

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 3 APRIL 2020

WEATHER

Max: 39.4°C
Min: 24.1°C
RH: 36%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky.
Moderate rain likely
Max/Min temp. 39/24°C

CORONA COUNT

CASES: 2069
DEATHS: 53

TS: 158
09

AP: 135
00

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES: 9,40,000

DEATHS: 47,000+

COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES: 186

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvar: Uttarayana
Tithi: Chaitra Suddha Dasami till 12.54 am (Saturday)
Star: Pushyami till 6.33 pm
Varjyam: Nil

Durmuhuratam: 8.39 am to 9.28 am; 12.43 pm to 1.32 pm
Ruhukalam: 10.30 pm to 12 noon

WEDDING CALENDAR
Shabdom: 8:41 AH
PRAYERS

Fajar: 5:08 am
Zohar: 12:29 pm
Asar: 4:40 pm
Maghrib: 6:34 pm
Isha: 7:43 pm

SUNSET TODAY 6:29 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6:08 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 1:45 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 2:14 AM

COUNTER POINT

CRIME... DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Hmmm... life in the time of lockdown!

IN BRIEF

Jan Dhan A/Cs to get ₹500 today

New Delhi: Women, who have bank accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, will start getting ₹500 per month in their accounts from Friday for the next three months starting from April. According to the Indian Banks' Association, 7500 per month will be deposited every month under PMGBY will be debited between April 3 and April 9.

Full report on Page 7

Gold price may touch new high

Chennai: Veteran investor and Rogers Holdings chairman Jim Rogers finds that gold will surpass its previous all-time high and go "much much higher" as the equities plunge into bear market and world moves into recession. He has also predicted that he would see the "worst bear market" of his lifetime as the outbreak has saddled governments and companies with debt.

Full report on Page 7

A-I suspends 200 pilots' contracts

New Delhi: Air India on Thursday temporarily suspended the contracts of around 200 employees including pilots, who were re-employed after retirement from Waniaparthi was attacked brutally by the cops for violating the lockdown rules. What is more disturbing is that the man's son, a minor boy, who was at the spot, was

NATION | 4

Arunachal CM tweets about lockdown's end, deletes

deccanchronicle.com, facebook.com/deccannews, twitter.com/deccanchronicle, google.com/+deccanchronicle

WORLD | 5

Trump doubts China's coronavirus figures

TABLOID

Locked down in an abusive home

Need lockdown exit plan: PM to CMs

Curbs may continue in areas identified as hotspots; elderly and children may not be allowed to step out

VINEETA PANDEY and ANIMESH SINGH | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

Nine days after imposing nationwide lockdown due to novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday indicated that a staggered end of the lockdown is on the anvil. Mr Modi, who held a discussion with chief ministers of various states through a video conference on preparedness to deal with coronavirus, has

sought their suggestions for a common "exit strategy" to end the 21-day lockdown in a phased manner after April 14. "It is important to formulate a common exit strategy to ensure a staggered re-emergence of the population once lockdown ends," the Prime Minister said, as he asked the states to brainstorm and send suggestions. The CMs will come back with their suggestions which will be discussed in the next meeting. It is learnt that the government is planning to

PM mum on funds for states

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday remained non-committal on releases funds to states despite a plea from several chief ministers,

especially from non-BJP ruled states. Apart from Telangana state and Andhra Pradesh chief ministers of Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan said they are awaiting the Central government's share in the

MGNREGA wages and states GS share. Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot said the Centre should release a combined package of ₹1 lakh crore for all states.

is arrived in consensus with the states. Mr Modi has reportedly told the CMs that India's fight against coronavirus, in the backdrop of releases in Singapore and other places, will be a long-drawn affair and would continue in some form or the other till Diwali. Under a phased easing down of the lockdown, sources said people residing in areas identified hotspots may not be allowed to move out immediately. Restrictions will also remain in place for

senior citizens above the age of 65 years and children below 10. While the government and private sector may start start functioning, restrictions on air and train travel will be eased gradually. Indications are that the government will allow domestic flights to start operating. "We are hoping that on April 15 the flights can start operating," MoS civil aviation Hardeep Singh Puri said.

have a staggered plan to end the 21-day lockdown period which has brought

the country and economic activities to a standstill. Sources said the govern-

ment is keen that any decision on a staggered release of population after April 14

Another report on Pg 2

Page 4: India reports 432 new coronavirus cases

Wedding ritual without devotees



Priests wearing masks bring out the idols of Lord Rama and his consort Sita for conducting a wedding ritual as part of the Rama Navami celebrations at a closed temple in Hyderabad on Thursday. Most temples in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have performed the wedding ritual without the presence of devotees.

GOLDEN TEMPLE'S EX-HAZURI RAAGI DIES OF COVID-19

Amritsar, April 2: A Padma Shri awardee and former Hazuri Raagi at the Golden Temple who was undergoing treatment for coronavirus died early Thursday morning, taking the Covid-19-related death toll to five in the state, a health official said. Nirmal Singh, 62, had recently returned from abroad and tested positive for coronavirus on Wednesday, the official said. Government Medical College principal Sujata Sharma said his condition started deteriorating on Wednesday evening and he was put on ventilator support. He died at 4.30 am on Thursday. The Gurbani exponent was admitted to Gurnanank Dev Hospital here for chest infection after he had complained of breathlessness and dizziness, she said. He had held a large religious gathering in Delhi and some other places.

All healthcare staff set to get paramilitary security

Don't spare anyone who attacks them: Centre

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

Taking serious note of incidents of attack on doctors and other paramedic staff in some parts of the country, the Union home ministry has asked states to take immediate measures to ensure a foolproof security for them, including providing them with paramilitary cover along with that of the local police.

● In another important advisory to the states, the Union home ministry has further directed the states to check spread "fake news and false information or propaganda."

that there were reports that the main reason for attacks on doctors and medical teams was spread of false and mischievous information by certain groups by using different social media platforms.

Senior officials of the home ministry claimed that states have been directed to be sure that stringent security measures are put in place at hospitals especially when ever medical teams visit suspected hotspots of corona outbreak. "We have come across reports and some incidents where medical teams have been attacked by the public when they went to test them or to shift them to quarantine

facilities. All states have been directed to deal with this firmly and ensure that foolproof security measures are put in place for the medical teams," a senior ministry official said. Police departments of all state have been directed to register cases under stringent provisions of law against those involved in such incidents. In another important advisory to the states, the Union home ministry has further directed the states to check spread "fake news and false information or propaganda."

"We are working at different levels with the states and closely co-ordinating with them to ensure that cases of corona remain under check and the infection doesn't spread to stage-3 or the community level. Thus even on Thursday, we have asked state governments to strictly enforce the lockdown and widely publicise the penal provisions for its violations," the home ministry official added.

Telangana reports 27 new coronavirus cases

Sources claim all Covid-19 cases detected on April 1 and 2 were those of Markaz attendees

BALU PULIPAKA | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

The total number of positive coronavirus (Covid-19) cases in Telangana have soared to 158 on Thursday, with the government reporting 27 new Covid-19 cases on Thursday. This is the second highest number for a single day after a 30-cases rise on Wednesday.

ED notice likely on Markaz chief

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

As the coronavirus cases traced to the Tablighi Jamaat gathering at a Delhi's Nizamuddin Markaz are skyrocketing nationwide, a manhunt is on for its 50-year-old leader Maulana Saad Kandhalvi, last seen on March 28. An audio clip, meanwhile, surfaced online Thursday in which the maulana claimed he was in "self-isolation" as advised by doctors. Police sources said the maulana may have been exposed to the coronavirus. In another audio clip, put out on the Markaz's YouTube channel, Maulana Saad says "a mosque is the best place to die".

● Sources in ED said "It is suspected that the Tablighi Jamaat has links with certain Pakistan and Afghanistan-based organisations. Investigative agencies are probing their links with foreign organisations, including Al Qaeda."

Over 400 Covid-19 cases are expected to be linked to the gathering in March at Nizamuddin Markaz, a 100-year-old building in the crowded south Delhi locality. Officials believe nearly 9,000 of its members, both Indian and foreign, are at risk. The police contacted 14 hospitals to track down the cleric. The crime branch sent notices to all seven people (named in the FIR) to give a statement with the rules were not followed by them.

In another development, the Enforcement Directorate is thinking of initiating a money-laundering probe against Maulana Saad and Tablighi Jamaat to trace their source of funds, including foreign funds, if any. Sources said ED said, "It is suspected the Tablighi Jamaat has links with certain Pakistan and Afghanistan-based organisations. Investigative agencies are probing their links with foreign organisations, including Al Qaeda."

● Some of the coronavirus cases found positive on Wednesday and Thursday in Telangana are said to be from districts which form erstwhile Medak and Warangal districts

uals. In all, 1,030 persons from the state attended the event of Tablighi Jamaat, where over 9,000 people across the country had congregated violating the government's directions against organising event involving a large number of people. Some of the cases found positive on Wednesday and Thursday are said to be from other districts, such as erstwhile Medak and Warangal.

people attended Markaz from Hyderabad, it is feared that a bulk of new cases could well be from this large group of individuals.

However, given that 603

Constable was suspended after KTR disapproved of his action; video clip by cops goes viral

Wanaparthi cops beat father despite son crying for mercy

JAYENDRA CHAITANYA | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

begging the police not to assault his father, but little did the police care except to beat him up as a helpless man who was offering absolutely no resistance. The video of the incident went viral on social media, and moved several netizens as well as politicians, including the ruling party politicians, who requested Telangana state

home minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali and Director-General of Police M Mahender Reddy to take action against the police. Subsequently, the police constable was "placed under suspension". The incident took place at Wanaparthi district headquarters on Wednesday, when a group of police officers, including a constable in civil dress, intercepted a

man and his son moving on a bike to check their purpose of travel. The video, captured by another cop at the spot, shows the police constable and a man arguing followed by the former assaulting the latter, pushing him on the ground and beating him mercilessly. Meanwhile, the young son of the man, being beaten necessarily by the police, a minor, was seen

pleading with and begging the police to stop his father to stop the fight. "Uncle, please stop, my father is continuously screaming. However, police officers forcibly put the man and his minor son in a patrolling vehicle, while uttering abusive words. According to the police, the incident took place after the man picked up arguments and got angry.

The police claimed that he was "misbehaving" with police after being questioned on violation of lockdown rules and on being asked to leave his bike with the police. As the video went viral, IT minister K.T. Rama Rao tweeted, "Home minister Mahmood Ali saab and Telangana DGP garu, this attitude of police is unacceptable in any circum-

stances. Request you to take strict action on such incidents as this. All the exceptional good work of thousands of policemen is undone by erratic behaviour of a few. Much later, Wanaparthi SP Apoorva Rao replied to the minister's tweet apologising to the people.

Page 2: Police say man was angry for stopping him

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IN BRIEF

Covid-19: No juma prayers on April 3

Hyderabad: No Juma congregation will be held in mosques on April 3 for the second consecutive Friday, due to the lockdown. The general public will not be allowed to gather at mosques for Juma prayers, but a few selected persons will fulfil this canonical obligation in the mosques, while Muslims will say Zuhr (mid-day prayer) at home. Likewise, all congregations related to Shab-e-Barat (the night of fortune and forgiveness), which falls on April 9, are also cancelled. Ulama and religious scholars have appealed to the people to ensure they abide by the lockdown and avoid congregating as maintaining social distancing is the lone solution to combating coronavirus.

