



SUNDAY STORY PAGE 13

Get Well \$oon

As PM Modi announces an economic task force to tackle the coronavirus impact, data show road to recovery will be long

BIG PICTURE PAGES 14-15

Deep-cleaning a train

As trains halt today for Janata Curfew, here's what it takes for Railways to corona-proof its 54,000 coaches



AN ACTOR, PREPARED

In a career that has transformed how Hindi cinema looks at its leading men, Irrfan has worn his characters like a second skin

PM SAYS STAY HOME

'Travelling will not help you, others'

STOP TRAINS, SAY 2 STATES

Bengal, Jharkhand write to Rlys

JANATA CURFEW TODAY

All trains starting midnight cancelled

Bracing for lockdown

Govt clears tests for more, guidelines to rope in private labs

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

AS THE number of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases in the country climbed to 283, with 47 new cases being confirmed Saturday, the government announced a major expansion of testing to include "all hospitalised patients with severe acute respiratory illness", including pneumonia, even if they don't have any history of travel to an affected country or contact with a patient.

Under the expanded testing protocol, "asymptomatic direct, high-risk contacts of confirmed cases should (also) be tested once between day 5-14 of coming in contact".

This is a big leap from the earlier strategy, under which testing was limited to only symptomatic people with travel or contact history and symptomatic health workers with contact history.

The government also issued guidelines for testing by private laboratories, setting a ceiling of Rs 4,500 per test — Rs 1,500 for screening and Rs 3,000 for confirmation. A test can only be done if a qualified physician has prescribed it, with appropriate biosafety precautions and home collection of samples.

Only real-time PCR assays by trained staff are recommended, and results have to be reported in real time. Samples which test negative have to be destroyed af-

EXPLAINED

Big change in strategy

EXPANDING THE testing protocol to include hospitalised patients with severe acute respiratory illness is in line with the evolving strategy to anticipate the stage of community transmission of the coronavirus. India has been criticised for not testing enough. The government's notification on the expanded protocol says it will follow a "stage-appropriate testing strategy".

THE CITY

DELHI GOVT TO PUT BOARDS OUTSIDE QUARANTINE HOMES

ter a week of collection and cannot be shared for any purpose. India has been criticised for not doing enough tests. The WHO has said that countries need to "test, test, test" to beat the virus.

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Kanika's contacts are negative so far, Raje and her son included

AVANEESH MISHRA
LUCKNOW, MARCH 21

THE UTTAR Pradesh Health Department has traced 162 people, across the country, who came into contact with Bollywood singer Kanika Kapoor in Lucknow before she tested positive. Of them, more than 30 people have been tested so far and the results of all are negative, including MP Dushyant Singh, former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje and Uttar Pradesh Minister of Medical Health & Family Welfare Jai Pratap Singh.

All three were present at a party attended by Kapoor in Lucknow. Kapoor flew down from London on March 9 to Mumbai, arrived in Lucknow two days later and attended the March 15 party thrown by a nephew of former MP Akbar Ahmad Dumpy. She tested positive on March 20.

Authorities have also traced those who attended at least



Officials look at 4 gatherings attended by singer

three other gatherings the singer attended after coming to Lucknow. The Taj Hotel in Lucknow where Kapoor stayed has been shut.

The discovery of Kapoor's positive test sent ripples from Lucknow to Parliament and Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi, as Dushyant had attended House as well as a dinner hosted by President Ram Nath Kovind in the days after March 15. Several MPs announced on Friday that they were going into self-isolation.

On Saturday, Haryana Congress chief Kumari Selja and BJP MPs Ravindra Shyamnarayan alias Ravi Kishan from Gorakhpur and Kamlesh Paswan from Bangaon in Uttar Pradesh said they had attended

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Passengers jostle to enter a train to Chhapra in Bihar at Kalyan Railway Station, Thane, on Saturday. Deepak Joshi

Govt may suspend trains for a few days, Modi urges calm as migrants leave cities for home

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR & ATRI MITRA
NEW DELHI, KOLKATA, MARCH 21

AS LOCKDOWNS and curbs over coronavirus saw migrants flooding railway stations in big cities to rush back home, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saturday urged people to stay where they are. To mark the PM's call for Janata Curfew, the Railways said all 3,700 trains across the country scheduled for departure between Saturday midnight and 10 pm Sunday stand cancelled.

Modi's appeal came as West Bengal and Jharkhand asked the Railways to stop trains entering their states from outside.

"Never forget — precautions not panic!" Modi tweeted. "Unnecessary travels will not help you or others. In these times, every small effort on our part will leave a big impact," the PM said, reacting to tweets by people, and urging them to listen to doctors and authorities.

Depending on the situation on Sunday, sources said, the government is contemplating suspending all train operations over the next several days. A decision in this regard may be taken late



Sunday, though there is no official indication yet. In that case, the country may see elimination of long-distance travel options for people, especially the Railways, for the next one week. The option is being "actively" considered as

a public safety move, sources said. More than 2.3 crore travel on the Railways on average daily.

In an interview to TV channel ABP Ananda, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said Saturday, "The problem is not Bengal. The problem is coming from outside. In other times, when we asked for special trains, the Railways never agreed. Now deliberately they are sending all to Bengal to keep their states empty. The migrant labourers who are working in other states, they can of course come back, but why does the Railways have no health examination facility?"

