# THE () UTBREAK NATION





**Debasree Chaudhuri** 

### Minister booked for flouting norms

Kolkata: Union Minister of State for Women & Child Development Debasree Chaudhuri was booked on Saturday for allegedly flouting social distancing norms. An FIR was lodged after Raiganj municipality chairman Sandip Biswas filed a complaint against the Lok Sabha MP. According to the FIR, Chaudhuri allegedly distributed face masks along with other BJP party workers in Raiganj police station area. Sources said Chaudhuri had travelled from Delhi to Kolkata on March 23 and had been under home quarantine. However, she violated quarantine rules on the night of March 31, when she travelled from Kolkata to Raigani where she staved at her rented accommodation. On Thursday, she took part in an "awareness campaign" against coronavirus and distributed masks in Raiganj. Local politicians, including Raiganj MLA Mohit Sengupta, filed complaints against Chaudhuri with the District Magistrate and an inquiry was initiated. Chaudhuri allegedly prevented health officials from putting up quarantine notice outside her house, sources said. Denying the al-

### **GITAM** donates to CM relief fund

legations, Chaudhuri said, "If

this notice was put up out-

side my house, others in this

flat would face difficulties."

New Delhi: M Sri Bharat, President of the Gandhi Institute of Technology Management, donated Rs 25 lakh to the Telangana CM's Relief Fund on Saturday. Sri Bharat met Telangana minister KT Rama Rao and handed over the cheque in the presence of Medak MP Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, GITAM Hyderabad Pro V-C N Siva Prasad and resident director DVVSR Varma, according to a statement. **ENS** 

#### FOURTH CASE IN DHARAVI, BMC SCREENING CLINICS OPEN TODAY

# Ramping beds to tests, BMC scripts COVID fightback

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** MUMBAI, APRIL 4

WITH ASIA's largest slum Dharavi recording its fourth COVID-19 case Saturday, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has started screening clinics in containment zones and densely populated areas in Mumbai. Ten such facilities began operations on Sunday.

The move follows a rise in cases in hotspots, especially near slum pockets. And is the latest step in the BMC's pushback from conducting the most number of tests in any city (over 9,500) to ramping up isolationbed capacity to 2,689 and quarantine to 1,119.

With Mumbai recording 330 positive cases nearly two weeks into the nationwide lockdown, the Corporation has deployed 200 teams with over 3,100 staff for door-to-door tracking.

This push is significant because any turnaround in the city will be key to whatever exit strategy that Maharashtra is looking at

**AVISHEK G DASTIDAR** 

WITHIN A week of receiving in-

structions from the government

about "exploring the possibility"

of making ventilators, the

Railways' Rail Coach Factory

(RCF) in Kapurthala on Saturday

came out with a prototype that

has an original design and will

cost a fraction of what regular

by a PSU, the prototype named

Jeevan will now go for final test-

ing at the Indian Council of

Medical Research (ICMR) before

being put to production to aid

the country's fight against

COVID-19, the Railway Ministry

decided Saturday. In-house

medical professionals of the pro-

duction unit have tested the unit

10,000 without the compressor.

Overall, the cost will still be a

fraction of what regular ventila-

tors available in the market cost,"

Ravinder Gupta, general man-

ager of the RCF and also the chief

"The cost will be under Rs

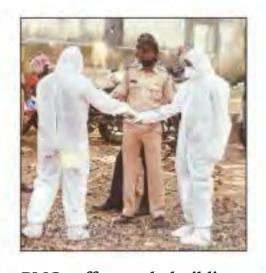
and given it a go-ahead.

The first such breakthrough

NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

ventilators cost.

**ICMR TO TEST PROTOTYPE** 



BMC staffers seal a building at Worli police camp. Prashant

after the 21-day lockdown period. The state has conducted 12.859 tests so far, with 635 positive cases.

With the country's biggest and busiest international airport, Mumbai's first cases showed up on March 11 — an elderly couple from Dubai. BMC officials said that since then, 7,000 people have been put in home quarantine, with 2,133 having completed their 14-day isolation period.

With over 200 designated containment zones, and

The prototype has been named Jeevan. RCF Kapurthala

#### MAXIMUM CITY, **MAXIMUM TESTING** Mumbai:

3,300
5,061
3,694
3,684
3,468

densely packed areas like Worli, Malad, Chembur and Ghatkopar seeing a rise in cases, each of the BMC's new screening clinics will have a doctor and nurse who will collect swab samples to be sent to Sion Hospital for testing.