MCEME supports Thalessemia kids

Hyderabad: The Indian Army, responding to a call by Red Cross Society, organised a blood donation drive to help children affected by Thalessemia. The drive was held at the MCEME in Secunderabad. With the lockdown affecting blood supply, the Red Cross sought army assistance to help Thalessemia-affected children. The Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering, in a release, said the blood donation camp that began on March 30 has so far collected 200 units from all ranks of MCEME members. The camp will continue for ten more days. Volunteers are screened on a daily basis for a full medical inspection, before they can donate blood.

₹181 cr released for HMDA works

Hyderabad: The state government has released ₹181.50 crore towards intensifying sanitation works under the Land Regularisation Scheme (LRS) to five districts coming under the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) limits. According to Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MA&UD) department, there are 36 municipalities and corporations in the five districts including Rangareddy, Medchal, Sangareddy, Yadadri and Medak. The focus would be on foreign returnees and tracking their health status. Officials have been instructed to provide gloves, masks and other precautionary equipment to sanitary workers.

Farmers unable to transport produce

Hyderabad: The All India Kisan Congress (AIKC) vice president M. Kodanda Reddy on Thursday said that farmers in Telangana are forced to leave their produce in the fields as they were unable to transport the produce to market yards due to the lockdown. In a press statement, he demanded that the state government should issue identity cards for farmers to move their products to market during the lockdown period. He asked the state government to instruct the police to allow farmers on the roads or permit them to sell the agricultural produce in the street markets. Meanwhile, the Chairman Telangana Kisan Congress S. Anvesh Reddy, in another press statement, appealed the state government to initiate the purchase of produce from the farmers.

Movement restricted



People stopped outside Gandhi Hospital after security was beefed up following the attack on a doctor on Thursday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE

170 returnees hospitalised

Unani hospital in Charminar refers 9 patients to Gandhi

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

Government Nizamia General Hospital (Unani) in Charminar has admitted 170 persons so far for treatment under Level One Covid-19 on Thursday. Most of the referred persons had attended the Tablighi Jamaat meet in Delhi held in early March, where many infections were detected. Based on initial symptoms, doctors have referred nine patients to Gandhi Hospital for superlative care. The additional director of Ayush and principal of Tibbi College, Dr Mohammed Ahsan Farooqui, said that on admission, samples of blood and saliva were taken. "We are waiting for the diagnosis report. Persons who have been referred here for medical checkup and quarantine are not ready to stay in the hospital without an attendant. They have asked the authorities to allow them to leave the hospital if their reports are found to be negative," Dr Farooqui said.

● **THE ADDITIONAL** director of Ayush and principal of Tibbi College, Dr Mohammed Ahsan Farooqui, said that on admission, samples of blood and saliva were taken.

● **BASED ON** initial symptoms, doctors have referred nine patients to Gandhi Hospital for superlative care.

● **THE SUSPECTS** were ready to stay in the hospital and sought to be allowed to return home



District collector R.V. Karnan at the quarantine centre in Sarada Engineering College on Thursday.

Khammam collector visits Tablighis under quarantine

DC CORRESPONDENT KHAMMAM, APRIL 2

District collector R.V. Karnan, who visited the quarantine centre that was set up in Sarada Engineering College, met persons who had returned from Tablighi in Nizamuddin. Health officials noticed 10 persons coming from Delhi and kept them in discharged after fourteen days. "The first report of samples of Tablighi attendees has come negative. It is a relief to them as well as the administration," he said and added that every person in quarantine should maintain physical distance. Health officials noticed 10 persons coming from Delhi and kept them in

quarantine. They will be tested once again after 14 days. The Collector asked them to inform health officials if any of them suffers from cold, cough or fever. He said that the officials are conducting tests on their family members. Provisions and vegetables will be supplied to them, he said.

"We are trying to enhance our production capacity but about the same time we cannot compromise on quality," Mr Modi reportedly said. Further, Mr Modi suggested to Chief Ministers to bring to the Centre's notice specific leads on availability of material anywhere in the world, and promised that he would ensure that they are purchased and brought to India immediately.

severe financial stress on the state due to Covid-19 lockdown. Revenues have drastically dried up, while expenditure to meet healthcare needs have increased multi-fold. The government has had to defer 50 per cent salary to government employees, he said. He also brought to Mr Modi's notice about short supply of N95 masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) while urging the Centre to enhance supply of testing kits to cover more people. Reacting to C.M Reddy's request on enhanced supply of testing kits and masks, Mr Modi said the Centre had been obtaining stocks from wherever they are available across the globe.

KURNOOL FINDS RED ZONES AFTER DELHI MEETING

DC CORRESPONDENT KURNOOL, APRIL 2

District officials have identified red zones at two places in the city — Kappalabai and Roja street — after they found that several people from these localities had attended the Nizamuddin Markaz religious meeting in Delhi. The district medical health officer Dr Ram Giddayay said all arrangements have been made to declare these areas as red zones. The final directive will be given by district collector G. Veera Pandian. According to sources, 60 officials from the 51 council wards of the Kurnool Municipal Corporation were identified as quarantine red zones.

The Old town area, Prakashnagar, Kallur, and Muzaffar Nagar are suspected to be hotspots of the coronavirus. Authorities have advised residents of these areas to totally avoid coming out of their homes for the next 14 days, while additional police has been deployed to see that they obey the quarantine orders. Sources claim that necessary measures are being taken to provide residents with grains and groceries at home for all the 14 days. Sufficient medical staff is also available in red zones for medicines and other needs, district authorities say.

PIL seeks facilities for jail inmates

VUJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

Prof G. Haragopal and Prof P.L. Vishveshwar Rao on Thursday approached the Telangana High Court in individual Public Interest Litigations seeking directions to the state government to address the problems prevalent in the wake of coronavirus crisis. G. Haragopal, convener of Forum Against Repression, sought directions to the government to take immediate steps for protection of convicts, under-trial prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, against falling prey to Covid-19 pandemic.

● **MR HARAGOPAL** submitted that the three central jails, seven district jails, 33 sub-jails, a women's jail, a Boston school, one open jail and four special jails among other detention facilities and prisons were all crowded beyond permissible levels.

Referring to the March 23 order of the Supreme Court in which it laid down elaborate steps for constituting 'Under Trial Review Committee', the petitioner urged the court to direct the State to follow the guidelines by Interim Guidance of Inter Agency Standing Committee, World Health Organisation titled 'Covid-19: Focus on Persons Deprived of their Liberty' and permissible levels. The apex court had directed that "Each state/Union Territory shall constitute a high-powered committee comprising of (i) chairman of the state legal services committee, (ii) the principal secretary (home/prison) by whatever designation is known as, (iii) director general of prisons, to determine which class of prisoners can be released on parole or interim bail for such period as may be appropriate."

It also suggested that prisoners convicted of or charged with, offences involving jail terms of seven years or less could be considered for parole or interim bail. Mr Haragopal submitted that the three central jails, seven district jails, 33 sub-jails, a women's jail, a Boston school, one open jail and four special jails among other detention facilities and prisons were all crowded beyond permissible levels. The inmates will be vulnerable to the virus, he contended. Mr Haragopal and P.L. Vishveshwar Rao sought directions to the government to supply perishable goods in the present lockdown period to the marginalised people, particularly those who do not have white ration cards.

He also sought release of funds to import Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to safeguard the field staff dealing with Covid-19 cases.



Cops thrash a man at Wanaparthy as his son tries to stop them.

Cops: Man angry for stopping him

From Page 1

Minutes later, Wanaparthy SP Apoorva Rao replied to the minister's tweet, saying, "Sir, we apologise to public for such behaviour by an on-duty constable. This incident has been entered into and strict disciplinary action has been initiated on person responsible. We will ensure that such incidents do not repeat."

When contacted, SP Apoorva said, "The person was violating lockdown rules. He got angry when police stopped him, which led to the incident. Disciplinary action has been initiated."

The man and son were late set free though a case was registered against him for violation of the rules. No case was registered against the policeman.

● **THIS INCIDENT** is one of many incidents of police brutality, high-handedness, violation of rights and unlawfully preventing other professionals allowed under lockdown norms to function and move like doctors and medical staff.

● **THE POLICE** atrocities have led to anger on social media and citizens have been expressing shock.

unlawfully preventing other professionals allowed under lockdown norms to function and move like doctors and mediapersons. Several media persons have been beaten, pushed and threatened by cops during this lockdown in Hyderabad city and other parts of the state. The police atrocities have been viraling on social media and citizens have been expressing shock.

Modi silent on states' request for funds

DC CORRESPONDENTS VIJAYAWADA/HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday chose to remain silent on the release of funds to both the Telugu states to fight Covid-19, during a video conference he held with Chief Ministers and discussed measures in controlling the spread of the virus.

Mr Rao and health minister E. Rajender attended the video conference. Sources said that Mr Rao while during the issue of rising cases of Covid-19 pointed out that the Centre release funds to the state to help curb the spread of the disease. AP Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy appealed to Prime Minister Modi to take a generous view of the

severe financial stress on the state due to Covid-19 lockdown. Revenues have drastically dried up, while expenditure to meet healthcare needs have increased multi-fold. The government has had to defer 50 per cent salary to government employees, he said. He also brought to Mr Modi's notice about short supply of N95 masks and personal protective equipment (PPE) while urging the Centre to enhance supply of testing kits to cover more people. Reacting to C.M Reddy's request on enhanced supply of testing kits and masks, Mr Modi said the Centre had been obtaining stocks from wherever they are available across the globe.

capacity but about the same time we cannot compromise on quality," Mr Modi reportedly said. Further, Mr Modi suggested to Chief Ministers to bring to the Centre's notice specific leads on availability of material anywhere in the world, and promised that he would ensure that they are purchased and brought to India immediately.

LIVING | HELL Houses owners, neighbours want them ousted, family asks them to quit present job

Gandhi Hospital guards bear Covid brunt

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC HYDERABAD APRIL 2

Their workplace is a "den" of coronavirus. On duty for close to 10 hours and more, they are on their toes throughout as they go with the escorting, assisting and keeping a close watch on coronavirus. The owners of the houses patients or those arriving for the swab tests, 24x7. "The life of each of the 100-member team of the state security guards securing Gandhi Hospital ever since the outbreak of coron-

avirus, is not a pleasant one. They receive no compensations for their work like the doctors and nurses or even policemen do. On the contrary, they face nasty insults on a daily basis and have to put up with the tantrums of patients and their attendants. The owners of the houses they rent, and their neighbours, want them out and pressure is building from family members to quit their jobs. To make matters worse, they are now br-

ing physical attacks as well, as yesterday's attack on a junior doctor was. The police were

too scared to intervene "We face insults and abuses every day for insisting people put on tests

or doctor consultation. "They (patients or their attendants) erupt in anger and frustration and vent it on us. Some of them get very close, remove their masks and then start abusing us. This is where things get dangerous," informs P.L. Maraiiah, a security guard posted on the seventh floor outside the ward. In fact, Mr Maraiiah was the one who was hit by the attacker at the hospital yesterday when he tried to prevent the attack on junior doctor and nurses.

