



**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD

Death claims arising due to COVID-19 shall be treated on a par with other causes of death and payments shall be made on an urgent basis. COVID-19 has already claimed many lives and efforts are being made by LIC officials to locate the virus victims on the basis of lists provided by government authorities to help the families. Already, under death claims due to COVID-19 16 policies have been settled without losing any time, a release from LIC said. LIC offices were operating with skeletal staff. All other employees are working from home to ensure customer services are provided normally to the extent possible under current circumstances, the release said.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

"The lack of interoperability of set top boxes between different service providers not only deprives the customer of the freedom to change her/his service provider, but also creates a hindrance to technological innovation, improvement in service quality, and the overall sector growth," the TRAI said. It noted that while the STBs deployed in the cable TV networks are non-interoperable, those by direct-



The lack of interoperability affects improvement in service quality, TRAI observed. ■ P.V. SIVAKUMAR

TRAI also recommended that a coordination commit-

"Further, the committee may maintain continuous oversight for setting up the digital TV standards by BIS to provide for Digital Video Broadcasting Common Interface Plus (DVB CI+) 2.0 port based on ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) TS 103605 standards and to have provision for reception of both DTH and cable TV signals," it said.

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**  
NEW DELHI

As part of the ₹1.70 lakh crore relief package, the government announced free foodgrains and cash doles to

“More than 30 cr. beneficiaries have been directly given support through Direct Benefit Transfer amounting to ₹28,256 cr. under #PradhanMantriGrihKalyanPackage,” a tweet from the Finance Ministry said. Of the total disbursement, ₹13,855 crore has gone towards payment of the first instalment of PM-KISAN. Under the scheme, nearly 6.93 crore

The National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) disbursed about ₹1,400 crore to about 2.82 crore old age persons, widows and disabled persons, it added.

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
MUMBAI

Further, trading volumes



Trading volumes reached record highs as gold volatility went up to levels last seen during the financial crisis. ■ REUTERS

The global body has highlighted the fact that uncertainty around the short-and long-term economic impacts

**Strong inflows**  
“Against this backdrop, gold ETFs listed in all regions experienced strong inflows

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
**MUMBAI**

According to the latest S&P Indices Versus Active India Scorecard analysis, over the five-year period ending December 2019, 82.29% of large-cap equity funds, 78.38% of ELSS funds and 40.91% of mid/small cap equity funds underperformed their respective indices. While the S&P BSE 100 surged 10.92% in the

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
CHENNAI

"The dealer network would be put to severe financial stress otherwise," CIPD president M. Narayan Prasad said in a communication addressed to the three national oil marketing companies. "Though sales volume is less than 10% of our usual sale, our expenditure to run the retail outlets remains the same. We have

National general secretary, CIPD, K. Suresh Kumar said the dealer margin should be calculated based on the average sale during December 2019 to February 2020. In other words, pay the dealers based on their immediate past performance rather than on the truncated sales ever since the lockdown and the related restrictions on movement came into force in March.

## N. ANAND

The government has been very conscious of this and support is being extended at all levels to try and facilitate smooth agricultural operations through availability of inputs and equipment. I do believe that demand for agricultural inputs will pick up and if it is with close monitoring and fa-



MSMEs face the challenges of working capital and cash. A moratorium has been given and if this can be extended, including interest, it will provide relief to this sector. Cash flow is a pro-

### What is the exports scenario?

The announcement that export incentives will be con-

April to June is a peak season for the industry and if our customers, the farmers, are affected, the industry is being affected too and we anticipate a 10-12% drop during 2020-21. Efforts are on by the government and industry to enable farmers overhaul their equipment and keep them up and running during the critical agricultural season. However, at the ground level, permissions are somewhat slow to come by.

■ While we have not seen any cancellation of orders, there is an element of uncertainty, going forward, with respect to some countries. We have not felt any impact.

■ I think a more practical and safe way of doing the lifting would be to do a planned step by step lifting. Governments, Centre and States have a good grip over problem areas and priority sectors and over what is critical.



THE HINDU GROUP

Ring around the Rosie  
~~Ringa Ringa Roses~~  
 Pocket full of ~~posies~~ *Posies - a small bunch of flowers*  
~~Atishoo! Atishoo!~~  
~~Hussha! Bussha!~~

*we* All Fall Down.

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