

8 THE OUTBREAK NATION

PM Modi announces relief fund, urges people to contribute

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, MARCH 28



Prime Minister Narendra Modi

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Saturday announced the setting up of Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM-CARES) and urged people to contribute to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"People from all walks of life expressed their desire to donate to India's war against COVID-19. Respecting that spirit, the Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund has been constituted. This will go a long way in creating a healthier India," Modi tweeted.

In another tweet, PM Modi appealed to the citizens, "Kindly contribute to the PM-CARES Fund. This Fund will also cater to similar distressing situations if they occur in the times ahead."

"The PM-CARES Fund accepts micro-donations too. It will strengthen disaster management capacities and encourage research on protecting citizens... Let us leave no stone unturned to make India healthier and more prosperous for our future generations," he said.

According to a release from the Press Information Bureau, the PMO has been receiving "spontaneous and innumerable requests for making generous donations to support the government" in this emergency.

"Keeping in mind the need for having a dedicated national fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation,

like posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, and to provide relief to the affected, a public charitable trust under the name of Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund has been set up. Prime Minister is the Chairman of this trust and its Members include Defence Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister," it said.

Meanwhile, BJP president JP Nadda held a video conference with presidents of BJP units in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka about joining the fight against coronavirus. He also reviewed the progress of the party's campaign to deliver food to 5 crore poor people.

Donate Rs 1 crore each: Speaker to MPs

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Saturday urged all lower house MPs to allocate at least Rs 1 crore each from their local area development funds to authorities in their constituencies to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.

The country is passing through a tough phase due to COVID-19, and, "as public representatives, it is our duty to stand with the people," Birla said in a letter to Lok Sabha members.

(WITH ENDS, DELHI)



Workers alter the interiors of the train coach at New Delhi station. Tashi Tobgyal

Coach turns into isolation ward, more in pipeline

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, MARCH 28

DAYS AFTER the government mooted the idea, the Railways has converted one of its coaches into an isolation ward for COVID-19 patients. As per the prototype, each non-AC coach can accommodate 10 patients.

In the first phase, 16 workshops of the Railways will be making two rakes each. Each rake will have 10 coaches. So to begin with, there will be 32 such rakes of 10 coaches each in the next two weeks. Every zone has been asked to prepare these rakes and keep them ready.

The *Indian Express* on March 23 reported about this plan to build capability to deal with more cases of COVID-19 in the coming days. More than 100 accident relief medical vans lying with divisions and equipped with hospital facilities across India and even the Lifeline Express may be pressed

into service, sources said.

Two of the four toilets in the prototype have been converted into bathrooms. The middle berth on one side in each cabin has been removed while the lower berth will act as the patient bed. The berths on the opposite side have been removed.

Each cabin has been separated with plywood and every patient area has medical-grade plastic curtains. There are cabins for a doctor and other medical staff. More electrical sockets for medical instruments, bottle holders to hold intravenous drips have been provided. There are also provisions for an external electric supply.

One of the issues that was discussed was how to evacuate the bio-toilet chamber if it gets full and the coaches are parked in remote locations. The concern was that if the person in isolation was COVID-19 positive, the toilet tank would probably carry the virus. The matter, it was learnt, was put

to rest when it was calculated that each tank of bio-toilet has a capacity of about 400 litres and it is not likely to get full with the kind of usage envisaged. "Even then, chlorine tablets will be put in the discharge that is treated by bacteria anyway," said an official.

"We have converted a non-AC coach with all necessary modifications. These can travel to remote locations of India if needed and be in service in India's fight against Coronavirus," Arun Arora, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer, Northern Railway told *The Indian Express*.

At this point, estimates vary as to how many rakes will be converted into isolation units or how many will be needed at all. Officials said the numbers is not a problem since the modifications can be quickly done.

Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala is also ready with a design layout and bill of instruments in case new coaches are needed to be converted into isolation wards.

