The Sunday EXPRESS

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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

eye
THE SUNDAY EXPRESS MAGAZINE

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

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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CORONA COUNT
283 CASES | 4 DEATHS
23 RECOVERED
16,911 samples from 16,021 individuals tested

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 after 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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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
PAGE 4

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

AVANEESH MISHRA
LUCKNOW, MARCH 21

Officials look at 4 gatherings attended by singer

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 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 Bansgaon in Uttar Pradesh said they had attended

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WORLD WATER DAY

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INSIDE

SLUM QUARANTINED IN HARYANA; CASES WITHOUT TRAVEL HISTORY IN STATES
PAGES 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10

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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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 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

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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
NRIs	0.06	3.83

Source: AMFI, All figures in per cent

Away from family, Gurgaon doc focused on isolated Italian tourists

THE CORONA FIGHTERS
AN EXPRESS SERIES

FROM TESTING SAMPLES TO TRACKING CONTACTS AND TREATING PATIENTS, MEET THE MEN AND WOMEN, UNSEEN AND UNHEARD, ON THE FRONTLINES OF INDIA'S FIGHT AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

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

Dr Kataria with a patient at Medanta Hospital. *Express*

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.

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WEB EXCLUSIVE

THIS DOCU-SERIES CELEBRATES THE ETHNIC DIVERSITY OF THE NORTH-EAST
For nearly eight months, G S Chani and his team travelled across the length and breadth of Northeast India to document the many unknown aspects of the region. The four documentaries, each 26 minutes long, zoom in on the spirit and vigour of the people and its ethnic diversity of cultures and sub-cultures.

VIDEO OF THE DAY

MARY KOM'S MESSAGE ON SELF-QUARANTINE
Mary Kom speaks on the importance of self quarantine and hygiene

CORONAVIRUS

WHY AFRICA HAS FEWER CASES
All of South Africa's first 62 cases were from abroad

EXPRESS AUDIO
Coronavirus halts the sports world
NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY
The coronavirus outbreak has brought the sporting world to an unprecedented halt. Most major events around the world have either been postponed or cancelled altogether.

Three new cases take TN count to 6, entry to beaches barred, Metro curtailed

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, MARCH 21

THREE MORE individuals -- all foreigners -- tested positive for the novel coronavirus infection in Tamil Nadu on Saturday. A total six people have now tested positive in the state, including the first patient who was discharged last week after treatment.

The three cases on Saturday include two Thailand nationals, and one individual from New Zealand.

State Health Minister C Vijayabaskar said "three foreign nationals under observation in Tamil Nadu tested positive for coronavirus taking the total number of cases to six in the state".

The first patient in the state is an engineer who works in Oman. The state health department is yet to trace the origin of infection in the second individual, a 20-year-old skilled labourer from Uttar Pradesh who had come in search of a job in Chennai. The Centre has allayed apprehensions of his being a case of community transmission as he travelled to Chennai by train from UP via Delhi.

Even though the health department is yet to figure out his complete contact list, minister Vijayabaskar asserted that all six positive cases in Tamil Nadu were "imported cases from different regions with travel histories, and not community transmitted".

"New cases were already quarantined, and on our radar," the minister posted on Twitter, referring to the three cases that tested positive on Saturday. "Screening is more intensified at all ports of arrival including Railways, domestic and international arrival terminals of airports."

The Greater Chennai Corporation on Saturday issued orders blocking access to all beaches in Chennai city and the city's suburban coasts under its jurisdiction, including the Marina, Besant Nagar and Thiruvanmiyur beaches. The order was implemented with immediate effect from 3 pm on Saturday, and will be in effect until further orders.

The Chennai Metro Rail Corporation that announced a shutdown of services on Sunday has also decided to curtail train timings.

According to the latest schedule, regular services will start at 6 am instead of 4.30 am, and the last service will be at 8 pm instead of 11 pm.

The government on Saturday decided to postpone the Class 10 state board exams due to the outbreak. The exams were scheduled to start on March 27 and end on April 13, but now they will be held only after April 14.

Also on Saturday, the Puducherry government imposed Section 144 across the Union Territory. The orders will be in force from Monday until March 31. Chief Minister V Narayansamy appealed to the public to not venture out except between 8 am and 9 am in the morning and 6 pm to 7 pm in the evening to buy essentials.

Lockdown in 4 MP dists day after confirmed cases in Jabalpur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, MARCH 21

A LOCKDOWN was ordered in four districts of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, a day after four people were tested positive for coronavirus, making them the first confirmed cases in the state.

Three members of one family that returned from Dubai and one student who returned from Germany had tested positive in Jabalpur.

The local police on Saturday filed an FIR against the three family members for concealing information about their infection. The case was filed under Sections 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 270 (malignant act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life and 269 (negligent act likely to spread infection of disease dangerous to life) of the IPC against the three family members at Lordganj Police Station.

The administration of Jabalpur, Seoni, Rewa and Narsinghpur districts ordered lockdown from two to 14 days. Narsinghpur administration ordered 14-day lockdown because many people from the district believed to have come into contact with the infected persons in Jabalpur. Seoni will observe lockdown till Monday and Jabalpur till Sunday. Rewa, close to Uttar Pradesh border, will observe lockdown for three days.

Plea in SC calls for more COVID-19 testing centres

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

A PETITION filed in the Supreme Court has urged it to direct the government to "exponentially increase" the number of COVID-19 testing centres and quarantine facilities.

The plea, filed by journalist Prashant Tandon and social activist Munjana Singh also sought the top court's intervention to "make available temporary hospital beds and such other facilities for rural patients to be combat-ready for any exigency in case of a possible outbreak in rural India".

The petition also sought that the government do the needful to facilitate thermal screening at public places.

It said a substantial proportion of the country's population is dependent on daily wages for livelihood and on public transportation, and live in unhygienic conditions. This, the petitioners said, may result in spreading of the disease in the country. "On a daily basis, sharing physical space with known & unknown persons and coming in close proximity with persons & touching surfaces is inevitable," they contended.

The plea said there 52 designated centres notified by the government currently for testing of COVID-19 and this was "insufficient given the population of our country".

FROM PAGE ONE

Kanika's contacts

the Rashtrapati Bhavan event and come in contact with Dushyant and were isolating themselves. Dumpy, who was present at the Lucknow party, has also gone into self-isolation.

Spokesperson of King George Medical University in Lucknow Dr Sudhir Singh said that apart from Minister Jai Pratap Singh, the samples of 28 people who came into contact with him had also tested negative.

With two new cases being discovered, in Noida and Moradabad, on Saturday, the total number of positive cases in Uttar Pradesh rose to 25. Nine have recovered. Both the new cases returned from Europe. "All samples collected from people who attended parties at Lucknow where Kapoor was present have tested negative. Till today, all positive cases in Uttar Pradesh are trackable to persons with history of foreign travel. There is no evidence of secondary transmission," State Surveillance Officer Vikasendu Agarwal said.

He added, "By Friday evening, we were able to trace 68 (of Kapoor's contacts) and now the number has reached 162. Other than a few family members, these include people who attended the parties she was in, or people from the shops and salons she went too. There are several politicians among them... We have collected names from party organisers also." Agarwal said all 162 have been contacted.

He said while the number of contacts was a challenge, "the good thing is that all the persons present at the parties (where Kapoor was present) have been very supportive. They are the cream of Lucknow, people in the highest social strata... They are all following our quarantine instructions".

He added that several among them are owners of establishments, who have shut these down and sent employees into quarantine, without pay cuts.

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.

Among the MPs who met Dushyant after the Lucknow party were Rajnath Singh, Smriti Irani, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Mahendra Singh Pandey. In Uttar Pradesh, three MLAs who had met Minister Jai Pratap Singh are in self-isolation.

— WITH INPUTS FROM ENS, CHANDIGARH, JAIPUR

Modi appeals for calm as people rush back home from big cities

We have been asking for it for a month... Our workers are very talented. Other states use them for their benefit and drive them away when there is a crisis."

The CM also urged workers coming back from other states to stay home and not venture out, and said they should not migrate in the future as there were enough opportunities in West Bengal.

Chief Secretaries of West Bengal and Jharkhand wrote to the Railways seeking that trains entering their states be stopped. Officials expressed worry that the "extraordinary" request could prompt other states to resort to the same.

In fresh instructions Saturday, the Railways made it clear that trains whose departures were scheduled between Saturday-Sunday midnight and 10 pm Sunday will not run. Earlier, a leeway had been left for zonal units to run trains if needed to clear rush. This means 1,300 long-distance trains and 2,400 short-distance passenger trains across India have been cancelled.

Sources said the Railway Board decided on Saturday against giving a window to zonal heads, fearing it might prove counterproductive for social distancing. Those with bookings on these trains can seek refund till three months from the date of the journey.

A senior Railway Ministry official said, "Tomorrow, general managers may take a call to run special trains if need be, but the 3,700 regular trains identified for cancellation will not run. Long-distance trains which have already departed will be running so those who had to travel have already boarded trains. On Sunday, if people have some inescapable need to travel, maybe they can postpone their journey by a day."

Across the country, states announced curbs cutting down movement. Rajasthan announced lockdown till March 31. Barring essential services, all public and private offices, malls, shops, factories and public transport will remain shut.

Odisha announced a "near total" shutdown in five districts (Khurda, Ganjam, Cuttack, Kendrapara and Anugul) and eight towns (Puri, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Balasore, Rourkela, Bhadrak, Jajpur Town and Jajpur) for a week, starting Sunday. The districts and towns include those where over 3,000 people are estimated to have returned from abroad in the past few days.

Goa closed its borders to all passenger traffic starting Sunday 12 am, while asking people to stay indoors till 7 am Monday, eight hours beyond the Janata Curfew deadline. Exception will only be made for vehicles with Goan registration and vehicles ferrying essential goods. The state will also stamp those in home quarantine.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said while he was not imposing a lockdown, the option was open. Holding a 'digital-only' press conference, he said gatherings should be restricted to not more than five people in the Capital, and said those entitled to PDS rations would get 50% extra for next month. Delhi Metro will mostly be closed, except for a few hours, on Monday.

West Bengal shut down all restaurants, bars, nightclubs, amusement parks, museums and zoos till March 31. The Greater Chennai Corporation blocked access to all beaches in the city and the suburbs, till further instructions. Chennai Metro is curtailing services.

Bihar ordered shutting down of all bus services, government and private, as well as restaurants and banquet halls till March 31. Puducherry said Section 144 would come into force on March 23 and will be in force till month end.

Haryana said it was restricting entry to government offices and said all those violating home quarantine would be prosecuted. In Arunachal Pradesh, municipal and panchayat elections slated for April-May are now on hold.

In Maharashtra, where major cities like Mumbai and Pune have announced shutdowns, the Nashik administration banned the sale of liquor from Saturday till further orders. Bars, including those in five-star hotels, have been ordered shut.

The measures by the Railways follow positive results for at least 12 train passengers, who had travelled between March 13 and 16, for coronavirus. On Saturday, the Railways pointed to these instances to discourage inessential travel.

As announced by Modi, Janata Curfew comes into force on Sunday, with the PM asking people to stay indoors from 7 am to 9 pm.

— WITH ENS INPUTS

All with breathing issues, high-risk contacts to be tested

The note on the revised testing strategy, prepared by the Department of Health Research, said: "Currently, India has witnessed cases of COVID-19 mostly related to travel and local transmission from imported cases to their immediate contacts. Community transmission of the disease has not been documented, the above testing strategy will undergo changes to evolve into stage appropriate testing strategy."

In an advisory to all hospitals, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had said on Friday: "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."

Currently, 111 government testing laboratories are in operation.

The Empowered Committee for COVID-19 Response, co-chaired by Dr Vinod Paul, NITI Aayog member, and Prof K Vijayraghavan, principal scientific advisor to the Government of India, has allowed national research laboratories, such as those under DBT, CSIR and DRDO, to carry out COVID-19 testing, provided all protocols are followed.

Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, emphasised that testing will be allowed only if it has been prescribed by a registered medical practitioner. "This is not a fashion or a confidence building measure," he said.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) said a total of 16,911 samples from 16,021 individuals had been tested till Saturday, 6 pm, and 315 individuals had been confirmed positive. While 23 people have recovered so far, four have died.

In a video conference with representatives of pharma companies, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told them that this is the time to boost production. The companies assured him that India has enough supplies for all essential pharma commodities.

Amid reports of people flouting quarantine rules, Agarwal warned that they would be liable to legal action. He maintained that there has been no community transmission so far. "The effort is not to reach that phase, but when it happens, we will have to tell the country," he said.

Meanwhile, 262 Indians who were stranded in Italy are set to be airlifted to Delhi on Sunday.

One thousand hospitals across the country have been trained, through video conference, in critical care services.

The government also issued an advisory to social media platforms, urging them to initiate awareness campaigns and not to "upload or circulate any false news/ misinformation concerning coronavirus which are likely to create panic among public and disturb the public order and social tranquility."

Small investors

could have sold, but he continued with his SIP — and on Friday, his investment of Rs 1.32 lakh had eroded to Rs 1,12,680.

"It is a huge loss but my family's health is important right now, and I know that the markets will recover," Singh said. "We don't know when, but we know they will."

Singh is not an exception.

Like him, if someone had invested Rs 5,000 on the first of every month beginning January 2014 in a mutual fund tracking the Sensex, the value of her cumulative investment of Rs 3.65 lakh on January 20, 2020 (when the stock markets peaked) would have been Rs 5,09,995.

But the sharp fall in the subsequent weeks has seen her investment of Rs 3.75 lakh (adding Rs 10,000 for February and March) drop to Rs 3,54,503 on March 19, actually eroding the principal investment itself.

The sudden fall is a throwback to the 2008 global financial crisis when the Sensex lost 36 per cent in just four weeks ending October 24, 2008.

But this time, the circumstances are different. Over the last six years, the number of equity mutual fund accounts more than doubled to over 6.25 crore. And the equity assets under management grew five-fold to Rs 7.9 lakh crore, with money flowing at an increasing pace from smaller towns through mutual funds.

Data sourced from the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) reveal that assets under management (AUM) of retail investors from small towns beyond the top 110 cities increased 18-fold from Rs 17,330 crore in March 2014 to Rs 312,664 crore in December 2019. For the bulk of these investors who entered the stock markets through the mutual fund route over the last six years, the sharp fall would be unnerving.

Market veterans, however, point out that the market crash isn't top of the mind right now.

"Investments have become a secondary concern. All the talk is about COVID-19 and how to stay safe," said C J George, Managing Director, Geojit Securities, one of the largest MF distribution firms.

This probably explains why investors are not exiting. Prashant Jain, Chief Investment Officer, HDFC Mutual Fund, said he was surprised there was no redemption pressure.

"The investors have matured and are much more aware. They should also look at the fall in markets as an opportunity. While the impact of the coronavirus outbreak on the GDP could be 1-2 per cent, the markets are down by 30 per cent," he said.

George too said investors must not sell now. "MFs are generally sold as a long-term investment product and investors should stick with their investments. The other part to it is that since the entire concern is around coronavirus, the moment some kind of success is achieved in controlling it, we may see a V-shaped recovery," he said.

In the last six years, mutual funds and distributors have penetrated smaller towns and cities. The top 15 cities which accounted for almost 86 per cent of the industry AUM in March 2014, now account for just 74 per cent.

In fact, the AUM from cities beyond the top 15 have increased over five-fold to Rs 7.06 lakh crore in December 2019 compared with Rs 1.13 lakh crore in April 2014.

AMFI data show that cities and towns other than the top 110 cities (in terms of AUM contribution) also increased their share in industry AUM from 2.6 per cent to 11.5 per cent during the period.

Market players attribute the rational behaviour of investors to the change in demography and long-term investment philosophy through mutual funds. "The majority of new investors entered the markets through mutual funds and many do not track NAVs (net asset values) of their funds on a daily basis. To that extent, there is less nervousness this time around," said the CEO of a mutual fund, who did not wish to be named.

Experts analyzing the capital markets also point to the strong counter-balance that retail investors have provided through domestic institutional investors such as MFs. While foreign portfolio investors pumped in Rs 1.99 lakh crore into Indian equities between April 2014 and March 2020, equity mutual funds saw net inflows of Rs 5.22 lakh crore (till Feb 2020), more than two-and-a-half times the FPI inflows.

This compares starkly with the previous six-year period. Between April 2008 and March 2014, while FPIs invested a net of Rs 4.36 lakh crore, mutual funds witnessed net outflow of Rs 27,929 crore from equity schemes.

Of course, inflows into equities through MFs have seen a massive rise since May 2014 — from an AUM of Rs 152,206 crore in January 2014, it increased more than five times to Rs 789,637 crore at the end of January 2020.

Bengal jail riot

families. They also demanded masks and better hygiene in the jail which houses over 2,500 inmates.

A senior police officer told The Indian Express, "The inmates were unhappy that courts have shut down since March 12 and trials and hearings are not happening. Then came the order banning meetings with families over coronavirus till March 21. We think a section of the inmates tried to exploit this to escape."

A Dumdum prison official present when the violence happened said, "The undertrials were unhappy as there is no chance of getting bail. DIG Arindam Sarkar and Jail Superintendent Subhendu Krishna Ghosh tried to explain things to them. But they were very agitated."

State Food Minister Jyotipriyo Mullick, who visited the jail, said they believe the clash was planned with the intention to escape. "It was not a law and order problem. Here there is no law and order problem. I think it was planned by some inmates. An inquiry will identify them," Mullick said.

Fire Services Minister Sujit Bose, who also visited the spot, said the fire had been controlled quickly though they faced problems gaining entry into the prison.

Jail Department sources said trouble began around 11 am when a section of the inmates approached officials to complaint about their parole applications not being granted. They left after being told the orders were still awaited, officials said.

However, 15 minutes later, as senior officers were leaving, a section of the inmates started stone-pelting. Officials said the prisoners tried to lock them up in a room and set it on fire, but they managed to escape and bolted the main gate. The prisoners managed to break an inside gate as well as the main entrance, when guards opened firing in the air to stop them.

The inmates then set fire to a mess kitchen and canteen on the prison premises, also blasting gas cylinders, as well as a jail office. Some inmates could be seen trying to build a ramp and scale the jail walls, as well as brandishing countrymade pistols.

A huge contingent of police was rushed to the spot, led by SP, North 24 Parganas, Manoj Verma. Prisoners pelted stones when police tried to enter. Sources stated rubber bullets were used to control the inmates. The situation was only brought under control by 6.30 pm.

Later in the evening, Piyush Goyal, ADG and IGP, State Crime Records Bureau, was posted as ADG and IG, Correctional Services..

Lucknow: Recovery process for damage during anti-CAA protests halted

Lucknow: The Lucknow administration on Saturday said the process for recovery over alleged damages to public and private properties during anti-CAA protests in the city has been halted following a High ourt suggestion due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday had suggested to the government to stop all the recovery proceedings till April 6 in order to discourage people from approaching courts in view of coronavirus threat.

ADM (Trans Gomti) Vishwa Bhushan Mishra said, "We have stopped all coercive action regarding the attachment of property in Lucknow city. By coercive action, I mean we will not attach properties and won't arrest people till April 6 as advised by the High Court." Lucknow Tehsildar Shambhu Sharan Singh said, "Following the directives of the court, we will not do anything about the recovery process till April 6. Hence, all recovery process in the city has been stopped." ENS

COVID-19: PUBLIC GATHERINGS OF OVER 5 BANNED

Ration, pension amount up as CM moves to soften blow on the poor

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

REGULAR MEALS for the homeless and enhanced ration and pension for socio-economically vulnerable groups — these are among the measures announced by the Delhi government on Saturday to help cushion the effects of widespread restrictions in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said the restrictions, including shutting down of malls, restaurants and various other public spaces, are causing severe financial stress to the poorer sections of society and the government cannot afford to let people go hungry.

He also announced that any gathering of more than five people will now be barred in the national capital, revising the previous order on restricting assembly of over 20 people.

CM Kejriwal's briefing was live-streamed on social media platforms. The Delhi government said it will now hold regular press briefings digitally *ANI*

Kejriwal's briefing was live-streamed on social media platforms. Earlier in the day, the government said that regular press briefings will now take place digitally. However, the CM did not take any questions on Saturday

"We had received a suggestion on running community kitchens but that may cause overcrowding. So we have decided to enhance ration for around 72 lakh beneficiaries enlisted on the rolls. Currently, every such beneficiary is entitled to 4 kg wheat, 1 kg rice and 1 kg sugar. Now, we are increasing the total allocation per person to 7.5 kg; it will be free of cost. We are trying to start disbursal for the month of April from March 30. Moreover, we are also doubling the pension of 2.5 lakh widows, around 5 lakh senior citizens and 1 lakh differently abled persons," said Kejriwal.

Government officials said that currently, beneficiaries of differently-abled and widow pensions get Rs 2,500 per month. Old age pension stands at Rs 2,000 per month for those between 60-69 years, and Rs 2,500 for those above 70.

"Rs 4,000- Rs 5,000 pension will be paid to 8.5 lakh beneficiaries by April 7," the CM tweeted.

For the city's homeless population, lunches and dinners are being arranged at night shelters, said Kejriwal. Delhi has so far recorded 27 COVID-19 cases, out of which one person has died. "We are taking steps to contain the spread. Global experiences have shown that once it starts spreading exponentially, it becomes difficult to control," said the CM.

In view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a 'Janata Curfew' on Sunday, the Delhi government will withdraw 50% of its bus fleet from the roads, he added. The GST on payments of those availing paid quarantine facilities at three city hotels have also been waived, he said.

The CM also requested the elderly, "with folded hands", to remain indoors and suspend their regular walks. "Even at home, please maintain some distance from family members and others. Instead of walks, do yoga at home. We are not going for any lockdown immediately, but if any such measure is in the interest of people, we will implement that as well," he said.

Parties shut Delhi offices, MCD staff too head home

ABHINAV RAJPUT
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE BJP, AAP and Congress have called off all public meetings and gatherings of party workers or journalists at its state offices amid the COVID-19 outbreak, saying only people who need urgent help should visit.

Delhi BJP's media head Ashok Goel said party workers have been told to come to the Pandit Pant Marg office only if there is a meeting for which they have been sent invitations. "Interaction with the media is also being done through phone calls and WhatsApp," he said.

The party has also decided that no public gatherings, except for distribution of masks and sanitisers, will be held by leaders for at least a week.

Newly appointed Congress state president Anil Chaudhary said the party has postponed district Congress committee meetings scheduled at its office in DDU Marg as well as review meetings regarding riot-affected areas in Northeast Delhi.

The AAP office is also shut,

The AAP has shut its Rouse Avenue office for public gatherings. *Amit Mehra*

with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal holding a press conference on Saturday through YouTube.

"The Aam Aadmi Party office at 206 Rouse Avenue will be closed for public interaction till further notice. Team will be working from home during this period," AAP leader Pankaj Gupta said in a tweet.

The coronavirus scare has also reached the MCD headquarters — the 28-storey Civic Centre, where thousands of people work.

The South body also announced that officials of 14 departments, including horticulture, town planning, building, language and election departments, will not come to office until March 31.

"Officials of these departments will be available on telephone and online to work from home," said SDMC spokesperson Radha Krishan.

The North civic body has also issued a similar order for 29 departments, including the media department. It also issued an advisory asking people not to visit the citizen service bureau for getting birth and death certificates and that the same will be done through WhatsApp. "

"To facilitate emergent registration of birth and death, services are extended online. Now, citizens can apply for birth/death certificate through WhatsApp and pay online," said a senior official.

The East Corporation has decided to install drop-boxes to deposit property-tax related checks in the property-tax office and local councillor's office, so that people don't have to visit its office in Patparganj Industrial Area.

The Delhi Development Authority has also postponed all public hearings.

On Monday, Delhi Metro will ply for 6 hrs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

FURTHER EXTENDING restrictions on its services, the Delhi Metro announced on Saturday that regular commuters will be able to avail its services only for six hours on Monday.

The DMRC already suspended its Sunday operations in view of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a 'janata curfew' across the country to help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

In a statement, DMRC chief spokesperson Anuj Dayal said on Monday, March 23, trains will cater to regular commuters only between 8 am and 10 am, and 4 pm and 8 pm. Between 6 am and 8 am, only people involved in essential services such as hospitals, fire, electricity, police, etc will be allowed to enter the stations "on producing their identification cards to security personnel".

For regular commuters, trains will run from 8 am to 10 am, and 4 pm to 8pm on Monday. *Praveen Khanna*

Between 8 am and 10 am, trains will be available at a normal frequency. During this period, the general public can travel and no identification will be required at the time of entry.

This will be applicable between 4 pm and 8 pm as well. However, there will be no services between 10 am and 4 pm and after 8 pm.

Parking facilities at the stations will also remain closed on Monday, Dayal said.

"The objective of this staggered Metro services plan on Monday is aimed at facilitating all stakeholders with effectiveness and to promote 'social distancing', which is very much required to contain spread of coronavirus," he said.

"These modified timings are applicable only on March 23. If there is any requirement to continue the same pattern in larger public interest, the same shall be informed accordingly," Dayal added.

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PASSENGERS WAIT FOR OVER 8 HOURS BEFORE BEING TAKEN TO QUARANTINE

IGI airport swamped as 11,000 land within hours

SHIVAM PATEL & ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

NEARLY 11,000 passengers, mainly Indians studying or residing abroad, arrived at the Indira Gandhi International Airport between Friday and Saturday evening, a day before the entry of commercial international flights shuts for a week in India.

Doctors and paramedics involved in the screening of passengers for symptoms of coronavirus were stretched to their capacity as the "unexpected" rush resulted in travellers waiting for over eight hours to be sent for quarantine.

A Union health ministry official said, "We had to open another triage area for the secondary screening of passengers, bringing in our own doctors and paramedics, in addition to those from the Delhi government who were already there."

The official added, "Until noon on Saturday, the waiting time was about eight hours, but it reduced to around three hours after that. However, the quarantine facilities have filled up rapidly as the age profile of the passengers appears to be changing."

Around 70 international flights, mainly from North American and non-European countries — including Canada, USA and UAE — landed at the IGI from the early hours of Friday until midnight. About 50 more were expected to land between Saturday early morning and midnight. Over 4,500 passengers arrived at the airport between 8 pm Friday and 8 am Saturday, and over 6,300 between Saturday 8 am and 8 pm, officials said.

Among those who had to wait for several hours before being screened for quarantine was Vanshika Gupta (21), a student returning from Vancouver. She said, "I have been at the airport for over 12 hours. As I entered the airport, there were passageways that led to the immigration counter. They were all blocked. International passengers kept arriving, and after a point there was fighting, pushing and screaming at the authorities. It took many hours to get through immigration, and we were finally given some food. People have fallen asleep on the baggage claim. We are waiting for more details on our medical check-up."

Neha Pareek said her 64-year-old mother, who was travelling from Singapore to Jaipur with a stopover in Delhi, was stuck for over five hours since 11.20 am. She added, "She is exposed to germs and viruses at the airport as people landing from all over the world are stopped at the same points. When I asked her to change her mask, she said she cannot because there was no space for her to move. She is panicking as there is a lack of information."

People wait at Delhi's IGI Airport on Saturday

Kartik Solanki (20), a student returning from Kathmandu, said, "I reached at 11.45 pm. Initially there was a line, but after that everyone just started waiting in clusters as the lines were not moving. I missed my connecting flight to Surat. Authorities are not responding to us. Everyone is bumping into each other and pushing each other."

The Ministry of Civil Aviation had directed IGI to stagger the arrival of flights March 18 onwards to ease passenger screening, but logistical problems are being witnessed as there is a "limited window" for the duration of time for which aircrafts can be held at the airport.

As passengers are ushered into a dedicated pier at Terminal 3 after arrival, travellers showing symptoms of COVID-19 are isolated and sent to dedicated hospitals for further treatment.

The remaining asymptomatic passengers clear immigration and are screened a second time at a triage area, where it is decided if they should be sent for quarantine either at home or the state government-run facilities or at a paid facility at hotels in Aerocity.

Low-risk passengers are being recommended 14-day quarantine at home, with 'home quarantine' stamped on their forearms with indelible ink to prevent them from going into a crowd. High-risk passengers — those with a health condition or above the age of 60 — are being advised for quarantine at the facilities.

Even with a capacity of more than 1,600 beds in Delhi alone, with additional arrangements made in Noida and Gurgaon, the state government-monitored facilities filled up rapidly on Saturday due to the changing age profile of the arrivals, the health ministry official said.

"Till Thursday, the arrivals were mostly students, but now the age profile seems to have changed as it appears that there are more parents who have started arriving," he said.

The official also said the last international flight to Delhi before the shutdown is expected to take off at 5.30 am Sunday.

CORONA WATCH

NDMC shuts parlours

New Delhi: Salons, beauty parlours and other commercial establishments in NDMC areas like Sarojini Nagar, CP and Khan Market have been directed to close from Saturday to March 31.

Jamia suspends protests

New Delhi: The Jamia Coordination Committee Saturday said they were "temporarily suspending" their anti-CAA protest, which has been going on since December 13, in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. The current crisis is a clear reminder of the fact that humanity is for all irrespective of religion, it said in a statement.

Indigo staff dies

New Delhi: A 44-year-old maintenance manager with Indigo Airlines died after a cardio-respiratory arrest at the IGI Airport Saturday morning. He had returned from Indonesia via Singapore Saturday, where he had gone for work. **ENS**

Flight turned back from Delhi

New Delhi: The Netherlands' KLM Airlines Saturday said its Amsterdam-Delhi flight with 120 Indians on board was turned back. Sources said the plane had transit passengers from the US and the UK too, and there was confusion over whether such passengers can disembark on Indian soil as they were not taking direct flights and their segregation could be difficult. **PTI**

Board being put up outside homes of people under quarantine, says Health Minister as cases touch 27

In Europe, situation completely changed in 15 days, we want to stay prepared in Delhi; will rope in private hospitals if need arises, says Satyendar Jain

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

DELHI HAS recorded 17 new coronavirus cases over the past three days, including seven on Saturday, taking the total number of confirmed patients to 27. Of them, 21 are from Delhi and the rest from other states. From shutting down the educational institutes, gyms and malls to scaling up healthcare facilities, the state government is on an overdrive to tackle the global crisis. Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain spoke to *The Indian Express* on why the coming days are crucial.

The minister said elective surgeries have been cancelled so ICU beds are in ample supply

The numbers have risen up in the last few days. What is Delhi's aim in terms of healthcare facilities?

We have to prepare Delhi for the worst case scenario. If we look at Europe, the situation completely changed in 15 days, and if the situation changes in the coming days in Delhi, we want to stay prepared. For the current cases, we have more than enough capacity, but we also need to pump up existing facilities. We have made a provision of over 500 beds in government hospitals and are looking to rope in private hospitals if cases rise exponentially. If the need arises, the bed capacity will be increased to 1,000 or more than that.

What kind of help could the government take from private hospitals?

We have asked big private hospitals (with a bed capacity of 300) to earmark 10-20 isolation beds and keep them on standby. After coordinating with the central government, if there is any symptomatic patient in these hospitals, we would ensure the testing is done in time. We will also allow a few private hospitals to start taking samples of suspected cases. However, testing will be done at designated labs only. At present, five Delhi government hospitals are also authorised to collect samples.

Do we have enough beds in the ICU?

We have cancelled elective surgeries in all Delhi government hospitals from Friday. The elective, non-essential surgeries have been postponed so beds can gradually be made available for an emergency. In many cases, patients are advised to move to the ICU after surgeries. This way, we will be able to make more space for COVID-19 patients.

Is the Delhi government planning to expand quarantine facilities?

The existing quarantine facilities in Delhi have space to accommodate many more passengers. As a back-up plan, we have readied several other centers which can be made operational overnight. If we quarantine patients at 10 centers, we have to have enough manpower for management. Earlier, our plan was to have different centers but then we changed it. Now we have three hotels and three centers offering quarantine facilities. Once they are full, we will add more centers accordingly.

Chandigarh administration is putting a board outside residences of people who are under home quarantine. Is Delhi planning to start anything on these lines?

Yes, we have started it from today. A board will be put outside residences of people suggested home isolation. The board will mention the name of the family, the number of people who have been advised home isolation and the number of days they have been asked to stay under quarantine.

What do you think about Sunday's lockdown? Should it be extended?

The Chief Minister has also said we have taken several preventive measures. We are monitoring the situation, let's see how it goes.

2 more test positive in Gurgaon, only essential services open

SAKSHI DAYAL
GURGAON, MARCH 21

TWO MORE people from Gurgaon tested positive for coronavirus on Saturday — the brother of a 22-year-old who tested positive on Thursday, and a woman who had recently returned from the UK. The number of cases in the district is now six, said Dr Jaswant Singh Punia, Chief Medical Officer, Gurgaon.

The woman whose brother has now tested positive is a student in London and had returned to Gurgaon earlier this month. Apart from her, a couple have tested positive, along with a 29-year-old woman who returned from a holiday in Malaysia and Indonesia. Officials said a total of 131 samples have been sent for testing from the district, of which 31 have tested negative. Fifty of these were sent on Saturday.

Through this week, the Gurgaon district administration has ordered the closure of all shopping malls, swimming pools, gymnasiums, clubs, schools, colleges, cinema halls, theatres, multiplexes, coaching centres, spas, bars and lounges until March 31.

On Saturday, in an order issued in the evening, District Magistrate Amit Khatri further directed that shopping centres and shopping complexes, as well as local markets, remain closed until the date, and operations of dine-in services in all restaurants, eateries, cafes, and dhabas be suspended, "except takeaway, drive-through, home delivery services and room service".

Two days after issuing an "advisory" calling on organisations to allow as many employees as possible to work from home, he also directed in the order that "all private, corporate establishments and factories" be "completely shut down" except those providing "essential services".

In Faridabad, where one case of coronavirus has been recorded, police warned an FIR will be filed against anyone who tries to hide that they are infected. "Isolation wards have been created to treat those infected. If anyone tries to escape from these, an FIR will be registered," said Sube Singh, PRO of Faridabad Police.

Another case, Noida high-rise residents told to stay indoors

AMIL BHATNAGAR
NOIDA, MARCH 21

A 41-YEAR-OLD salon owner in Noida and a man in his 20s in Greater Noida tested positive for coronavirus on Saturday, taking the number of cases in Gautam Budh Nagar district to six.

According to officials, the Noida patient had a travel history to Europe and returned around two weeks ago. "The patient developed symptoms a few days ago and had been staying at home. His sample came back positive today. We are sanitising the area, and the administration has ordered residents in the patient's locality not to move about. The locality where the patient lives is being screened and other people with symptoms are being observed," said Dr Anuarg Bharagava, CMO, Gautam Budh Nagar.

At Noida's Sector 74 on Saturday. *Abhinav Saha*

District magistrate B N Singh also announced "sealing" of the residential society, which has around 4,000 flats: "Since a resident tested positive for COVID-19, residents are being ordered to stay indoors. Except for emergency cases, movement of vehicles will also be stopped. The restriction are in place from Saturday 10 am to Monday 7 am. Legal action will be taken in case of non-compliance."

According to officials, action under Section 188 (disobeying order of government official) will be taken if anyone is found moving around during this period.

Officials also said the man's wife is under quarantine and her sample has been sent for testing.

According to officials, the patient from Greater Noida had a travel history to Middle East and his sample had been taken three days ago. The sample returned positive late Saturday night and the patient has been admitted to Government Institute of Medical Sciences for further treatment.

MOST HEADING HOME TO BIHAR, JHARKHAND, WEST BENGAL AND UP

Nothing to do here, say those at railway station before leaving

SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

CROUCHED ON the floor near the train status screen at the New Delhi Railway Station on Saturday, Yogender (18) and his five friends are all wearing masks.

The group is heading to Allahabad, their hometown, as the construction site they were working on as labourers in South Delhi's Chattarpur has been closed for the last five days.

"There is nothing to do here, so I am going back to my village to stay with family until things clear out. We have not been told when we should come back and whether our salaries will be cut," he said.

There are many unskilled labourers such as Yogender who have lost work in the national capital region over the past week.

A Northern Railways official said most passengers travelling from the New Delhi station Saturday were heading East, to states such as Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and UP.

At the New Delhi railway station's platform on Saturday. *Amit Mehra*

"The bookings for all Eastbound trains departing on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are full. However, it appears there were few cancellations on Saturday as some seats in trains were unoccupied," the official said.

While the New Delhi station was not particularly overcrowded on Saturday afternoon, a steady influx of passengers could be seen. The ticket counters had about 20 people each standing in multiple queues. Others were either crouched on the floors in the main hall, or sitting on footsteps and leaning against walls, wearing masks and waiting for the announcement on their trains.

Mithu (20), who ran an ice-cream stall in Gurgaon, was heading to Patna. "The supply from companies has stopped. Roads are deserted and people are not venturing out. I don't have a ticket but I can't stay here. I don't know when I will come back," he said.

Shiv Charan Kumar (18), who ran a tea stall in Gurgaon's sector 17, was also heading to Patna.

"People have disappeared suddenly. No one comes to the stall anymore. Maybe I will return on April 1. Things should have settled by then."

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ANUPAM JOSHE

WATER scarcity and water crisis are top global risks, according to the World Economic Forum. Climate change is already having a profound effect on global water cycles, resulting in both prolonged and more severe droughts and more frequent extreme precipitation and flooding events. Increasing competition for finite water resources among industry, agriculture, and an expanding population is exacerbating these impacts and the underlying risks.

The earth's freshwater ecosystems are critically depleted and being used unsustainably, reported the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, for today's 7.7 billion population, worsening prospects for the 9.7 billion population that's expected by 2050. Water challenges are escalating and have the potential to impact the natural environment, global health, and economic and industrial growth.

Today, 4 billion people live with water scarcity, which disrupts livelihoods and degrades ecosystems. Pollutants enter freshwater from agriculture, industry, and domestic sources, often with no treatment, and severely degrade water quality. Freshwater biodiversity has declined precipitously: some 20% of fish species have gone extinct or are threatened. The World Economic Forum's Global Risks Report has repeatedly ranked water crisis as one of the global risks with the highest potential impact.

Water stress starts when the water available in a country drops below 1700 m3/year or 4600 litres/day per person. When the 1000 m3/year or about 2700 litres/day per person threshold is crossed, water scarcity is experienced. Absolute water scarcity is considered for countries with less than 500 m3/year or roughly 1400 litres/day per person. By this definition, 49 countries are water stressed, 9 of which experience water scarcity and 21 absolute water scarcity.

As the world gets wealthier, urbanised and hotter, water use will no doubt increase, making demand harder to meet. Within 15 years, half of the populace, amounting to approximately 4 billion, will be living in areas of severe water stress, predicts UNDP. Rapid population growth and urbanisation could expose more people to water shortages, with negative implications for livelihoods, health, and security.

Water is, now, visibly a root cause for nearly every burning issue hitting the headlines, transforming the world geo-political order and planetary environment. According to the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development, 47% of the world's population will face severe water shortages by 2030, driving large-scale migration that will impact the economy and social structure. "Water is considered an 'axis resource', meaning it's the resource that underlies all others. So, whether you're building a computer chip, or growing crops, or generating power, all these things require lots of water. But there's only a finite amount of water, and now resources are butting up against each other," Alex Prud'homme has said in *The Ripple Effect*.

The undeniably worrying trends concerning Water are increasing. Over the last few years, it is getting exceedingly clear that governments the world over neither have will nor resources to solve this crisis. Faced with the inevitable, it is imperative now for all stakeholders to engage in solving Water scarcity and quality problems cohesively. In a landscape where the demand for water is fast outstripping supply, focusing on water neutrality has now become a critical survival strategy. "The interest in water neutrality is rooted in the recognition that human impacts on freshwater systems can ultimately be linked to human consumption, and that issues like water shortages and pollution can be better understood and addressed by considering production and supply chains as a whole," says Professor Arjen Y. Hoekstra, the creator of the water neutrality concept.

The concept of Water neutrality is essentially the

According to the Composite Water Management Index issued by NITI Aayog, 21 major cities including, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad are racing towards zero groundwater levels by 2020

wet version of carbon neutrality. It means that Water usage can be offset by interventions to improve freshwater habitats and supply. Based on its carbon equivalent, Water neutral, according to a 2008 UNESCO report, connotes, "One reduces the Water footprint of activity as much as possible offseting the negative externalities of the remaining Water footprint."

But, while Carbon neutrality entails offsetting the carbon emissions actively by either sequestering an equivalent amount or purchasing carbon credits to make the difference, can the same be done for Water neutrality? Not exactly!

In the case of carbon neutrality, it does not matter where the CO2 emission reduction is achieved. However, when it comes to Water, offsetting is required where the impacts take place. Unlike carbon neutrality, extracting Water from one basin and neutralising it by Water saving in some other, would not precisely redress the balance in the first location.

Unlike CO2, Water is a finite resource. Taking Water from one place and replacing it in another does not precisely balance accounts in the first location. Water neutrality, in its real sense, goes beyond 'neutralising' the volume of water consumption. True offsetting involves a rational investment in Water-saving technologies, Water and environmental conservation, wastewater management, besides curbing the water footprint as much as possible.

A study in Conservation Letters by Nel and colleagues titled 'Water neutrality: a first quantitative framework for investing in Water in South Africa' presents a well-defined model for how water neutrality should work. The investment in water neutrality requires a three-step process (known as R3) of: Review, Reduce and Replenish. Using South Africa as an example, they describe a scheme where users, communities, and business need to:

- review their Water use,
- implement a reduction strategy and
- replenish Water to hydrological systems through the investment in catchment services equivalent to their water use.

The strengthening of the water-neutral concept partly lies in its positive connotation, which may trigger communities and businesses to act where otherwise they might not have done so. A large number of individuals and companies are already aware of the external effects of their direct water use and act to reduce this uncontrolled use. In the case of companies, a key element of water neutrality is that not only measures are taken for the operational water footprint, but also for the supply-chain water footprint. For individuals and communities, it means that they should not only focus on reducing household water use (like installing low-flow showerheads and water-saving toilets) but also start adopting water conservation practices like rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling while consuming products labelled as water-neutral.

Over 600 million Indians are already facing the worst water crisis. Over 820 mn still do not have access to piped Water, and pollutants contaminate 70% of the Water in the country. The need to find sustainable solutions to the problem has become dire

However, the concept can become active in contributing to the wise management of the water resources only when clear definitions and guidelines are in place. There will be a need for scientific rigour in accounting methods and for clear (negotiated) bylaws on the conditions that have to be met before one can speak about water neutrality. Undoubtedly, there will be a phenomenal market for water-neutrality and water-offsetting, comparable to the demand for carbon neutrality. To what extent this market will become effective in contributing to a more efficient, sustainable, and equitable use of the Earth's water resources will depend on the rules of the market. Without agreed definitions and guidelines on what is water neutrality, the term is most likely to end up as a catchword for raising funds for charity projects in the water sector. In that context, the term can also fulfil a useful function, but it would be 'water neutrality' in its weakest form. It will become a strong concept only when claims towards water-neutrality are measured against clear standards.

We're all familiar with Cape Town's day zero situation which was first scheduled for March 2018. In January 2018, when officials first announced that the city of 4 million people was three months away from running out of municipal water, the whole world was dazed.

But the water restrictions had a profound effect on the people of Cape Town. Residents, communities and authorities, with their extraordinary efforts, started conserving as much water as they could and Day Zero got delayed by a month. As more and more people cohesively engaged in this, the deadline was further pushed back to July 9th, then end of August and furthermore, to next year, 2019. And then, Cape Town got lucky. It rained.

While many of us have the luxury of living where clean water runs freely from the tap, where our waste is treated, and where our store shelves are always well-stocked, we are enjoying these luxuries at the cost of others. We can no longer ignore the impacts of our water footprint simply because it happens in another part of the world. We must become global citizens, prepared to care for water, wherever it is being used, to ensure that it is treated with the respect it deserves.

