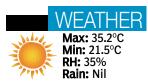
THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA **HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 11 APRIL 2020** 



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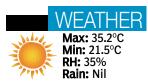
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## **Hospital technician**

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Hyderabad: A young technician in Medicover Hospitals has tested positive for Covid-19 and his condition is stated to be stable. The source of infection is not yet known and the hospital authorities along with government officials are trying find out the same. All contacts have been identified and quarantined, according to a release from Medicover Hospital in Hyderabad. A separate isolation facility in the hospital has been created with protective gear to handle these suspects.

### **SCR to recruit staff**

for its hospital

**Hyderabad:** South Central Railway will be bolstering the staff at its Central Hospital at Lalaguda on a temporary basis in view of the Covid-19 crisis. It has issued a notification for nine specialist doctors, 34 general duty medical officers (GDMOs), 77 nursing superintendents, seven lab assistants and 77 hospital attendants. Applications would be accepted until April 15 and candidates would be interviewed over videoconfer-

### **Burglar involved**

in 25 cases held

Hyderabad: A burglar wanted in 25 cases was arrested by the Meerpet police at Badangpet crossroads on Friday, who seized property worth ₹40 lakh from him including a car. The accused, Polaki Appala Naidu, 41, of Kismathpur in

Rajendranagar, hails from Chepenapeta in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh Since 1999, Naidu has been burgling houses in the city and was arrested several times, the last time by the Chaitanyapuri police in 2012. After that, he started working elsewhere but went back to burgling houses last year and has since struck at 25 houses. Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat said that Naidu targetted houses that are locked and have their win-dows open.

### **Fake sanitiser unit** busted, two held

Hyderabad: A unit manufacturing fake sanitisers was busted by the South Zone Task Force and two persons, Omer Faroog (25) and Md. Abdul Quddus (42), were taken into custody. The duo was found supplying the fake sanitisers to medical shops at Roop Lal Bazaar in Shalibanda. The South Zone Task Force conducted the operation along with the Shalibanda police and seized 580 bottles of fake sanitiser worth ₹90,000.

### **Keep vigil in Covid**

+ve areas: Official

Hyderabad: Municipal administration principal secretary Arvind Kumar on Friday, during a meeting with the GHMC top brass, asked officials to ensure that protocol is maintained in areas where positive cases have been identified. Sanitation should be maintained and monitoring of fever cases if any should be ensured. No movement of people within the containment zone should be allowed, he said. The principal secretary was reviewing arrangements made in connection with the Covid-19 containment action plan.

### **WORK PRESSURE LED TO WRONG DISCHARGE**

From Page 1

The staff, who missed the finer distinction owing to work pressure, asked the police official to go home.

Upon learning of this, the official returned to the Chest Hospital and joined the isola-

tion ward. In another case, an official's son, who had come to Kothaguem in Telangana from London on March 18 was found to be Covid-19 positive. Officials sent as many as 70 persons into quarantine, including the official and his

Both the patients tested positive and were shifted to the Chest Hospital.

The officer's released four days ago after he recovered and continues to be in quarantine.

### Flouting lockdown rules



Two-wheelers seen with pillion riders which is not permitted during lockdown, at Ramkoti on Friday.

- R. PAVAN

**MOST MUSLIMS** 

**OBSERVE JUMA** 

ATHER MOIN I DC

HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

For the third consecutive Friday, Muslims in

the city kept themselves

away from attending the

congregational Juma prayers in mosques and said the Zuhr (midday

The managing commit-

tees and mutawallis of

mosques in cooperation with the city police observed Friday with strict implementation of

social distancing norms.

Smaller mosques refrained from organiz-

prayers while others

held the prayers with a

limited number of peo-

congregational

prayer) at homes.

**PRAYERS AT HOME** 

## **Hospitals seek funds for** 3V disinfection tunnels

MADDY DEEKSHITH I DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

Major city hospitals want donors to fund 3V safe disinfection tunnels as a precautionary measure to contain spread of Covid-Hospitals such as Gandhi, Chest, and King donors to install disinfection tunnels like those installed at market yards and the office of the Director General of Police to contain spread of the deadly virus. This tunnel uses an aerosol technology to provide protection to people passing through it in just around 20 seconds. The Monda Market in

KCR TO HOLD

**SPECIAL CABINET** 

**MEETING TODAY** 

Minister

Chandrashekar Rao has

called a special Cabinet

meeting on Saturday to

discuss the Covid-19 sit-

The Cabinet will meet

at 3 pm, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi

finishes his video con-

ference with Chief

The Cabinet will also

take stock of the eco-

nomic situation of the

state and the future

course of action in case

the lockdown is extend-

ed by the Centre beyond

As the harvesting of

Rabi crops has com-

menced, the Cabinet

may also discuss the pro-

curement of the agricul-

ture produce and crop

loss due to recent the

hailstorm in parts of the

state, besides the assis-

tance given to the poor

held a high-level review

meeting on Friday at

Pragathi Bhavan on

treatment given to those

suffering with the Corona, implementation

of the lockdown and

agriculture related pro-

The Chief Minister

and migrant workers.

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC

uation.

Ministers.

April 15.

Bowenpally and LB Nagar market both have these disinfection devices, as thousands of people visit them. But hospitals treating Covid patients in isolation wards don't have them. Niloufer was the first city hospital to get a disinfection tunnel. Each automated disinfection tunnel costs about ₹1.25 lakh to ₹2 lakh based on the manufacturer and size. Expenditure of a mere ₹8 lakh will boost the confidence of thousands.

Dr P. Sravan Kumar, Superintendent of Gandhi Hospital, said four disinfection tunnels are needed at the hospital and a donor has come forward for one

BALU PULIPAKA | DO

HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

With over 1.2 crore people

Hyderabad zone, it is not

an easy task to ensure

everyone stays at home

and follows lockdown pro-

cedures. And then, there

are his own men, mem-

bers of city police force,

out on the street, round-

the-clock, checking on

people moving around

and educating them on the

"We are in a crisis situa-

tion. These are my people.

It is for me to keep up

their enthusiasm. I must

take care of them in every

possible way. My going out

every night for some time

and meeting constables

checkposts and other points is so they feel confi-

dent that I am with them

every step along the way,"

says Anjani Kumar, com-

missioner, Hyderabad city

During these midnight

trips to different locations

in the city, Mr Kumar car-

ries with him small

tokens of appreciation, a

few packets of biscuits,

dates, or water bottles he

shares with constables

and others he meets with

and has brief chats.

others manning

need to stay indoors.

tne

greater

Aniani Kumar

"I appeal to everyone

you have to be indoors. Do

not expect a cop to visit

your home and warn you

to stay at home. Enforcement of lockdown

using force, is something

that we never considered.

This is not a time for

enforcement by law. This is

a once-in-a-century event

for everyone to demonstrate their civic responsi-

bility and keep them-

selves, and other around, safe," Mr Kumar says.
A two-hour long video

conference with around

4.000 police officers saw

him celebrate the birth-

days of two constables

from Charminar police

station as well as wedding

anniversary of another working in Santosh Nagar

police station with the

rest of the force joining in

celebrations by clapping

tunnel which will be installed on Saturday. "I request donors to come forward and donate the remaining which would be helpful for about 700 outpatients and 2000 employees," he said.

Mahboob

Superintendent of the Chest Hospital, said that the hospital needs one too. However, some doctors argue that installing disinfection tunnels will create complications. Some patients could be sensitive to the sodium hypochlorite that is used. The disinfectant can be harmful to the eyes and people should compulsorily close their eyes while passing through the tunnel. Dr K. Shankar, the Superintendent of Fever Hospital, said that because of this it is not recommended by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Union Health Ministry.

He said it would only give psychological satisfaction since there is no concrete evidence that it will contain coronavirus.

'We from the government would not request any donor fund or install the disinfection tunnel. However, if donors do it voluntarily we will give permission and an appreciation letter," the doctor

Mr Kumar says that at any given time, there are

2,000 to 2,500 police offi-

hour of the day, round-

the-clock. "We have to use

resources we have, pace them so they do not get

tired, physically and emo-

tionally. Every one of

them has a family and

they too have concerns

about their own safety

stressful conditions. It is

important that physical,

mental and emotional

health of every constable

and head constable is at peak condition," he says.

Asked what his one mes-

sage for people is, Mr Kumar says, "I pray that

every parent turns him-

his or her family from

going out on to the streets.

These are challenging

times. This is more chal-

lenging than World War II.

Everyone must have socie-

tal responsibility. Every

family can play a key role

in controlling the spread

of Coronavirus. We are all

in it together, irrespective

of whether one is a policeman or not," he says.

city understands, respects

and listens to the top cop.

Thankfully, most of the

or herself into a police officer and keeps

working under

streets each

ciais on

while

### ple. In the historic Macca Masjid, only five people were allowed to attend the prayers. In the Shahi Masjid no out-Top cop marshals morale of siders were allowed. troops with midnight patrol TRANSPORT BY

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA

**WOMEN, ELDERS** 

**POLICE HELPS** 

HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

The transport service provided Rachakonda police has helped pregnant women and elderly people suffering from ailments shift to hospitals in medical emergencies. The 'alyte' services of the Rachakonda police, started on April 7, received 20 calls by

Friday.
On Thursday, a pregnant woman from Old Bowenpally took the police transport to go for her periodical check-up at Koti Maternity Hospital. She has posted a video on social media lauding the service. At Uppal on Thursday night, a woman who was in labour was rushed to hospital, Rachakonda police commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat on Friday. Besides, these, patients requiring dialysis, and senior citizens stranded due to the lock down were provided with police transport after they reached out to the control room, he said.

## Govt sets up blood bank for patients

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

The state government is setting up a centralised blood bank at the Institute of Preventive (IPM) Narayanguda to address the scarcity of blood due to the lockdown. The gov-ernment has been unable conduct voluntary blood donation drives in the last few weeks.

The centralised blood bank is being set up to avoid cross infections among voluntary donors

at hospitals attached to blood centres. The IPM centre will be getting additional staff for the same. It is expected to collect between 100 and 115 units every day, based on requests received by hospital blood centres. It will also serve 1,723 thalassemia patients who need regular blood transfusion twice a month.

Donors will be called based on slots to avoid crowding. Those looking to donate may call at 8497958597

## Don't procure masks, PPE: Centre to states

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU I DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

The Central government has directed all state governments and Union Territories not to procure essential medical equipment such as masks, personal protect equipment (PPE) and ventilators. In a circular issued on Friday, under-secretary G.K. Pillai said that the Union health ministry will procure them and distribute to states as per their needs.

The decision was taken at a meeting of empowgroup to ensure ered availability of essential medical equipment nationwide.

Mr Pillai asked state governments to aggregate demand and "come up with a specific figure on a

rational basis" He said that certain states had been found to holding sufficient stocks of material but field functionaries have reported that they were functioning without such equipment. The state gov-

ernments should ensure

timely distribution of key

equipment, he said. Ventilators might be lying in states in a nonworking condition. State health departments may ensure that such crucial medical equipment are put in working condition at the earliest, he said.

Staff should be trained to operate these equipment. The states should ensure sufficient availability of oxygen cylinders for management of Covid patients, the offi-

## Credit guarantee plan for startups

ADITYA CHUNDURU I DC

Anil Agarwal, head of the Startup India programme at the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), said startups in the country would soon get relief in the form of a credit guarantee scheme. The scheme would effectively allow the startups to take loans without collateral, with a fund guaranteeing their loans with the banks.

Mr Agarwal was speaking at a webinar organised by TiE Hyderabad on Friday. The theme of the webinar was solutions for problems being faced by startups due to the Covid-19 crisis and the lockdown.

Mr Agarwal said the scheme was almost finalised and would be announced within a fortnight. "Our aim is to give comfort to banks to give collateral-free loans to startups. (The startups) could be given loans against their pending refunds or working capital. Similarly, some start-

ups could want debt-funding from AIFs (alternate investment funds); even those will be guaranteed by us," he said. He said the scheme

would allow a larger pool of domestic capital to be made available for startups. "We want debt to be the primary driver of startups so that they don't have to dilute themselves," he said.

Startup India was also looking at creating a separate seed fund which would primarily grant tunds to star tors, he said. The incubators chosen by Startup India based on a few metrics would be allowed to disburse the money in the form of grants or equity.

Sandeep Varma, general manager of SIDBI's Venture Capital Fund, spoke on SIDBI's Covid-19 Startup Assistance Scheme.

"We are proactively going to startup incubators and asking them about their needs for funding. We are working to ensure that these startups do not face a liquidity crunch," he said.

### **VENTILATOR MANAGEMENT TO TAKE TIME**

From Page 1

Dr C. Vijay Kumar, senior pulmonologist, Apollo Hospitals, said, "swine flu Apollo in 2009 presented us with similar problems. It took us six months to understand the differences in ventilator management we had to introduce. We and will take time to understand in case of Covid-19

too." In intensive care units, it has been found that body has a faulty haemoglobin count and is casing a cytokine storm, due to which anti-viral therapies are not the solution. For this reason, other immune modulators, steroids, chloroquin hydroxchloroquin are being used in treatment, doctors explained.

tems (within hospitals) are

### Hellish time for man with 10 family members in isolation are responsible for spreaddoing what it can, but sys-

**VIKRAM SHARMA | DC** HYDERABAD, MARCH 10

For a fortnight now, his life has been on a roller coaster ride. Each day, he wakes up at the crack of dawn and sets out for three different destinations - Gandhi hospital, Chest hospital and a building adjacent to Badi

masjid in Mallepally. For him, these three places have turned into a temporary triad addresses for his family, ten members in all, from where, he returns late in the night. His phone is incessantly busy, as he frantically makes innumerable calls to police and health departments from where sometimes he either

gets an earful, or assurances, or just finds the other side hanging up.

'The responses I makes me feel sometimes as if my topi (skull cap) and kurta is responsible for spread of Coronavirus," he says, in a semiguilt ridden tone despondency.