Officials said three municipal zones will have two clinics each, with one each in the remaining four zones.

"Since zones 2, 4 and 5 have more than 15 cases of COVID-19 each, it was decided to set up one additional screening clinic there. The medical officer of the health department in each ward will or-

ganise a doctor and a nurse for the clinic while other logistics like PPE for staff will be arranged by assistant commissioners of each ward. The collection of swabs will be facilitated by Dr Sujata Baveja of Sion hospital and her team. The test samples will be transported by municipal vehicles to hospital," a BMC official said.

Officials said these clinics will be operational from 9 am to 1 pm, and health officers in charge will ensure that social distancing norms are followed.

Five hospitals, meanwhile, have been dedicated for symptomatic patients: Kasturba, Saifee, St George, Seven Hills and Nanavati. And seven others for non-symptomatic positive cases. Official data shows 28 per cent occupancy in isolation and 18 per cent in quarantine beds.

Referring to the beds available, a BMC official said: "This will help in efficient handling of elderly patients with co-morbidity who are positive for coronavirus and admitted in the five dedicated hospitals."

has been designed by the RCF

duction units that manufactures

the German-design Linke

Hoffman Busche coaches, RCF

first looked within to source ma-

terials to start with. So the body

is taken from a coach, the argon

flow meter is from a laser weld-

ing machine and the compres-

sor is from an air cooler. "If you

open the box, it's a complex ma-

chine, but all under Rs 10,000,"

two parts from vendors in Delhi

and Noida. It sourced the valve

from the Indian arm of Japanese

engineering firm SMC

Corporation based in Noida and

the Contribution Controller from

A Paul based in Okhla. Amid the

lockdown, RCF used "emergency

transit" services to get the two

components by road and train.

are preparing the technical doc-

uments for perusal of the ICMR.

By next week, the prototype

will be sent there for testing as

per instructions of the Railway

The designers and engineers

The RCF needed to source

Gupta said.

Board.

One of India's premier pro-

# **Maharashtra considers** relaxing curbs after Apr 14

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** MUMBAI. APRIL 4

MAHARASHTRA HEALTH Minister Rajesh Tope on Saturday said that the state government was considering some relaxations in the ongoing lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19 after April 14, when the nationwide lockdown comes to an end.

Earlier in the day, he had said the state government may not lift the lockdown on April 14 if people did not observe discipline and the number of COVID-19 cases kept rising.

Tope said the relaxations could take place in a phased manner and would be determined by the willingness of citizens to follow social distancing protocols and rules laid down by the state government.

"People feel what will happen post April 14. The CM has just now said that post April 14



**Health Minister Rajesh Tope** 

we are considering if some form of relaxation can be given in phases. That is possible only if we follow discipline," Tope

Earlier, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said the decision to relax the lockdown would depend on how people conformed to the state directive of maintaining social distancing and staying indoors.

"The lockdown will end on April 14 and what is to be done afterwards depends on the people and how strictly people follow the government directives,' Thackeray said while addressing the state through social media

platforms. Tope further said that 50 patients in the state had recovered from the infection. He also said that over 2.400 teams of health workers were now operating in containment zones set up across

the state. He said that there was no dearth of equipment for medical professionals and the state currently had 25,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) available, 2.5 lakh N95 masks and 25 lakh triple layered masks. He also said that 1,500 ventilators were available in government hospitals and another 2,000 ventilators would be available with

private hospitals that are being

empanelled.

# Gehlot forms task forces to draw up lockdown exit strategy

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** JAIPUR, APRIL 4

RAJASTHAN CHIEF Minister Ashok Gehlot has constituted two task forces for suggestions on withdrawing the lockdown in a phased manner and to bring the state back on track.

Orders in this regard were issued Friday. Gehlot formed these task forces after an appeal by Prime Minister Narendra Mod during a video conference with Chief Ministers on Thursday.

Additional Chief Secretary Home, Rajeeva Swarup will head the first task force that has 12 officers and experts. The Home Department will be the administrative department for the task force. Gehlot formed the second task force under the chairmanship of Arvind Mayaram, the Chief Minister's Economic Advisor and Deputy Chairman of the Rajasthan Transformation Council. The Planning Department will be the administrative department of

make a strategy for improving the economy.

# Karnataka considers phased withdrawal of corona lockdown Rly unit first PSU to make ventilator

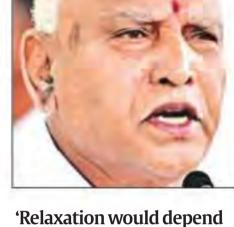
**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** BENGALURU, APRIL 4

THE KARNATAKA government is considering a phased withdrawal of the lockdown in the state, senior minister S Suresh Kumar said on Saturday, following a meeting with Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa and BJP legislators.

