

DECCAN Chronicle

THE LARGEST CIRCULATED ENGLISH DAILY IN SOUTH INDIA
HYDERABAD | SATURDAY | 4 APRIL 2020

WEATHER

Max: 35.2°C
Min: 26.4°C
RH: 35%
Rain: Nil

Forecast: Partly cloudy sky. Moderate rain likely
Max/Min temp. 36/26°C

CORONA COUNT

CASES: 2547
DEATHS: 62

TS: 229
AP: 164

WORLD CONFIRMED CASES

10 lakh +

DEATHS
50,000+

COUNTRIES AREAS WITH CASES
186

ASTROGUIDE

Sarvar: Uttarayana
Tithi: Chaitra Sudha Ekadasi till 10.24 pm
Star: Ashlesha till 5.01 pm
Varjyam: 3.32 am to 5.01 am and 3.57 am to 5.24 am (Sunday)
Durmuhurtam: 6.11 am to 7.49 am
Rahukalam: 9 am to 10.30 am
HURI CALENDAR
Shabaa: 9,1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.08 am
Zohar: 12.29 pm
Asar: 4.40 pm
Maghrib: 6.35 pm
Isha: 7.45 pm
SUNSET TODAY 5.39 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5.07 AM
MOONRISE TODAY 2.46 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 3.07 AM

COUNTER POINT

I came out to buy candles and diyas, sir!

BRIEF

Row over Friday prayer in K'taka
Hubballi: Hours after Karnataka Chief Minister appealed to Muslim leaders for cooperation in maintaining law and order, Friday prayer turned out to be contentious issue in the State. Three cops were hurt in Hubballi after a group of youths pelted stones at them when they tried to disperse a crowd gathered for mass prayer.

₹17,287cr given to states
New Delhi: The Finance Ministry on Friday released ₹17,287 crore to states to enhance their financial resources during the COVID-19 crisis. Of this amount, ₹1,092 crore is towards State Disaster Response Mitigation Fund (SDRMF) to all states. An amount of ₹6,195 crore has been released as 'Post Devolution Revenue Deficit Grant' to 14 states namely AP, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya among others.

Global economy to contract: Fitch
Mumbai: Fitch Ratings on Friday projected that the global economy will fall into a deep recession in 2020 due to the massive disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, with growth print contracting by 1.9 per cent, followed by larger contraction in the US and the euro zone. The ratings agency's Chief Economist Brian Coulton pegged India's growth at 2 per cent.

NATION | 4
Odisha announces 48-hr full lockdown



WORLD | 5
Covid rebound fears in Wuhan

TABLOID
Hefty, silent donations



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TS records 2 deaths, 75 new cases

55-yr-old woman grocery store owner in Shadnagar with no travel history and 45-yr-old from Sec'bad dead

KANIZA GARARI AND JAYENDRA CHAITANYA T. DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 3

Telangana state reported two more deaths, one each from Shadnagar and Secunderabad, due to the novel coronavirus disease on Friday and 75 new positive cases, making it the highest number of cases on a single day. This took the total number of positive cases to 229 and toll to 11, according to the health department.

AP RECORDS FIRST DEATH DUE TO COVID

Q. SAMPAT SAMRITAN | DC VIJAYAWADA, APRIL 3

Andhra Pradesh reported its first coronavirus death on Friday, when a 55-year-old man, a resident of Kunturapalem on the outskirts of Vijayawada, who died on March 30 at the Government General Hospital, was found through posthumous testing to be Covid-19 positive.



People gather in large numbers ignoring social distancing norms for a free food distribution programme near the GHMC headquarters in Hyderabad on Friday.

478 more +ve as drive to test and trace intensifies

VINEETA PANDEY | DC NEW DELHI, APRIL 3

The government on Friday said 8,000 tests have been conducted in the last 24 hours across the country, the highest in a single day.

As of April 1, India had only done 47,951 tests in total, and 66,000 in all till Friday, including a whopping 100,989 tests on a daily basis, while Italy sits at the second spot with around 34,455 tests per day.

The main reason for the low test rate in India seems to be the unavailability of test kits, which are crucial for determining the presence of Covid-19. Though 182 labs in the country have been identified for Covid-19 diagnosis, including 130 govt labs, test centres don't have enough test kits.