STP at Central Park Resorts

Central Park Serious on Water Conservation

To address the growing concerns of water scarcity and water wastage, Central Park has developed pioneering systems and taken stringent measures to ensure minimal water wastage and maximum utilisation of treated water in its projects

WATER scarcity is a very serious concern and as a real-estate developer, it is essential to take measures towards curbing wastage of water to the best of our capacities. Besides water shortage, not having appropriate systems in place to manage overflow of water and water discharge also have a spillover effect, leading to overflowing of roads, blocked traffic and water clogging - this results in inconvenience as well as rise of disease from still-water that isn't appropriately drained. Overall, this is an issue which is very important for any society and the nation.

As a result of identifying and assessing these grave issues, Central Park has implemented certain systems to do its part in ensuring minimal water wastage as well as managing water in the correct manner. An extraordinary efficient rainwater harvesting system is fully functional at Central Park Resorts, ensuring that residents are not adversely affected in such a situation. Rainwater harvesting entails collecting and thereafter storing raindrops for future use as opposed to allowing it to run off. The Resorts condominium has pits to contain and store this rainwater, which have been developed and are regularly maintained, and as a result, there is no water clogging in the lawns or roads and zero water discharge outside the condominium.

The other measures include pumps to drain excess water and barriers to prevent entry of outside water into the premises (to avoid unnecessary ingress of water into basements). The system also enables recharging the underground water table, increasing the ground water level. Given that Central Park Resorts has 80% of green area, all the water used in irrigation, landscaping, in the waterbody within the condominium, and even for flushing, is treated water from the Sewage Treatment Plant. This recycled water is also used as a cooling agent in the diesel generators. This means that instead of water being wasted, it is used as a heat exchanger to decrease the temperature of the hot water as small quantities of water evaporate, thus lowering the overall temperature being circulated. In this way, the diesel generators are cooled using water from within the condominium, putting the otherwise wasted water to good use.

20 acres of central greens

Central Park is an environment-friendly developer renowned for going the extra mile to cater to its customers when it comes to comfort, well-being and convenience

Renowned for going the extra mile for their customers when it comes to comfort, well-being and convenience, the other initiatives that Central Park has taken towards being an environment-friendly developer include zero vehicular movement on ground surface (improving safety & reducing pollution), waste converters, garbage segregation and a huge plantation of over 60,000 shrubs/ bushes/ creepers, amongst others.

Central Park deeply understands the value and importance of water being precious and continues to extend capital and intelligence to maintain their systems for day-to-day purposes and to also prepare for all kinds of unforeseen scenarios.

* RED (READ. ENGAGE. DELIVER.) IS THE MARKETING SOLUTIONS TEAM OF THE INDIAN EXPRESS GROUP

EWS flats to cop training school, city moves to meet quarantine demand

SOURAV ROY BARMAN & SHIVAM PATEL
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

At the DDA flats in Narela. *Praveen Khanna*

QUARANTINE FACILITIES with more than 1,600 beds have been prepared by the Delhi government, mostly on the outskirts of the city, to keep under observation those at 'moderate risk' of coronavirus.

Till Saturday, 661 people were under quarantine across five locations — an EWS apartment complex of the Delhi Development Authority in Narela; two facilities of the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board in Sultanpur and Dwarka; a dharamshala in Chhatarpur; and a Delhi Police Training School in Dwarka. By Saturday night, though, the numbers had risen as thousands more landed at IGI airport.

While these facilities have a capacity of 1,400 beds, additional arrangements have been made at three hotels in Aerocity for over 250 fixed price rooms capped at Rs 3,100 per day.

Guidelines from the Union Health Ministry state that passengers from high-risk countries affected by COVID-19, including China, Italy, France and Germany, are to be quarantined for 14 days.

Some people quarantined at the facilities in Narela and Dwarka have claimed they are unhygienic and poorly managed.

At the DDA apartment complex in Narela, conversations with two individuals who were shifted to the facility on March 16 suggested the arrangements leave much to be desired. In every 1-BHK flat, two beds have been put up. The lack of clean toilets and washrooms have emerged as one of the primary concerns among those having to spend their time in quarantine.

"We get food thrice a day, but it's not great... frankly, it would be unfair to even expect standard food. But hygiene could have been taken care of better. Also, we don't get hot water; considering Delhi has not really warmed up so far, bathing is a problem, especially for the elderly and children," said a person in quarantine.

Those isolated include families from across the country, including West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. "While most of us have tested negative, we don't think we will be allowed to leave before completing the 14-day period. Considering we are expected to spend so much time here, at least basic arrangements should have been made in terms of making available hand sanitisers or separate soaps for washing clothes and bathing. For everything, we have to place requests with the local staff who are understandably stretched at the moment. The rooms are also not cleaned and sanitised regularly," said the person.

A senior DDA official said the first batch of passengers sent for quarantine arrived at the facility on March 16, when it was still being made ready: "These are empty flats... cleaning work was on in some apartments when news came that people have been sent here from the airport for quarantine. That caused some panic and some of the labourers who were working there ran away. Around 200 apartments have been made ready now, and 100 others would be made ready soon. The DDA has handed them to the Delhi government, which will manage them."

Similar complaints were made about the police training school in Dwarka. A 33-year-old man, who arrived with his wife at the facility from Barcelona on Monday, said they were put in groups of seven or eight in a dormitory-like room. "There was no soap or sanitiser, a few cupboards had rotten vegetables in them. Washrooms were clogged, there were pan stains on the walls and in the sink. There were just two washrooms on the floor we were on, which housed about 80 people," he said.

While announcing the facilities at three hotels, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had earlier said some people returning from abroad may not find the facilities satisfactory, hence they have the option to move to Aerocity.

In comparison, the facility at the dharamshala in Chhatarpur has received praise. The 200-bed facility had about 146 people in quarantine as of Saturday, with 164 being discharged since it became operational late last week and 16 being referred to RML Hospital.

A 34-year-old student from Paris, who stayed there from Sunday until Tuesday, said the rooms were clean, had a balcony and television, and toiletries were also provided. "It was a better organised facility. Staff would come to check on our health every day, there was warm water in washrooms, and we got proper thali food. All staff were dressed in protective body suits. They also helped us if we needed extra tea or coffee," she said.

SDM (Saket) Rakesh Kumar told *The Indian Express* that the Chhatarpur facility is essentially a building owned by a religious trust.He said facilities including toilet paper, slippers, separate soap for bathing purposes and washing clothes, geyser, anti-mosquito repellents among others are being provided to those being brought by authorities.

"For food, we provide morning tea, breakfast, lunch, snacks and dinner," said the SDM.

Amanatullah no longer chairman of Waqf Board

SOURAV ROY BARMAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

Amanatullah Khan

AAP'S OKHLA MLA Amanatullah Khan is no longer the chairman of the Delhi Waqf Board, with the city's revenue department issuing an order that the position is deemed to have fallen vacant on February 11, the day the sixth Delhi Assembly got dissolved.

The order dated March 20 invokes Section 14(1) of the Waqf Act, 1995.

Khan has been leading the Delhi government's relief and rehabilitation efforts in the Northeast Delhi district, where 53 people were killed in communal riots last month. Khan has also been defending suspended AAP councillor Tahir Hussain, who is in police custody for his alleged role in the murder of Intelligence Bureau staffer Ankit Sharma during the riots.

"The journey between September 2018 (when he became chairman) and March 2020 was good. I am happy I could help the poor and needy and extend their rights to them," Khan, who was re-elected from the Okhla seat by over 70,000 votes, tweeted.

Section 14(1) of Waqf Act, 1995, states that in case a Muslim member of the board ceases to be an MLA, he should be deemed to have vacated his office.

"As the Delhi Assembly dissolved on February 11, 2020, and members of the newly constituted Assembly took oath on February 24, the statutory provisions of Section 14 of the Waqf Act got attracted with effect from 11.02.2020," the order stated.

Importantly, the order issued by a deputy commissioner-ranked officer of the department added that Khan could not have taken any action in his official capacity, "including taking any decisions or signing any cheques", on behalf of the board starting February 11.

Khan has issued several monetary compensation cheques over the last one month for riot victims. Even on March 17, two cheques of Rs 2 lakh each were issued to two Hindu families by Khan.

It was not immediately clear what happens to those cheques, even as Delhi government sources maintained that the matter was purely technical and Khan will be reinstated soon.

In times of social distancing, wedding telecast live on app

ASHNA BUTANI
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

WHILE MANY across the world are delaying their weddings amid the coronavirus pandemic, Stuti Yagnik and Sanket Matu were resolute on going ahead with theirs. "Around 70-80 people attended the wedding from afar via the Zoom (video conferencing) app on March 18," said Stuti.

"My husband was in Denmark, and we did not know if he would be able to make it because the situation is tense everywhere. When he landed, we were sure we wanted to make it happen," said Stuti.

But the couple did not want the elderly to physically attend the function. So they told their relatives to log in through the app and watch the ceremony.

The wedding was initially scheduled to be held on March 22 at ISKCON Temple in Delhi, but the couple advanced the date as international flights were being suspended. "A number of relatives and cousins logged in and watched the wedding from Bengaluru, Kolkata, Bhopal and other cities," said Stuti. "But our honeymoon will have to wait."

Khureji Khas stir: Former Congress councillor gets bail

ANAND MOHAN J
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

A DELHI court granted bail to former Congress councillor Ishrat Jahan and three others, who were arrested from an anti-CAA protest site in Northeast Delhi's Khureji Khas in February.

However, activist Khalid Saifi's bail application, which was heard by the same court, was dismissed. The court said that in this case, the protest "appears to have become violent" and to control the law and order situation, "police had fired in the air and used tear gas shells."

Saifi's lawyer Rebecca John had argued that he was "brutally beaten inside the police station" because of which he sustained fractures to both his legs and injuries to his hand.

However, the court said the allegations against him were serious in nature as "he had instigated the mob to pelt stones at the police party, and his name also emerged in a disclosure statement of co-accused".

Jahan and five other people were arrested by Delhi Police, who claimed before the court that a flag march headed by senior officers tried to clear the roads near the Khureji protest site but Jahan incited the crowd to pelt stones at the policemen and one person from the crowd also opened fire at the police.

Jahan has been charged under sections of attempt to murder, rioting, among others.

Additional Sessions Judge Manjusha Wadhwa granted bail to Jahan, Mohd Saleem, Sameer Ansari and Vikram Thakur on furnishing a bail bond of Rs 50,000 each with a surety of the like amount. The court also directed them to not participate "even in a peaceful agitation until the pandemic of coronavirus subsides".

ASJ Wadhwa said that "no overt act has been imputed" to Jahan on allegations that she incited the crowd. The court said that invoking Section 307 against her was debatable since there was no allegation that she used the country-made pistol.

The other three men were granted bail since no overt act has been ascribed to them as well, said the court.

To boost morale, police chief grants out of turn promotion

New Delhi: To boost morale of the force, Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava has granted an out-of-turn promotion to a constable and conferred five other personnel with the Asadharan Karya Puraskar for their "extraordinary acts of courage".

Delhi Police spokesperson Mandeep Singh Randhawa said Constable Rajiv, posted in Dwarka district, received a promotion. Assistant Sub-Inspector Ravindra, posted in Central district, Head Constables Joginder Singh, Vijay, Sanej and Krishan, all posted at Mundka police station in Outer district, have been conferred with the Asadharan Karya Puraskar, he said.

"Rajiv was patrolling in Dwarka Sector 26, on the night of March 15, after getting information through a guard about firing at a construction site. Rajiv nabbed one of the accused, while his three associates fled. They returned later and opened fire at Rajeev. The constable sustained a bullet injury to his face," said Randhawa.

He added, "On Tuesday around 8.30 pm, ASI Ravindra was returning home after finishing duty when he found three persons involved in a scuffle... he also heard the sound of firing. He caught two persons near Noor-E-Illahi, Anand Sagar road, after chasing them," he said. **ENS**

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, हमीरपुर पत्रांक सं-1287/वि.वि.म.ह./पी-1(प्रकाशन)/निविदा/2019-20 दिनांकः- 20.03.20 अति-अल्पकालीन (ई-निविदा) निविदा खुलने की तिथि एवं निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य सभी विवरण ई-प्रोक्योरमैंट पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in एवं निगम की वेबसाइट https://dvvnl.org पर उपलब्ध है। 1. **ई-निविदा संख्या-** 155/ SE/ EDCH/ 2019-20:- **कार्य का विवरणः-** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड हमीरपुर की सीमान्तर्गत पूर्ण जमा योजना के अन्तर्गत 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेन्द्र सुमेरपुर पेयजलों के ऊर्जीकरण का कार्य। 2. **ई-निविदा संख्या-** 156/ SE/ EDCH/ 2019-20:- **कार्य का विवरणः-** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड हमीरपुर की सीमान्तर्गत 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेन्द्र जल्ला के राजकीय नलकूप सं-392 एच.जी. ग्राम जखेला एवं 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेन्द्र पौथिया के रीबोर राजकीय नलकूप सं-09 एच.जी. ग्राम कुम्ऊपुर के ऊर्जीकरण का कार्य। 3. **ई-निविदा संख्या-** 157/ SE/ EDCH/ 2019-20:- **कार्य का विवरणः-** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड हमीरपुर की सीमान्तर्गत 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेन्द्र सुमेरपुर से निर्गत 11 के.वी. धनपुरा पोषक पर स्थित केन्द्रीय विद्यालय 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेन्द्र पारा रैपुरा रीबोर राजकीय नलकूप सं.-28 एम.जी. ग्राम अर्तरा 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेन्द्र पारा रैपुरा रीबोर राजकीय नलकूप सं-86 एच.जी. ग्राम बिरखेरा, राजकीय नलकूप सं-296 एच.जी. भौरा डोडा के ऊर्जीकरण का कार्य। 4. **ई-निविदा संख्या-** 158/ SE/ EDCH/ 2019-20: **कार्य का विवरणः** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड हमीरपुर की सीमान्तर्गत 11 के.वी. टिकरी पोषक पर स्थित गुसियारी पेयजल श्री तेजमुख के खेत ग्रमा गुसियारी के ऊर्जीकरण का कार्य। 5. **ई-निविदा संख्या-** 159/ SE/ EDCH/ 2019-20: **कार्य का विवरणः** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड हमीरपुर की सीमान्तर्गत 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेन्द्र सिसोलर से निर्गत 11 के.वी. भैसमरी पेयजल पीपल के पेड़ के पास ग्राम भैसमरी के ऊर्जीकरण का कार्य। 6. **ई-निविदा संख्या-** 160/ SE/ EDCH/ 2019-20: **कार्य का विवरणः** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड हमीरपुर की सीमान्तर्गत 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेन्द्र इचौली से निर्गत 11 के.वी. इचौली पोषक नायकपुरवा पेयजल सं-05 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेन्द्र सुमेरपुर पर स्थित इगोहटा 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेन्द्र सिसोलर में गुसियारी के ऊर्जीकरण का कार्य। 7. **ई-निविदा संख्या-** 161/ SE/ EDCH/ 2019-20: **कार्य का विवरणः** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड हमीरपुर की सीमान्तर्गत 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत उपकेन्द्र सिसोलर पेयजल योजना 33/11 के.वी. विद्युत इचौली एवं श्री बलवीर प्रजापित के खेत में ग्राम भैसमरी को ऊर्जीकरण करने कार्य। **''राष्ट्रीय हित में बिजली बचायें''** **हस्ता./- (सुमित व्यास), अधीक्षण अभियन्ता**

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN
Government of India, Ministry of Finance,
(Department of Financial Services)
2nd Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK-248171
PUBLICATION NOTICE
IN O. A. No 342 OF 2019
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 DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME)
Dy. No. 162 **Dated 06.03.2020**
Central Bank of India Vs M/s Reliance Metal Industries & Ors.
To,
4. **Mohd. Danish**, S/o Late Safder Hussain, R/o House No. 13/18/1A, Moh Kohna Mughalpura, Nai Sarak, Near Dr. S. Kumar Chauraha, Moradabad, UP. 244001.
5. **Arifa Naz**, W/o Nisar Hussain, R/o House No. 13/18/1A, Moh Kohna Mughalpura, Nai Sarak, Near Dr. S. Kumar Chauraha, Moradabad, UP. 244001.
6. **Sartaz Akhtar**, W/o Qamal Akhtar, R/o R/o House No. 13/18/1A, Moh Kohna Mughalpura, Nai Sarak, Near Dr. S. Kumar Chauraha, Moradabad, UP. 244001.
Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted **OA NO. 342 of 2019** against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 6,24,30,855.48/-** 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 **02.03.2020.**
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 **21.04.2020 at 10.30A.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 the **06th day of March, 2020.**
By order of Tribunal
Registrar
seal **Debts Recovery Tribunal , Dehradun**

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, हमीरपुर, पत्रांक सं.-1292/ वि.वि.म.ह./ पी-1 (प्रकाशन)/ निविदा/ 2019-20 दिनांकः- 20.03.20 अल्पकालीन (ई-निविदा) निविदा खुलने की तिथि एवं निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य सभी विवरण ई-प्रोक्योरमैंट पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in एवं निगम की वेबसाइट https://dvvnl.org पर उपलब्ध है। 1. **ई-निविदा संख्या- 162/ SE/ EDCH/ 2019-20: कार्य का विवरणः** अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण खण्ड हमीरपुर के प्रयोग हेतु एक नग कार मय चालक उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य। 2. **ई-निविदा संख्या- 163/ SE/ EDCH/ 2019-20: कार्य का विवरणः** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड हमीरपुर की सीमान्तर्गत 3 नग जीप मय चालक उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य। 3. **ई-निविदा संख्या- 164/ SE/ EDCH/ 2019-20: कार्य का विवरणः** विद्युत वितरण खण्ड राठ की सीमान्तर्गत 3 नग जीप मय चालक उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य। 4. **ई-निविदा संख्या- 164/ SE/ EDCH/ 2019-20: कार्य का विवरणः** विद्युत परीक्षण खण्ड हमीरपुर की सीमान्तर्गत 3 नग जीप मय चालक उपलब्ध कराने का कार्य। **''राष्ट्रीय हित में बिजली बचायें''** **हस्ता./- (सुमित व्यास), अधीक्षण अभियन्ता**

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, IST CIRCLE, 220, CIVIL LINES, U.P.JAL NIGAM, MEERUT
CORRIGENDUM
Letter No.: 526 / 731 / 47
Dated : 19.03.2020
Name of Work: "Supply of all material, labour and T/P making Domestic Sewer House Connection along with construction of House Connecting Chamber and Interconnecting Chamber Meerut Sewerage Scheme, in Meerut City Under AMRUT Programme" Ref. NIT: **441/739/39, dated 05.03.2020** Sl. No.:**1**, Description: **Date of uploading tender documents at website**, Date as per NIT: **21.03.2020**, Revised date of NIT: **28.03.2020**, Sl.No.:**2**, Description: **Date of Pre-Bid Meeting**, Date as per NIT: **25.03.2020**, Revised date of NIT: **03.04.2020**, Sl.No.: **3**, Description: **Date of submission of tender**, Date as per NIT: **07.04.2020**, Revised date of NIT: **18.04.2020**, Sl.No.:**4**, Description: **Date of opening of tender**, Date as per NIT: **08.04.2020**, Revised date of NIT: **19.04.2020.**

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि.
ऊर्जा भवन, 220 के.वी. विद्युत उपसंस्थान, बाई-पास रोड, सिकन्दरा, आगरा -282007
(CIN No.U31200UP2003SGC027460)
(GSTIN No. 09AACCD0695D1ZS)
अल्प-कालीन ई-निविदा सूचना
● **विशिष्टीकरण सं0 डीवीवीएनएल-एम एम/2469-2020:** जनपद-झांसी में 132 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र इंसाली, परिसर के अन्दर स्थापित 33/11 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र को 02 नग पावर परिवर्तक सहित विस्थापित करते हुए पारेषण परिसर से बाहर नये 10+5 एमवीए 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र के निर्माण का कार्य टर्नकी आधार पर कराने हेतु **निविदा शुल्कः** ₹ 5,900/- **धरोहर राशिः** ₹ 1,30,000/- **निविदा खुलने की दिनांकः** 09.04.2020. ● **विशिष्टीकरण सं0 डीवीवी एनएल-एमएम/2470-2020:** जनपद-झांसी में 132 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र मौठ, परिसर के अन्दर स्थापित 33/11 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र के नियन्त्रण कक्ष को विस्थापित करते हुए पारेषण परिसर से बाहर नये नियन्त्रण कक्ष का निर्माण कर स्विच गियर स्थापित करने का कार्य टर्नकी आधार पर कराने हेतु **निविदा शुल्कः** ₹ 3,540/- **धरोहर राशिः** ₹ 57,500/- **निविदा खुलने की दिनांकः** 09.04.2020. ● **विशिष्टीकरण सं0 डीवीवीएनएल-एमएम/2471-2020:** जनपद-मथुरा में 132 के0वी0 उपकेन्द्र सौंख से फोर पोल स्ट्रक्चर तक संयुक्त डबल सर्किट लाईन तथा प्रस्तावित फोर पोल स्ट्रक्चर से 33/11 के0वी0 विद्युत उपकेन्द्र सौंख एवं औल तक अलग-अलग 33 के0वी0 सिंगल सर्किट लाइन का निर्माण कार्य टर्नकी आधार पर कराने हेतु **निविदा शुल्कः** ₹ 5,900/- **धरोहर राशिः** ₹ 1,25,000/- **निविदा खुलने की दिनांकः** 09.04.2020. निविदा शुल्क केवल ऑनलाइन, **DVVNL, AGRA** की वेबसाईट **www.dvvnl.org** के माध्यम से ही स्वीकार किया जायेगा। विवरण के लिए कृपया निविदा प्रपत्र ध्यानपूर्वक पढ़ लें। उपरोक्त निविदा निर्धारित दिनांक को समय **13.00 बजे** तक ऑनलाइन अपलोड की जा सकेगी एवं निर्धारित दिनांक को **सायं 16.00 बजे** खोली जायेगी। निविदा प्रपत्र **उ0प्र0 शासन के ई-प्रोक्योरमैंट पोर्टल https://etender.up.nic.in** पर अपलोड की जायेगी, जहाँ से निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। हस्ता./- **अधीक्षण अभियन्ता(मा0प्र0)-I, "राष्ट्र हित में बिजली बचायें"** पत्रांकः2757/अधी0अभि0(मा0प्र0)-I/आगरा/विज्ञापन/दिनांकः 20.03.2020

दक्षिणांचल विद्युत वितरण निगम लि., कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा **सूचना** अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्य को कराये जाने हेतु ई-निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। विस्तृत जानकारी एवं नियम व शर्तें उ.प्र. शासन की आधिकारिक ई-प्रोक्योरमैंट पोर्टल https:/etender.up.nic.in पर उपलब्ध हैः- 1. **ई-निविदा विशिष्टीकरण संख्या-** 66/ SE/ EDCCkt/ 2019-20: **कार्यः** विद्युत वितरण मण्डल चित्रकूट के अन्तर्गत अधीक्षण अभियन्ता/अधिशाषी अभियन्ताओं/उपखण्ड-अधिकारियों/सहायक अभियन्ता हेतु 09 नग डीजल चलित वाहन (मय चालक) 12 माह हेतु उपलब्ध कराये जाने का कार्य। **हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता विद्युत वितरण मण्डल, चित्रकूट पत्रांक-1757/वि.वि.मं.चि./निविदा प्रकाशन/2019-20 दिनांक-21.03.2020**

उ.प्र. पावर ट्रांसमिशन कारपोरेशन लि. ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
अनुभवी क श्रेणी कार्यदायी संस्थाओं/ आपूर्तिकर्ताओं से विद्युत पारेषण मंडल, ग्रेटर नोएडा के अन्तर्गत निम्न सामग्री/ कार्यों हेतु ई-निविदायें ई-पोर्टल etender.up.nic.in पर दो भागों में निविदा खोलने की दिनांक को 12.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। जिसका प्रथम भाग उसी दिन क्रमशः 03.00/ 03.15/ 03.30/ 03.40 बजे (यदि अवकाश/ अन्य कारण हो तो अगले कार्य दिवस में) खोला जायेगा। निर्धारित निविदा शुल्क आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.ई.एफ.टी. तथा धरोहर राशि आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.ई.एफ.टी./ बैंक गारंटी के माध्यम से (निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर राशि पृथक-पृथक हस्तांतरित की जानी है) अधिशासी अभियंता, विद्युत 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र खण्ड, ग्रेटर नोएडा के पक्ष में पंजाब नैशनल बैंक की आई.सी.डी. तिलप्ता, दादरी (गौतमबुद्ध नगर), उ.प्र. शाखा में संचालित चालू बैंक खाता संख्या 0109012100000756 **(IFSC Code PUNB0466300)** में जमा कराया जायेगा। निविदा के प्रथम भाग में आर.टी.जी.एस./ एन.ई.एफ.टी. द्वारा जमा किये गये निविदा शुल्क एवं धरोहर राशि की पे-इनस्लिप यथा योज्य यू.टी.आर. संख्या की प्रति, निविदा प्रपत्र, पैन कार्ड, जी.एस.टी. संख्या, इन्कम टैक्स रिटर्न की स्वयं प्रमाणित छायाप्रति, तकनीकी अनुभव यथा क श्रेणी अद्यतन (विद्युत सुरक्षा उ.प्र. सरकार द्वारा प्रदत्त), ई.एस.आई., ई.पी.एफ., बीमा संबंधी प्रपत्र (जो कि अनिवार्य है) इत्यादि ई-पोर्टल पर स्कैन्ड प्रतियों (PDF format) तथा ई-निविदा के द्वितीय भाग में दरें एवं वाणिज्यिक नियम व शर्तें ई-पोर्टल पर अपलोड की जायेंगी। निविदा की वैधता खुलने की तिथि से 90 दिन होगी। 1. अल्पकालीन निविदा संख्या टी-254/2019-20: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, खुर्जा के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र, खुर्जा पर अनुरक्षण सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु. 2,000/- (रु. दो हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रु. 590/- (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 28.03.2020। 2. निविदा संख्या टी-09/2020-21: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, बुलन्दशहर के अन्तर्गत 220 के.वी. सिकन्द्राबाद पर लाइटिंग सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु. 2,000/- (रु. दो हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रु. 590/- (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 21.04.2020। 3. निविदा संख्या टी-10/ 2020-21: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, हापुड़ के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न उपकेन्द्रों पर अनुरक्षण सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु. 2,000/- (रु. दो हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रु. 590/- (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 21.04.2020। 4. निविदा संख्या टी-11/ 2020-21: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, खुर्जा के अन्तर्गत विभिन्न लाइनों पर अनुरक्षण सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु. 2,000/- (रु. दो हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रु. 590/- (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 21.04.2020। 5. निविदा संख्या टी-12/ 2020-21: विद्युत पारेषण खण्ड, हापुड़ के अन्तर्गत 132 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र, डासना पर अनुरक्षण सम्बन्धित कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु. 1,900/- (रु. एक हजार नौ सौ मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रु. 590/- (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 21.04.2020। 6. निविदा संख्या टी-13/ 2020-21: विद्युत 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र खण्ड, ग्रेटर नोएडा के अंतर्गत विद्युत 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र, ग्रेटर नोएडा पर अग्नि शमन यन्त्रों की रिफलिंग का कार्य। धरोहर राशि रु.2,000/- (रु. दो हजार मात्र)। निविदा प्रपत्र शुल्क रु. 590/- (कर सहित)। खुलने की दिनांक 21.04.2020। ई-निविदा के प्रथम भाग उसी दिन निर्धारित समय पर सार्वजनिक रूप से खोला जायेगा एवं भाग द्वितीय (प्राइजबिड) खुलने की तिथि तदोनुसार वेबसाइट पर सूचित की जायेगी। निविदा भाग प्रथम में सम्बधित प्रपत्रों का अपलोड ना किये जाने की स्थिति में निविदा का भाग द्वितीय (प्राईस बिड) नहीं खोला जायेगा। ई-निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताये अस्वीकार/ विभाजित करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के पास सुरक्षित रहेगा। कृपया विस्तृत जानकारी, डाउन लोड, अन्य संशोधनों एवं ई-निविदा प्रस्तुत करने के दिनांक तक विस्तार आदि के सम्बन्ध में कृपया etender.up.nic.in पर लॉग आन करें। **हस्ता./- अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, विद्युत पारेषण मंडल, उ.प्र.पा.ट्रा.का.लि., 400 के.वी. उपकेन्द्र, पाली, ग्रेटर नोएडा, ''राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचायें'' पत्रांक 438/ वि.पा.मं./ ग्रे.ना./ T-254/19-20, 09 to 13/ 2020-21/ दिनांकः** 17.03.2020

उत्तर प्रदेश आवास एवं विकास परिषद
कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियंता, निर्माण खण्ड-33, एम0आई0जी0-575, राधिका विहार, मथुरा
पत्रांक-464/UPHDB/CD-33/ENG-24/39 दिनांक-20/03/2020
ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (द्वितीय कॉल)
उ0प्र0 आवास एवं विकास परिषद की योजना संख्या-4, मथुरा की प्लानिंग, सेवाओं की डिजाइन, डी0पी0आर0 आदि कार्यों हेतु अनुभवी कन्सल्टेंट फर्मों से आनलाइन बिड्स, (जिसका विस्तृत विवरण परिषद की वेबसाइट www.upavp.in के निविदा लिंक पर देखा जा सकता है) दिनांक 04.04.2020 के अपरान्ह 03:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है।
अधिशासी अभियन्ता

ADANI ELECTRICITY MUMBAI LIMITED
Registered Office: Adani House, 56, Shivaji Society, Nr. Ambawadi Sr. Station, Navrangpura, Ambawadi, Gujarat 380009, India
Website: www.adanielectricity.com | CIN: U74999MH2004PLC010756
adani Electricity

INVITATION FOR SUPPLY OF POWER

Adani Electricity Mumbai Ltd invites bids for selection of seller/s for supply of power in different time slots on Short Term Basis for the period as mentioned below through E-Tendering and E-Reverse Auction process.

1. Upto 550MW for the period April'2020 to June'2020
2. 87.81MW for the period 10th June'2020 to 30th Sep'2020

The bid documents for participation can be downloaded through DEEP E-portal of www.mstcecommerce.com

UJVN LIMITED
H.O.: "UJJWAL', Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, & Fax- 0135- 2763508,
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : www.ujvnl.com
e-Tender Notice
Office of the Executive Engineer (C&M), MB-II, Joshiyara (Uttarkashi) invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tenders are given below:

Tender No	09/EE/(C&M)/MB-II/Joshiyara/ 2019-20	10/EE/(C&M)/MB-II/Joshiyara/2019-20
Name of work	Laying of Sewer Line in Rehabilitation area in U/S of Joshiyara Steel Motor Bridge in Joshiyara, Uttarkashi.	Construction of Internal Road/Footpath and other associated miscellaneous works in Joshiyara rehabilitation area in U/S of Joshiyara Steel Motor Bridge in Joshiyara, Uttarkashi.
Estimate Cost	Rs. 45,09,604.00 (Excluding GST)	Rs. 69,13,977.00 (Excluding GST)
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 1,13,000.00	Rs. 1,73,000.00
Tender Fee	Rs. 2,360.00 (Including GST)	Rs. 5,900.00 (Including GST)
Date & time of availability of bid document on website	23.03.2020 from 10:00 Hrs.	23.03.2020 from 10:00 Hrs.
Last date & time of submission of bids on website	15.04.2020 upto 17:00 Hrs.	15.04.2020 upto 17:00 Hrs.
Last date, time of submission of hard copies of bids	17.04.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs.	17.04.2020 upto 15:00 Hrs.
Date & time of opening of bids on website	21.04.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.	21.04.2020 at 11:00 Hrs.

For fuller & further detail, kindly visit e-procurement portal http://uktenders.gov.in
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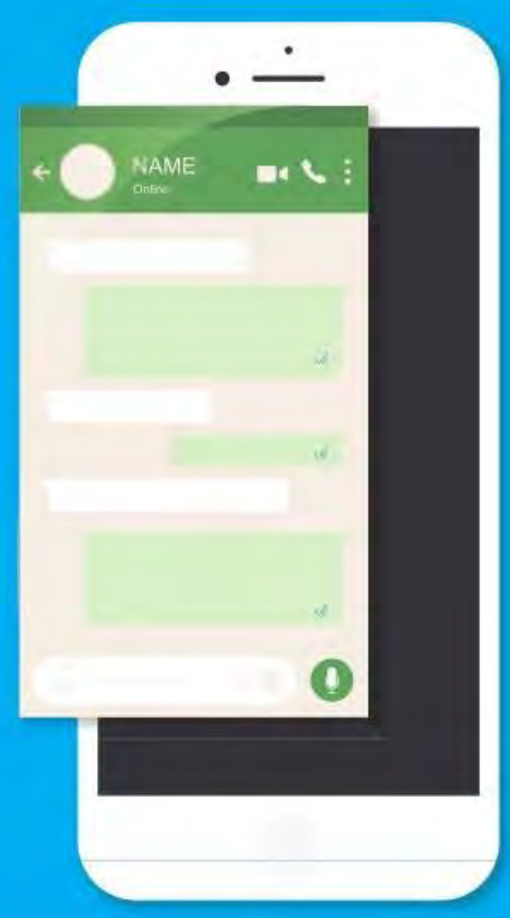

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CORONA WATCH

Boys play cricket wearing masks in Lucknow. *Vishal Srivastav*

4 with seals deboarded from trains

New Delhi/Palghar: Four people including a Delhi-based couple were deboarded from two trains after home quarantine seals were found on their hands. In the case of the couple, who were travelling by a Rajdhani train from Secundarabad, co-passengers noticed a stamp on the husband's hand at Kazipet in Telangana. In the other case, it was a man travelling in a general compartment and a woman in a reserved coach of a Gujarat-bound train who were deboarded at Virar. **PTI**

Jitendra, Farooq release MP funds

Jammu: MoS PMO Jitendra Singh, former J&K CM Farooq Abdullah and National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi released Rs 1 crore each from their MPLAD funds for COVID-19 prevention and care. Singh, MP from Udhampur-Kathua-Doda, recommended allocation of the amount to the Health Department. Abdullah, MP from Srinagar, recommended allocation of Rs 50 lakh to SKIMS Srinagar and Rs 25 lakh each to Budgam and Ganderbal. Masoodi recommended his contribution be istributed among Anantnag, Kulgam, Shopian and Pulwama. **ENS**

Man breaks quarantine, booked

Mumbai/ Jabalpur: A 34-year-old man was booked for breaking home quarantine in Navi Mumbai Saturday. He had returned from Dubai a week ago, said a police official. He had tested negative for coronavirus but was asked to stay at home. When civic officials visited his house, they found him away. Meanwhile, an FIR has been lodged against a Madhya Pradesh man who evaded screening. **PTI**

No history of foreign travel, Pune woman, Kolkata man positive; 1st case in Assam

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PUNE, KOLKATA, GUWAHATI, MARCH 21

A 41-YEAR-OLD anganwadi worker from Pune in Maharashtra and a 57-year old man from Dumdum in West Bengal, both of whom do not have a history of overseas travel, have tested positive for Covid-19. Another four-and-a-half-year-old girl – who came from Bihar with her parents to Jorhat on March 19 – tested positive for coronavirus in Assam on Saturday in what could be the state's first detected case.

Both the anganwadi worker and the Dumdum patient have neither traveled abroad nor are so far known to have had any contact with infected foreign travelers. A Central government team is in Pune to investigate the case of the anganwadi worker.

The anganwadi worker, admitted in a private hospital Pune, is reported to have tested positive of the disease (Covid-19) but the district administration said her test result would be confirmed only after the Central team makes an assessment.

"We are not confirming yet if she is a first-contact case (having been infected through someone who travelled abroad) or a case of community spread of the virus. The government of India team from Delhi is examining her and assessing the case. We have provided them all the information and once they finalise the assessment, we will share her result," Deepak Mhaisekar, Divisional Commissioner of Pune, said.

The Pune woman was admitted in a private hospital on March 16 after she complained of breathlessness and did not recover despite the efforts of a local medical practitioner. The hospital sent her swab to the National Institute of Virology (NIV) to check for possible infection with H1N1 virus. That turned out to be negative, but NIV, these days is checking all such samples for the novel coronavirus as well. Her sample turned out to be positive for SARS-CoV2.

The man from Dumdum was admitted at a private hospital on March 16 with acute respiratory distress syndrome and was put on ventilator. His samples were sent to NICED and SSKM Hospital, one of which was positive for Covid-19. Another sample was sent on March 21 which also turned out to be positive. Sources in the private hospital said the patient -- currently in isolation ICU -- did not have a history of travel aboard according to his family.

Of the Pune anganwadi worker, the Divisional Commissioner of the city said, "All I can say at the moment is that this person has tested positive and we have first and second contacts up to 100 people, including a taxi driver who was used by a positive patient. We have sent the driver to the Naidu hospital."

At the Bharati hospital where she is being treated, medical director Dr Sanjay Lalwani said samples of her immediate ten contacts were sent to NIV to rule out Covid-19. "The persons have not shown any symptoms but they have been directed to observe home quarantine. These include the woman's husband, two children, mother, and a few other immediate relatives," he said. The swabs of four doctors who she had contacted have also been sent for further tests at NIV.

Meanwhile, another 25-year-old man who returned from the United Kingdom and Ireland, tested positive for the virus late on Friday night. There are now 23 positive cases in Pune.

In West Bengal, besides the Dumdum person, another 23-year old woman who returned to Kolkata from Scotland Thursday tested positive for Covid-19, the third and fourth case in the state in four days. The woman, a resident of Habra in North 24 Parganas, was admitted at the Infectious Disease Hospital at Beleghata in Kolkata Thursday night for fever. The result of her samples sent for testing turned out to be positive Friday night, according to the state health department.

The department put her family under home quarantine Friday morning and is now trying to trace people she came in contact with in the flight, and while standing in the queue at ID Hospital.

Meanwhile, the family of the four-and-a-half-year-old girl, which came to Jorhat from Bihar, has been put in the isolation ward of the Jorhat Medical College and Hospital . "ASHA, ANM and MPW visited the family on March 20 and brought them to JMCH as the girl exhibited symptoms. A sample was taken and tested and today evening the result had come," the health official said.

Nurses in Pune buy vegetables and other essentials, a day before the Janata Curfew initiative. *Pavan Khengre*

Odisha announces week-long 'near total lockdown' of 5 districts, 8 towns

SAMPAD PATNAIK
BHUBANESWAR, MARCH 21

ODISHA CHIEF Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday announced a week-long "near total lockdown" of five districts and eight towns, starting Sunday, to prevent the spread of coronavirus in the state.

In a video clip, Patnaik said, "Coronavirus has reached India. The number of affected (patients) is increasing. This virus has come from outside and does not have a specific treatment. Only awareness can stop the spread of this virus."

The CM said that over the last few days, over 3,000 people have returned to Odisha from abroad, with 70 per cent belonging to Khurda, Cuttack, Ganjam, Kendrapada and Anugul districts. "In the first phase, these five districts, along with (towns) Sambalpur, Jharsuguda, Baleswar, Puri, Rourkela, Bhadrak, Jajpur Town, and Jajpur, will be under near total lockdown from March 22 0700 hours to March 29 2100 hours," he announced.

Listing the exemptions, Patnaik said, "Bus, train and air services will remain operational. Grocery stores, vegetable markets, meat, poultry and medicine shops will be open. Hospitals, ATMs, municipality services, police, fire, ODRAF (Odisha Disaster rapid Action Force), petrol pumps, water, and electricity services will be provided. Administrative offices will also remain open.

"I have ordered (state) police to take stringent action against those who violate these restrictions in the interest of people," he warned.

Subroto Bagchi, chief spokesperson on the issue, said all distribution of benefits, such as PDS and pensions in the five districts and eight towns are "postponed for the time being".

Private firms are encouraged to work from home, said Bagchi, but if there is a need to go to office they would require a certificate from the concerned Collector.

"All service providers, including private sector engaged in combating COVID-19, will be declared as emergency workers," Bagchi said.

Not testing enough to check community transmission: Dr Kang

PRABHA RAGHAVAN
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

DESPITE THE Indian Council of Medical Research's (ICMR) claim that it is adequately testing as many patients for coronavirus, another senior official in the government set-up has argued that the testing done so far is not enough.

India's response system is not watertight, leaving the possibility for community transmission cases, according to Dr Gagandeep Kang, executive director of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute, an autonomous body under the Science and Technology Ministry's Department of Biotechnology.

Asked whether India is testing enough patients to check for community transmission, Kang said, "No, we are not testing enough."

While stating that testing travellers entering the country was a good step in the early stages of the outbreak, she told *The Sunday Express*, "But when you begin to hear the kinds of stories that are circulating about people walking out of quarantine, people saying (they weren't screened at the airports), that sort of sets up the thinking that this is not a 100-percent perfect system. Therefore, we need a backup plan to try and evaluate whether there is community transmission and how much."

Community transmission occurs when the illness is widespread and it is difficult to find out how the patients got the infection.

The government has now decided to test all hospitalised patients with severe acute respiratory infections (SARI), including pneumonia. This comes amid a spike in fresh cases in the country and criticism of the way India was limiting testing for the contagious and virus to only those with travel histories showing symptoms of COVID-19.

Experts such as Kang have shared the view of the World Health Organization, which feels the best way to curb the spread of the novel virus is to "test, test, test."

According to the Department of Health Research, community transmission of the disease has not been documented so far.

Kang is worried that the strategy followed so far may have already allowed for potential community transmission cases to go undetected.

Earlier this week, ICMR had said that none of the 826 such samples drawn in March had tested positive for COVID-19.

"I believe it was reiterated that there are no positive patients coming up from the random surveillance, but 820 or so tests cannot represent an entire country," she said.

"The other option to not do a complete lockdown is to figure out where the disease is prevalent, because it will enter the country only in certain areas and then spread. If you look at China, for example, it did not shut down the whole country. It only shut down Hubei," she said.

Dr Gagandeep Kang

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Police, administration and health officials at the entrance of the slum. *Pallavi Singhal*

Panchukla slum quarantined after a resident tests positive

PALLAVI SINGHAL
PANCHKULA, MARCH 21

HOURS AFTER a 40-year-old woman in Panchkula near Chandigarh was tested positive, the administration has cordoned off the slum where she lived with her family. Access to the slum, which has a population of about 9,000, has been curtailed, and residents have been told to quarantine themselves immediately.

It was late Friday night that the test results of the woman, a masseuse at a beauty parlour in Chandigarh, was released by PGI, Chandigarh, showing she had tested positive. Health officials found out that the woman had massaged a 21-year-old with a travel history to London, who later ended up being the first case in Chandigarh to test positive for coronavirus.

On Wednesday, the woman, along with her 17-year-old son, had been traced as among the contacts of the 21-year-old. Officials said the 40-year-old was brought to the hospital against her will and put in isolation. The son tested negative but is being kept in a different isolation ward.

"We cannot pinpoint the total number of primary or secondary contacts she must have had. She herself is scared and cannot remember much. We have had to cordon off the whole colony. It is a cluster quarantine of more than 2,500 households," said Panchkula Chief Medical Officer Jasjeet Kaur.

The husband of the woman, along with their two other children, were picked up by health and police teams and sent to the isolation ward in Panchkula's Sector 6 Civil Hospital.

At least four teams of healthcare officials, with three nurses and a senior doctor in each team, a nodal officer and 50 police personnel have been deployed in the area.

The residents of the slum — who work as Class 4 employees in government offices, drive autorickshaws or work as help in homes in the city — have been barred from moving out of the quarantined region. Movement inside too has been restricted.

Though police have put up barricades every few meters to ensure none of these residents leave the slum, some of them had already left for work in the morning. "We cannot just sit at home, who will feed us," said one of the residents.

Nodal officer for the outbreak in Panchkula, Dr Rajiv Narwal, said, "We are screening all the residents for a viral load. The Municipal Corporation has been asked to sanitise the area. If the quarantine runs long, the administration might provide them with food and rations. All symptomatic patients will be taken out of the area and into the hospital."

RAJASTHAN

As cases rise, Bhilwara seals its borders with other districts

HAMZA KHAN
JAIPUR, MARCH 21

THE NUMBER of people who tested positive for coronavirus in Rajasthan's Bhilwara rose to 12 on Saturday, even as authorities announced that the district will go in "self-isolation," sealing its border with other districts.

