Dates:**

I	Date of Online Publication	21.03.2020 at 05.00 P.M.
II	Downloading of e-Tender Documents	From 21.03.2020 at 05:00 P.M. Up to 06.04.2020 at 5.00 PM
III	Date of Submission of e-Tendering	From 21.03.2020 at 05:00 P.M. Up to 06.04.2020 at 05.00 P.M.
IV	Physically Submission of EMD and Cost of Tender Documents as per NIT/ Form PWA 6	From 21.03.2020 at 05:00 P.M. Up to 07.04.2020 at 11.00 A.M.
V	Date of Opening of Technical Bid	07.04.2020 at 11:30 A.M.
	Date of Opening of Financial Bid	Shall be intimated Separately

**AVAILABILTY OF FORMS:-**  
1) Tenders are to be submitted only on PWD Forms/BOQ as prescribed and can be downloaded from <https://hptenders.gov.in>. As the bids are to be submitted Online are required to be encrypted and DSC (Digital Signature Certificate). The Bidders are advice to obtained DSC from suitable Vender and for any Authorized Agency at the earliest.  
2) Tender Documents consisting of the detailed plans, specifications, schedule of quantities of various items of work, and the set of conditions of to be complied with can be download or viewed online from the portal <https://hptenders.gov.in> on the date(s) & time given above by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.  
**For any clarification please contact the O/o Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division No. 1, Kasumpti Shimla-171009.**

Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division No. 1, Kasumpti Shimla-171009. (HP). Phone Off: 0177-2620591  
E-mail: [kasumptidivision@gmail.com](mailto:kasumptidivision@gmail.com)

5651/HP

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

The Executive Engineer, Tauni Devi Division HP-PWD, Tauni Devi on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system from the eligible class of contractors registered with HPPWD for the works as detailed in the table:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs.)	Starting date for downloading	Earnest Money	Deadline for submission of Bid
1.	C/O link road to Mehli Bridge to Village Pargna Km. 0/0 to 2/130.(SH:-5/7 mtr. Wide formation cutting, R/wall, canal way, C.D. GSB, WMM and tarring, V-Shape drain, Parapets, sign boards and Km. stone).	1,41,02,786/-	30.03.2020	1,73,500/-	09.04.2020
2.	C/O link road from Ree to Garholi via Balyana Km 0/0 to 2/825.(SH:- formation cutting, R/wall, C.D. soling ,wearing ,Tarring ,Parapets, V-Shape drain and 2 Nos. 10.00 mtr span RCC slab culverts ) Under Nabard RIDF-XXV).	1,44,73,286/-	30.03.2020	1,77,300/-	09.04.2020
3.	C/O link road Kakkar to Bakkar Khad via Ghodlamber from Km. 0/0 to 2/0 and Kakkar to Bakkar Khad via Trola from Km 0/0 to 3/570. RIDF-XXV. (SH:- 5/7 mtr. wide formation cutting R/wall, C.D., GSB,WMM and tarring ,V-shape drain, Parapets, Sign Boards and km stone).	2,20,73,725/-	30.03.2020	2,53,300/-	09.04.2020
4.	C/O link road from Ansla to Saud upto Pung Khad Km 0/0 to 4/015. (SH:- formation cutting, R/wall, B/wall,C.D.works, soling ,wearing ,Tarring ,Parapets, V-Shape drain and 1 No. 6.00 mtr span RCC slab culverts ) Under Nabard RIDF-XXV).	2,50,72,475/-	30.03.2020	2,90,000/-	09.04.2020

The bidder are advised to note other details of tenders from the department website: [www.hptenders.gov.in](http://www.hptenders.gov.in).  
1. Tender document and other instructions can be downloaded or viewed online from the portal <https://hptenders.gov.in> by the firms/individual registered on the website which is free of cost.  
5615/H.P.