Haryana bans entry of NRIs from Punjab into its villages

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
CHANDIGARH, MARCH 28

HARYANA SATURDAY announced a ban on entry of NRIs from Punjab into state to curtail further spread of COVID-19. This comes at a time Punjab, after launching a frantic search for NRIs who are untraceable, warned that it would write to Centre to get their passports cancelled.

"NRIs living in Punjab are also likely to come to the adjoining districts including Ambala, Kurukshetra, Kaithal, Jind, Fatehabad and Sirsa. Therefore sarpnch of each village in these districts should take special care and no one should be allowed to enter. If anyone enters, then the same should be reported to the district administration immediately," Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala Saturday said.

He said the time period "till April 14 is very crucial for all of us and we all have to fight this epidemic together".

Dushyant also directed district officials to inform "about the people who have come to the villages in the last 15 days from abroad or from other states or cities, and if such persons have come then the sanitisation of the entire village should be done with a spray of sodium chloride and such persons should be quarantined immediately..." He was presiding over a review meeting regarding COVID-19 arrangements. He also directed Additional Deputy Commissioners and District Development Panchayat Officers to arrange accommodation and food facilities for migrant workers moving out of Haryana.

EXPRESS NETWORK

Punjab CM seeks MEA help to rescue Sikhs in Afghanistan

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, MARCH 28



Amarinder Singh

AS PUNJAB Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh has sought the intervention of the Minister of External Affairs for the evacuation of Sikh families stranded in Afghanistan, New Delhi on Saturday said that it is in constant touch with the Hindu and Sikh community and has assured them of all support. The Afghan government has also assured full security to them, it said.

India also said that the bodies of Indian national Tian Singh and two other Afghan Sikhs are being repatriated to India where their families live.

"Dear S. Jaishankar, there are a large number of Sikh families who want to be flown out of Afghanistan," the CM tweeted. "Request you to get them airlifted at the earliest. In this moment of crisis, it's our bounden duty to help them."

Amarinder had earlier condemned the attack on a gurdwara in Kabul in which at least 25 people were killed on March 25, calling it extremely "tragic and unfortunate".

The Indian Embassy in Afghanistan said, "Mortal re-

mains of Shri Tian Singh and two others are being repatriated to their next of kin in India by the special flight upon completion of various legal documentation and procedures."

The embassy said that it is in touch with the Hindu and Sikh community. "Government of Afghanistan has also assured full security to them," the embassy said.

PM Narendra Modi had also condemned the attack, and New Delhi had said that such cowardly attacks amid the COVID-19 pandemic is reflective of the "diabolical mindset" of the perpetrators and their backers.

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attack, while the Taliban spokesperson has denied responsibility.

His only minister, CM Chouhan checks state capital in lockdown

MILIND GHATWAI
BHOPAL, MARCH 28



Shivraj Singh Chouhan

CHIEF MINISTER Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the only minister in the five-day-old BJP government in Madhya Pradesh, stepped out of his office on Saturday to see how the state capital was responding to the lockdown to arrest the coronavirus pandemic.

Travelling alone in his vehicle and wearing a mask, the 61-year-old often got down to thank, from a distance, those engaged in cleaning, providing security and supplying essentials—an exercise criticised by Opposition Congress as disregard for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to stay at home, and one that endangers the health of his family, security personnel and staff.

There is no official word yet on when Chouhan will expand his Cabinet amid speculation that he will do it only after the lockdown ends. Holding meetings with bureaucrats and issuing video appeals, Chouhan has had a busy schedule. The lockdown was announced less than 24 hours after he was administered oath of office and secrecy on March 23.

He was scheduled to hold a "Facebook Live" chat with the people, especially farmers who

are worried by untimely rains and restrictions on movements that have made harvesting difficult and put a question mark on procurement that was to begin from April 1. But with many engagements on Saturday, he postponed it by a day.

In between, he had to respond to a fake social media post which warned people that they will be shot if they stepped out of their homes after April 1. A case was registered by the police's cyber cell against the perpetrator.

MP has so far reported 34 confirmed coronavirus cases, nearly half of them in Indore, and two deaths. The collector and the DIG of Indore were transferred on Saturday and officers who had worked in the state's commercial capital were posted there.