Life for this Hyderabadi (name withheld) went haywire after all his family members, including his aged parents, brothers, their wives and children ten in all – were suspected to have been infected with the deadly Covid-19. He is the only one in the family out, attending on

the rest. Fortunately, nine

of them have tested nega-

tive but are unable to return home as they have been kept in isolation at different places. To make matters worse, a teenaged daughter of his elder brother too underwent tests at Gandhi hospital, but her reports got misplaced. The test was conducted again and the family is awaiting for reports

for last four days. "My elder brother attended the Tablighi Jamaat congregation in Nizamuddin Markaz in New Delhi last month. After he returned on March 26, he fell sick and got himself admitted in Gandhi hospital, from where he was shifted to the Chest hospital. Thereafter, my life just nosedived," he told *Deccan* Chronicle. Suspecting his brother

might have spread the virus, the entire family was sent for tests to Gandhi hospital. Then began his innumerable trips to hospitals, mostly taking essentials for family members, from clothes to medicines, among other items. Four days ago, his mother, wives of two elder brothers and their four daughters were shifted to a building adjacent to Badi masjid in Mallepally, while his father, brother and daughter were moved to the Gandhi hospital. The one who attended the Markaz continues to be kept in isolation at the Chest hospital.

"My father is a diabetic. My mother suffers from low blood pressure. They are both in a bad shape. The only thing which brought a little cheer was my father was discharged after 14 tough days. Despite being a diabetic, he was forced to eat rice thrice a day," he said.

With the area around Badi masjid sealed by police as part of the containment plan, this resident of Tolichowki is worried for his mother's health. "I requested policemen to let me near the premises, so that I could deliver essentials. But the way they look at me, especially my white kurta and cap, makes me feel as if we

ing the virus. They just shooed me away. But at this time, I do not want to complain, given the palpable hatred for our community," he said. Each day, he makes attempts to reach the three venues and pass on some essentials. "It took some doing to convince the staff at Gandhi to deliver sanitary napkins for the teenaged daughter of my elder brother. She is wearing same set of clothes for 14 days from when she was shifted to Gandhi," he says. After reports of her first test were misplaced, a second test was performed. "It

so unorganised that people like me are suffering. My family has been split into three groups. With no spe-cific information coming out, (from hospitals), it is very difficult," he said. He says that it was not by choice that seven women of his family were sent to premises next to Badi Masjid, instead of sending them home. "They were

forced to stay there. I told my mother to be patient and hang on. All women are being provided with three meals a day," he said. One of his brothers is has been four days but the recovering well at Chest reports have not yet come."
"The government is hospital but he is not sure when he will get to see him.

DC IMPACT

**SHRC SLAMS GHMC** 

**FOR LACK OF SAFETY** 

**GEAR FOR WORKERS** 

DC CORRESPONDENT

### **168 US nationals**

evacuated

Hyderabad: The Shamshabad airport on Friday handled special flights that evacuated 168 US nationals from the country. An Air India flight arrived from Mumbai and took 69 adults and an infant. Later in the day, another Air India flight, also from Mumbai, and took 96 adults

and two infants. The evacua-tion effort was organised by the US Consulate and the state government. The passengers were made to pass through a sanitised terminal building. The airport has so far handled five evacuation

flights during the lockdown. It has operated flights for German and US nationals and medical evacuation flights for the crew of IndiGo.

### **'OAKS' APP TO HELP STUDENTS IN LOCKDOWN**

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

To help students taking online classes during the lockdown, the Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society, Gurukulam (TTWREIS) has launched an online educational app called OAKS or Online Adaptive Knowledge System. It will help students view lessons and videos and write tests and assignments using their parents' smartphones.

Society secretary Dr R.S. Praveen Kumar instructed students from Classes 6 to 9 to utilise the app extensively so that they don't lag behind in studies. He also thanked Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and tribal welfare minister Sathyavathi Rathod for their support to poor students under the KG-PG Mission.

## **'FRUITS ON FRIDAY** AND SATURDAY'

S.A. ISHAQUI I DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

The departments of agriculture, horticulture and marketing have launched a "Fruits on Friday and Saturday" campaign following the appeal of Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao to people to consume fruits to improve their immunity against Covid-19.

The campaign has the tag line "Pandlu Tinandi, corona nu Tarimi Kottandi (consume fruits - drive away corona).

According to agriculture principal secretary Janardhan Reddy, fruits cultiated in Telangana like sweet lime (mosambi) - 85 per cent of which is exported to other locations in the country and abroad and mango are rich in Vitamin C. They provide the much-needed immune boosting, which is being considered a key criterion in reducing the

impact of coronavirus. He disclosed that supply of fruits in "containment clus-- 20 in Hyderabad and 110 in Telangana state – is also under consideration.

## **GHMC** apathy to strays exposed

## Due to civic body's negligence, many dogs are deprived of vaccination, food

MADDY DEEKSHITH I DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 10

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has no fool-proof mechanism to curtail illegal stray dog killings in the city.

As per norms, the ratio of stray should be 1.20 in developing nations. However, the corporation records reveal that there only seven lakh dogs in the city and they have no inkling about the remaining eight lakh.

As a result of the corpo-

ration's negligence, many dogs are deprived of vaccination and feed during the ongoing Covid-19 crisis. The civic body officials now claim that their decision to conduct stray dog census has been hit

due to the lockdown. Highly placed sources in the corporation said that stray dogs have been worst sufferers during the lockdown as they are being deprived of food and water. The root cause is the corporation's apathy, which has not been main-

GHMC OFFICIALS now claim that their decision to conduct stray dog census has been hit due to the

Every year, the veterinary wings proclaim that they have vaccinated and sterilised about five lakh stray dogs in the city. Sources said that authorities have been swindling around ₹3 crore a year in the name of stray dogs. A recently retired veterinary section officer was

The corporation has been spending ₹320 per each birth control operation. As for sterilisation, around 90,000 birth control opera-

the kingpin of the racket.

tions were conducted in 2014-15 and 60,000 in 2015-16, 98,000 in 2016-17, 1, 51,000 in 2017-18 and 2,23,000 in 2018-19 and one is yet to get the current financial year's figure. Interestingly, in order to verify a sterilised dog, doctors cut the animal's ear in a 'V' shape during surgery, which is mandatory. Despite tall clacan be seen with such a sign on their ears. Sources also said that according to the survey conducted by the corporation there are more than seven lakh stray dogs in the city and they have been sterilising about 80,000 to one

lakh dogs every year. The number of birth control operations has been increasing every year despite the severe staff crunch. Sources said that there are over 15 lakh strav dogs in the city currently and most are subject to illegal killings by individWhen queried about the same, a senior GHMC official, on condition of anonymity, admitted the discrepancies in the wing. He said that in order keep a check on this, they had decided to embark on a stray dog census from April, which has been hit by the lockdown. The official said that the corporation has accorded permission to about 20 animal welfare organisations and NGOs to cater to the needs of stray dogs during the lock-

Musheerabad, which has

always been full with

2,000 people during every

service, was empty but conducted its service online through Facebook

and Suvartha Channel, said Brother Joseph B.

"The lockdown has not

affected any of the church services during

this holy week. The only

difference is that there is

no physical presence of

people. However, the mes-

sage of the church has

reached every individual

who has watched the service live," said Rev D.

H. Paul John of the Wesley Methodist Church, Malkajgiri.

declared, our church is

providing lunch to hun-

dreds of destitutes, with

members responding and

online," said Solomon

Kumar

transferring

Prem

"After the lockdown was

HYDERABAD, APRIL 10 The Telangana State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) has pulled up the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) for lack of safety gear for sanitation workers. It asked the GHMC commissioner to submit an action taken report in two

The directions from the commission came after the Balala Hakkula Sangham, a child rights organisation, approached the commission based on a series of stories in the press published during the lockdown, highlighting the vulnerability of sanitation workers while attending to their duties without protective gear. Based on the series of reports in Deccan Chronicle and petition filed, the SHRC sought a report within two

In his petition to the commission, Mr B. Achyuta Rao, honorary president of Balala Hakkula Sangham, stated that during the pandemic, municipal workers have been attending to their duties without being provided gloves, face masks, sanitisers, soap or any other cleaning material.

He said that sanitation workers who have been doing a great service to the public are risking their health and losing their human rights if the allegations made in the petition are true.

The SHRC has asked the GHMC commissioner to submit an action taken report.

IN HIS PETITION to the commission, Mr B. Achyuta Rao, honorary president of Balala Hakkula Sangham, stated that during the pandemic, municipal workers have been attending to their duties without being provided gloves, face masks, sanitisers, soap or any other cleaning material.

### **ILLNESS ONSET RECORDED ON APRIL 1**

From Page 1

According to private hospital records, the onset of her illness was recorded as April 1, collection of samples was done on April 8, date of sample testing was on April 9 and results were received today morning.

Sources said she was suffering from breast cancer and had undergone surgery and chemotherapy earlier. Being a patient of the private hospital, she returned to the hospital with complaints of fever, cough and respira-

tory distress.
The initial treatment before confirmation of coronavirus disease was taken in the private hospital, but after confirmation tests showed Covid-19 positive, the family wanted to go to a government hospital for treat-The hospital arranged for an ambulance service but after reaching Gandhi Hospital, she died within an hour.

Hospital authorities did not respond to any of queries and there was no mention of this case in the government medical bulletin.

Medical documents and confirmatory reports of tests have been presented by the family and private hospital confirmed that the patient left their hospi-

With these cases not being recorded, experts that missed cases will only add to the burthe pandemic. The right information and tracking of contagious disease is important, medical experts said.

The Telangana state government said that there were 101 hot spots across the state, which have been identified and officials are worktowards contain-

### Laity prays on Good Friday to fight Covid SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL I DC who coordinated the event. HYDERABAD, APRIL 10 Church at Hebron Golconda Cross Roads,

ims, not many stray dogs

Good Friday church services in the twin cities went uninterrupted all over thanks to technology, said clergy of various churches in the city, pointing out that the prime prayer all over the churches was eradication of coronavirus.

"We had around 4,000 with us YouTube live members through streaming, though the building was empty. Every member's house turned a church Friday, Good remarked Rev Undunti Church, Hyderabad.

Vicar General Swarna Bernard said, "The whole Catholic community watched church proceedcommunity ings live because of total shutdown. Our prayers are for Covid-19 affected and their families, as also government authorities. medical staff, sanitation workers and police, who

T.S.S. SIDDHARTH I DC

As a result of the lock-

down, patients who are

suffering from various

badly affected as they are

unable to undergo their regular diagnostic checks

Home visits for blood

tests are being restricted

by rules imposed by apart-

ments or gated communi-

"Police are also stopping us on the road. Every

time I have to show my ID

card and explain that I am

from Apollo Hospitals

then only they allow. Some police don't allow us even

then. Now as passes are

being given by our compa-

ny we can go for sample collection smoothly," said

and check-ups.

ailments are

HYDERABAD, APRIL 10



Rev U. Daniel delivers the Good Friday sermon at the CSI Wesley Church in Hyderabad, which was live-streamed on social media. Christians prayed at home because of the lockdown restrictions.

are showing great care Lutheran Church at towards the society," he

Lockdown hits patients

PEOPLE WITH dia-

betes. thyroid, vitamin

deficiencies, allergies,

and pregnant women

require such tests fre-

• BUT THE fear that

medical practitioners

they are not being

allowed into apart-

samples are called.

ments or gated com-

could be carriers of the

disease is so acute that

Raju, a phlebotomist, as

those who draw blood

While patients are being

asked to undertake video

consultations, tests have

quently.

munities.

with chronic ailments

Lower The Grace Evangelical Friday, donated ₹25,000

Tank Bund, on occasion of Good

culean task. There are 25

phelbos in Hyderabad, who collect 100 samples on

an average every day since

People with diabetes,

thyroid, vitamin deficien-

cies, allergies, and preg-

nant women require such

tests frequently. But the

fear that medical practi-

tioners could be carriers

of the disease is so acute

that they are not being

allowed into apartments

or gated communities.
"In some gated commu-

nities and apartments the

committee decision is not

to allow any outsiders. In

spite of calling the cus-

tomer in advance I have to

return without collecting

said Omer who works

the samples sometimes,

the lockdown.

worth personal protective equipment kits to a government hospital,

## Man arrested for spitting in public

JAYENDRA CHAITHANYA T. I DC

A man from the city who spit on the road was caught red-handed Saroornagar police on Friday.

Saroornagar inspector K. Sanjeeva кеаау Md Abdul accused, Muzed, 24, was caught spitting at about 10.50 am on Friday at Champapet when a team was checking vehicles.

The SI said that the personnel noticed a milk van passing through the checkpost near One Ten Hotel in Champapet, Muzed, the co-driver, spitting on the road.



Md Abdul Muzed

 ABDUL MUZED, was caught spitting when a team was checking vehicles

"The picture was captured and a case was booked against him under the Indian Penal Code," said the SI.

The state government and on Wednesday had on passed an order prohibiting spitting and loitering

On line (through e-tendering) for the following work is invited by DRM/Engg/ DDU for and on behalf of the President of India from experienced and financially as well as technically sound contractors including those enlisted with the Railway CPWD. BSNL. MES. PWD and other public sector undertakings. (i) Name of work with its location

(iii) EAST CENTRAL RAILWAY (iii)

e-tender Notice No. 02 of

2020-21 (Open)-Engg/DDU

ender No. 01-DDU-SRDEN-II-20-21 Raising and extension of PF No. 2/3 M/L to HL at DOS as per RDSO under ADEN/DOS. (ii) Approx. cost of the work. : ₹ 15304874.41, (iii) Earnest Money:₹226500.00 (ii) Name of work with its location

énder No.02-DDU-SRDEN-II-20-21 Provision of wharf on abgeela siding a Manpur (MPO) station under ADEN/Gava. (ii) Approx. cost of the work. : ₹ 13798122.77. (iii) Earnest Money:₹219000.00

(iv) Date & time for submission Of -tender: 30.04.2020, Up-to 12.00 hrs (v) Website particulars of e-tendering. ww.ireps.gov.in

**Divisional Railway Manager/DDU** PR/0022/DDU/Engg./T/20-21/40

ANDHRA PRADESH

## AP cuts SEC's tenure through ordinance

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS I DC

In a swift political development, the Andhra Pradesh government on Friday promulgated an ordinance reducing the Commissioner (SEC) to three years, thereby bringing a sudden end the term of incumbent N. Ramesh Kumar, who has completed four years.