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PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

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Corporate Identity Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813

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Registration Number: 33813

PRESS NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR SHORT TERM PURCHASE OF ENERGY

TENDER SPECIFICATION NO. PPR-6/2020

PSPCL invites tender under three part bid system for supply of electrical energy from interstate/interstate sources viz. generators. Traders having valid Inter State Trading License issued by CEREC for interstate trading of energy, interstate trading license issued by PSERC for interstate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States, IP&S & CPPs as per table given below.

Period	Timings	Quantity	Minimum bid in MW	Delivery Point
10 th June 2020 to 30 th September 2020	00:00 to 24:00 (RTC)	upto 1500	20	Punjab Periphery

Last date & time of Submission of bid - 20.04.2020 upto to 13:00 Hrs.
Bidding will be done as per the revised guidelines for short term procurement of power notified by the Ministry of Power vide resolution dated 30.03.2016, through e-auction (DEEP) on the website of the e-auction portal is www.mstccommission.com and is also available on the website of Ministry of Power (www.powermin.nic.in) and PFC Consultancy Limited (www.pfcindia.com). Bidders are requested to familiarize with the applicable guidelines notified by the Ministry of Power on 30.03.2016 carefully before submitting the offer.

Note: It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no compendium will be published in newspaper. Details regarding compendium may be seen at www.mstccommission.com and official website of PSPCIL. E: m.ppc@pspcil.in

C-114/2020 RD-704-C

Dy. CE/PR, PSPCIL, Patiala.

SHORT TAKES

KTR APPLAUDS FIVE YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

IT and industries minister K.T. Rama Rao on Thursday congratulated five young entrepreneurs from Hyderabad who made it to '30 Under 30 Asia 2020' list. The Minister congratulated Prem Kumar, Ashwin Mocherla, Sandeep Bommi, Vihari and Pawan Kumar Chandana for their success. Congratulating them in a tweet, he said, "Congratulations to five young Hyderabadis who have featured in 30 Under 30 Asia 2020. Way to go guys. Five of 30 under 30 Asia are from Hyderabad."

HEALTHCARE GETS ₹370 CR TO TACKLE COVID-19

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

The Telangana government has issued administrative sanction for ₹370 crore to the Health, Medical and Family Welfare department to meet expenditure to control Covid-19 virus in the state. The Union Home Ministry earlier issued instructions and norms to state governments to meet the expenditure under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in the wake of Covid-19 outbreak. Accordingly, the Finance department has issued BRO for an amount of ₹383.75 crore with a direction to the special chief secretary of the Health, Medical and Family Welfare department to allocate the budget to authorised officers as per their requirement.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES CENTRE AT DGP OFFICE

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

The Telangana State police essential supplies facilitation centre started a group on WhatsApp with the samaritans who are helping the needy people during the lockdown. The needy people can send a message on WhatsApp '9490617523'.

3 JOGGERS HIT BY VAN DURING LOCKDOWN

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

Three students, including a 13-year-old boy suffered injuries after being hit by a milk van during early hours on including the lockdown. The lockdown has decreased the risk of exposure to coronavirus due to decrease in crowded settings observed in public transport such as buses, metro and trains. Researchers studied data of daily commuter patterns and visits behaviour collected through an online questionnaire survey with over 1,900 participants which found that awareness about Covid-19 was higher in tier-1 cities compared with tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

MV ACT VIOLATED, 12,276 MOTORISTS BOOKED

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

Ensuring that the lockdown rules are strictly followed, the Hyderabad traffic police have booked 12,276 motorists for violating in various violations including the MV Act and the lockdown rules. The police have seized 4,459 vehicles temporarily for violations that were being handed over to the owners only after the completion of the lockdown period. On Tuesday, about 1,024 cases were booked by the traffic police, including cases where the motorists for double-tiding, 1,814 persons were booked for not wearing helmets, eight were booked where the pillion riders were without helmets, 80 vehicles for violating rules laid under restriction of movement, 703 cases for not having valid documents, 623 vehicles were seized for violation of lockdown rules. A total of 12,27 cases were booked including 11,372 bikers, 19 autos, 643 four-wheelers and 67 heavy vehicles. From March 23 to April 2, a total of 1,31,960 cases have been booked and 4,459 vehicles have been temporarily seized for lockdown violations and traffic violations by the Hyderabad traffic police.

Full pay for police, doctors

S.A. ISHAQUI | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

Chief Minister K. Chandrababbar Naidu has decided on Thursday that the government will pay a full month's salary to medical and health staff and the police employees for March. According to a press release from the CMO, Mr Rao also decided to pay an additional incentive for the staff of the two departments, which the Chief Minister will announce in a day or two. A decision to this effect taken by CM Rao at a review meeting held at the Pragati Bhavan in the city on Wednesday.

He said the government was making arrangements for supply of personal protection equipment (PPE) kits, N95 masks, hydroxyl-chloroquine and azithromycin tablets, and medical kits to conduct tests. CM K. Chandrababbar Rao said that all measures are being taken to provide treatment to patients, protection of medical staff and achieve a greater control over the spread of the virus. The Telangana government claimed that initially the virus spread among those who came from abroad, and then through them it spread to others. "They are all recovering, several of them have been discharged and currently, none of these cases were serious or had proved fatal," the release from the CMO said. But positive cases for various steps being taken to mitigate the risk. During the meeting, Mr Rao said that the government was giving top priority to the protection of medical staff, who are being treated and people infected by or suspecting to be having Covid virus disease.

Violation of rules



Youngsters cut cake at a birthday celebration in Ashoknagar during lockdown in Hyderabad on Thursday.

- P. SURENDRA

Insurance needed for treating Covid patients

IMA says that attack on doctors must be non-bailable offence

KANIZA GARARI | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

The attack on doctors in Gandhi Hospital in Hyderabad and the government hospital in Nizamabad has been strongly condemned by the Indian Medical Association (IMA) of Telangana. A demand to strictly implement the law of contempt against doctors has been urged from the central government. IMA demands that an attack on doctors must be a non-bailable offence.

IMA HAS appealed to the Prime Minister to insure families of medical personnel to the tune of ₹1 crore in case of untoward death and ₹50 lakh in case of infection. The same must be applicable to all people involved in care and treatment of Covid-19 patients, like hospital staff, nurses, police personnel and sanitation workers. Dr. Sanjeev Singh Yadav, state secretary of IMA, said that the government and state and medical students are working in different

ways. These problems led to patients' attendants getting angry. Junior doctors asked them to sit at one place and not move around. Many of them have been complaining about the poor infrastructure and hygiene at the government hospitals. Conditions are challenging but doctors state that they are trying their best to ensure that basics are followed properly. The Telangana state medical services and infrastructure development corporation has been approved by government officials to ensure continuous supply of disinfectants and medicines to government hospitals.

MAJORITY WANT LOCKDOWN TO END BY APR. 15

SAGUN, ACHARYULU | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

A majority of people surveyed by the Telangana government to end on April 15. However, there was no mention of what was the size of the survey and the methodology used. The survey conducted by the Telangana police on the lockdown showed that 61% of the population surveyed wants the national lockdown to end by April 15. These 61% also send just one person in the family out to buy essentials. About 27% said that the lockdown should continue for three months if two persons from each family are allowed out. Only 3% said that the lockdown should continue for six months if lockdown is not followed. And about six per cent had no opinion to offer. The survey also revealed that people living in rural areas are following the lockdown rules much more strictly than those living in urban areas. While about 80% of people in rural areas are strictly following lockdown rules, in urban only 50% of people are doing so.

Drones used to check lockdown

JAYENDRA CHAITANYA | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

The Cyberabad police started using Drone cameras for surveillance in the communities during the lockdown period. The high-resolution cameras can fly at a height of 400ft and record the movements of the public. The cameras provided by Cyient company also have an additional feature of thermal screening, however, it is not being used by the police, and the current purpose of use is only to record lockdown violations in order to keep a check on the errant persons who are violating the lockdown rules. The Cyberabad police started using the drone-based surveillance. The technology helped the police to monitor the situation in by-lanes and densely populated areas. The drones are equipped with cameras, thermal imaging payloads and a sky speaker for public announcements. The cameras help in providing real-time situations on the ground and take the necessary steps to address the incidents.



Aerial view from drone

IIT survey seeks formulation of relevant policies for Covid

HARLEEN MINOCHA | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

A joint study conducted by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Hyderabad and Bombay, has made some otherwise basic and intuitive conclusions which found that awareness about Covid-19 was higher in tier-1 cities compared with tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

Emphasizing on the study in shaping relevant policies related to Covid-19, a member of the team said, "given the uncertainties in commuters regarding their travel behaviour due to social distancing, it is important for policymakers and local transport authorities to understand change in travel pattern."

App to monitor fake news

T.S.S. SIDHARTH HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

In a bid to confront the rising tide of fake news the state government on Thursday launched a dedicated website <https://factcheck.telangana.gov.in>. This they hope will prove vital in the fight against fake news regarding the Covid-19. The state government has already invoked the provisions of Section 54 of the Information Management Act, 2005, and notified Telangana Epidemic Diseases (Covid-19) Regulations, 2020 framed under

the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897. Disseminating information on social media platforms without ascertaining the facts and obtaining prior clearance from competent authorities is deemed a punishable offence under the said Act and Regulations. The Supreme Court took serious note of the panic created by fake news, but it stopped short of government censorship of news as asked for by the centre. CM K. Chandrababbar Rao in his recent briefing on the coronavirus lockdown also warned that stern action would be

taken against anyone disseminating fake news, and rumours. To this effect, ITE&C Dept. of Telangana Government in partnership with Facta Media & Research has developed a dedicated web portal <https://factcheck.telangana.gov.in>. It is aimed at dispelling fake news campaigns on social media platforms and providing facts and context wherever applicable. The website will be given to any circulated posts on virus on social media platforms and the website will be given to any claims made therein.

Cops donate ₹1.75l for deprived

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

The 150 IPS probationers and 20 foreign trainees have contributed ₹1.75 lakh to purchase groceries and feed ragpickers, migrant workers and foreign trainees at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel national police academy (SVPNPA), Hyderabad, have contributed ₹1.75 lakh to feed marginalised people, with the help of an NGO.

formed at the academy to promote sensitisation towards issues such as gender, weaker sections, children and minorities to achieve the goal of a sensitised police force. The faculty of the SVPNPA also contributed to the purchase of ₹1.26 lakh to feed displaced labourers and migrant workers through the SVPNPA's kitchens organised by an NGO.

STRONG | STAMINA Sportsmen seek permission to keep up their demanding physical exercise, practice regimen

Athletes fear Covid would take toll on their fitness

SANJAY SAMUEL PAULU DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 2

With the likes of the ace Indian sprinter Hima Das and other international sportspersons, who train at the National Institute Sports in Patiala, the sportsmen have also said the gap in practice would hurt their preparedness and performance in the sport. According to Omkar Yadav, who coached Nikhat Zarinii who went on to

win an international silver medal in boxing, "Special exemption should be given to probable inter-

national sportspersons with strict precautionary measures in place." While some athletes are

worried that the current nation-wide lockdown, due to the spreading of coronavirus will ultimately take a toll on their fitness and performance, there are others who say observing the lockdown is far

more important. Former international basketball player Chandra Shekhar Choudhary, who is still an active player for State Bank of India, said, "Life is far more important than a fancy medal or two. We know that long breaks in practice will affect the athlete's abilities but every one must realise that what we are facing is a global pandemic. It is more important to keep ourselves safe."