The number of COVID-19 cases in the state has risen to 25.

A curfew was imposed in Bhilwara on Friday after a leading local doctor, among five others, had tested positive for coronavirus. District Collector Rajendra Bhatt said that all the patients are either doctors or staff of the hospital, or their relatives. Information about the patients has been shared with all the blocks of the districts, through each block's chief medical officer. These lists are available at the check posts set up on the district's borders, so that no patient can leave the district.

As per officials, 923 persons who were admitted at the hospital and 5,080 others who came for consultation are being screened and their families are being advised home isolation, which, the authorities claim, is being monitored.

"We have made a plan to screen all the patients who visited the private hospital as well as conduct a survey of the entire population of the district, which is nearly 30 lakh," Bhatt said.

Officials said that in two days, approximately 40,000 homes within the city limits have been surveyed by over 300 teams and the survey of the district headquarters will be completed within the next three days.

For rural areas, committees have been constituted under Sub-divisional Magistrates. These will have concerned tehsildars, development officers, block's chief medical officer etc as members.

These committees will oversee survey by a team which will include Gram Sachiv, Panchayat Sahayak, Aanganwadi workers, Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs), male nurses, teachers, etc. The administration hopes to complete the screening by March 27.

Police officials during a patrol in Bhilwara. *PTI*

State govts learn from S Korea, Singapore to trace cases

KARISHMA MEHROTRA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

IN POCKETS across the country, officials are using techonology to track coronavirus on the lines of South Korea and Singapore.

The district team of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) in Pune is using a web-based portal, in which 2,612 quarantined individuals are currently checking in with their locations and updating their daily activity, contacts and symptoms for 14-day periods each. Teams assigned to visit homes of these individuals also use the system to report, while other districts can log in to check if any of their residents is among those identified.

The team is looking for ways to add facial recognition verification as well as a contact mapping feature, so that users can refer the system to others that they have come in touch with.

"It'll be like a social network where, through the referred people, we can get the chain of where the virus has gone," Ayush Prasad, Chief Executive Officer, Pune zilla parishad, said. "When we started building the system for large-scale tracking, we realised South Korea had a similar system. We couldn't understand Korean in the phone app, so we looked at photographs on their posters and improved the idea for the Indian condition. Later, we got to know Singapore has built a similar system."

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has told the Mumbai Police to track movements of those quarantined using phone GPS location. "We are looking into the best way... Whether there will be privacy issues, these are things that still have to be sorted out," BMC Deputy Health Director Daksha Shah said.

Karnataka IT Director Prashant Kumar Mishra said the state government is working on a similar programme with IT professionals and service providers. "We will have the system rolled out in a day or two."

Heavily debated, South Korea's "virus patient travel log" determines the movements of patients before they tested positive using CCTV cameras, banking account information, and mobile phones. They have also used the tools to determine whom to test first.

"It is vital that any emergency access to data as part of COVID-19 follows internationally accepted norms of necessity and proportionality. Any data procured under such a mandate should be purpose-limited, temporary and be deleted as soon as feasible. Improved transparency and accountability on part of government stakeholders will go a long way in helping limit harm while gaining public trust," said Udbhav Tiwari, public policy advisor at Mozilla Foundation.

Authorities in Israel have been sending text messages to positive cases that their cellphone data would be used to alert others who come near them. Individuals in quarantine are also being sent tailored text alerts with a review of their movements. Last week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said at a press conference that counter-terrorism technology would be used to fight corona.

Reports from Beijing state that trials of an "AI temperature measurement system" with thermal cameras can detect those with a fever. Even trains are being tracked. "We will retrieve relevant information about the passenger, including the train number, carriage number and information on passengers who were close to the person... We will extract the information and then provide it to relevant epidemic prevention departments," Zhu Jiansheng of the China Academy of Railway Sciences said to state news agency *Xinhua*.

Singapore's website lists demographic details of coronavirus patients. The government's "TraceTogether" app shows up if users are 2 metres from each other using Bluetooth signal, but receives information only after the user has approved a Health Ministry request.

Iran reportedly had to discontinue a coronavirus information application after it become known that it also tracked movements.

The US and UK are also in talks with technology companies, with some reports saying companies have offered to share aggregate data to enable contact-tracing. Anonymised mobility data from Facebook and Google can be used to track aggregate movement, previously used in natural disasters.

A deserted Marine Drive in Mumbai on Saturday. *Pradip Das*

3 J&K students who left AMU quarantine without informing traced in Valley

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, MARCH 21

THE AUTHORITIES in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday said they have traced the four Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) PhD students from Kashmir, three of whom had left the campus without informing the AMU administration after they were put under quarantine.

An internal communication from AMU had stated that three students with history of traveling to the UAE were absconding from the isolation ward since March 18. A fourth student from Kashmir, also admitted at the isolation ward, had informed in writing that he was leaving for his home in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, the AMU had stated.

On Saturday, officials said three students — residents of north Kashmir — were traced and put under observation, and the student from Anantnag is under medical observation.

As restrictions in view of the virus outbreak entered its second day on Saturday, public and private transport remained off roads, and shops and business establishments were closed.

Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Waqf Board on Saturday ordered suspension of regular prayers in shrines and mosques affiliated with the Board till further orders. The Board also ordered that no holy relic will be displayed on the occasions of Mehraj-ul-Alam, the night of Prophet Muhammad's ascension, next week.

CORONA WATCH

An empty road in Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu, on Friday. *PTI*

Officials distribute ayurvedic concoctions

Ahmedabad: In view of the coronavirus scare, district authorities across the state have been distributing ukala, or kadhah — a potion made by brewing local herbs, berries and spices — as immunity booster. Since March 10, around 20 lakh people in the state have taken the concoction, which is being distributed along with phials containing the homeopathic Arsenic Album 30 pills. According to authorities 12 lakh have taken the pills. Ahmedabad tops the list of beneficiaries among 33 districts with around 2 lakh people taking the concoction and over 95,000 taking the homeopathic pills. **ENS**

Stranded in Dubai, teen set to return

Dubai: An Indian-origin teen stranded at Frankfurt Airport in Germany for over 24 hours is returning to her parents in Dubai with help of Indian and UAE authorities. Indian expats Arshad and Urvi Zaheer said their daughter Miha Zaheer, 18, a first-year student at University of British Columbia in Vancouver, will board the next flight from Frankfurt to Dubai, Gulf News reported. Miha was not allowed to take the connecting flight from Frankfort due to UAE's entry restrictions. **PTI**

Madras HC judge donates salary

Chennai: Madras High Court judge Justice SM Subramaniam Saturday donated a month's salary to the Chief Minister's relief fund to help unorganised sector workers affected by shutdown due to coronavirus. The judge said he was donating Rs 2.25 lakh. **PTI**

EXPERTS QUESTION CLAIMS

'Janata Curfew social distancing drill... won't break chain of transmission'

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

AS THE country prepares for a 14-hour "Janata Curfew" called by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, experts have questioned the claim that the day-long effort to stay at home will break the chain of transmission of the novel coronavirus.

Many will cut exposure to the virus by staying home on Sunday and experts maintain that it will be a good drill to prepare for the situation and reinforce the message of social distancing, but to call it breaking the chain is "oversimplification". The PM himself had not made any such claim in his speech.

According to Dr Shobha Broor, former head of microbiology at AIIMS, to say that the virus will die out if there is no contact between people for a day is an oversimplification. "It will perhaps reduce the transmission because people will not come in contact with each other but it will not totally break the chain. You may have seen the NEJM article on how long the virus stays alive in surfaces; evidence does not say the virus will die out in 20-22 hours. The ministry seems to have oversimplified the matter. The Janata Curfew I would say is more a way of reinforcing the social distancing logic," she said.

During the daily coronavirus briefing on Friday, Joint Secretary (Health) Lav Agarwal had said that public cooperation on the PM's call will break the chain of transmission of the virus. "The second point of PM Modi's address was how to stop transmission of the disease in the country. He said social distancing is one way to stop transmission... he said Janata Curfew by the people for the people through which we can promote social distancing as a practice... this one-day effort, this one-day practice... will help us in a big way in breaking the chain of transmission," Agarwal had said.

Many other government functionaries, including those holding Constitutional posts, have since repeated the claim. In an appeal on Saturday, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu said, "It is being widely advocated by the experts and WHO to maintain social distancing to effectively contain the spread of virus. The clarion call given by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for observing voluntary 'Janata Curfew' tomorrow is aimed at meeting this objective. Staying at homes for the suggested period that goes beyond the incubation period prevents the spread of this dreaded virus by breaking the contamination circle."

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, chief scientist at the World Health Organisation, said, "It's (Janata Curfew) a preparatory exercise. To break the chain of transmission, you need weeks, if not months, of interventions. Not just one, but multiple non-pharmaceutical interventions. Detect, test, isolate, quarantine, avoid mass gatherings, protect health care workers and elderly, plus physical distancing. Those with fever and cough should self-isolate. Avoid going to hospitals unless essential."

There is scientific evidence to suggest that the 14-hour period — even if it effectively extends to 24 hours — will do nothing for the longevity of the virus on any surface given that it can stay alive for much longer. According to an article published in the New England Journal of Medicine on March 17, "SARS-CoV-2 was more stable on plastic and stainless steel than on copper and cardboard, and viable virus was detected up to 72 hours after application to these surfaces".

The novel coronavirus has been named SARS-CoV-2 by scientists.

In a terse reply to an e-mail query by *The Sunday Express* on whether the 14-hour period will break the chain of transmission, Dr T Jacob John, former head of the Indian Council for Medical Research's Centre for Advanced Research in Virology, said, "No. Wishful thinking. Hope they have a plan to prove."

Maharashtra gets 11 new cases, total 64

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, MARCH 21

THE NUMBER of suspected cases in Maharashtra rose to 64 with 11 new cases emerging across the state on Saturday. Eight of these cases were reported from Mumbai, two in Pune, and one in Yavatmal.

State Health Minister Rajesh Tope said six out of eight new patients from Mumbai had overseas travel history, one is airport staff, and another had traveled to Gujarat.

The patient from Yavatmal, who is admitted in a Mumbai hospital, had recently traveled to Congo in Africa. The patient in Kalyan is the brother of a woman from neighbouring Ulhasnagar who tested positive for the virus two days ago. Both had returned from Dubai.

Among patients detected in Maharashtra so far, over a dozen were ones who had come in contact with infected persons while others had foreign travel history, he said. "The spread has been largely because of people who came from outside. I appeal to the people not to venture out. They should exercise self-discipline by maintaining social distancing and hygiene," he said.

He said, "If there is no reduction in crowding in public transport, a shut-down will have to be put in place. There is also the option of allowing people in public transport after checking their I-cards," he said.

In Nagpur, 908 people were held for loitering and another 148 for opening shops and other establishments on Saturday despite lockdown orders under the Epidemic Diseases Act in Nagpur, PTI reported, quoting officials. DCP S B Shweta Khedkar said firms were asked to down shutters, and only establishments discharging essential services were allowed to remain open.

In Palghar, near Mumbai, the police registered 126 cases against those who kept shops and other establishments open despite lockdown orders.

While the country's financial capital braced for a total lockdown on Sunday, as part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's proposed janata curfew, the Shiv Sena-led state government said the state machinery would not be deployed to enforce people to remain indoors, but it has planned to curtail Mumbai's transport to discourage violation of the curfew. **WITH PTI INPUTS**

Outside the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus in Mumbai on Saturday. *Ganesh Shirsekar*

GUJARAT EXTENDS LOCKDOWN

The old city in Ahmedabad wore a deserted look on Saturday. The Gujarat government has extended the lockdown, beginning from Sunday, till March 25 in four major cities of Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Rajkot and Surat. *Javed Raja*

Help of foreign traveller among five new cases in Karnataka

JOHNSON TA
BENGALURU, MARCH 21

THE DOMESTIC help of a 67-year-old woman who had travelled to Dubai was among five people who tested positive for coronavirus in Karnataka on Saturday.

The other new cases were from Bengaluru, Mysuru and the Chikaballapur region bordering the state capital.

Saturday's tally of new cases is the highest in a single day for the state, taking its total number of positive cases to 20.

The help, who is aged 53, is also the fifth person without any history of foreign travel to contract the virus in the state. The others were all primary contacts of positive cases.

The woman's employer, who returned to Bengaluru via Goa on March 9, tested positive on March 16.

"She (domestic help) is a high risk contact of patient-11 and was on strict home quarantine. She is now admitted in a designated isolation hospital in Bengaluru. She tested positive on March 19," the secretary of the Karnataka Health and Family Welfare Department, Jawaid Akhtar, said.

The other four positive cases are that of a 39-year-old man from Bengaluru who returned from Amsterdam on March 19; a 21-year-old youth from the state capital who returned from Edinburgh on March 17; a 31-year-old man from Chikaballapur with a history of travel to Mecca who returned on March 14; and a 35-year-old man from Mysuru who returned from Dubai on March 19.

Health officials insisted that there is no community transmission in Karnataka despite several primary contacts contracting the virus.

"There is no community transmission reported as yet in the state and our entire effort is to stop social transmission," health secretary Akhtar said while announcing expansion of testing for COVID-19 among patients with pneumonia, with no other underlying causes, in hospitals around the state.

The expanded diagnosis and testing to assess community transmission of the disease has not thrown up any positive cases, said a doctor involved with a newly-established clinic for flu and pneumonia checks at a government hospital.

6 new cases in Gujarat, total goes up to 13

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, MARCH 21

TWO DAYS after the first confirmed cases of coronavirus (COVID-19) were reported in Gujarat, six new cases were reported on Saturday, with the state capital, Gandhinagar, added to the list of affected cities, taking the total number of cases to 13, including one infected through contact transmission.

Among the fresh cases reported on Saturday, two are from Surat, two from Ahmedabad city area, one from Gandhinagar and one from Vadodara. Both the new cases from Ahmedabad have a travel history to Dubai — men aged 69 years and 24 years. The younger man is originally a resident of Jaipur and has not otherwise come in close contact with any other person, as per the health department. Four persons who came in contact with the 69-year-old patient have been identified and isolated.

The first confirmed case from the state capital is a 26-year-old man from Dubai who returned on March 16.

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani visited the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, while Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel visited the SSG Hospital in Vadodara to review preparedness.

About the confirmed case in the district, Gandhinagar Collector Kuldeep Arya said, "When he developed symptoms on March 18, he consulted a private practitioner who referred him to Gandhinagar Civil Hospital where he was admitted the following day. The test result arrived yesterday night (March 20) that confirmed him positive."

The man's 81-year-old grandmother has been quarantined in Gandhinagar Civil Hospital, while seven other members of his family have been home-quarantined, the collector added.

Hand-wash kiosks to free masks, Kerala works to break the chain

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 21

KERALA'S BATTLE against COVID-19 has emerged into a mass movement for promoting personal hygiene. Days after the state government launched its 'Break the Chain' campaign, offices, bus stops, markets, places of worship and several other public spaces in the state now sport hand sanitiser booths and kiosks for hand wash.

The state has also shown the way in addressing the shortage of masks and hand sanitisers in the market. Kudumbashree, the government's poverty eradication and women's empowerment programme, prisons, universities, colleges, voluntary organisations, home makers and even local tailors have pitched in to make cloth masks and hand sanitisers. The Excise Department has decided to hand over its stock of spirit, seized from smugglers, to the health department for manufacturing sanitisers.

The state, which has so far reported 40 positive cases of coronavirus infection, has 31,000-odd people who have been in isolation, at homes or in hospitals.

As part of its 'Break the Chain' campaign launched on March 15, the government had directed all offices to start providing hand-wash facilities for staff as well as the public, who are encouraged to wash their hands before entering the offices.

An official at the Ernakulam District Collectorate said, "We have installed a hand-washing kiosk at the collectorate gate. All officials and the public wash their hands before entering the building. Hand sanitisers are also made available near the elevators."

In several rural areas, clubs and other organisations have got together to set up hand-wash kiosks at bus stops, where passengers wash their hands before boarding the bus.

At Chunkappara village in Pathanamthitta district, which has nine positive cases, a ration shop owner, Kennady Thomas, has joined the campaign by placing a kiosk outside his shop.

Public health expert Dr K P Aravindan said it's heartening to see people taking to the campaign in a big way. "We want to prevent the explosive outbreak of COVID-19. The campaign is meant to flatten the curve. Hand-wash is a suitable way to prevent or break the indirect spread of the virus," he said.

Several units of Kudumbashree have begun making masks. In Thiruvananthapuram district, 40 units of Kudumbashree have set a target of making one lakh masks by March 20. Last week, the government had directed the Jail Department to get prisoners in its tailoring units to make masks.

Prisoners have also been roped in to make hand sanitiser. On Wednesday, Palakkad district jail said its prisoners have begun making 'Freedom Hand Sanitisers'. Women prisoners in Thrissur will also make sanitiser using the spirit handed over by the Excise Department.

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

12 new cases in Kerala — all returned from Gulf

SHAJU PHILIP
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, MARCH 21

WITH 12 fresh suspected cases emerging on Saturday, the number of suspected coronavirus cases in Kerala rose to 52.

Of the new cases, six were reported in Kasaragod district, where the government has implemented stringent measures to avert a community spread.

Three cases each were reported from Kannur and Ernakulam districts.

After the review meeting, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan told the media that all 12 people who reportedly tested positive on Saturday have returned from Gulf countries.

"At this stage, we cannot say there is community spread of the virus in Kerala. All the (patients with) positive cases have come from the Gulf. As on Saturday, 53,013 persons are under observation. Of them, 228 have been isolated in hospitals," he said.

Referring to the case of a suspected patient who has returned from a Gulf nation, who did not adhere to home quarantine norms, Vijayan said, "If restrictions are not followed, the government would be forced to introduce more stringent steps. Irresponsible behaviour of certain persons would not be allowed."

The Health Department on Saturday partially brought out the route map of the 47-year-old Dubai-returned person who tested positive for COVID-19 on Friday. As per the route map, the person had attended 17 functions, including three weddings.

Children to call drops: IT staff juggle work, home

SREENIVAS JANYALA & AMRITA DUTTA
HYDERABAD, BENGALURU, MARCH 21

IT FIRMS are facing a logistical nightmare as more than 50 per cent of their employees work from home as part of measures to contain COVID-19. The biggest challenge is ensuring data security and data privacy, meeting project deadlines, ensuring productivity does not go down, and coordination among large teams.

Raising concerns over fall in revenues, a manager at one of the IT firms in Hyderabad said, "The atmosphere at home may not always be conducive for work. Not everyone has a quiet study or a corner desk. Schools are shut, so children are home as well. Some employees end up taking longer breaks or do not finish tasks as quickly as they might do while in office. When productivity goes down, deadlines have to be extended."

Mansi S in Bengaluru has put a poster on her bedroom door, saying, 'Knock before coming in — Dad's rules'. A senior manager at a leading IT company, who has been working from home for a week now, she set her two eight-year-old daughters the task of making posters before logging in to work on Wednesday. "I took them aside and told them that I need their support, that we (her husband is also at home) might not be able to pay them attention sometimes. I try and set them a timetable for the day and relax a few rules," she said.

With her firm mandating work from home for the first time, Mansi said she didn't think it had led to any difference in productivity. "Some teams are, in fact, saddled with more responsibilities because we have to ensure that everything is up and running."

At Hyderabad airport. *PTI*

While companies are doing video-conferencing and holding meetings online, the problem is not all projects can be taken home. Said an official, "In large projects, clients are not sending data any longer. These are getting delayed."

B V R Mohan Reddy, the Executive Chairman of Cyient which has facilities in Hyderabad, Warangal and Visakhapatnam, said clients are understanding but have security considerations. "Customers expect us to build firewalls. In cases where we directly access the database of our customers, it might not be feasible for people to work from home and access those databases," Reddy said.

Coordination is also proving an issue. "We all work as teams. At office, if there is a problem, I can just walk to a colleague's desk or my supervisor will help me out. Now you have to send an email or explain over phone, and it takes time," Reddy added.

Anindita Dutta, Project Manager at Wipro's Bangalore office, who has seven teams and 40 people under her, begins her workday at 8 am, starting with calls to colleagues for coordination. "Things that I could have done by simply calling a quick meeting in office now take several phone calls. I have been on the phone almost the whole day," she said.

However, she pointed out that while for managers, this makes working slightly harder, my team members are actually happy that they don't have to travel for work". Dutta, for one, also manages her six-year-old daughter, who too is at home with daycare facilities shut.

The other problem of work-from-home is shaky technology — including slow Internet, systems that can't take the load and call drops. The manager of an IT major said, "Connecting to a client network using VPN is problematic. Connection may be lost..."

Said the director of another IT major, "Productivity is entirely dependent on high-speed Internet connection... Even if connectivity is sorted, some systems are highly secure and can be accessed only using an office network/LAN or VPN. Though most companies use tools like Skype/Teams/Viber/Zoom, the level of productivity achieved via co-located teams is way different."

A veteran of the industry, Anil Nagenra called these times "unprecedented" for IT companies. "I haven't seen this in 30 years of my experience. About two decades back, I was at IBM when we introduced monthly incentive of Rs 5,000 to encourage people to work from home. It completely failed," said Nagendra, an advisor to several companies, and executive director at Enquero, a tech solutions firm.

That is why Mansi believes that the biggest possible outcome of the crisis could be a change in mindset. "Women especially end up seeking flexibility in work hours as a favour from office. I am hoping that in the future managers realise the need to be a little less judgmental. For example, not too many people will mind now if a child breaks into a meeting. So it shows we can take it in our stride, and still get the work done."

Gujarat agri markets shut during peak rabi season

AVINASH NAIR, AISHWARYA MOHANTY, KAMAAL SAIYED
SANAND, AHMEDABAD, VADODARA, SURAT, MARCH 21

AMID PEAK harvest season for wheat at the end of the rabi season, the Agriculture Produce Market Committee (APMC), Sanand, on Saturday decided to close down and suspend all procurement "indefinitely". Officials said that farmers will be informed of the closure only on Sunday.

The shutdown is to keep farmers, traders and labourers away from the yards to check the spread of coronavirus, officials said.

"This is an indefinite closure. All wheat procurement for the rabi season will remain suspended till situation returns to normal," said Girish Patel, Secretary of Sanand APMC.

Asked why there was no rush despite it being the last day of procurement before closure, Patel said, "The farmers are yet to be informed. We will publish the decision in Sunday's newspapers... We took a quick decision this morning after the state government officials called up on Friday and verbally instructed us to close down."

Farmers who came to the market said this was the peak season for selling their crop. "This is peak time to sell our produce. We usually harvest our crop and bring it directly to the APMC," said Manohar Vaghela who got a tractor full of wheat to the market.

Regarding farmers who are yet to visit the APMC, Patel said, "They will have to either wait till the market reopens or sell it directly to mill owners. They can also store the crop in their homes."

Jaishankar dials key envoys, says be on same page as govt

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS Minister S Jaishankar called up India's envoys in key missions and Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla held a teleconference with senior officials from the US, Australia, South Korea, Vietnam, New Zealand, and Japan over the last two days on the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sources said Jaishankar's phone calls to Indian envoys is to make sure that they are on the "same page" with the South Block, as the situation is "fast evolving", with more confirmed coronavirus cases around the world and in India.

This comes even as the SAARC emergency fund on coronavirus has been activated and contributions are pouring in from other

Jaishankar

SAARC countries. India had started the fund with a $10 million voluntary contribution, and Bhutan, Afghanistan and Maldives have contributed.

Shringla participated in the telephonic conference call initiated by US Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun for discussions among some countries in the Indo-Pacific region on issues related to countering COVID-19. The teleconference included senior representatives from Australia, South Korea, Vietnam, New Zealand and Japan.

"The participants shared their assessments of the current situation with respect to COVID-19, and discussed ways to synergise their efforts to counter its spread," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement.

Shringla briefed the participants on steps taken by India—both nationally and in the region—and conveyed its desire to share its perspectives with partners in the region and to work together with others to counter this challenge. The participants are expected to continue the conference call on a weekly basis.

Health ministry officials had separately participated in a video conference call with the Chinese government as well. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had engaged with SAARC leaders last Sunday. Modi on Saturday thanked the Maldives for contributing to the COVID-19 emergency fund to tackle the spread of the virus in SAARC countries.

Madhya Pradesh Congress rebels join BJP, promised 'bright future'

A rebel leader touches the feet of BJP's Jyotiraditya Scindia at party president J P Nadda's residence in New Delhi on Saturday. *ANI*

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI/BHOPAL, MARCH 21

THE 22 Congress rebels who had resigned from the Madhya Pradesh Assembly earlier this month officially joined the BJP on Saturday in the national capital, brightening the saffron party's prospects of stitching together a strong government in the state.

The Jyotiraditya Scindia loyalists were welcomed by Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar at BJP president J P Nadda's residence. Tomar, who, along with fellow Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, was instrumental in bringing the MLAs together before their exit from the Congress, said they would all have a "bright future" in the party.

The induction assumes significance as it indicates that the BJP will field them as candidates in the bypolls and could reward them to keep the government stable in the state.

The MLAs had left Madhya Pradesh for Bengaluru on March 9. After the Congress alleged that they had been held captive at a resort in the Karnataka capital, the rebels released videos denying the allegation and later held a press conference.

They sent their resignations through former BJP minister Bhupendra Singh, who submitted them to Assembly Speaker N P Prajapati. Prajapati refused to accept the resignations, saying he wanted to verify if they had signed voluntarily by meeting them in person.

However, the Speaker eventually accepted all resignations before the Supreme Court-mandated trust vote. The rebels returned only after Chief Minister Kamal Nath resigned on Friday. All along, the MLAs claimed that they faced a threat to their life and would return only if they were provided CRPF security.

In Bhopal, the Congress took a dig at the rebels. "Scindia never let them become Congress leaders and ensured they remained his supporters. Only time will tell if they support the BJP or Scindia," said Narendra Saluja, media coordinator of Kamal Nath, who is now caretaker Chief Minister.

Saluja claimed former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's dream to occupy the top chair again would be dashed as the BJP was reposing faith in Union Minister Tomar, who conducted the programme inducting the Congress rebels.

Unlike in the past, when the BJP came to power in Madhya Pradesh with a clear majority, the saffron party has to ensure that that the government enjoys formidable support in the Assembly, sources said.

To this end, they said, the induction of the rebel Congress members was necessary.

Scindia revolt costs Cong a state, RS berth

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, MARCH 21

THE REBELLION by former Congress leader Jyotiraditya Scindia has not only brought down the Kamal Nath government in Madhya Pradesh as the resignations of 22 legislators -- most of them Scindia's loyalists -- are now also set to cost the oldest national party a berth in the Rajya Sabha that it was poised to win.

Polling for three Rajya Sabha seats from MP will be held on March 26.

Before the political upheaval began, 58 first preference votes were required for each seat. The Congress had 114 members and was banking on support from seven Independent, SP and BSP MLAs who were backing the government.

The BJP had only 107 and could have won only one seat. However, when Speaker N P Prajapati accepted 16 resignations on the eve of the Supreme Court-mandated trust vote, the effective strength of the Assembly was reduced to 206. The resignation of BJP MLA Sharad Kol has been disputed but will have no bearing on the outcome.

According to the revised calculation, it will now take 52 first preference votes for each seat. Irrespective of the outcome of the dispute over Kol's resignation, the BJP has more than 104 members needed to win two seats.

The Speaker said Kol had resigned but the latter claimed that he sent another letter requesting not to accept the resignation. A BJP delegation called on Governor Lalji Tandon to seek his intervention in the dispute.

While Scindia was poised to win, the new arithmetic has come as a boon for RSS activist and former assistant professor Dr Sumer Singh Solanki (44), whose name did not ring a bell when his candidature was announced by the BJP on March 12.

Solanki taught history at a government college in Barwani.

Congress candidate Phool Singh Baraiya had raised an objection that Solanki was technically in government service when he filed his nomination on March 13 because his resignation was accepted a day later. The objection was overruled by the returning officer on the ground that he was not in government service on the day of scrutiny of his nomination papers.

But Solanki, a Barela tribal, faced the wrath of tribal organisations in Barwani and nearby districts because his bio-data called these outfits "anti-nationals". His bio-data circulated by the BJP listed the works he did to promote "nationalist ideology in tribal areas".

"He formed groups of 'ideological warriors' at district, tehsil and college levels to stop the anti-national activities in Jhabua, Alirajpur, Dhar, Barwani and Khargone districts. Many youngsters were saved from negative and misguiding activities," reads the bio-data naming Jai Adivasi Yuva Shakti (JAYS), Adivasi Mukti Sangathan and Narmada Bachao Andolan, among other groups.

JAYS founder Hiralal Alawa is the Congress legislator from Manawar in Dhar district.

UP govt announces financial aid, free ration for workers

MAULSHREE SETH
LUCKNOW, MARCH 21

THE UTTAR Pradesh government on Saturday announced that a monthly "maintenance allowance" of Rs 1,000 would be provided to nearly 35 lakh labourers in the state, apart from free ration for a month to around 1.67 crore workers.

The decision was taken on the basis of a report submitted by a high-level committee chaired by Finance Minister Suresh Khanna, according to which there are 20.37 lakh such labourers in the state would be given Rs 1000 per month through direct benefit transfer. In addition, there are nearly 15 lakh street vendors, rickshaw-pullers etc, who earn their livelihood in local markets. The government has directed the Urban Development Department to prepare a database in 15 days so that accounts can be opened for them, too.

The government has estimated that the move would put an additional burden of Rs 150 crore on the state exchequer.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also ordered that monthly ration (foodgrain) be immediately to around 1.67 crore people in the state, who have Antyodaya cards, MGNREGA cards and also such construction workers or daily wage workers registered with the labour department. This would cost the state exchequer around Rs 64 crore. These families would be given 20 kg of wheat and 15 kg of rice.

Adityanath also ordered pension under different categories such as old age, widow pension etc of nearly 83 lakh existing beneficiaries would be given for two months.

"Instructions have been given to clear all the dues of MGNREGA workers. Along with this, all the Antyodaya card holders, MGNREGA card holders, construction workers registered with the labour department and daily workers, would be immediately given one month long food grains. These amount to 1 crore, 65 lakh and 31 thousand in the state" said Adityanath.

Adityanath asked people not to panic and to be cautious and alert. The Chief Minister said that so far 23 patients have been identified in the state of whom 9 have completely recovered.

Sonia calls for relief package, more virus tests

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 2

SAYING THAT India appears to have "under-utilised" its public and private sector capacities in testing for novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), Congress chief Sonia Gandhi on Saturday asked the government to change its strategy and expand testing.

She also asked the government to put in place broad-based social protection measures, including "direct cash financial help" to daily wagers and unorganised sector workers, special relief package for the agriculture sector, comprehensive sector-wise relief package for all businesses offering tax breaks, interest subvention, deferment of liabilities and deferment of EMIs for the salaried class.

Sonia said there is uncertainty and lack of information about the number of beds, isolation chambers, ventilators, medical teams and medical supplies.

"This information, including location of each hospital and their emergency phone numbers, should be publicly shared. A dedicated portal for sharing these and all other necessary information is one way forward. Special budgetary allocation is an equally important factor," she said.

Arguing that testing is the key to prevention, Sonia said: "In a nation of 130 crore, only 15,701 samples are reported to have been tested so far… Despite ample time, early warnings and lessons from other nations, we appear to have under-utilised our public and private sector capacities. This must change. We must begin by testing all cases under surveillance and expand to all other symptomatic cases and those coming into contact with the ones testing positive."

Her statement came hours after former Congress president Rahul Gandhi took a dig at Prime

Sonia Gandhi says that there is uncertainty over medical facilities such as beds and ventilators.

Minister Narendra Modi for asking people to express their gratitude to medical professionals and others by clapping hands, beating plates or ringing bells at 5 pm Sunday.

Saying that small and medium entrepreneurs and daily wage workers will be worst hit, Rahul said: "Clapping will not help them. Today, there is a need for cash relief and tax sops, besides relief in repayment of loans as part of a big economic package."

Sonia also expressed concern over reports suggesting scarcity of personal protection equipment (PPEs) for medical teams. She pitched for grant of special financial incentives for the doctors, nurses and support staff engaged in battling the virus.

She said reports of artificial shortages and black-marketing of hand sanitisers, face masks and even liquid soap were alarming.

"It is the bounden duty of the government to ensure adequate supply and take corrective action. What is more unnerving is the fact that prices of essential commodities like vegetables, pulses, rice, etc. seem to be rising unchecked daily," she said.

Sanitisation underway at Parliament House on Saturday. *Express Photo*

We have adequate pharma capacity to fight virus: Govt

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE UNION government on Saturday said that the "Janata Curfew" on Sunday, proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, should be viewed with the larger of idea of "insulating people" to prevent the spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the country, and also assured the nation that there are enough medicines in the country to tackle the problem.

At a briefing on Cabinet decisions, Union Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "Janata curfew should be seen in the larger context of the initiative to insulate people, with voluntary involvement of people. It is a matter of great assurance that the people have responded very positively...and (it is) very important that people remain indoors—social distancing is a part of the process to contain this virus."

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar said that reports from across the country indicate that "everyone is prepared (for a voluntary curfew on Sunday) because we are determined to defeat coronavirus". He said while the epidemic is "definitely a problem", it is important that people should not panic but have to be cautious.

Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Manuskh Mandaviya assured that there are enough medicines in the country to tackle the problem, and said there is no crisis of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients to make medicines.

He said: "India has the capacity to fight coronavirus". Mandaviya added that there are "more than 2 crore immunity-boosting medicine tablets available in the country".

The minister said there are close to 12,000 big and small pharma units in the country that not only fulfil the domestic needs but also exports them. "Whatever requirements the country has to face coronavirus we are ready to fulfil them," he said.

Mandaviya said that as per last week's assessment there are more than 112 manufacturing units in the country, producing 1.5 crore masks every day. Similarly, he said, enough hand sanitisers are also being manufactured in the country.

He said that the supply of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients had been disturbed for a while, due to China being one of the worst hit countries, but India "has the APIs to last three to four months".

He added that wherever Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient production had stopped internationally, they have started producing again and have even started dispatching new consignments. "There is no possibility of API crisis in the country," said Mandaviya.

Cabinet gives boost to domestic manufacturing of medical devices

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

WITH THE COVID-19 pandemic hitting global supply chains, especially of medical products and devices, India is pushing to become a global manufacturing hub. The Cabinet on Friday approved incentives for setting up 'Medical Device Parks' and 'Bulk Drug Parks' across the country to boost domestic manufacturing of medical devices, key starting materials (KSM), drug intermediaries and active pharmaceutical ingredients (API).

Announcing the Cabinet's decision, Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of State for Shipping (independent charge) and Chemicals & Fertilisers, said India currently imports APIs worth Rs 42,000 crore, and exports worth Rs 32,000 crore. "There is a gap, because of which of which we were not able to sustain the drug security of the country," he said, adding that 85% of medical devices are imported.

The Centre has decided to set up four 'Medical Device Parks' and three 'Bulk Drug Parks' across the country, for which it will provide incentives to states. It will give grants-in-aid to each state, up to Rs 100 crore for each 'Medical Device Park' and Rs 1,000 crore for each 'Bulk Drug Park' over the next five years.

Further, the Centre has also approved Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for promoting domestic manufacturing in these sectors. The PLI will add up to Rs 6,940 crore for critical KSMs, drug intermediates and APIs over the next eight years, and Rs 3,420 crore for medical devices over the next five years.

The government said the medical device sector "suffers from a cost of manufacturing disability of around 12-15%, vis-a-vis competing economies", due to lack of adequate infrastructure and domestic supply chain among other factors, and so it needs to be compensated.

The government has estimated that the push will lead to incremental sales of Rs 46,400 crore in the KSM, API sector over the next eight years, and Rs 68,437 crore in medical devices over five years.

Days before Ram Navami fair, Ayodhya admin says don't visit till April 2

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
LUCKNOW, MARCH 21

THE AYODHYA administration on Saturday said the borders of the district would be closed for visitors till April 2 and said visitors would be asked to return due to the coronavirus pandemic. This comes days before the Ram Navami fair—which attracts nearly 10 lakh people from across the country—scheduled for April 2.

The advisory issued by Ayodhya district magistrate Anuj Kumar Jha said: "All devotees who live in Ayodhya should not undertake unnecessary travel. All religious gurus, sants and temple officials are advised to perform their duties from their places...."

The advisory added: "All those supposed to visit Ayodhya from outside are advised to not travel to the town. Till April 2, there will be a ban on people visiting from outside. People visiting from outside will be stopped at the border and sent back."

Govt data: 1 isolation bed per 84,000 people, 1 quarantine bed per 36,000

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

ACCORDING TO data collected by the Union Health Ministry, as of March 17, there is one isolation bed per 84,000 Indians, and one quarantine bed per 36,000 Indians. The data, collected in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, states there is one doctor per 11,600 Indians, and one hospital bed per 1,826 Indians.

Health experts say that this data may have spurred Prime Minister Narendra Modi to appeal for social distancing and call for a Janata Curfew—all in a bid to "flatten the curve" and space out the load on India's stressed public health infrastructure.

ICMR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology director Anurag Agarwal said, "We are in Stage 2 of transmission, and social distancing is very effective at this stage. Stage 3 requires lockdown. Based on surveillance data, ICMR has made it very clear that every case thus far can be explained. What social distancing does at this stage is to flatten the curve to prevent overloading of the health infrastructure... Janata Curfew is good practice for the future. Based on current data, the government seems to be doing the right thing."

At a meeting which Modi held with chief ministers and state health ministers on Friday, ICMR DG Dr Balram Bhargava said that India is currently in Phase 2 of transmission, emphasising that at present, it is in the window for taking action to minimise the risk of transmission of Phase 3. He talked about the importance of judicious use of health facilities and need to focus on ramping up quarantine facilities and isolation wards.

According to government data from the National Health Profile 2019, there are 1,154,686 registered allopathic doctors in the country and 7,39,024 government hospital beds

For a population of 135 crore, that means health infrastructure is woefully stretched even during ordinary times, but in case of COVID-19, the additional problem is that the private sector is not yet a part of the management plan. That means only government beds are available for patients.

Jharkhand man killed on 'suspicion' of being Maoist; probe on

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, MARCH 21

JHARKHAND POLICE personnel on Friday killed a 36-year-old man out of "suspicion" during a combing operation against Maoists in a village in Khunti.

The police termed the man, identified as Roshan Horo, as "innocent" and have registered a case against security personnel who fired at him.

Horo, a resident of Koyengsar village, was going to a nearby village with a sack of animal hide on his motorcycle, and fled after he saw the security personnel, the police said.

Jharkhand DGP M V Rao said there is no attempt by the police to cover up the incident. He said the man was "innocent" and investigation has been initiated to ascertain what triggered the firing.

DGP Rao said a joint team of CRPF and police had set out for a combing operation since Thursday morning and there was a brief exchange of gunshots between Maoists and security personnel.

The DGP said, "Since an operation was ongoing till next day, there was a man who came and sped after seeing the personnel. He was shot. What caused the personnel to fire at him is a matter of investigation. The man had no criminal records and was innocent. A magisterial-level inquiry based on NHRC guidelines will be conducted and whoever is responsible will be prosecuted."

Asked on IPC Sections being invoked against the police personnel, Rao said, "The FIR is not with me."

Khunti SP Ashutosh Shekhar said: "The man sped and did not pay heed to the police, who asked him to stop. He was carrying a sack of animal hide and on suspicion police shot him twice."

Horo's wife Josephina Horo in a complaint to the police said he told her that he is going to a musician for making drums with the animal hide early morning on Friday.

Chhattisgarh: 14 security men injured in encounter with Maoists

ENS & PTI
RAIPUR, MARCH 21

FOURTEEN DISTRICT Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel were injured in a heavy exchange of fire between security forces and Maoists in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on Saturday, according to information.

The preparation to airlift the injured personnel was on at the time of going to the press.

" Based on the ground inputs, it is believed at least 4 to 5 Maoists might have been killed and an equal number injured as security forces retaliated strongly," an official said.

The encounter took place at around 2.30 pm near Korajguda hills in Chintagufa area when a joint team of security forces was out on an anti-naxal operation, a senior police official said.

Personnel of the police's DRG, Special Task Force and CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action) had launched the operation from Chintagufa, Burkapal and Timelwada camps based on information about presence of ultras near Elmagunda, it was informed. When the team was advancing through Korajguda hills, located around 450 km from the state capital Raipur, firing broke out between the two sides, the official said.

According to sources, a CRPF battalion was sent as cover for the men later.

ED questions Subhash Chandra in Yes Bank case

DEEPTIMAN TIWARY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

ESSEL GROUP chairman Subhash Chandra appeared before the Enforcement Directorate on Saturday in connection with the agency's money laundering probe related to Yes Bank promoter Rana Kapoor. Sources said that Chandra arrived at the ED's Mumbai office in the morning and was questioned till early evening before he was allowed to go.

"Just like Anil Ambani, he too could not remember most of the transactions we questioned him about. We will call him again," an ED official said.

However, Essel Group in a statement said that Chandra provided his complete cooperation. "Essel Group wishes to confirm that Dr Subhash Chandra visited the Enforcement Directorate (ED) office in Mumbai today and answered all the queries of the officials, to the best of his abilities. He offered complete co-operation in the future as well. The Group also wishes to clarify that Dr Chandra did not leave the ED office before completing the entire set of interaction with the officials, neither did he cite any reason or excuse to leave early, " it said.

The agency had first called him for questioning on Wednesday but Chandra skipped the summons saying that as a Rajya Sabha member he had committed to attend the sittings as Parliament was in session. On Thursday, The Indian Express had reported that Chandra attended the Rajya Sabha and sat through a discussion on Unani medicine.

Essel Group chairman Subhash Chandra at the ED office in Mumbai on Saturday. *Nirmal Harindran*

Following this, the ED issued fresh summons to Chandra seeking his appearance on Saturday as the Rajya Sabha would not meet on a weekend.

Meanwhile, Jet Airways founder Naresh Goyal was questioned by the ED in connection with a separate money laundering case linked to alleged financial fraud with a Mumbai-based tours and travel company.

It was earlier stated by officials that Goyal was questioned in the Yes Bank case but later it was clarified that he joined investigation in another case. Goyal has been summoned by the agency in the Yes Bank case too but he is yet to depose.

The ED had summoned seven top businessmen — Gautam Thapar (Avantha Group), Peter Kerkar (Cox & Kings Group), Kapil Wadhawan (DHFL Group), Sameer Gehlot (Indiabulls Housing Finance), Subhash Chandra (Essel Group), Anil Ambani and Naresh Goyal — in connection with its probe into the affairs of Yes Bank where it has already arrested the bank's promoter Rana Kapoor and questioned his wife and daughters.

On March 10, *The Indian Express* reported that Yes Bank's exposure to 10 corporate houses amounted to around Rs 34,000 crore in loans. Subhash Chandra's Essel Group has borrowings of around Rs 8,000 crore from Yes Bank, Wadhawan Group Rs 4,700 crore, IL&FS Group Rs 2,500 crore, Jet Airways Rs 1,100 crore, Kerkar Group (Cox & Kings) Rs 1,000 crore and Avantha Group Rs 500 crore.

WITH PTI INPUTS FROM MUMBAI

25,000 teachers suspended, booked for not evaluating Bihar Board papers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, MARCH 21

WHILE MORE than 25,000 high school teachers have been suspended and booked for not taking part in evaluation of Bihar Class X Board examination papers, nearly 5 lakh teachers are continuing with their strike, demanding pay parity and implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission.

While 4.5 lakh primary and middle school teachers have been on strike since February 17, more than 50,000 high school teachers joined them since February 25.

While all schools are closed in view of the coronavirus outbreak for the last 10 days, the number of students had dwindled in over 75,000 government schools since late-February, forcing the government to discontinue the midday meal scheme.

Bihar Secondary School Teachers' Association general secretary Shatrughan Prasad Singh said there is no question of the teachers calling off the strike until the government considered its long-pending demands. "The government has been trying to mislead people by saying that Seventh Pay Commission has been implemented. But it has not been implemented," he said.