Added to this is the strict testing protocol to test only if a person exhibits all three symptoms of fever, dry cough and fatigue, and the focus on hotspots. This too is added to low testing numbers. Sources said that the government has decided to conduct rapid antibody tests for Covid-19 in hot spots and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is expected to issue fresh guidelines on Saturday in this regard.

PM wants lights off for 9 mins at 9 pm on Apr 5

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 3

As coronavirus cases continued to mount across India despite the nationwide lockdown, Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted people on Friday morning to switch off their lights at home and light candles, diyas or even display their mobile phone torches for nine minutes at 9 pm on Sunday, April 5, to demonstrate the country's 'collective resolve' to defeat the pandemic.

Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram said that people expected part two of the financial package. "What we expected from the government was to take steps to support the economy and to light the candles or lamps only from their balconies or doorsteps, Chief Minister K. Chandrababbarao on Friday appealed to the people of the state to observe the call given by the Prime Minister to light candles. The PM told the nation

Oppn criticises PM for not being serious

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 3

Opposition parties were disappointed with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address. They expected concrete steps to tackle the economic downturn instead of an appeal to 'light lamps'.

Senior Congress leader P. Chidambaram said that people expected part two of the financial package. "What we expected from the government was to take steps to support the economy and to light the candles or lamps only from their balconies or doorsteps, Chief Minister K. Chandrababbarao on Friday appealed to the people of the state to observe the call given by the Prime Minister to light candles. The PM told the nation

TJ followers' call data under scanner 50 Tj members untraceable, they had given fake addresses

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, APRIL 3

With around 9,000 followers of the Tablighi Jamaat in the Special Branch of the Local Intelligence Units (LIU) of the state police are still extensively examining call data records and using other means of technical surveillance to identify the contacts with these people.

which is closely monitoring the contact tracing of the Tablighi followers with the states has already directed the respective police forces to launch a 'massive hunt' to trace everyone who came in contact with the Tablighi followers who attended in Delhi's Nizamuddin area, which is being treated as a hotbed of coronavirus infection.

Tablighi followers are believed to have gone to 19 different states after attending the event in Delhi. "Through a lot of people are voluntarily coming forward for the check-up, many people are still not traceable maybe because they may not even be aware," the official said.

States have also been asked to share and provide data to each other on suspected patients so that immediate preventive measures can be taken.

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, APRIL 3

The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is yet to trace 27 persons who came to city after attending the Tablighi Jamaat event at the parking mosque at Nizamuddin in Delhi. GHMC officials said on Friday that they gave fake residential addresses to 27 persons.

shared with district authorities and AP. He said they should be home-quarantined immediately, apart from geo-tagging them to avoid further complications.

Corporation officials were reluctant to give names of the missing persons to the government as they have strict instructions from the government not to share the information.

Special wing of GHMC to monitor aid distribution as social distancing norms not being followed

Donors barred from giving grocery, food directly

MADHY DEKSHITH | DC HYDERABAD, APRIL 3

The municipal administration and urban development (MA&UD) department has decided to ban all public philanthropy and direct donations, including distribution of groceries, food packets and individual food donations across the city.

needing, NGOs, private persons, religious organisations and public representatives from all political parties are barred from donating groceries, packed food and cooked food served in plates since the lockdown struck. Despite the noble intent of serving the needy and reaching those who are in need, the MA&UD, clamped them down claiming that it has "led to huge

public queues and jam-packed gatherings at all locations." As many as 3,000 members gathered at a food bank for donating groceries, packed food and cooked food served in plates since the lockdown struck. Despite the noble intent of serving the needy and reaching those who are in need, the MA&UD, clamped them down claiming that it has "led to huge

activist, who has been distributing food for last 10 days. "We have done without any help from GHMC. Now, they are upset across party lines, leaders are donating groceries, which bureaucrats allege is to stay in the limelight." An NGO activist, who has been striving hard to take food to needy and maintain social distance, said, "bureaucrats need publicity and an

excuse to unleash their power. This is typical babu reaction - we won't and can't do, we won't let you do either."

officials of the MA&UD argue, however, that public representatives did not adhere to social distance guidelines, despite a steep rise of Coronavirus cases and deaths every passing day in Telangana.