Dr Ravi Kumar, the Indian volleyball coach, said, "There is no need of

any exemptions. As and when the lockdown ends, the sportspersons can work extra hard and prepare for international events as all of them have also been postponed because the entire world is impacted by the disease." Jeeter Jai, a gym enthusiast, said, the lockdown rule should be implemented strictly, no exemptions should be given to any sportspersons as the whole idea is to prevent the disease from spreading.



SHORT TAKES

JAMIA STUDENT HELD FOR DELHI VIOLENCE

New Delhi, April 2: The Delhi Police on Thursday arrested a student of Jamia Miya Islamia for allegedly hatching a conspiracy to incite communal riots in northeast Delhi, officials said.

Meeran Haider (35), a PhD student at Jamia, is the president of RJD youth wing's Delhi unit, sources said. On Wednesday at 10 am, Haider was called for interrogation by the Special Cell at their Lodhi Colony office and was subsequently arrested, the officials said. Rajya Sabha MP and RJD leader Manoj Jha tweeted, "Delhi Police called him for investigation and then received orders from above and arrested Meeran Haider, who has been helping people during the time of coronavirus outbreak."

Chhatra RJD unit of JNU also demanded the arrest of Haider and said the police should become 'people-friendly' and not scare people. The Jamia Coordinating Committee, a group comprising students and alumni from the varsity, condemned the arrest and demanded his immediate release.

"The country is facing a massive health crisis, however, the state machinery is busy harassing and framing student activists in false cases to suppress voices of dissent," they said.

OFFICIAL CALLS FOR ROPING IN QUACKS, SUSPENDED

Patna, April 2: An overzealous medical officer in Bihar ended up being suspended for floating the idea that the fight against coronavirus pandemic be ramped up by roping in quacks.

The Bihar health department in its suspension order Wednesday, rapped Ashesh Kumar, the civil surgeon of Siwan district, for issuing a circular to the effect that March 25 last, screenshots of which had gone viral on the social media.

In the notification, whereby Kumar has been suspended with immediate effect and attached to the office of a special secretary here, the official has been pulled up for undermining the state governments efforts by calling for roping in "jhola chhaap doctors" (quacks) which was "against medical protocol". The notification also rebuked the official for acting "without seeking permission or bothering to check" his higher ups about the move and pointed towards the "criticism" the department faced when the bizarre circular went viral on the social media.

Prominent among those who had trained their guns at Nishik Kumar government over the episode were the Chief Ministers arch rival Lal Prasad.

AIR INDIA TO FLY CARGO FLIGHTS TO SHANGHAI

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

Almost a month after Air India suspended its commercial flights to Shanghai and Hong Kong due to novel coronavirus pandemic, the national carrier will be operating special cargo flights between April 4 to 9 to bring medical supplies. India has ordered PPEs, ventilators, masks, testing kits and other pharmaceutical items.

Air India Chairman-cum-Managing Director Rajiv Bansal said on Thursday that so far approvals have come from the Chinese authorities to operate cargo flights to Shanghai and Hong Kong to bring medical supplies on April 4 and 5 while permissions from April 6-9 is awaited.

"We have applied to Chinese authorities to commence freighter operations to two destinations - Shanghai and Hong Kong - from April 4 onwards. There have been a few regulatory challenges from the Chinese side. I am happy to announce that an hour back we got the approval for launching the freighter operations to Shanghai from Delhi for two dates - April 4 and April 5. We have applied for subsequent dates also for 6, 7, 8 and 9. We hope to get those approvals also within a day," Bansal said. He added approvals for Hong Kong came faster than Shanghai as freight forwarders and consignees have been informed about the flights to Shanghai and Hong Kong. They have been asked to book their consignment on these flights that Air India would be operating.



Devotees perform rituals on the occasion of Ram Navami at Vrindavan in Mathura on Thursday during a nation-wide lockdown in the wake of coronavirus pandemic. Amid chant of 'Jai Sri Ram', thousands of devotees assembled in temples in various parts of West Bengal on the occasion of Ram Navami on Thursday, giving a thumbs down to social distancing norms prescribed by the government during the lockdown period. — PTI

4 held for attack on medical team in MP; NSA invoked

Shivraj Singh Chouhan says attacks on doctors will not be tolerated

RABINDRA NATH CHAKRABORTY | DC BHOPAL, APRIL 2

In a major development, Madhya Pradesh government on Thursday decided to invoke National Security Act (NSA) against those who attacked medical personnel in the state.

MP is the first state to invoke NSA against the attackers of medical personnel in the wake of coronavirus outbreak.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan made the announcement late on Thursday evening.

Earlier, four people were on Thursday arrested in Indore on charges of assaulting a team of medical personnel while they were carrying out screening of locals in the wake of coronavirus outbreak.

Police on Thursday sealed the locality and conducted house-to-house search in the locality where the medical staff were attacked to arrest the accused.

"We have taken the incident very seriously. Four people including the key accused, were arrested in connection with the incident. We have identified other accused from the footage of a video which captured the incident. They will be arrested soon", Indore deputy inspector general of police Hari Narayan Mishra said on Thursday.

A team of doctors and paramedical personnel were attacked in Indore Bakhal colony in Indore late on Wednesday evening when they were conducting health screening of locals. A video showed the doctors including a woman and other paramedical personnel being chased by a group of assailants who later pelted stones at them forcing them to flee from the area. "We were carrying out medical examinations of people in the locality. Suddenly, a group of people attacked us. We somehow fled the area to save our life. We failed to complain to health respect and prompted the assailants to attack us", a doctor told this newspaper on Thursday, requesting not to be quoted. "We will not tolerate attack on doctors and other medical personnel who are working tirelessly to save lives of people", Hind was united. Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Thursday.

960 Tablighi foreigners blacklisted

New Delhi, April 2: The government on Thursday blacklisted 960 foreigners and cancelled their visas after finding that they were involved in Tablighi Jamaat activities violating their visa conditions.

The Home Ministry's Office asked Delhi Police and police chiefs of other states, where these foreigners are currently living, to take legal action against them under the Foreigners Act and the Disaster Management Act.

"The Home Ministry has blacklisted 960 foreigners and their Indian visas have also been cancelled for their involvement in Tablighi Jamaat activities while coming on tourist visas," the home minister's office tweeted in Hindi.

Action against the foreign Tablighi Jamaat members was taken after 2,300 activists, including 520 foreigners, of the Islamic organisation were found to be living at its headquarters located at Delhi's Nizamuddin despite the 21 days lockdown.

More than 300 of these Tablighi Jamaat activists were tested positive for Covid-19 while others were put in different quarantine centres.

At least 9,000 people had participated at a congregation at the Nizamuddin Markaz last month and after that many of them have travelled to various parts of the country for missionary works. So far, a total of about 400 Covid-19 cases and about 12 deaths in the country were found to have links with the Nizamuddin Markaz.

Most of these foreigners came to India on tourist visa, which prohibits involvement of any religious activities. The government has also decided not to issue tourist visa to any foreigner who wishes to visit India and take part in Tablighi activities. — PTI

3 CONVICTED FOR VIOLATING LOCKDOWN

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, APRIL 02

The first conviction in the country for violating the lockdown has come from Pune. A court in Baranati, Pune has awarded three-day imprisonment to three people for violating the lockdown.

The three accused were booked under IPC Section 144 for loitering and roaming in Baranati city of Pune district without any reason.

Judge J.J. Bachulkar on Wednesday ordered that the accused Afzal Attar (38), Chandrakumar (38) and Akshay Shah (32) serve three-day imprisonment or pay a fine of ₹500 each.

Baramati's deputy superintendent of police Narayan Shirgongkar said, "The three persons were found loitering during the lockdown and were arrested during a regular patrolling round. This is perhaps the first case of conviction for violating the lockdown. The conviction will serve as an example for other."

The total number of coronavirus cases in Assam is 16 so far. — PTI

Asha workers manhandled

M. K. ASHOKA | DC BENGALURU, APRIL 2

Asha workers deployed to hold a coronavirus survey in Karnataka government to hold a coronavirus survey in the locality. The team has been collecting health reports for last 10 days.

According to Krishnaveni, an Asha worker, a mob surrounded them and snatched her mobile phone.

"Announcement was made from local prayer hall to attack us," she alleged. Deputy Chief Minister Dr Ashwathinarayan visited her residence and assured her of police protection.

Locals feared that they visited the area to collect data for NRC.

Dr Sharananagar, DCP East, said, "Our team has arrested three accused in this regard and they are being questioned based on the complaint of the health inspector. We have imposed nationwide lockdown in Henuur police station under relevant sections.

Magistrate's car attacked in Assam

GUWAHATI, APRIL 2: Two persons attacked a magistrate's vehicle and injured his driver in Assam's Bajali district when the officer was enforcing the lockdown in a market on Thursday, police said.

The two who pelted the magistrate's vehicle with stones injuring the driver were arrested.

The vehicle was also damaged. The incident occurred when the magistrate was closing down shops at the market in Bhabanipur area, which were open during the lockdown. Security personnel reached the area and intensified patrolling.

The total number of coronavirus cases in Assam is 16 so far. — PTI

Khandu deletes tweet on lockdown

ITANAGAR, APRIL 2: Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Thursday said the nationwide lockdown will be the only way to fight the coronavirus outbreak.

He deleted it minutes later and clarified, "The tweet with respect to lockdown period was uploaded by an officer handling his Twitter account whose comprehension of Hindi was limited."

Modi chaired a meeting with the Chief Ministers of different states to take stock of the situation in the aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak. Completion of lockdown will end on April 15 next. But it doesn't mean free

will to move out on streets. We all must be responsible in slowing down. Lockdown and social distancing in (sic) the only way to fight #Covid-19, he tweeted.

He deleted it minutes later and clarified, "The tweet with respect to lockdown period was uploaded by an officer handling his Twitter account whose comprehension of Hindi was limited." Modi chaired a meeting with the Chief Ministers of different states to take stock of the situation in the aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak. Completion of lockdown will end on April 15 next. But it doesn't mean free

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a bio-suit to keep health professionals fighting Covid-19 safe.

Scientists at DRDO laboratories have applied their technical know-how and expertise in textile, coating and nanotechnology to develop the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) having specific type of fabric with coating.

DRDO IS making all efforts to ensure that these suits are produced in large numbers and serve as robust line of defence for the medics, paramedics and other personnel in the frontline combating Covid-19.

The DRDO is making all efforts to ensure that these suits are produced in large numbers and serve as robust line of defence for the medics, paramedics and other personnel in the frontline combating Covid-19. The industry is geared up for production of the

suit in large quantities. Kusumgaon-based industries is producing the raw material, coating material, with the complete suit being manufactured with the help of another vendor. The current production capacity is 7,000 suits per day.

Another vendor is being brought in with the capacity to 15,000 suits per day said defence ministry. The bio-suit production in the country by DRDO, industry partners and other industries are being hampered due to non-availability of seam sealing tapes. The DRDO has prepared a special sealant as

India reports 432 new cases

From Page 1

Travel aggregators have already started showing airlines tickets availability and pricing from April 15 onwards. India on Thursday reported 432 fresh cases of Covid and 15 deaths in the last 24 hours taking the total in country to 2069 positive.