The government will instead henceforth appoint a retired High Court judge as the new SEC and complete the formalities of oath taking and assumption of office Saturday morning itself to gain some strength as its decision is bound to come under

judicial scrutiny. The YSRC-led Andhra Pradesh government has been maintaining utmost secrecy in this regard. It did put its orders in public domain but under the category of 'confidential', which prevents others

from accessing them. Sources said the government is pinning hopes on Mr Ramesh Kumar himself, who it thinks would not challenge his

cessation in a court of law. "Even if someone else challenges, we have a strong case because Mr Kumar established beyond doubt that he is biased

to the Chief Minister pointed out. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy had earlier vented out his anger openly against the SEC for postponing local body polls scheduled last month, citing need for social distancing in the wake of spread of coronavirus (Covid-19).

The ruling party was upset with a letter purported to have been written by the SEC to Ministry of Home Affairs, wherein Chief Minister Reddy was described as a "faction leader" and ruling party leaders as "goons"

The Opposition parties, however, raised a united voice against the government for removing Mr Kumar in an unconstitutional manner."

Telugu Desam Rajya Sabha member K. Ravindra Kumar told Deccan Chronicle that the party has been exploring every option, including approaching the AP High Court.

Describing the Chief Minister's decision as an "act of vengeance", state BJP president Kanna Lakshminarayana dashed off a letter to Governor Biswabhushan Harichandan. urging him to "stop the undemocratic act". Jana Sena and Left parties too condemned the

## One held for criticising govt

to be performed in person with Apollo Diagnostics.

AVINASH P. SUBRAMANYAM | DC

The AP government has suspended a municipal commissioner after a video showing him criticising the state government went viral on Friday. The suspended officer, Mr K. Venkata Rami Reddy, munici-pal commissioner of Nagari town in Chittoor district, alleged that the state government had not provided any funds or protective equipment to the Nagari municipality to deal

with the Covid-19 crisis. In the selfie video, Mr Reddy says that Nagari Munic-

ipality hasn't received any funds from the government to deal with the present crisis, despite the vulnerable situation prevailing in the town after four positive cases of Covid-19 were detected.

"Four positive cases of coronavirus have been detected in Nagari today. Does anyone come forward to help? They have frozen all the accounts. The municipality didn't receive a single rupee from the government and we are doing something and everything what we can do amidst great difficulties," he said.

The state government has not provided any protective

equipment, he said, yet "braving the situation, we, our municipal staff, ANMs, doctors and police are going out into the streets without any protective gear. We have got no personal protective equipment, masks, gloves or boots from the government

The suspension order observed that "the municipal commissioner on his own pay made certain adverse comments on government and getting involved in political conversation during the crisis of Covid-19, which are against Rule 17 (1) of AP Civil Services (Conduct) Rules,

## Health official drinks formalin

**NAGABHUSHANAM HOSKOTE I DC** ANANTAPUR, APRIL 10

Anantapur district medical and health officer (DMHO) Anil Kumar was rushed to a private nursing home near the RTC bus stand here on Friday after he consumed formalin kept in a tumbler on his table. He was shifted to the ICU ward. A team of doctors immediately began his treat

The official release claimed that the DMHO drunk the for-

malin accidentally, assuming it was water kept by his attendant. He was immediately shifted to an ICU ward hospital of a private nursing home. District collector Gandham Chandrudu visited the hospital and checked after Dr Kumar's

APCC president S. Sailajanath lashed out at the government, over increased pressure on officials without providing minimum safety measures for doctors and medical staff in hospital across the state. Referring to hospitalisation

of the official after he visited the hospital, the APCC president, who is a medical doctor who formerly served at the Anantapur general hospital, lashed out at government and higher authorities failed to supply medical kits for docand nurses in the hospital. "The contamination risk of

the virus to doctors and nurses was due to negligence of state, even during a dreadful situation," he said, demanding that all doctors and staff should be supplied kits.



### Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited

**SHORT TERM PUBLIC NOTICE** (Invitation for Expression of Interest) Notice No.:-BMSIC/45025/230-2020/312

In view of Pandemic situation prevailing due to Novel Corona Virus (COVID-19) outbreak leading to an emergency like situation including the lockdown in the country and its anticipated adverse impact on the supply chain of Medical Devices/ Consumables, BMSICL is going to procure following item under emergency procurement so as to deal with the emergency COVID-19 situation across the Health facilities in the State of Bihar on an urgent basis. Interested parties may submit their willingness to supply any or all of the following items:

	S.N.	Name of Item	Immediate Requirement (May increase as per needs)
I	1.	Rapid test Kit for COVID-19 (ICMR Approved)	50000 Kits
I	2.	Automatic RNA Extraction Machine (Open System)	4 Nos.
I	3.	Pulse Oxymeter (Finger-Clamp/Digital Fingertip)	1500 Nos.
	4	Automatic RT-PCR Machine (Open System)	4 Nos.

The interested suppliers are required to submit through e-mail, their proposalin the below mentioned format along with the delivery schedule and the details (Address, GST Registration no. and PAN)of the supplier, at the office of "Managing Director, Bihar Medical Services and Infrastructure Corporation Limited (BMSICL), 4th Floor, Bihar State Building Construction Corporation Limited, Hospital Road, Shastri Nagar, Patna-800023" within three days of publication of this notice to the e-mail id.- bmsicl.covid19@gmail.com. The Equipments suppliers are required to provide onsite after-sale services for a period of at leastten years including three years onsite warranty and must quote CMC charges and consumable cost if any for RNA Extraction Machine & Automatic RT-PCR Machine and onsite warranty of 01(One) year for Pulse Oxymeter (Finger-Clamp/Digital Fingertip). The suppliers are also required to provide the requisite certificate to justify the quality, if any for the Drugs/ Medical Devices/ Consumables/Equipment.

Format to be used by the bidders to express their interest: -									
SI.	SI. Name Specification Available Unit Price Unit Price Deliv				Delivery				
No.	of	(to be filled by the bidders in	Quantity with	excluding GST	including GST	Schedule			
	Item	accordance to the	the supplier	(to be filled by	(to be filled by	(in days)			
		availability of the respective	for supply (in	the Bidder)	the Bidder)				
		item for immediate supply)	units)						
1									

NOTE: 1. Priority shall be given to the supplier who ensures early supply

2. For any clarification or query the interested parties may contact GM (Procurement) BMSICLon Mobile no.9471006242 or visit our website

**GM** (Procurement)

PR-00078 (Ni Ni) 2020-21

गेवल कोरोना के संबंध में विस्तृत जानकारी एवं सहयोग हेतु 🚧 топ Free No.: 🕇 🛛 🕰 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं। व सामग्री – संबंधी किसी तरह की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु दूरभाष संख्या ०६१२–२२१७६५६ पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

### SHORT TAKES **ARMY TARGETS TERRORIST LAUNCH PADS**

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 10

Indian Army on Friday used artillery guns for precision targeting of terrorists launch pads and Pakistan Army's ammunition dumps in Keran sector of Kupwara along the Line of Control (LoC).

It was in Keran sector where on Sunday Indian Army's special forces elite unit "4 Para" had engaged in a brutal close combat with terrorists who had sneaked from PoK, killing all infiltrating batch of five terrorists. In this operation Indian Army also had lost five

Indian Army officials said that on Friday Pakistan army engaged in unprovoked ceasefire violation in Keran sector.

"Own troops retaliated effectively and strongly. Precision targeting of gun areas, terror-ist launch pads and ammunition dump carried out," said the official. He said that there are reports of heavy damage

on enemy side.

According to reports Indian
Army used 105 mm field guns and 155mm Bofors guns to target Pakistan's position.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic around the world there has been no let up in unprovoked firing by Pakistan along

### **YOUTH PEDALS** 1,800 KMS TO **REACH VILLAGE**

AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, APRIL 10

Braving all odds, including the scorching sun of the day, eerie dark of the night, a 25-year-old migrant worker of Odisha cycled 1,800 kms to reach his village in Jajpur district.

The youth — identified as Mahesh Jena — reached his village on Thursday evening.

Mahesh said he started his journey on April 2 as it was difficult him to survive in

Mumbai without any work. "All work had stopped at the construction site where I was working. I had little money with me and I thought I could not manage with that for long. I thought it would be better if return to my village and spend time at home with my family

members," he said. The local administration has sent Mahesh to a local quaran-

'Mahesh has been sent to a quarantine centre upon his arrival at his village from Mumbai. We are providing all sort of help to him, Sourava Chakrabarty, Jajpur

Block Development Officer. "At many places on the way, social workers and police pro-vided me food and water. At some places police made a few inquiries before letting me off, after checking my Aadhaar card," said. "I am extremely happy after my son returned from Mumbai," said Mahesh's father Ranjan Jena.

### **ED SEIZES WADHWANS' VEHICLES**

From Page 1

"After receiving the informa-tion that the accused were located in Satara and lodged at Government Institutional Quarantine Centre at Panchgani, an email has been sent to the district magistrate and superintendent of police of Satara for not releasing them without NOC from the CBI or order of the court and taking other necessary steps to prevent the accused persons from absconding," said the CBI statement.

The ED, meanwhile, seized the vehicles used by Wadhawans to travel to Mahabaleshwar.

The Satara police confirmed that they have been booked adding, "Mahabaleshwar police station filed a case against the brothers and 21 others, including their family and friends who were in the three car cavalcade for breaking the lockdown rules based on a complaint from the Prant (region) officer of Wai," said an officer of Satara police.

The Bharatiya Janata Party demanded resignation of home minister Anil Deshmukh. Kirit Somaiya, senior BJP leader and former MP alleged that the Wadhawan family has close ties with Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar and

other leaders of the party. "The closeness of Sharad Pawar and NCP leaders with Wadhawans is well-known. Anil Deshmukh should own up the responsibility and quit," he said.

# Masjid declared as containment zone

### A congregation held in Assam by 3 who had tested +ve

MANOJ ANAND I DC GUWAHATI, APRIL 10

In what has created panic in Guwahati, Assam health department on Friday declared Aathgaon Masjid and Kabristan as containment zone where three corona positives who on return their return from Tablighi Jamaat in Delhi had organised a religious congregation of nearly 100 person on March 12.

Pointing Jamaluddin Hazi and Jamaluddin who attended religious congrega-tion in Delhi and tested positive for coronavirus had revealed that they spent night at Aathgaon Masjid with one Rehiuddin of Dhubri who also tested positive, Assam health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma

told reporters, "Now three of them have confessed that they went to the Masjid on March 12 to address a religious congregation of about 100 people."
Informing that they

have asked to register an FIR against Jamaluddin Hazi who is a resident of Dhubri for misleading information, the minister said that Jamaluddin Hazi, before surrendering to health authorities, visited three civil hospiin Bongaigaon, Dhubri and Goalpara for medical help.

He has done a huge damage as doctors in these hospital had to be quarantined for getting in touch with an infected person, said the minister regretting that even after he was detected positive, he did not reveal that he attended a religious con-

stayed on the night of March 12 at the Masjid. We had no reason to doubt but a caretaker of the Masjid on coming to know about his infection revealed that a religious congregation was held at the Masjid. We have collected 58 names so far who were present," said the minister adding that it was highly challenging for the authorities now

would like to request all those who attended the congregation to come forward for check-up," said the minister. He said that the government has also placed an order for one lakh Rapid Test Kits.

to detect all the persons.
"We through media

Mr Sarma said that they have also decided to go for rapid test that ICMR has allowed but

Accredited social health activists talk with the residents at Padarayanapura, an area which is sealed down by the order of BBMP in

WALKWAYS TO CANITIZE IN In 24 hrs, another MP doctor

succumbs to coronavirus

private practice after his

retirement from govern-

ment service, tested posi-

tive for Covid-19 a couple

of days ago and was

"The deceased had no

contracted the

travel history. He might

virus during treatment

of suspected coron-avirus patients by him,"

The doctor was among

four people who died due

to Covid-19 in Indore on

Friday. With this, the

death toll due to the

deadly disease in Indore mounted to 27.

immediately

the officer said.

talised.

have

tive for Covid-19 a couple of days ago.

THE DOCTOR who took to private practice after

• HE HAD no travel history and might have con-

tracted the virus during treatment of patients.

his retirement from government service, tested posi-

increased the toll in Madhya Pradesh to 37.

As many as 235 con-

firmed cases have been

reported in Indore so far.

Meanwhile, 52 fresh confirmed cases were reported in MP on Friday, taking the tally of the positive cases to 464.

In a worrisome devel-

opment, another doctor

in Bhopal tested positive

for coronavirus on Friday, taking the tally of

doctors contracting the

virus to three in the cap-

Of the 117 confirmed cases reported in Bhopal so far, 61 are health offi-

gregation too. "He told entire exercise would us that three of them depend on availability of the rapid test kits.

We have been assured supply by March 22 only so we have approached the Central government to make available the kits," said the minister. In another develop-ment, the Guwahati

Police announced to implement an odd-even rule for all vehicles involved in essential services for three days to further reduce traffic movement on the city roads. The system, which was first implemented in Delhi to tackle air pollution by limiting the number of cars as per the last digit of their registration number, came into force after vehicles with stickers saying "essential servic-es" clogged roads in

## Assam records 1st Covid-19 death

DC CORRESPONDENT

A 65-year-old ex-BSF personnel in Assam on Friday died due to Covid-19, the first casualty of the disease in the state. He was among 29 persons in Assam who had tested positive for coronavirus.