Page 2: Mayor: Special wing to collect donations

IN BRIEF

Merkel in office after quarantine

Berlin: German Chancellor Angela Merkel left her Berlin home for the first time in almost two weeks on Friday, after she was found to quarantine following contact with a Covid-19-infected doctor. She returned to her office, where she will continue to observe social distancing rules and lead the country via video and audio conferencing, her spokesman Steffen Seibert said in Berlin. The 65-year-old leader was in self-isolation at her flat in the German capital's museum district. She learned on March 22 that a doctor who gave her a vaccination two days before was infected with the virus.

German official: Toll undercounted

Berlin: The head of Germany's disease control agency says the number of people who die of Covid-19 in Germany are being undercounted. Lothar Wieler of the Robert Koch Institute said Friday that he believes "not all the people dead that are officially being reported." It wasn't immediately clear whether he was suggesting that deaths are being undercounted only in Germany, or worldwide. Germany's death rate from Covid-19 has drawn international attention. Experts say the difference with other countries is due to mass testing and well-equipped hospitals, but the number of deaths is likely to rise.

Lanka polls may be held in May

Columbo: The parliamentary polls in Sri Lanka cannot be held before the end of May due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the election commission said on Friday, expressing concern that the situation could lead to a constitutional impasse. A new Parliament must meet within three months of dissolution. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Thursday dissolved the Parliament, six months ahead of schedule and called a snap election on April 25. There are 19 Covid-19 cases in the country and four people have died of the disease. A breakthrough of the pandemic has seriously impacted Sri Lanka's economy, especially the tourism industry.

Virus curb flout: Nigerian shot dead

Warri: A Nigerian man has been shot dead for flouting a stay-at-home order aimed at curbing the spread of Covid-19, police and a lawmaker said on Friday. Nigeria has introduced a raft of measures, including lockdowns of major cities, to try to contain the virus, which has infected 184 people, two of them fatally. Joseph Pessu, a resident of Warri, was killed on Thursday by a soldier deployed to enforce the lockdown, the sources said. "The incident occurred yesterday with the youths protesting," state police spokesman said. Angry young people lit fires in the streets but police later restored calm, he said.

'WHALE FALL' IN DEEP-SEA EXPEDITION

Beijing, April 3: Chinese researchers have spotted a whale fall, a rare deep-sea ecosystem, in the South China Sea during a deep-sea scientific expedition, on a science academy here said on Friday. A whale fall occurs when the carcass of a whale has fallen onto the ocean floor in the deep sea. On the ocean floor, these carcasses provide nutrients to deep-sea creatures for decades, creating complex deep-sea ecosystems. The whale falls are dubbed as the "oases" in the deep sea. Chinese researchers spotted the whale fall during a deep-sea expedition carried out by China's oceanic research vessel Tansuo-1. The whale fall is about three metres long. It is the first time that Chinese scientists have discovered this type of ecosystem, state-run Xinhua news agency quoted the Chinese Academy of Sciences as saying. They have found several species of shrimp and fish near the whale fall and spotted fish eating the whale's flesh on the tail. The whale fall might be relatively recent, the researchers said in a long-term observation. Xie Wei, a scientist who participated in the expedition said.

for global effort to fight virus

'Global solidarity to fight Covid-19' is the first document adopted by the world body

United Nations, April 3: The UN General Assembly has unanimously adopted its first resolution on the Covid-19 pandemic co-sponsored by India and 187 other nations, calling for a human-centred global cooperation to defeat the deadly disease that is causing "severe disruption" to societies and economies. The resolution titled "Global solidarity to fight the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19)" was the first such document on the pandemic to be adopted by the world body. The UN Security Council is yet to discuss the Covid-19 outbreak, even as the total number of Covid-19 cases across the world crossed one million. The resolution, adopted Thursday, said the 193-member General Assembly needs "with great concern" to global travel and commerce, and the devastating impact on the livelihood of people. It calls for "intensified international cooperation to contain, mitigate and defeat the pandemic, including by exchanging information, scientific knowledge and best practices and by applying the relevant guidelines recommended by the World Health Organisation". It also emphasised the need for "full respect for human rights, and stresses that there is no place for any form of discrimination, racism and xenophobia in the response to the pandemic". Recognising the need for "multilateralism and multilateralism requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation", the resolution said the General Assembly "reaffirms its commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism and its strong support for the central role of the United Nations system in the global response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic". The resolution was sponsored by Ghana, Indonesia, Liechtenstein, Norway, Singapore and Sweden. The need of the General Assembly is not holding meetings due to the pandemic, the resolution said under a silence procedure. The draft resolution was under silence procedure until April 2 at 6pm. According to the new voting rules, if there were no objections, the resolution would pass within the specified time period from member states, President of the General Assembly Tijani Muhammad-Bande would circulate a letter confirming adoption.