'Lockdown' in a 10x10 room: We just change sitting positions all day

SAGAR RAJPUT
MUMBAI, MARCH 28

FOR THE last nine days, Digambar Rai, 37, a migrant worker from Bihar, and his brother Dinesh have not left their 10x10 room in Thane's Warlipada slum. "I am tired of staring at the wall," he says.

The 100-square-foot room, its roof made of asbestos sheets, stands on the mezzanine floor of a one-plus-one structure. Its cooking area, a washing area and a cupboard fills up most of the space.

"There is no space to move, so we just keep changing our sitting positions all day. It reminds me of the scenes from movies where people are locked in jail. The only difference is that we have our mobile phones," Rai says.

Rai had come to Mumbai 20



Digambar, Dinesh, stuck in their room in Thane. Express

years ago to work as a cook. Now, he works at a cake-box manufacturing unit during the day. After 6 pm, he works as a caretaker at a playground. From the two jobs, he makes between Rs 15,000 and Rs 17,000 a month. While both his employers have sent him on "leave" after the lock-

down, Rai hopes to get paid.

Until last week, the two were sharing the room with their younger brother Umesh. On March 19, just two days before Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray announced a lockdown across Maharashtra, Umesh had taken a train back to Bihar.

Rai and Dinesh had assumed that they could go back to work once Janata Curfew (on March 22) ended. They did that and when the PM announced a country-wide lockdown, the brothers were stuck. "My wife and two children, and Rai's family (wife and three children) are in Bihar," says Dinesh. He works with a wholesale dealer of mobile phones and he is also on "leave" since the lockdown.

The only time the brothers step out is in the evening to buy vegetables.

9 fresh cases in Valley, 3 in Jammu

Srinagar: Nine people have tested positive for the coronavirus in Kashmir while three fresh cases were reported in Jammu on Saturday, officials said. The total number of cases in J&K is 33.

Of the nine cases in Kashmir, four are contacts of a 65-year-old man from Srinagar's Hyderpora who tested positive and died on Thursday. Director of Health Services, Kashmir, Dr Samir Matoo, said of the nine cases on Saturday, four were from Hajin in Bandipora who were contacts of the Hyderpora case, one has a foreign travel history, while two others travelled outside J&K. ENS

Bihar boy dies of 'hunger', 2 AES cases in Muzaffarpur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, MARCH 28

A DAY after an 11-year-old boy from the Scheduled Caste community died in Ara at Bihar's Bhojpur, the local ward councillor and the CPI-ML have called it a "hunger death", and the district administration has ordered a medical probe.

Rahul, who lived in Ara town's Jawahar Tola, died on Friday after he had been ailing for a week. His father is a daily wageer rendered jobless since the lockdown was imposed. Local ward councillor Satyadev Ram said, "When we visited the family, we did not see any grain there. The boy's family had not approached us before the boy's death."

Bhojpur CPI-ML district secretary Jawaharlal Singh said: "Jawahar Tola is a cluster of 35 scheduled families depending on daily wages. Since there has been

lockdown, several people have run short of grains. The boy's death looks a hunger death."

Bhojpur District Magistrate Roshan Kushwaha told *The Indian Express*: "We have spoken to the municipal commissioner, who denied that any chance of hunger death..."

Meanwhile, Muzaffarpur's SKM College and Hospital has reported two cases of Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES). Both patients, a five-year-old boy and a three-and-a-half-year-old girl, come from poor families. As the disease is linked to malnutrition, it has raised some concerns for the district administration.

SKMCH medical superintendent Dr DK Shahi said, "Both cases were admitted on Friday. The first was admitted with a very low sugar levels, suggesting malnutrition... The patient was referred from a Motihar hospital. The boy, also from poor background, is in a much better condition."

Bihar: Denied ambulance, kin carry body for cremation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PATNA, MARCH 28

TWO MEMBERS of a Bihar sharif family were forced to carry the body of their relative for four kilometres from the Patna Medical College and Hospital to a cremation spot after reportedly being denied an ambulance by the hospital authorities.