Assam health minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the patient who was from Hailakandi was detected Covid-19 positive on April 7 and shifted to Silchar Medical College and Hospital in a critical condition as he was also suffering from acute pneumonia. He was one of the patients who were linked to Nizamuddin Markaz held in Delhi in early March. He had also visited Saudi Arabia recently, the

minister said.
Informing that he breathed last at about 2 am on Friday, the minister said, "With utmost grief and sorrow, I would like to inf-orm that Mr Faijul Haque Barbhyan, (65) Hailakandi district has expired few

minutes back in SMCH due to complication of Covid-19 infection. My deep condolences and prayers for the bereaved family."

The Hailakandi district administration arranged the last rites of the deceased at isolated place by taking the bereaved family into confidence. However, a controversy broke out when the workers who were engaged by the administration for putting the body into the grave were not allowed to enter their respective houses by the nearby residents fearing spread of coronavirus.

The administration later on clarified that workers were given proper PPE to handle the body.

"The village was sealed close to midnight on Tuesday after he was detected as positive. This was done under the Assam Covid-19 Containment Regulation, 2020, with strict perimeter and demarcation entry and exit points," the dis-trict's Deputy Commis-sioner Keerthi Jalli said.

AFTER ODISHA,

DC CORRESPONDENT

with agency inputs
NEW DELHI/CHANDIGARH,

The Punjab government on Friday extended the ongo-

ing lockdown in the state

till May 1, amid the rising

coronavirus cases, as Chief

Minister Amarinder Singh

said he feared the state may be moving towards the "community transmission"

The decision to extend the lockdown was taken at a

video conference meeting of

the council of ministers, chaired by Capt. Singh, to

check the community spre-

ad of the pandemic and to

prevent overcrowding at

mandis in the coming wheat harvesting and pro-curement season, the gov-

Punjab became the second

state after Odisha to extend

the lockdown, as the Centre

considers proposals by sev-

eral states to continue restrictions beyond April

14, when the ongoing nationwide lockdown is due

Capt. Singh will convey

the state's decision to Prime

Minister Narendra Modi a

his conference with Chief

Ministers on Saturday. Punjab was the first state in

the country to clamp curfew

ernment said.

to end.

on March 23.

- SATISH B.

men. Besides the doctor,

21 others who included a

two-vear-old son and 62-

year-old mother of a

policeman tested posi-

tive for coronavirus in

In a related development, police registered

an FIR against 64 foreign

nationals who fled to MP

after attending the Tablighi Jamaat event in

Nizamuddin in Delhi last month, for entering

the country without

Besides, 13 others who

harboured the foreigners

were also booked under

after their quarantine period ended", police he-

All of them have been

put in quarantine in var-

ious places of worship of

"They will be arrested

valid documents.

various charges.

re said.

Bhopal on Friday.

stage of the outbreak.

**LOCKDOWN** 

**PUNJAB EXTENDS** 

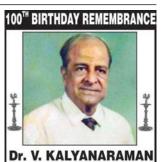
### **53 PEOPLE BOOKED** FOR CROWDING AT 2 **DIFFERENT PLACES**

DC CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, APRIL 10

Nearly 53 people belonging to a minority community were on Friday booked for violating Covid-19 lockdown protocol by crowding at two places in Madhya Pradesh.

A case was registered against 40 people including a local sarpanch for gathering at a mosque in Khairkhurd village in Cĥourahi tehsil under Chĥindwara district to offer namaz in violation of section 144 of

CrPC clamped in the area. Similarly, 13 people in Sagar were booked for gathering on a rooftop of a house violating section 144 of CRPC.



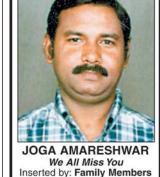
nearts of your family& friend: and especially patients who

Homage to a joyful so

Remembered by: Sons: Rajan, Prasad and Venkat Daughters in law: Grandkids and Grateful Patients.

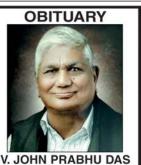


Bank Manager, SBH (Retd.) We All Miss You Inserted by: Family Members Ph: 7207807117, 8885021210 15th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Inserted by: Family Members Ph: 24072596, 8500119021

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



V. JOHN PRABHU DAS Founder of East Way Church Of Chris DOB: 03.10.1929 DOE: 10.04.2020 Funeral at 10.30 AM on 11.04.2020 at Sahib Nagar Christian Cemeter Near Vanasthalipuram Phone Number: 9550452334, 9848878767 Inserted by Family Members

**PAGDI** 

SUNITA RAHEJA W/O LATE BHAGWANDAS RAHEJA

BETWEEN 4.30 TO 5.00 PM

FROM: RITU & KAMAL RAHEJA

AMISHA & DEEPAK RAHEJA(DUBAI)

ASHWINI & NIKHIL SABHANI (PUNE)

RAHEJA FAMILY 9059440551,9392337667

ate PRATIBHA JAISWAI n my heart, you shall forever emain despite the fact that you are not with me any longer. Wishing you a lovely birthday

Jr. Arun Jaiswal, Ashutosh Jaiswal Nitasha, Arpitha, Amit Jaiswal, Dr. Ananditha Malik, Dr. Ravi Malik, Shikha, Janardhan and Grand Children

**3rd YEAR CERMONY** 



R.L. SAI VASANTH (Pandu) DOB: 16.05.1999 DOD: 11.04.2017 We miss you each & everyday in our life. From Mother: R. Rama Father: R. R. Laxmikanth (Sudhakar) Brother: R. L. Sai Charan

Inserted by: Rashaboina Family Members & Friends Ph. No.: 9849209378

Husband: G.V.Ranga Reddy Son-Daugher-In-law: G.V.Sandeep-Ashwitha Garnd Son - Vasidh & Family Members Saraswathi Nagar Colony, Saidabad, Hyderabad. Ph: 040-24075641, 9441880033

# 4th ANNIVERSARY Smt. G.MAYA DEVI

DoB: 25-07-1955

**1ST ANNIVERSARY** 

**ENUGULA JANARDHAN** (Proprietor-Raghu Automobiles) in our hearts forever and ever. Mourned by: Grand Children Pradhyumna & Pranav

## The fresh deaths have The doctor who took to cials and 12 are police-Infiltration by virus-hit through Indo-Nepal border feared

NAYEAR AZAD | DC PATNA, APRIL 10

Bengaluru on Friday to create awareness on Covid-19.

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC

Madhya Pradesh's coro-

navirus hotspot Indore has recorded death of a

second doctor due to Covid-19 in last 24 hours.

65, a private Ayush

(Ayurvedic, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeo-

pathy) practitioner suc-

cumbed to Covid-19 in a

hospital in Indore on

Friday, local chief med-

ical and health officer

He is the second doctor

in the state as well as in

the country who suc-

On Thursday, 62-year-old Dr Satrughna Panjwani died due to

cumbed to the virus.

Covid-19 in Indore.

Pravin Jadia said.

Om Prakash Chouhan,

BHOPAL, APRIL 10

**40 SECONDS** 

**DEVELOPED** 

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC

KOLKATA, APRIL 10

To tackle Covid-19 pan-demic, the Central Mechanical Enginee-ring Research Institute

(CMERI), a premier Co-uncil of Scientific and

Industrial Research-la-

boratory in Durgapur,

has developed a disin-

fection walkway with two variants: pneu-

matic and hydraulic w-

hich can sanitise a per-

son in just 40 seconds.

"The embedded sensors of the walkway ensure that the opera-

tional time of the sys-

tem can be varied with-

in a range of 20 seconds

to 40 seconds," the sci-

ence and technology m-

Billed to be one of the

most comprehensive disinfectant delivery systems, it ensures

maximum target cover-

age with minimum sh-

adow area of a person and can be deployed at

many locations such as

isolation and quaran-tine facilities, mass transit system entry

points, health centres

and other locations wi-

With a dimension of

two metres in height, 2.1 metres in length

and one metre in width

it has already been installed at CMERI.

The hydraulic model is

made of 1 hp pressuri-sed motor high velocity

pump with necessary

set up nozzles to ensure

optimum mist forma-

tion. National Science

Centre in New Delhi, Durgapur Municipal Corporation and Ishw-

ar Chandra High Scho-

ol in Durgapur want to

th significant footfall.

inistry said on Friday.

Alert has been sounded in Bihar over reports that several coronavirus suspects are planning to infiltrate through the

Nepal border. A letter regarding the issue was sent to Bettiah superintendent of police by District Magistrate Kundan Kumar.

The District Magistrate in his letter has urged the SP to increase patrolling near the border which has already been sealed due to the lockdown.

In his letter, Bettiah send Indian Muslims M said that he has been along with few Pakistani DM said that he has been alerted by the 47th battalion of the Sashatra Seema Bal that a person na-med Jalim Mukhiya involved in arms smuggling and Fake Indian Currency Note racket in India and Nepal has been trying to send 40 to 50 Indian Muslims who could

be coronavirus suspects. The letter sent by the SSB, a copy of which is also available with this newspaper, has revealed that a Nepal-based illegal arms dealer and

taken responsibility to

smuggler has

nationals allegedly to spread the coronavirus into the country. The letter claimed that

"200 Indian Muslims (from other countries) along with 5 to 6 Pakistani nationals have arrived in Nepal via Kathmandu and are residing in mosques and madarsas at village Chandanbarsa and Khairwa".

The SSB also claimed that "these people have been consuming paracetamol tablets to maintain their body temperature as they could be inf-

ected with deadly coronstate

around 730 km-long porous border with Nepal. The state government had sealed the Indo-Nepal border in March in a bid to prevent coronavirus outbreak in the country. When asked about the

letter, Bihar DGP Gupteshwar Pandey said that "there have been no reports of any kind of infiltration from the Indo-Nepal border. All SPs in the state's bordering district with alerted."

but the UN released a copy

of the secretary-general's

Belgium's UN Amba-

ssador Marc Pecsteen de

Buytswerve said even

though the press state-

ment from the council was "very minimal", it was an expression of support for

the secretary-general and

his call for peace. "And

that's the most important

thing at this stage."

He and other council members stressed the importance of unity, but

differences were still evi-

dent. Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia

said the fight against Covid-19 is "warfare agai-

"To win against it and to overcome its consequences we need also to

overcome our prejudices,

phobias, hatreds, distrust,

tests — who did what and

who was more successful

than others. It's not the

time for blaming and fin-

"It's not the time for con-

suspicions," he said.

ger-pointing".

nst an invisible enemy

remarks.

### **50 positive cases** on French ship

Paris: The French aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle has registered 50 cases of novel coronavirus among the crew, the armed forces ministry said Friday. Three sailors had been evacuated from the vessel to hospital in the Mediterranean port of Toulon

as a "precaution". However none of the crew who tested positive for Covid-19 and remained on board have suffered "worsening health" so far, the ministry added in a statement. The origin of the virus was not yet known but all crew were now wearing

### **US judge refuse** to free prisoners

Chicago: A Chicago judge on Thursday rejected a bid by inmates to be released or transferred from a jail housing 4,500 detainees which has emerged as one of the largest coronavirus clusters in the US. Cook County Jail in the US's third-largest city has 276 inmates who have tested positive for Covid-19, along with 172 staff members of the Cook County Sheriff's Office, which oversees the facility. However, the jail acknowledged those numbers are likely an undercount, as the majority of its inmates have not been tested. The jail has seen one prisoner death so far from complications of the virus, but lawyers had filed a petition before a fed-eral court for mass transfers.

### **250 Indians test for** virus in Singapore

Singapore: About 250 Indians, with nearly half of them staying in close contact in the dormitories for foreign workers, have tested positive for the coronavirus in Singapore, the Indian High Commission here said on Friday. Indian High

**Commissioner Jawed Ashraf** told PTI that almost all of the Indians who have the disease are mostly stable or improving. He said that the about 250 Indian nationals, who are suffering from the disease, include some permanent residents. Of the infected Indians, nearly 50 per cent are from dormitories for foreign workers, which have emerged as the disease spreading points in

### **Scientists identify 6 drugs for Covid**

Melbourne: Scientists have identified six drug candidates from more than 10,000 compounds that may help treat Covid-19. The research published in the journal Nature, tested the efficacy of approved drugs, drug candidates in clinical trials and other compounds. "Currently there are no targeted therapeutics or effective treatment options for Covid-19.' said Professor Luke Guddat from the University of Queensland in Australia. "In order to rapidly discover lead compounds for clinical use, we initiated a programme of high-throughput drug screening, both in laboratories and also using the latest computer software to predict

### **POLAND MARKS 10 YEARS OF PLANE CRASH**

how different drugs bind to

the virus," Guddat said.

Warsaw, April 10: Poland's government on Friday marked the 10th anniversary of the plane crash that President Lech Kaczynski and 95 others by demanding that Russia return the wreckage of the plane.

Poland's Foreign Ministry said it had sent a diplomatic note to the Russian embassy in Warsaw calling on Moscow to "immediately surrender Poland's property." "No norm of international law gives grounds for Russia's retention of Poland's property," the min-

Poland has made similar demands in the past, and Russia has replied that it is keeping the wreckage of the Tupolev plane because of an

ongoing investigation. The crash occurred as the Tu-154 air force jet carrying a high-level Polish delegation attempted to land in fog at a rudimentary airport near Smolensk, Russia. It was Poland's worst tragedy since World War II, killing not only the president and first lady, but many other top government and military officials. The tragedy strained already difficult relations with neighbor Russia.

## **Good Friday service**



Archbishop of Paris Michel Aupetit, left, interacts with violonist Renaud Capucon, actors Judith Chemla and Philippe Torreton as they attend a meditation ceremony to commemorate Good Friday in a secured part of Notre-Dame cathedral on Friday in Paris.