Out of this 1,360 are active, 155 cured, 53 death, and 1 migrated. Among the new cases are two doctors from CRPF and AIMS. Both have no history of travel or contact with Covid-19 patients.

About 400 Covid-19 positive cases have been found whose epidemiological linkage can be traced to the Tablighi Jamaat cluster, the health ministry said on Thursday.

It was during intensive contact tracing of Covid patients in Telangana that officials came to know about this Tablighi Jamaat cluster participants. Out of the 400, 173 are from Tamil Nadu, 11 from Rajasthan, 9 from

Andaman and Nicobar Islands, 47 from Delhi, 2 from Puducherry, 22 from Jammu and Kashmir, 33 from Telengana, 67 from Andhra Pradesh and 16 towards India.

About 9,000 Tablighi Jamaat members and their primary contacts have been quarantined till now across the country. In Delhi till over 2000 people were found at the Tablighi Jamaat gathering out of which 250 are foreigners. Total 334 with symptoms of Covid have been sent to hospitals for treatment while 1804 have been put to quarantine.

In another scare for health agencies, a second case in Mumbai's Dharavi has tested positive for Covid-19 forcing the agencies to seal the building that has 300 flats and 50 shops. Around 4000 health personnel are engaged in sample collection and contact tracing in this area.

HC stays liquor pass order for 3 weeks

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, APRIL 2

The Kerala High Court on Thursday stayed state government's order of providing liquor to people suffering from alcohol withdrawal syndrome for three weeks.

The order came on a bunch of petitions filed by various organisations including Indian Medical Association and the Government Medical Officers Association. The petitioners argued that alcohol cannot be prescribed as treatment method for those facing

withdrawal symptoms. Reacting to the verdict, chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan said here that the government would comply with the court verdict.

"We were not insisting on providing liquor to the people having drinking habit. We made earnest appeal to the family members that such people should be taken to nearest Vimukti de-addiction centre for treatment," he said.

Earlier the excise department had issued an order to issue liquor passes after six deaths were reported in various parts of the state.

MUMBAI HAS 22 'CONTAINMENT ZONES'

BHAGWAN PARAB/HARSHAD A. PARAB | DC MUMBAI, MARCH 28

Alarmed with rising cases of coronavirus across the city, the BMC has identified 22 'containment zones' where the movement of people has been curtailed. The civic body has also sealed some of these areas completely with the help of police.

The BMC made public the GIS map of Covid-19 hot spot areas in the city on Thursday.

The containment zones are the areas where either one or more Covid-19 cases were found or suspected patients lived. They include slums, isolated buildings, nursing homes and housing colonies.

The civic body has installed CCTV cameras in these areas to keep a close watch on local residents.

OBITUARY

Chandra Kishore Shah

Expired: 25-03-2020

Deeply mourned by: Asha C Shah (Wife), Ritesh & Nidhi Gujarati

Ravinder Kumar & Poojima Shah

Sudhir Kumar & Kamlesh Shah

& Entire Mohandas Shah & Family.

Ph: 9866765480

OBITUARY

Mrs. SANTOSH DHANDA

Expired: 25-03-2020

Sandeep Dhanda

Kapil Dhanda

Sakshi Dhanda

Ph: 9849064988

13TH DAY CEREMONY

DOB DOD

23.11.1940 24.03.2020

Smt. Sheela Saxena

W/o Kesari Mohan Saxena

13th DAY CEREMONY

will be performed on 04.04.2020

at Flat No. 409, G Block, Vignn Homes,

Shree Sai Nagar, Kothaguda, Hyd.

11th ANNIVERSARY

Late MUGGU RENUKA

W/o Muggu V. Sreenivasulu

We all with one accord pray "May Your Soul Rest in Peace" fondly remembered by: Hologo Veneta Sreenivasulu Charitable Trust; Founder Trustees: Padmanabhan S. Anandarao P. Reddy, Smt. Vinoda Anandarao (Wife), Mr. Jaganathan Reddy, 1103 Rd. No. 10, D.D. Mr. A. Nagesh Reddy, B. J. Nagar, Commissioner's Flat, Mr. B. Kishan, Genl. Secretary, AP Engineers Assn., Mr. Muggu V. Sreenivasulu (Nephew), Mr. Vuppala Shanbhak (Spouse)

IN BRIEF

Oz scientists test vaccines

Melbourne: Scientists in Australia said on Thursday they have begun testing two potential vaccines for Covid-19 in "milestone" lab trials as part of a global race to halt the pandemic.

Free of Covid, insists N. Korea

Seoul: North Korea remains totally free of the Covid-19, a senior health official in Pyongyang has insisted, despite mounting scepticism overseas.

Saudi extends curfew curbs

Riyadh: Saudi Arabia on Thursday extended curfew restrictions on Islam's two holiest cities to 24 hours, to curb the spread of Covid-19 as the number of deaths from the disease rose to 21.

Cardinal Pell gets new day in court

Brisbane: Australia's High Court said Thursday it will rule on Cardinal George Pell's appeal against child sex abuse convictions on April 7, giving the senior cleric another chance to clear his name and leave jail.

BETTER GOVT SUPPORT: US HOSTAGE KIN

Washington, April 2: Relatives of Americans who are wrongfully imprisoned abroad or held hostage by militant groups say in a report issued Thursday that the US government still must do better in communicating with them, though improvements have been made over the last five years.

In particular, family members of Americans who are detained by foreign governments on trumped-up charges say they feel those cases are given a priority to the US government than cases involving Indian hostage-taking by militant or criminal groups.

WHO: 95% of Europe's virus dead over 60

Young shouldn't be complacent, says health agency as 10-15% under 50 have moderate or severe cases

Geneva, April 2: More than 95% of those who have died of covid-19 in Europe have been over 60 but young people should not be complacent, the World Health Organization's office in Europe said Thursday.

THE VERY notion that Covid-19 only affects older people is factually wrong. Severe cases of the disease have been seen in people in their teens or 20s, with many requiring intensive care and some passing away.

HANS KLUGE, Head of WHO's office in Europe

ROWS OF BARRICADES SPLIT WUHAN

Wuhan, April 2: "It's definitely not as intimate," sighs a woman dressed in a raincoat, mask, gloves and visor after speaking to a friend over one of the imposing barricades that have sprung up all over Wuhan.

re-emerging from more than two months of lockdown. But rows of plastic barriers run along streets. The fences, erected to help guard against the spread of infection, are about six feet. But some grab the opportunity when nobody is looking to broadly fashion a way through.

Global cases near 1m as Spain sees record deaths

Madrid, April 2: Confirmed Covid-19 cases approached one million around the world on Thursday as Europe reeled from the pandemic and the US prepared for what President Donald Trump warned would be "horrific" days ahead.

Spain reported its biggest monthly increase in jobless claims on record and the US expected to reveal more massive job losses. Since emerging in China in December, Covid-19 has infected more than 940,000 people — including at least 500,000 in Europe — and claimed more than 47,000 lives.



A pedestrian wearing a mask as a precautionary measure against Covid-19, walks past closed-down shops on an empty Regent Street in London on Thursday, as life in Britain continues during the nationwide lockdown to combat the pandemic.

Trump doubts Chinese figures

Washington, April 2: President Donald Trump cast doubt on the accuracy of official Chinese figures on its covid-19 outbreak after US lawmakers, citing an intelligence report, accused Beijing of a cover up.

"How do we know" if they are accurate, Trump asked at a press conference. "Their numbers seem to be a little bit on the light side," Trump insisted that "the relationship with China's a good one" and that he remained close to President Xi Jinping.

Republicans in Congress, pointing to a report by Bloomberg citing US intelligence, expressed outrage that Beijing apparently misled the international community on China's infections and deaths that began in late 2019 in the city of Wuhan.

US wages all-out war President Donald Trump assured the nation that his administration was waging an all-out war against the Covid-19 epidemic that has claimed over 48,000 lives and infected 950,000 others across the world.

massive \$2 trillion infrastructure plan, along with several other measures like corporate deductibility for restaurants and entertainment facilities to stimulate the American economy ravaged by the pandemic.

TJ members test positive, Pak locks Raiwind

Lahore, April 2: Pakistan authorities have placed the entire city of Raiwind under quarantine, shutting down all general and medical stores, and completely restricted the mobility of people within or outside the city after at least 40 Tablighi Jamaat preachers tested positive, officials said on Thursday.

ers of the Jamaat, including five Nigerian women, suspected to be carriers of Covid-19, are admitted to a quarantine centre in Kasur, some 50 kms from Lahore. In Hyderabad city of Sindh province, 89 Covid-19 cases of local transmission among members of the Tablighi Jamaat were reported on Thursday.

with its annual congregation in Raiwind, Lahore against his advice that the gathering might spread the virus. Pakistani authorities had urged the cancellation of the five-day Tablighi congregation, which was attended by thousands of people from several countries.

several Tablighi Jamaat activists have tested positive for Covid-19 and they caused spread of it," Lahore Deputy Commissioner Danish Afzal said in a statement. "The health teams have so far sent samples of around 110 of them for lab analysis and of them 41 preachers have been tested positive for Covid-19," he said.

DANIEL PEARL MURDER: DEATH SENTENCE OFF

Karachi, April 2: A Pakistani court on Thursday overturned the death sentence of British-born top al-Qaeda leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who was convicted in the abduction and murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl here in 2002. Pearl, the 38-year-old South Asia bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal, was abducted and beheaded while he was in Pakistan investigating a story on the alleged links between the country's powerful spy agency ISI and al-Qaeda.

GLOBAL IMPACT OF CONTAGION SPREAD

Infographic showing global impact of contagion spread with statistics: UK to massively ramp up Covid-19 tests, says PM Boris Johnson; An Indian-origin Singaporean was sentenced to two months' jail on Thursday for shouting 'corona, corona' and spitting on a hotel floor at the Changi Airport; 3,160 is the total deaths in Iran after the country reported 124 new Covid-19 fatalities on Thursday; 44 students of the University of Texas in the US have tested positive for the deadly Covid-19 after they returned from a spring break trip to Mexico.

NO MERCY IS, al-Qaeda fighters eye this period to not only get supporters but strike harder

For extremists, global virus chaos offers chance

Johannesburg, April 2: Both the Islamic State group and al-Qaeda see the Covid-19 as a threat, but some of their fighters also see the upheaval from the pandemic as an opportunity to win over more supporters and strike harder than before.

time in quarantine to learn about Islam. But in a sharp commentary in its al-Naba newsletter in mid-March, IS urged followers to show no mercy and launch attacks in this time of crisis. In a commentary, the International Crisis Group warned that the pandemic threatens the global solidarity that is key to fighting extremists.

Though analysts said it was too soon to say which attacks can be blamed on militants exploiting the Covid-19, Islamic extremists in late March carried out their deadliest assault yet against the military of Chad, a significant counterterrorism effort, killing at least 92 soldiers near the border with Nigeria.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because attacks can be blamed on militants exploiting the Covid-19, Islamic extremists in late March carried out their deadliest assault yet against the military of Chad, a significant counterterrorism effort, killing at least 92 soldiers near the border with Nigeria.

and Somalia, where the US military already worried about in recent months and pro-contemplating cuts to focus on threats from China and Russia. "Any state that was interested in pulling back in Africa will take the opportunity to do so," said Clonough Rathigh, executive director of the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project, which tracks extremist activities worldwide. "That will be unbelievable."