Beijing, April 3: The authorities in China's Wuhan, the epicentre of the Covid-19, on Friday asked its residents to stay at home and avoid non-essential outings amid fears of a possible rebound of the disease due to the steady rise in the asymptomatic cases, days after the nine-week lockdown was relaxed in the city. Asymptomatic Covid-19 cases, days after the nine-week lockdown was relaxed in the city. Asymptomatic Covid-19 cases, days after the nine-week lockdown was relaxed in the city. Asymptomatic Covid-19 cases, days after the nine-week lockdown was relaxed in the city. Asymptomatic Covid-19 cases, days after the nine-week lockdown was relaxed in the city.



People wearing masks walk along Hanjie shopping street in Wuhan, China on Friday. Wuhan where Covid-19 first emerged last year, partly reopened on March 28 after more than two months of near total isolation.

Covid rebound fears in Wuhan

Beijing, April 3: The authorities in China's Wuhan, the epicentre of the Covid-19, on Friday asked its residents to stay at home and avoid non-essential outings amid fears of a possible rebound of the disease due to the steady rise in the asymptomatic cases, days after the nine-week lockdown was relaxed in the city. Asymptomatic Covid-19 cases, days after the nine-week lockdown was relaxed in the city. Asymptomatic Covid-19 cases, days after the nine-week lockdown was relaxed in the city. Asymptomatic Covid-19 cases, days after the nine-week lockdown was relaxed in the city.

Beijing, April 3: China will observe a national day of mourning on Saturday for martyrs, including the "whistleblower" Dr Li Wenliang, who sacrificed his life in the fight against the Covid-19 outbreak and the over 3,300 people who died of the infection in the country. During the commemoration, national flags will fly at half-mast across the country and in all Chinese embassies and consulates abroad and public recreational activities will be suspended across the country, official media reported.

CHINA NAMES SATELLITE AFTER VIRUS EPICENTRE. Beijing, April 3: China will launch the first two communications satellites for its space-based Internet-of-Things project this month with one of them named after Wuhan, the epicentre of Covid-19. The rocket to send the satellite, Kuaizhou-1A, was scheduled to complete the network by the Wuhan-based Sanjiang Group under the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation (CASIC). Despite its proximity to the epicentre of the Covid-19, the company staff worked hard to ensure the success of the mission. Xinhua reported. The two satellites, Xingyun-2 01 and 02, are the first stars of the "Xingyun Engineering" project, scheduled to complete the network with 80 low-orbit communications satellites. Xingyun-2 01 was named "Wuhan" and will be tested in industries related to marine, forestry and engineering machinery, the report said.

Virus doesn't stay long in air: WHO

Beijing, April 3: The virus that causes the Covid-19 disease is primarily transmitted through "respiratory droplets and close contacts", and does not seem to stay long in the air, a report WHO published said. Respiratory infections can be transmitted through droplets of different sizes, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said. Droplet transmission occurs when you have close contact (within one metre) with a person who has respiratory symptoms such as coughing or sneezing, which may spread these potentially infectious droplets, typically 5-10 microns in size, to your body. Transmission may also occur by touching surfaces or objects in the immediate environment around the infected person, state-run China Daily quoted the WHO publication as saying. Airborne transmission is different from droplet transmission, as it generally considered to be the smaller particles of less than 5 microns in diameter, and which can remain in the air for long periods of time and be transmitted to others over distances greater than one metre, it said.

In the context of Covid-19, airborne transmission may be possible in specific circumstances in which procedures or support treatments that generate aerosols are performed, such as incubation within a patient's windpipe, disconnecting a patient from a ventilator, and CPR. It said.

Through no new locally transmitted Covid-19 cases were reported in Hubei and its capital Wuhan on Thursday, local health officials said 51 asymptomatic Covid-19 cases were detected, bringing the total to 742, all of whom have been put under medical observation. According to official media reports, China also plans to test the over 11 million population of Wuhan as asymptomatic cases are reported for the first time by Chinese officials since Wednesday's announcement of the first international criticism casting doubts over China's officials figure of the Covid-19.