The secondary school teachers faced FIRs and suspension because they did not obey the government order to take part in evaluation. These teachers had earlier stayed away from Class X Board examination duty.

FROM THE WORLD PAGE

Kenny Rogers, who brought country music to a pop audience, dies at 81

BILL FRISKICS-WARREN
NEW YORK, MARCH 21

KENNY ROGERS, a prolific singer who played a major role in expanding the audience for country music in the 1970s and '80s, died on Friday at his home in Sandy Springs. He was 81.

His death was announced by his publicist, Keith Hagan. Hagan did not specify the cause but said Rogers had been in hospice care. Rogers retired from performing for health reasons in 2018.

Singing in a husky voice that exuded sincerity and warmth, Rogers sold well over 100 million records in a career that spanned seven decades. He had 21 No. 1 country hits, including two — "Lady," written and produced by Lionel Richie, and "Islands in the Stream," composed by the Bee Gees and performed with Dolly Parton — that reached No 1 on the pop chart as well.

By the time he stopped performing, Rogers had placed more than 50 singles in the country Top 40, of which 20 also appeared in the pop Top 40.

Rogers's popularity stemmed partly from his genial persona and rugged good looks, but also from his ability to inhabit his material, which, he often said, was of two main types: love songs like "You Decorated My Life" and narrative ballads like "The Gambler" and "Lucille."

Kenny Rogers died at his home. He received many accolades during his career, among them three Grammy Awards. *AP*

"All the songs I record fall into one of two categories, as a rule," he said in a 2012 interview with NPR. "One is ballads that say what every man would like to say and every woman would like to hear. The other is story songs that have social significance.

"'Reuben James' was about a black man who raised a white child," he continued, referring to a 1969 song that was a Top 40 hit for his group Kenny Rogers and the First Edition. "'Coward of the County' was about a rape. 'Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town' was about a guy who came home from war."

Rogers also recorded with R&B artists like James Ingram and Gladys Knight. Both the rapper Wyclef Jean and the neo-soul singer Anthony Hamilton have used passages from his music in their work.

Rogers came by his wide-ranging musical sensibilities naturally. After graduating from high school, he played upright bass in the Bobby Doyle Three, a well-regarded jazz trio. He became a member of the folk ensemble the New Christy Minstrels in the mid-'60s.

More a fan favorite than a critics' darling, Rogers was something of a late bloomer in country music; his career as a solo artist did not gain traction until after his breakthrough single, "Lucille," was released by United Artists in 1977. He was 38 at the time.

Kenneth Donald Rogers was born on August 21, 1938, in Houston. The fourth of eight children, he grew up in San Felipe Courts, a public housing development in the city's Fourth Ward.

His father, Edward Floyd Rogers, was a carpenter and amateur musician who struggled with alcohol. His mother, Lucille (Hester) Rogers, held the family together, making ends meet by cleaning offices and working in a hospital.

Rogers received many accolades during his career, among them three Grammy Awards and recognition for lifetime achievement from the Country Music Association.

Eclecticism in music is sometimes attributed to a lack of originality or focus. But for Rogers, drawing on an array of styles and collaborating with a wide range of artists worked in his favor.

"One of the strengths of my eclectic musical history," he wrote in his memoir, "perhaps dating all the way back to that day as a child when I heard gospel music pouring out of the little church in Houston, is that I never felt hamstrung by one form, even if I had been successful with it."

"...Having been exposed to and well versed in all kinds of music before Nashville, I saw no reason to limit the range of songs I could do after getting there." **NYT**

Iran frees French academic in 'prisoner exchange'

Paris: Iran has released the French academic Roland Marchal, an official in the French president's office said on Saturday, as part of a prisoner swap agreement with France. Marchal, who had been imprisoned in Iran since June on security charges, was due to arrive in France around midday Saturday, the official said.

Iran and France had agreed to swap Marchal and Jalal Ruhollahnejad, an Iranian engineer detained by the French authorities over accusations that he violated US sanctions against Tehran, Iranian media reported Friday. France had already released Ruhollahnejad, the state broadcaster IRIB reported. The broadcaster said Marchal had been "sentenced to five years' imprisonment for acting against national security," adding that his sentence had been reduced and he was handed over to the French embassy in Tehran.

REUTERS

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.ccsuniversity.ac.in/ccsu/recruitment
Registrar

NATIONAL LAW INSTITUTE UNIVERSITY
Kerwa Dam Road, Bhopal- 462044 (M.P.)
Tel. : 0755-2696965 (Ext. 791)
Applications are invited for admission to the following Courses.
1. Ph.D. in Law
2. Ph.D. (Interdisciplinary)
3. Master of Cyber Law and Information Security (2 Yrs.)
For other details please visit : www.nliu.ac.in
M.P. Madhyam/97242/2020 REGISTRAR

256th AMC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
In view of the prevailing
COVID-19 pandemic and advisory
issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India,
the 256th AMC Anniversary Celebrations
scheduled on 03 Apr 2020 at
Air Force Auditorium, Subroto Park, New Delhi,
stands cancelled.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001.
OA No. 716/2019
Bank of Maharashtra Applicant
VERSUS
Mr. Neeraj Kumar Sharma & Others. Respondents
To, 1. Mr. Neeraj Kumar Sharma, Son of Shri Ram Ashish Sharma, House No. Z-13, Commercial Enclave, Near Lal Farm, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059.
2. Mrs. Suman Sharma, Wife of Mr. Neeraj Kumar Sharma, House No. Z-13, Commercial Enclave, Near Lal Farm, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059.
3. M/s. Hindustan Fibres Ltd., 7 KM, Bhiwadi-Alwar Road, Village Banbirpur, Tesil Tapukada, District Alwar, Rajasthan-301019.
Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 23,89,785/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Eighty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Five Only)** against you and where as 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 advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on **01.06.2020 at 10.30 A.M.**
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this the **06th February of 2020.**
By Order of the Tribunal
For Registrar

BEFORE, THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL STATE OF BIHAR PATNA.
Wing: A,B & F, 2nd Floor Karpuri Thakur Sadan, Kendriya Karamchari Parisar (G.P.O.A.), Near Rajeev Nagar Thana Ashiana Digha Road, Patna-800025
Original Application No.449 of 2019.
Dena Bank now Bank of Baroda Mauryalok Complex Branch, Patna. ....Applicant.
Vs
M/s Apex Powers & Engineers & others .... Defendants.
Summon issued under Rule 23 (VIII) of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 1993.
To,
(1) M/s. Apex Powers and Engineers, Prop. Sri Prakash Kumar Sinha. 110, Narayan Plaza, Exhibition Road, Patna-800001
PAN No. ABLPS4090A
(2) Sri Rahul Sinha S/o Late Prakash Kumar Sinha
(3) Smt. Punam Singh W/o Late Prakash Kumar Sinha, PAN No. AORPS3049C
Both residents of 111, M.P. Sinha Road, Kadamkuan, Patna-800003 (Bihar).
At present residing at Flat no.35, Block No. B-1 on 2nd Floor, Sushant Lok Apartment, Phase-III, Gurgaon, Haryana, Pin-code-122001 **DEFENDANTS.**
Whereas the applicant has instituted an applicantion under Section 19 of the Recovery and Bankruptcy Act. 1993, against the defendants for recovery of a sum of **Rs. 84,16,211.89 (Rs.Eighty Four Lakhs Sixteen Thousand Two Hundred Eleven & Paise Eighty Nine only)** together with current and future interest, costs and for other relife's.
The above mentioned defendants are therfore hereby directed to appear before this Tribunal in person or through an Advocate or duly authorized agent, in support of their defence to show cause within 30 days from the date of publication or on **3rd day of April 2020 at 10:30 A.M. (forenoon)** as to why reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take notice that in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given Under my hand and the seal of this tribunals on this the **26th day of February 2020**
Registrar, (I/C)
Debts. Recovery Tribunal Patna.

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank आपका अपना बैंक • YOUR OWN BANK
SAM Vertical - Delhi
Upper Ground Floor, World Trade Centre, Babar Road, New Delhi. Ph: (011) 23412168,
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 Securitisation 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 described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Physical possession** of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, SAM Branch/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **28.04.2020** for recovery of **Rs. 182,43,169.01.(Rupees one hundred eighty two lakhs forty three thousand one hundred and sixty nine only)** (as on 15/03/2020) due to the Indian Bank, SAM Branch / Secured Creditor, from **(i)** M/s Shalimar Engineers **(Borrower / Mortgager)** Plot No.40,41,42, village: Bajri, Near Shiv Mandir, Dabua Pali Road, Faridabad-121001 (Haryana) **(ii)** Gaurav Sood, S/o Sh. Suresh Sood, **(Guarantor)** R/o H No.616, Sector-14, Faridabad-121001 (Haryana), **(iii)** Nitin Sood, S/o Sh. Suresh Sood **(Guarantor)**, R/o H No.616, Sector-14, Faridabad-121001 (Haryana), **(iv)** Suresh Sood, S/o Late Sh. Prithvi Raj Sood **(Guarantor)** H No.616, Sector-14, Faridabad-121001 (Haryana) **(v)** Surabhi Sood, W/o Gaurav Sood, **(Guarantor)** R/o H No.616, Sector-14, Faridabad-121001 (Haryana) **(vi)** Vibha Sood, W/o Nitin Sood **(Guarantor)**, R/o H No.616, Sector-14, Faridabad-121001, (Haryana).
The specific details of the property intended to be brought to sale through e-auction mode are enumerated below:

Detailed description of the Property	Plot No.40,41,42, area admeasuring 1694 sq yards with building in village: Bajri, Near Shiv Mandir, Dabua Pali Road, Faridabad-121001, (Haryana) and **bounded by : North-** Rasta, **South-**Plot No.39, **East-** Other Property (Open Land), **West-** Rasta
Encumbrances on property	--NIL --
Reserve Price	Rs. 182.00 lakhs
EMD Amount	Rs.18.20 lakhs
Bid incremental amount	Rs.25000/-
Date and time of e-auction	28.04.2020 at 11 AM.
Property ID No.	IDIB639671953201

Bidders are advised to visit the website **(www.mstcecommerce.com)** of our e auction service provider MSTC Ltd to participate in online bid. For Technical Assistance, please call MSTC HELPDESK No. 033-22901004 and other help line numbers available in service providers help desk. For Registration status with MSTC Ltd, please contact ibapcop@mstcecommerce.com and for EMD status please contact ibapfin@mstcecommerce.com.
For property details and photograph of the property and auction terms and conditions please visit: **https://ibapi.in** and for clarifications related to this portal, please contact help line number '18001025026' and '011-41106131'.
Bidders are advised to use Property ID Number mentioned above while searching for the property in the website with **https://ibapi.in** and **www.mstcecommerce.com**.
Place:New Delhi
Date : 18.03.2020
The Authorised Officer
(Indian Bank)

Notice Under Order V rule 20 (I-A) of Code of Civil Procedure
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
(COMPANY APPELATE JURISDICTION)
Company Appeal No. 02 of 2014
(An Appeal under section 10F of the Companies Act, 1956)
IN THE MATTER OF : An Appeal on behalf of Appellant - Garg Engineering Limited, having its office at M-18, 6th Phase, Gamharia Industrial Area, Gamharia P.O. Gamharia, P.S. Adityapur, Jamshedpur - 832108, District East Singhbhum, Jharkhand through one its Director, Manish Singhania, son of Late Phulchand Singhania, resident of 2nd Floor, Nandlal Singh Building, Goswala Road, Jugsalai, P.O. and P.S. Jugsalia, District - East Singhbhum (Jharkhand)
..... Appellants
-----Versus-----
1. Baldev Singh, son of Late Boota Singh, resident of Lal Buglaw, L. Raod, Bistupur, Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Bistupur, District-East Singhbhum (Jharkhand)
2. Amolak Singh, son of Late Boota Singh, resident of Lal Buglaw, L. Raod, Bistupur, Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Bistupur, District-East Singhbhum (Jharkhand)
.....Petitioners/Respondents
3. Gurucharan Singh, son of Late Boota Singh, resident of DLX-83, Carnation Ashiana Gardens, Sonari, Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Sonari, District -East Singhbhum (Jharkhand)
4. Harpreet Kaur Singh, daughter of Sri Gurucharan Singh, resident of DLX-83, Carnation Ashiana Gardens, Sonari, Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Sonari, District -East Singhbhum (Jharkhand)
5. Shiv Raj Singh, son of Sri Ripudaman Singh, resident of DLX-83, Carnation Ashiana Gardens, Sonari, Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Sonari, District -East Singhbhum (Jharkhand)
.....Resondents/Respondents
Notice is hereby given that order under section 397 and 398 of Companies Act, 1956 against the above mentioned Appellant was passed by the Company Law Board, Kolkata Bench in C.P. No. 912 of 2012 on 20th day of November, 2013. This order has been challenged in present Company Appeal being C.A. no. 02 of 2014 before the Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi.
Whereas all respondents have entered their appearance in C.A. No. 02 of 2014, Respondent No. 4 i.e. Harpreet Kaur Singh, daughter of Sri Gurucharan Singh resident of DLX-83, Carnation Ashiana Gardens, Sonari, Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Sonari, District -East Singhbhum (Jharkhand) and Respondent No. 5 i.e. Shiv Raj Singh, son of Sri Ripudaman Singh, resident of DLX-83, Carnation Ashiana Gardens, Sonari, Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Sonari, District -East Singhbhum (Jharkhand) have not appeared inspite of repeated Notices by the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi
Notice is hereby issued to Respondent no. 4 i.e. Harpreet Kaur Singh, daughter of Sri Gurucharan Singh, resident of DLX-83, Carnation Ashiana Gardens, Sonari, Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Sonari, District -East Singhbhum (Jharkhand) and Respondent No. 5 i.e. Shiv Raj Singh, son of Ripudaman Singh, resident of DLX-83, Carnation Ashiana Gardens, Sonari, Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Sonari, District -East Singhbhum (Jharkhand) to enter their appearance in the hearing of the case, file necessary affidavit in support of the appellant or challenge the claim made by the appellant, in person, or through their counsel before the next date of hearing i.e. the17th day of April, 2020 at 10.30 a.m.
(Advocate for Appellant)
Mr. Summet Gadodia,
G.E.L. Church Complex, Eastern Side, Opposite A.C. Market,
Main Road, Ranchi -834001, Jharkhand

Notice Under Order V rule 20 (I-A) of Code of Civil Procedure
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND AT RANCHI
(COMPANY APPELATE JURISDICTION)
Company Appeal No. 01 of 2014
(An Appeal under section 10F of the Companies Act, 1956)
IN THE MATTER OF : An Appeal on behalf of Appellant - Sokhi Engineering Company (P) Ltd., having its registered office at NS-1, Phase I, Industrial Area, Adityapur, P.O. & P.S. Adityapur, District Saraikela-Kharsawan, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand through one its Director, Prem Narayan Garg, son of Late Maliram Pansari, resident of "Garg", 19, Circuit House Area (East), Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Bistupur, District-East Singhbhum (Jharkhand) & Others
.....Respondents/Appellants
-----Versus-----
1. Baldev Singh, son of Late Boota Singh, resident of Lal Buglaw, L. Raod, Bistupur, Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Bistupur, District-East Singhbhum (Jharkhand)
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.....Resondents/Respondents
Notice is hereby given that order under section 397 and 398 of Companies Act, 1956 against the above mentioned Respondents/Appellants was passed by the Company Law Board, Kolkata Bench in C.P. No. 912 of 2012 on 20th day of November, 2013. This order has been challenged in present Company Appeal being C.A. no. 01 of 2014 before the Hon'ble High Court of Jharkhand at Ranchi.
Whereas all respondents have entered their appearance in C.A. No. 01 of 2014, Respondent No. 4 i.e. Harpreet Kaur Singh, daughter of Sri Gurucharan Singh resident of DLX-83, carnation Ashiana Gardens, Sonari, Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Sonari, District -East Singhbhum (Jharkhand) and Respondent No. 5 i.e. Shiv Raj Singh, son of Sri Ripudaman Singh, resident of DLX-83, Carnation Ashiana Gardens, Sonari, Jamshedpur-831001, P.O. & P.S. Sonari, District -East Singhbhum (Jharkhand) have not appeared inspite of repeated Notices by the High Court of Jharkhand, Ranchi.
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(Advocate for Appellant)
Mr. Summet Gadodia,
G.E.L. Church Complex, Eastern Side, Opposite A.C. Market,
Main Road, Ranchi -834001, Jharkhand

I was nervous when I called Manto's daughters for the India premiere. But they were happiest about how I had showed their mother as feistier. Maybe it was cathartic to see this interpretation of their *Ammijaan*"

WHY NANDITA DAS

A prominent actor and director, Nandita Das recently published her first book, *Manto and I*. She has acted in some of the most-talked-about Indian movies, such as *Fire* (1996) and *Earth* (1998), as well as Bengali film *Shubho Mahurat* (2003) and Tamil film *Naalu Pennungal* (2007). In 2008, she made her debut as a director with the hard-hitting *Firaaq*, which she co-wrote. A decade later, Das made *Manto*, a biopic of Urdu writer Saadat Hasan Manto. Known for her social advocacy, Das is a strong supporter of the campaign against colour bias. She has served as the chairperson of the Children's Film Society of India and also been on the jury of the Cannes Film Festival on two occasions

"We have to talk, work with, and understand the 'other'. If we want to build bridges, it has to begin with us. Otherwise we are speaking as the bigoted, except from a righteous position. Then how are we different?

'Atmosphere largely is of fear, not just in Bollywood... Not many voices on even matters like civic issues'

Director Nandita Das talks about how her convictions drive her work, what attracted her to Manto, argues why it is vital for people with influence to take positions like Deepika Padukone did, the importance of hearing contrarian voices, and why she remains hopeful

Actor-director Nandita Das with Associate Editor Alaka Sahani in *The Indian Express* newsroom in Mumbai. *Nirmal Harindran*

ALAKA SAHANI: The movies directed by you are quite political. Art is often linked to politics. Is being apolitical a choice anymore?

When someone says 'I'm apolitical', I don't even know what that means. To not engage or comment on what is happening around is also a political choice. I tell human stories, but as we don't live in isolation, the context becomes important. For instance, my directorial films *Firaaq* (2008) and *Manto* (2018) are about people and relationships in times of violence and communal strife. Our prejudices, our struggle to own and distinguish identities, our fears and what we do to each other in difficult times are all of great concern. That's what compels me to make a film. I don't consciously make a 'political', 'niche' or 'independent' film — these are labels put on one's work. For me, the personal is political.

ALAKA SAHANI: You worked on the film *Manto* for six years and then worked on the book *Manto and I* for a year. What have been the triggers that take you on these artistic journeys?

My film work started with acting, which was neither a dream nor ambition. I did my graduation in geography, took a year off and during that time taught at Rishi Valley School and travelled across the country. I decided to do my Masters in Social Work and then worked with NGOs for a few years. *Fire* (1996) was the first film I acted in. I sort of stumbled upon it. Despite many offers, also in mainstream films, I only did those films that resonated with me. Not every choice was right, as how a film finally turns out is beyond the control of an actor. As a director, I had the opportunity to tell stories that move me and disturb me. For me, art has always remained a means to an end. But it is not enough to tell a relevant story. How you tell it is just as important. The content and the form are inseparable for me. At all times the film must engage, and not become didactic, preachy or boring.

MOHAMED THAVER: Do you think you can say what you have to but in a more accessible way, for instance, the way *Rang De Basanti* did?

I don't want to refer to any one film but, broadly speaking, I tell stories in the way I want to see them. I tell them more instinctively, despite all the planning it needs. I can't think like someone else or create the perfect balance — 'Let me put all the right ingredients to make it more palatable'.

Also, I am not a trained filmmaker and nor have I worked behind the camera to learn it on the job. As an actor you are only privy to the shoot, which is a small part of the entire film process. I also don't watch too many films. Guess, it helps in freeing myself of too much grammar and helps me maintain my own voice. I personally see films as a medium of engagement. What may be entertainment to one may not be to the other.

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA: Deepika Padukone received a lot of flak over her visit to Jawaharlal Nehru University. Do you think that discourages top celebrities from speaking up?

We are all driven by our own conscience, what we want to or not want to do. It is not my place to say who should do what. I fiercely believe in freedom and each to their own. Of course, it would help if more people spoke up because that is the need of the hour. Especially those who have a large circle of influence, as they impact the social discourse, as Deepika did. We all want a more peaceful and equal world, but it is not going to happen on its own. Bigotry and divisive powers are on the rise so it is important to speak up against them. So many protesters are out there putting their neck on the line for the larger good. But we all operate in different contexts and have different compulsions. So, I'd rather not judge anyone's decision. Even among the liberals there is so much posturing. Infighting to prove that we are more liberal than the other, or pointing fingers at those who are not speaking up in the way we are. Undoubtedly what's happening in the country is deeply troubling. But finally, it is everyone's personal decision.

SHERRIE MARKER: The movie *Manto* familiarises the viewers about Saadat Hasan Manto's life and work. How different is your book *Manto and I* from the biopic?

The film is about the four tumultuous years of Manto's life, interspersed with his stories. Through Manto's life and work, I am able to talk about identity, censorship, fears and the role of art and literature in times of strife — everything that we are grappling with today. If I had made a film about our times, it might have ended up becoming too didactic. Which is why I took refuge in telling Manto's story and yet responded to what's happening today. And people see the parallel.

The book is really the back-story of making the film. It chronicles the journey, right from 2012, Manto's centenary year, to why and how I thought of making the film, the challenges and excitement of researching and writing the script, and releasing the film. I share my meetings with Manto's family in Lahore and how I feel I am a part of it. The book has chapters about how I gathered an eclectic cast and crew and raised the funds. How we recreated the Lahore and Bombay of the '40s in today's time, when there is so much modern-day clutter, with ACs, satellite dishes and hoardings. I also talk about my journey of embracing the label of being a 'woman director' and what to me is the female gaze. The book is called *Manto and I* because it is as much about me as it is about the film.

ZEESHAN SHAIKH: How difficult is it for you to express your emotions as a director or a writer through a film?

As an actor, we just play the part that is written for us. An actor is perceived to be larger than they really are. But as a writer-director, we have the opportunity to tell the story we want to tell. For instance, both *Firaaq* and *Manto* are expressions of what I wanted to share — right from the inception to the way they finally turned out. Of course, there are always many challenges and limitations, but within them, I made choices at every step.

Even though 80 per cent of *Manto* is absolutely factual, there are many fictional elements. For instance, I made his wife Safia feistier than she was. When I had asked the family, they had said that she was a very gentle person, a supportive wife and a loving mother. But in a film, it neither makes for an interesting character nor a believable one, as living with Manto through his alcoholism and financial troubles could not have been easy. So I felt I could give voice to her unexpressed emotions. When I invited the daughters of Manto for the India premiere, I was nervous about their reaction to this liberty that I had taken. But to my relief, they were the happiest about the way their mother was portrayed. Maybe they carried that pain and felt it was cathartic to see this interpretation of their *Ammijaan* in the film.

SHERRIE MARKER: How much does Manto's personality resonate with you?

Deeply. Now it has been seven years since I first started the *Manto* journey. It is a long time to travel with one person, who is only in written words, a few photos and some anecdotes from the family. Had he not resonated with me in my bones, I would not have been able to tell the story. His desire to tell the truth, to show reality as it is, his fearlessness — all these are extremely inspiring, especially in the times we are living in. I have also dedicated the book to the 'Mantos of the world'. After all there are and have always been many Mantos in every era. Today some of them are behind bars, some have been killed and some are protesting against all odds.

SADAF MODAK: What is your favourite story by Manto?

Tough to say. He wrote close to 300 short stories and about 100 essays. *Toba Tek Singh* is very powerful and timeless. The absurdity of dividing people on the basis of religion is still so relevant. Also *Dus Rupiya*, a story that is often misunderstood, as it is very nuanced, almost poetic and horrifying at the same time. One of my other favourites is *Hatak*, which in English is called 'Insult'. In one of the drafts, I wanted to start the film with it, but it was too disturbing to begin the film. There is a lesser-known one, the story I first read of Manto — *Sarkando ke peechhe*. I don't know what it is called in English.

TABASSUM BARNAGARWALA: You explored the subject of homosexuality in *Fire* at a time when it was a criminal offence. Today, it has been decriminalised but you must have faced some consequences back then.

Oh yes! Lots and of all kinds! Twenty-four years ago, we didn't even have a vocabulary for it. Even journalists of prominent English dailies would say 'that' kind of relationship and not use words like 'gay' or 'lesbian'. When *Fire* came out, many would ask if we were really ready for such a film because there was no conversation around it. It is never too early to be open about things and call them as they are. In fact, it was already too late. The reactions to the film varied — some applauded it for being so bold, some were livid and then there were lots who were confused about how to process it. I remember how, on flights, I would be told by strangers that I was inciting young women to become lesbians! We have really come a long way since and I believe that *Fire* had its little role to play in changing the discourse and attitudes around issues of homosexuality.

"The point is how do we strengthen the parallel narrative that needs to be communicated. More actors are speaking up, journalists are also writing about issues that matter. So, a shift is happening

ALAKA SAHANI: What was the idea behind the use of Faiz Ahmad Faiz's *'Bol ki lab azaad hain tere...'* in Manto?

I was wondering how to end the film. Usually, the question is '*optimistic note par end karein ya pessimistic note par* (should we end it on an optimistic note or a pessimistic one)'. But there was little to be optimistic about and yet I did not want to be pessimistic, as hope is what propels us to change the status quo. It was a real dilemma. The film ends with the *Toba Tek Singh* story. The quest of the protagonist, the Sikh lunatic, to find where he really belongs is also the story of Manto. And for many of us. So, I felt, a call to action, a way to inspire people to speak up, something that would bring out their Mantoiyat would be a good note to end the film with. The powerful lines of the poem '*Bol ki lab azaad hain tere, bol zubaan ab tak teri hai* (Speak, for your lips are free; speak, your tongue is still your own)' hit the right inspirational note.

OM MARATHE: *Parasite* swept the Oscar awards. Is the artistic fraternity sending out a message?

Definitely! But I don't know how long it will last. I don't want to be a cynic but it is possible that they will go back to their norm — White, male, American award winners. After Kathryn Bigelow won the Oscar for Best Director for *The Hurt Locker* (2008), women haven't really got much prominence in the Oscars. The pessimist in me feels it is tokenism, while the optimist in me applauds all good things in the right direction. *Parasite* talks about the stark inequality that we have skillfully managed to normalise, across most countries. That's why it universally resonated.

MALINI BHUPTA: People want to see what is happening in this country, how intolerant we have become. Are these discussions even happening in Bollywood?

I have always worked from the fringes of the film industry, so I am not the right person to answer this. In any case, what does Bollywood mean? It means the mainstream industry, but that too isn't a monolith. The point is how do we strengthen the parallel narrative that we think needs to be communicated. Though I feel more and more actors and film professionals are speaking up, journalists and media houses are also writing about issues that matter. More, than they did five years ago. So, a shift is happening. We just have to keep at it. This is not the time to be sprinting. We have to be marathon runners. The road to greater freedom and liberal ideas is long!

MOHAMED THAVER: Are you optimistic about what some have called 'the outrage of beautiful people'?

This country has a Constitution that gives everybody the same rights. If I believe in that, then I must uphold it. If it is being threatened, I need to work towards saving it. It is the Constitution versus the attacks on it that is worrying. And all people have a right and responsibility to speak about things closer home or atrocities far away. Let us not divide ourselves, or label each other. Even among liberals at times it becomes, 'my way or the highway'. All voices in the Constitutional framework should be welcomed. I intend to do my little bit through my films, through the choices I make in my life and work.

MALINI BHUPTA: Do you think there is a fear psychosis that prevents Bollywood from speaking up?

While more have begun to break the silence, the atmosphere largely is of fear and it extends to all sectors. Why just Bollywood? It is happening in the corporate world and in the media. Still the voices are not many, even on less controversial issues like civic issues. If we have strong convictions, we will find the courage to follow them. There is fear everywhere but there is also enough courage. Just as fear begets fear, courage too begets courage. So as individuals if we become more courageous, we will also spread it faster.

MOHAMED THAVER: Do you think bigotry is much deep-rooted than reason?

Of course. Bigotry is strong in its impact and it is often in the name of religion, tradition or culture. And a lot of our identity is linked to it so we are scared to push it away. It is also organised, as it is driven by a more uniform ideology. While the idea of liberalism, by its very definition, is free, diverse and hard to organise. It makes it therefore harder to combat bigotry.

ZEESHAN SHAIKH: *Firaaq* features Paresh Rawal, who in today's context stands at a different end of the political spectrum. How difficult is it to work with people whose world view is very different from yours?

Coincidentally, Paresh Rawal is in both my films — *Firaaq* and *Manto*, and in negative roles! I wanted him because he is such a wonderful actor and fitted the parts. He has always known my views, and I have known his. In *Manto*, despite a cameo role, he wanted to read the full script, as a good actor should. We have always had mutual respect as artists.

We have to talk, work with, and understand the 'other'. If we want to build bridges, then it has to begin with us. Otherwise we are speaking exactly the same language as the bigoted, except we are coming from a righteous position. Then how are we any different?

BENITA FERNANDO: Between art and activism, what do you think is going to change the world?

Both are needed and for me they come together. My art is my activism. My activism is expressed through my films, my writings, my talks and my other choices. I make no distinction between work and life. We create too many straight-jacketed compartments. Artists in Iran subvert the system by making intensely personal films and yet talk about the larger issues in society, without being preachy. So, those who work on the ground, to the policy-makers, and everybody in between, we all have different roles to play. You cannot do what I can do and I can't do what you can. So, it's about doing our little bit to make the world a better place.

Get Well $oon

What does a fast-spreading virus, one that has led the government to impose restrictions on travel and trade, mean to an already slowing economy? As the PM announces an economic task force in the wake of coronavirus, HARISH DAMODARAN, UDIT MISRA & NUSHAIBA IQBAL mine data to find that pre-existing conditions in India today suggest that the road to recovery, unlike in the 2008 global financial crisis, will be long

ERGO An Express Research GrOup Report

FINANCIAL MARKETS love to borrow terms and metaphors from epidemiology. Thus, the meltdown set off by the collapse of Thailand's currency in early July 1997 came to be known as the "Asian flu". The current one roiling global equity, credit and commodity markets is being compared to the "financial contagion" of 2008. The difference, though, is that the trigger and cause this time aren't the bankruptcy of a Lehman Brothers or crash in the market for subprime mortgage-backed securities. Instead, it is a real virus that infects physically and whose after-effects are being "transmitted" in the financial world.

But SARS-CoV-2's impact on economies — again using the analogy of pandemics — is significantly influenced by "pre-existing conditions".

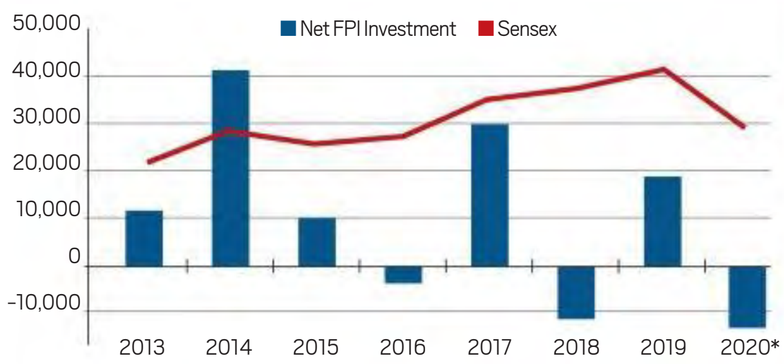
In September 2008, when Lehman Brothers happened, the Indian economy was relatively better placed in terms of the financial health of its households, firms, banks and government. In March 2020, the economy isn't exactly on a ventilator, but the underlying structural weaknesses are rather obvious. GDP growth in 2008-09 slumped to 6.7%, from 9.3% the previous year, only to quickly recover to 8.6% in 2009-10 and 8.9% in 2010-11. By contrast, the novel coronavirus has struck when growth has already slowed, from 6.6% in 2017-18 to 6% in 2018-19 and 4.9% in 2019-20.

The economic after-effects of COVID-19 are at present being analysed largely for creating disruptions in global supply chains — especially with China producing much of the basic active pharmaceutical ingredients, automotive component parts or mobile handset and electronic device inputs that are imported by manufacturers, including in India.

Supply apart, there is also the shock to demand from people cutting down on travelling and flying or not going to restaurants, shopping malls and movie theatres. In normal circumstances, these disturbances — along with their negative feedback loops on jobs, incomes, spending and consumer confidence — ought to end once the virus has run its course. There are reports already of Chinese factories, at least outside the original epicentre of Wuhan, limping back to life.

However, the Indian economy is not in the position it was in during the last global financial crisis. The "pre-existing" conditions, which are highlighted in the charts below, make any 2009-10-like recovery highly unlikely today. While SARS-CoV-2 will certainly test the economy's resilience in the coming months, as the charts reveal, there are lesser vulnerabilities and even opportunities thrown up by the present crisis.

NET FPI FLOWS INTO INDIA ($ MILLION) & SENSEX (POINTS)

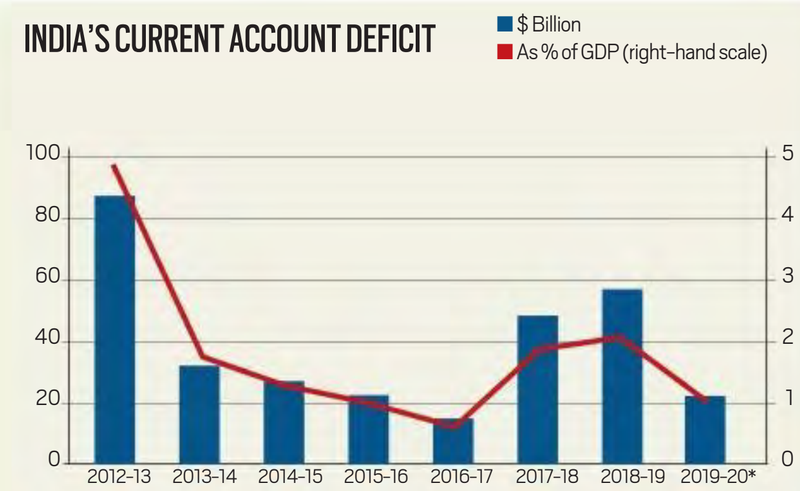


*Note: FPI flows are for calendar year and Sensex is as on December 31; *As on March 20.*
Source: Central Depository Services (India) Limited and BSE.

FPIS OUTFLOWS: $14.7 BILLION IN MARCH ALONE

COVID-19's most immediate impact has been on the markets, with foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) turning risk-averse and exiting emerging economies. Since the start of 2019, they have sold $13.28 billion worth of Indian equities and debts. Such outflows — $14.7 billion in March alone, after net inflows in the first two months — were last seen in 2008, when the figure was $ 9.34 billion for the entire calendar year. The dumping of stocks by FPIs has led to the BSE Sensex falling 27.5% this year — again the most since the 52.4% in the whole of 2008. Sell-off is taking place in bonds, too. Since March 9, yields on 10-year government security, the safest Indian debt instrument, have risen from 6.07% to 6.26%, even crossing 6.4% on Thursday. Investors' flight to safety could also affect venture capital and private equity funding of start-ups. The likes of OYO, Ola, Byju's and Zomato raised an estimated $ 10 billion in 2019. That may not be easy now.

INDIA'S CURRENT ACCOUNT DEFICIT



*Note: *Apr-Dec 2019; Rest is for Apr-Mar financial year.*
Source: Reserve Bank of India.

RUPEE HOLDS STEADY

In 2013, the rupee plunged roughly 18.8% against the dollar in just over three months between May 22 and August 28. This came in the aftermath of the US Federal Reserve announcing a winding down ("tapering") of its $70-billion-a-month bond buying ("quantitative easing") programme. India was then running a record current account deficit (CAD) in its external balance of payments account. The Fed's move naturally sparked capital outflows and a run on the rupee. That threat, of speculators "shorting" the rupee is remote this time around. The reason: The CAD is far lower than its 2012-13 high of $88.16 billion and also the country's foreign exchange reserves, at $ 481.89 billion as on March 13, can comfortably finance 12 months of imports. The CAD is likely to fall further with the crash in international oil prices. Since February 27, the rupee has dipped by 4.8% — from Rs 71.56 to Rs 75.20 to the dollar — which isn't really much.

GOVERNMENT DEFICITS (% OF GDP)

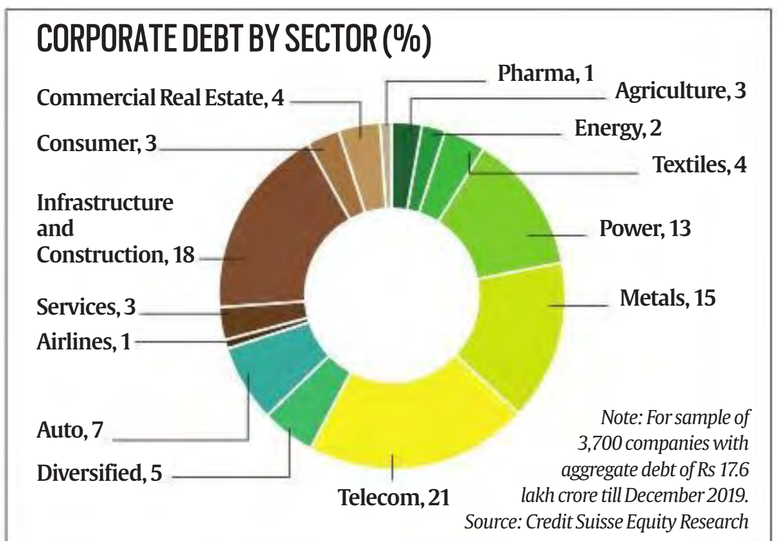
	2007-08	2008-09	2018-19
CENTRE			
Revenue Deficit	1.1	4.6	2.4
Fiscal Deficit	2.7	6.1	3.4
STATES			
Revenue Deficit	-0.9	0.5	0.1*
Fiscal Deficit	1.5	2.9	2.4*

*Note: *Provisional Actuals*
Source: Reserve Bank of India

GIVEN DISTRESS, NO ROOM FOR STIMULUS

In 2008, the UPA government responded to the Great Recession with a massive stimulus package. It could do so because the Centre's fiscal deficit was only 2.7% of GDP in 2007-08. The finances of states were even better — they, in fact, ran a combined revenue surplus. As both the Centre and states opened the fiscal spigots, the economy strongly rebounded. Given the distress situation across sectors today, the economic as well as moral case for a stimulus — say, a Rs 10,000 cash transfer to every poor and lower middle class household bearing the brunt of dislocation from coronavirus – is probably even stronger. But unfortunately, there is little headroom for either the Centre or the states to spend their way out of the crisis. Not only are their deficits beyond or close to the targets set under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Acts, doubts are also being raised on the credibility of the published numbers. Taking the call for stimulus couldn't be tougher.

CORPORATE DEBT BY SECTOR (%)

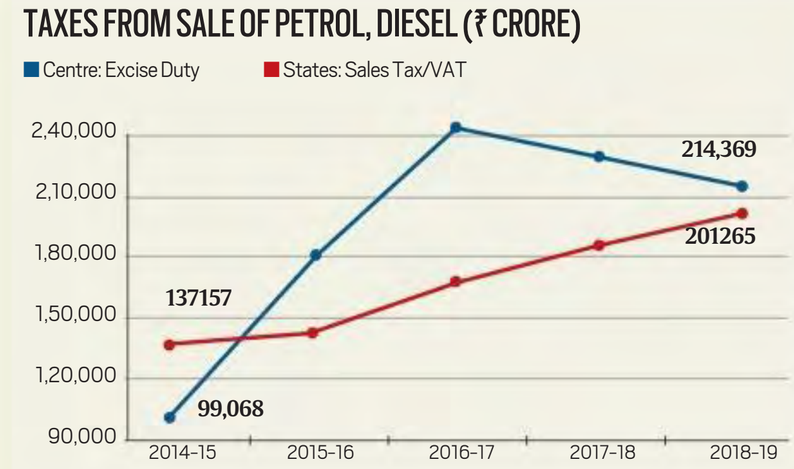


Note: For sample of 3,700 companies with aggregate debt of Rs 17.6 lakh crore till December 2019.
Source: Credit Suisse Equity Research

INDIA INC. NEW WAVE OF DEFAULTS FEARED

The last decade was a turbulent period for India Inc, with many a corporate landing neck deep in debt or even going belly-up. Worse, their woes haven't ended with the dawn of the new decade. According to the investment banker Credit Suisse, the total debt of 3,700 listed non-financial companies stood at Rs 17.6 lakh crore as on December 31, 2019. Of the aggregate amount, 43% was with companies whose profits weren't enough to pay interest. Till 2011-12, this share was less than 30%. Further, more than half of the Rs 17.6 lakh crore debts were of telecom, power and other infrastructure sector firms. There are many companies whose promoters have pledged over 75% of their shares to avail loans. The bloodbath in markets, especially with the spread of COVID-19, could herald a new wave of defaults and the liabilities side of corporate balance sheets turning into non-performing assets of banks.

TAXES FROM SALE OF PETROL, DIESEL (₹ CRORE)

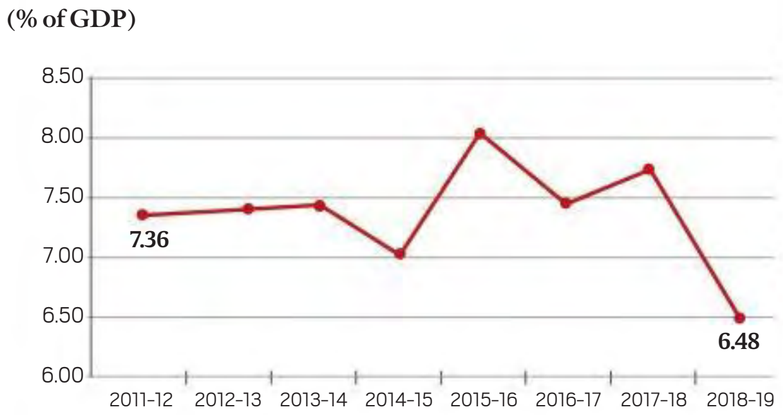


Source: Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell

CRUDE CRASH: AN UNEXPECTED BONANZA

When the last global crude crash happened — the average cost of oil imported by Indian refiners slid from $105.52 per barrel in 2013-14 to $46.17 in 2015-16 – the Modi government sharply raised the excise duty on diesel and petrol from Rs 3.56 and Rs 9.48 to Rs 17.33 and Rs 21.48 per litre, respectively, between June 2014 and February 2016. A similar opportunity has arisen, with Brent crude prices more than halving from $66 to below $28 a barrel since the start of 2020. On March 14, the excise duty was further hiked to Rs 18.83 per litre on diesel and Rs 22.98 for petrol. India consumes around 10 crore kilo-litres of diesel and 3.8 crore kilo-litres of petrol annually. Every Re 1 per litre increase in excise or value added tax thus generates Rs 13,800 crore of additional revenues. Neither the Centre nor states are going to miss out on this renewed windfall to fix their battered finances.