## **NY has more Covid-19** cases than any country

### Unclaimed bodies buried at a rapid pace to clear morgues

New York, April 10: New York is burying unclaimed bodies at a rapid pace to clear space in the city's morgues, where mortal remains of coronavirus patients are piling up, according to a media report. A report in The New York Time said every Thursday was burial day on Hart Island, the final resting place off the Bronx York City's New unclaimed dead.

'But as with many things, coronavirus has changed all that," it said. Burials are now being done five days a week at Hart Island, with roughly 25 bodies lowered into trenches each day, according to a city official.

That is as many burials as would typically be done

**NEW CASE OF** 

IN CONGO

UN said.

**EBOLA EMERGES** 

Kinshasa, April 10: A

new case of Ebola was

reported in eastern DR

Congo on Friday, just

three days before a dead-

line that would have ma-

rked the official end to

the long epidemic, the

"Unfortunately, this

means the government of

#DRC will not be able to

declare an end to the

#Ebola outbreak on Mon-

day, as hoped," Tedros

Adhanom Ghebreyesus, head of the World Health

Organisation (WHO), said on Twitter. The country's health min-

istry said the case — the

first recorded in 52 days

"Our teams, in collaboration with the WHO, are

already on the ground to

carry out further investi-

gations and implement

health measures," the ministry's Ebola task

force said in a statement.

the patient reportedly

died in hospital early

Thursday, several days after falling ill with Ebola symptoms. The epidemic,

the 10th in the Dem-

ocratic Republic of Co-

ngo's history, dates back to August 1 2018. — *AFP* 

A health official said

- was a 26-vear-old man.

HEALTH SECRETARY Matt Hancock said on Friday that Britain had recorded 980 deaths from coronavirus in the 24-hour period since the last report, the highest daily toll yet.

hit," the report said. Drone footage and images of burial crews in freshly dug muddy trenches burying body after body in bare wooden boxes are circulating in social media.

New York is the epicentre of the Covid-19 pandemic in the US and is seeing record number of deaths due to the virus. The state recorded the highest single day death

Rome. April 10: Hun-

dreds of millions of peo-

ple around the world will

spend the Easter holiday

at home as lockdown

measures intensify to

combat the coronavirus, a

pandemic with a global

death toll rapidly appr-

forced businesses to close

and limited the movement

of half the world's popula-

tion, halting economic activity and prompting

the International Mon-

etary Fund (IMF) to warn

that the world faces its

worst downturn since the

Great Depression of the

17

Americans have so far lost

their jobs, prompting the

US government to launch

a \$2.3 trillion rescue pack-

age, while the European Union late Thursday

struck a 500-billion euro

(\$550 billion) deal to help

The United States is now

emerging as the global hotspot of the virus. More

than 1,700 people died on Thursday from almost

500,000 cases, bringing its

total death toll to the sec-

ond highest in the world

hard-hit member states.

Some

have

million

oaching 100,000.

Governments

tive day on Thursday as 799 people died due to the

deadly viral infection. So far more than 7,000 people have died in the state from Covid-19, several times more than the total number of people killed in the devastating 9/11 terror attacks.

The NYT report quoted a city official as saying that the only people being buried at the island for now are those for whom the city has been unable to contact next of kin for some time. "We understand extenuating circumstances," the official said, noting that bodies that have not been claimed because their families are under quarantine or on lockdown or for some other reason will not be

Virus toll crosses 1,00,000

worldwide, Easter gloomy

after Italy. It also has the

largest number of cases anywhere in the world by

far. More than 1.6 million

infections have been

recorded globally, accord-

Hundreds of deaths

across Europe Thursday

helped to drive the con-

firmed global toll up — it stood at more than 96,000

on Friday — with nearly half of the deaths report-

But there was relief in

Britain as Prime Minister

Boris Johnson, among the

world's most high-profile under control".

ed in the past week.

ing to reports.

Easter eggs are on display at Eataly store in Rome on

virus

sufferers,

moved to a normal hospi-tal ward after three days

in intensive care. "He is in extremely good spir-

And across Europe and

the United States, officials

sought solace in slightly

Spain, the third hardest-

hit country, saw its lowest day toll in 17 days, and

Prime Minister Pedro Sa-

nchez said Thursday the

demic is starting to come under control". — AFP

'fire started by the pan-

spokesman said

improving figures.

government

The report said the city's morgues used to have ade unclaimed bodies for 30 to 60 days before they were buried on Hart island. But now, with the pace of the coronavirus death toll increasing, the city is moving to bury more of those people to clear space

in the morgues. "Because we didn't have pressure on the system, we didn't have to move them quickly," the official said, adding, "We are now burying people who have been sitting with us for quite some time."

The official said it is possible that the burial of the unclaimed bodies of Covid-19 victims has already begun, because people have been dying of

### itself into knots over President Donald Trump's new coronavirus aid request, as Democrats Democrats refused to rubber stamp his proposal for \$250 billion more to boost small businesses, demanding modifications along with an additional \$250 billion

**Senators block** 

new aid request

wouldn't go along.
The standoff Thursday
doesn't end the pursuit of
more rescue funds, but it came as the government reported that 6.6 million more people filed for unemployment benefits last week, increasing wor-ries that the economy is sliding toward a severe

for health care providers

and states. Republicans

United Nations, April 10: Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has warned the UN Security

Council that the coron-

avirus pandemic threat-

ens international peace

and security — "potential-

ly leading to an increase in social unrest and vio-lence that would greatly

undermine our ability to

Guterres, who called for

a ceasefire in all global conflicts on March 23, said

the coronavirus pandemic had hindered all regional,

national and internation-

al conflict resolution

efforts "exactly when they

are needed most".
"A signal of unity and

resolve from the Council

would count for a lot at

this anxious time," Guterres told the divided

body holding its first meeting on the crisis.

Security Council will be critical to mitigate the

peace and security impli-cations of the Covid-19 pandemic," Guterres

Washington, April 10:

The Senate has twisted

"The engagement of the

fight the disease"

The small business program at issue is off to a rocky rollout. GOP leader Mitch McConnell sought to keep Thursday's debate limited to Trump's request and wouldn't accept Democratic additions. Even if the GOP plan had succeeded in the tne Democraticmined to make changes to ensure small businesses in minority communities benefit from the burst of government funding.

UN chief says pandemic threatens global peace

**Antonio Guterres** 

He cited other pressing

risks to global security

armed groups seeing an

opportunity to strike, potentially with a biological attack; the erosion of

trust in public institu-

tions; economic instabili-

ty; political tensions from

uncertainty sparking fur-ther division and turmoil

in some countries; and Covid-19 "triggering or

exacerbating various human rights chal-

The meeting of the 15-

member Security Council

was held behind closed

postponing

lenges"

pandemic:

elections;

Republicans agree the aid is urgently needed and talks are sure to continue, but it reinforces that Congress and the White House will need to find bipartisan agreement especially with lawmakers scattered in their states and districts and both the House and Senate unable to conduct

roll-call votes.

"Nobody thinks this will be the Senate's last word on Covid-19," McConnell said. "Let's continue to work together, with speed and bipartisanship. We will get through this crisis together." House Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared than Speaker Speaker Nancy Pelosi declared than Speaker N ared the Senate vote merely a "stunt" as the country faces an "epic" crisis. She ridiculed the administration for trying to jam a \$250 billion request through Congress with 48 hours notice with little controlled House is deterable. Pelosi said. -AP



### **BORIS OUT OF** ICU, MUST REST, **SAYS HIS DAD**

London, April 10: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been shifted out of the intensive care unit (ICU) but will remain in hospital to continue his early stage recovery after testing positive for coronavirus that has claimed nearly 8,000 lives in the country. Johnson's improving condition came as the government continues to impose an unp-recedented nationwide lockdown to try to stem the spread of the deadly

coronavirus. Ministers and officials urged the British public to continue to observe the strict social distanc ing norms over what is a Easter holiday weekend when it is customary for people to travel and get together with their friends and

families in different parts of the country.

The UK PM's office said that Johnson, 55, continues to be in very good spirits at St. Thomas' Hospital near Downing Street in central London. "The Prime Minister is back on a ward and continuing his recovery, which is at an early stage. He continues to be in very good spirits," a Downing Str-

eet spokesperson said. Earlier on Friday, Johnson's father, Stanley Johnson, said the whole family was "tremendously grateful" that the UK prime minister had been moved out of intensive care, adding that he thinks his son's illness has "got the whole country to realise this is a serious event". "He must rest up... He took one for the team and we've got to make sure we play properly now," he said. — PTI

## Biden's next big task to pick VP

Washington, April 10: important decision of his five-decade political career: choosing a vice president.

The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee expects to name a committee to vet potential running mates next week, according to three Democrats with knowledge of the situation who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss

internal plans. Biden, a former vice president himself, has committed to picking a woman and told donors this week that his team has discussed naming a choice well ahead of the Democratic convention in

Selecting a running mate is always critical for

BIDEN, A FORMER vice president himself. has committed to picking a woman and told donors this week that his team has discussed naming a choice well ahead of the Democratic convention in August.

a presidential candidate. But it's an especially urgent calculation for the 77-year-old Biden, who, if he wins, would be the oldest American president in history.

decision carries added weight amid the coronavirus pandemic that, beyond its death toll, threatens to devastate the world economy and a prospective Biden administration.

WOMAN | POWER

## Party was founded last month on International Women's Day to fight against crime

## S.Korea's first feminist party seeks Parliament seats

Seoul, April 10: South Korea is regularly ranked lowest in the developed world for gender equality. but for the first time a feminist party is seeking par-Wednesday's election, accusing the political establishment of having failed women.

The party was founded last month on International Women's Day on the back of a surge of anger over the country's spycam porn epidemic and other crimes, and against a backdrop of an enduring pay gap and

employment and childcare

But it has a mountain to climb. It has put forward four candidates in the proportional representation section of the vote, and to secure a single seat will need three percent of the popular vote.

'I had signed petitions, I participated in rallies against sexual violence against women, but realised it wasn't going to work. So I've decided to go to the National Assembly," said Kim Ju-hee, one of the four, who at 25 is among the youngest candidates in the whole elec-

The party has about 10,000 members — around three-quarters of them in their 20s — and Kim says she will never marry nor have children in her efforts to fight patriarchy. But with the party unlikely to attract male voters, the threshold means it needs to secure the backing of six percent of all

women. It is an ambitious goal when the South's two major parties — the ruling left-leaning Democratic party and the conservative

main opposition United Future Party (UFP) — and their satellite entities dominate the political system. And single-issue parties have long struggled. "For many women, it's hard to support a party only because it deals with women's issues," acknowledged Kwon Soo-hyun, president of Korea Women's Political Solidarity, a rights organisa-

Chai Hyun-jung, a 33year-old mother who works in Seoul, said she would vote for a party that offered solid pledges on

children's education and tackling the South's skyhigh housing prices.

"I have too many other responsibilities in my life to solely focus on gender issues," she said. "Of course I'm angry about cyber sexual violence, but I'm sceptical giving a single seat to a feminist party can actually lead to a significant difference."

Despite its economic and technological advances, South Korea remains socially traditional and patriarchal, and has one of the world's thickest glass ceilings for women.



People wearing face masks wait to cast their votes for the upcoming parliamentary election at a polling station in Seoul, South Korea, on Friday.



# Chronicle

11 APRIL 2020

## Recession upon us; cash transfers way forward

he Reserve Bank of India's observation that the Covid-19 pandemic is hanging over the Indian economy like a spectre aptly summarises the gravity of the situation. The central bank's monetary policy statement, which was released on Thursday, portrays a bleak economic situation for India, with demand drying up and supplies halting abruptly. Demand and supply are the two fundamental factors which determine any

economic activity. In their absence, the economy would come to a halt.

The lockdown imposed by the government has frozen all production lines.

Without economic activity, people can't earn money. They would not be in a position to buy anything, which would reduce the overall demand. In the absence of adequate demand, factories cannot operate at their optimum levels. If this situation continues for a long time, it would lead to job losses in the formal sector across the supply chain. Since the demand for services is typically driven by the overall good health of the economy, the service sector will have to bear the brunt if the production lines have stopped. This would have a spillover effect on the informal sector, completing the vicious cycle.

Exports, which generate demand for nearly a third of the Indian production, may also remain subdued because of the global recession induced by the coronavirus pandemic. The International Monetary Fund predicted that the global economy would contract in 2020, resulting in a scenario which would be the worst since the 1930s Great Depression. Since India is called the world's back office, it would witness the fallout of the global events and affect sectors like the Indian technology sector which is closely linked with the

The Narendra Modi government and the Reserve Bank of India have announced stimulus worth ₹7.1 lakh crore. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman is expected to announce another set of stimulus measures speculated to be worth over ₹1 lakh crore — which worked as false steroids for the Indian stock markets.

Though governments across the world have infused over \$8 trillion, IMF managing director Kristalina Georgieva said more would be needed as 170 countries would see people's per capita declining — potentially pushing crores of people into poverty. India must take steps to prevent more people getting dragged into poverty. For this, the government should prevent consumer demand from collapsing during the period of lockdown. This could happen only if the government opts for some sort of cash transfer (DBT) as

suggested by former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan and the Congress Party. Though the cash transfer would keep demand alive, the government could find it difficult to mobilise such huge money through conventional sources. This would leave it with the option which is monetising the deficit — i.e. allowing RBI to print additional money. Several developed countries have done this, but India has always been resisting it — rightly so — as excess money in circulation could build up inflation pressures. But when there is a risk of demand dying, the government must put the economy on a ventilator by putting cash in the hands of people during the lockdown.

