



ZEEZEE WARRIORS

Dear Reader,

The national lockdown to fight the coronavirus has disrupted production and distribution of *The Sunday Express*. This has compelled us to reduce page count. To ensure that you do not miss out on the special weekend package, *Eye*, The Sunday Express Magazine, is being integrated into the main edition.

SUNDAY STORY PAGE 8



The Recovered

Hidden behind grim statistics of death, COVID-19 cases is another heartwarming number: those who recovered. Their stories

THE WORLD PAGE 10

Highest 1-day toll in US

Americans should wear face masks while outside, recommends Trump — then he says he won't



200 OF 500 DISTRICTS HIT, KEY GOAL TO BRING GOVERNANCE BACK ON TRACK

Easing lockdown, how, when, where: Ministers explore steps post-April 14

CORONA COUNT

3072 CASES 75 DEATHS

213 RECOVERED

79,950 samples have been tested as on April 4, 2020

RAVISH TIWARI
NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

AN INFORMAL group of Union Ministers has been brainstorming on the issues arising out of the nationwide lockdown to counter the coronavirus outbreak and exploring the possible next steps and options after the 21-day period ends April 14.

"This (nationwide lockdown) cannot continue for an indefinitely long period. But it also doesn't appear advisable to lift it from everywhere in one go," said a source aware of the deliberations in the informal group headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

The committee met for the third time on Friday and is likely to meet early next week again. It is learnt that the group may be in a position to make up its mind only after looking at the corona numbers — rate of growth of new cases, extent of the spread — by April 10.

More so, when currently, positive cases have been reported from little over 200 of the over 700 districts across the country.

"Given that there could be asymptomatic cases of COVID-19 in areas/hotspots and positive cases, these will have to be dealt with differently. Rural areas will have to be dealt with separately. Smaller shops need a different response than what needs to be done for malls or shopping complexes," said the source.

"For example, large shopping malls could pose a challenge in

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At Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi, Sunday, after 108 medical staff were quarantined. Praveen Khanna

Use homemade mask when stepping out: Govt

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

AS THE number of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases climbed to 3,072 and the toll rose to 75 on Saturday, the Health Ministry, for the first time, advised use of "homemade face cover" for those stepping out of their houses, saying this would "help in protecting the community at large".

In the US too, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) revised the earlier stand and recommended "the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus".

WHO TESTED POSITIVE

AGE GROUP	CASES (IN %)
0-20 years	8.61
21-40 years	41.88
41-60 years	32.82
Above 60 years	16.69

Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The World Health Organisation (WHO), however, has said there is no evidence that covering the face has any "self-protection paradigm".

Meanwhile, of the total

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After two test positive at Ganga Ram hospital, 108 staff quarantined

ASTHA SAXENA
NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

DELHI'S SIR Ganga Ram Hospital has quarantined 108 staff members, including 20 doctors and 75 nurses, after they came in contact with two patients who were brought to the hospital with no coronavirus symptoms, but later tested positive for the disease. While 85 people have been sent to home quarantine, 23 have been quarantined at the hospital's isolation ward.

Apart from the doctors and

nurses, nine ward boys, three technicians and a pantry staffer have been quarantined.

The two patients with critical illnesses were admitted to the hospital's ICU last week. "They did not have any symptoms of COVID-19 when they were admitted. But they later developed respiratory symptoms and were checked for COVID-19 as per ICMR protocols. Since then, staff associated with the patients have been quarantined," said Dr D S Rana, chairman (Board of Management), Sir Ganga Ram Hospital.

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Modi, Trump: Use India-US partnership to jointly fight COVID-19

SHUBHAJIT ROY
NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi Saturday said he had an extensive discussion on the COVID-19 crisis with US President Donald Trump over the phone.

Stating it was "a good discussion", the Prime Minister said in a tweet, "Had an extensive telephone conversation with President @realDonaldTrump. We had a good discussion, and agreed to deploy the full strength of the India-US partnership to fight COVID-19." The two also discussed the impact of the pandemic on the global well-being and economy, the PMO said in a statement.

"Stressing the special relationship between the two countries, the Prime Minister reiterated India's solidarity with the USA in overcoming this global crisis together. The two leaders agreed to deploy the full strength of the India-US partnership to resolutely and effectively combat COVID-19," the statement said.

Modi and Trump exchanged notes on the steps taken in each country for mitigating the health and economic impacts of the pandemic. "The two leaders also touched upon the significance of practices such as Yoga and Ayurveda (traditional Indian herbal medicine practice) for ensuring physical and mental well-being in these difficult times," the statement said. They agreed their officials would remain in close touch.

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Do the light thing!



For 9-min lights-off today, power sector switched on high alert

PM call only for lights at home, not street lights or appliances: Ministry

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

THE NINE-MINUTE 'lights-off' exercise scheduled for Sunday evening, as per Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to people across the country, has forced the grid operator to initiate an elaborate set of contingency measures to avert any crisis caused by the sudden massive load reduction quickly followed by a sharp increase.