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

The Executive Engineer HPPWD Dharamshala Division, on behalf of Governor of H.P. invites the item rate bids, in electronic tendering system, for following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with HPPWD :

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Earnest Money	Time Limit	Start Date for Downloading Bid	Deadline for Submission of Bid
1.	Construction of road from BSNL telecom Complex (Near Circuit House) to Link with GDM road near C.E. (KZ) PWD residence km 0/00 to 0/915 (Sanjay Marg Ward No. 6) in Distt. Kangra (H.P.) (SH:- Providing and Laying Cement concrete Pavement, Retaining wall, Edge wall, Service Duct, Culverts, Footpath, railing, Benches and Metal beam Crash Barrier)	10932199.00	141830.00	Twelve Months	26.03.2020	08.04.2020
2.	Construction of smart road from DMC office to Gas agency Kotwall Bazar km 0/000 to 0/250 in Distt. Kangra (H.P.) (SH:- Providing and Laying Cement concrete Pavement, under ground PVC pipe with chamber, interlocking paver block and benches)	3021623.00	52830.00	Six Months	-do-	-do-
3.	Construction of smart road from Medlodganj to Dharamkot km 0/000 to 0/900 in Distt. Kangra (H.P.) (SH:- Providing and Laying Cement concrete Pavement, Retaining wall, Edge wall, Service Duct, Culverts, Footpath, railing, Benches and Metal beam Crash Barrier)	7119294.00	103700.00	Twelve Months	-do-	-do-
4.	Construction of smart road from Upper Dharamkot to Lower Dharamkot (Mid point of road No. 1 to Bhagsunag) km 0/000 to 0/960 in Distt. Kangra (H.P.) (SH:-Construction of retaining wall at Various RDs, side drain, Providing and Laying Cement concrete Pavement, Providing and Erecting "W" Metal beam Crash Barrier and benches )	1260146.00	25210.00	Three Months	-do-	-do-

The bidders are advised to note other details of tenders from the departmental website: <https://hptenders.gov.in>. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reasons.  
HIM SUCHANA AVAM JAN SAMPARK  
Executive Engineer, Dharamshala Division, HPPWD, Dharamshala, On behalf of Governor of Himachal Pradesh.  
5618/HP

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE**  
**Construction & Maintenance Group,**  
ISRO HQ, LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road,  
HAL II Stage, Bengaluru -08  
Ph:080-25037-192/193/388 Fax: 080-25203763

**Corrigendum-1 Date: 19.03.2020**

On behalf of the President of India, applications are invited for prequalification of Structural Design Consultancy firms for the following steel structure.

**Title of work: Pre-qualification of Structural Design Consultancy firms for Detailed Engineering of Steel Structures for New Launching Station for Small Satellite Launch Vehicle at Tiruchendur, Tamil Nadu.**

Tender Notice No.	CMG/ISRO-HQ/C/C/16/2019-20
Date:	02.03.2020
Approx. cost	Rs.140.00 Crore
Period of Completion	Two (02) Months
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	From 10:00 Hrs on 03.03.2020 to 16:00 Hrs on 13.03.2020 Extended Upto: 06.04.2020 16.00 Hrs
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Upto 14:30 Hrs on 20.03.2020 Extended Upto: 15.04.2020 14.30 Hrs
Due date and time of opening of tenders	15:00 Hrs on 20.03.2020 Extended Upto: 15.04.2020 15.00 Hrs
Cost of tender Document	Rs.590/- (Incl. GST) + Rs.500/- extra for Postal Requisition

Detailed tender notice and Tender documents can be downloaded from [www.isro.gov.in](http://www.isro.gov.in)  
Sd/- Group Head, CMG, ISRO HQ

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"I hope there's some effort being made to extend/change the qualification period. The ranking is still not frozen.. points of last years Swiss open have been removed. ATP froze the ranking.. we should learn from tennis."

PARUPALLI KASHYAP

# Sparring partner of Taiwanese players at All England tests positive

**SHIVANI NAIK**  
MUMBAI, MARCH 20

DANISH SHUTTLE Hans-Kristian Vittinghus who had drawn the badminton world's attention to exposure risks to top players and spectators at the All England Championships last week prompting suspension of tournaments, on Friday pointed to another glum piece of news, to show that the Birmingham meet might've posed a grave risk.

While officials did not confirm the athlete or the sport, the European itinerary in a Taiwanese news update, exactly matched the description of a suspected teenaged sparring partner of the Chinese Taipei squad that played at All England. This included finalists Tai Tzu Ying and Chou Tien Chen.