### It's Don versus Joe & Corona

he democratic socialist who championed the cause of the working class has bowed out of the US presidential race leaving only Donald Trump and his apparent adversary Joe Biden. If there is a third horse still running in the race, it is the invisible coronavirus and right now it seems to be bolting away from the incumbent. Bernie Sanders' call for a political revolu-tion was, perhaps, a cause too far in liberal USA though it did not seem so when he was the Democratic frontrunner, beginning with Iowa in the Democratic primaries and until the African Americans of South Carolina and Super Tuesday voters took the wind right out of his sails.

The Republicans, who themselves may have been surprised four years ago when Ms Hillary Clinton was thought to be a shoo in for the presidency, are now hoping that their candidate will not let his campaign sag further from the bluster and vitriol of Trump's daily briefings. Three new polls taken this week place Joe Biden, the former Vice President to Barack Obama, handily in the lead. And Trump, who seems to have been working on the theory that he can win by polarising the people at a time of grave national and global emergency, might be walking into a trap in ignoring his experts in health and

converting his corona battle into a presidential campaign. Sanders' call for a political revolution may be a non-starter, but in an extraordinary political career that he began as an independent, he brought several concepts to the fore in America like universal healthcare and free college education, apart from lofty principles like social, racial and environmental justice. Biden has much work to do if he is to capture the imagination of the outh as Sanders did and also win over the white working cla and Indian Americans like Obama did. As a presidential candidate, Biden cannot bank on the cocky Trump losing support. As the virus rages across USA, Biden is right now the frontrunner for the November polls.

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# Crises show India quick to forget all past lessons



Saikat Datta

ne day, when the Covid-19 crisis is over, and it will, we many successes and failures on how it was tack-led as a nation. Such an exercise will lead to strategies that will hopefully keep us better pre-pared. All institutions will have to muster all the lessons learnt and redraw their current strategies. This is why institutional memory is critical in dealing with any exigency. Sadly, in India, as

bureaucracies float in and out, institutional memory is short and woefully inadequate. In 2005, battered by the December 2004 tsunami, the government created the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) a year later, on December 23, 2005.

It was decided the NDMA would be headed by the Prime Minister at the Centre while its state versions would be head-This was to ensure any measure taken by NDMA would be followed diligently and any bureaucratic red tape would be shredded immediately. The vice-chairman was given Cabinet rank for the same reasons. Gen. N.C. Vij, who was Chief of Army Staff, took over as the first vice-chairman and he assembled a group of experts to prepare India for emergencies like Covid-19.

I reached out to him and his then colleague, Lt. Gen. Janak Bharadwaj, to assess the current crisis. What crisis. emerged shows how institutional memory lapses hamper an effective response to crises in India every time.

Over the phone, Gen. Vij reminded me of the number of guidelines they had prepared to deal with a number of exigencies. From nuclear to biological threats, tsunamis, earthquakes

name it, they prepared for it. "We also raised the National Disaster Response Force, which can be deployed very quickly with the right equipment to deal with all the disasters, natural or manmade, we planned for,'

But the general, the good soldier he is, had an undercurrent of disappointment in his tone. 'The current vice-chairman is a secretary to the Government of India. That changes things." What he left unsaid is that the lack of a Cabinetrank post ensures things get done differently in a hierarchy-conscious nation like India. The weight of the person sitting on the chair matters. A secretary-ranked officer is now among equals and therefore has limited clout.

Lt. Gen. Bharadwaj, a doctor who was directorgeneral of the Armed Forces Medical Services, helped Gen. Vij prepare for biological threats. 2010 we got together many more experts from the WHO, the UN's key pandemic threats unit, and many others. We produced a 35-page booklet with standard operating procedures to deal with a crisis like Covid-19. But when I spoke to the NDMA, they said they had not seen it. If they had, many of the challenges they are facing now could have been avoided," Gen. Bharadwaj said.

waj said.

The NDMA prepared detailed 156-page guidelines to tackle lines to tackle "Biological Distasters" in July 2008. This was further revised and sharpened with additional 35-page guidelines after the 2010 swine flu crisis. Both seems to be absent from the current tactics initiated by the government to deal with the Covid-19 threat.

Michael J. Ryan, executive director of the World Health Organisation, has

said that "India led the world in eradicating two pandemics". He went on to add it "is exceptionally important that countries like India show the way to the world as they have done before". However, despite having this experience and expertise, India's lack of institutional memories leads to major gaps. "The fact that we

brought back so many people from countries with high infections should have been avoided. That was a mistake. When they came, we quarantined them, but y then the infection had already started spreading. We are dealing with a virus we know very little about at this stage. This is why we needed to be careful," he said.

During the swine flu epidemic Lt. Gen. Bhar-adwaj travelled extensively across the affected areas, taking notes and taking decisions to contain the spread. "We built a model to input data on what is happening where so that we could predict its spread. We also looked at issues bevond the health factor. The impact on civil supplies, what the Army needs to do, how many hospital beds we need, what the private sector can do and many other at this work and experience, we would have managed the current crisis a lot better. A lockdown will have limited potential, keeping our social and cultural fac-

tors in mind," he said. Today, the NDMA doesn't have a doctor, he said. That seems almost unbelievable, but these gaps occur when institutions have short memories. "We were lucky because the swine flu mutated in

Issues could have been addressed if governments had war-gamed such scenarios. War-gaming is a time-tested method used in all military forces... to ensure swift decision-making when unpredictable events occur. India. From H1N1 it became H2N1. It became mild and we managed to avert a disaster. As India went into the

lockdown, the lack of planning was apparent. Thousands of people were left stranded without food or housing and were desperate to get back home. In many cities the police had to revise their orders and ensure that online delivery platforms like Zomato or Big Basket could continue delivering essential supplies. In Delhi, the police imposed a curfew and police commissioner S.N. Shrivastava ordered that those marked as "essential services" would have to get 'curfew passes" from the offices of the respective zonal deputy commissioners of police. But in a lockdown how do people reach these offices? Finally, the Delhi government resolved the issue by instituting a mecha-

nism for "e-passes" But these issues could have been addressed if the governments had war-gamed such scenarios. War-gaming is a time-tested method used in all military forces to test response mechanisms to various scenarios. These are detailed and controlled to ensure swift decision-making unpredictable events occur. The fact that vulnera-

ble populations like daily wage earners, truckers, labourers and others would be hit the worst was a given. It is also a fact that rationing of supplies during a curfew leads to panic buying, hoarding and rush to markets, defeating social distancing. A comprehensive, multi-discipli nary war game could have factored all these basics in. Finally, in the UK, thousands of volunteers signed up to help the National Health Service combat Covid-19. Sadly, in India, we are yet to have mechanisms for tapping citizens during a crisis. Unless this changes, governments will always be overwhelmed every time a crisis hits India.

The writer is a journalist based in New Delhi and a founding partner of CSDR Consulting

### **LETTERS**

### **LOCKDOWN VIEWS**

The AP Chief Minister must think out of the box (Telugu CMs differ on lockdown, DC, April 10). It is not wise for him to continue the lockdown only in areas posing a threat of coronavirus. He must understand that more number of patients are being detected and tested positive in AP than in TS. KCR is coping with this tactfully.

> **Zubair Khan** Hyderabad

### **INHUMAN ACT**

How can people be so inhuman? (2 women doctors blamed for virus, attacked, DC, April 10). Doctors are practicing social distancing and self isolation. Such attacks will weaken the healthcare system. We only have one weapon to fight this pandemic. It is a shame to humiliate doctors. Every single health-care staff plays a vital role. We must support them.

Dr Syed Ataullah Hussaini

### **COVID DEATHS**

It has become obvious around the world, with variations in testing approaches, there are many more Covid-19 related deaths than offi-cially recorded, including in coun-tries like Spain and Italy. In India, as testing has been largely limited to people showing symptoms or those in contact, it is important to assess how many deaths are likely occurring due to Covid-19 but not recorded. I hope there are agencies/authorities looking at mortality numbers from hospitals or issuing death certificates which can compare the rates over the last few spike. This is important as we understand the extent to which the disease is growing or in retreat.

Secunderabad

### 55 nations buying iron, steel from India

NEW DELHI, APRIL 10

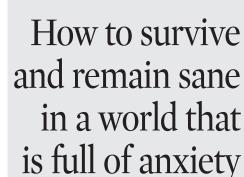
India is now exporting iron and steel to as many as 55 countries says the annual report of the Ministry of Steel and Heavy Engineering released 50 YEARS AGO IN

today.
The exports Chronicle totalled near-

ly Rs 20 crores in 1968-69 and export dispatches in the first nine months of 1969-70 alone are valued at about Rs 54 crores.

This achievement in the field of exports became possible, according to the report "due to the energetic efforts" of Indian producers and exporters, mainly Hindustan Steel Limited (HSL) to develop new markets and sustain old

### Rafia Zakaria



he mood of the moment is anxious. As the world continues to stay in a state of lockdown, routines are disrupted, businesses shut and people are thrown together for extended periods of time, often in small

The news is all terrible, even from places which are not usually the locations for tragedy. In London, Boris Johnson is in intensive care while in New York City officials are considering digging mass graves to bury the city's dead (in their thousands) 10 at a time. New evidence from China reveals even if one does survive, there can be a terrible impact not only on the lungs but also the heart. All of it suggests the stocktaking of survivors when all this is over will be grim and miserable.

How does one survive in such a world while retaining some semblance of sanity? In conditions of such extreme uncertainty where we remain unsure as to who will fall prey to the virus, and when, anxiety

Students worry about their futures, about semesters cancelled, about exams postponed, about what the world they are poised to enter will be like. Parents worry about their children's schooling, their own inability to work from home, about keeping their family safe.

There are outward symbols. Extreme anxiety often results in sharp mood swings taking place over the course of the day or even an hour. The anxious can be happy and ebullient one moment, making cheerful conversation, and erupt into sudden and unprovoked anger the next. Anything — a child's annoying questions, a messy house or an overlooked task — can trigger a wild and ravaging bout of anger at anyone or anything that happens to be around. Those who are there, expectedly and understandably suffer their own resulting anxiety, the chain reaction that ensures everyone is on edge, waiting, dreading, worrying endlessly and constantly.

If one recognises the symptoms of anxiety, they can be led to manage it. The challenge is that the unprece-

dented nature of our current crisis has suddenly ushered those who do not consider themselves prone to anxiety into its ranks. The newly anxious are the most destructively anxious. Those who do not pause to consider the source of their feelings, trace the reasons behind their anger or their excitability are the ones who can cause the most harm. Their children, their family members are all suddenly captives, at the mercy of their moods. Because they do not recognise their own anxiety or admit it, they cannot seek help or an antidote for their condition.

Anxiety can happen to anyone. Even if one is not sick oneself, the financial pandemic awaiting in the sidelines of the coronavirus pandemic means that all men and women who are in charge of family finances are particularly prone to being anxious. If you recognise the signs of anxiety — elevated heart rates, sudden mood swings, inability to sleep or focus — in your own behaviour there are things that can be done to

Since anxiety centres on feelings of

helplessness and lack of control, seizing control of the day is one way to fight against it. Since one's usual schedule is no longer possible, a quarantine routine, which involves waking up at the same time each day and adhering to a set regimen for doing tasks and exercising gives us that elusive sense of control that we are in search of at this moment.

Then there is the task of managing expectations: it is important (as a popular meme on the Internet says) to remember that we are in the midst of a crisis and trying to work rather than working despite a crisis. Small, reachable goals means it is easier to feel a sense of accomplishment at the end of the day.

The extended period of time we have with family members can also provide the opportunity to improve relationships that languish as we run to do this and that during our usual hurried lives. Connecting with old friends and family via various virtual applications can lift spirits and provide an escape from the otherwise endless day. It can also permit people to realise what they are

missing in their day-to-day lives. In a strange and unexpected way, the coronavirus pandemic has exposed the singular nature of life and the ultimate aloneness of all human existence. A confrontation with this truth can be freeing and can lead one to have a closer relationship with oneself as well as realise and analyse the quirks and contortions that can cause conflict or irritation.

No one who is alive today will likely (hopefully) ever see a time like this again. The unprecedented and rapid numbers of those infected and then dead is almost too large for the human imagination. The constant threat of the contagion and the fact that everyone or anyone can be an enemy with the deadly virus is also too surreal a concept for the human

brain. What our human faculties can do is to recognise the dread in our own hearts, a first and crucial step in alleviating the dread in the hearts of those around us.

By arrangement with Dawn













SATURDAY | HYDERABAD | 11 APRIL 2020

# quick

<b>INDICATOR</b>	%	
Sensex	31,159.62	4.23
Nifty 50	9,111.90	4.15
S&P 500	2,789.82	1.45
Dollar (₹)	76.29	0.09
Pound Sterling (₹)	94.60	-0.73
Euro (₹)	82.94	-0.10
Gold (Oz) (\$)	1,715.50	3.01
Brent crude (\$/bbl)	32.03	-2.47
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.490	0.740
US 10-Yr T-bill yield	0.729	0.000
As of Thursday		

### India to export HCQ only to foreign govts

India will export anti-malarial drug hydroxychloroquine only to foreign governments and not to private companies, as the prod-uct is under prohibited or banned category of exports, sources said. Although exports of this medicine is completely banned, India has decided to export this drug in sync with its global commitment to deal with the coronavirus. "Hydroxychloroquine continues to be a prohibited item," sources said.

### Petrol pump operators seek financial support



With coronavirus hitting demand, petrol pump operators said per pump sales have fallen to less than one-tenth, leading to heavy losses in establishment and employee cost. The All India Petroleum Dealers Association (Ainda) which claims to represent the bulk of about 64,000 petrol pump operators, sought a ancial relief package from the oil companies. It said per retail outlet sales have fallen from 170 kilolitres per month to 15 kl now.

### TCS to announce FY20 results on April 16

Tata Consultancy Services said it will announce its fourth-quarter and FY20 results on April 16. The board, which is meeting on Thursday, will also recommend a final dividend, if any, the firm said. Wipro will announce its Q4 and FY20 earnings on April 15. Meanwhile, the board of Tata Capital Financial Services, subsidiary of Tata Capital, has announced the elevation of Sarosh Amaria as MD from May 5.