Some AFRICOM activities have been adjusted to ensure safety and protection of forces. "Both US and partner nation — our commitment to Africa endures," he said. "We will maintain telephone communication with the minister, who is managing this event from his home," the ministry said.

The British army mission project, which tracks extremist activities worldwide, said that it can be more easily shared, or to provide limited security clearances.

DECCAN Chronicle

3 APRIL 2020

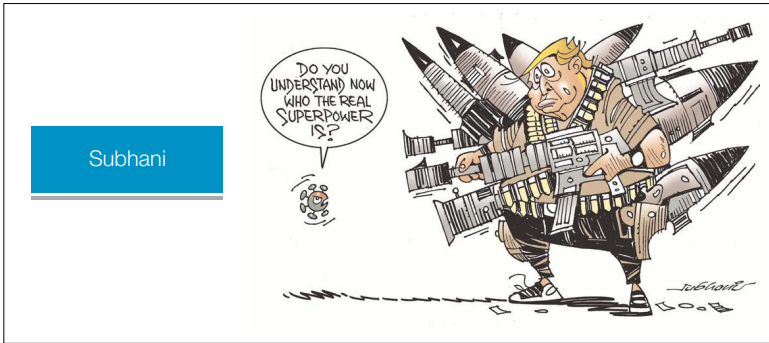
Disquiet in J&K on jobs for outsiders

The Centre's decision announced on Tuesday to permit people from all over India to apply for government employment in all categories except the lowest non-gazetted (Level IV) in the recently created Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir is an outlier...

Missing Wimbledon

The Wimbledon championships, the oldest tennis championship (1877) and held every year without a break since World War II, are an all-time favourite of tennis buffs and sports lovers who marvel at the aesthetic surroundings of the south-west London suburb...

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at: Hyderabad: 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad - 500 003, Ph: 040-27803930-4, Fax: 040-27805256...



Subhani

Why did govt react late? India will pay the price



Nilanjana Mukhopadhyay

India reported its first case of coronavirus, or Covid-19, on January 30. What preventive measures were taken to ensure that the disease did not spread and rear its virulent head in the country in the 40 odd days between the first case and March 12...

lence were tardy throughout February and the first half of March, energy and attention was expended on three issues - the visit of US President Donald Trump, the communal riots in Delhi and the ongoing anti-CAA agitations across India which had riveted the nation...

TACKLING COVID-19

Prime Minister Narendra Modi a fortnight later and the civil aviation minister lauded the personnel for "intense commitment". To cut a long story short, some urgency became visible in the government's responses and actions only after March 11...

do not cover the policy deficit or what was not done at the action level. Eventually, when the Prime Minister decided to take the nation towards a complete lockdown, it was clear that the government had stirred itself without assessing the overall impact of a complete lockdown on the economy and on people's lives...

LETTERS

COVID-19 PANIC

It's unfortunate that relatives of a patient attacked doctors (Patient critical, kin beats up doctors, DC April 2). They are attending to patients by risking their lives. Though such attacks have been taking place for a long time, the government has not framed any rules to punish such behaviour...

Dr Malkalab Hyderabad

It is distressing to know the trouble India is going through to procure protective equipment (India scours for protective equipment around world, DC April 2). The government has not framed any rules to punish such behaviour...

Naseema Shaik Suryapat

When the whole world is combating coronavirus, the immediate criticism of Tablighi Jamaat's event by Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and VHP is unnecessarily raising religious frictions. It is unfortunate that minorities are made scapegoats to garner votes by the BJP. In the last election Pathankot became an issue. No wonder in the next few elections the same tactics will be used to pit one section of society against the other.

Kolikonda Sarath Babu Khammam

The Centre and states are using the Delhi religious event to hide their failures in handling the unexplained lockdown (City has 603 Tablighi suspects, DC, April 1). There were many reasons for the ban on places between March 10 to 23 in India with huge gatherings including religious activities, MLAs and MP meetings. Blaming a Muslim organisation exposes the Islamophobic system we have in this country.

Syed Maaz Razvi Hyderabad

Wheat Zones To Go

NEW DELHI, APRIL 2 Mr JAGJIVAN RAM, Union Minister of Food and Agriculture, announced in the Rajya Sabha today that the entire country would be made one zone for wheat. This is the second time after demonetisation when careful thought was not given before taking a huge step to tackle a crisis, it failed to put together a blueprint...

The writer is a Delhi-based journalist and author. His latest book is RSS: Icons Of The Indian Right.



Ali Tauqueer Sheikh

Covid & climate: Containing one will show us how to manage other

In less than three months, the Covid-19 pandemic has engulfed the entire world. As the number of infections and deaths continue to increase, it has brought the global economy to a screeching halt. This pandemic combines an unfortunate triple jeopardy: rapid loss of human lives, fast economic recession, and structural disruption in efforts to combat global warming...

The pandemic has significantly reduced carbon emissions released into the atmosphere. Ironically, it has cut emissions faster than 25 years of global climate negotiations. According to the New York Times, the reduction of emissions in China since January has surpassed the total emissions of New York City for a year. NASA's monitoring satellites have shown a dramatic fall in nitrous oxide, a pollutant emitted from fossil fuels...

immediately vulnerable are the poor, marginalised, women, children, elderly, and people living off nature, in low-lying coastal areas, islands and agglutinates. There is no scientific evidence that the pandemic was caused by global warming, yet it is too early to rule out that it was not ignited by climate change. There is growing scientific evidence that changing weather patterns are driving species northward, towards higher altitudes, potentially putting them in contact with diseases for which they have little immunity. We have witnessed this in Pakistan's bats, malaria and dengue have steadily moved towards higher altitudes...

quick BITES

INDICATORS

		%
Sensex	28,265.31	-4.08
Nifty 50	8,253.80	-4.00
S&P 500*	2,514.26	1.77
Dollar (₹)	75.67	-0.00
Pound Sterling (₹)	93.53	0.00
Euro (₹)	82.78	0.00
Gold (Oz) (₹)	1,619.20	2.60
Brent crude (\$/bbl)	29.56	19.48
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.138	0.00
US 10-Yr 'bill yield'	0.594	-6.45

*As of 10:00 pm IST

BIS nod must for more electronic products

The government notified 12 electronic products, including external hard drive, wireless headphones and earphones, TV other than plasma, which will require mandatory registration under the Bureau of Indian Standards before sale in India. This will curb sale of spurious imported products. LED modules for lighting, induction stove, musical system and external storage devices above 256 GB will also require BIS clearance.

Ritesh Agarwal to forego salary

Oyo Hotels and Homes founder and group CEO Ritesh Agarwal has decided to forego 100 per cent of his salary for the rest of the year. The executive leadership team also has taken a 25 per cent pay cut, but other employees will receive their salaries and benefits. Many have opted for an additional uncapped amount some going up to 50 per cent cut. This would be effective from April 2020.

SBI relaxes payment timeline for biz loans

State Bank of India has relaxed the payment obligation timeline for one-time settlement (OTS), Rin Samadhan and general compromise schemes by three months amidst business disruptions faced by companies due to the lockdown. The Rin Samadhan Scheme covers loans provided to SMEs, farmers and companies upto Rs 20 lakh while the OTS covers loans ranging from Rs 20 lakh to Rs 50 crore.

Future Retail downgraded, put on watch list

Fitch Ratings said it has downgraded Future Retail's rating and put the company on Rating Watch Negative (RWN) list reflecting heightened risk to its liquidity position. "The expected rating is based on the yet-to-be restructured Future Retail Ltd's (FRL) entity; under the restructuring, FRL will buy the in-store infrastructure assets it leases from Future Enterprises Ltd and the cross-guarantee will cease.

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■ Ace investor forecasts crisis in next 2-3 years to support gold Jim Rogers sees world moving to new highs

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, APRIL 2

Veteran investor Jim Rogers believes gold will surpass its previous all-time high and go "much, much higher" as the equities plunge into bear market and the world moves into a recession. The co-founder of Quantum Funds was George Soros and chairman of Rogers Holdings has been accumulating gold and will keep accumulating as long as opportunities emerge.

"Gold will go up very very high. When people lose confidence in governments and money, they will buy gold. Sometime in next two-three years, we are going to have crisis and gold will definitely go higher. For the next two-three years, I will see a bear market in equities."



Jim Rogers

Rogers told *Financial Chronicle* in a telephonic interview from Singapore. He has also predicted that he would see the "worst bear market" of his lifetime as the outbreak has saddled governments and companies with enormous debt.

"Gold will go above all-time highs during the times of turmoil. For the next two-three or five years it is going to go very high.

It might be higher than what everybody expects," he said when asked whether gold will move beyond \$2,000 an ounce. Rogers also believes the all-time high level of \$1,920 an ounce in September 2012. According to him, it can happen this year or next year. But the next few years will see the yellow metal shining much brighter than other asset classes. The designer of Rogers Commodity International Index has been using dips in the market to accumulate the yellow metal.

"I own gold, I buy and I have been buying gold since summer. If there are opportunities to buy gold, I will buy more," he said. However, gold has seen a slump along with equities as the Covid-19 outbreak has shown encouraging results so far at France's Pitie Salpetriere hospital.

health of global economy.

"In a bear market of stocks and other assets, gold will also go low as people have to sell everything and they sell gold too. But eventually, gold will go up much, much higher and this will happen. This time too when the markets fell, they sold their gold and silver. But they will turn around," he asserted.

Rogers also believes the dollar too will remain firm, though gold and the greenback usually have an inverse correlation. "Sometimes gold and dollar go together, sometimes they don't. I think, going ahead, both will be strong. But I don't know which will be stronger," he said. However, gold has accumulated dollar and is holding on to it. "I don't think dollar will rise from these levels," he said.

Crude jumps 30% over Trump's mediation bid

SANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, APRIL 2

Crude oil prices soared over 30 per cent on Thursday after US President Donald Trump tweeted saying he had spoken to Saudi Arabia and expected Saudi and Russia to cut their supplies by 10 million barrels per day.

Brent futures rose \$8.04, or 33 per cent, to \$27.78 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose \$6.62, or 33 per cent, to \$26.93.

Saudi Arabia later made a surprise call for a meeting of the Opec+ oil producers to "stabilise the oil market."

"The kingdom calls for an urgent meeting of Opec+ and a group of other countries with the aim to try and reach a fair deal to restore balance to the oil market," said a statement carried by the Saudi Press Agency.

Trump had tweeted on Wednesday that he had spoken with the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Salman, who in turn had spoken with Russian president Vladimir Putin. "I expect and hope that they will be cutting back approximately 10 million barrels, and maybe substantially more which, if it happens, will be great for the oil and gas industry," he said.

However, later Russian news agency Sputnik reported that Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov had refuted Trump's claim about a phone conversation between Putin and the



Crude oil prices soared over 30 per cent on Thursday after US President Donald Trump tweeted saying he had spoken to Saudi Arabia and expected Saudi and Russia to cut their supplies by 10 million barrels per day.

Oil prices had plunged after a production cut agreement between Opec and Russia fell apart last month. Saudi Arabia and Russia have been waging a price war.

However, the hopes of revival in crude prices post the tweet of US President kept the market buoyant despite the demand side pressures continuing.

The tweet had a sentimentally positive impact, though it does not solve the glut in the market and rising oil prices," said Jain.