NET FINANCIAL SAVINGS OF HOUSEHOLDS
(% of GDP)

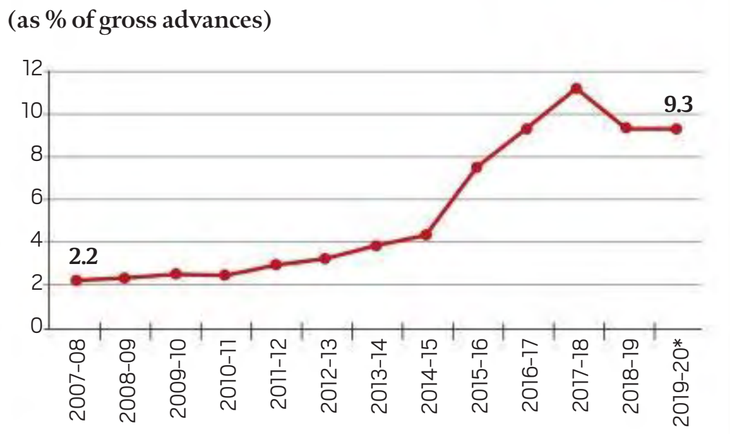


Source: National Statistical Office

HOUSEHOLDS SAVING LESS, BORROWING MORE

It's not just governments, but also households that are relatively broke. One indicator is their annual gross financial savings, which fell from Rs 20.61 lakh crore in 2017-18 to Rs 19.96 lakh crore in 2018-19. But more striking is the growth in financial liabilities that include loans taken from banks and non-banking financial companies; these have almost doubled from Rs 3.85 lakh crore to Rs 7.66 lakh crore between 2015-16 and 2018-19. As a result, the financial savings of households, net of liabilities, have dropped to below 6.5% of GDP, the lowest for this decade. Households are saving less, as their incomes aren't growing enough and they are simultaneously borrowing more. Reduced savings and rising indebtedness may deter consumption and investment by households, even after the crisis ends. The "negative wealth effect", from the collapse in the value of their stock, mutual fund or even real estate investments, can further impair consumer confidence.

GROSS NPAs OF SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL BANKS
(as % of gross advances)



*Note: *As on September 2019* *Source: Reserve Bank of India*

BANKS IN POOR HEALTH, NPAs RISING

The markets have tanked by around 21.9% so far this month, but the slide has been even more — at 30.3% — for bank stocks. Not surprising, given the precarious state of India's banking system. In 2007-08, gross NPAs of scheduled commercial banks accounted for hardly 2.2% of their total advances. That ratio is currently 9.3%. While down from the 11.2% level of 2017-18, the problem is the bad loans of NBFCs. The gross NPA ratio of these "shadow banks" has grown from 5.3% in March 2018 to 6.3% in September 2019. The banking sector is ill-equipped to finance an economic recovery now. Unlike in the period leading to the 2008 crisis, the country's organised lenders were already dealing with the aftermath of the collapse of IL&FS, Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative Bank and Yes Bank before COVID-19 entered the scene. The outbreak may create new NPAs and necessitate a fresh round of bank bailouts.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH

YEAR	Rs CRORE	PER CAPITA (Rs)	AS % OF GDP
2009-10	72,536	621	1.12
2010-11	83,101	701	1.07
2011-12	96,221	802	1.1
2012-13	1,08,236	890	1.09
2013-14	1,12,270	913	1.00
2014-15	1,21,600	973	0.98
2015-16	1,40,055	1,112	1.02
2016-17	1,78,876	1,397	1.17
2017-18	2,13,720	1,657	1.28

Note: 2016-17: Revised Estimates; 2017-18: Budget Estimates
Source: National Health Profile 2019.

COVID-19 WILL FORCE FOCUS ON HEALTH

One positive effect of the COVID-19 pandemic is that it will force greater attention on public health. Currently, total government expenditure on health is just about 1% of GDP, much below the 4% in education. Funding for the latter has been bolstered through a dedicated 3% cess on personal, corporate income tax since 2004-05. From 2018-19, this levy has gone up to 4%, while being renamed as health and education cess. Like in education, a bulk of the public health spending (69%) is undertaken by states. Of the 7.4 lakh-odd beds in public hospitals, not even a lakh are with AIIMS and other Central institutions like the Ministry of Defence, Railways, Employees' State Insurance Corporation and Directorate General of Health Services. The nearly 31,500 primary/community health centres and 1.6 lakh sub-centres in rural India are also entirely maintained by states. Enhancing both funding and delivery of public health services is ultimately about strengthening state capacity.

epaper.indianexpress.com

Deep-cleaning a train

(Clockwise from left) Around 3.30 pm on Wednesday, the Delhi-Jammu Rajdhani Express gets a wash at New Delhi Railway Station; with only four hours to departure, around 20 men and women have been pressed into service; each train now undergoes a water bath after its every run; about 1,500 litres of water is used to wash a coach from outside and 300 litres more for the interiors

INTERVIEW

'We want to be overcautious so that everyone remains safe'

Rajesh Dutt Bajpai, spokesman, Railway Ministry; member, Rapid Response Team of Railway Board

What is the reason behind cancellation of such large number of trains on Sunday?

Demand for train travel will be vastly reduced during the Janata Curfew because people will not be getting out of their houses to travel. That is why we have decided to reduce the frequency of trains. The idea is to discourage contact between passengers...

There have been instances of potentially infected people travelling on trains...

We, in collaboration with health officials, have been following the guidelines laid down in such cases. We try our best to detect them, say, if someone is found with home quarantine stamped on them etc. We are following directions given to us by health authorities in such cases... We appeal to people not to travel on trains if they are advised home quarantine or if they are among the 'suspects' or 'contacts' for coronavirus.

What is the system of accountability to ensure that COVID-19-related procedures are being followed?

We have formed a rapid response team in the ministry. There are nodal officers nominated in zonal as well as divisional levels to ensure this. They have been holding meetings, questioning people etc all the time, every day. You will appreciate that unlike airports, ours is a porous system, and the volumes are much higher. Despite that, owing to so many early steps that we have taken, we will be able to manage the situation.

Do you think your message to dissuade people from undertaking inessential travel is reaching all?

Yes... If we see the cancellation figures, and the occupancy of trains, which are low now, we have no reason to believe that people are not heeding to our advise. We have started information dissemination in a very big way at stations and on trains.

Are you looking to suspend non-core activities so you can function only with skeletal staff?

We will be ensuring everything which will lead to decongestion of any part of the society, be it railway stations or outside, be it passengers, employees, contractors, anyone within our system. We are not in panic... We want to be overcautious at this moment so that everyone remains safe.

WHAT IT TAKES TO DISINFECT A TRAIN COACH

DISINFECTANT:

50 ml
(usually 10 ml/coach. Now increased in view of COVID-19)

PVC floor cleaning agent:
50 ml

Toilet cleaning agent:
50 ml

Berth rexine cleaner:
50 ml

External surface:
90 ml

Total cleaning agents/chemicals per coach:
250 ml

PLUS,

800 ml
liquid soap for hand wash

1,500 litres
of water used to wash each coach from outside, 300 litres for interiors, including toilets

17 men
led by a supervisor take six hours to clean a train before it sets off from its home base

Amidst an unprecedented shutdown of trains today in response to the PM's call for Janata Curfew to check the spread of COVID-19, AVISHEK G DASTIDAR on what it takes to corona-proof the Indian Railways and its 54,000 coaches: about 16,000 litres of cleaning agents and a trainful of resolve

PHOTOGRAPHS: TASHI TOBGYAL

OUTSIDE THE red coach is an atypical smell — of soap and perfumed cleaning agents. Around 3.30 on a Wednesday afternoon, this and the other coaches of the Delhi-Jammu Rajdhani are getting an unhurried wash at the coach-washing lines at New Delhi railway station.

Around 20 men in masks, caps and gloves, and with brushes and jerry cans of chemicals and other cleaning agents, are doing what is by now a well-practised drill.

"It's not just about cleaning or removing tough stains. It's also about killing viruses and bacteria from each and every part. It has to be like a hospital's operation theatre," says one of the supervisors, dressed in a turquoise T-shirt and a fluorescent safety jacket. "Door handles are important... also the taps and the bathroom lock. It's a 15-20-minute job per coach," he says.

The train will leave for Jammu at 8.40 pm, some four hours from now. By the end of it, this Rajdhani would have got a wash lasting around six hours, certainly its most luxurious ever.

This is a new routine for the workers and the trains, but then, these are extraordinary times. With the country in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic — and with at least 14 of its passengers later testing positive for the virus till Saturday (March 21) — there are few certainties.

Every day, around 12,000 trains ferry 2.3 crore passengers across India. With every train journey an experience in communal living, from shared *dabbas* to shared toilets, 'social distancing' as a concept doesn't sit too well. Which is what puts trains on the front lines of the coronavirus outbreak.

> Curtains in some 12,000 AC coaches were removed. Blankets were taken out of service. The temperature of all AC coaches was increased so passengers didn't feel the need for blankets

But the Indian Railways isn't giving up. The national transporter has launched a string of measures to ensure that its trains don't end up intensifying the spread of the virus. From washing down every coach to encouraging people to travel only if they absolutely must, to even announcing an unprecedented shutdown of its network in response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for a Janata Curfew to check the spread of the virus.

■ ■ ■

On the morning of March 9, the Gatimaan Express from Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin railway station started as usual on its journey to Jhansi via Agra. The train was nearly full. Everything went on as usual: the attendants handed newspapers and water bottles to the passengers and, minutes into the journey, came the food trolleys.

But unknown to all, among the passengers was a woman from Bengaluru whose husband had tested positive for COVID-19. She had flown down from Bengaluru to Delhi that morning, before taking the train to her parents' home in Agra. A couple of days later, she too tested positive for coronavirus.

Soon, the phones began buzzing, all the way from the Railways to the health officials in Uttar Pradesh to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The coach the woman was in was taken out of service for thorough sanitisation. Details of all the passengers in that coach and on the train were dug out, and each of them was informed about possible exposure and where to contact if symptoms manifested.

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation or IRCTC, which manages onboard services on the train, alerted its private vendor to check for symptoms among its staff who were on duty that day. As an added precaution, the train supervisor was asked to stay home for a couple of days and monitor himself.

It wasn't over.

A couple of days later, on March 11, a 31-year-old, back from Italy, took the Bhubaneswar Rajdhani from the Capital and boarded an AC-III tier coach. By March 13, he became Odisha's first COVID-19 positive patient.

This time, too, the same protocol was set in motion. Both the incidents made officials in the Indian Railways realise just how easy it could be for someone to hide their exposure to COVID-19, board a train, and be a potential risk to hundreds of others entering its premises. The global pandemic had reached the doorsteps of the Indian Railways without giving it any lead time.

So the system wised up.

With no Standard Operating Procedure to fall back on, the Railway Board, in consultation with the Union Health Ministry, started formulating a plan.

Curtains in some 12,000 AC coaches were removed. Blankets, which are typically washed every two months, were taken out of service. The temperature of all AC coaches was increased so passengers didn't feel the need for blankets. The idea was to take away vehicles of potential contamination to the extent possible.

Instructions were also issued to wash and disinfect coaches more than usual. Employees with mass contact jobs — ticket examiners, catering workers, reservation clerks, onboard housekeeping staff etc — were given instructions on wearing masks and sanitising themselves.

"We formulated a protocol so that every division has a set-procedure of sanitisation to follow in this special situation," said Arun Arora, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer of Northern Railway.

Railways identified frequent contact surfaces on trains — door handles, seats, windows and suchlike, apart from the usual places like toilets and wash basins — and targeted those for frequent sanitisation even during the journey.

Handrails, railings, seats in waiting rooms and circulating areas in stations were targeted separately.

According to the earlier protocol, trains would be washed with water only after they returned to the base station following a to-and-fro run. But now, each train undergoes a water bath after its every run, along with a round of sanitisation with disinfection as prescribed by the Health Ministry and the Health Department of the Railways.

■ ■ ■

But how do you sanitise a network as vast as the Indian Railways? Turns out, it's easier said than done.

The Railways has some 60,000 coaches of various kinds in circulation, around 6,000 of which are away for maintenance at any given time.

A one-time cleaning of the remaining 54,000 active coaches would require about 16,000 litres of cleaning agents, including almost 3,000 litres of disinfectants for sanitisation.

Under the Railways' revised cleaning plan, 50 ml of disinfectant is used in each coach (the quantity of which has been increased five times in view of the outbreak), 50 ml each of floor cleaning agents, toilet cleaning agents and berth rexine cleaner, 90 ml of a chemical for external surfaces and 800 ml of liquid soap for hand wash. In all, each coach uses up about 290 ml of cleaning agent/chemicals.

Besides, 1,500 litres of water is used to wash the coach from outside and 300 litres more for the interiors. In the few automatic coach washing plants that the Indian Railways has, the train gets a decent wash with an economical 600 litres.

Led by a supervisor, 17 men have six hours to turn a train, say, a Rajdhani, spick and span before it sets off from its home base.

Officials insist the cleaning routine is the same for all trains and that they now ensure no coach runs out of water and liquid soap, however long the journey.

Onboard 1,100 pairs of its trains, the Railways currently has housekeeping staff, who travel on the train and are supposed to carry out continuous cleaning and sanitisation. "You are now not likely to find a long-distance train, with a 14-15-hour journey time, that doesn't have onboard cleaning staff. There is supposed to be one cleaner for every three coaches," says a senior Railway official.

Then there are the stations.

Here, the contact pattern is haphazard and, unlike inside trains, unpredictable. Taking no chances, instructions have been issued to map out stations and identify each and every spot for cleaning.

At New Delhi railway station, for instance, which usually sees a footfall of five lakh a day, a team of 410 cleaners work in multiple shifts to sanitise the station area.

"Every four hours, the surfaces are cleaned. They include the lifts, its buttons, the escalators, the railing of the stairs and the like. The offices are cleaned, so are the benches, the waiting areas etc," says Pankaj Kumar, the Railways' Chief Health Inspector in New Delhi.

He says that in New Delhi alone, some 8 lifts and 10 escalators, apart from the offices and circulating areas, need to be fumigated and cleaned several times a day.

The catering staff have been asked to strictly adhere to guidelines issued by the Health Ministry and not deploy any staff with symptoms of flu. The Railways serves around 12 lakh meals a day.

In the initial days of the outbreak, the Railway Board had gauged that the system of thermal scanning in a huge system such as this would be impractical. But as days passed, it realised that there was no other way.

All the 68 Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) were asked to purchase the thermal scanners using their existing powers of procurement in emergency situations.

On the Mumbai suburban network, desks have been set up at some of the busiest railway stations such as Churchgate and Bandra, where people can volunteer for thermal scanning.

The Thiruvananthapuram division of Southern Railway has taken the checks a step further. In collaboration with the state health department, railway personnel have been scanning passengers on board trains entering the state from Tamil Nadu.

> As per the earlier protocol, trains would be washed with water only after returning to the base station following a to-and-fro run. But now, each train undergoes a water bath after its every run

"Officials typically board the train at a station, scan the passengers and get off at the next station. So far, there have been no positive cases but then how else do we track people who have symptoms but don't disclose to us," says S K Sinha, DRM, Thiruvananthapuram.

With the idea being to discourage non-essential travel, so far, the Railways has cancelled over 300 low-occupancy trains, translating to a notional financial loss of over Rs 400 crore. All luxury tourist trains have been cancelled too, leading to a loss of around Rs 25 crore.

The Railways is also advising people to travel only in case of emergencies. Official advisories to that effect are being sent out and SMS alerts carrying this message will soon be sent to those who book tickets.

There have been other measures as well — increasing prices of platform tickets to avoid overcrowding and withdrawal of concessions to senior citizens and others.

■ ■ ■

For the Indian Railways, keeping itself clean is just half the job done. For a system that runs 24x7 and, with its open platforms, is as porous as a sieve, it's proving a multi-front battle.

Over two days this week, Railway authorities in Mumbai intercepted 23 cases of people with the Maharashtra government's "home quarantine" stamps on their hands. These were people suspected to be carriers of coronavirus and who had been advised to stay at home, but were found on trains in violation of quarantine rules.

"After every such case (of people with the hand-stamps found travelling), we fumigated those coaches. With each case we are learning new things and learning fast," says G V L Satya Kumar, Divisional Railway Manager of Mumbai Central.

These cases have forced the railway divisions to rely heavily on the presence of *khaki* on the premises.

All leaves of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) have been cancelled, leading to the entire 65,000-strong force to be on the ground. The RPF is enforcing crowd control and some sense of social distancing in queues.

"It's all hands on the deck for us. Recently, we were informed that a person who had tested positive for the virus had travelled on a train from Bengaluru to Assam. We traced that person and handed him over to the health authorities," said RPF Director General Arun Kumar. "The whole effort is to ensure that in these times, Railways as a mass transport is not misused."

What makes it difficult is when one of their own flouts rules.

Recently, an Assistant Personnel Officer in Bengaluru had put up her son — who had returned from Germany via Spain with COVID-19 symptoms on March 13 — in the Railway Officers' rest house there without informing anyone. While the officer has been placed under suspension, the rest house where her son stayed has been fumigated, disinfected and everyone who came in contact with the officer or were at the rest house were meticulously traced.

"It was a nightmare," says an official in Bengaluru, while recalling the efforts at contact tracing and sanitisation.

In this multi-front war against the virus, the chain is only as strong as the weakest link. Railway officials insist that with every case, the organisation is improvising, reassessing and learning. And every train ride a new journey.

EXPLAINED

A tough journey

FOR A rail system that is among the densest in the world, the coronavirus pandemic is a new challenge. While the Indian Railways has summoned all its resources to check the spread of the virus, ultimately, the scale of the network — every day, around 12,000 trains ferry 2.3 crore passengers across the country — makes the battle that much harder. While trains will be suspended for much of Sunday, March 22, in response to the PM's call for a Janata Curfew, India's national transporter can't stay shut for long.

epaper.indianexpress.com

Taking a stroll through a city

While walking across the city streets in such times may well be fraught with danger, experts are of the opinion that if one is not within about six feet of somebody, one is not taking much risk, and it will also help us "save our own sanity"

IN A bygone era — last week, in other words — the best way to cut through New York City stress was, for many, a stroll to the nearest restaurant, bar or maybe (for the virtuous or vain) the gym.

Not anymore. With Mayor Bill de Blasio's closure of the city's restaurants (except for takeout), bars and gyms along with schools, movie theatres and any other place where people congregate, the stroll, it seems, is all that's left.

But that is hardly nothing. Both transportation and meditation, the leisurely New York walk, long celebrated in literature, has come to symbolise not only a crucial thread in the city's social fabric, as we migrate our social and, in many cases, work lives online, but a thread to sanity itself.

"When you walk, you're utterly in touch with the drama of the city," said the writer Vivian Gornick, whose 1987 memoir, *Fierce Attachments*, reissued last year, focused on long, illuminating strolls through the city with her mother. "You're constantly overhearing conversations, and catching all kinds of snatches of people in odd expressions and conditions. No small city in the world can duplicate that experience."

"When you're out on the street," she added, "it's a continuous stream of momentary connection, and that has its own life, its own particular vividness, and it's irreplaceable."

The same can be said of cycling or jogging, although those activities tend to be more focused and goal-oriented. But whatever your preferred means of locomotion, local governments are attuned to the social and psychological benefits of head-clearing, heart-stimulating jaunts, even in the age of self-quarantines and social distancing.

On Monday, seven counties around Silicon Valley announced a shelter-at-home order that would take effect on Tuesday. San Francisco's mayor, London N Breed, issued an order for city residents to stay at home except for "essential needs", such as medicine or food, but made an exemption for "engaging in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking, or running provided that you maintain at least six feet of social distancing".

In Milan, where life in the coronavirus "red zone" amounts to virtual house arrest, residents are still free, if not encouraged, to enjoy a walk or jog "for the sake of outdoor physical activity," as *The Washington Post* reported, as long as social distances are respected.

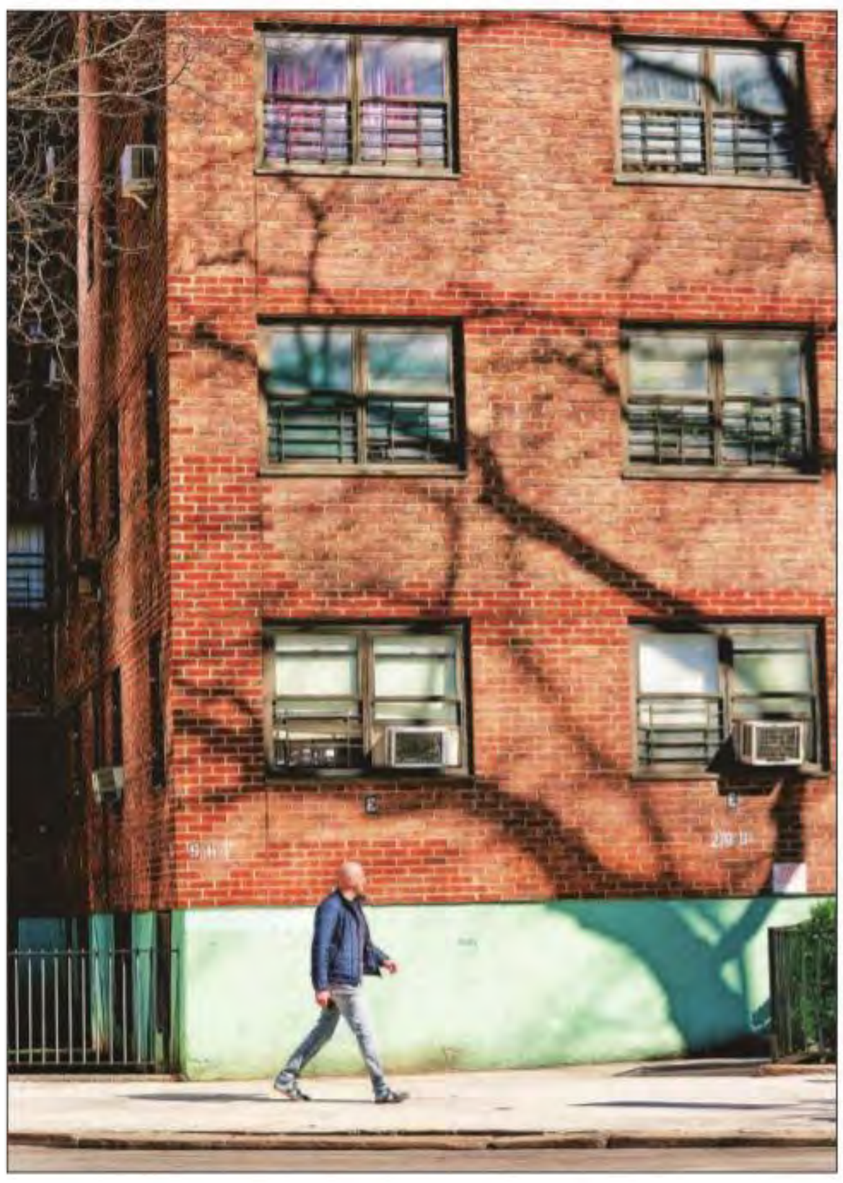
In New York, too, the mayor is weighing a shelter-in-place order, and it is uncertain how much exercise might be allowed under the plan.

For now, however, New Yorkers are still relying on walks through the city as a form of mental cleansing.

Another writer, Erin Khar, who recently published an addiction memoir called *Strung Out: One Last Hit and Other Lies That Nearly Killed Me*, said that long meanderings through her increasingly empty neighbourhood, Greenwich Village, or along Hudson River Park, may now come with plastic gloves and a pack of sanitising wipes, but they seem crucial now that she has stopped taking the subway and hanging out with friends.

"As someone who struggled with years of depression, anxiety, and addiction, I am well acquainted with the feeling of needing to escape, wanting to jump out of my skin," she wrote in an email. "When I feel that way, going for a long walk alleviates the pressure."

Khar is experiencing panic attacks like she hasn't in many years, she said. "I need these walks more than ever. They help significantly, by getting me out of my head and boosting the release of much-needed neurotransmitters."



With disruption in normal life following spurt in COVID-19 cases, New Yorkers are now relying on walks through the city as a form of mental cleansing. *NYT*

Khar, 46, is hardly the first writer to discover the medicinal value of a New York walk.

Authors such as Walt Whitman, Hart Crane and Alfred Kazin have long celebrated walks in New York as a tonic against despair or anxiety, said Stephen Miller, the author of the 2014 book, *Walking New York: Reflections of American Writers From Walt Whitman to Teju Cole*.

As Whitman wrote in his 1882 collection, *Specimen Days and Collect*, a walk in New York, with its "daily contact and rapport with its myriad people," was "the best, most effective medicine my soul has yet partaken."

In the current state of anxiety, even short walks make a giant difference.

On the evening of March 13, as tension in the city began to crest, Taylor Davies, a 34-year-old copywriter who lives in the East Village, took a stroll from her apartment on Second Avenue through Alphabet City to the east.

"It was kind of incredible how quickly my mood rebounded from a sort of directionless despair — working from home and checking social media constantly — to somewhat hopeful and calm once I'd gone a few blocks," Davies wrote in an email. "The cherry trees in Tompkins Square Park were in bloom, and brick buildings were bathed in glowy orange light. The more I walked, the better I felt."

"Just putting one foot in front of the other a few thousand times has proved to be kind of a great reminder to take things as they come right now, day by day," she added.

Granted, lazy urban strolls are newly fraught in the current climate. You are less Baudelaire's famous, sauntering flâneur than a cautious creature ready to swerve.

Social distancing, as we all should be aware of by now, means "maintaining distance (approximately 6 feet or 2 meters) from others when possible," according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Even in times of pandemic, that is easier said than done on Broadway at 5 pm on a Monday.

People looking to get out of the house for a jaunt should at least take extra steps to maintain their personal space cushion, said Carolyn C Cannuscio, a social epidemiologist at the Center for Public Health Initiatives at the University of Pennsylvania.

"We're trying to avoid face-to-face contact with other people, so all of our decisions should be made with that in mind," Cannuscio said. "I would suggest that people walk at times that streets are less busy, walk-in locations where there are fewer people and there's an opportunity to spread out, and don't stop and talk with all your neighbours."

Before each stroll, she said, "scout it out. Peek out the window and see if there are lots of people on the street. If there are, then wait until later. For people who need to pick up their medication at the pharmacy, or need to get food, if you get to the store and it's crowded, turn around and go home, then go back later."

Attempts to preserve a six-foot safety radius might seem comical if they weren't so deadly serious.

Even in brownstone-lined streets of Brooklyn, where sidewalks are relatively light in traffic, close-quarter encounters on the city sidewalks seem — for now, at least — inevitable. On an afternoon stroll to the market, you find yourself suddenly face to face with a stranger who suddenly turns the corner, quickening your pulse in a way little known since the mugging heyday of the 1970s and '80s. Crossing a crosswalk, say, west, you find yourself triangulated on the corner by one person walking north and another walking east.

Even on the wider sidewalks of the borough's main arteries, any attempt to avoid a near-brush with pedestrians passing the other way would require serpentine-style evasive manoeuvres typically associated with soldiers dodging gunfire on the battlefield.

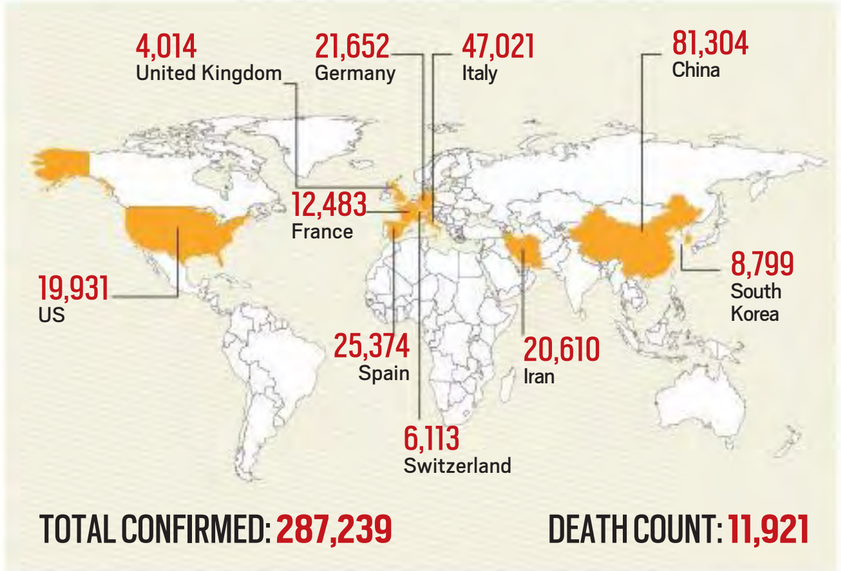
But as caution increasingly trumps carefree meandering, even public health officials who specialise in risk assessment recognise the need to blow off steam for those confined between apartment walls.

"If you're not within about six feet of somebody, in almost every case you're not taking much risk," said Crystal Watson, a senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. "So I think people should get out in the sunshine. Taking your dog out for a walk, or going to a park and keeping your distance, is safe and necessary."

"It's probably going to be a beautiful spring," she added, "and we do need to save our own sanity."

NYT

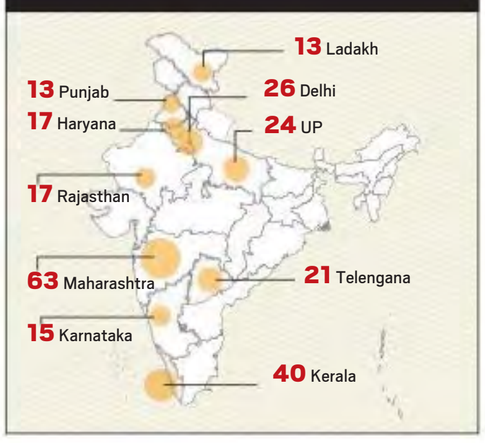
CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



Source: Johns Hopkins University; map updated at 9.13 pm, March 21

INDIA COUNT: 283 (4 DEATHS)

TOP 10 STATES



REST OF INDIA	
Andhra Pradesh	3
Chhattisgarh	1
Gujarat	7
Himachal Pradesh	2
Madhya Pradesh	4
Odisha	2
Puducherry	1
Tamil Nadu	3
Chandigarh	1
J & K	4
Uttarakhand	3
West Bengal	3

Map based on Union Health Ministry update at 4.45 pm, March 21. 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

DIET DIARY

Power your gut, keep diet alkaline to fight virus

Butyrate, which is needed by the body to fight viruses, is commonly found in butter and *desi ghee*

BY ISHI KHOSLA

SOME SIMPLE common sense can help guard against coronavirus. While a healthy diet is important, addressing digestion and gut health — the ground zero of immune defence — is critical. Our immunity is the special force that protects us from diseases and almost two-thirds of it resides in the gut. To fight any virus, one needs to provide the macrophages (defence cells) of our body with energy through 'butyrate'. Found in traditional fats such as butter and *desi ghee*, butyrate helps rebuild the inside lining of the gut.

To strength our body's defence forces, we can also follow some other simple measures.

■ Eat a wide variety of foods, including root vegetables. Certain fibres present in psyllium husk, sweet potato and other tubers act as pre-biotics, promoting growth of good bacteria in the gut. A diverse range of colourful fruits and vegetables provide disease-fighting phytonutrients to the body. Fermented foods such as *kanji*, *kefir*, *kombucha*, and *chhach* also provide a medium for growth of good bacteria in the gut.

■ Consume high-quality pro-biotics. Oil pulling, a traditional practice with virgin coconut oil or cold-pressed mustard oil, helps improve gut flora naturally.

■ Focus on boosting your body's Vitamin C, D, B-complex, and zinc levels. Some preliminary research indicates that Vitamin D may be more effective than flu vaccine in flu prevention. Use supplements only after consulting a qualified professional.

■ Stick to an alkaline diet. Coronavirus survives comfortably at a pH level of 6.0, which is slightly acidic. However, some research suggests that the virus cannot survive in an alkaline state, even as low as 8.0 (A pH of 7.0 is considered neutral). To make your diet alkaline include plenty of fresh fruits, coconut water and vegetables. Avoid excess dairy, meats and sugar.

■ Include fresh garlic, organic honey, black pepper, ginger, basil (*tulsi*), cinnamon, cloves, turmeric, gilloy, fenugreek seeds and *amla* in your diet.

■ Drink plenty of fluids, including water and warm soups, to prevent dehydration.

■ Avoid excess sugar, caffeine, processed foods, GMO foods, and chemical additives, excessive alcohol and smoking.

■ Avoid excessive exercise, it can damage gut integrity. Moderate exercise, yoga and meditation are useful adjuncts to a healthy diet.

Author is a clinical nutritionist and founder of www.theweightmonitor.com and Whole Foods India

Love in the time of corona

The question to ask is not "what if" the virus strikes, but "so what". The damage will be irretrievable but maybe it will leave us stronger, wiser and more grateful for what we have

IMAGINE

BY SHELJA SEN

THE LAST couple of weeks have made many of us reflect on life and death in a way that we might not have done so far. The thought of our mortality has an uncanny knack of shaking down all the inessential, the faff and making us realise what truly matters at the end of it all. After meeting and speaking with many families and listening to their fascinating stories from across the world, I winnowed down to what keeps people going against all odds.

Joy: It seems a little odd to talk about joy when we are surrounded by so much fear and dread. Fear will convince us that something vile is around the corner, where we have to keep an eye 24x7 on the latest updates and scan every scary WhatsApp that is forwarded to us. It tells us stories of doomsday as we chase down stories of obsessive paranoia on social media through the day and have troubled nightmares of the world coming to an end at night. This dread has a knack of spreading its toxic fingers into all things that mean so much to us — our relationships, our work, our health. And yes, I am talking about the fear doing this to you, not the coronavirus.

Through my co-research with children, we have developed a handy vaccine for this fear that works well for all ages – and it's as simple as ABC. 'A'lert to the gremlins of worry that start churning away, 'b'reathe out (imagine you are a dragon blowing a feather on your hand) and 'c'hange the channel (from worry to joy channel). Tune into moments of humour and playfulness — laugh, sing, be silly.

As jazz singer Nat King Cole put it, "There may be trouble ahead, but while there's moonlight and music and love and romance, let's face the music and dance."

Simplicity: "Earn more, want more and spend more" is slowly becoming the mantra of our urban society, riding high on the wave of easy affluence. Mall culture and credit card companies have convinced us that happiness is there at the click of our finger, and we have let ourselves be lulled by this fake propaganda.

Maybe the inevitable exponential rise of coronavirus cases, with social distancing and stay-at-home approach, is a timely reminder for us to re-prioritise our life where a counter-culture of stoicism and "less is more" could help us reconnect with what truly matters to us.

The families that I have met in the past have talked about how they are doing things they had forgotten brought them so much joy — goofing around with their children without any agenda, spending time in nature, staying away from gadgets and social media, writing, gardening, cooking, just sitting and doing nothing. And remember, it's also okay for children to be bored. Stillness and solitude are essential to their growth and it is a milestone they have to cross to reach a rich inner life of contemplation and creativity. Maybe this is the unseen benefit of a global disaster.

Courage: The question right now is not "what if" but "so what"? "What if" leads us down the road of fear, dread, paranoia and disconnect from all the things that bring meaning to our life. The question of "so what" makes us stand tall and take a very different vantage point towards life. So what if somebody we love gets the virus, so what if we have to be quarantined, so what if this virus brings the economy of our country to its knees? The damage will be irretrievable but maybe it will leave us feeling stronger, wiser and more grateful for what we have rather than what we do not. Maybe we will be able to stand up to the normative judgments of society and align our lives to what we truly value.

Illustration: Suvajit Dey

We have had our share of natural and unnatural calamities but our generation till now has not faced crushing wars, devastating famines or pandemics that have scarred our ancestors. It is really amusing, if not painful, to think that we had the hubris to believe that with all our advanced technology and scientific breakthroughs, we were somehow invincible.

Appreciation: In the past few weeks has it struck you how privileged we are and how much we take for granted? The disposable incomes, getting our kids the best education, access to quality healthcare, eating out, planning interesting holidays. Now that it is being taken away from us (even though temporarily), it makes us realise how much easier our lives have become and, even then, we have complained about things not being good enough, as somebody always has it better.

So let's pause and appreciate tiny things that we can be grateful for — the glorious weather or just the fact that we still have people we love alive and close to us. As a wise father commented, "It's a nudge at a crucial juncture in our lives. It's a reminder of our True North."

Love: 'All you need is love' is an anthem that the Beatles gave to our generation and the ones to follow. We need love, spades of it, in the weeks and months to follow as we struggle and rebuild our lives in the face of "The Full Catastrophe (*Zorba The Greek*)".

In many ways, in our country, coronavirus is striking the more privileged sections — the ones who have travelled and brought it back home. But at times like this, our privilege and prejudice do start showing while talking about marginalised people, "I do not let my kids go close to them."

Social distancing cannot become about stigmatising and humiliating people who are the most vulnerable. It is at times like this that we can turn against each other as stress levels rise. As the saying goes, be kind as each person is fighting a battle that we know nothing about. We do not know how we would act if we were in their shoes. What we need is a sense of solidarity as we are all in this together. So, every morning, before starting our day, let's be mindful of our True North and commit to bringing the best of ourselves to the world. Maybe that will be the most effective and powerful inoculation against the rising "us against them" hatred. We might not have the vaccine, but we definitely can build our village to save ourselves.

Dr Shelja Sen is therapist, writer and co-founder of Children First, a child & adolescent mental health institute write to shelja.sen@childrenfirstindia.com

Across THE AISLE

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Fighting COVID-19 and beyond

There is not yet an estimate of the money that will be required. The Central government's total expenditure in 2020-21, as per the Budget, will be Rs 30,42,230 crore. All state governments together will spend about Rs 40-45 lakh crore. Given that scale of expenditure, it is possible to find, say, Rs 5,00,000 crore towards mitigating COVID-19 over the next 6 months. This is a moral and economic imperative and we must find the money and spend it

WHEN YOU read this on Sunday, it will be clear if India is ahead or behind the curve in the battle against coronavirus (COVID-19).

The government has been busy with video conferences; repatriating Indians from affected countries; and issuing advisories on hand washing, covering one's nose and mouth, and wearing masks. On March 19, the Prime Minister made an appeal to the people. All these were necessary, but were they sufficient?

I have carefully followed one number: the number of people who tested positive for COVID-19 as reported by the government. It was two on Sunday, March 1; it jumped to 32 on March 8; and jumped sharply to 111 on March 15. As I write this on March 20, the number stands at 236. The number of people testing positive is rising at an alarming rate.

Why Hesitation?

There were — and are — enough warnings from the World Health Organization, the Indian Council of Medical Research and many epidemiologists. All the warnings pointed to one outcome and only one outcome — that the number of infected persons will increase dramatically if we did not take **tough, painful and unpopular** measures.

I am duty bound to support the PM and I shall do so. In effect, he has asked the people to fight the enemy with moral armaments. I am afraid that the virus is not like Clement Attlee imbued with high moral values. I am pretty certain the PM will be compelled to come back in a few days with tougher social and economic measures.

I plead for a temporary *lockdown* of all our towns and cities for two-four weeks.

The other equally important concern is COVID-19's fallout on the economy. The PM implied that the current economic slump was triggered by COVID-19; that is not true. The beginning of the decline of the growth rate of GDP predates COVID-19. The growth rate has slided in *seven successive quarters*. The data for January-March certainly does not predict an uptick. The common sense conclusion is that the quarter January-March 2020 will be just as bad as the previous quarter, if not worse.

Impending Crisis

It is therefore fair to assume that businesses will be affected. Big factories have laid off their workers on three or four days a week. Casual and temporary jobs have been axed; if not so far, they will be. Orders by big manufacturers on suppliers have been reduced. Smaller producers have suffered huge cash flow problems. Supplies of raw materials have been affected. Credit has dried up. All these are the natural consequences of an economy in a rapid decline. I had blamed the government for its failure to formulate policies and take the right measures to arrest the decline. That criticism remains valid. However, the government cannot be faulted for the outbreak of coronavirus.

Nonetheless, the government is responsible for managing the economic fallout due to coronavirus. Its first duty is to protect *employment* and *wages*. The government must quickly identify the sectors where jobs are in danger and take steps to ensure that the current levels of employment and wages are maintained. The measures should apply to all registered employers. Employers must be compensated through tax credits, interest deferment or outright grants.

At the next level is the informal sector — millions of jobs are accounted for by 'construction' and 'services' like transport, tourism, maintenance and repair, home delivery, etc. The government's support can be through lower interest rates, tax credits and enhanced purchases (e.g. more low income housing contracts).

Then, there is agriculture. Fortunately, farmers will continue to plough, sow, weed, irrigate, fertilise, and harvest. PM-KISAN's coverage is limited to landowning farmers (including absentee owners), but that is the place to begin. The amount transferred under PM-KISAN should be doubled to Rs 12,000 and the balance for 2019-20 should be disbursed immediately. Tenant farmers — records are available with state governments — should be brought under the scheme and given Rs 12,000 per family. Once landowning and tenant farmers are compensated, the bulk of the daily agricultural workers will be partially protected.

There are non-agricultural daily workers who are the most vulnerable among the working population. A register must be opened in every block and daily workers must be invited to register for a monthly allowance. The idea is there in NYAY in the Congress's manifesto. The allowance may be needed to be paid for three to six months, but that is a burden the country must bear willingly.

An Economic Imperative

All this will naturally require a humongous amount of money. The money can be found if the Central government and state governments

(i) ruthlessly eliminate wasteful expenditure; and

(ii) suspend temporarily all grandiose and long-gestation projects that generate little employment per Rs 1 crore.

The RBI should chip in and cut rates sharply. Financial stability is as much an objective of the RBI as containing inflation is.

There is not yet an estimate of the money that will be required. The Central government's total expenditure in 2020-21, as per the Budget, will be Rs 30,42,230 crore. All state governments together will spend about Rs 40-45 lakh crore. Given that scale of expenditure, it is possible to find, say, Rs 5,00,000 crore towards mitigating COVID-19 over the next 6 months. This is a moral and economic imperative and we must find the money and spend it.

Fifth COLUMN

TAVLEEN SINGH
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COVID-19 must be defeated

THIS WEEK I would have liked to write about the draconian methods being used by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh to crush dissent and public protests. Thirteen people have been ordered to pay the government compensation of more than Rs 1.55 crore. They face going to jail if they do not pay. If they did damage public property during protests against the citizenship law, then they should be punished, but in a country that believes in due process, their guilt must be established in a court of law. Not arbitrarily by a bunch of officials. This subject will have to wait for another week as the only thing that we need to worry about at the moment is whether our government is capable of handling this modern pandemic that spreads across the world like an ancient plague.

So far so good. The Prime Minister is leading from the front. Last week, he made one of his rare televised addresses to the nation urging us to take COVID-19 seriously. He asked that we spend today under curfew in our own homes. Technically, this is supposed to be a voluntary 'Janata Curfew', but in these times of anxiety and dread, few will venture out unless there is an emergency. Personally, I am not sure what the purpose of this curfew is, but I suppose it is to get us used to the idea of social distancing. How this can happen in the crowded slums of our cities is not clear, but there is no question that it is necessary. In the past week I have seen Mumbai come to almost a complete halt and a silent sort of panic take hold. As citizens, we have to do our bit, but there are some things that only the government can do.

The Prime Minister has announced the creation of an economic task force. This is good. But, will it take responsibility for compensating ordinary, desperately poor people who live off daily wages? Will it compensate those whose small, fragile businesses are likely to die before the virus does? Will the economic task force urge the government to cut spending on itself? Will ministers give up some of the privileges that we pay for in normal times, like vast homes and huge retinues of flunkeys? Will airlines, hotels and restaurants be compensated for the losses that already stare them in the face? Since there is an economic task force, these are tasks it must be made responsible for.

The Prime Minister has called a meeting of chief ministers. This is good because health care comes directly under them. But, will the Prime Minister order them to take urgent steps in public hospitals to meet basic international standards of hygiene? This does not require extra funds so much as political leadership and the sort of iron resolve the Prime Minister has shown in implementing the Swachh Bharat campaign. Our best government hospitals do not meet basic standards of hygiene. In our small towns and villages it is normal to see rats, cats and other stray animals wandering about in public wards. They have been known to maim newborn babies. In small town hospitals it is normal to see filthy toilets and compounds filled with dangerous medical waste. It is also normal to see doctors ignore the protocol that ensures that they wash their hands before moving from one patient to the next one.

Speaking of water leads immediately to asking that other vital question: what are we going to do about water? Clean water and soap have become necessary safeguards against this virus and yet this is not possible in a country in which clean water is such a luxury that 20 per cent of the world's population living without access to clean water are believed to be Indian. In rural India there are villages in which water is so scarce that it would be impossible for people to wash their hands many times a day. The Prime Minister has made water the most important mission of his second term and a special ministry has been created to ensure that every Indian has access to clean water before the next general election. But, so far this goal remains a distant dream. So that most basic tool to fight the virus remains unavailable to millions of Indians.