### **DMart: Around** 50% stores operational now

Avenue Supermarts, which owns and operates retail chain D-mart, said operations of half of its stores are closed, following the directions issued by authorities amid the lockdown. The company is retailing only essential items from the operating stores and average footfall is "significantly lower than usual" due to several restriction imposed by the authorities, Avenue Supermarts said in an update on its operations.

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### ■ Say cash transactions critical for customers

## **NBFCs seek partial** opening of offices

**FALAKNAAZ SYED** MUMBAI, APRIL 10

The Finance Industry Development (FIDC), a representative body of asset and loan financing NBFCs, have asked the government to allow them to function partially amidst the nationwide lockdown to cater to the business needs of their customers.

In separate letters addressed to home secretary Ajay Bhalla, the finance ministry and the central bank, the body of non-banking finance companies said their customers are primarily small commercial or passenger vehicle operators who visit the branches for making their loan EMIs in cash and hence, essential staff is required to be physically present at the branch



offices for collecting and depositing the cash in

"We wish to impress upon you that most of our member companies have offices and operations across the nation. If at least 30 per cent of our staff are permitted to be operative on a rotation basis, we can cater

to the rising financial requirements of a larger segment of lower and mid-dle income customers during this challenging time,"

tial staff may be permitted to carry out the essential operations, in small number and at staggered timings while following social distancing," said FIDC.

According to a Crisil report, NBFCs are likely to face liquidity challenges due to lack of clarity on the applicability of the Reserve Bank's moratorium on their bank loans and poor collection due to the nationwide lockdown.

holders, employees, institutions and banks it is nec-

essary that certain essen-

"Given the challenges in access to fresh funding, and presuming nil collections, a number of NBFCs will face liquidity challenges if they do not get a moratorium on servicing their own bank loans and are forced to meet all debt obligations on time," said

## MSMEs see moratorium as debt trap

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, APRIL 10

vast majority of MSMEs would like to keep away from threemoratorium offered by banks, as they see it as a debt trap.

Small businesses want banks to waive the interest portion for the moratorium period. Most of the businesses are not likely to pay salaries for April.

'A very small portion of the MSMEs are voluntarily opting for the threemonth moratorium, as most of them are seeing it as a debt trap. If the inter-est portion of the threemonth period gets added to the principal, it will become a bigger burden for them," said Rajiv Chawla, chairman of IamSMEof India.

Most of the micro, small and medium enterprises are servicing their debt for March. However, they might fall into the debt trap from April, as cash flow for the month has dried up, he said.

MSMEs want banks to forego their interest



incomes for the three-month period, if at all they want to help the crisis-hit companies.

"All the other industries have foregone their revenues during the lock-down, then why cannot banks let go their interest incomes. Banks should neither pay the interests on the deposits nor charge interests on loans during this period," said Chawla.

Pawan Gupta, founder of Connect2India, too, a real stimulus should be waiving the interest portion rather than adding it to the prin-

"Deferring the payments is a good initiative and will give MSMEs

some relief. But it should not add to the burden as the companies do not have a clear visibility about their cash flow beyond the three-month period," he said.

Further, the fixed costs in the manufacturing units like power charges have to be waived. Only a real stimulus package will help the smaller enterprises sustain,' he

According to Chawla, a large number of companies are not likely to pay April salaries to their employees. 'Most of the companies have paid March month salaries. But, there would be massive payment failure for April," he said.

# Alrosa sales drop 59% as Indian diamond offtake dips

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, APRIL 10 Diamond sales of Russian

miner Alrosa, which is a key supplier of rough diamonds to India's processing industry, dipped 59 per cent year-on-year and 55 per cent quarter-on-quarter in March. Alrosa's sale is an indicator of the plight of business in India's processing industry.

Alrosa's total sales of diamonds in January 2020

stood at \$405 million. This came down to \$346 million in February and plummeted to \$152.8 million in March. The company had recorded sales of \$377 million in March 2019.

"March demand rough and polished diamonds in all key markets demonstrated a steep decline," said Evgeny Agureev, deputy CEO of Alrosa. "The uncertainty in February was followed by severe restrictions and



even the suspension of trading because of border closures and quarantine measures across the world. Needless to say, this has

wrote Mahesh Thakkar,

director general at FIDC.
The NBFC body argued

that while the government has exempted banks, insur-

ance companies, stock

markets and its operators

and mutual funds from clo-

sure of offices, and NBFCs are the only part of the

financial sector that has

"Keeping in mind the interest of our stakehold-

ers, in particular fixed

deposit holders, debenture

been left out.

had an extremely adverse effect all along the diamond pipeline. In this turbulent environment, the situation at the start and at

sion in March was completely different. That is why we had to adjust and offer more flexible sales terms on the go."

Meanwhile, Alrosa has terminated some long-term deals with customers, as they refused to adhere to the contract terms. These are deals with two Israeli companies and two Russian compa-"We would like to thank those of our cus-

long-term contracts, though with several companies we had to terminate such contracts and switch to spot sales," said

The increased availability of stocks could have been good news for other buyers, including Indian processors. However, the ability of Indian companies to buy additional stock will depend upon the demand in the end market,

off-take by China and Hong Kong. The Covid-19 spread in the US will affect demand in that market.

Recently Alrosa had allowed Indian buyers to defer their contracted April month rough stone purchases to later part of the year due to the weak market conditions. Alrosa said it will enable remote diamond viewings, complete with certificates and images of the stones.

## Global deal to cut oil output in sight

Dubai, April 10: The Opec oil cartel and nations, including Russia, have agreed to boost oil prices by cutting as much as 10 million barrels a day in

Even more countries, including the US, were discussing Friday their own cuts in what would be an unprecedented global pact to stabilise the market. The agreement between

Opec and partner countries aims to cut 10 million barrels per day until July then an 8 million barrels per day cut through the end of the year, and 6 million a day for 16 months beginning in 2021.

Mexico had initially blocked the deal but its president, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, said on Friday that he had agreed with US President Donald Trump that the US will compensate what Mexico cannot add to the proposed



That paves the way for cuts that experts estimate could reach 15 million barrels a day in all-about 15 per cent of world production. Such a move would be unprecedented both in its size and the number of participating countries, many of whom have long been bitter rivals in the energy industry.

Crude is down by over 50 per cent since the start of the year and while that helps consumers and energy-ĥungry businesses, it is below the cost of production for many countries

**BEATRIX LOCKWOOD** 

Many people have found

themselves quickly adjust-

ing to new routines, offices

and "co-workers" as mass

lockdowns keep millions of

employees confined to

their homes and apart-

As part of our #AskReuters Twitter chat series, Reuters invited a

experts to answer readers'

questions and share their

best tips for working from

home. Below are some edit-

What tips do you have

for working efficiently,

productively and com-

fortably from home (espe-

cially if your new 'col-leagues' are spouses,

kids, roommates or pets)?

the office. Home is just

another 'office' with inter-

ruptions. Remove wasted

work practices like unpro-

ductive meetings. Get clear

on what the work is, when

it is due, and how success is measured. You are in

control of the work; it

—Jody Thompson, co-creator of the Results-Only

doesn't control you."

"We get interrupted in

ed highlights.

workplace

NEW YORK, APRIL 10

and companies.

budgets of oil-producing nations and it has pushed private companies in the US toward bankruptcy. Analysts warn even these proposed cuts may not be enough to offset the loss in demand over the longer term, as the coronavirus

pandemic has decimated

demand for energy around

That has strained the

the world. "Covid-19 is an unseen beast that seems to be impacting everything in its path," Opec secretary-general Mohammed Barkindo

meeting, according to a statement. "There is a grizzlv shadow hanging over all of us. We do not want this shadow to envelope us. It will have a crushing and long-term impact on the entire industry

One breakthrough came after Mexican President Obrador came on board. Mexico had balked at cutting its output by the requested 400,000 barrels a day Ohrador said Mexico will instead cut its oil production by 100,000 barrels per day from its current level of 1.7 million barrels a day. The US will add a cut of 250,000 barrels per day to what it has already

agreed. nations expected to add to the effort, with Saudi Arabia chairing a Group of 20 virtual meeting of energy ministers on Friday to discuss the oversupply in the

Your remote work questions answered

## Partial withdrawal from NPS allowed

New Delhi, April 10: The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority of India (PFRDA) on Friday said NPS subscribers will now be allowed partial withdrawal for covering expenses related to treatment of Covid-19.

In a circular addressed to all stakeholders and subscribers under the National Pension System scribers (NPS), the PFRDA said, "In view of the decision of the Government of India, which has declared Covid-19 as a pandemic, it has been decided to declare Covid-19 as a critical illness which is life threatening in nature."

The partial withdrawals shall be permitted to fulfil financial needs of the subscribers, if required to him/her against the request placed for partial withdrawals towards treatment of the illness of subscriber, his legally wedded spouse, children, including a legally adopted child or dependent parents, as per the regulations, the PFRDA said in the circular.

The authority clarified that the facility of partial withdrawal will not be applicable for Atal Pension Yojana (APY) subscribers. We would like to clarify

that presently, there is no provision for subscribers to make partial withdrawals under APY," the PFRDA added.

NPS and APY are the two flagship pension scheme run by the PFRDA. Whereas the NPS is for the central, state governments, autonomous bodies and corporates, APY is mainly meant to cater to the pension needs of those employed in the unorgan-

### **FACEBOOK SUES INDIAN TECHIE FOR RUNNING DECEPTIVE ADS. FAKE NEWS**

New York, April 10: Facebook has filed a ıwsuit against Indian man for running software company that pushed deceptive advertisements and misinformation about coronavirus outbreak on social media platforms by bypassing its advertising review

process.

The suit, filed in federal court in California, alleges that Basant company LeadCloak provided adcloaking software designed to sneak fake news and scams related to Covid-19, cryptocurrency, diet pills and more past Facebook and Instagram's auto-mated advertising

review process. Using the LeadCloak, Gajjar, said to be based in Thailand, violated Facebook Terms and Policies by providing cloaking softand services designed to circumvent automated ad review systems, and ultimately run deceptive ads on Facebook and

Jessica Instagram, Romero, director of platform enforcement and litigation Facebook said in a statement.

LeadCloak's software also targeted a number of other technology companies, including Google. WordPress, Shopify, and others, Romero said.

Cloaking is a mali cious technique that impairs ad review systems by concealing the nature of the website linked to an ad.

When ads are cloaked, a company's advertisement review system may see a website showing an innocuous product such as a sweater but a user will see a different website, promoting deceptive products and services which, in many cases, are not

## **EXPORT ORDERS CANCELLED: FIEO**

**SANGEETHA G** CHENNAI, APRIL 10

**GETTING** 

About 90 to 95 per cent of the orders of labour intensive export sectors have been cancelled, as the pandemic has hit most of the key markets. Exporters do not foresee a recovery of orders before six months.

Some of the labour intensive export sectors like textiles and apparels, gems and jewellery, leather and footwear and handicrafts have lost 90 to 95 per cent of their orders, according to the Federation of Indian Organisations Export (Fieo).

"These sectors are seeing cancellation of orders day in and day out. The exporters are also not able to adhere to the delivery schedules of the remaining orders due to the lockdown," said Ajay Sahai, director general and CEO

of Fieo. These labour-intensive sectors account for 50 to 55 per cent of the total exports in value terms. The key markets of these sectors are Europe and



Work Environment. "Embrace your kids, pets and spouses as we all try to define a new work etiquette. Do not apologise when your kids enter your Zoom calls - relish their vulnerability and authenticity. Serendipity is appre-

National Research Group. I really miss the people I work with? How do I casually connect with

ciated more than ever."
—Jon Penn, CEO at

"First, find out how colleagues prefer to communicate... Then, agree on how you will connect throughout periodically. reminders. —Cali Williams Yost, CEO

and founder of Flex+ Strategy Group.

"Consider establishing a weekly happy hour or a 'lunch bunch.' Take a break from work and discuss how you're really doing in light of social distancing."—John Seigenthaler, partner at Finn

Too many Zoom and Teams chats these days! How can we communicate better virtually?

'For right now, this is the environment we're living in. Zoom and Teams are incredible resources that allow us to connect virtually when we must stay home. There are some things we can do to better

leverage our resources. Remember your Zoom etiquette-raise the camera so isn't looking up at you; light yourself from the front; centre yourself in the camera; and wear a headset if you can." John Seigenthaler.

What are the best ways for managers to engage and motivate people if they can't see them?

"Now is not the time to start monitoring people just because they are working from home. Now's the time for trust and giving people leeway to deal with what's happening to us all."—Joyce Marone, founder and executive director of the Workforce Institute.

I'm overwhelmed. How can I take care of myself (plus the people I love) working from

'You can't take care of others if vou're a mess. Put on your own oxygen mask first. Take breaks, exercise and hydrate with the discipline you apply to work. Where it's safe and legal, get outside. If the news adds to your stress, don't take in more than you need."—Ruba Borno, vice president and GM of Cisco Managed Services.

What is the best way to truly turn off from work and set better boundaries?

"Block off time on your calendar for your family meals, working out, or whatever downtime you wish to preserve. Set an 'out of office' message like one of my colleagues: 'Given school and childcare facility closures until next month ... I may be slower to respond to email."—Bhushan Sethi, joint global leader at PwC.

How will work change when things return to "normal"?

"My gut tells me that remote working will be far more common, especially when organisations realize the cost-savings in costs."—Susan McPherson, corporate so-cial responsibility expert.

"Truly hope we'll get sick time for everyone as a nation. It's crazy the position we're putting so many workers in right now who have to make the choice between working sick or not getting paid.'