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Narasimhan announced the transaction with

Novartis scraps asset sales to Aurobindo Pharma

Rotkreuz (Switzerland), April 2: Novartis AG on Thursday scrapped the \$1 billion sale of US generic pill and skin drug assets to India's Aurobindo Pharma Ltd regulators balked setting back the Swiss drugmaker's shift to more profitable medicines.

The cancellation leaves hydroxychloroquine, an older malaria drug that Novartis chief executive Vas Narasimhan is touting as a potential coronavirus treatment, in its

Sandoz generic unit's portfolio.

Novartis is donating 100 million hydroxychloroquine doses to support doctors against the epidemic, though the European Union has so far said there is no proof it works. Novartis said the Aurobindo deal's collapse was not coronavirus-related, but stemmed from the US Federal Trade Commission's not giving approval within expected timelines.

Malaria drug not showing much effect: Paris hospital

MARTHE FOURCADE
PARIS, APRIL 2
Hydroxychloroquine, the malaria medicine that some doctors have been trying as a treatment against Covid-19 has shown encouraging results so far at France's Pitie Salpetriere hospital.

Patie Salpetriere was rated France's best hospital in a 2020 *NouvelObs* ranking.

"We used it a fair bit because it was one of the hopes," Eric Caumes, head of infectious diseases at the hospital, said on TV. "But we don't have the impression that there's spectacular efficacy. It's even proba-

ly not effective." Hydroxychloroquine showed promising results in an animal study in France, but its methodology has been challenged.

In another small trial in China, the drug was no more effective than conventional care. For now, "we have more studies showing it doesn't work," Caumes said.

Narasimhan announced the transaction with

Aurobindo in September 2018 as he hoped to shed generic assets in the United States that have faced fierce price pressure and dragged down

the company's performance. In 2019, the US assets continued to weigh on Sandoz's performance, as the generics division's sales fell 1 per cent to \$9.7 billion as price erosion in the US cancelled growth elsewhere.

—Reuters

Moody's changes outlook on banks to negative from stable

FC BANKING BUREAU
MUMBAI, APRIL 2

Global rating agency Moody's investors Service on Thursday said it expects deterioration in Indian banks' asset quality due to pressure on profitability and capital. It said if the government makes more capital injections in public sector banks, as it had in the past few years, it would mitigate capital pressure for



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them. "Disruptions to economic activity from the coronavirus outbreak will exacerbate a slowdown in India's economic growth," Moody's said.

According to Moody's, a sharp decline in economic activity and a rise in unemployment will lead to a deterioration of household and corporate finances, which in turn will result in increases in delinquencies.

"Growing solvency stress among Indian financial institutions will increase risks to banks' asset quality," he said. "Banks have large exposures to the sector," it added.

Domestic rater Ica said the asset quality pressures for banks and non-banks (NBFIs) is expected to intensify in FY2021.

By Ica's estimates, the GDP growth is expected to slow down to 2 per cent from 7.7 per cent during Q1FY2021, from estimates of 4.4 per cent in FY2020. On the back of the slowing GDP growth and curtailment of discretionary expenditures across the value chain, it is believed that the recovery will continue to face challenges for some time, the rating agency said.

MARCH FACTORY ACTIVITY AT FOUR-MONTH LOW

Bengaluru, April 2:

The country's manufacturing activity expanded at its slowest pace in four months in March and is likely to get worse as demand and output take a hit from the coronavirus outbreak, putting a severe dent in business optimism, a private survey found.

The Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, compiled by IHS Markit, declined to 51.8 last month from February's 54.5, its lowest since November but still above the 50 mark that separates growth from contraction for a 32nd month.

India Inc's credit ratio drops to 3-year low in H2: Crisil

Mumbai, April 2: Crisil

The weak Indian Inc's credit ratio fell to an over three-year low for the second half of FY20, and gave a negative outlook for FY21 expecting downgrades to continue about a phone conversation between Putin and the

However, from a quantum of loans perspective, the debt-ratios of companies upgraded, slipped to 0.77 for the September 2019-March 2020 period, from 1.21 in the preceding six months.

It is a black-swan event and we are very early into the crisis, making it difficult to gauge the economic impact, he said, adding that the agency has done an impact analysis on 35

SKODA, MERC TO SET UP HOSPITALS

CHANDRASHEKAR G
BENGALURU, APRIL 2

The ever compassionate business groups and entrepreneurs have come forward to help the nation and the metropolis fight the formidable Covid-19 challenge.

Wipro, Azim Premji Foundation, Infosys Foundation, Atria University, Peninsula Group and a few others have come up with resources to tackle the "unprecedented health and humanitarian crisis" and support the police, destitute children, manual scavengers and pourakarmas tasked with enforcing the nation-wide lockdown to prevent the virus spread.

In a communique, Wipro Ltd, Wipro Enterprises Ltd and Azim Premji Foundation have on Wednesday together committed Rs 1,125 crore towards tackling the unprecedented crisis arising from the pandemic outbreak. These resources will be used in a dedicated medical and service fraternity in the frontline of the battle against the pandemic.

WOMEN TO GET ₹500 IN JAN DHAN ACCOUNT FOR 3 MONTHS

FC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 2

Women under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana have now started receiving Rs 500 per month in their respective accounts from Friday for the next three months, starting from April 3.

As per the notification issued by the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) on Friday, the banks have been directed to start depositing Rs 500 in the accounts for Jan Dhan women account-holders. "The remittance under the recently launched Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) was debited between April 3 and April 9, the IBA said in the statement.

The IBA said there is a need for beneficiaries to rush for withdrawal as the money is being deposited into their bank accounts and can be accessed by them at their convenience.

HUL sets April 17 as share swap date

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, APRIL 2

Hindustan Unilever (HUL) has set April 17 as the record date for share swap for completing the merger process.

HUL investor Unilever's shareholding in the merged entity will be 61.9 per cent compared to 67.2 per cent prior to the merger. GSK PLC (including group companies) will own 37.7 per cent in the merged entity.



Sanjiv Mehta, chairman and managing director, HUL said, "Brands such as Horlicks and Boost are iconic, and we are excited to be part of the Hindustan Unilever Fold."

Bengaluru biz joins Covid-19 fight

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SKODA, MERC TO SET UP HOSPITALS

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, APRIL 02

German automakers Skoda Auto Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz are setting up dedicated hospitals to fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

Skoda, with its largest factory in Pune outside Germany is setting up a Covid-19 facility with 1,100 beds at the state-run Sassoon General Hospital in Pune. It has pledged Rs 1 crore for facilities at the hospital.

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Similarly, the Pune-headquartered Mercedes-Benz India is setting up a temporary hospital with isolation wards for Covid-19 patients in the vicinity of Akshaya Patra for Covid-19 relief.

Akshaya Patra Foundation has been serving cooked food and distributing essential groceries boxes for the migrant labourers and daily-wage earners.

Akshaya Patra plans to distribute 1.33 lakh essential grocery boxes, which will serve 55.86 lakh meals.

The Embassy Group has reached out to the city traffic police, offering to assist the task forces on the ground during this difficult time. The group has set up four hydration stations where the police personnel can take refreshing time breaks. In addition, the group has procured hand sanitizers, disposable masks and nutritional snacks and handed over to the headquarters to equip 484 stations and their 3,800 personnel.

SHORT TAKES

D/L inventor Lewis dies aged 78

Dubai: The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday consoled the death of mathematician Tony Lewis, who developed the Duckworth-Lewis system of calculating target scores in weather-affected limited-overs matches. Lewis died in London on Wednesday. He was 78. "Tony's contribution to cricket is huge. The present day system of basing targets in international cricket is based on the one developed by him and Frank (Duckworth) more than two decades ago," said Geoff Allardice, ICC General Manager - Cricket. "His contribution to the game of cricket will be remembered for years to come and we send our condolences to his family and friends," he added. — PTI

Boateng breaks confinement, fined

Munich: Bayern Munich have fined defender Jerome Boateng for leaving the city "without permission", an act in breach of the strict rules of confinement imposed due to the coronavirus outbreak. According to TVO television, the 31-year-old had left the city in order to visit his son who suffered minor injuries in a road traffic accident on Tuesday. "Bayern defender Jerome Boateng left Munich yesterday without permission from the club," said the German champions in a statement. "Boateng has transgressed the guidelines issued by the club by being too far away from his home. These guidelines govern the behaviour of the FC Bayern players in the current situation in line with government directives on restrictions on movement and the recommendations of the health authorities," the statement added. — AFP

Sport can wait, says Morgan

London: Sport can wait for now but on resumption, it could play a massive role in "uplifting the world" from the effects of Covid-19 pandemic, feels England's limited overs captain Eoin Morgan. "Sporting activities in the world over came to a grinding halt in the wake of the pandemic that has claimed more than 47,000 lives. "Sport could play a huge role in uplifting the world and people's perspective on life," Morgan was quoted as saying by the ICC. "Isolation encourages negative minds. Sport can create that theatre and that level of expectation around what it's like to be outside again and be active. If it came to it, I think it would be a huge step forward." Till the time the situation becomes manageable, the top English cricketer is ready to wait. — PTI

FROM HOCKEY FIELD TO THE VIRUS WARD

Perth: The coronavirus pandemic ended any chance of Rachael Lynch competing for Olympic gold in Tokyo this year. Now she's switching into the medical mode to take on the virus. Lynch, the goalkeeper for Australia's women's field hockey team, is a registered nurse. So after the Olympics were postponed to July of next year, Lynch applied to work as a licensed nurse at two Covid-19 clinics in the Western Australia state capital. Lynch was already working a day a week in a neuro-rehabilitation ward part of her of work-life balance with training for elite sport. She (the nurse) didn't have any scheduled shifts last week because the national squad the Hockeyroos was supposed to be in Europe preparing for the Olympics. "As soon as we finished up on Monday I went in and saw my boss, the 33-year-old Lynch said. — AFP

20 men in India's 2019 Cup trip

New Delhi, April 2: For the reticent Gautam Gambhir, India's 2011 World Cup triumph was a journey of 20-odd people, not one. A freeze-frame moment that social media makes it look every year on this very day. Harbhajan Singh can't fathom why those 11 players never played as a team in a single international game after that. Ashish Nehra is not a man with too many regrets as he missed the final with a finger fracture but April 2 is a day which better half Rushma remembers that he "better not forget". They were heroes in one of the most glorious chapters in Indian cricket and they all cherish that even though lives and careers have gone in different directions in the past nine years. Sachin Tendulkar, since then, has retired but is no less revered by one and all who can still watch the 46-year-old pad up even if it's for five minutes in a charity game. The man who carried him on his shoulders, Virat Kohli, has taken Tendulkar's place as world cricket's premier batsman with a game that brings thousands into the stadium. Zaheer Khan has settled into a nice post-retirement life with some fan-

Cricket stops! Olympic sports fret over lost Games income

Lausanne, April 2: The postponement of the Tokyo Olympics and the shutdown of the sporting calendar because of the coronavirus pandemic are going to hit international sports federations hard financially. Many sports that are part of the Games depend heavily on the payouts every four years from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). "The situation is tense and very gloomy. An assessment will be made, but clearly some posts are under threat," said an official of a major international federation. The 28 international federations (IF) of the sports that were due to be present at the Tokyo Olympics, would have received substantial sums from the IOC. However, the postponement of the Games until 2021 could lead to a freeze check. "In this communication, Harrison claimed he himself will be taking a 25 per cent pay cut for at least the next three months. The pandemic is absolutely challenging the sport has faced in the modern era although the full extent and impact of the pandemic on cricket is as yet unknown, it is already clear that it will be extremely significant," wrote Harrison. With its reserves going down to £11 million in 2019-19 from 73 million pounds in 2015-16, a cricket-