Quoting *Taiwan News*, Vittinghus,

tweeted, "So a Taiwanese athlete who was in Spain at the time of the Barcelona Masters, in Germany (where the Taiwanese badminton players had training) the following week and then in UK during the time of All England — has tested positive for COVID-19 after returning home..."

*Taiwan News* reported that the teenager was the province's "first athlete diagnosed with coronavirus who had visited 4 European countries."

It was on a day that the province reported its largest single-day spike of 27 new cases, many of whom had travelled in from abroad.

He was not a member of the national team, but had been in training as a backup, according to some media reports.

The national team was staying in quarantine at a training center in north Taiwan, while the young man was taken to hospital. He

**While officials did not confirm the athlete or the sport, the European itinerary in a Taiwanese news update, exactly matched the description of a suspected teenaged sparring partner of the Chinese Taipei squad that played at All England. This included finalists Tai Tzu Ying and Chou Tien Chen.**

stayed in Spain from Feb. 16 through 24, in Germany from Feb. 25 through March 7, in Great Britain from March 8 through 15, and transited in France on March 16-17 before

heading home to Taiwan, the Central Epidemic Command Centre (CECC) said," *Tw.news* reported.

According to the website, "the day after his return, his eyes began to hurt and he felt a headache, leading him to seek medical care. According to the CECC, he did not go back to school, though 33 people he had been in contact with were asked to stay in home quarantine."

Several shuttlers including Indians Saina Nehwal, P Kashyap and Ajay Jayaram besides a bunch of Danes, had raised the issue of the All England carrying on as if nothing was wrong, even while requesting the world body BWF to cancel the rest of the tournaments in the next 6 weeks even as Covid-19 cases in UK rose exponentially overnight.

However, the All England went ahead stubbornly, witnessing some fine matches,

but risking health of players, support staff and spectators who thronged the arena as the tournament refused to go behind closed doors. It was tempting fate, almost and *tw.news* reported that champion Tai Tzu Ying is now in quarantine.

A CECC press conference offered some details of the case.

"The 114th case was a male who moved into his native country in his teens. He had a history of travel in Spain, Germany, and the United Kingdom. He was a contestant (sic)," *tw.news* said, specifying the dates that coincide with the travel schedule of the Taiwan team. *Taiwan News* said that Zhuang Renxiang, deputy team leader of CECC, had confirmed, "It is understood that this physical education student is a national team's sparring practitioner."

The report stated that while it was un-

derstood that noone in the national team was a teenager, nor did the case No 114 stay with the squad in the same hotel room, he had taken the shuttle bus with the team ("...but he also took the official team (transport) with players from all over the world. Shuttle bus between the stadium and the hotel." (sic).

Renxiang was asked about Tai Tzu Ying specifically, and said, "She (Dai Zhiying, he Chinese name) would have to be quarantined at home".

Badminton's most prestigious tournament - which screened noone during the playing week keeping in line with UK's insistence on carrying on, might well have risked the biggest names in shuttle.

While 7 Indians opted out, top names PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal, K Srikanth and Ashwini Ponappa and rookie Lakshya Sen had played in Birmingham.

P.K BANERJEE: 1936-2020

# Stories from a storied career

PK's tales: From getting Bhutia charged up for a Federation Cup game to giving bangles to teammates who believed India's fate against North Korea was sealed

**MIHIR VASAVDA**  
NEW DELHI, MARCH 20

IN HIS association of more than five decades with Indian football, Pradip Kumar Banerjee has donned various roles: player, coach, thinker, scout and commentator. Banerjee, who passed away on Friday aged 83, scored landmark goals, coached iconic teams and mentored players who have gone on to become legends themselves. Here are some of the moments and stories that made Banerjee the 'greatest Indian footballer of the 20th century', an honour bestowed upon him by FIFA.

**The wingman**

THEY CALLED India the 'Brazil of Asia'. And Banerjee was at the forefront of that golden generation, which made India one of the top teams of the continent in the late 50s and early 60s. Back then, India traditionally used a 3-2-5 formation. But out of the five strikers that were used, three routinely inflicted the biggest damage on the opponents. Tulsidas Balram, playing on the left, was as versatile as he was lethal. Chuni Goswami, the inside-left, was the one with skills. And Banerjee, the right-winger, had the pace and power: he could take on players, dribble, cross and shoot.