These measures include tapering thermal output and increasing generation from hydro and gas stations to enable ramping up and down of power during the episode, calling for all personnel to be present on duty across the country and even requisitioning for "black start facilities" to be kept active as a con-

EXPLAINED Grid not likely to trip

LIGHTING, WHICH is part of the domestic load, accounts for under 10 per cent of the all-India load. If lighting load goes off, it is unlikely to have a major impact on the grid frequency in normal times. While grid frequency is expected to swing, the possibility of tripping is remote.

tingency measure. This refers to the set of restoration procedures at regional load despatch centres alluding to the possibility of

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Almost 33% cases traced to Tablighi meet, Govt says one slip can be big

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

OVER 33 per cent of all COVID-19 cases in the country are linked to the gathering of the Tablighi Jamaat at Nizamuddin in Delhi last month.

So far, 1,023 of the 3,072 positive cases in India have been traced to that one congregation. The cases have come from 17 states and Union Territories — Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Assam, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary



At Ghaziabad hospital where some who were at Markaz event are admitted. PTI

in the Ministry of Health, said Saturday, "About 30 per cent of all our cases have been linked to this one incident. For us, it is a

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ACROSS STATES, 107 MORE CASES WITH TABLIGHI LINK PAGE 6

Won't spare those spreading fake news, communal messages on virus: Uddhav

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, APRIL 4

TWO DAYS after BJP president J P Nadda urged his party leaders to refrain from giving any communal colour to the COVID-19 outbreak, Shiv Sena leader and Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray warned that strict legal action would be taken against people spreading "fake news" and "communal hatred" over the pandemic.

"Like coronavirus, there is an-



'Don't do it even for fun'

other virus that is emerging, which is creating a rift in the society — it is the virus of fake news

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BMC SCRIPTS FIGHTBACK PAGE 5

INSIDE



INDIAN RAILWAYS DESIGNS ITS OWN VENTILATOR

CORONA WARRIORS: THE PRICE THEY PAY TO KEEP VIRUS AWAY PAGE 5, 6

In quarantined Bengal village, fear of stigma as big as that of corona

RAVISH BHATTACHARYA & JOY PRAKASH DAS
NIJAMPUR, APRIL 4

POLICEMEN AND local guards man the entry and exit points of Nijampur, a village 130 km from Kolkata. A log and wooden benches block the breadth of the thin road that snakes its way through the village. A bamboo bridge over the Kansai tributary, the only other way out, has been severed by residents of Gobindopur across the waters. Ever since March 31, when a



Policemen and villagers at Nijampur village in West Midnapore district. Partha Paul

goldsmith back from Mumbai and his father tested positive, Nijampur in Daspur 1 block of West Midnapore has been under quarantine. All its 250 families have been ordered indoors.

No one gets in, no one gets out. The only people visible are village resource persons and an auxiliary nurse midwife (ANM) who make a team of nine. Wearing personal protective equipment, they have been going door-to-door, looking for anyone with symptoms of COVID-19.

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Amid yoga, TV and chai, group at Varanasi station asks: Will trains take us home?

AVISHEK G DASTIDAR
NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

WHAT DO YOU do when you are at a railway station, waiting for a train?

On Sunday, a group of 50 passengers from various parts of India will perform yoga together in the waiting hall of Varanasi railway station. After that, they will watch the re-run of *Ramayana* on Doordarshan on a 55-inch TV installed especially for them. After *Ramayana*, there will be lunch.

These passengers have been waiting for their trains since

Sunday, March 22, when the government observed Janata Curfew. The "curfew" ended, but their wait for a train did not.

The 21-day lockdown happened, the city shut down, and the railway station became their home.

Caught in this unintended consequence of the lockdown are daily-wage labourers, farmers, traders, professionals and pilgrims to the Kashi Vishwanath Temple from such far-flung places as Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat. There are women, children, sen-

ior citizens — all waiting for that one elusive object: a train.

"There is nothing to do. In the beginning, I used to go out of the station to look for some other ways to go home. But now, we just wait," says Manoj Shinde, part of a group of 11 daily-wage labourers from a village near Aurangabad, Maharashtra.

Shinde and group did some work around Patna for a few days and were due to return home. The Janata Curfew was still 24 hours away. So from Patna station, the local authorities got them to board a train, which, they said, was going to Maharashtra.



The group of 50, from Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra and other states, has been stuck since March 22

"Around 3 in the night, the train stopped at Mughalsarai. We were told that the train has been terminated here because of the Janata Curfew. We walked to the Varanasi station after that," he says.

It took the railway authorities just about a day to realise what had just happened. On Sunday, even as the curfew was on, the government suspended all train services till March 31.

Officials soon realised that there was a group of some hundred people waiting at the Varanasi station. "They were scattered across the station. We quickly got them to the large

waiting hall with benches and all. Then we formed a plan," says Anand Mohan, the station director, whose job, apart from running the station during the lockdown, has also been to take care of this group of stranded.

A couple of days later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the 21-day lockdown. The station authorities realised that these people were now here for the long haul.

"Slowly, with coordination with state authorities, we started sending some people home, the ones who lived within distances manageable by taxis. But finally, a group of 50 remained — they

were some 1,500-2,000 km away from their homes. We decided to take care of them as best as we could," he says.

The yoga class and TV are new additions to their daily routine, starting Sunday. "...so that people have something to do and also stay fit," Mohan says.

The station officials arrange food. There is tea a few times of the day. Children play, people are on phones, the senior citizens are seen praying daily. Fights and laughter break out in equal measure, people sing songs, play music on phones, clothes are washed and put to dry every day.

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