Then there is the problem of myths and bizarre beliefs. Last week, I saw pictures of a large group of men bathing in cow dung in the belief that this would keep the virus away. The Hindu Mahasabha, meanwhile, organised a party in which the only available beverage was cow's urine. And, there have been sundry other godmen promising equally bizarre medicines that they promise will prevent the virus from coming close. There is a limit to what the Prime Minister can do, but he can stop his ministers from propagating theories like sunshine being a cure.

In the six years that Narendra Modi has been prime minister he has never faced a test of his leadership more serious than this. There are no signs yet of the virus disappearing in the near future, so this is a chance for him to get together with chief ministers and use this crisis to urgently improve our abysmal health facilities. For once health care has become an important political issue. It could make or break a prime minister.

In caste fight, let's talk about Dalit women

Dalitality

GOGU SHYAMALA

DALIT FEMINISM means Dalit women fighting against the hegemonies of caste, class and masculinity — the political expression of the intertwining struggles of caste and gender. Dalit feminism hence is essential to democracy and equality.

To get a comprehensive picture of how caste, class and gender intertwine in Dalit women's perspective, it is important to look at their kin communities, which include Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.

There are multiple layers within these groups, with those Hinduised emulating the religion's caste practices such as untouchability. Within the Dalit kin community framework in Telugu-speaking regions of the country, for example, the Dakkali, Gosangi, Chindu and Baindla communities are the lowest in the caste ladder, as compared to the others.

We need to reorient the caste issue from the perspective of Dalit women. Women empowerment is a process of becoming rather than granting authority. However, woman empowerment is not just a factor of family and community alone. Education and dignity for the Dalit society need to be alongside empowerment, all of which are effectively blocked by the caste patriarchal system, which is constantly enslaving the family and community of the Dalit woman. That is why a Dalit woman cannot be empowered in the caste system.

However, a Dalit woman's struggles for even the basic necessities of life are not well-documented, and thus remain unavailable to her as well as the others. Hence, she is left with using the most basic information available, passed on to her by the elders of her family.

Besides, much of the inheritance passed on by Dalit elders is through the spoken rather than the written word. That is why readership-feminists who are obsessed with written records have overlooked Dalit feminist framing. The ones that are abundant in written records are seen through the Gandhian lens or class politics.

The Dalit community, for example, worships Mother Earth as a manifestation of a life without any hierarchy. No archives have attempted to decode these sacrosanct relations of Dalits with Mother Earth — not just in mythological sense but also through the lens of history, politics.

This is why the RSS has managed to take away the Mother Earth feminist goddess of Dalit community and misappropriated it for their nationalist cause by projecting her as the Bharat Mata.

Due to such practices of appropriation, Babasaheb Ambedkar's theory has not yet reached Dalit women. So, in the past and in the present, Dalit women continue to fight big battles for small needs.

Take for example, the practice of *jogini*. It is a centuries-old legitimised prostitution ritual in Hindu religion, leaving the *joginis* in revolt not just against sex slavery but also caste discrimination.

At the same time, Hinduism is modernising and changing via its relations with capitalism, producing a complex mixture. *Jogini*, for example, has connected to the modern market through prostitution, leaving them fighting diseases such as HIV.

It's time to see Dalit women as undeclared feminists. All this while feminism has left out the caste system and kept its focus limited to patriarchy. The struggle against the origins of caste patriarchy and untouchability must now be waged by every feminist, irrespective of her caste.

Dalit movements too have not bothered about patriarchal domination and confined their fight to a caste-based struggle. One cannot ignore that Dalit women are waging wars against the damning Brahminical caste patriarchy by bridging these two gaps, which feminist and Dalit movements have ignored for long.

The permanency of Dalits as struggling people has made them a sanctuary for struggling people alone. This has left many Dalits outside the framework of intellectual knowledge. Their struggle is being fought only on the street and not in the classroom. To understand Dalit life, newer, refined methodologies need to be invented, and educated Dalits need to reach out to non-Dalit frameworks.

Dr Gogu Shyamala, author of Father May Be an Elephant and Mother Only a Small Basket, but..., *is a Dalit writer and researcher*

Suraj Yengde, author of Caste Matters, *curates the fortnightly 'Dalitality' column*

History HEADLINE

RAJESH M PARIKH
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Plague, flu, pox: how diseases meet politics

VIRUSES ARE the most political of creatures. Machiavellian in their machinations and Maoist in their ability to retreat only to advance again, they can bring down empires faster than human revolutions. They are the true WMDs capable of regime change.

Europe

The bubonic plague of the 14th century caused by the bacterium *Yersinia pestis* changed the political order in Europe in a manner that no organised human effort could have accomplished. The tremors of that upheaval continue to be felt over 500 years later.

Prior to the pandemic, Britain was overpopulated with a high rate of unemployment. This created enormous wealth for the landowning class as labour was easily available and hence cheap. The plague killed over a third of the peasant population, increasing labour costs. The feudal classes drafted laws such as the Ordinance of Labourers in 1349. The ordinance ensured that the peasant class worked for the same wages that prevailed five or six years ago. Those demanding just wages were imprisoned, causing a major conflict between the political and social classes.

Prior to the plague, the Roman Church dominated governments. The Pope was more powerful than royalty. The plague led many Catholics to question their faith. Their priests had told them that the plague was a result of divine retribution. However, priests themselves were succumbing to the plague. This caused unprecedented loss of faith and rage against the Church. Thus, among the most important political effects of the plague were the weakening of the Church and of the State and a gradual severance of the mutually self-serving bond between them. This paved the way for the Protestant Reformation and the rise of nation-states independent of the Church's influence. This situation would have been unthinkable prior to the bubonic plague.

North and South America

The Americas remained free of measles and smallpox until the arrival of European colonists between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries. Smallpox was prevalent in Spain and the conquistadors carried the virus to the Americas. In 1519, an epidemic of smallpox broke out in the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan in Mexico, in the wake of its conquest by the Spanish army led by Hernan Cortés, which had with them an African slave suffering from smallpox. The epidemic, and those that followed, eventually killed more than half of the native population. With an army of fewer than 900, Cortés would never have conquered Mexico without the powerful smallpox virus.

At Times Square, New York. Could first effect of coronavirus be seen in US polls? *AP*

In the 150 years that followed Columbus's arrival in 1492, the Native American population of North America was reduced by 80 per cent by measles, smallpox and influenza. The intentional distribution of blankets infected by European patients to Native Americans further contributed to their rapid decline. The West was won using viruses for bioterrorism rather than the whitewashed Hollywood accounts of the bravery of cowboys.

The Spanish Flu changed the role of women forever as they entered the industrial workforce in large numbers to compensate for the loss of men in the pandemic. Women also began to assume leadership roles and became an economic force that demanded participation in decision making, leading to the right to vote in 1920.

With COVID-19 causing higher mortality rates in the elderly, will there be a progressive shift in US politics? Younger voters tend to be Left leaning. The elderly may not risk coming out to vote this November. How will that affect the US presidential election? President Trump has already been accused by several political commentators of being more worried about the effect of the pandemic on his electoral prospects than on the well-being of the nation.

India

In India, 18 million people died in the Spanish Flu pandemic, the greatest loss in absolute numbers of any country in the world. The uncaring British response fuelled resentment. Mohandas Gandhi himself contracted the flu in 1919. He wrote, "I could not at that time sufficiently raise my voice at meetings. The incapacity to address meetings standing still abides. My entire frame would shake, and heavy throbbing would start on an attempt to speak standing for any length of time."

In the Pale Rider: The Spanish Flu of 1918 and How it changed the World, British science writer Laura Spinney postulates that Gandhi's succumbing to the flu contributed to his inability to control the mobs protesting the Rowlatt Act of 1919 which extended censorship and other repressive measures beyond the war. The massive protests against the Act included the peaceful gathering at Jallianwala Bagh, where Brigadier Reginald Dyer ordered bullets into an unarmed crowd of protesters, killing over 500 and injuring twice that number. That massacre began the end of British rule in India. With India's Independence, other British colonies intensified their struggles for independence, dramatically altering global politics.

Dr Parikh is Director of Medical Research and neuropsychiatrist at Jaslok Hospital & Research Centre in Mumbai, and co-author of The Coronavirus: What You Need To Know About The Global Pandemic (Penguin 2020)

Out of MY MIND

MEGHNAD DESAI

British plan for judges way to go for RS?

NOTHING EXPOSES the problems of Indian democracy like an election in state Assemblies for a seat in the Upper House of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha. It is called Rajya Sabha (Chamber of Princes) because under the Government of India Act, 1935, princely states were supposed to send their representatives to that chamber. After Partition, the new Constitution and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel got rid of princely states. What we have instead are elections in state Assemblies where the electorate is small, with their choice predictable by their party affiliation. The only excitement is caused by the weak attachment these 'voters' have towards the party to which they belonged when they entered the Assembly in the first place. The most sordid and open auction takes place to snatch the one or two votes from one party into another. The system trusts these voters so little that each voter has to show the ballot paper to the chief whip of the party before casting it as 'secret' ballot! England used to have such constituencies with few voters and domination by local Lords. They were called 'Rotten boroughs'. In 1832, the Great Reform Bill took the big step towards proper elections.

But we are now stuck with what there is. All parties have taken part in the system and benefited from its peculiarities. No party will try to reform it. The only thing one can say is that the Rajya Sabha elections make the fragile nature of Indian democracy obvious.

That said, it is interesting that the nomination of former chief justice of India Ranjan Gogoi to the Rajya Sabha has raised doubts about the independence of the judiciary. He is of course not the first to have been so honoured by the Executive. Yet the idea that judges should sit in the Upper House of the Legislature upon retirement is part of the British Constitution. Each and every judge of the Supreme Court has the right to sit in the House of Lords for the rest of his or her life.

Indeed, before 2005, when there was reform of the judiciary, the highest court was a Committee of the House of Lords. All the judges were simultaneously legislators and sat in judgment about the laws which they had implicitly taken part in formulating. No one then thought this was a corrupt practice. It was changed because it fell foul of the doctrine of Separation of Powers on which the European Union Constitution is based.

Why not adopt the British reform for the Rajya Sabha, making all retiring justices of the Supreme Court automatically nominated members of the Upper House? Since their appointment would be automatic, there would be no question of patronage of the powers that be. Nominated members can also behave in a non-partisan or at least an unpredictable way. The House of Lords has Cross Bench Peers (Judges sit as Cross Bench) who bring a lot of ballast to the system by their independence.

It would require a Constitutional amendment to make this change. If nomination is automatic upon retirement and the tenure 10 years, there is no scope for doubting the independence of such new members in the Rajya Sabha. They could elevate the Upper House to a level it deserves.

epaper.indianexpress.com

CHAPTER 1, LINE 1

"You will rejoice to hear that no disaster has accompanied the commencement of an enterprise which you have regarded with such evil forebodings." — *Frankenstein* (1818), Mary Shelley

Tale of a Top Cop

The riveting autobiography of former Mumbai police commissioner Rakesh Maria, and the cases that pushed him into the limelight

Former Mumbai police commissioner Rakesh Maria *Express Archives*

MOHAMED THAVER

THE autobiographies of people connected to important events fill in the blanks of history, trying to provide a more faithful picture than was available earlier. Former Mumbai police commissioner Rakesh Maria's memoir provides first-hand information on the inside story of the cases he has been associated with — the 1993 Mumbai serial blasts, the Gateway of India blast, the 26/11 terror attacks, the hanging of Yakub Memon and the Sheena Bora murder case. In over 600 pages and 35 chapters, his account opens a door into the supercop's eventful life. Also, for the first time, Maria speaks out about the allegations against him — the book's title reflects this.

While the cases are all interesting, the format is a little limiting, as the reader expects more information on his life or even other aspects of his work. For example, political challenges faced in the course of investigations would have made fascinating reading. Julio Ribeiro, the other Mumbai top cop, delved into the problem of political interference in his autobiography *Bullet for Bullet*, though without naming names. Maria's book, too, could have gone into the pressures that the force faces from several quarters.

Public figures sometimes become self-indulgent, tediously detailing their childhood and early career. Thankfully, Maria quickly covers his childhood as a "Bandra boy" and his probationary days, and the book springs to life as he begins investigating the 1993 blasts, which cut short his career as a "cop with traffic handling expertise" — now scarcely imaginable — for which he had trained in Japan. At a time when crime shows are all the rage, he offers a sneak peak into actual police procedure and the formulation of investigation strategies.

For example, he talks about the challenges of arresting Bollywood actor Sanjay Dutt from Mumbai airport in April 1993, after firearms were discovered in his house. He talks about the strategy to "get him (Sanjay Dutt) out of the aura and protective umbrella of his high-powered and respected family… I had hand-picked even the constables who would accompany Sanjay." He told them: "Please don't be star-struck! I depend on you. You have to be like stone statues."

LET ME SAY IT NOW
RAKESH MARIA
WESTLAND BOOKS
614 PAGES
₹899

They picked up Dutt from the aerobridge as soon as his flight landed, without allowing him to meet his family. On the drive from the airport to police headquarters, "No one spoke a word to Sanjay Dutt during the entire journey. Sanjay repeatedly kept enquiring as to where we were taking him… The constables sat totally expressionless, without even turning their faces to look at Sanjay. Like stone statues!" Maria's interrogation of Dutt is fascinating, too.

While the book is a page turner, perhaps Maria got the better of his editor. While the investigations are interesting, long-winded descriptions of Indian festivals and explanations of mythology, aimed at the Western reader, impede the flow. The chapter on 26/11 goes into so much detail that it becomes redundant. Maria has scrupulously named all junior officers who worked with him, and praised them. But the praise he bestows on police work at the end of each chapter is repetitive, if not self-congratulatory. In contrast, the section where Maria talks to Ajmal Kasab in Punjabi and takes the high security inmate to see the corpses of his fellow terrorists to show that they had "not gone to heaven" in the middle of the night, and what follows, is the kind of story that reporters' dreams are made of.

Maria then offers his side of the story about three major allegations against him: a 2014 photo in a cafe in London, where he met former IPL boss Lalit Modi, who was then facing an ED probe; allegations by Vinita Kamte — wife of IPS officer Ashok Kamte, slain during the 26/11 attacks — that Maria, who was manning the control room, did not send enough manpower to the spot where Kamte was killed; and his controversial promotion and transfer from the post of Mumbai police commissioner in the Sheena Bora murder case.

Maria's most sensational disclosure concerns that case. He was then Mumbai police commissioner, and he writes that his fellow IPS officer Deven Bharti, who oversaw the probe along with him, kept him in the dark about knowing Indrani and Peter Mukerjea — both eventually arrested for Bora's murder — even though the two senior cops travelled in the same car every day to the Khar police station to interrogate the accused. During his interrogation, Peter said that Bharti had been informed that Bora was missing in 2012, while her remains were found in 2015. Maria reveals his hurt at being shunted out, and the "government flip-flops" regarding his role in the case.

These days, autobiographies are being written by public figures midway through their careers, but Maria chose to hang up his peaked cap before putting pen to paper. Considering the importance of the cases he dealt with, it was the right choice.

Life Less Ordinary

In a regrettably normative society, there is little room and even less empathy for autistic children

Illustration: Suvajit Dey

ABANTIKA GHOSH

FOR MILLIONS of Indians and perhaps the world, it was the story of Charlie and Ray Babbitt in the film *Rain Man* that unravelled the mysterious world of autism. It is almost *deja vu* as architect Suhasini Malde describes in her book *Innocentism*, about how the story of her friend's son Nihar first introduced her to autism and from there on, truly "a story of grit and autism" unfolds. The story of commitment and compassion, translated by Dr Priyadarshini Nitin Gokhale, that led to Ashiana, a school for autistic children, is a compelling read both as a personal journey and as one of professional achievements. That one line to a college mate at a reunion sums up the essence of the book: "I have 40 children."

INNOCENTISM
SUHASINI MALDE
Half Baked Beans
200 pages
₹299

That sense of achievement comes through in the very opening pages as Malde starts off describing an "urgent" call from the school on her 50th birthday, the journey there imagining all kinds of mishaps, only to find that it was a surprise birthday celebration with the teachers and children — clearly the highlight of her day, much more than the dinner party with her swish set of friends who sing songs till 3 am. The story is told in many layers, questioning complicated social issues such as the importance of girls being "pretty", the travails of an inter-caste marriage, the expectations from an unwanted daughter-in-law in a conservative family, the tryst with depression and the tribulations of a women undergoing cycles of in-vitro fertilisation, are all dealt with a simplicity that defies the inherently complicated nature of these issues. The choice between adopting one child and 40 is described just as simply.

Nihar's tale, told through his father, is beautiful in the empathy of the story and haunting in its realism. It has traces of 'Ray' Babbitt but you realise with a pang that the director is not going to say "cut" here, and Hoffman will never emerge from behind Babbitt. The dedication of the book itself is a statement of the importance of Nihar in the story: "All of our children who have autism and are therefore so special to us and to Nihar." To have a child who cannot tell you what is bothering him and pulls your hair instead, or one whose bouts of laughter are as intriguing as his quietude, is one of the most striking portions of the book, as is the story of the six months of her life that Malde lost to depression after her abortion. The "near death" or out of body experience belongs perhaps to a book on spiritual rebirth than one on the establishment of a school for children with autism, but then maybe the latter would not have happened without the former.

The story of the ugly duckling (who eventually does become the swan, and is compared by the thespian Dilip Kumar to the legendary Nargis), the daughter who is constantly compared to her prettier sisters is seminal to the eventual birth of Ashiana, perhaps as much as the "near death experience" Malde described. The story flows easily, Malde's personal life, a bit of her love story, merging seamlessly with the emergence of the "stylish" woman who dismisses the offer of a pair of Rs 37,000 Salvatore Ferragamo shoes but uses every bit of the goodwill she has built up in her professional life to make Ashiana bigger and better, until it even spawns a copycat. Imitation is the best form of flattery.

The book's importance cannot be overstated, especially in an inherently restrictive society like ours where toleration of the other, even when that is just people with different languages or taste in food than our own, is abysmally low. Here, we are talking about human beings whose very interface with the world around them is flawed. In the words of one of Malde's friends quoted in the book: "Indians are in general selfish. They have no compassion towards such kids. Though structures like McDonald's and supermarkets have surfaced in India, it is doubtful if these places will offer any jobs (to autistic people). There would be very few people who would let them work in their style and accept it. These children look so normal that people around them may not perceive any problem. Nowadays, everybody seems very impatient. If these kids make a mistake or have a slower work speed, they will be scolded and pulled up. It is doubtful if these children will be offered a job at all in India."

Dreams and a Carnival

A fictional account of the many lives and aspirations that form the invisible armature of the vibrant Jaipur Literature Festival

NAVTEJ SARNA

THE JAIPUR Literary Festival is often called a *mela*, usually by people who haven't been able to attend it that year. There's something to that beyond envy: like any self-respecting *mela*, it is large, crowded, colourful and fun. You can lose your heart here as easily as you can lose your iPhone. You can also find long-lost friends or run into somebody you have been trying to avoid. But I'll take this literary mela over a stuffy seminar room setting any day. Where else can you listen to Orhan Pamuk or Michael Ondaatje between golgappas and *matka* chai under a benign wintry sun? To add mirch to the literary masala, there is at least one major political controversy every year; police, politicians and protesters are in ample attendance and the left and right slug it out. Even as the festival is under threat of being moved out from its trademark venue at the understated Diggi Palace, its co-founder and co-director Namita Gokhale has produced a fitting tribute to it in the shape of her delightful novel, *Jaipur Journals*.

The festival and the city of Jaipur are ultimately just characters in this novel. Gokhale's real subject is what lies at the centre of all good literature — the human heart, with its aspirations, fears and insecurities. Rudrani Rana, elderly and grey-haired, of the aching knees and unsure walk, is not a successful writer or a celebrity, not even a selfie-seeker. She is at the edge of the magic circle, outside the charmed Authors' Lounge, struggling to understand the writing world, and hoping one day to be part of it. She has literary aspirations, not ambition; ambition smacks too much of money, power, awards. All she wants is a validation of her story, a recognition of her worth, encapsulated in the spiral-bound manuscript that she carries around in a canvas bag. Rudrani Rana is utterly credible; you can see the likes of her, young and old, men and women, at every session at JLF, tortured by similar literary aspirations. They are the lifeblood of literary festivals. Several carry their manuscript with them in the hope of showing it to a slippery foreign literary agent who flits around the lawns, looking for red wine even as he avoids eye contact. Others carry the grand notion in their heads and live for the day they can make it a reality; they search the methods and minds of published greats to find the magic trap-door that leads to success. But not too many do what Rudrani does best: she tells the unvarnished truth to people in venomous but hilarious anonymous letters written in her favourite purple ink.

JAIPUR JOURNALS
NAMITA GOKHALE
Penguin Viking
208 pages
₹499

Rudrani is not alone in the teeming crowd and Gokhale picks her other companions in the story with an unerring and deeply perceptive eye. There is Anirban M., the bearded young graphic artist who ends up as Rudrani's confidante. The attractive Gayatri Smyth Gandhy, academic anthropologist and aspiring novelist torn between India and the West. Raju Srivastava, the slick-fingered burglar with a poet's heart who finds momentary fame on stage. Zoya Mankotia, defiant lesbian, fierce feminist and recipient of Rudrani's most trenchant purple letter. Anna Wilde from Colorado, one-time companion of the Beat Poets, returning to rekindle her love affair with the India of the Sixties, the India of ashrams, gurus, Hare Krishna. And many others whose lives criss-cross in the sprawling Diggi Palace, even as the festival mela carries on around them, serious debates alternating with comic interludes. This is home turf for Namita Gokhale — she knows all that can, and does, happen at JLF, and it all rings very true.

A slice of life at JLF *Express Archives*

But life is not just a festival, nor literary aspiration its be-all and end-all. One can throw an incomplete manuscript into the lake and still dance with gay abandon at the Writer's Ball, free from its asphyxiating burden. A burglar will go back to thievery even if he has been able to recite a poem before thousands. A love that you think has slipped through your fingers forever may return, if only for a while... Gokhale's skill as a novelist is on full display as she explores the lives of her characters before and after the festival, with humour, sympathy and affection. She shuns pretension and this is clear in her satirical references to the festival discussions, as well as in her writing; the light touch is her leitmotif and she comes down on the side of honest simplicity every time. It is heartening to see that despite her multiple distractions, Namita Gokhale's talent remains as fresh in *Jaipur Journals* as it was in her debut novel *Paro: Dreams of Passion*. Her writing reflects a life thoughtfully lived, with her feet on real ground and her mind forever creating.

Sarna is a novelist and former diplomat

PRECAUTIONARY STEPS TO DEFEAT CORONA

IF YOU HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO QUARANTINE OR SELF-ISOLATE YOURSELF, THEN PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU DO SO

Quarantine or self-isolation means distancing oneself from all forms of physical contact with other people.

If you are advised home quarantine then, limit your activities within the house. It would be ideal if you stay in a separate room.

If you have flu-like symptoms such as fever, dry cough, cold, then:

1. **Call:** If you develop cold, fever or any other Coronavirus or Covid-19 like symptoms, then immediately call the nearest health centre. If you are in Delhi NCR then call to ask for help, explain your condition instead of reaching any health centre or hospital by yourself.
2. **Isolate yourself:** If you live with your family, then try restricting yourself to a ventilated room in the house. Keep the door of the room closed. Use a separate toilet. If there is no separate toilet in the house, then use the toilet only after everyone has used it. Do not to share things like soap, towels under any circumstances.
3. **Maintain hygiene:** Regularly wash your hands with soap, wear a mask at all times, use hand sanitizer. Separate your things from the rest of the members in the house. Change the mask every 6 to 8 hours. Do not reuse the mask.
4. **Take special care of waste or garbage disposal:** Double pack your waste or garbage as it will be disposed off separately if your virus test turns out to be positive.
5. **If you live alone:** If you live alone then shop online for basic needs. You can seek help from your friends and colleagues. Make sure that everything that you order is dropped off at the door which you can pick later. Do not make contact with the person delivering your order.
6. **How to care for the sick:** There should be only one person in the house to look after the quarantined person who is tested positive. While cleaning the room, changing the sheet etc, the caregiver should wear mask and gloves. They should wash their hands thoroughly after removing the gloves. Take special care of cleanliness in the house.
7. **Why is this important?** 4 out of 5 people are infected with a mild form of coronavirus. By isolating yourself, you will prevent the virus from transmitting to others. Older people, or children and pregnant women are more vulnerable to the virus. So isolate yourself and stop the spread of this virus.

Control Room Numbers at State and District level

State DGHS (HQ)	011-22307145, 22300012, 22300036	South-West	011-25066674
North	011-27708768	South-East	011-26476410
South	011-29531277	North-East	011-22115289
East	011-22050908, 22051234	New Delhi	011-23385743
West	011-25195529	Central	011-23270151
North-West	011-25951182	Shahdara	011-22111077

For any related query, please contact our 24*7 central control room
Ph: 011-22307145, 22300012, 22300036

दिल्ली सरकार आप की सरकार

Department of Health & Family Wefare, Government of NCT of Delhi

Dip/Shabdarth/D/0358/19-20

epaper.indianexpress.com

Billion confined to homes, toll 12,000

Over half of global fatalities in Europe; WHO warns young people: You are not invincible

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW YORK, MARCH 21

CLOSE TO one billion people worldwide were confined to their homes on Saturday as the global coronavirus death toll crossed 12,000.

The pandemic has completely upended lives across the planet, restricting movement, shutting schools and forcing millions to work from home.

The virus death toll crossed 12,000 worldwide, with over 4,000 alone in worst-hit Italy where the daily number of fatalities has shot up relentlessly over the past week.

Europe now accounts for more than half of the world's fatalities linked to COVID-19.

Over 900 million people, at an estimate, are now confined to their homes in 35 countries around the world — including 600 million hemmed in by obligatory government lockdown orders — according to an AFP tally.

While the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions are the hardest hit by the virus, the World Health Organisation warned that young people were also vulnerable.

"Today I have a message for young people: you are not invincible. This virus could put you in hospital for weeks -- or even kill you," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

"Even if you don't get sick, the choices you make about where you go could be the difference between life and death for someone else." China on Saturday reported no new local infections for a third straight day, and the WHO said the central Chinese city of Wuhan, where the virus emerged late last year, offered a glimmer of "hope for the rest of the world".

But there are growing concerns of a new wave of "imported" infections in the region, with Hong Kong reporting 48 suspected cases on Friday -- its biggest daily jump since the crisis began. Many of them have a recent history of travel to or from Europe.

Britain, falling in line with its EU neighbours, also announced tougher restrictions, telling pubs, restaurants and theatres to close and promising to help cover the wages of affected workers.

The Democratic Republic of Congo reported its first death Saturday, while Burkina Faso reported two new deaths, bringing the total number of fatalities in sub-Saharan Africa to five.

Cases stand at over 1,000 across Africa, where health care systems are fragile.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES: A traveller in protective clothing and a full-face mask in Beijing Railway Station, China. *Reuters*

EXPLAINED

Fear of another wave in some countries

COUNTRIES LIKE China and Hong Kong, where local infections have died down or are under control, are now fearing another wave of infections, this time "imported" through foreigners or citizens returning from other nations. Such cases have the potential to reignite community spread of the virus, as per reports. Experts also said that imported cases posed a threat to the economic recovery of a country. New cases could lead to measures including crowd bans staying in effect, which could potentially prevent businesses from regaining normalcy.

US issues 'major disaster' declaration for New York state

NEW YORK TIMES
NEW YORK, MARCH 21

The Trump administration has issued a Major Disaster Declaration for the state, meaning more federal aid is coming to New York as cases of coronavirus show no sign of abating.

As of Saturday morning, more than 8,300 New York state residents had tested positive for the virus. With 6 percent of the US population, the state now accounts for nearly half of the 18,000 cases in the country tallied by The New York Times.

The designation by the Federal Emergency Management Agency gives New York access to billions of dollars in aid from the Disaster Relief Fund. State officials and doctors have been sounding the alarm about an impending shortage of supplies, hospital beds and ventilators as the number of confirmed coronavirus cases continue to climb.

On Friday night, Senator Chuck Schumer of New York announced that the Trump administration had issued a Major Disaster Declaration for the state, which now has the most coronavirus cases in the nation.

"It's imperative that the federal government does everything within its power to support New York in the state effort to stem the spread of the deadly coronavirus," said Schumer, the Senate Minority Leader.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on Friday issued a decree meant to compel New Yorkers to stay indoors as much as possible, ordering all nonessential businesses to keep their workers home.

TRUMP vs DOCTOR

- Trump and the govt's top infectious disease expert, Dr Anthony Fauci, sparred on whether a malaria drug would help coronavirus patients
- "No," Fauci said on using the drug to prevent COVID-19. "What you're referring to specifically is anecdotal... not done in a controlled clinical trial"
- But Trump stuck to what his gut was telling him. Trump said he disagreed with the notion that there is no magic drug. "Maybe and maybe not," he said. "Maybe there is, maybe there isn't"

A nearly-empty Times Square in New York. *AP*

Pak suspends international flights as cases jump to 666

SAJJAD HUSSAIN
ISLAMABAD, MARCH 21

PAKISTAN ON Saturday suspended all international flights for two weeks and curtailed train services as the coronavirus cases surged to 666 in the country after more pilgrims who returned from Iran tested positive for the deadly virus, which has turned into a major global crisis.

The government in a statement said all international flights are being suspended for two weeks to curb the spread of the virus. From 8 pm tonight, "all incoming international flights are being suspended for two weeks," a statement issued read.

National flag-carrier PIA however will be allowed to bring back its planes. Cargo flights will also be allowed. Earlier, the PIA had said all international departures were being suspended till March 28.

Railway Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmad ordered to reduce the number of trains running in the country from March 25 until the middle of the holy month of Ramadan, which would start around April 25.

"We have decided to suspend 34 trains out of total 142 running in the country while another eight trains will be suspended from April 1," he said.

The number of confirmed cases in the country jumped to 666 by late Saturday. **PTI**

With 123 new fatalities, Iran's death toll over 1,500; Jordan goes into lockdown

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AMMAN, MARCH 21

AIR RAID sirens echoed across Jordan's capital on Saturday to mark the start of a three-day curfew, the latest mass lockdown in the Middle East aimed at containing the coronavirus, which has claimed another 123 lives in Iran, home to the region's worst outbreak.

The latest deaths bring Iran's overall toll to 1,556 amid 20,610 confirmed cases, according to figures released by the Health Ministry. Iran has faced widespread criticism for its lagging response to the outbreak, which has even infected and killed some senior officials.

In one of the strictest measures yet, Jordan has ordered all shops to close and all people to stay off the streets until at least Tuesday, when it plans to announce times for shopping. Anyone caught violating the curfew faces up to one year in prison.

Several countries in the Middle East have closed schools, universities and nonessential businesses. Many are threatening fines or jail time to those caught violating the decrees.

Saturday is Mother's Day in the Middle East, and many took to social media to lament the fact that they would not be able to visit family members.

Iraq, which has reported 193 cases and 14 deaths, has struggled to maintain a weeklong curfew in Baghdad as religious pilgrims have continued to try to visit a major Shiite Muslim shrine in the capital.

The tiny, energy-rich nation of Qatar is warning citizens and residents to honor home quarantine rules. The state-run Qatar News Agency said authorities "captured 10 people" who broke the rules. It said those who disobey the orders could face prosecution.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in Tehran, Saturday. *Reuters*

Respect China, but unfortunate virus got out of control: Trump

LALIT K JHA
WASHINGTON, MARCH 21

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump has said he greatly respects China and shares a "very good" relationship with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, but termed it "unfortunate" that the coronavirus began in the Communist nation and got out of control.

Speaking at a press briefing on Friday, Trump said he considered Xi as a friend and and asserted that the Chinese President respects the US. "I have a very good relationship with China and with President Xi. I have great respect for President Xi. I consider him to be a friend of mine. It is unfortunate that this got out of control," he said.

Trump reiterated that coronavirus originated from China.

"They (coronavirus) came from China, it got out of control. Some people are upset..." he said.

Reuters

Trump reiterated that the virus originated in China

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told the same press briefing that China's delay in sharing information about the virus had created risks to people worldwide.

"We need to know immediately. The world is entitled to know. The Chinese government was the first to know of this risk to the world, and that puts a special obligation to make sure that data gets to our scientists, our professionals," Pompeo said. **PTI**

Virus scare triggers riot in Lanka jail, one dead

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COLOMBO, MARCH 21

The coronavirus scare triggered a riot in a Sri Lankan jail on Saturday, leading to a gunfight which left one inmate killed and five others injured, officials said.

According to prison rights activists, the prisoners were demanding their release due to the threat to their lives in view of COVID-19 which has infected 77 people in the country.

The protests led to a riot inside the jail situated in the north central town of Anuradhapura.

"There was unrest in the prison this afternoon following a protest by inmates. When the prison officials were countering the riot to bring it under control, there was an attempt by the inmates to flee the jail. The resultant shooting killed one while five others were injured," the police said in a statement.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: FOUR KEY FIGURES

$1.2 mn
The amount pledged by Afghanistan, Maldives for SAARC Corona Emergency fund. Afghanistan pledged $1 million, Maldives $200k

100,000
The number of test kits for the coronavirus that China is sending to Philippines. It is supplying gear to numerous countries

624,000
The number of people who passed through TSA outbound checkpoints at US airports, the lowest such recorded figure

36%
The percentage of the global coronavirus death toll that Italy presently accounts for. Its mortality rate is currently 8.6%

'DO I WANT TO DIE IN HOSPITAL...OR WOULD I LIKE TO DIE AT HOME?'

Who gets the ventilator? British doctors face difficult choices

STEPHEN GREY & ANDREW MACASKILL
LONDON, MARCH 21

THE CORONAVIRUS pandemic is forcing senior doctors in Britain's National Health Service to contemplate the unthinkable: how to ration access to critical care beds and ventilators should resources fall short.

The country's public health system, the NHS, is ill-equipped to cope with an outbreak that is unprecedented in modern times. Hospitals are now striving to at least quadruple the number of intensive care beds to meet an expected surge in serious virus cases, senior physicians told *Reuters*, but expressed dismay that preparations had not begun weeks earlier.

Rahuldeb Sarkar, a consultant physician in respiratory medicine and critical care in the English county of Kent, said local NHS trusts across the country were reviewing decision-making procedures drawn up, but never needed, during the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic. They cover how to choose who, in the event of a shortage, would be put on a ventilator and for how long.

A paramedic near an ambulance in Cheshunt, Britain. *Reuters*

"It will be tough, and that's why it's important that you know, that two or more consultants will make the decisions."

Sarkar said the choices extended not only to who was given access to a ventilator but how long to continue if there was no sign of recovery. "In normal days, that patient would be given some more days to see which way it goes," he added.

Matt Mayer, head of the local medical committee covering an area in south of England, said GPs had been sent face masks in boxes that said "best before 2016" and that have been relabelled with new stickers reading "2021".

"If you are going to lead people into a hazardous situation then you need to give them the confidence that they have the kit to do a decent job and they are not just going to become cannon fodder," said Harwood the anaesthetist.

Dr Alison Pittard, dean of the Faculty of Intensive Medicine and a consultant in Leeds, northern England, said, if rationing became necessary, medical ethics should still prevail and guidelines needed to be issued on a national level.

Pittard said patients with pre-existing conditions who already had life-threatening health difficulties should be having conversations with their family about how they wished to spend their last days, in the event of them being infected.

"If I get coronavirus now I've got a very high chance of dying of it," she said, putting herself into the shoes of such a patient. "So do I want to die in hospital and when my relatives can't come in to visit me because it's too risky, or would I like to die at home?

"And if I do want to go into hospital, do I then want to go to intensive care where my chances of surviving are minimal?" **REUTERS**

PANDEMIC WATCH

Kim Jong-un

NORTH KOREA

Two missiles fired, S Korea condemns

Seoul: North Korea fired what appeared to be two short-range ballistic missiles off its east coast on Saturday, the latest in a series of such launches by Pyongyang as the world struggles with the coronavirus pandemic. The South Korean military condemned the launches as "extremely inappropriate given the difficult situation the world is experiencing due to COVID-19... We urge them to stop immediately." North Korea has not reported any cases of the coronavirus, which has turned into a major crisis with more than 11,000 deaths and over 250,000 infections worldwide.

SINGAPORE

First deaths reported, more measures taken

Singapore: Singapore on Saturday reported its first coronavirus deaths, including a 75-year-old Singaporean woman, the health ministry said, as the country announced a slew of measures to prevent the spread of the deadly disease that has infected 385 people in the island nation. Singapore on Friday confirmed 40 new COVID-19 cases, including 30 imported infections, taking the total number to 385 in the country. The two fatalities included the woman and a 64-year-old Indonesian man who died on Saturday, the health ministry said.

COLOMBIA

Country to start mandatory isolation

Bogota: Colombia will go into compulsory general confinement from Tuesday until April 13 to stop the spread of the new coronavirus, President Ivan Duque announced Friday. "As part of the state of emergency, we will apply compulsory preventive isolation for all Colombians from next Tuesday," he said in an address to the nation. Nearly half of the population are already taking part in a full-scale isolation exercise from Friday to Monday midnight to test the effectiveness of such measures.

UAE

First two virus deaths flagged

Dubai: The United Arab Emirates on Friday reported the first two deaths from coronavirus in the country. Abu Dhabi has reported 140 infections so far, of whom 31 have recovered, but no deaths. "The Ministry of Health and Prevention has announced the first two deaths caused by the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in the country," the Emirates News Agency reported. The UAE has introduced restrictions on passenger arrivals, but has not so far imposed confinement measures, and public spaces, such as shopping centres and restaurants — remain open.

कोरोना भी भारत से ऐसे ही साफ होगा

जब सुबह 7.00 बजे से होगा आपका साथ
आप और हम करेंगे कोरोना से दो-दो हाथ

22 मार्च, 2020 को आईये हम और आप मिलकर अपना कर्तव्य निभायें

आप सभी से अनुरोध है कि जनता कर्फ्यू के दौरान घर से न निकलें

#JeetegaBharatHaaregaCorona

@112UttarPradesh +91-7570000100 @112UttarPradesh +91-7233000100

CRUDE WATCH

OIL FALLS FOR FOURTH WEEK

New York: US crude tumbled 10.7 per cent Friday and posted its biggest weekly decline since the 1991 Gulf War as the coronavirus epidemic dried up demand and as officials in Washington said an envoy would head to Saudi Arabia to deal with the fallout of a price war. **REUTERS**

LARGEST MONTHLY OUTFLOW IN HISTORY OF DOMESTIC MARKETS

COVID-19 infects markets: FPIs withdraw ₹1 lakh crore from equity, debt in March

GEORGE MATHEW
MUMBAI, MARCH 21

FOREIGN PORTFOLIO investors (FPIs) have pulled out close to Rs 1,00,000 crore (US $13 billion) from India in March, as the coronavirus pandemic and the carnage in the financial markets have forced FPIs to derisk from emerging market assets across the world. This is the largest monthly outflow in the history of the Indian markets, which also led to the rupee falling below the 75-level against the US dollar.

Of this, Rs 49,507 crore was withdrawn from the equity market by FPIs who were big sellers in large-cap stocks in the last two weeks. FPIs withdrew another Rs 49,228 crore from the debt market, according to the data from the National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL). However, total withdrawals amounted to Rs 95,485 crore as Rs 3,256 crore has been invested in debt-VRR by FPIs in March.

When the global financial crisis rocked the markets in 2008, total equity outflows during the entire year amounted to only Rs 52,987 crore. However, India received FPI inflows of Rs 83,423 crore into equity in calendar year 2009 and Rs 1,33,266 crore in 2010. In 2019, FPI equity inflows were at Rs 1,01,122 crore.

Sustained selling by foreign investors has contributed to the sharp sell-off of 21.88 per cent, or 8,382 points, to 29,915.96 in the benchmark Sensex in March.

Even investors in most markets sold off bonds of all grades to accumulate cash, but most assets saw historic exit activity as investors across regions braced for an economic slowdown. "Coronavirus fear is intensifying worldwide and fresh travel bans seem to hurt the global economic sentiment. Global markets are in meltdown as the pandemic spreads, with trillions in shareholder value erased and even safe assets such as gold have been sold to cover losses," IFA Global said in a report.

Bank of America says, "The Crash of 2020" wiped out as much as $24 trillion from the global stock market and roiled nearly all financial assets as the coronavirus pummelled economies around the world." On March 17, the Philippines halted stock, bond and currency trading until further notice, becoming the first country to shut financial markets in response to the widening coronavirus pandemic. This raised fears that other exchanges following the same path soon. Though the Federal Reserve cut US interest rates to zero before financial markets opened last Sunday and joined forces with other central banks in a bid to prevent a severe economic downturn caused by the coronavirus pandemic, FPI selling continued in the Indian markets. In a normal situation, a sharp cut of 100 bps by US Fed would have led to a spurt in foreign investment in emerging markets like India, said an analyst,

The spectre of a fall in global growth and the decline in crude oil prices will impact FPI inflows as investors expect emerging market economies to take a beating, analysts said. "We cut our FY2021 FPI inflow forecast by $5 billion. A drop in oil prices on risk off leads to FPI outflows. We cut our real GVA growth forecast by 10 bps to 4.8 per cent in FY20 and 20 bps to 5.4 per cent with our global economics team slashing 2020 global growth by 60 bps to 2.2 per cent," said a Bank of America Merrill Lynch report.

In the case of a global recession pulling world GDP growth to 1.4 per cent, India's FY21 growth will likely drop to 4.4 per cent. "Our BofA India Activity Indicator is certainly pointing to a long and deep bottom," the report said.

EXPLAINED

Investors bracing for slowdown

SUSTAINED SELLING by foreign investors has contributed to the sharp sell-off of 21.88 per cent, or 8,382 points, to 29,915.96 in the Sensex in March.

Even investors in most markets sold off bonds of all grades to accumulate cash, but most assets saw historic exit activity as investors across regions braced for an economic slowdown.

FPI INVESTMENTS IN 2020 (₹ CRORE)

	Equity	Debt	Debt-VRR	Hybrid	Total
January	12,123	-11,648	529	-46	957
February	1,820	2,097	2,637	2,416	8,970
March **	-49,507	-49,228	3,256	-7	-95,485
Total	-35,564	-58,779	6,422	2,363	-85,558

Source: NSDL

Cabinet okays 3 schemes worth ₹48K cr to promote electronics manufacturing

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE UNION Cabinet on Friday approved three new schemes, worth over Rs 48,000 crore, to promote large-scale electronics manufacturing, electronic component, and semiconductor manufacturing in the country, Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said on Saturday.

To promote large-scale manufacturing in the country, the government has decided to provide production-linked incentive (PLI) to global and domestic companies engaged in manufacturing, assembly, testing, marking, and packaging of mobile phones as well as certain specified electronic equipment.

A PLI of 4-6 per cent will be given to the manufacturing units, based on incremental sales for five years from the base year during which the company starts making these products in India, Prasad said, adding the government intends to spend nearly Rs 41,000 crore on the scheme.

A second scheme to further promote electronics manufacturing clusters was approved by the Cabinet on Friday, Prasad said. Under the scheme, electronics manufacturing clusters spread over a minimum area of 200 acres in the plains and at least 100 acres in the hills and Northeast India will be given financial assistance of up to Rs 70 crore per 100 acres.

For the common facility centre, which will have plug-and-play facilities for smaller units around the anchor company, the government intends to finance up to 75 per cent of the project cost, subject to a maximum of Rs 75 crore. The government plans to spend Rs 3,762 crore on the project over the next 8 years.

A third scheme, which will provide a financial incentive of 25 per cent on capital expenditure for making goods that constitute the supply chain of an electronic product, has also been approved by the Cabinet, Prasad said. The total outlay on the project is Rs 3,285 crore over the next 8 years.

The government's initial plans to make India a hub for high end large electronics equipment and semiconductor units hit a roadblock after most global companies opted to assemble in India rather than set up manufacturing units.

The Economic Survey 2019-20 noted this and observed India should follow the Chinese model of becoming an assembling hub for the world for 'network products' such as computers, electronics, and road vehicles to raise its share in the world export market.