They had a telepathic understanding and gave the Indian team an identity that none before or after them have managed.

Balram-Goswami-Banerjee formed the most famous attacking trio in Indian football. According to historian and statistician Gautam Roy, the national team won 12 of the 16 games they played between 1958 and 1962, with the three of them scoring 20 of India's 36 goals. Banerjee scored some of the most prominent goals during this period: against France in the 1-1 draw at the 1960 Rome Olympics, in the final against South Korea in 1962 Asian Games and so on.

**Wet, heavy footballs**

A LOT of what Banerjee did was self-taught. Back then, there was little formal coaching for young players who started out. Neither were there any professional coaching courses, or access to techniques adopted by other countries. That, though, did not stop Banerjee from perfecting his art.

After the routine training sessions ended, Banerjee soaked the ball - the old, leather footballs which were used at the time - in water. The already heavy ball got heavier and Banerjee practised his shooting with that to increase the power behind his shot. Syed Abdul Rahim, the coach of the team, used to set targets for accuracy.

As a coach, he made his players do the same. "More than tactical, I would say he emphasised on the technical aspects of the game," says former India international and FC Goa technical director Derrick Pereira. "At that time, we were not exposed to proper coaching and there was no internet to look at what others were doing.

So he made sure we focussed on that aspect a lot; things like using open spaces, ways to improve individual skills and such. He kept an eye on what the latest trends were and tried to implement that in training. He was



Illustration: Suvajit Dey

**His style and philosophy made Banerjee the most successful coach in Indian football. He won 54 trophies with Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, 13 more than Amal Datta, India's first professional coach.**

ahead of his time in that sense."

**North Korea, Old Delhi rooftop**

IN THAT sense, Pereira regards Banerjee as India's first 'modern' coach. Not only because of his emphasis on technique and tactics, but he is considered to be the first one to bring the man-management aspect to coaching. A raconteur, he knew which player to talk to before a match and how to inspire them.

A story goes, according to Novy Kapadia's book *Barefoot to Boots*, that on the eve of East Bengal's 1973 DCM Cup final against Dok Ro Gang, a formidable North Korean side, Banerjee called a team meeting on the rooftop of an old Delhi hotel where they were staying. A lot of players, including East Bengal's fearsome striker Mohammed Habib, were resigned to their fate and believed they had no chance of beating Dok Ro Gang, who had six players from the legendary 1966 World Cup North Korean team.

"On the roof of the Duke Hotel in Daryaganj where the team stayed, PK used to take theory classes with the team. In one of the sessions he brought glass bangles and gave them to Habib, (Mohammad) Akbar and some other players, and told them that if they did not want to fight, they could wear

bangles like sissies. The players were incensed and got charged up," Kapadia writes. The match, eventually, ended as a draw.

**Bhutia, Datta and a famous win**

ANOTHER EXAMPLE of him needing his players to get the best out of them came in the 1997 Federation Cup semifinals between Banerjee's East Bengal and Amal Datta's Mohun Bagan. Roy says the match was one of the crowning moments of Banerjee's coaching career because of his ability to break the 'diamond midfield' system employed by Datta, which no one had been able to counter.

It was one of Indian football's most iconic matches.

As a sub-plot, Datta and Banerjee - the two most successful coaches - shared a great rivalry, too, and the match drew a crowd of more than 130,000. In his pre-match comments, Datta had slighted Bhaichung Bhutia. So, a couple of days before the match, Banerjee called the striker for dinner and read out every single word in Bengali, and ended the conversation with a simple, 'show him who you are'.