Wuhan, the epicentre of the outbreak in China, on Friday asked its residents to stay at home and avoid non-essential outings as the city guards against a rebound in the outbreak, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Washington, April 3: President Donald Trump announced Thursday that he has taken his second Covid-19 test at the White House since the outbreak began and it was again found to be negative. "I just took it this morning," he told a news conference. This time he used a new rapid method that he said took a minute and barely 15 minutes for a result. "I took it out of curiosity to see how quickly it worked. It is a lot easier. The second one is much more pleasant," Trump said. The first test, done in mid-March, used a more invasive method, with results coming only hours later. Trump, 73, had previously resisted getting tested, as well as arguing initially that Covid-19 is no worse than the regular flu and did not require a massive shutdown of the economy. Since then, he has declared himself a "wartime president" and is overseeing a massive ramping up of testing capabilities. His first test was taken after he refused to delay the state's primary next Tuesday the US presidential race despite warnings that the vote could put the health of thousands at risk. Several states have postponed their primaries, leaving the Democratic nomination race in limbo when it should be coming to a high-profile climax. The party has forced a five-week postponement of the convention.

WORLD REELS AS VIRUS SPREADS TENTACLES

900 people died in Spain over the past 24 hours for the second day running, government figures showed on Friday, although the rate of new infections and deaths continued to slow.

134 more fatalities in Iran on Friday from the novel Covid-19 has brought the officially confirmed death total to 3,294.

2,000 military ventilators promised by the Pentagon to be made available two weeks ago as the federal government strains to contend with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte on Friday told EU Commission chief Ursula von Leyen that it was time for the EU "to show more ambition, more unity and more courage".

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday said he would continue his self-isolation after testing positive for Covid-19, following a week of staying at home and working remotely.

Nepali journalists sought a probe into the removal of a news story published on a private news portal about alleged import of Covid related medical equipment from China at exorbitant price.

Prince Charles inaugurates new makeshift Covid-19 hospital via video link.

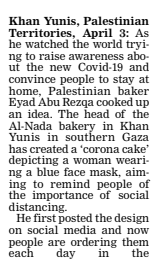
Not belittling virus risk but trying to keep spirits up: Bakery head Gaza's 'corona cake' spreads awareness

Khan Yunis, Palestinian Territories, April 3: As he watched the world trying to raise awareness about the new Covid-19 and convince people to stay at home, Palestinian baker Eyaad Abu Rezza cooked up an idea. The head of the Al-Nada bakery in Khan Yunis, he has created a 'corona cake' depicting a woman wearing a blue face mask, aiming to remind people of the importance of social distancing. He first posted the design on social media and now people are ordering them each day in the

impooverished Palestinian enclave. He said, "Straight away it got great interest, customers saying 'I want that cake'." Abu Rezza said. "Every day our clients

demand for the mask cake is increasing." He stressed he was not belittling the risk of the deadly disease but trying to keep spirits up while promoting awareness. He said Gaza has 12 confirmed cases of Covid-19, all of whom are in isolation, according to health authorities. The Hamas-run strip. Authorities have put in place strict social distancing and try to prevent contact, but have not yet closed all non-essential businesses.

The staff making the cakes are wearing protective clothing. Abu Rezza pointed out.



Palestinian baker Eyaad Abu Rezza says he wants to raise awareness and spirits with his 'corona cake'.

Trump 2nd test also negative

Washington, April 3: President Donald Trump announced Thursday that he has taken his second Covid-19 test at the White House since the outbreak began and it was again found to be negative.

Washington, April 3: The US Navy aircraft carrier USS Zumwalt (DDG 1000) is being fired for raising alarm. The Navy aircraft carrier has been fired for showing "extremely poor judgment" after he "misrepresented the news" that decisive action was needed to prevent American troops dying outside of wartime.

In a letter, Captain Brett Crozier of the USS Roosevelt pointed to his superiors that the US Navy was not doing enough to halt a Covid-19 outbreak on board the vessel. Thomas Modolo, Navy's Acting Secretary, said the captain created panic by sending his report who later tested positive for the virus.