Speaking at a briefing on the COVID-19 situation, Kumar said, "After April 14, we will examine the situation and decide on removal of lockdown in stages. Some modalities on phased manner of relaxing of the situation are being worked out at the state level. At the national level, a Central committee under (Defence Minister) Rajnath Singh is looking at the situation."

On Friday, Yediyurappa had said that relaxation of the lockdown would be subject to the extent to which people in the state adhere to the norms over the next 10 days.

Meanwhile, Karnataka reported its fourth coronavirus-related death on Saturday, with a 75-year-old man succumbing to lung failure within a day of ad-



on adherance of norms'

mission to a government facility in Bagalkote.

Health authorities are yet to ascertain the source of the infection, and are looking to see if the infection occurred after he was visited by his son from Bengaluru. "He fell ill two days ago and went to a local Ayurveda doctor and then to two private hospitals. After doubts on Friday, he was sent to a designated hospital and died in the night. He was a heart patient and had a stent implant, high uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension. When he came to the hospital one lung was damaged," Kumar said.

this task force. The first task force will give suggestions on the lockdown, while the second task force will

# Lokpal member tests positive for virus, admitted to AIIMS trauma centre

designer of the machine, told *The* 

Sunday Express. Gupta is a 1984-

batch Mechanical Engineering

gency ventilator. Production is

easy and can be done with lo-

cally sourced components," he

compressed air container to

work the Ambu bag with air

without any moving parts like

"It can be used as an emer-

The heart of the device is the

office of the Railways.

**ASTHA SAXENA** NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

A RETIRED Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh High Court and presently a member of Lokpal, Ajay Kumar Tripathi, has been admitted to AIIMS trauma centre after he was tested positive for Covid-19. **Justice Tripathi was admitted** 

to AIIMS main hospital on Friday night and was later shifted to the

A senior doctor said they are tracing his family members to understand the source of transmission

trauma centre.

A senior doctor from the trauma centre said, "We are monitoring his health condi-

tions. We are tracing his family members to understand the source of transmission. He had tested positive for COVID-19 when brought to the hospital."

servo motor or piston or link

mechanism. "It is very silent.

And it is not reverse engineering.

This is an original design from

of 10 railway engineers and a

group of medical professionals.

The intellectual property rights

relating to the ventilator belong

based controller and the circuit

It has a microprocessor-

Behind the machine is a team

scratch," he said.

to the RCF.

Two patients confirmed with the virus have so far been admitted to AIIMS trauma centre.

The state Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme cell is tracing Justice Tripathi's contacts. Sources said his family members have been quarantined in their native state.

**DEEP MUKHERJEE** 

JAIPUR, APRIL 4

THE FATHER of a newborn on Saturday alleged that doctors at the government hospital in Rajasthan's Bharatpur district turned them away after learning that they are Muslims and referred the case to Jaipur.

Irfan Khan. 34. said his wife delivered in the ambulance on way to laipur, but the newborn died even

as the staff at Bharatpur's RBM Jenana Hospital allegedly drove them away a second time when they returned in the ambulance.

Delivered in ambulance, newborn dies, father

says hospital drove them off for being Muslim

Subhash Garg, Minister of State for Medical Education and MLA from Bharatpur, denied that the family was asked to go to Jaipur because they are Muslims and said an inquiry has been ordered into the allegation.

The Sunday Express reached out to Dr Rachna Narayan, principal of the medical college in Bharatpur which has jurisdiction over the hospital, but she refused to comment and said the Medical **Education Department Secretary** is the right person to comment.

Medical Education Secretary

Vaibhav Galriya said an inquiry has been ordered. Khan said that he suspects the staff attending on her expectant wife thought they were con-

nected to the Tablighi Jamaat. Vishvendra Singh, MLA from Deeg-Kumher constituency in Bharatpur and a minister, called it a "shameful" incident. In successive tweets, Singh wrote: "Pregnant Muslim Woman was refused medical attention...& was told to go to Jaipur given her religion.... Shameful.... The (Tablighi) jamaat most certainly has been hazardous...however, it does not mean citizens of Islamic faith are treated the way a pregnant lady was handled...'