On the match-day, Banerjee set up his team in a way that did not give Bagan's dominant midfield any space while a vengeful

**IN MEMORIAM**



**Pradip da was such a cool and composed man and it reflected in the match. He was definitely like a father figure to me. Not only on the playing ground, he used to call us or we went to his house and dine at his place. His family used to prepare wonderful meals."**

**BHAICHUNG BHUTIA,**  
FORMER INDIA CAPTAIN

**I lost a very dear person today. Someone whom I loved and respected enormously. Someone who had so much influence on my career when I was an 18-year-old boy. His positivity was infectious."**

**SOURAV GANGULY,**  
BCCI PRESIDENT & FORMER INDIA CAPTAIN

**He was a pioneer in every sense of the word, and his feats will forever have a place in Indian footballing history."**

**SUNIL CHHETRI**  
INDIAN CAPTAIN

Bhutia scored a hat-trick and East Bengal won 4-1.

**'Where PK goes, trophies go'**

HIS STYLE and philosophy made Banerjee the most successful coach in Indian football. He won 54 trophies with Mohun Bagan and East Bengal, 13 more than Datta, India's first professional coach. Across maidans, a reputation was cemented. "Where PK goes, the trophies go," they said.

In 1970, when India won the Asian Games bronze, he was the team's manager. He has a unique distinction of winning an Asian Games medal as a player (gold, 1962) and support staff; a record, perhaps, that will last for several more decades.

# He was very quick, oozed power



TULSIDAS BALARAM

WE HAD a long association - PK Banerjee, Chuni Goswami and I. PK first played for India in the 1955 Quadrangular Tournament in Dacca. I made my debut in the 1956 Olympics. We played together till 1962, for India and Bengal in the Santosh Trophy. After Railways started playing the Santosh Trophy in 1962, Pradip had to turn up for his employer.

On the pitch, our understanding was telepathic. Off it, we were great friends despite playing for different clubs. PK played for Eastern Railway, Chuni Goswami was a Mohun Bagan man through and through and I plied my trade for East Bengal.

But such was our understanding on the pitch, when we played together, that we always had the right pass or the right ball for each other. Also, we were always totally selfless in our approach, never allowing our personal egos to get the better of the situation. If I had a 99 per cent chance to score a goal, while PK or Chuni had 100 per cent, I always fed them. They, too, always returned the favour.

PK was a class act. As a right out, nobody could ever come even close to him as far as Indian football is concerned. He was very quick and oozed power and physicality. He had the ability to dribble past the defenders even on a dead run. He was very strong in the air also.

Not for nothing that people still consider us as the benchmark in Indian football. At a time when India were the best in Asian football and a force to be reckoned with in the Olympics, we were the undroppables - PK, Chuni, Jamail Singh, and I were the first four names on the team-sheet. In 1962, when PK went to play for Railways in the Santosh Trophy, both me and Chuni felt that without him our Bengal team was incomplete, that we were missing someone irreplaceable.

In the 1960 Rome Olympics, we were in a tough group, alongside Hungary, France and Peru. Our first match was against the mighty Hungarians (of the Nandor Hidegkuti, Jozsef Bozsik, Sandor Kocsis and Zoltan Czibor vintage) and the predicted scoreline was 10 or 12 goals in their favour. But we had a fantastic coach in Abdul Rahim.

He was great at analysing the opponents. We were outplayed in the first-half, prisoners of our inferiority complex. But when Rahim saab gave us a clear plan for the second half, we actually dominated them. We lost the game, but the Italian media, the world football media to be precise, came up

with the headline: 'Another football power is rising, India'. India probably had only one reporter covering the 1960 Olympics.

Suddenly, the French started to take an interest in Indian football. Rahim saab was flooded with interview requests. Against France, we probably dished out the best performance by an Indian football team ever. PK was magnificent. He scored a goal from my assist, though France later equalised. It was a team performance. Collectively we were outstanding. The world football fraternity agreed that India would be a dominant force in the near future. Alas, our football gradually went into a terminal decline.

I have an interesting story to share with regards to the 1962 Asian Games, where we won the gold medal. PK was the reason why I played in the tournament. We had a six-week pre-Asiad training camp at Hyderabad. The selection trials were also held there. After the final selection, we came to Calcutta, our departure point for Jakarta. I was down with the flu and was feeling very weak. I felt I would be useless and shouldn't go. A standby should be picked instead.