Among the major focus industries targeted under the Make in India scheme, the mobile, telecommunication and electronics equipment manufacturing, is still largely restricted to the assembling of knocked-down kits despite a slew of global companies having set up units in the country.

PLI FOR COMPANIES

■ **The Centre has decided to provide production-linked incentive to global and domestic companies engaged in manufacturing, assembly, testing, marking, and packaging of mobile phone as well as certain specified electronic equipment**

Centre asks social media intermediaries to curb, take down misinformation

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE MINISTRY of Electronics and Information Technology on Saturday wrote to all social media intermediaries to initiate awareness campaigns warning users not to circulate or upload any false information or news regarding COVID-19.

Such misinformation or fake news is likely to create panic and disturb public order, the advisory said. Social media intermediaries must also take down or disable such content on a priority basis, the Ministry said in its advisory.

Social media intermediaries operational in India have been introducing several measures to curb the menace of fake news and prevent misinformation in India. While Facebook-owned WhatsApp started depicting "forwarded" or multiple forward indicators on messages circulated several times across the internet, Facebook itself has tied up with some independent fact-checkers to let people know that a news or information that has been shared by independent fact auditors might be wrong.

Apart from them, micro messaging application Twitter has also been under a lot of pressure to control the huge influx of unverified news that is circulated on its platform. After criticism, the company said on Thursday it would remove or block from viewing any tweets that could cause harm by spreading any misinformation about COVID-19.

The advisory has also asked them to promote dissemination of authentic information related to COVID-19. Social media intermediaries like Facebook and Instagram have been showing on their platform the links to World Health Organization's dos and don'ts regarding the virus, and how to contain its spread.

DoT asks states to ensure critical telecom functions remain operational

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE DEPARTMENT of Telecommunications (DoT) on Saturday wrote to the chief secretaries of all the states and Union Territories to ensure that critical telecommunications services remained uninterrupted in view of many states curbing travel bans and movement restrictions to contain the outbreak of COVID-19.

The DoT asked the states to allow the movement of staff maintaining these services as well as ensure continuous supply of power to these telecom units.

In the letter, DoT advisor K Ramchand suggested that the states allow free movement of people working on key and critical telecom equipment and infrastructure and ensure the support of police personnel as well as national disaster response force if the need be.

"The movement of vehicles carrying diesel for the diesel generator sets at critical telecom infrastructure be permitted.

"Also sufficient availability of diesel be facilitated," Ramchand said in his letter to the state chief secretaries.

With experts warning that the country could likely enter the critical phase of community transmission and that it was important for people to remain indoors as much as possible to break the chain of virus transfer from one person to another, almost all the states have announced restrictions in one form or another.

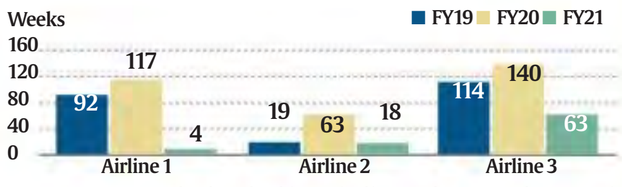
The DoT also asked the states to allow the movement of staff maintaining these services as well as ensure continuous supply of power to these telecom units

Coronavirus clips domestic airline industry's wings

With the spread of COVID-19 showing no signs of slowing down in India, the aviation industry has found it imperative to curb costs for being able to survive this crisis. Experts believe with social distancing on the rise, a return to normalcy could become a long-haul dream if the outbreak does not recede within the next three months.

THE ACTION:
- Governments are clamping down on air travel to arrest the inflow disease carriers
- Scores of airlines cancelled as many as 90% of their flights
- No international flight will be allowed to land in India Monday onwards for a week
- India's largest airline IndiGo to trim domestic operations by approximately 25%

MODEST LIQUIDITY COVER AVAILABLE IN FY21



Note: Base case assumes that the outbreak is contained in 3 months; Source: Ind-Ra, Ace Equity

THE REACTION:
- Indian airlines may ground 150 planes, or nearly a fifth of the country's commercial fleet
- Airlines may incur combined losses of $500 million-$600 million for January-March quarter
- The situation is hitting airlines' cash-flow, which is deemed to be the life-blood for the sector
- One low-cost airline in India only has four weeks of liquidity cover available
- Most others have less than two months of cash to cover their fixed expenses

WHAT IS NEEDED:
- Airlines need to severely trim costs in line with the drop in revenues
- Some Indian carriers may need to temporarily shut down operations to cut losses

HOW AIRLINES ARE CUTTING COSTS:

IndiGo has announced salary cuts for most of its employees; CEO to take 25% pay cut

GoAir has initiated a short term and temporary rotational leave without pay programme

Air India is renegotiating agreements with lessors and hotels, in addition to staff pay cuts

Air India has also stopped induction of fresh employees

Sources: India Ratings, CAPA, Airline Documents

FIGHTING THE VIRUS

Soap makers reduce prices

New Delhi: HUL, Godrej Consumer and Patanjali said they are reducing the prices of soaps, hygiene products and ramping up production.

Govt launches chatbot

New Delhi: The Centre has launched a chatbot on WhatsApp to address user queries about the pandemic.

Govt caps MRP of sanitisers

New Delhi: The Centre has capped MRP of hand sanitiser at Rs 100 per 200ml bottle till June 30.

NCLAT to hear 'urgent matters'

New Delhi: The NCLAT has restricted itself to hear only "urgent matters" till April 1. **PTI**

BSE, NSE allow brokers to shift terminals to homes

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 21

THE BSE and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) have allowed brokers to shift and operate trading terminals from other locations, including their homes, in view of the prevailing coronavirus pandemic.

"Members, opting for this facility, will be permitted to operate the trading terminals from such locations subject to compliance of certain guidelines. Members, should frame an internal policy in this regard clearly mentioning the controls and checks put in place to prevent any unauthorised trading activities," the NSE said.

According to the BSE, members should have a mechanism in place to monitor such terminals and ensure that the terminals are being operated from such designated alternate locations only and by the approved users.

"The policy will list the users and their details who will be permitted to operate from such location and the duration. Such policy will be duly approved by the Members appropriate authority such as CEO or designated director or compliance officer, partner or proprietor as the case may be," the NSE said. "Members should ... provide the list of the approved users, terminal details, segment, certificate details and alternate location address to the exchange," the bourses said.

SBI opens emergency credit line for borrowers

Mumbai: State Bank of India has opened an emergency credit line to meet any liquidity mismatch for its borrowers.

The additional liquidity facility – COVID-19 Emergency Credit Line (CECL), will provide funds up to Rs 200 crore and will be available till June 30, 2020, SBI said in a circular issued on Friday. The loan will be offered at 7.25 per cent with a tenure of 12 months.

The bank said the credit line is open for all standard accounts which have not been classified as SMA 1 or 2 as on March 16, 2020. **PTI**

Ola and Uber suspend shared rides temporarily

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

CAB AGGREGATORS Ola and Uber have suspended taxi sharing services temporarily to practice social distancing in order to arrest the spread of COVID-19. Shared rides — Ola Share and Uber Pool — account for 25-30 per cent of the total rides for these platforms, according to industry estimates, but are also problematic areas as far as the disease outbreak is concerned.

"In our efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19, we are temporarily suspending the 'Ola Share' category until further notice," Ola said in a statement.

"The temporary suspension of Ola Share services is an attempt to encourage social distancing for all cases of essential travel for citizens," it added.

Users opting for this category of cabs share their rides with other passengers travelling on the same route because these services generally cost less than private cab options. A large chunk of these riders choose shared or pooled cabs on shorter routes.

Specifically, for Sunday. the two cab companies have urged their customers to avoid all non-essential travel during Janata Curfew.

"We will have limited availability of vehicles to support essential and emergency travel during this period (Sunday 7am to 9pm)," Ola said.

RBI extends PMC Bank moratorium by another 3 mths

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, MARCH 21

THE RESERVE Bank of India (RBI) has extended the moratorium on Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank (PMC Bank) for another three months — from March 23 to June 22, 2020.

According to the RBI, it has been, directly and through the Administrator, discussing with various authorities on expeditious sale of securities and recoveries of loans. "Due to various factors including legal processes, tangible outcomes are taking some time," the RBI said.

The RBI said unlike in the case of commercial banks, the RBI has no powers to draw up an enforceable scheme of reconstruction of a co-operative bank. Nevertheless, in the interest of the depositors and the stability of the cooperative banking sector, the RBI, in consultation with various stakeholders and authorities, is trying to work out a scheme for revival of the bank, the RBI said.

"In order to take this forward, it is considered necessary to extend the directions for a further period of three months," it said. The RBI has been closely monitoring the situation and has been holding regular meetings with the Administrator and the Advisory Committee of the bank, it said.

On September 23, 2019, the RBI slapped curbs on PMC Bank, a leading cooperative bank headquartered in Mumbai, appointed an administrator and superseded its board of directors, sending shock waves among thousands of its depositors. Panic-stricken customers rushed to the bank's branches across the state and were unable to withdraw more than Rs 1,000. They had not been aware that the bank, which was under the supervisory glare of the RBI, was being milked by real estate players led by HDIL with the connivance of certain bank officials.

PMC Bank, with a deposit base of Rs 11,000 crore, has 137 branches across seven states, with 81 of these in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai, Thane and Palghar regions, 10 in Pune and 12 in the rest of Maharashtra.

SPEEDING UP LOAN RECOVERY

■ **According to the RBI, it has been, directly and through the Administrator, discussing with various authorities on expeditious sale of securities and recoveries of loan**

Govt clears 14th FC dues for some states

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE CENTRAL government has cleared pending instalment, worth Rs 2,570 crore, for urban and rural local bodies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, and Tamil Nadu under the 14th Finance Commission in the wake of the COVID-19 outbreak.

"In order to ensure that the basic services provided by local bodies are not affected at this time, the Centre has released the pending instalment of the grants to States under the 14th Finance Commission that had been withheld as local elections had not been held," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a tweet on Saturday.

The Finance Minister in another tweet said the local bodies have to "especially focus on providing basic civic services and ensure cleanliness" due to COVID-19.

Of the total amount of Rs 2,570.0813 crore, Rs 940.8063 crore is for rural local bodies and Rs 1,629.275 crore for urban local bodies. "The amounts have already been credited to the accounts of the respective state governments," she said.

IMF sees severe impact on global economy

REUTERS
WASHINGTON, MARCH 21

THE IMPACT of the global coronavirus pandemic will be "quite severe," but a long expansionary period and high employment rates mean the global economy should weather the current shock, a top International Monetary Fund official said on Friday.

Martin Muehleisen, who heads the IMF's strategy policy and review department, said in an IMF podcast that the main goal for governments should be to limit the spread of the virus in a way that provides confidence that the economic shock will be temporary.

A construction site in Los Angeles, the day after California issued a stay-at-home order due to COVID-19. *Reuters*

He said banks and governments had already taken unprecedented measures to provide liquidity to markets and keep them functioning, "and maybe more will be needed," but such steps should be coordinated internationally to amplify their effect.

'US coronavirus package to be over $2 trillion'

Washington: The coronavirus stimulus package being negotiated by the US Senate would be worth more than $2 trillion, White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said on Saturday.

"The package is coming in at about 10 percent of GDP," Kudlow said. Asked if that amounted to more than $2 trillion, Kudlow said: "That's correct."

"We're just trying to cover the right bases," Kudlow said as he entered the talks. **REUTERS**

Classifieds

PERSONAL

I, Sunil Kumar S/O Sh.Dev Raj Singh, DOB September-28,1975 R/o-973, Sector-3, Vasundhara, Ghaziabad do hereby inform & affirm that'Chaudhary'is my family name vide affidavit-No:10AE844168, Sworn before notary at Ghaziabad on-19.03.2020. Sunil Kumar, Chaudhary S,Sunil Kumar Chaudhary & Sunil K Chaudhary is one &.the same person. 0040536370-1

I, Sualaheen S/o Manzoor Ahmed R/o 2856, Bulbuli Khana, Bazar Sita Ram, Delhi-110006, have changed my name to Mohd Sualaheen 0040536385-2

I, Sanjay Kumar Gupta S/O Rajesh Kumar Gupta R/O-B-71, Newgupta-Colony, Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi-110009. Changed my Name to Sanjay Gupta. 0040536435-2

I, Saira Bano D/o Mohammad Abrar Qureshi R/o-F-152, Shaheen-Bagh, Abul-Fazal-Enclave Part-2, Okhla N.Delhi-110025. changed my Date-of-Birth of from 20/02/1998 to 20/02/1999. 0040536434-10

I, Sagar S/o- Umed Singh, R/o-H.no 171 Pandawala kalan South west Delhi, 110043 have changed myname to Sagar Yadav. 0070703665-1

I, Rafiya Parveen W/o Usman Ali, H.No.38, Basti Hazrat Niamuddin, Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi-110013. have changed my name to Rafia. 0040536435-1

I, Phool Begum W/o Riyazuddin Saifi R/o House No.5367, Sector-3, Near Haritima Academy School, Faridabad-121004, Haryana have changed my name to Ruksana Parveen for all purposes. 0040536376-1

I, Paramjeet Kaur W/o Jasvinder Singh, R/o:WZ-41A/2, Sant-Garh, Gali.No-10,Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-18,inform that Paramjeet Kaur and Paramjit kaur are One and the Same Person. 0040536434-6

I, Nawaban alias Navaban, W/o Mohammad Abrar Qureshi R/o-F-152, Shaheen-Bagh, Abul-Fazal-Enclave Part-2, Okhla N.Delhi-110025. changed my name to Nawaban Begum. 0040536434-9

I, Mohd Irshad S/o Mohammad Abrar Qureshi R/o-F-152, Shaheen-Bagh, AbulFazal-Enclave Part-2, Okhla N.Delhi-110025. changed my name to Mohammad Irshad Qureshi. 0040536434-8

I, Mohd Abrar S/o Aziz R/o F-152, Shaheen Bagh, AbulFazal-Enclave Part-2, Okhla N.Delhi-110025. changed my name to Mohammad Abrar Qureshi. 0040536434-7

I, Jaffar Abbas S/o Ameer Abbas R/o 62, Mushtark Mirapur Khurd, Muzaffarnagar, UP-251315 have changed my name Zafar Abbas. 0040536434-3

I, Danmeet Singh S/O Jaspinder Sareen, C-586, Gali-7, Second-Floor, Majlispark, Adarsh-Nagar Delhi-33. Have Changed My Nane To Danmeet Sareen Permanently. 0040536444-1

I, Babita D/o Giri Raj Singh R/o-250 RadhaKunj Nanad-Gram Ghaziabad-201003. have changed my name to Babita Devi. 0040536434-1

I, Ashutosh Pachori S/O Krishna Kumar Pachauri R/O 74, Nagrsen Wali Gali, Pipal Adda, Etah,U.P-207001. Changed my Name to Ashutosh Pachauri. 0040536435-4

I, Ashok Kumar @ Ashok Kumar Budhiraja S/o Late Sh.Kessar Dass R/o-12 Silver Park, Shivpuri, Delhi-51, have changed my name to Ashok Budhiraja for all future purposes and records. 0040536432-5

I, Apporva Srivastava S/o Anil Khare R/o-I-1807, Ajnara-Homes, Gh-03, GreaterNoida West-Bishrakh GautamBuddh Nagar U.P.-201306 have changed my name Apoorva Srivastava. 0040536434-2

I, Anu Saini @ Riya w/o Ashok Budhiraja D/o Sh.Prem Nath Saini R/o-12 Silver Park, Shivpuri Delhi-51, have changed my name after marriage to Riya Budhiraja for all future purposes and records. 0040536432-4

I, Anis Ahmed S/o Mohd Hanif R/o C-182/5, Gali No.2, Chauhan Banger, Seelampur, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to Mohd Anis 0040536385-1

I Vishant S/O Ranjeet Singh H.No-J-74, Dakshinpuri New Delhi-110062, Changed My Name To Vishant Singh Rana. 0040536435-8

I Trilok Chand S/o Kalu Ram Saini R/o-272/4 Udaypark Masjid Moth South X Part-2 Delhi-110049 have changed my name to Tirlok Chand for all purposes. 0040536432-3

I Sunita W/o Pankaj Kaushik R/o 2850/211 Vishram Nagar TriNagar Delhi-110035, Changed My Nane To Sunita Kaushik. 0040536444-2

I Shaikh Jabbar S/O Late Shaikh Mansoor R/O-C-1190 DDA flats East-of-Loni Road Shahdara Delhi-110093 that in future I shall be known by my correct name Shaikh Jabbar. 0040536434-4

I Rajni Prabhakar D/O Prabhakar Bhikaji Gangurde, H.No-973, Sec-23, N.I.T, H.B-Colony Faridabad-121005. Changed My Name To Rajni Prabhakar Gangurde. 0040536435-7

I Perminder Kaur W/o Gurcharan Singh Sabharwal R/o-J-3/184, Rajouri Garden New Delhi-110027 have changed my name to Perminder Kaur Sabharwal. 0040536434-5

I, Bachchu Prasad S/O Shambhu Prasad R/O 45b/A, Upkar Vihar, Sawada, Delhi-110081. Changed My Name To Vivek Kumar Verma. 0040536435-6

I Parmod/Parmod Parkash/Pramod Prakash Sharma, S/O Prem Prakash H.No-19, Pnt-Colony, Vidhan-Sabha, Civil-Lines, North, Delhi-110054. Changed My Name To Pramod Prakash Sharma. 0040536444-4

I Nitin Babu S/O, Dev Dutt Sharma R/o Rz E-190, Jai Vihar, Phase-1, Near Bani Camp, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043 have changed my name to Nitin Sharma for all purposes 0040536276-1

I Manoj Kumar S/o Somnath Khaneja R/o-152/1 Teliwara Shahdara Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Manoj Khaneja for all purposes. 0040536432-1

I Kamaljeet Kaur W/o Satvinder Singh R/o C-5/86a Keshav Puram Delhi-110035, Changed My Nane To Kamaljit Kaur. 0040536444-3

I Bashishta Chaudhary S/o Sukha Chaudhary R/o-H.No.-124, Village Supna, Post Gorigamadih Distt Muzaffarpur Bihar, have changed my name to Vashishta Chaudhary for all future purposes. 0040536432-2

I, Vikash Kumar Choudhary S/O Kali Kant Choudhary R/O Plotno.33b, III-Floor, Nihal Vihar Phase-2, Delhi-110041. Changed My Name to Vikash Choudhary. 0040536435-3

I, Vinay Kumar S/O Vishwanath R/O C-76, Ugf, Jeewan Park, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059. Changed My Name To Vinay Kumar Gupta. 0040536435-5

Kamlesh W/o Prakash chand khatri, R/o. 9/24 South Patel nagar, New Delhi-08 changed my name to JAGRITI KHATRI 0130015405-1

I,Vanshika Bansal D/o Yogesh Bansal,R/o-2/86,First Floor,Roop Nagar,Delhi-110007,inform that Ridhima Bansal & Vanshika Bansal both are the same person,i.e.myself. 0040536452-1

LOST & FOUND

I have lost the briefcase containing original copy of three possession letters and Builder Buyers Agreements between M/s DLF Commercial Developers Ltd. and M/s Sarobe Fashions Pvt Ltd for the property no. DTJ-608, DTJ-609, DTJ-610 in DLF Towers-B Jasola, New Delhi If found please inform on 011-41314200. Finder will be suitable rewarded. 0040536381-1

I have lost the briefcase containing original copy of two Builder Buyers Agreements between M/s DLF Universal Ltd. and Mrs.Jasbir Oberoi and Mr.Gurpreet Singh Oberoi for the property no.DSO-405, DLF South Court, Saket, New Delhi, and between M/s DLF Universal Ltd and Mr.Thurwinder Singh Oberoi and Mr.Gurpreet Singh Oberoi for the property no.DSO-406, DLF South Court, Saket, New Delhi.If found please inform on 011-41314200. Finder will be suitable rewarded." 0040536381-2

I, Ishant Sharma S/o Lokesh. have lost my 10th-class marksheet Roll No.2125891 Year-2009 issued by CBSE R/o-H.no-50 Sehatpur Village Faridabad. 0040536470-5

I, Shabnam D/o Habib Ahmad R/o House No.C-I/25 Raju Park, Khanpur, New Delhi-110062 have lost my CBSE Original Certificate & Marksheet of Class Xth, Roll No.441205, Year-1990, Contact-9811772505. 0040536376-2

Lost all Original Property Papers,of Shop No.3/229,3/231,Chotta Bazar,Delhi-110032,Favouring Late Ravinder Kumar,S/o-Late-Lachhman Dass,Founder Inform:- Sanjay Garg,S/o-Late Ravinder Kumar R/o 4/1926,Rama Block,Bhola Nath Nagar,Shahdara,Delhi-32, 9891228623,9212657148. 0040536473-1

I Pushpa D/o Sh.Satya Narain Mittal R/o A-67, Radhey Shyam Park Extn., Delhi-110051 have lost original IGPA, Agreement to Sell, Receipt, Possession Letter, Will & Affidavit executed on 04-06-2010 by Meena Malhotra & Pinki Khatri in favour of Pushpa Rani of Property No.A-75, Radhey Shyam Park Extn., Delhi-110051. Finders may contact at mobile No.8800406282. 0040536372-1

BUSINESS

Publisher looking for person or agency to collect advertisement for monthly English newspaper Art Observer on commission basis. Send your proposal to artobserver.in@gmail.com 0050164055-1

MATRIMONIAL

BENGALI

Delhi Based Boy, Age 30, Height 5'8", Executive MBA from IIM Lucknow, Director in own company, looking for a suitable match. Contact Mr Bhowmick: 9650940757 0050164023-1

HINDU

Suitable and professionally qualified match for handsome Punjabi Hindu boy 29y, 6'1" working in Europe as a Senior Software Engineer Phn 9872818929 0050163891-1

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the original Agreement to Sell, Affidavit, Receipt and previous chain of documents pertaining to the Shop No. 3, out of Property No. WZ-1, situated at Industrial Area, Near Natraj Cinema, Basai Darapur Village, Delhi in the name of Smt. Parvesh Kaur W/o S. Surjit Singh have/has been lost/ misplaced. A compliant in this regard is already lodged. If anybody has any information/ found the same, he or she may approach the undersigned within 15 days of publication of this Notice.

Sd/-
JASPREET SINGH (ADVOCATE)
Ch. No. B-149, B.G.S. BLOCK
TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all concerned that my client Sh. Gurdarshan Lal aged about 55 years son of late Haveli Ram R/o D-121 Tagore Garden Ext., New Delhi-110027 have severed all his relations with her daughter Pooja and debarred her from all my movable and immovable properties as he have compensated her financially and she agreed not to claim any right, title and interest in any of properties of my client. Anybody dealing with said Ms Pooja shall be doing so at his/her own risk, cost and responsibly and my client shall not held responsible in any manner whatsoever for any of her acts.

Sd/- **(RAJEEV TEWARI)**
ADVOCATE
394-395 CIVIL WING
TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to the general public that my client Rama Kant Sultania S/o Late Sh. Sanwar Mal Sultania is the true & lawful owner of Plot No. M-1/29, Budh Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110041 measuring 100 Sq.Yds Purchased from Basant Lal by virtue of General Power of Attorney, Agreement for Sale, Receipt & Registered Will dated 19.11.1984. The general public is hereby informed/ cautioned not to buy, sell or deal in any manner whatsoever with above mentioned property. If anybody does so he/ she would be doing solely at his / her own risk & consequences.

Gaurav Dhameja (Advocate)
RU-5, Pitampura, Delhi-34

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given on behalf of Mrs. Late w/o Late Mr. Govind Gopal who is the owner of Built-up Property Bearing No. 40B/12, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No.117/26, Situated at Village-Burari, Colony Known as B-Block, Gali No. 1/8, Sant Nagar, Delhi vide GPA, Agreement to Sale & WILL dated 07.08.2015 and further will be mortgaging against the financial assistance from Dhrmeet Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. That the Surviving Member Certificate of Legal Heirs of Late Mr. Govind Gopal died on 11.09.2008 is not available. To comply the requirements of bank/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection regarding ownership and/ or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of this notice at below address. **Lucem Legal LLP**
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.II, New Delhi-49.Contact 011-40946316

PUBLIC NOTICE

D-279, Sarvodaya Enclave, New Delhi-110017

Be it known to all concerned that on behalf of my client, I hereby inform that the original General Power of Attorney dated 23/02/1989 (un-registered), in respect of the subject property, executed by Mr. N. Chidambaram in favour of Mr. C.V. Ramanan, is misplaced/lost and is not traceable and a report in this regard has also been lodged with the PS Crime Branch, Delhi, SO No. 430 / 2014, LR No.264243, dated 16 / 03 / 2020.

Any person(s) finding the same is requested to return the same to the undersigned or if any person(s) / Bank / Institution/government authorities having any sort of right, claim, title or interest in the subject property under or on the basis of the said lost/ misplaced original misplaced document or otherwise, may put forth his / her / its claim to the undersigned within 10 (ten) days from the publication of this notice with documentary proof thereof, failing which the same shall not be binding on my client and no claim of whatsoever shall be entertained thereafter.

AMIT V. AWASTHI
Advocate, Supreme Court of India
R-296-A (Basement), G.K.-1,
New Delhi-48. Mob. 7011988537

LOST & FOUND

LOST & FOUND

I have lost Original Gift Deed Dated 21.05.2012 executed by Indian Society For Development of Education, Mr. Umang Mittal authorized signatory (Member) in favour of Haryana Institute of Education (HIE) through its authorised signatory Mr. Bishan Lal Gupta for land admeasuring 1 Bighe 6 Biswa, carved out of Khasra No.807, **Village - Asauda Todran, Tehsil - Bahadurgarh, Dist. Jhajjar, Haryana.**

Request if any one find it please return or send communication at above mentioned address.

Dinesh Khurana, AVP,
Working Capital Finance Dept.
Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd.
Ambadeep Building, 7th Floor,
K G Marg, New Delhi.
Mob. 8373911180

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE

Divl. Rly. Manager, Engineering, N.W.Railway, Jaipur for and on behalf of President of India invites open E-Tender for the following works upto 15.30 hours on the date shown as below : **1. Name of work with location** : ENGG-JP-2020-21-8 Jaipur-Proposed 2 Nos. Type-V staff quarters in Loco Colony in connection with Railway Electrification. **Approx Cost of work** : Rs. 8143460/- **Earnest money Rs.** : 162900/- **2. Name of work with location** : ENGG-JP-2020-21-9 Jaipur division - Reconditioning of Wheel Burn, scabbed & Cupped Rails of 60Kg/ 52 Kg of BG track in the Section JP-BKI under Jurisdiction of ADEN/HQ-II/JP. **Approx Cost of work** : Rs. 5340675/- **Earnest money Rs.** : 106800/- **1.** Other terms & condition will be shown on N.W.Rly. website-**www.ireps.gov.in** No any manual tender will be accepted. **2.** Payment of earnest Money deposit (EMD) & tender document cost (TDC) in respect of E-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only.) The payment is to be made in favour of FA&CAO, NWR, Jaipur, other wise tender will not be considered. **3.** Detail is available on N.W.Rly website-**www.ireps.gov.in** and Notice Board in WA section, DRM Office, NWR/Jaipur. **4.** Tender No. ENGG-JP-2020-21-8 to ENGG-JP-2020-21-9 is to be closed on 13.04.20 at 15.30 hrs and opened on 13.04.20 at 16.00 hrs. *322-DH/20*

Please join us on /NWRailways

Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Victoria Park, Meerut

TENDER DATE EXTENSION NOTICE

E- tenders were invited for supply of: -
(1) 200 Nos. 11 KV TVM Cat-B Meter against tender specification no. PVVNL-MT/COM/15/19-20.
(2) 100 Nos. 33 KV TVM Cat-B Meter against tender specification no. PVVNL-MT/COM/16/19-20.
The date of opening of Part-I & II of above tenders are hereby extended from 20.03.2020 to 04.04.2020
For detailed information please log on **www.pvvnl.org** & E-Tendering website **www.etender.up.nic.in** till the date of submission of bids. Superintending Engineer (Commercial) "Help line Number for Information of Theft of Electricity: "1800-180-3002 (Meerut) & 9412207451"
Remark **www.etender.up.nic.in**

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (Commercial)**
For Managing Director

"SAVE ELECTRICITY IN THE INTEREST OF THE NATION" पत्रांक: 3127/दिनांक: 21.03.2020

उत्तर प्रदेश आवास एवं विकास परिषद

सम्पत्ति प्रबन्ध अनुभाग, 104, महात्मा गाँधी मार्ग, लखनऊ
Website : http://www.upavp.in E-mail : info@upavp.com

पत्रांक: 331/स0प0-3/3711/1712/2018 दिनांक: 20.03.2020

आवश्यक सूचना

उत्तर प्रदेश आवास एवं विकास परिषद की विभिन्न अनावासीय/आवासीय सम्पत्तियों हेतु दिनांक **24.03.2020** एवं शैक्षणिक भूखण्डों हेतु दिनांक **27.03.2020** को प्रस्तावित ई–नीलामी संबंधी तिथियों में संशोधन किया गया है। उक्त ई–नीलामी हेतु नवीन तिथियाँ निम्नवत है :–

आवासीय/अनावासीय सम्पत्तियों हेतु ई–नीलामी तिथि : 16.04.2020

1) पंजीकरण व वांछित प्रपत्र अपलोड करने की अवधि : दिनांक 08.04.2020 तक
2) बैंक पात्रों द्वारा टोकन धनराशि जमा करने की अवधि : दिनांक 09.04.2020 से दिनांक 15.04.2020 तक

शैक्षणिक भूखण्डों हेतु ई–नीलामी तिथि : 16.04.2020

1) पंजीकरण व वांछित प्रपत्र अपलोड करने की अवधि : दिनांक 03.04.2020 तक
2) बैंक द्वारा सत्यापन आवेदकों की सूची एवं आवेदन पत्र सम्बन्धित जोनल आयुक्तों को प्रेषण तिथि : दिनांक 04.04.2020
3) प्रपत्रों की जांच : दिनांक 04.04.2020 से दिनांक 08.04.2020 तक
4) बैंक पात्रों द्वारा टोकन धनराशि जमा करने की अवधि : दिनांक 09.04.2020 से दिनांक 15.04.2020 तक

नोट :– सूची में प्रकाशित विज्ञापन के अनुसार जो आवेदक, पंजीकरण कर चुके हैं या टोकन धनराशि जमा कर चुके है, उन आवेदकों को पुनः पंजीकरण या टोकन धनराशि जमा करने की आवश्यकता नहीं है, उन आवेदकों का पंजीकरण दिनांक **16.04.2020** को संपन्न होने वाली आवासीय/अनावासीय/स्कूल भूखण्डों की ई–नीलामी हेतु मान्य होगा। शेष नियम व शर्तें पूर्ववत रहेंगी।

आवास आयुक्त

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MECHANICAL, SKIMS MC&H, BEMINA & SKIMS, SOURA, SRINAGAR
Tel.: 0194-2402617, Ext.: 2159, E-mail: mechanicalskims@gmail.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

Gist of e-NIT No. 58 of 19-20 Dated 20.03.2030

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor U.T. of Jammu & Kashmir, Executive Engineer, Mechanical, SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar, invites online e-Bids in Two (02) cover system from **Manufacturer's/ Authorized/Registered/Reputed Firms** and Experienced Firms having expertise as detailed in the tender document for the following works.

Sr. No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost
1.	**Overhauling of AC Accel Make Compressor No. 01 (SMC 8-100) at SKIMS, Soura.**	**Rs. 5,84,800/-**

The complete tender document is available at website: http://jktenders.gov.in. Interested Bidders/Tenderers may view, download the e-Bid document, seek clarifications and submit their bids online upto the date and time mentioned in the table below. Tender Document contains qualifying criteria for bidders. Bills of Quantities & Terms and Conditions of the contract and other relevant details.

i.	Date and Time of downloading/ Sale of Tender documents (Starting Date)	24.03.2020 at 11.00 hours
ii.	Date & Time of Bidding Queries/ clarification/Pre-Bid meet	30.03.2020 at 14.00 hours
iii.	Last Date & Time of Bid uploading	03.04.2020 upto 16.00 hours
iv.	Date of Submission of hard copies (Original EMD/FDR & DD only)	04.04.2020 upto 14.00 hours
v.	Date & Time of Commercial/ Technical Bid (Cover-I) opening	07.04.2020 at 11.00 hours (or next convenient day)
vi.	Date & Time of Financial Bid (Cover-IInd) opening	Shall be intimated separately
vii.	Cost of e-Bid Document	Rs. 500/- (Rupees Five Hundred only)
viii.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (CDR/FDR)	Rs. 11,700/- (Rupees Eleven Thousand & Seven Hundred only)
ix.	Completion Time	Annual contract
x.	Budget Head	Non Plan for the Year 2020-21

No. SIMS 139 EX.487/19-3340-50-4410-13
Dated: 20.03.2020

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Mechanical, SKIMS.

GOVT. OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (PURCHASE-2nd)
SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, SOURA (SRINAGAR)

eNIT No. SIMS 08 (P-II) OF 2020
DATED: 18.03.2020

Sub.: Abbreviated Notice Inviting e-Tenders for Supply of Crash Trolleys for SKIMS, Soura, Srinagar.

For and on behalf of Lt. Governor of Union Territory J&K through Director Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences, Soura Srinagar, e-Tenders are invited **under Two Bid System** from Original Manufacturers/their Authorized Distributors/ Registered Dealers for Supply of following Item/ Equipment at SKIMS Soura, Srinagar (J&K):

Item/Equipment	Tentative Qty. Required
● Crash Trolley	07 No's
International Standard US-FDA/CE (European) Certificate issued by Notified Bodies.	

The detailed Tender Document containing Specifications, Quantity, of the item alongwith terms and conditions of contract is available at **www.jktenders.gov.in** and complete Bidding Process shall be Online on the said e-Tender as per the following schedule.

SCHEDULE TO TENDER

Sr. No.	Activity Description	Schedule
1.	Cost of Tender Document	Rs. 200/-
2.	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 8,000/-
3..	Any Clarification with regard to eNIT shall be entertained from **(No representation/clarification shall be entertained beyond the stipulated period)**	18.03.2020 to 28.03.2020 (During Office Hours)
4.	Start Date & Time for Submission of Tenders	29.03.2020 from 10.00 A.M.
5.	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender Document	15.04.2020 upto 02.30 P.M.
6.	Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bids	18.04.2020 at 02.30 P.M.
7.	Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bids	Will be intimated later

The Tender Notice is also available on official website of SKIMS **www.skims.ac.in** for reference only.
Director SKIMS reserves the right to accept/reject or cancel any Tender or All Tenders in full or part without assigning any reason thereof.
The Tender must be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed eNIT.

Sd/- Material Management Officer,
(Purchase-2nd)

No.: SIMS 325/37/2019-645-52-4414-16
Dated: 18.03.2020

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

TENDER NOTICE No.18/DB/F.114 N/2020 Dated : 20.03.2020
LS FORM (RATE TENDER SYSTEM) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu sealed tenders are invited by the Chief Engineer, Fisheries Department, Integrated office Complex, Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Department, Nandanam, Chennai-35, for the following works from the registered Civil contractors of Govt. Departments.

Name of Work : (1) Construction of Groynes and landing facilities to prevent further erosion at Fish Landing Centre in Periathalai in Thoothukudi District. **(2)** Construction of Northern Breakwater and dredging of barmouth for improvement of Fish Landing Centre at Nagore in Nagapattinam District. **(3)** Construction of Fish Landing Centre at Puthenthurai in Kanniyakumari District. **(4)** Renovation of existing farms and construction of Training Centre for Ornamental fishes at Manimangalam fish farm in Kancheepuram District.

Apprx. Value of work in Lakhs	: **(1) 2693.00, (2) 1930.00, (3) 406.00, (4) 268.00**
EMD Amount	: **(1) Rs.13,56,500/-, (2) Rs.9,75,000/-, (3) Rs.2,13,000/- , (4) Rs.1,44,000**
Eligible Contractors as per rules	: **(1), (2), (3) & (4) Class I State Level**
Cost of Tender Schedule + GST	: **Rs.15,000 + Rs.1,800/- each work.**
Period of Completion for	: **(1) & (2) 9 Months for each work.** and for **(3) & (4) 6 Months for each work.**
Cost of Tender Schedule and EMD to be remitted in favour for	: (1) Executive Engineer, FHB Division, Thoothukudi. (2) Executive Engineer, FHB Division, Nagapattinam (3) Executive Engineer, FHB Division, Nagercoil (4) Executive Engineer, FHB Division, Chennai
Period for Availability of Tender Schedule	: **upto 5.45 pm on 21.04.2020**
Last date of receipt of tender	: **22.04.2020 upto 03.00 pm**
Date and Time of Opening of tender	: **22.04.2020 at 03.30 pm**

The other details, terms and conditions may be obtained from the Office of the Chief Engineer, Fisheries Department, Chennai-600 035 and the tender documents may also be downloaded **at free of cost**, through internet at the website **www.tenders.tn.gov.in**

DIPR/1503/Tender/2020

Chief Engineer, Fisheries Department, Chennai-35

Paschimanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd., Victoria Park, Meerut-250002

E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE

Very short term tender is invited through e-tendering for supply of 5000 Nos. 33 KV post insulator against tender specification no. PVVNL-MT/MM/121(vs)/19-20.
Date of tender opening on 31.03.2020.
Remark:- www.etender.up.nic.in
For detailed information please log on **www.pvvnl.org** & E-Tendering website **www.etender.up.nic.in** till the date of submission of bids. Superintending Engineer (MM-I) "Help line Number For Information of Theft of Electricity: "1800-180-3002 (Meerut) & 9412207451"

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer (MM-I)
For Managing Director

पत्रांक: 3150/दिनांक: 21.03.2020

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

O.A. No. 685/2017
CANARA BANK .....**Applicant**
VERSUS
M/S YAHAVI EXPORTS PVT. LTD. & ORS. .....**Respondents**

To,
1. Mr. Amit Yadav (Director/Guarantor) ..... (Respondent No. 02)
S/o Shri Suresh Kumar R/o RZ-152, E, Gali No. 1, East Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs.58,11,236.63/- (Rupees Fifty Eight Lakhs Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Thirty Six and Sixty Three paise Only)** against you and 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 advertisement directing you to make appearance before Honebl'e Tribunal **16.04.2020 At 10.30 A.M.**
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this **22nd February of 2020**

By order of this Tribunal
For Registrar

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

OA NO. 14/2019
Punjab And Sind Bank **Applicant**
VERSUS
Ms. Umair Farooqui & Otrs. **Defendants**

To, 1. Mr. Umair Farooqui, S/o. Late Sh. Suhail Lqbal, R/o. Plot No. S 12, Flat No. S1, Second Floor, Frout Side HIG with Roof Rights, DLF Dilshad Garden Extension, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201005., Also At: 700/55/1, Street No. 24, Vijay Park, Maujpur, Delhi-110053.
2. Sh. Mohd. Tousif, S/o. Sh. Mohd. Tausif, R/o. 700/55/1, Street No. 24, Vijay Park, Maujpur, Delhi-110053.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 23,94,932.50/- (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Ninety Four Thousand Nine Hundred And Thirty Two And Fifty Paisa Only)** against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on **09.04.2020 at 10.30 A.M.**
Take Notice that in case of your failure to appear on the day mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this **27th January of 2020.**

By order of this Tribunal
For Registrar, DRT-I, Delhi

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI

4TH FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

OA NO. 91/2019
Yes Bank Ltd. **Applicant**
VERSUS
Luxuriun Leathers Pvt. Ltd. & Ors. **Defendants**

To,
1. Luxuriun Leathers Pvt. Ltd. Through its Director
20, 2nd Floor, Babbar Lane, Delhi-110001.
2. Mukesh Kumar Gakhar,
C-2/260, IST Floor, C-2 Block, Janakpuri, Delhi-110058.
3. Gaurav Sharma,
DG-III/366 Vikas Puri Delhi-110018

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs.22,93,325/- (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Five Only)** against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way . Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on **04.06.2020** at 10.30 A.M.
Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this **02nd March of 2020.**

By order of this Tribunal
For Registrar

DAKSHINANCHAL VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED

(UNDERTAKING OF U.P. GOVERNMENT)
(CIN: U31200UP2003SGC027460)

e-Tender Extension Notice

पत्रांक: 895/अधी.अभि.(कार्यशाला.) द.वि.वि.नि.लि./निविदा सूचना दिनांक: 20.03.2020

Tender No.	Short Description	Estimated Cost in Rs.	Revised Earnest Money in Rs.	Revised Tender Fee in Rs.	Tender Opening Date & Time
35/2019-20	Repairing of 10/16 KVA to 100 KVA T/F at Newly Workshop Panki (Sachendi) under EWD Kanpur	Approx. Rs. 208.50 Lac	Rs. 2,10,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	24.04.2020 16:00 Hrs.
36/2019-20	Repairing of 10/16 KVA to 100 KVA T/F at Workshop Agra under EWD Agra	Approx. Rs. 208.20 Lac	Rs. 2,10,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	24.04.2020 16:00 Hrs.
39/2019-20	Repairing of 10/16 KVA to 100 KVA T/F at Newly Workshop Kanpur (Jainpur) under EWD Kanpur	Approx. Rs. 208.50 Lac	Rs. 2,10,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	24.04.2020 16:00 Hrs.
43/2019-20	Repairing of 10/16 KVA to 400 KVA T/F at Newly Workshop Auraiya (Etawah) under EWD Kanpur	Approx. Rs. 83.81 Lac	Rs. 85,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	20.05.2020 16:00 Hrs.
69/2019-20	Repairing of 100 KVA to 1000 KVA T/F at Newly Workshop Panki (Sachendi) under EWD Kanpur	Approx. Rs. 208.175 Lac	Rs. 2,10,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	24.04.2020 16:00 Hrs.
70/2019-20	Repairing of 100 KVA to 1000 KVA T/F at Newly Workshop Kanpur (Jainpur) under EWD Kanpur	Approx. Rs. 208.175 Lac	Rs. 2,10,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	24.04.2020 16:00 Hrs.
71/2019-20	Repairing of 100 KVA to 1000 KVA T/F at Workshop Shikohabad under EWD Agra	Approx. Rs. 102.485 Lac	Rs. 1,00,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	20.05.2020 16:00 Hrs.
72/2019-20	Repairing of 100 KVA to 1000 KVA T/F at Workshop Agra under EWD Agra	Approx. Rs. 123.425 Lac	Rs. 1,25,000.00	Rs. 5,000.00 (GST Extra)	15.05.2020 16:00 Hrs.
81/2019-20	Supply of LED Bulb,Main Switch, Street Ligth & Inventor Battery at various workshop under EWC, Agra	Approx. Rs. 45.36 Lac	Rs. 45,000.00	Rs. 3,000.00 (GST Extra)	30.03.2020 16:00 Hrs.

Other Terms & Conditions have been given in detailed tender for which please visit at eprocurement portal of UP Government **https://etender.up.nic.in** or contact us at given address as follows:

Urja Bhawan, 220 KV Sub-Station, Bye Pass Road, Sikandra, Agra 282007 (UP) Ph. No. 9068944455

Superintending Engineer (Workshop)
D.V.V.N.L. AGRA

TAMIL NADU SLUM CLEARANCE BOARD

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CHENNAI CIRCLE-II)

NOTICE INVITING SHORT- TENDER

Tender Notice No. SCB/637 /D1/SE(CC-II)/2019 **Date: 21.03.2020**

For and on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, one sealed short 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 name of work duly superscribed to be enclosed in B cover are invited from the registered contractors of TNSCB under Class –I and above or Government Departments / Government undertaking / Public Sector Undertaking, registered as a legal entity in India by the Superintending Engineer, Chennai Circle-II, Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board, No.5, Kamarajar Salai, Chennai – 600 005 upto **3.00 PM** on **08.04.2020** and the same will be opened

BRIDGE

Dealer East, EW vulnerable

NORTH	SOUTH
♠A10874	♠5
❤J943	❤5
♦-	♦AJ765
♣Q975	♣AJKJ1042

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1❤	2♣		
2❤	4♦	Pass	6♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	

West leads the H7 to East's ace, and East sends back the H6. No one else bid the slam, so you'll get top board if you make twelve tricks. Can you do it?