Corona beer production halts

Mexico City, April 3: The Mexican brewer of Corona beer said it was suspending production because of the health emergency in the country over Covid-19 pandemic. Grupo Modelo said that the measure was in line with the Mexican government's order to suspend all non-essential activities until April 30 to slow the spread of Covid-19. "We are in the process of lowering production at our plants to the bare minimum," the company said in a statement, adding it would complete the suspension in the following days. Mexico's government has said that only key sectors such as agriculture will be able to continue to function. Grupo Modelo said it will cooperate with 75 percent of its staff working remotely to guarantee the supply of beer, if with the government agreement. Mexico's other major beer producer Heineken said it will also cooperate with the government. Heineken and Dos Equis brands — could also stop activities on Friday, the Reforma newspaper said, although the company did not confirm the report.

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4 APRIL 2020

Use lockdown wisely, then frame exit plan

Eight days into the 21-day nationwide lockdown that he declared to stop the spread of coronavirus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday asked chief ministers of states to help the Union government formulate a plan to ease the nation's economic activity...

A sound exit plan is fine but the government should also think of a strategy to make use of the remaining days of the lockdown. True, the Prime Minister has talked about "testing, tracing, isolating and quarantine" but offered the chief ministers and the nation no concrete route map for it...

Doctors bite the bullet

They clapped their hands and clanged their utensils to cheer the men and women who left the comfort of their homes and at clear risk to their lives went to the frontlines to vanquish the coronavirus. And then they abused and assaulted them, evicted them from their houses and pelted them with stones...

While in the UK five lakh voluntarily joined the National Health Service in this time of crisis, in India doctors on way to work were harassed and beaten up by police and intimidated with arrest...

DECCAN CHRONICLE

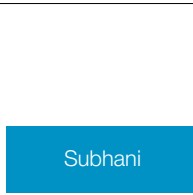
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Sounds of spring: In post-Covid world, UN could be first casualty

It has been a surreal spring. Suddenly, the world has gone mute. Gone the noisy combustion of our industrialised civilisation... Gone the repetitive cacophony of loudspeakers. Gone the drone of motorised traffic.

Life has become an inversion of itself. It is like reading Rachel Carson's book Silent Spring, upside down. For those who have forgotten, marine biologist Rachel Carson started the world in 1962 with a dramatic warning to humanity against the unchecked, fatal use of chemical pesticides...



Diya jalao, folks... Get set for Diwali in April!



Shobha De

Light a diya at 9 pm on Sunday... Prime Minister Narendra Modi told an anxious nation on Friday morning to light candles everywhere. And an avalanche of mixed reactions followed his 9 a.m. tweet...

If India is to follow an international leadership model during a mega crisis, let it be one where our PM announces specific and concrete schemes to help poor and homeless, our migrants and our labour force

Diya Jalao... work on the frontlines wearing raincoats! These offer zero protection. We are struggling to cope, minus equipment, masks, basic food and blankets... Thousands of citizens lack even water-gel to keep their hands clean...

In such a grim scenario, a supposedly upbeat message from the PM which is designed to make panicky citizens feel better may not be a bad thing...

If we start generating hate at this crucial stage, we will end up killing many more of our people than Covid-19 ever could. This particular hate virus is vicious and destructive enough to damage India irreversibly.

Readers can send their feedback to www.shobhadе.blogspot.com

LETTERS COVID SOLUTIONS

Instead of enumerating solutions to eradicate Covid-19, the preposterous step of lighting diyas on Sunday for nine minutes is a superstitious approach than a scientific one...

When a majority of people is frightened about Covid-19, the police in Wanaparthy adding to the misery of citizens. Through everyone appreciates the role of police, medical staff and media, the police at Wanaparthy were bent on taking out their frustration on an innocent person...

We cannot appreciate the Prime Minister Keeping mum for funds at this moment. He should help States to some extent at least from the PM's relief fund. All CMs must help the poor from the Chief Minister's relief fund.

Bonus raising under study

THE UNION Labour Minister, Mr. P. Tharappa said today that the Government would examine the question of increasing the minimum bonus payable of four per cent provided under the Bonus Act. He told Pressman that though there has no proposal to increase the minimum bonus now, "We will examine the question whether it is possible to increase the minimum. Mr. Tharappa said that when the Bonus Act came into force, 40,00,000 workers were expected to be benefited."

hands and then washed them in sanitised bathrooms before issuing him-ourselves to Third World countries like India. WHO treats us like notice-board, the only one to post unreadable bulletins and paste updated statistics about our infected and our dead.