I sent a message to the All India Football Federation. Pankaj Gupta, a founding member and one of the top bosses at the AIFF, held a meeting with Rahim saab, PK and Chuni about what to do, whether we should pick a standby in place of Balaram. At the meeting, PK said: "Balaram is sick. Even if he is dead, we would take his dead body to Jakarta. We need him for the team. Put him into the plane." Chuni, who was the captain, agreed. But PK took the initiative. So you can understand the fellow feeling that we had.

All of us were one-club men, because we valued loyalty. People speak about PK never playing for Mohun Bagan, East Bengal or Mohammedan Sporting and still had such an exceptional international career.

But what people forget is that Eastern Railway that time used to boast of four-five Olympians. Beyond them, they also had some fine players like Dinu Das who couldn't make the cut because there was no vacancy in the Indian team. They were equally good but because we were there, they missed out.

After retiring as a footballer, Pradip became a very successful coach, because he was technically very sound, had a good understanding of the game and his game-reading was very good. His wards idolised him and PK, because he was always very caring, had the respect and support of his players. Pradip left us today, but as long as Indian football will exist, he will be remembered. We will always remain as the fabled 'Three Musketeers'.

*Tulsidas Balaram was an East Bengal and India forward, who with PK Banerjee and Chuni Goswami formed the Holy Trinity. (As told to Shamik Chakrabarty)*

## Kiwi cricketers self-isolate on return

Wellington: New Zealand cricketers and support staff members have gone into a 14-day self-isolation period after returning from their aborted Australia tour, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. New Zealand Cricket confirmed that all 15 players and support staff members who returned from Sydney last weekend have gone into lockdown at home as per the government's directive. "They [Black Caps players and touring staff] have all gone into self-isolation," New Zealand Cricket's public affairs manager Richard Boock told stuff.co.nz. "We've passed on all the details about what self-isolation means and as far as we know they're all following it strictly," he added.

New Zealand were scheduled to play three ODIs and as many T20s but the Chappell-Hadlee series was called off after just one ODI, which was held without

spectators. The Kane Williamson-led side had lost the match by 71 runs. Fast bowler Lockie Ferguson was kept under isolation after he reported a sore throat. However, he tested negative for the coronavirus. On Wednesday, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern had advised all returning travellers to self-isolate for two weeks amid the Covid-19 outbreak, even if they arrived in the country before the March 14 cut-off.

Taking a leaf out of BCCI's book, the NZC also asked its Auckland headquarters employees to work from a trial basis on Friday. NZC's Auckland headquarters will also have a trial self-isolation day on Friday where staff will work from home. BCCI shut down its headquarters in Mumbai from Tuesday with its employees being advised to work from home.

**PTI**

## Akmal charged for two breaches of anti-corruption code

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
KARACHI, MARCH 20

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.

Umar, 29, has had a chequered career since making his debut in August, 2009 and has since just managed to play 16 Tests, 121 ODIs and 84 T20 internationals for his country despite making a century on Test debut.

His last appearance came in last October during a home T20 series against Sri Lanka and before that he also played in the March-April, 2019 one-day series against Australia in the UAE.

Umar who has a penchant for getting into trouble with the establishment was reprimanded and cleared in February just before the PSL for allegedly misbehaving with a trainer during a fitness test in Lahore.

The PCB had then said that the incident occurred as a result of a misunderstanding. Before that also on numerous occasions, Umar has faced disciplinary action most no-



Umar Akmal was charged for failing to disclose a corrupt approach.

table when clashed with former head coach, Mickey Arthur in Lahore during a practice session and accused him of using abusive language.

He was also sent back from the 2017 Champions Trophy in England after failing a fitness test but Umar claimed Arthur didn't want him in the team.

Another former head coach, Waqar Younis had also in a much publicised confidential report which was leaked out advise the board to drop Umar from the Pakistan team and send him to play domestic cricket for at least a year to gain cricketing discipline.

The talented batsman who scored a double century in the final the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy in December in Karachi has gained the reputation of shooting himself in the foot. Since he was suspended by the PCB last month, Umar has kept a low profile and stayed away from the media spotlight.