THE WEST HAND: ♠K93 ❤K87 ♦10942 ♣863

THE EAST HAND: ♠QJ62 ❤AQ1062 ♦KQ83 ♣-

The contract is makeable on the actual layout by ruffing four diamonds in dummy (using spade ruffs and heart ruffs to keep coming back to hand). You end up with six club tricks, four diamond ruffs, and two aces (A trump lead would have prevented one of the ruffs, but you can still make with only three ruffs – the 5th diamond will be set up as a winner).

If South had made 6C, he would have turned the misunderstanding into a top board. Still, you can't do better than 1st place, so it didn't matter in the end!

Dealer North, both vulnerable.

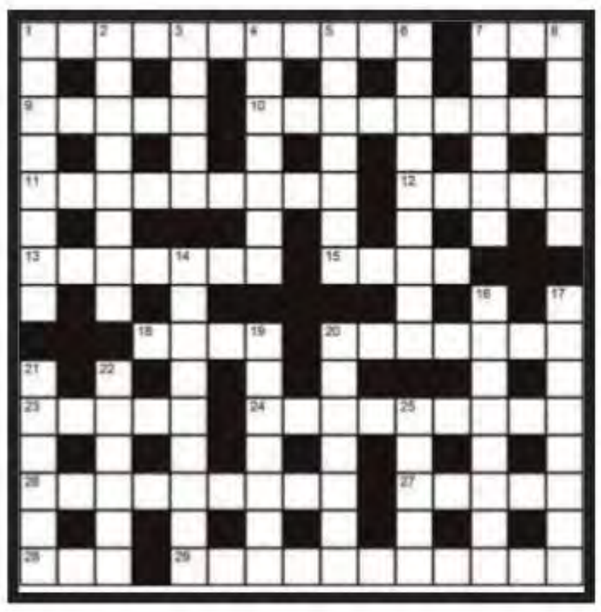
NORTH	WEST
♠J8	♠Q103
❤QJ9542	❤A10
♦A63	♦J875
♣A9	♣Q1053

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1❤	1♠	2❤	
2♠	3❤	3♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

You are North, defending 3S by East. Your partner, South, leads the DK followed by the D4 to your ace. Declarer has followed with the D2 and D9.

You are on lead with the DA at trick three – what next?

SUNDAY CROSSWORD 2261



QUICK CLUES
ACROSS
1. Practical guide (4,2,5)
7. Fly-by-light (3)
9. Mark (5)
10. Annoying, heckling or persecuting (9)
11. Stuffed tubes of pasta (9)
12. Composer of Carmen (5)
13. Revoke (7)
15. Audacity (4)
18. English painter (4)
20. Blank page at front of book (7)
23. Steal away (5)
24. Peerless (9)
26. Cunctation (9)
27. Two times (5)
28. Performed (3)
29. Acuteness of judgement (11)

DOWN
1. Taking it easy - that's the only medicine here ! (4,4)
2. Lack of fat (8)
3. Snow leopard (5)
4. Small-size newspaper (7)
5. Eternal (7)
6. Drinker's spare tyre (4,5)
7. Band of sculpture (6)
8. Smooth (6)
14. Afoot (2,3,4)
16. Show live on TV (8)
17. Wealthy (8)
19. New Englanders (7)
20. Skill (7)
21. Moistened, soaked slightly in water (6)
22. Rose into the air (6)
25. ___ Villa : famous football club ? (5)

CRYPTIC CLUES
ACROSS
1. Voice of one's fiancée heard on the telephone? (7,4)
7. American intelligence alternately in China (3)
9. No longer one the French need to deport (5)
10. Eats and looks round at the squalor (9)
11. Rooms fitted with concealed drawers, perhaps (9)
12. Temperamental cricketer (5)
13. Where feathers used to fly, and pilots still do (7)
15. Peter's favourites on queen's departure ? (4)
18. He essayed to see the French doctor (4)
20. Speed of movement, including central locking, for a part of the polar sea (4-3)
23. Lacking experience, no doubt, but never agree to show it (5)
24. Engaged with other debt (9)
26. One sister and one class serving as a member of the military (2,7)
27. A couple needing support (5)
28. Call in order to provide direction (3)
29. Marie from Paris ? (11)

DOWN:
1. Polish eastern angel clumsily on church (8)
2. Languid ancestor provides direction (8)
3. Get up fresh in great form in Wales (5)
4. Curled back at last course (7)
5. Minimalist dance? (3-4)
6. Mysterious Gemini act taking a strange form (9)
7. Wrong codes - right beliefs (6)
8. Tries, for instance, to get a fool out (6)
14. An obvious quarrel takes him to court (9)
16. Most trusty lieutenant has to correct member (5,3)
17. Is this what makes one so very eager of late ? (4,4)
19. Be-bop wildly about a half hour for top gagman (3,4)
20. River to Scotsman is an American river (7)
21. Glue is not sticking together, according to these ill-favoured persons (6)
22. Isn't too happy about odd return of Mr. Desmond Small (6)
25. Do cattle salute at the river-bend? (5)

Solutions to 2260

QUICK CLUES Across: 1 Cobblers, 5 Evaded, 9 Evicting, 10 Expect, 12 Squirming, 13 Ousel, 14 Zing, 16 Smudges, 19 Prosper, 21 Quit, 24 Royce, 25 Trembling, 27 Vermin, 28 Stellate, 29 Duties, 30 Antonyms. **Down:** 1 Cheesy, 2 Beirut, 3 Later, 4 Running, 6 Voxpopuli, 7 Dressage, 8 Dateless, 11 Ages, 15 Imprecise, 17 Approved, 18 Holywrit, 20 Ruts, 21 Quentin, 22 Litany, 23 Ogress, 26 Bilko. **CRYPTIC CLUES Across:** 1 Lamppost, 5 Embers, 9 Wordplay, 10 Arabia, 12 Rain proof, 13 Unzip, 14 Prom, 16 Stellar, 19 Recycle, 21 Cuss, 24 Viler, 25 Overtones, 27 Oxtail, 28 Puff-puff, 29 Forage, 30 Play ball. **Down:** 1 Lowers, 2 Morbid, 3 Pep up, 4 Sea-room, 6 Marauders, 7 Embezzle, 8 Stampers, 11 UFOs, 15 Recording, 17 Drove off, 18 Sculptor, 20 Eros, 21 Coequal, 22 Ungula, 23 Useful, 26 Taffy.

If it's your Birthday

Sunday March 22
Each of you, in your own way, needs to explore new pastures, whether they're emotional, spiritual or intellectual, or if you're about to spend your time somewhere new.

Monday March 23
Now is one of those classic times when you should be true to your deeper nature and do only what you know to be right and proper.

Tuesday March 24
Life is looking good. Your emotional ties are about to go through a decisive phase with results which, very happily, will turn out to be totally positive. Don't imagine, though, that a partner should always take first place.

Wednesday March 25
You may feel as if all the good things lie in the past. If so, you're mistaken. There is plenty of good fortune still to come, as you'll be finding out in the coming weeks.

Thursday March 26
You're shifting from one positive to another. Whereas once you were full of bright ideas, and expected other people to wait on you, now you are ready to put your plans into practice.

Friday March 27
There's a fair amount of excitement around. If you take a major decision now, then you might just reap the rewards soon.

Saturday March 28
Bright times lie ahead. You are in a highly emotional mood, yet the question you must now ask yourself is why you should feel so strongly attracted to some people? And what you can do about it. Spread a little love around.

YOUR WEEK AHEAD

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You're entering a tricky financial phase and will have to face up to a number of awkward choices. Also, it may be time to abandon a commitment which has become rather burdensome. Make sure that family members are happy with your decision.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
You could be heading for an intense confrontation. You will have to speak the plain truth, although please pick your words with care and kindness. Hopefully your candour and sensitivity will be appreciated, and will help everyone move on.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Something may happen behind the scenes to change your plans and ideas. Whatever takes place will almost certainly involve your work or whatever other routine chores are pre-occupying you at the moment. Romantic hopes are reinforced by Venus' passage through complementary quarters of your chart.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You'll be on the look-out for new friends and anxious to put former associates in their place. Additional attention is required to all travel and holiday plans over the coming weeks, perhaps because you're showing a tendency to forget essential facts.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
These should be the perfect days to apply a little of your cheery Leonine medicine to a close partnership. Only you can do this, so why don't you organise a break from domestic routine and plan something special instead? After all, everyone needs cheering up, including you.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Legal matters seem to have some role to play in your life over the next weeks. Is it possible that you have embroiled yourself in a bureaucratic muddle? One thing is certain, and that is if you stick to your guns and do what you know to be right, you won't go far wrong. And you might also win some additional respect from the people who matter.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
Shopping, saving and investments all occupy your attention. Money matters can only increase in importance as the week passes. You will come to realise that you have the chance to set your finances on an altogether more prosperous course but how and when are questions that are still unclear.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
It may be more difficult than usual for you to imagine that a close partner can possibly be right, so deep is your belief in your own infallibility. However, any astrologer would advise you to compromise and bend to circumstances. In short, please be super-flexible.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 23)
Many freedom-loving Sagittarians are now starting to resemble determined, obstinate and emotional Scorpios. Your behaviour, especially a tendency to secrecy in important matters, is departing further from what they have been in the past.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
As the days go by you will see that money lies at the root of all disagreements. If you can increase your earnings, as you deserve to do, you will solve a good many of your problems.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Recent developments in your chart associated with relations, children and romance seem bound to work out for the best in the long run, even if you have been rather disconcerted by a number of statements or events.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
The stars are urging self-improvement. This is a special week especially 0for all of you pursuing educational goals or working in the travel and communications industry. If there is any way to get other people to see that you really do mean business, then get on with it. Do not delay this.

JUMBLED 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.

___does not consist in the punishment, but in the crime. - Vittorio Alfieri (8)

GNVAE

EESXCS

BKSIR

AAOPDG

SOLUTION: VEGAN, BRISK, EXCESS, PAGODA
Answer: **Disgrace** does not consist in the punishment, but in the crime. - Vittorio Alfieri

SUDOKU 4156

Difficulty Level 5s
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

				1			9	7
		2		4			5	
			3			8		
		1	4				6	
9				6				5
	2				5	9		
		3			2			
	8			7		3		
7	4			9				

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4155

5	1	2	7	8	9	4	6	3
9	4	3	2	5	6	7	1	8
8	7	6	4	1	3	2	9	5
1	5	7	3	9	4	8	2	6
4	2	8	5	6	7	9	3	1
3	6	9	1	2	8	5	7	4
7	9	4	6	3	5	1	8	2
2	3	5	8	7	1	6	4	9
6	8	1	9	4	2	3	5	7

NOTICE BOARD

CORPORATE ASSOCIATE DIARY — EVENTS, HONOURS

MEETING - NHPC

AK Singh, CMD, NHPC, along with Janardan Choudhary, Dir. (Technical), NHPC, in a meeting with Prabhakar Rao, CMD, TSTransco and other senior officials from NHPC and TSTransco, to explore renewable energy plans in Telangana.

CELEBRATION - RAILTEL

RailTel celebrated IWD 2020 by organizing a special interaction between the women officials and Management of RailTel, which was chaired by Puneet Chawla, CMD/RailTel. Sanjai Kumar, Dir., NPM, and AK Singh, Dir., Finance, were also present. A number of women employees were also felicitated in this event for their outstanding contribution.

MOU-CRPF

An MoU was signed between MR Naik, IG, Southern Sector, CRPF and Aditya Mehta of the Aditya Mehta Foundation, in the presence of Dr AP Maheshwari, DG CRPF, to enable the 'Divyang Warriors' lead aself-esteem-driven productive life.

MEETING - NBCC

SLMC of the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, co-chaired by YS Jaganmohan Reddy, CM and PK Gupta, CMD, NBCC, recently held a meeting to review the progress of ambitious 'MISSION BUILD AP' initiative.

EVENT- AAI

KT Rama Rao, Minister for Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Telangana, inaugurated "Wings India 2020" at Hyderabad, in presence of Arvind Singh, Chairman, AAI, and Usha Padhee, JS, Minister of Civil Aviation, GoI and others.

FOUNDATION DAY - CORPORATION BANK

Corporation Bank recently celebrated its 115th Foundation Day, where various functions were conducted throughout the country. Staff members also participated in 'Walkathon' from the Bank's Centenary Library to Head Office, Mangalore.

MEETING - OBC

The 98th State Level Bankers' Committee Meeting was convened by OBC SLBC Convener-NCT Delhi, and was chaired & addressed by MK Jain, MD & CEO, OBC, inpresence of other senior officials.

SYMPOSIUM - SCOPE

SCOPE organized Symposium on Implementation of RTI Act. NK Gupta, Information Commissioner, CIC, inaugurated the program, speaking about the importance of RTI Act as an instrument of good governance in organizations.

AWARD - NTPC

NTPC bagged 28 awards at Corp. Comm. Excellence Awards 2020 and was conferred with the 'Champion of Champions Title' during the 14th Global Communication Conclave by PRCI at Bengaluru.

DIVIDEND-PFC

Rajeev Sharma, CMD,PFC presented RTGS intimation bank advice of an interim dividend of Rs.1404.37crore to RK Singh, MoS (I/C) Power and New & Renewable Energy & MoS for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

MEETING - BIS

BIS organised a meeting with Consumer Groups, to associate with them and to enhance interaction with consumers whom BIS considers as the major stakeholders. Pramod Kumar Tiwari, DG, BIS, gave the inaugural address.

CHENNAI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A Joint Venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Tamil Nadu)
Admin Building, CMRL Depot, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai – 600 107, India.

e-NIT No: CMRL-TM-01-2020
e-procurement tender

CMRL invites open e-tender through e-procurement portal from reputed, experienced, financially sound, eligible applicants, who fulfil the qualification criteria as mentioned in the tender through **International Competitive Bidding (ICB)** under Single Stage Two Envelope (Technical & Financial) system for the works as detailed below:

TENDER TM-01-2020 - "COMPREHENSIVE MAINTENANCE OF BALLASTLESS TRACK FOR ELEVATED, UNDERGROUND AND DEPOT SECTIONS IN CORRIDOR 1, 1 EXTENSION & 2".

Please refer websites
1) www.chennaimetrorail.org or
2) https://eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app for further information.

DIPR/1507/Tender/2020 — **Director (S&O)-In charge**

Karnataka Veterinary, Animal & Fisheries Sciences University, Bidar
E-PROCUREMENT MODE
30 Days Tender Notification
No. TPC/KVAFSU/eProc.53/G&S/2019-20/193 Dated 16.3.2020
(KVAFSU/2019-20/IND105)

KVAFSU invites bids through eProcurement in 2 covers system for supply of **Spectrophotometer, server and furniture** for various institutes of KVAFSU, Bidar from Tenderers registered in eProcurement cell of Government of Karnataka. Total cost of the tendered amount is **Rs. 45.80 Lakhs**. The detailed notification of tender can be obtained by logging onto website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **23.03.2020.** The last date for uploading tender documents is **22.04.2020** upto **5:00 p.m**. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned

Sd/-
Dr. M.K. Tandle, Coordinator, TPC,
KVAFSU, Bidar-585226. Ph.: 9448569337
DIPR/BU/2883/19-20

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL- II, DELHI
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI- 110001.
OA NO. 712/19
M/s ICICI Bank Ltd. ..Applicant
Versus
Nemesh Kumar Garg & Ors ..Respondent

To,
1. AVJ Developers (India) Pvt. Ltd (Buider)
Having Its Office At:
D- 237, 1st Floor (Back Side), Vivek Vihar, Phase-1, Delhi-110095.

Whereas, the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of **Rs. 21,47,417/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Forty Seven Thousand Four Hundred And Seventeen Only)** against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on **11.05.2020** at **10:30 A.M.**

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 20th February of 2020.

BY ORDER OF THIS TRIBUNAL
For Registrar

Chief Engineer, Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency,
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayatiraj, Opp-IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun

Ref. No.:16/WAPCOS-PMGSY/2020 — **Dated : 20 March, 2020**
PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice

The Chief General Manager, WAPCOS Limited on behalf of URRDA. Government of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the District of Almora for 02 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 7.78 Crore including their maintenance for Two years for Stage-I and Five years for Stage-II and Bridges from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent'.
Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement: 20-03-2020.
Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original demand draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B at WAPCOS Ltd, plot No. 209, Phase-I, Basant Vihar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand on a date mentioned in MBD/SBD either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.
Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 28-03-2020 01:00 PM.
For further details please log on to **www.pmgsytendersuk.gov.in**

Chief Engineer,
URRDA, Dehradun.

** Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.*
***Note :** For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2761531 number may be contacted 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM.*

ECB DELAYS SEASON

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) has suspended all professional cricket till May 28, delaying the start of the new season, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SAI centres could be used as quarantine sites in battle against virus

MIHIR VASAVDA
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

THE GOVERNMENT could sequester sports stadia across the country as quarantine sites as it prepares for the worst-case scenarios following the coronavirus outbreak over the last few weeks. The government, it is learnt, has forewarned the Sports Authority of India (SAI) that the stadiums and sports hostels under them could be needed in the event of a spike in the number of positive cases, which stood at 283 on Saturday.

The Lakshmibai National College for Physical Education (LNCPE) and Pune's Balewadi Sports Complex, too, have been identified as potential quarantine sites.

The sports ministry, on Friday, conveyed to the SAI to 'make available their facility wherever needed.' The SAI has 10 regional centres across India and five stadiums in New Delhi under its control, and could provide a 'minimum of 2,000 isolation beds'.

Sports secretary Radhey Shyam Julaniya said he had spoken with SAI director-general Sandip Pradhan and it was decided to 'indicate what all facilities we have to whoever needs it.' The message was subsequently passed on to all regional directors, who are in charge of their respective centres.

"This is an emergency situation. Anything and everything which is required in the interest of public health will be made available," Julaniya said. "If they need (SAI facilities) for isolation ward, we will make it available. If they need it for any other health purpose, we will make it available."

The ministry had discontinued all ongoing camps at SAI centres and had ordered the trainees to vacate the premises. All those who have qualified for the Tokyo Olympics, or are likely to make the cut, have been allowed to continue training. These camps are being held at the Bangalore SAI centre and National Institute of Sport in Patiala while some are also training in Sonepat. All domestic tournaments and national selection trials, too, have been suspended till April 15.

Earlier this week, the Rohtak district administration reached out to SAI to check if the National Boxing Academy would be available in case of a health emergency. "We have informed everyone that we will not hesitate and make the centres available to whoever needs it," Julaniya said.

In Pune, it is learnt that a shooter who has qualified for the Olympics and had been training at the Balewadi Sports Complex had to leave after the Maharashtra government decided to convert the venue's hostel facility into a quarantine zone with 500 beds. It has been reported that the Sports Village building at the Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad, too, is being turned into a makeshift quarantine facility. A similar step was taken in Wuhan, the former epicentre of the virus, as well, where a sports stadium was converted into a temporary hospital.

PTI adds: Isolated inside the SAI Centre in Bengaluru, it's business as usual for the Indian men's and women's hockey players as they prepare for the upcoming Tokyo Olympics in a "safe environment".

"The COVID-19 outbreak has not affected our practice sessions. We are continuously washing our hands and our temperatures are being checked regularly. The authorities at our SAI campus are ensuring that we are training in a safe environment," said the men's team captain Manpreet Singh. "With the backing of SAI and our coaches, we have been training very hard for the Olympics."

The women's team captain Rani Rampal said her team is fortunate to continue training for the Olympics in a safe environment.

"We are very fortunate to have a facility like the SAI campus here. Everyone is working very hard so that the hockey teams can continue to practice for the Olympics," said Rani. "Our health is being monitored everyday and we are taking all the necessary precautions."

Trainees at a Sports Authority of India centre. *File*

With sport on pause, athletes press play

Some of the top footballers will take to the joystick and so will Formula One drivers as official esport competitions crop up in the wake of coronavirus putting on-field action on hold. GAURAV BHATT details how gaming is being sought after by sport-starved fans, athletes and broadcasters

IMAGINE landing a job as the media manager for a football club, a week before all football is called off. That's the quandary Luke Lambourne found himself in this month. After being the head of media for semi-professional club AFC Fylde, Lambourne earned a promotion of his own with a move to League Two club Leyton Orient. Then the pandemic struck.

"When we got that message that football's going to be off for three or four weeks, everyone just looked around and kind of panicked in terms of what we were going to do," Lambourne told *SportsPro*. "We just tried to keep a bit of a clear head and think, 'well we knew this was coming, so what can we do if our hands are tied behind our backs, what are the trends we're seeing these days?'"

On the now-cancelled match day against Bradford City, the London-based club went ahead with the away trip, only it was on the make-believe pitch of Football Manager — the acclaimed, ultra-realistic simulation video game that has helped many IRL (in real life) managers to test strategies and scout talent.

"It's Bradford City v Leyton Orient at Valley Parade, in a distant world where Corona is still just a Mexican beer," posted the club's Twitter handle, along with the live stream. Polls were created for followers to vote on substitutions and tactics, prompting ironic cacophony. Leyton lost the 'match' 1-0, but Lambourne had a winner of an idea.

"We had a conversation and thought, 'OK, clearly there's a desire for clubs to interact with each other here, there's obviously a desire from fans in terms of getting engaged as well, so how can we kind of bring all that together?'"

Leyton Orient then shot out a tweet asking clubs to sign up for a 64-team invitational tournament on the FIFA 20 video game. Within 48 hours, they had to increase the entry list to 128, as clubs from Europe, Oceania, North America and Africa expressed their interest, including Manchester City, Ajax and AS Roma. Thus, the cheekily-named *Ultimate Quaran-Team* tournament was born. A draw was completed on Wednesday, the schedule drawn up a day later. The tournament kicks off this Sunday and will go on till April 3.

The matches will be six minutes per half, clubs will select a single representative to play for them, whether a professional player, a member of the staff or a fan and the competitors will have to figure out streaming logistics between themselves.

Amazon-owned streaming platform Twitch has offered to broadcast the matches. UK bookmakers have already set the odds (William Hill reckons Sheffield Wednesday are the favourites at 8/1).

The tournament kicks off this Sunday and will go on till April 3. The matches will be six minutes per half, clubs will select a single representative to play for them, whether a professional player, a member of the staff or a fan.

England international Andros Townsend volunteered to helm the controller for Crystal Palace, and has since been bombarded by fans who have put money on him going all the way. "Bring it home" read a tweet, along with a picture of a £5 bet on Townsend. The winger replied: "Maaaaaate.... yesterday was the first time I'd picked up a controller in over 4 months..... I'll probs get charged now for giving inside info."

While Leyton Orient will be represented by goalkeeper and academy graduate Sam Sargeant, Manchester City, who run an esports team of their own, have chosen to go ahead with a professional gamer.

Another detail being ironed out is whether to bring all the teams to a level playing field on FIFA 20.

In the game, ratings are assigned to the teams based on their real-world counterparts. For example, a first-round match is between Wallsall (14th in the English fourth-tier League 2) and AS Roma (fifth in the Serie A); the former is rated 61 in the game while the latter is 79. Better ratings means faster, stronger, more accurate virtual players.

Townsend on Twitter advocated for the possibility of upsets, giant killings and dominant teams by keeping the status quo intact: "Has to be normal ratings else it'll ruin the magic of the cup and make the pros/esports players even more impossible to beat #SecondReferendum"

"One of the bigger ties is Walsall hosting AS Roma at home - another tie you'd probably never see in real life but one the Walsall fans will be happy about," Lambourne told *Radio One*. "Of course I'm excited about our (Orient's) match as well, which is away to Lokomotiv Moscow - we'll be the big underdogs!"

Funds have been set aside for the English Football League (EFL) to help teams who have been hit the worst. "EFL clubs are going to struggle during a time of match postponements," Lambourne said. "It's been well documented in the last 12 months with some clubs going into administration. This could really send them over the edge, so anything we can do to help support those clubs is fantastic," says Lambourne.

Illustration: Suvajit Dey

Formula 1 drivers are preparing to jump from one set of boards and circuits to another. Last week's opener in Melbourne was called off 90 minutes from practice, and races in Bahrain, Vietnam, China, Holland, Spain and Monaco have all been postponed. In a bid to fill up time and generate content, Formula 1 announced an Esports Virtual GP series.

Starting this Sunday, in a virtual Bahrain, drivers will join gamers and celebs to take the wheel on the official F1 2019 video game, developed by Codemasters. The 'races' will be half the race length, 28 laps over 90 minutes, and will take place on the corresponding dates of postponed GPs.

"We are very pleased to be able to bring some light relief in the form of the F1 Esports Virtual GP, in these unpredictable times, as we hope to entertain fans missing the regular sporting action," said Julian Tan, Formula 1's head of esports. "With every major sports league in the world unable to compete, it is a great time to highlight the benefits of esports and the incredible skill that's on show."

The F1 game is a complete 180 from the pick-up-and-play arcade style racing games such as the NFS series. With its dizzying number of menus and sub-menus, painstakingly replicated tracks and realistic control, it won't be easy on the first-time gamers. As a result, all the cars will be of the same performance and vehicle damage will be reduced. Newbies will also assisted by traction control and anti-lock brakes.

But for one driver, it will be a home race.

When asked about the coronavirus-prompted limbo, and his off-season training, Max Verstappen told his official website: "Simulator racing is keeping me sharp. What else can you do at this moment, you have to stay inside. and it's fun, I really enjoy sim racing anyway. Over the winter I did it a lot and I try to practice my skills and make it even better. That's why I love doing it."

The 22-year-old Red Bull racer enjoys the image of being the great unifier. The upcoming esports events won't be his first for the season. After reaching Australia and learning about the race postponement, the eight-time GP winner competed in an 'All-star Esports battle'. 24 hours later, he was back behind the wheel-controller racing around the virtual Nurburgring circuit to contest the GT Pro Series.

In 2018, Verstappen had lamented that "F1 had been a bit behind in with esports... I know a lot of esports drivers, they are very, very quick. At one point they can also support us, doing simulator work a lot more instead of us going to the factory all the time to do the simulator."

The two years since has seen the esports wing of Formula 1 grow rapidly, and last season was the first time that all ten teams were represented on the virtual circuit.

"Max and Lando Norris, for example, are two very avid gamers themselves and they regularly get involved in sim racing and gaming. They and many other F1 drivers like Jolyon Palmer, Pierre Gasly etc. have also featured in our live shows," Tan tells The Indian Express. "Norris was at the desk at our F1 Esports Pro Draft where Mclaren picked their driver. When asked if he could learn a thing or two from Lando in sim racing, the driver replied 'maybe I can teach Lando a thing or two'."

Norris' passion for sim racing however hasn't reached Verstappen's maddening levels. The Dutchman has already earned an image as a sim racer prone to road rage. Gamers too keep tabs on Verstappen's playing activity, and ruin his laps whenever they're on the same server: all for brag about the time they went toe-to-toe with a Formula 1 driver. Verstappen often responds in kind, bumping others off the track.

Atze Kerkhof, who trains Formula drivers in simulators, told Motorsport: "Sometimes you do a lap and you think it's perfect, but then Max enters the track and goes another three tenths faster. Where he finds that time, is a mystery to everyone. It's about very small details. The steering angle, the slip angle of the car, the way of trail braking or downshifting. It's very small things where he makes the difference."

It's not a 1:1 experience, and the sim-racing experience does not perfectly correspond with reality, but the process of tailoring the car to specific needs and using telemetry is a valid form of training for Verstappen.

"Many drivers utilise sim racing as a way of sharpening their racing skills and also to get familiar with a track. That's the beauty of our esports property - there is massive overlap and parallels between our real life and virtual worlds," says Tan. "The same cannot be said about many other sports. For example, you could be the best FIFA player in the world but there are limits to how these skills can translate to real life on the football pitch. Whereas in F1, the racing is very real even when it is virtual."

eNascar Invitational

NASCAR and iRacing too announced a Pro Invitational Series to give fans an alternative, with the season on hold till at least May 3. Many NASCAR drivers already use iRacing's PC-based game for their training routines. The virtual racing events are not just perfectly safe and viewer-friendly (because there are negligible differences presentation-wise), but are also a godsend for broadcasters looking for live sport content. The multi-week NASCAR series, which begins this Sunday, will be live telecast on *Fox Sports* and veteran commentators will call the action.

Boxer Mary Kom breaks quarantine protocol, says she attended President's event on Wednesday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 21

Rajya Sabha MP and six-time World Champion boxer MC Mary Kom broke her mandatory quarantine protocol after returning from Amman, Jordan, at the end of the Asia-Oceania leg of the Olympic boxing trials. The 37-year old, who was pictured with President Ram Nath Kovind on March 18 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, had accepted an invitation for breakfast.

The Indian boxing squad had returned from Jordan to New Delhi in the early hours of March 13. Under instruction from the Sports Authority of India, all boxers were asked to self-quarantine for 10 days, which a Boxing Federation of India coach said was extended to a fortnight. Five days later, Mary Kom broke protocol to go to Rashtrapati Bhavan.

A countrywide round-the-clock curfew began in Jordan on Saturday. There were 84 confirmed Coronavirus cases in Jordan, *Al Jazeera* reported.

India's boxing high-performance director Santiago Nieva, who was with the team that went to Amman, had confirmed that all members of the Olympic trials contingent

Mary Kom was in Jordan to participate in the Asia-Oceania leg of the Olympic boxing qualifiers. *File*

were under a quarantine period that initially was 10 days, but was extended to 14 days.

Mary Kom had secured an Olympic quota during the event in the 51-kg flyweight category. "10 days we had planned but now it becomes 14 days. So after 10 days, I am working on a training program which I will send them. After this period they can start on that.

"10 days we had planned (quarantine) but now it becomes 14 days. So after 10 days, I am working on a training program which I will send them. After this period they can start on that. If this is not solved within two weeks then we will have to continue like this as best as we can."

SANTIAGO NIEVA,
HIGH PERFORMANCE DIRECTOR

If this is not solved within two weeks then we will have to continue like this as best as we can," Nieva said on Saturday.

Mary Kom said that she had gone to Rashtrapati Bhavan for the president's event.

"I am home since I came back from Jordan. I only attended the President's event and did not meet Dushyant (Member of Parliament Dushyant Singh) or shake hands with. My quarantine after Jordan ends but I'm going to be at home only for the next 3-4 days," Mary Kom told ANI.

Mary Kom referred to Dushyant Singh because the former Rajasthan chief minister Vasundhara Raje's son was at a party in Lucknow on March 15 where Kanika Kapoor, a singer who had returned to Mumbai from London on March 9, was also present. On Friday, it was revealed that Kapoor had tested positive for Coronavirus.

Dushyant was one of the invitees to the breakfast hosted by President Kovind. Raje was also present at the party.

On Saturday, Raje tweeted: "After conducting a Covid19 test, I'm happy to inform you that the results came back negative. However, as a preventive measure, my son and I will continue to be in isolation for 15 days."

The Asia-Oceania Olympic Boxing trials were originally scheduled to be held in Wuhan, China – the city where the Covid-19 virus was first detected and eventually had to be put in lockdown after the burgeoning number of cases.

The Asia-Oceania Olympic boxing trials was one of the first sporting events to have been moved to another country because of the Covid-19 virus.

India's top javelin throwers, including Neeraj Chopra and Shivpal Singh, who returned from foreign training camps have been put in isolation rooms at the National Institute of Sports in Patiala for 14 days. The coaches are also following the same protocol.

Bedade suspended for breach of sexual harrasment policy

DEVENDRA PANDEY
MUMBAI, MARCH 21

ATUL BEDADE, former India batsman and Baroda women's team head coach, has been suspended by Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) with immediate effect after a few players complained about Bedade's behaviour, construed to fall under sexual harassment.

The players had complained about the remarks passed by Bedade inside the dressing room. The suspension letter, signed by BCA honorary secretary Ajit Lele and Senior Manager Human Resources Priyanka Verma, read: "The letter is to confirm you that you are hereby suspended from Baroda Cricket Association with immediate effect till further inquiry. As outlined in our meeting on March 20, 2020 that we have recorded incidents from complainants involved with women's cricket that come under the policy of sexual harassment and public shaming.

"This includes: Personal comments on physical to personal menstruation. Comments that discourage the morale of team members. Angry outbursts unbecoming of a women's team coach and using unparliamentary language that is not accepted of a person in-charge. Behaviour oblivious of

Bedade had himself requested BCA for the women's team coach job last year and he was appointed Baroda women's team coach last season.

gender sensitivity," the letter read.

Bedade was told that BCA will be in touch in case they want him to be depose before the probe committee. Incidentally, Bedade had himself requested BCA for the women's team coach job last year and he was appointed Baroda women's team coach last season. The left-handed batsman had represented the Indian one day team in 13 games in the '90s. He was part of the support staff with Mumbai Indians in IPL in 2008 and has been involved with coaching and selection with BCA. Based on the verbal and written complaints from the women players, BCA suspended Bedade with immediate effect.

"We have collated the complaints in a written form and are pursuing our investigation as per the policies of sexual harassment that come under the ambit of our organisation," BCA's letter to Bedade said. When contacted Bedade didn't wish to comment.

Flame lands in Japan, sparks deferment debate

Sports bodies in USA, France, Norway, Brazil along with Jamaica's sprints and American swimming coach call for the 2020 Olympics to be postponed

MARTYN HERMAN
LONDON, MARCH 21

CALLS FROM sporting organisations for this year's Tokyo Olympics to be postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic gathered pace on Saturday with USA Track and Field (USATF) and Brazil's Olympic Committee the latest to join the throng.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Tokyo 2020 organisers still insist the July 24-Aug. 9 showpiece will go ahead as planned despite Europe and the U.S. struggling to control the spread of the flu-like virus.

Their optimism that the show will go on, however, is looking increasingly out-of-step with countries in lockdown and athletes around the world unable to train.

In a letter to United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) chief executive Sarah Hirshland, USATF urged USOPC to use its voice to "speak up for athletes".

Chief executive Max Siegel said the USTAF "understood" the ramification of postponing the Games for the first time ever in peace time, but that moving forward would not be in the best interest of athletes.

"We acknowledge that there are no perfect answers, and that this is a very complex and difficult decision, but this position (to postpone the Games) at least provides our athletes with the comfort of knowing that they will have adequate time to properly prepare themselves physically, mentally and emotionally to be able to participate in a safe and successful Olympic Games," he wrote. USA Swimming wrote to USOPC on Friday calling for a delay of one year, CEO Tim Hinchey saying "we have watched our athletes' worlds be turned upside down".

The chairman of UK Athletics said last week the Olympics should be called off to spare athletes the stress of trying to train in the grip of a pandemic which has killed around 12,000 people since the virus surfaced in China.

Brazil's Olympic chief Paulo Wanderley echoed those thoughts on Saturday, saying athletes would not be able to arrive in Tokyo in top form because of the impact of the crisis.

"It's clear that right now, maintaining the Games for this year will impede (the athletes) dream from being realised," he said.

Political boycotts

Suggesting a year's delay, he said the IOC was experienced in dealing with obstacles, citing the cancellations in 1916, 1940 and 1944 because of World Wars and the political boycotts of the Games in Moscow in 1980 and Los Angeles in 1984.

Norway's Sports Federation and Olympic and Paralympic Committee (NIF) said it had written to IOC chief Thomas Bach calling for the Games to be postponed, even if the pandemic is under control in Japan by the summer. "Given the highly unresolved situation in Norway and in large parts of the world, it is neither justifiable or desirable to send Norwegian athletes to the Olympics or Paralympics in Tokyo until the world community has put this pandemic behind them," sports president Berit Kjøll said.

The Sport and Rights Alliance (SRA) and the World Players Association (WPA) said a "deep review and broader consultation" with athletes was required regarding the decision over whether the Games could run as planned.

Move everything: Bolt coach

Usain Bolt's long time coach called on Friday for this year's Tokyo Olympics to be put off until 2021 as the Covid-19 Coronavirus continues to claim lives around the world.

"My recommendation would be to postpone the Olympics until next year," Jamaican sprint coach Glen Mills told Reuters in a telephone interview. "This would be unprecedented, but we are in unprecedented time. Move everything up one year and then everything will eventually fall back in place.

"But I don't think that the Olympics will take place at the time that is specified (July and August) because the outbreak is worldwide and in some countries, it is just starting to accelerate. "I can't see the Olympics going ahead; taking persons from all over the world and bringing them to one central point."

Mills, who coached the now retired Bolt to eight Olympic gold medals and 11 world championship titles, said his current athletes at the Racers Track Club have been unable to train since Wednesday. REUTERS

Olympics organisers land in Tokyo with the flame on Friday. The Torch Relay is scheduled to start Thursday from Fukushima. AP

In a letter to United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC) chief executive Sarah Hirshland, USATF urged USOPC to use its voice to "speak up for athletes".

SIMPLY PUT QUESTION & ANSWER

How long before IOC takes a concrete call on the Games

THE OLYMPIC flame has arrived in Japan from Greece. Next comes the torch relay around the country, which is scheduled to start on Thursday in northern Japan. Getting the flame to Japan represents a minor victory for both organizers and the IOC. Its symbolic presence could give the IOC space to postpone the Tokyo Olympics, leaving the symbol behind as a reminder of what's still to come.

What is the deadline for making a final decision?

Bach surely knows, but he is not saying. In an interview with The New York Times Bach said "cancellation is not on the agenda." That leaves only going ahead, or postponement, as the options. Empty venues seem to have been ruled out.

Who will make the final decision?

It will be made jointly with the IOC, the city of Tokyo, and the Japanese Olympic Committee. They are the three that signed the 81-page Host City Agreement, which spells out in enormous details all games contingencies. The IOC has all the leverage, though it will have to honour WHO suggestions and the interests of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Who is pushing back?

The most recent pushback has come from USA Swimming and USA Track and Field, each having called on the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee to push for a postponement. Swimming executive Tim Hinchey said that the 'authenticity of a level playing field' would be under question, along with significant mental health and wellness questions to be answered.

IOC member Hayley Wickenheiser, a four-time gold medallist from Canada, called IOC 'insensitive and irresponsible' in it's attempts to carry forward their Tokyo Games' plans. On the Japan side, Japanese Olympic Committee member Kaori Yamaguchi told the newspaper Nikkei that the IOC "is putting athletes at risk." Yamaguchi is a former Olympic bronze medalist in judo. "Even if there is a reason that prevents the IOC from making a decision right now, (the IOC) should indicate a deadline."

Olympic committees in Norway and Brazil are also asking for delays.

How important is the torch relay to the IOC and local organizers?

It's important symbolism for the Japanese government and Prime Minister Abe. Abe hopes to use the Olympics to argue that the Fukushima area has recovered from the disaster nine years ago. The government has dubbed these "The Recovery Olympics." However, many residents are still living in temporary quarters after the earthquake, tsunami and meltdown of three nuclear reactors in 2011. Getting the relay started from Fukushima also helps major IOC sponsors Coca-Cola and Toyota, who pay millions to give their brands exposure during the relay. ENS

Hayley Wickenheiser, a four-time gold medallist from Canada, called IOC 'insensitive and irresponsible'.

A City United: Rival clubs unite to help food banks

Manchester City, Manchester United donate £100,000 to a trust, join a host of clubs to help their communities in the aftermath of the coronavirus outbreak

REACHING OUT TO 1,200 FOOD BANKS
Manchester United and Manchester City are the latest Premier League clubs to spring into action to help their communities during the coronavirus pandemic, joining forces to donate 100,000 pounds to support local food banks. Responding to an initiative already run by fans of both clubs, City and United will donate 50,000 pounds each to the Trussell Trust, a support network of more than 1,200 food banks. Aston Villa distributed 1,000 packed lunches intended for matchday staff at their postponed game with Chelsea to local homeless organisations and sheltered accommodation units. Newcastle United also donated 1,200 pies and a range of cold meats to a food bank after last weekend's postponed match. Brighton and Hove Albion are ringing self-isolating elderly fans to offer support.

CHINESE STAR TESTS POSITIVE
Chinese football star Wu Lei, who plays for Espanyol in Spain, has been diagnosed with the coronavirus, the Chinese Football Association (CFA) said on Saturday. "Wu Lei has mild symptoms and is currently undergoing treatment," the CFA said , adding that they had been given the news by La Liga strugglers Espanyol. "CFA has maintained close communication with Wu Lei and the club, and will provide all necessary assistance as appropriate. We wish Wu Lei a speedy recovery." The 28-year-old striker, China's best-known player, is in self-isolation at home in Barcelona, Xinhua news agency said. Wu is the only Chinese playing in one of Europe's five top leagues.

DOPING CONTROL FACING CHALLENGES
The coronavirus pandemic is restricting the fight against anti-doping, the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has said while issuing new guidelines to continue testing of athletes ahead of the Tokyo Olympic Games. WADA said sample collection officials must be healthy and have no symptoms related to the virus and should be provided with protective medical equipment. If testing opportunities are limited due to local restrictions, ADOs should focus on targeted athletes from high risk sports and disciplines, WADA said. The governing body also urged ADOs to remind athletes they can still be tested at any place and any time and continue to provide whereabouts for their movements to be monitored.

KICKBOXING MATCH LEADS TO SPIKE
Kickboxing aficionados came from all over Thailand to attend a major Muay Thai match at Bangkok's indoor Lumpini Stadium on March 6. Dozens or more went home unknowingly carrying the coronavirus. The wayward boxing fans led an inevitable rise in infections this month. As of Friday, confirmed cases from three boxing stadiums in Bangkok totaled 72, more than a fifth of the national toll of 322. It's feared hundreds more in all corners of the country could be viral time bombs.

HAMILTON SELF-ISOLATING AS PRECAUTION

Six-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton says he is self-isolating but will not get tested for coronavirus as others need attention more than him. The 35-year-old Briton said he decided to self-isolate because he had been at the same function in London that actor Idris Elba and Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau's wife Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau attended earlier this month.Elba and Gregoire-Trudeau subsequently both tested positive. "I want to let you know that I am doing well," Hamilton said. "There has been speculation about my health, after I was at an event where two people later tested positive for coronavirus. "I have zero symptoms and it has now been 17 days since I saw Sophie and Idris. I have been in touch with Idris and happy to hear he is OK.

Lower-division football clubs worst hit

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MADRID, MARCH 21

A SPANISH third-division soccer team had just started selling a special membership package for the decisive portion of the season, hoping to bring in some extra income. Another was counting on the boost from revenue on the back of ticket sales for the upcoming derby against a regional rival, one of its biggest matches of the season.

They were not expecting the coronavirus outbreak, nor to see soccer come to a halt. The suspension of competitions across the globe has taken a toll on top teams everywhere, but it will be for the smaller clubs that the financial impact may cause the most damage.

While the stoppage has already forced some teams in the major leagues to cut players' salaries, the effect of the crisis on lower-division clubs may be even more dire, lasting longer and possibly leading to financial collapse. "Every team in the third division will suffer serious consequences," Franco Caselli, president of Spanish third-division club Burgos, told The Associated Press. "Some more than others, depending on their economic situation."

In most countries, there are no lucrative television broadcast deals for teams outside the first and second divisions. Their income comes mostly from ticket sales, small sponsors, team merchandising, season memberships and youth academy memberships _ most of which have been affected by the suspension of games.

Caselli said Burgos, one of the bigger clubs in Spain's third division, is doing well financially and should be able to withstand the crisis, but not without losses. "We had put on sale a special membership package for the last matches of the league, and more than 1,000 had already been sold," he said. "That was a 20 percent increase in new memberships at this stage, so the losses will be important."

Merida, also in Spain's third tier, was looking to pack its 14,600-capacity stadium for the derby against Badajoz just before it was suspended because of the outbreak, jeopardizing one of its biggest revenue sources of the season. Fourth-division club Sant Andreu, which plays in a Barcelona neighborhood at a small stadium where players' errant shots can go over the stands and onto the nearby streets, estimated a 30 percent deficit from the current stoppage of play.

"We are facing the unknown," Manuel Camino, president and owner of the club, told the AP. "We don't know how long this will last."

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