The second casualty in a post-Covid-19 world should be the arms industry. Nothing has exposed the futility of global defence expenditure as this pandemic or, tangentially, the ignorance of certain First World leaders. "God created man in His image and likeness," said Twain explained, "so that Americans would learn geography."

In this viral maelstrom, it is useful to step outside history. Evolutionary biologist Dr Richard Dawkins tells us that life on earth evolved "some 10 billion years after the universe evolved out of literally nothing. By its very nature, evolution, he said, never looks to the future. Man, however, needs to, for the survival of his species. More important than human survival, though, is the restoration of balance between us and fellow occupants of this achingly beautiful world. Working should be sounds, not a season."

By arrangement with Dawn

SHORT TAKES

SA cricketers are Covid-19 negative

Johannesburg: All the South African players, who returned from their incomplete ODI tour of India, were found to be symptom-free of coronavirus and those who underwent tests returned negative, according to the team's chief medical officer Dr Shuaib Manjra.

The Proteas, who returned from India on March 18, completed a 14-day period of self-isolation on Thursday, but will remain in lockdown for the next two weeks just like the rest of the country.

"All the players were symptom-free and those who opted to perform the tests returned negative results," Manjra was quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo.

The first match in Dharamsala on March 12 was washed out while the second and third games to be played in Lucknow and Kolkata — on March 15 and 18 respectively — were called off indefinitely. South is still in the midst of a 21-day nationwide lockdown. — PTI

Bengaluru 10K to held in September

Bengaluru: The 13th edition of Tata Consulting Services World 10K Bengaluru will take place on September 13, the race promoters said on Friday. The Gold Label race was originally scheduled for May 17 but had to be postponed due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Online registrations for the rescheduled event will start from July 2. Race Director Hugh McLeod said, "Pushing the race date four months forward allows plans to be made with confidence for a race that is likely to be more competitive than ever." The registration of those runners who have already applied for the 2020 edition, will be automatically transferred to the new race date, without any payment. Registered runners who choose not to take part in the rescheduled event will be able to surrender their entry to Procam International on May 12-29. — PTI

WWE blockbusters are back on box

Mumbai: With the lockdown in force, Sony Pictures Sports Network (SPSN) have announced the launch of a new primetime programming slot, WWE Blockbusters at 8 pm daily on Sony TEN 1 and TEN 3 channels to celebrate some of the most iconic matches in WWE history, honouring WWE legends and showing the current WWE superstars representing flagship brands — RAW, SmackDown and NXT. Airing seven days a week, WWE Blockbusters @ 8:00 pm will showcase the best of classic and current in-ring action, invoking a sense of nostalgia and anticipation among fans of all ages through iconic moments throughout WWE history. WWE Blockbusters will feature action-packed programming from WWE's archives including countdown shows, WWE Network Originals and documentaries.

ACT AGAINST ATTACKERS, BHUTIA TO PM

New Delhi: Former India football captain Bhupinder Singh Butia on Friday urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to punish the people who had attacked a team of healthcare workers in Indore. Two women doctors were injured on Wednesday when a five-member team of health officials was pelted with stones by a mob in Taatpatti Bakhali area, in a world where a request to @narendramodi to take strict action against the attackers who struck the doctors on the frontlines of the Covid-19 in Indore," Butia wrote in a letter in his Twitter handle. The police on Thursday arrested seven persons for the alleged attack. "Healthcare workers are especially to be appreciated and looked after first, as they are most vulnerable to infection and becoming the carrier. They should be provided with proper PPE and masks all over India," Butia said. — PTI

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WIMBLEDON ACTION

Wimbledon chief fears no more tennis this year

London, April 3: Wimbledon chief Richard Lewis admitted that he feared the remainder of the 2020 tennis season could be wiped out. Tennis has been in lockdown since early last month and is not scheduled to return until July 13, the earliest following the cancellation of Wimbledon.



Courts are covered at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club at Wimbledon in London.

Fifa chief not sure of next kick

Asuncion (Paraguay), April 3: FIFA boss Gianni Infantino admitted that "nobody knows" when football can resume around the world, and that when it returned it was "going to be different."

He said that because of the deadly coronavirus pandemic, for once football "is not the most important thing."

Infantino said that "these are times of respect for those who suffer and for those who are helping."