> **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

meditation, kung fu, reading

the law on bio-weaponisation

and powers of the International

Court of Justice, and the Rome

Statutes. He has written two

policy briefs, four articles, fin-

ished Jairam Ramesh's book on

V R Krishna Menon and

William Dalrymple's The

Anarchy, and is now reading

Crisis Point by US Senators Trent

Lott and Tom Daschle and Hein

G Kiessling's Faith, Unity,

## LOCALISED, QUIETER ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES

# Under lockdown, BJP leaders focus on community kitchens, reaching rations

**LIZ MATHEW** NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

IN THE middle of a nationwide lockdown, BIP elected representatives and senior leaders, who otherwise criss-cross states on organisational work, are coordinating community kitchens and distribution of ration to the poor, and monitoring the pandemic over telephone and through conference calls and videoconferencing.

Soon after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Janata Curfew on March 22, BJP president J P Nadda and general secretary (organisation) B L Santosh decided to shape and guide the party's course of action at least for a month.

Days later, each BJP officebearer and MP makes an average 80-90 phone calls each day, attend at least four video conferences and spends 10-12 hours in

coordinating various activities, party leaders told The Indian Express.

BIP general secretary P Muralidhar Rao told *The Indian* Express that all work of distributing food is done while maintaining social distancing. "There could be some minor aberrations to lockdown, but no compromise on social distancing," he said.

While Rao is coordinating party's community activities in the southern states, especially in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, fellow BIP general-secretary Anil Jain keeps track of these activities in Haryana and Chhattisgarh. For Jain, the day starts early with voga and puja, followed by telephone calls and video-conferencing with state ministers and district in-charges. "We collect daily reports from them and submit it to the central office. There is a meeting of general-secretaries with Nadda-ji at 7 pm every day on Skype," he said.

With instructions to launch a 'mask movement', Jain has outsourced making of these masks to an NGO run by his wife - they get clean old clothes, disinfect them and stitch masks. Being a doctor, he says such masks are not foolproof but they "also help".

In Bihar, where Assembly polls are due later this year, state BJP chief Sanjay Jaiswal is busy with community activities such as creating a helpline number for workers employed outside Bihar and returning during after the lockdown. "The helpline has already helped around 4,200 people in the last five days. We reach help and follow up on each call," he said.

Jaiswal, a heart surgeon, and his gynecologist-wife pack food for at least 100 people each day and distribute it at the local government hospital. They have also brought together a group of doctors from private hospitals for a 24-hour medical service cell. Jaiswal said he treats at least 8-10



Lok Sabha MP and Bihar's BJP state unit chief Sanjay Jaiswal doing echocardiography of a patient.

patients a day during the break. In Bhubaneswar, BJP vicepresident Baijavant Panda said he works 12-14 hours a day, as he coordinates party activities in Jharkhand. "I hold video-conferening every day with Union ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and

Pratap Chandra Sarangi; the BJP state president and core group members to take stock of the activities..." Besides running community

kitchen for at least 650 people and distributing dry rations, BIP MP from Ayodhya Lallu Singh

ensures that 20 kg gram is provided to monkeys at different places in Avodhva. His niece makes home-made hand sanitiser using spirit, aloe vera, neem leaves and camphor, and party workers distribute them among villagers. Singh's day starts with a puja and he watches *Ramayan* on TV with family members before meeting people at 11 am.

The leaders said despite the lockdown and the stay-at-home policy, they hardly get time to pursue any hobby. "I usually finish a book every week, but I just could finish what I was reading -10% Less Democracy: Why You Should Trust Elites a Little More and the Masses a Little Less (Garett Iones) — because there is so much to do," Panda said.

Jain has started Sixteen Stormy Days: The Story of the First Amendment of the Constitution of *India* by Tripurdaman Singh.

> **FULL REPORT ON** www.indianexpress.com

### Reading to Bollywood songs: what Cong leaders are doing ing his constituency, writing,

**MANOJ CG** NEW DELHI, APRIL 4

RAIYA SABHA MP and Congress leader Abhishek Singhvi has turned a singer during the lockdown. He has sung some old Bollywood numbers and uploaded them on his YouTube channel. The songs are for various moods and are titled "romance during corona", "the truth of life: which corona reminds us of", "camaraderie with corona or challenge to it?". "ephemerality of life...of which corona also reminds us", and "the Sargam of life and the

sound of silence during corona". Lok Sabha MP Manish Tewari is focusing on monitor-

*Discipline: The ISI of Pakistan.* Lok Sabha MP Shashi Tharoor is devoting more time

to exercising, spending close to an hour and a half on keeping himself fit. He spends six to eight hours on COVID-related interventions for his constituency.