WORKING OUT FROM HOME

Mary Kom, who is in self-isolation since returning from an Olympic qualifier in Jordan earlier this month, trains at her residence in Delhi on Friday. Renuka Puri

# Considering different scenarios... cancellation not on agenda: IOC chief

MATTHEW FUTTERMAN  
MARCH 20

AS CORONAVIRUS has swept the globe, placing cities and countries on lockdowns, canceling the spring sports calendar and jeopardizing every major event scheduled for 2020, Thomas Bach, the president of the International Olympic Committee, has not wavered in his determination to hold the Summer Games in Tokyo.

The opening ceremony is scheduled for July 24, with some 11,000 athletes and even more fans, volunteers, journalists, diplomats and others descending on Tokyo.

Yet complaints about moving ahead have been rising from athletes and other people connected to the Olympics, especially in the countries hardest hit by the disease.

In an interview Thursday, Bach acknowledged the increasingly troubling situation but remained optimistic that infection rates might subside enough to allow the Games to go forward.

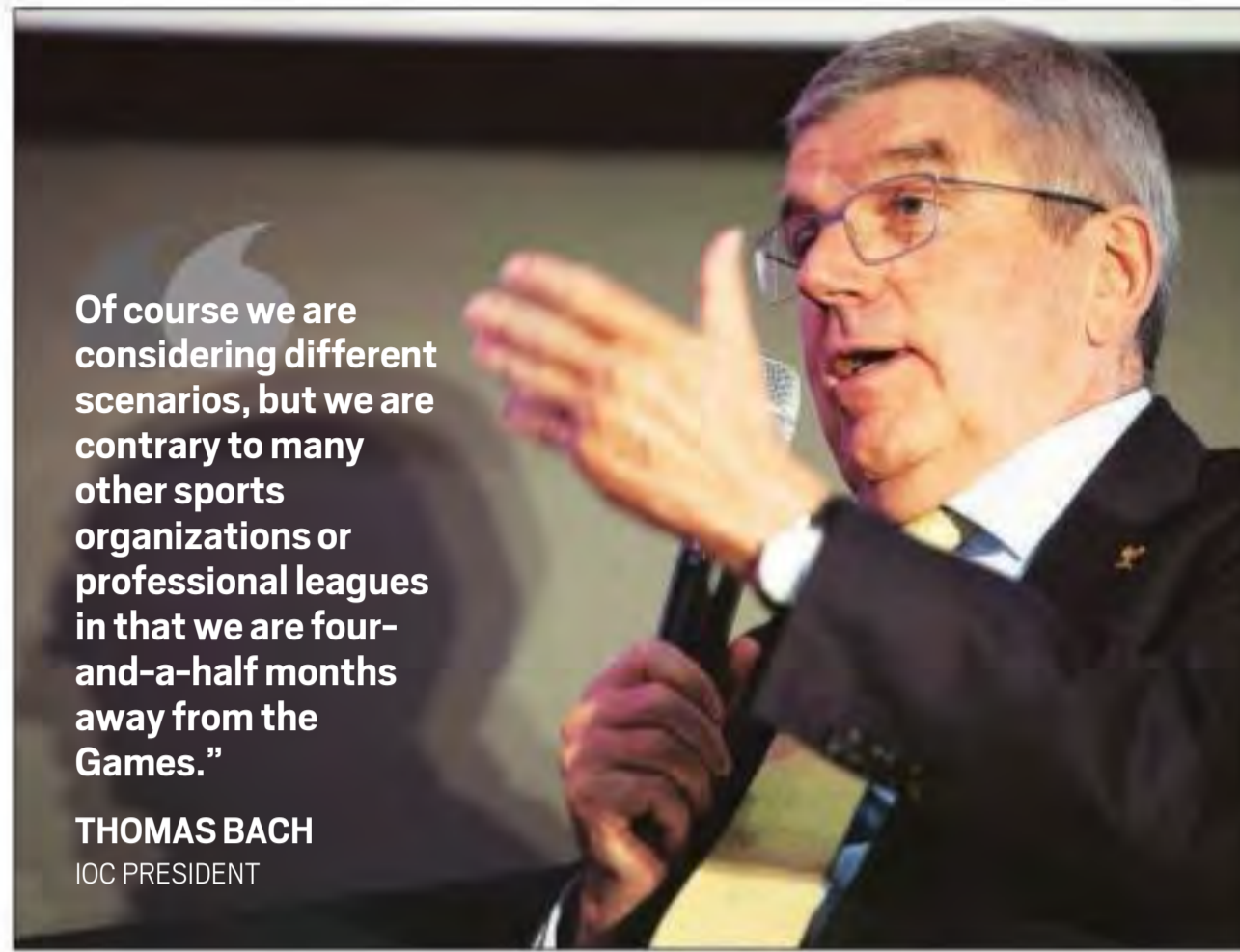
"We are affected by this crisis like everybody else and we are concerned like everybody else," he said. "We are not living in a bubble or on another planet. We are in the middle of our societies."