He further said that the revision of the qualifications systems will be finalised as quickly as possible to give certainty to athletes and NOCs. He aim to finalise the adapted qualifications systems by mid-April, with the details on specific events to follow when available."

OLYMPIC GAMES

Tokyo qualifying date set, June 29

Lausanne, April 3: The International Olympic Committee has set June 29, 2021 as the new deadline for the qualification period of the Tokyo Olympics, which has been rescheduled to 2021 in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic.

In a communication to all National Olympic Committee (NOC) Presidents, Secretary Generals and Chief de Missions, IOC Director of Solidarity and NOC relations, James McLeod has intimated the revised qualification principles of Tokyo Olympics 2020.

CORONA CONTRIBUTION

IOA donates ₹71 lakh to PM fund

New Delhi, April 3: The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has helped raise ₹71 lakh through donations from its state affiliates and National Sports Federations (NSF) as contribution towards the country's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.



See Krishna Priya

Sportspersons asked to join fight

New Delhi, April 3: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday discussed the growing threat of the Covid-19 pandemic with India's top sportspersons, including cricket icon Virat Kohli and star shuttler P. V. Sindhu, urging them to support awareness campaigns on social distancing.

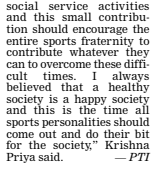
He (PM Modi) highlighted and reaffirmed my belief that we should not let our guard down after the 14th of April, & how we manage that period will be very critical.

Like everyone else, Tendulkar is also practising social distancing and said he now folds his hands to say 'Namaste' instead of shaking hands.

Modi also spoke about that period will be very critical. "I also suggested that as much as possible, I will use our way of greeting - saying 'Namaste' instead of shaking hands, even after we overcome this pandemic," he said.

Hyderabad shuttler Kedaravalli contributed ₹5 lakh towards PM fund

Hyderabad's international shuttler Kedaravalli Sree Krishna Priya donated ₹5 lakh on Friday to the Telangana Chief Minister's relief fund for the fight against Covid-19.



See Krishna Priya

Be united, Kohli appeals to India

New Delhi, April 3: India captain Virat Kohli said dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic has been "difficult and intense" and urged people to show a "sense of unity" in the country's battle against the unprecedented health crisis.

"We are trying to get through this, but it has been difficult, intense," Kohli said on the ongoing lockdown during an Instagram live session with former England star Kevin Pietersen.

"Our response has been quite good apart from a few people who haven't respected the guidelines laid out. If you are addressing a larger issue there needs to be a sense of unity. I think 80 per cent here have taken it on board but those 20 per cent can still be a huge issue," he said.

"The spike is immense going into week three and if four so I hope people just get some sense into them. There needs to be unity in dealing with this issue," he said.

GAMES VILLAGE TO BE USED AS A HOSPITAL

Tokyo, April 3: The under-construction Athletes Village for the Tokyo Olympics could be used as a temporary hospital for coronavirus patients. Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike has been talking about the possibility of occupying the massive development on Tokyo Bay which is to house up to 10,000 Olympic and 4,400 Paralympic athletes and staff during the games.

The complex, which will eventually include 24 buildings, is expected to remain unoccupied with the Olympics delayed for 16 months. Koike said the Athletes Village was "one of the options, but the village is not finished yet."

Shuttlers go online for tips to stay fit during lockdown

New Delhi, April 3: With courts out of bound due to the lockdown to contain the Covid-19 pandemic, Indian badminton has gone online with chief national coach Pullela Gopichand handing out tips through videos to the country's top shuttlers.

"It is a generic program that it is tuned in such a way that it caters to the people (Olympic bound) who are important," explained the 46-year-old, who is waiting for his three-week isolation to be over on Saturday.

"The men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, who were assured of a place in the Olympics, is also part of the group which is following the tips."

"I am very interested and different fitness programs, so it is fun. Almost everyone is doing Sitkhi (Reddy), Ashwini (Ponnappa), Sai (B. Sai Praneth), Guru (RMV) Gurusaidutt, Kishan (Prannoy) and HS) Prannoy," Satwik said.

However, Gopichand assured that players will get at least six weeks to prepare for tournaments once there is resumption. "We don't know when the badminton circuit will start, but whenever it starts, they will give you 6-8 weeks of headstart," he said, adding "Badminton will probably start in July-August. So when they start in July or August, we will be back to being match ready. It might be challenging once BWF restarts the international calendar."