People wearing face masks stand in front of the Olympic Flame which was passed from Tokyo 2020 to Fukushima Prefecture at the J-Village National Training Centre in Naraha town on Thursday. — AFP

English board may lose big

London, April 2: The England and Wales Cricket Board stands to lose over £300 million if the Covid-19 pandemic prevents the upcoming season from going ahead, said its chief executive Tom Harrison who is among the ECB employees taking a pay cut to deal with the crisis. In another development, England's centrally contracted players appear to have said no to the ECB's offer of taking a 20 per cent pay cut as part of board's plans to combat the financial challenge arising out of the pandemic. The ECB on Tuesday announced a 61 million support package to tackle the ongoing crisis. In a letter of Professional Cricketers' Association chief Tony Harrison expressed his concerns on the long-

● The England and Wales Cricket Board stands to lose over £300 million if the Covid-19 pandemic prevents the upcoming season from going ahead.

er-less season could make a severe impact on ECB's balance sheet. "...by way of offering an indication of the potential scale of the loss to the game, losing an entire cricket season — which is not an outlandish scenario — will cost cricket in England and Wales well in excess of 300m," Harrison wrote. There are concerns with regards to whether the county season, scheduled to start on April 12, can be salvaged this year amid the uncertainty. "Our absolute priority in the face of this challenge is firstly, to ensure the public safety of our people — our staff, players and colleagues around the game, but secondly, that the cricket world remains intact, and emerges from this crisis in a state to resume our trajectory towards a bright future," Harrison said. — PTI

CASH GOES OFF TENNIS TABLE WORLD OVER

Lausanne, April 2: The entire staff of the International Tennis Federation (ITF), including its president, has opted for a voluntary pay cut to deal with severe financial challenges arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic. "Sporting events around the world have either been cancelled or postponed in the wake of the outbreak. Earlier this week, the ITF extended the suspension of all its activities until June 30. "The knock-on financial implications of an extended period of not hosting events has led to all ITTF staff and president to decide taking voluntary salary reductions to support the ITF Executive Committee reducing its expenses, to support the tables during these challenging times," said the ITTF in a statement. "During a video conference on Wednesday 1 April 2020 in which all ITTF staff were in attendance, ITF CEO Steve Dainton underlined the need for all ITTF staff to stick together and make the sacrifice in order to help table tennis emerge stronger once the pandemic finally clears. "The ITTF is constantly evaluating the financial implications of event postponements, while exploring ways in how it can work with various governments around the world to minimise the financial impact. Until then, the ITTF is doing all it can to support the tennis community in these challenging and completely unforeseen times," it added. — PTI

Latinos want all the money

Sao Paulo, April 2: Stars in some of the big European leagues are taking pay cuts amid the coronavirus pandemic but in South America, where football clubs and players aren't nearly as wealthy, local footballers want to be shown the money. All of it.

SHARP CUT FOR DRIVERS

London, April 2: McLaren drivers Carlos Sainz and Lando Norris have taken voluntary pay cuts as part of a raft of cost-cutting measures to help the team survive the coronavirus crisis with Formula One in lockdown. The British-based team will also use the UK government's furlough scheme to guarantee 90 per cent of salary for staff up to a maximum of £2,500 (\$3,000) a month. "The McLaren Group is temporarily furloughing a number of employees as part of wider cost-cutting measures due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on its business. These measures are focused on protecting jobs in the short-term to ensure our employees return to full-time work as the economy recovers," said an official spokesperson for McLaren. — AFP

players until the end of the pandemic. Executives of the even the richest clubs fear the season shutdown will spook sponsors and debt levels will soar. But players, including those who have been paid late in the past, haven't been wary and have asked for the oversight of the national soccer confederation. The union did give some ground in terms of early vacations. So far, the Brazilian soccer confederation has not intervened. "I don't think there is a reason to cut. We are stopping because we need to. Attitico Mineiro's Guilherme Arana told Fox Sports. "It's spent the first months of the year at Italy's Atlanta, near the European coronavirus hotspots. — AP

20 men in India's 2019 Cup trip

New Delhi, April 2: For the reticent Gautam Gambhir, India's 2011 World Cup triumph was a journey of 20-odd people, not one. A freeze-frame moment that social media makes it look every year on this very day. Harbhajan Singh can't fathom why those 11 players never played as a team in a single international game after that. Ashish Nehra is not a man with too many regrets as he missed the final with a finger fracture but April 2 is a day which better half Rushma remembers that he "better not forget". They were heroes in one of the most glorious chapters in Indian cricket and they all cherish that even though lives and careers have gone in different directions in the past nine years. Sachin Tendulkar, since then, has retired but is no less revered by one and all who can still watch the 46-year-old pad up even if it's for five minutes in a charity game. The man who carried him on his shoulders, Virat Kohli, has taken Tendulkar's place as world cricket's premier batsman with a game that brings thousands into the stadium. Zaheer Khan has settled into a nice post-retirement life with some fan-

Sharp cut for drivers

London, April 2: McLaren drivers Carlos Sainz and Lando Norris have taken voluntary pay cuts as part of a raft of cost-cutting measures to help the team survive the coronavirus crisis with Formula One in lockdown. The British-based team will also use the UK government's furlough scheme to guarantee 90 per cent of salary for staff up to a maximum of £2,500 (\$3,000) a month. "The McLaren Group is temporarily furloughing a number of employees as part of wider cost-cutting measures due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on its business. These measures are focused on protecting jobs in the short-term to ensure our employees return to full-time work as the economy recovers," said an official spokesperson for McLaren. — AFP

Latinos want all the money

Sao Paulo, April 2: Stars in some of the big European leagues are taking pay cuts amid the coronavirus pandemic but in South America, where football clubs and players aren't nearly as wealthy, local footballers want to be shown the money. All of it.

Cricket stops! Olympic sports fret over lost Games income

Lausanne, April 2: The postponement of the Tokyo Olympics and the shutdown of the sporting calendar because of the coronavirus pandemic are going to hit international sports federations hard financially. Many sports that are part of the Games depend heavily on the payouts every four years from the International Olympic Committee (IOC). "The situation is tense and very gloomy. An assessment will be made, but clearly some posts are under threat," said an official of a major international federation. The 28 international federations (IF) of the sports that were due to be present at the Tokyo Olympics, would have received substantial sums from the IOC. However, the postponement of the Games until 2021 could lead to a freeze check. "In this communication, Harrison claimed he himself will be taking a 25 per cent pay cut for at least the next three months. The pandemic is absolutely challenging the sport has faced in the modern era although the full extent and impact of the pandemic on cricket is as yet unknown, it is already clear that it will be extremely significant," wrote Harrison. With its reserves going down to £11 million in 2019-19 from 73 million pounds in 2015-16, a cricket-

CORONA CONTRIBUTION

Gambhir gives up two years' salary

New Delhi, April 2: Donations continued to pour in from the sporting fraternity with cricketer-turned-politician Gautam Gambhir on Thursday deciding to contribute his two years' salary as a Member of Parliament to the Prime Minister-CARES fund to tackle the Covid-19 pandemic sweeping through the country. The BJP's Lok Sabha member from East Delhi made the announcement on his Twitter page, urging people to come forward and donate generously. "People ask what can I do for my country for two years' salary" to #PM CARES Fund. You should come forward too," Gambhir said. "We need to help people fight this dreaded disease in whatever way we can. I am doing my bit. I am also arranging basic food like rice, cereals and grocery for a group of people near my locality," he added.

Rajasthan Chief Minister's relief fund — to fight the pandemic

POREL DONATES ₹50K
Bengal pacer Ishan Porel on his Twitter page, urging people to come forward and donate generously. "People ask what can I do for my country for two years' salary" to #PM CARES Fund. You should come forward too," Gambhir said. "We need to help people fight this dreaded disease in whatever way we can. I am doing my bit. I am also arranging basic food like rice, cereals and grocery for a group of people near my locality," he added.

UPRIKES COME TOGETHER

CRICKET MATCHES SUSPENDED
In whatever way we can. I am doing my bit. I am also arranging basic food like rice, cereals and grocery for a group of people near my locality," he added.

APURVI GIVES ₹5 LAKH

2014 Commonwealth Games gold medalist and multiple World Cup-winning rifle shooter Apurvi Chandela also contributed ₹5,00,000 — ₹3,00,000 to Prime Minister-CARES fund and ₹2,00,000 to

IOC CHIEF THANKS PM MODI FOR SUPPORT

Lausanne, April 2: International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach has thanked Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his unflinching support to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, which has now been shifted to 2021 because of the global coronavirus pandemic. In a letter to Modi, dated April 1, Bach said he was "grateful" to the Indian Prime Minister for his support to the Tokyo Games during the recent G20 Leaders' Summit which was held via video conference in the wake of the pandemic, which has left the world in disarray. "Please accept my sincere thanks for the support you have given to the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, expressed in the Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit Statement, commending the International Olympic Committee for contributing to the containment of the Covid-19 virus," Bach wrote in his letter. "I am really grateful for your support for the Olympic Games and their unifying role, which the G20 Leaders' Summit has already expressed at your meeting last year in Osaka." After their initial reluctance, the IOC and Tokyo Games organisers were forced to accept the unprecedented challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic, and reschedule the 2020 Tokyo Games to 2021. — PTI

Cz's randy rugby players are sacked

Sydney, April 2: Australian rugby league has been shut down due to Covid-19 but that didn't spare the scandal-plagued sport more bad news as two Canterbury Bulldogs players were sacked over an escapade with "young females". New Zealand Test forward Corey Harawira-Naera, 24, and winger Jayden Okunbor, 23, were suspended in early March after taking the women back to their team hotel on a pre-season trip. Australian media said they met the women, described by the club as "young females of a consensual age", while visiting a school in the New South Wales beachside town of Port Macquarie. The Bulldogs announced the pair had been deregistered by the National Rugby League on Wednesday and subsequently had their club contracts cancelled. "The club fully supports the determination made by the NRL in defence of the reputation of our game and the conduct of the majority of players who represent their respective clubs in the right way," the team said in a statement. "The conduct of the two players, on the eve of our final match, demonstrated an unacceptable lack of respect for their teammates, their coach

Forward Corey Harawira-Naera and winger Jayden Okunbor of the Canterbury Bulldogs were suspended for taking two "young women" back to their hotel rooms during a pre-season trip.

and club officials, our hosts in Port Macquarie and fans of the game everywhere," it said. Rugby league in Australia has long been dogged by scandal and the National Rugby League has been working hard to improve its image. The build-up to the 2019 season was overshadowed when Panthers' playmaker Tyrone May was suspended for allegedly filming and sharing images of sexual acts with two separate women. "The club fully supports the determination made by the NRL in defence of the reputation of our game and the conduct of the majority of players who represent their respective clubs in the right way," the team said in a statement. "The conduct of the two players, on the eve of our final match, demonstrated an unacceptable lack of respect for their teammates, their coach

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