### SHORT TAKES

### **Umpire climbs**

tree for network

New Delhi: Stranded at his ancestral village in Uttar Pradesh due to the nationwide lockdown, ICC international panel umpire Anil Choudhury is grappling with a communication nightmare and says he has to climb up trees in search of mobile network. Chaudhary, who has officiated

in 20 ODIs and and 27 T20s, was supposed to officiate in the India-South Africa ODI series which was called off. The 55-year-old then decided to visit his village, Dangrol in Uttar Pradesh's Shamli district,

with his two sons. "I'm here with my two sons since March 16. I was visiting the village after quite some time so I planned to stay for a week but then the lockdown was announced and now I'm

following the directives. The biggest problem is the network here. I can't talk to anyone or use the internet. To be able to do that I have to go outside the village, climb up a tree or go to the rooftop," Chaudhary said.

### Akmal not to

contest charges

Karachi: Wicketkeeper batsman Umar Akmal has decided not to appeal against the corruption charges levelled against him by the Pakistan Cricket Board, which has referred the matter to its disciplinary panel. It is alleged that Akmal failed to report a spot-fixing approach in the Pakistan Super League. The 29-year-old was provisionally suspended on February 20. After determining that Akmal

has not requested for a hearing before the Anti-Corruption Tribunal, the PCB said it has decided to refer the case to its disciplinary committee headed by Justice (retired) Fazal Miran Chohan, a former Judge of Lahore High Court. The PCB examined the contents of

Akmal's reply to its show cause and found no written request for a hearing before the ACT. A source close to the cricketer said that the stumper feels he has been framed. -PTI

### **UFC scraps plans** for hosting fights

Los Angeles: The Ultimate Fighting Championship on Thursday scrapped controversial plans to stage a fight card later this month as the United States battles the coronavirus

The mixed martial arts organisation had planned to hold UFC 249 without fans at an undisclosed location, reportedly an Indian tribal reservation in

However in an abrupt U-turn on Thursday, UFC said it had postponed the event at the request of broadcasters ESPN. "While the organisation was fully prepared to proceed with UFC 249, ESPN has requested the postponement of the event and subsequent bouts until fur-

ther notice in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. UFC looks forward to resuming the full live events schedule as soon as possible," a UFC statement said.

### **TENNIS MAY RETURN IN AUGUST: ATP**

Milan: ATP chairman Andrea Gaudenzi said that he remained optimistic the tennis season could resume in August but warned that not being able to play again this year was a possibility due to the coronavirus. 'Nobody knows when we can go back to playing in total safety: talking about August, September, November is all hypothetical, we can't bang our heads against the wall for something that maybe won't even happen because we could even start next year," said

Gaudenzi. Speaking during a telephone interview with the Italian media from his home in London, Gaudenzi said he hoped that the season could return in

"We have made 50 versions of the calendar that we change day by day," said the 43-yearold Italian who took over as ATP boss in January.

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# TOKYO TOTTERS BCCI clears dues of all cricketers

## Olympics in doubt next year too, says Games CEO

Tokyo, April 10: As the coronavirus spreads in Japan, the chief executive of the Tokyo Games said on Friday he can't guarantee the postponed Olympics will be staged next year even with a 16-month delay.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe issued an emergency declaration this week to battle the virus, putting the country under restrictions after it seemed it had avoided the spread.

"I don't think anyone would be able to say if it is going to be possible to get it under control by next July or not," Tokyo organising committee CEO Toshiro Muto said, speaking through an interpreter at a news conference conducted remotely.

'We're certainly are not in a position to give you a clear answer," Muto

The Olympics were postponed last month with a new opening set for July 23, 2021, followed by the Paralympics on August 24.

Abe has been criticised for being slow to act against the coronavirus. Opposition political leaders have suggested he downplayed the severity of the virus and have said it may have been tied to wanting to hold the Olympics this year.

We have made the decision to postpone the games by one year," Muto

"So this means that all we can do is work hard to prepare for the games. We sincerely hope that come next year mankind will manage to overcome the coronavirus crisis. Muto was asked if there are alternative plans to 2021. Rather than think about alternatives plans, we should put in all of our effort, he futher added.

"Mankind should bring together all of its technology and wisdom to work hard so they can development treatments, medicines and vaccines. Japan has reported about 5,000 cases and 100 deaths. The country has the world's population, and Covid-19 can be especially serious for the elderly," he

Muto was asked several times about the added postponing, which has been estimated by Japanese media at between \$2 billion-\$6 billion. He said it was too soon to know the price.

He also acknowledged Tokyo Olympic organisers had taken out insurance.

'Tokyo 2020 has taken out several insurance policies. But whether the postponement of the games qualifies as an event that is covered is not clear yet," he clarified.



Chief Executive Officer of Japan's Olympics committee Toshiro Muto speaks in this file photo.

## Tokyo's postponement IRONMAN CHAMP blessing, admits Irfan

Mumbai, April 10: Race walker K. T. Irfan has no complaints regrading the postponement of the Olympics to next year due to the Covid-19 pandemic as he says it will give him more time to prepare for the Tokyo Games.

The 30-year-old Irfan qualified for his second Olympics after finishing fourth in the 20 km race walk event in the Asian Race Walking Championship last year.

"It's good that it (Tokyo Games) got postponed. We can take this as a base to train more and get closer to win a medal. Race Walking is a technical event, so I will get time to focus on it more, this will help us do better next year," Irfan said.

Asked about his target in the Tokyo Olympics, he said, "My main aim is to win a medal. In Rio Olympics, I had injured myself, in London also I had chance of winning a

Irfan finished 10th in the 2012 London Olympics with a national record time of 1 hour 20 minute 21 seconds. He did not qualify for 2016 Olympics.

"If I work harder there is chance of getting a medal. I have mentally prepared myself and am strong with the aim of winning a medal," the



Tokyo bound race walker

Just like any other athlete, Irfan is confined to his hostel at the Sports Authority of India Centre in Bengaluru as nobody can train outside.

"There was a good place to train outside the campus where I used to train. But we aren't allowed to go outside the campus because of the lockdown," said the athlete from Kerala.

"We have been asked to

train alone and not in groups. We do skipping etc in the room, and some times go out in the campus to practice the walk. For now this is what we

are doing," he said. family unaware of a sport like this. We were economically weak, we didn't have money to spend. My family eventually found out about my race walking through my friends but my family have supported me," he said. -PTIme," he said.

## **TO RAISE FUNDS VIA HOME EVENT**

Berlin, April 10: Like Olympic champion Jan Frodeno has a touch of cabin fever in the coronavirus lockdown, but the triathlete has come up with an extreme idea to raise money and banish the blues.

Frodeno plans livestream a complete ironman challenge from his home in Genova, Spain, and raise funds to

fight the pandemic.
On Saturday, German will use a state of the art counter-current home pool for the 3.8km swim, an excercise bike for the 180km ride and then run a full marathon on a treadmill.

"I want to use this event to support those who are currently doing the competition in the hospitals in and day out," ne

"Everyone knows I'm a bit nuts," the Beijing Olympic champion said.

Frodeno has invited the general public to join him from their own homes on social media or whatever way they can.

"I want to show things can be done from home. This is the best way I can aid the medical staff in Spain," said Frodeno. said Frodeno. Fans can buy triathlon gear on the site and the proceeds would go to charity. — AFP

New Delhi, April 10: The BCCI has cleared the quar-terly dues of all its central-ly-contracted cricketers and vowed not to let anyone suffer despite the uncertainty triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has caused financial blowback in other coun-

Major cricket boards like England and Australia have indicated that players will have to take pay cuts. "Despite lockdown being

announced from March 24, the BCCI was ready for any kind of eventuality. The board clears quarterly installments of central contract payments to its players," a BCCI official confirmed on conditions of

anonymity.
"Plus the match fees of all those who played for India and India A during this period, all these dues were cleared at the end of the financial year," the source added.

The England and Australian players have admitted openly that they

are bracing up for pay cuts. The announcement of central contracts has been postponed in Australia, while England skipper Joe Root has applied for fur-

Under the furlough scheme, the British government pays 80 per cent of wages — up to GBP 2,500 —

A BCCI official said that the Board's financial sta-

### **OLDEST CRICKETER** D'SOUZA, AGED 93, **BREATHES HIS LAST**

Mumbai, April 10: One of India's oldest first-class cricketer Walter D'Souza died on Thursday morning

D'Souza was 93. He played for Gujarat and ACC and breathed his last at his home in suburban Khar. D'Souza played the 1950-51 Ranji Trophy final for Gujarat versus Holkar at Indore, in which he made 50 and 77 respectively. The final was won by  $\dot{\text{Holkar}}$  by 189 runs. — PTI

bility helps in testing times when some of the other boards are struggling to even pay their domestic

"I believe BCCI is capable of taking good care of its players as it has been all these years," he said.

He, however, agreed that having the IPL later this year is a necessity considering the amount of financial loss that all stakeholders will have to bear if the event does not go ahead.

'The situation is fluid right now. It can't be said that it will be September when Asia Cup and home series against England is scheduled or October, scheduled or October, when World T20 is to take place," he said.



Sachin Tendulkar (left) shakes hand with Australia's

## Sach, Virat share hunger: Clarke

Melbourne, April 10: Sachin Tendulkar is Former Australian captain Michael Clarke feels Virat Kohli's fetish for big hundreds is similar to the iconic Sachin Tendulkar, who was the "hardest to get out" with a technique which "didn't have a weak-

Clarke said he can't recall a batsman as complete as Tendulkar during his play-

Probably technically the best batsman (Tendulkar) I ever saw. The hardest batsman to get out. I think Sachin, technically, didn't have a weakness. Part of you hoped that he made a mistake," Clarke told the *'Big sports Breakfast'* radio show.

He then went on heap praise on Kohli, calling him the best batsman across all formats among the current lot.

"I think right now the best batsman across all three formats. His one day and twenty-twenty records are phenomenal and he's also found a way to dominate Test cricket.

probably technically the best batsman I ever saw. I think right now Virat Kohli is the best batsman across all three formats. What Kohli and Tendulkar have in common is they love making big hundreds. - MICHAEL

CLARKE Former Australian captain

'What Kohli Tendulkar have in common is they love making big hundreds," he said. Tendulkar is the only cricketer to have played 200 Test matches and scored

international cen-

He smashed 51 centuries in Tests and 49 in ODIs and holds the record for most runs in both formats 15,921 runs in 200 Tests and 18,426 in 463 ODIs.

He retired in 2013 after an emotional home Test series against the West Indies.

— PTI

## **CUMMINS OK WITH IPL BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

turies.

Melbourne, April 10: The costliest foreign player in Indian Premier League, Pat Cummins says he would be willing to play in the T20 event without fans as it would help bring a sense of normality in a world ravaged

by the Covid-19 pandemic. The IPL was originally scheduled to start on March 29 in Mumbai but it was postponed to April 15 due to the pandemic. Asked whether he

would support games without fans in a BBC podcast, Cummins said, "Of course — whatever it takes to try and get cricket up and play those big events safely."

26-year-old Cummins, who became

the costliest foreign play er in the league after the Kolkata Knight Riders picked him up for a whooping ₹15.5 crore last December at the auction, said he is "super hopeful" the league will be held though he would be "surprised if it happened

"They scream every single ball whether it's a six or a wicket — it's the same noise every ball— so that atmosphere is something that we love about playing in India. It will be missed in the short term if it can't happen, but I have no doubt it will be a great event even if it has to be played with-out crowds," he said.

## Dummy fans fill stands in Belarus

Minsk (Belarus), April 10: They don't chant, they don't move, and they mostly wear the wrong colours.

They're not even real.
Defending Belarusian league champion Dynamo Brest have started boosting its home crowds with mannequins in football shirts and adorned with the faces of virtual fans who bought tickets online.

Belarus is the last country in Europe still hosting professional sports in front of spectators amid the coronavirus pandemic, but attendances are shrinking as fans decide the stadium is too risky.

Fan boycotts have been announced at 10 of the 16 clubs in the top division. That includes Dynamo and Champions League regular BATE

As the real fans stay away, the mannequins have arrived.

Wednesday's Belarusian Cup semifinal match against Shakhtyor Soligorsk, at least 30 of the mannequins were placed on seats in the stands, each topped with a cut-out

They wore a motley array

purple 2016-17 Real Madrid away jersey to early 1990s Aston Villa in claret and blue. Other shirts were stretched over nearby seats.

With few games to watch elsewhere, some foreign fans have started watching games from Belarus instead. Dynamo Brest general secretary Vladimir Machulsky wants them to feel at home.

"It's our creative idea. In this way, a virtual spectator who is following the match broadcast on television can see himself in the stands, Machulsky said. 'We're not trying to imi-

tate a full stand. We under-

stand the fans who have refused to come to the games. We decided to take a creative approach to the situation," the general secretary added.

The virtual tickets seem to be a profitable sideline for Dynamo Brest. They are on sale for a league

game Sunday for 67 Belarusian rubles (\$26.90),

more than five times the

cost of the most expensive

normal ticket sold online.

Some cost as little as 1.75

rubles (70 cents).

Madrid, April 10: Barcelona have denied what the club describes as "serious and unfounded accusations" of corruption after a former vice-president claimed someone "had put their hands in the till".

Emili Rousaud was one

of six board members to

resign on Thursday

night as Barca continue

to be embroiled in political crisis under their current president Josep Maria Bartomeu.

6 Barca members resign

Mannequins in football uniforms with the faces of "virtual fans" who bought tick-

ets online are seen on grandstand seats during the match between FC Dynamo

Brest and FC Shakhter Soligorsk in Brest, Belarus, on Thursday.

All six resigning board members called for the 2021 presidential elections to be brought forward in a joint letter published on Friday by the newspaper *La* 

Vanguardia. In an interview with

controversy that rocked the club in February, when Barcelona were accused of hiring a company called I3 Ventures to discredit opponents of Bartomeu online, including players like Lionel Messi and Gerard Pique.

Spanish radio station Cadena Ser, Rousaud dis-

cussed the social media