The deceased person, a 25-year-old woman, died at PMCH on Friday because of gastrointestinal complications. Hriday Paswan, the woman's uncle, alleged that the hospital administration had been asking for Rs 3,000 to provide an ambulance.

Paswan said since there had been no vehicle available because of the lockdown, they decided to carry the body on their shoulders. They took two hours to reach Gulbi Ghat after several breaks. "As roads were empty, there was not even a rickshaw available", he said.

PMCH medical superintendent Dr Binal Kumar Karak did not respond to calls and text messages seeking comment.

Manipur MLA disqualified by Speaker tribunal

LEIVON JIMMY
IMPHAL, MARCH 28

THE SPEAKER'S Tribunal of the Manipur Legislative Assembly disqualified MLA of the Andro constituency, Th Shyamkumar, with immediate effect from Saturday.

Shyamkumar had joined the BJP shortly after being voted to power on a Congress ticket during the 2017 Assembly polls.

The ruling of the tribunal comes two days after the MLA, a Congress leader, tendered his resignation to Speaker Y Khemchand. "...it is established beyond doubt that the respondent had voluntarily given up the membership of the Indian National Congress. Hence, this tribunal came to the conclusion that the respondent had clearly violated the provisions of the 10th Schedule of the Constitution of India and is liable to be punished as per the provisions to uphold the dignity of democracy and the mandate of the people," read the tribunal's order. A total of 15 pleas had been filed against him.

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Letter No. IDSP/148/2020/Part-II – 56 (IDSP) Date : 27.03.2020
Public Notice **COVID-19 MOST URGENT**

National Health Mission, Jharkhand is in urgent requirement of the following items:

1. Triple Layer Mask
2. Hand Sanitizer (Alcohol based)
3. Infrared Thermal Gun
4. Portable ventilator
5. Ventilator filter
6. Ambu Bag (Child/Adult)
7. Laryngoscope Neoint Child & Adult
8. Endotracheal Tubes of all sizes
9. Hand Gloves
10. Tab. Retonavir – 50mg.

Any interested Manufacturer/stockist/vendor/agency may submit specification, quantity available, delivery time line, price & other terms and conditions in the office of the undersigned latest by 31.03.2020 – 12:00 Noon.
PR 227603 Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society (19-20)_D (Director Finance)

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Letter No. IDSP/148/2020/Part-II – 57 (IDSP) Date : 27.03.2020
Public Notice **COVID-19 MOST URGENT**

National Health Mission, Jharkhand is in urgent requirement of the following medicines:

1. Hydroxychloroquine – 400 mg.
2. Hydroxychloroquine – 200 mg.
3. Tab. Chloroquine – 500 mg.
4. Tab. Chloroquine – 250 mg.
5. Tab. Azithromycin – 500 mg.
6. Tab. Azithromycin – 250 mg.
7. Tab. Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) – 75 mg.
8. Tab. Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) – 30 mg.
9. Tab. Lopinavir – 200 mg.
10. Tab. Retonavir – 50mg.

Any interested Manufacturer/stockist/vendor/agency may submit quantity available, delivery time line, price & other terms and conditions in the office of the undersigned latest by 31.03.2020 – 12:00 Noon.
PR 227602 Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society (19-20)_D (Director Finance)

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person namely **Ikram@Ram Singh@Ram Kumar, S/o Ismile, R/o: H.No. C-04/198, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi**, has committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 497/14 u/s 323/341/376/392/495/506 IPC** registered at P.S. Gokal Puri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued (unexecuted), stating that the said **Ikram@Ram Singh@Ram Kumar** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ikram@Ram Singh@Ram Kumar** has absconded (or is concealing him self to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proceeding u/s 82 Cr.P.C. has been initiated in this case. Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Ikram@Ram Singh@Ram Kumar** accused of **FIR No. 497/14 u/s 323/341/376/392/495/506 IPC**, P.S. Gokal Puri, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer said complaint on or before **30.04.2020**.

By Order
Mr. Pawan Singh Rajawat
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
Karkardooma Court, Shahdara, Delhi
DP/65/NE/2020