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WORLD WATER DAY

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INSIDE

SLUM QUARANTINED IN HARYANA; CASES WITHOUT TRAVEL HISTORY IN STATES
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Amid curbs on hearings, families, inmates riot in Bengal jail, 12 hurt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, MARCH 21

AT LEAST one inmate was reported dead in a major clash believed to have been triggered by restrictions resulting from coronavirus at Dumdum Central Jail on Saturday afternoon. As prisoners ran riot, attacking police, beating up officials and setting an office on fire, police fired teargas and used lathicharge.

Nearly a dozen people were injured in the clash, including officials. Several are critical and hospitalised. There was no official confirmation on the death of an inmate.



Prisoners pelting stones from inside Dumdum jail. Express

While jail officials said it was a clash between two groups, sources said the inmates were agitated that the measures taken

to check COVID-19 meant delay in court hearings and cancellations of meetings with

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WORLD



A BILLION PEOPLE CONFINED TO THEIR HOMES; GLOBAL TOLL NEARS 13,000

NEW YORK STATE DECLARED 'MAJOR DISASTER'
PAGE 20

MARKET PLUNGE

Small investors are hit hard but corona deeper worry than crash

SANDEEP SINGH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

OVER THE last five years, equity culture has rapidly spread across small-town India — both in the number of first-time mutual fund subscribers, as well as in the amount invested. The coronavirus pandemic is these small investors' first introduction to "severe market risk" and, experts hope, to opportunity as well.

Top mutual fund managers say that despite the crash, a 28 per cent fall from a high of 41,952 on January 14 to just under 30,000 last Friday, they haven't

INCREASING SHARE OF SMALL CITIES IN MF AUM

CITIES	MARCH 2014	DEC 2019
Share of Top 5	72.9	61.5
Share of Next 10	13.4	12.6
Share of Next 20	5.81	4.99
Share of Next 75	5.22	5.61
Other Cities	2.61	11.47
NRI's	0.06	3.83

Source: AMFI, All figures in per cent

seen a pressure to redeem. Take the case of Nitin Singh, a Gorakhpur dentist. In August 2014, he started an SIP (Systematic Investment Plan) in Reliance Small Cap Fund (now Nippon India Small Cap Fund)

with a modest investment of Rs 2,000 per month.

On January 20 this year, the value of his cumulative investment of Rs 1.28 lakh had jumped 35 per cent to Rs 1,72,604. He

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Away from family, Gurgaon doc focused on isolated Italian tourists

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

WHEN SHE was informed that she would be in charge of taking care of the 14 Italian tourists with suspected coronavirus infection at Gurgaon's Medanta Hospital, 42-year-old Dr Sushila Kataria's first response was, "Let's do it."

It was at 1 pm on March 4 that the hospital administration was informed that the group was being sent there. Over the next five hours, hectic arrangements were made to create a special isolation ward — and a team of doctors, nurses, and paramedics worked to figure out the protocol on how to proceed. Dr Kataria, director of internal

medicine at the hospital, was given the task of coordinating.

All the 14 patients were above 65 years of age. "When they reached at 6 pm, there was apprehension, anxiety and endless questions about the virus, the test and the treatment. Only two of them could understand English, if we spoke slowly. The first thing they asked for was 'connectivity,'" she told *The Sunday Express*.

The 14 patients had to be quarantined because another person they were travelling with in Jaipur tested positive for the coronavirus. "All this is new for us as well. We hadn't seen any cases of COVID-19 before this, but we in the medical profession can't shy away from this. My job is to serve, and I cannot hesitate in doing it,"



Dr Kataria with a patient at Medanta Hospital. Express

said Dr Kataria, who has been with the hospital since 2010.

Over the last 17 days, Dr Kataria has been spending most of her time in the hospital. "As soon as I got to know about the patients, I made a call to my husband and explained the situation. He is suffering from inflammatory arthritis and has moved to a separate farmhouse in Gurgaon. He was very supportive; I haven't met him since then, but we are connected through WhatsApp and calls," she said.

While her husband has moved to a different location, her 16-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter are still staying with her. Dr Kataria, though, is living in a separate room. "It's like we are living in different houses. I have a

room that has its own entry and exit. My kids are in their separate rooms. We don't meet, or eat together. I can't even touch the knobs of their doors," she said.

Explaining the situation to her children, she said, was a challenge. "It was so hard. I could see questions on my daughter's face. The first question from my daughter was, 'Why you, mamma?'," Dr Kataria said.

On Saturday afternoon, one of the Italians, a 68-year-old man, was discharged from the hospital after he tested negative for COVID-19. The remaining 13 too have tested negative and are still under observation at the hospital, a Medanta spokesperson said. A whole floor has been dedicated for their treatment — all common

entry and exits have been blocked and there is only one entry/exit for medical staff. The area is divided into two — 'clean' and 'infected'.

Staff are allowed to enter the 'infected' area only after wearing the PPE (personal protective equipment), hand gloves, mask and a hazmat (hazardous materials) suit. One has to keep one's phones at the 'clean' area, change clothes and then step into the 'infected' area.

While interaction was a challenge initially, things got easier with time. "We all are trying to talk to each other. I have even learned some Italian words such as *ciao* (hello) and *grazie* (thank you). And if something is missing, we rely on the Google translator," Dr Kataria said.