Here are excerpts from the interview:

**Is there a date when you have to decide whether the Olympic Games will happen?**

What makes this crisis so unique and so difficult to overcome is the uncertainty. Nobody today can tell you what the developments are tomorrow, what they are in one month, not to mention in more than four months. Therefore it would not be responsible in any way to set a date or take a decision right now, which would be based on the speculation about the future developments.

**But if you listen to the scientists and the epidemiologists they actually have a clear idea of what is going to be**



**happening in a month given the trajectory of the disease and the pattern of infection. I'm surprised you are saying nobody knows what is going to happen when actually there is a large community of people who would say we know exactly what is going to happen.**

There are many different prognoses. Some are telling you it will everywhere follow the same curve. Others are saying this will take much longer. The third ones are saying there will be different waves and we will have to live with it for a long time. This is why we rely on our task force, including the World Health Organization, who are telling us it is too early to take a decision, and we are at the same time monitoring closely what is happening.

**Do you have a group that is gaming out what it would look like and what would be needed to move the Games to the fall, the summer of 2021 or the summer of 2022 or any other time frame that has been discussed?**

This would mean we are speculating about developments. We don't know what the situation will be. Of course we are considering different scenarios, but we are contrary to many other sports organizations or professional leagues in that we are 4 1/2 months away from the Games. They are even more optimistic than we are, because most of them have postponed their events until April or the end of May. We are talking about the end of July.

**Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he was interested in holding a "perfect Games" and that he had gotten a commitment from the other Group of 7 leaders to do that but he did not specify a time frame. Does that give you the freedom to pursue an alternative date?**

The Japanese government was asked this question after (Abe made the comment) and the answer was that postponement was not mentioned in the meeting of the G-7. For us, it 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.

**Have you told the task force to give you a recommendation by a certain date?**

A: No. They are the experts. They have to know based on their scientific experience and their worldwide overview when they have enough information to give us their advice based on scientific evidence.

**What do you say to people who say you seem out of step with everything that is going on? All the biggest sports events have been delayed.**

They have canceled or postponed games for next Saturday or two weeks after. Some of them have postponed events to make room for other events to take place. The European championships in soccer was supposed to take place in June and start in Italy. They have postponed this for a year, and it was welcomed by the professional leagues in Europe because this gives them an opportunity for them to finish their seasons.

**You could do the same. You are counting on the world's best tennis players, and some members of those soccer clubs. The NBA wants to finish its season this summer, and many players that would play basketball in the Olympic tournament would not be available. Why wouldn't you follow that lead and clear out the schedule?**

This is totally different. We do not have Olympic Games now, so we do not need to clear our schedule.

**When will it not be too soon to decide, or when, if you don't decide to postpone, would you risk cancellation?**

I will not speculate, but we owe it to all the athletes, and we owe it to all the half of the world that watches the Olympics to say we are not putting the cancellation of the Games on the agenda.

**So there will be an Olympics at some point in Japan?**

I gave you the answer. NYT





## आईये, साथ मिलकर कोरोना को हराएं

### थोड़ी दूरी 'अफवाहों' से भी



#CopWithSign

### 112 कब मिलाएं ?

- ✓ यदि कोई विदेश यात्रा से लौटा हो
- ✓ स्कूल या कॉलेज खुले होने पर
- ✓ जब एम्बुलेंस की आवश्यकता हो

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- ✓ अल्कोहल-आधारित सैनिटाइज़र प्रयोग करें
- ✓ छींकते/खांसते समय अपना मुँह ढकें
- ✓ भीड़-भाड़ वाली जगहों पर जाने से बचें
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