on Sunday



Four militants killed, building damaged in south Kashmir's Kulgam



Uddhav warns of action against those spreading divisive messages



Shah Rukh Khan offers his office for BMC

Pro-European centrist Keir Starmer is the new leader of Labour party



number of active cases were

also reported from Maha-

rashtra at 551, followed by

Tamil Nadu with 476 and

Delhi with 431 of the total

As the number of cases conti-

nued to rise, the Indian

Council of Medical Research

(ICMR) issued an advisory to

start rapid antibody based

blood tests in areas reporting

clusters and in large migra-

3,196 cases.

Quick results

page 8



quarantine facility

Under threat

confirmed COVID-19 cases reveals that a majority belong to the 21-40 age group in India

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59 fresh COVID-19

cases in the Capital Fifty-nine new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi on Saturday, taking the total number to 445. No death was reported. Of the 59 cases, 42 are from the Tablighi Jamaat centre in Nizamuddin

108 Ganga Ram Hospital

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

staff placed in quarantine NEW DELHI One hundred and eight staff of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, including doctors and nurses, have been quarantined after they came in contact with two patients at the hospital who later tested positive for COVID-19.

MAGAZINE ▶ 8 PAGES **CLASSIFIEDS** ▶ PAGE 4

CITY ▶ PAGE 3

42% of patients between 21 & 40 years

Death toll rises to 75 in India with 2,904 cases, ICMR gives nod for rapid, antibody-based testing

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

About 42% of those confirmed positive for COVID-19 in India are between the ages of 21-40 years old, the Union Health Ministry said on Saturday, for the first time throwing light on the demography of the disease in India. Only 17% of those testing positive were over 60.

COVID-19

By comparison, data from the U.S. Centres for Disease Control said 29% of those affected were in the 20-44 age group and 32% were above 60. India recorded 2,904 cases and 75 deaths as on Saturday compared to the 2,79,355 cases and 7,451 deaths in the United States.

However, Joint Secretary

in the Health Ministry Lav Agarwal, who shared the data with the media, did not provide any age-specific analysis on mortality in the country, only saying that most of those who succumbed to the disease were "aged" and also had underly-

Saturday.

PTI

Celebrating their success: A patient who recovered

interacting with staff at a hospital in Vijayawada on

ing complications such as the diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Mr. Agarwal added that

9% of those testing positive were below 20 years. The Ministry said the number of new cases record-

ed nationwide between Fri-

day and Saturday was 601, with 58 critically ill in Kerala,

0-20 21-40 41-60 60+

Age groups

Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. The death toll from the outbreak, according to data from State Health Departments, rose to 103 with Maharashtra reporting the maxi-

mum at 32. The most

tion gatherings or evacuee centres. The results of such tests will be available in 15-30 minutes.

linked to last month's Tablighi Jamaat meet in Delhi.

The Health Ministry said

nearly 30% of the cases were

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6 MORE REPORTS ON ▶ PAGES 2, 3, 4,

PM chairs meet on **COVID-19 readiness**

He takes stock of nationwide facilities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday directed officials to ensure sufficient availability of all essential medical equipment such as personal protective equipment, masks, gloves and ventilators after reviewing India's preparedness to deal with COVID-19.

Presiding over a meeting of the various empowered groups set up to respond to the pandemic, he took stock of the availability of hospitals, isolation and quarantine facilities as well as disease surveillance, testing and critical care training, the Prime Minister's Office

said in a series of tweets. Last Sunday, the government had constituted 11 em-



empowered groups set up to respond to the pandemic.

powered groups to suggest measures to scale up health care facilities, put the economy back on track and mitigate problems faced by citizens as quickly as possible after the 21-day lockdown, which was imposed on March 25.

MODI TO BRIEF FLOOR LEADERS

Pak. vows to appeal against acquittal of Omar Sheikh

Verdict caused reservations: Qureshi

SUHASINI HAIDAR

Faced with strong criticism from the United States and a possible threat of India raising the case at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Pakistan on Saturday said the acquittal of Omar Ahmed Sheikh Saeed (Omar Sheikh) and three others for the murder of American journalist Daniel Pearl will

be appealed. On Thursday, the Sindh province court pronounced on Omar Sheikh's appeal of his 2002 conviction for the kidnapping and brutal murder of Pearl that year, saying the prosecution had tailed

to produce "strong unim-

Good news for

COVID-positive

doctor, wife

peachable corroborative

evidence" in the case. The U.S. State Department said the verdict was an "affront to victims of terror everywhere". Secretary of State Mike Pompeo tweeted that the U.S. would continue to demand justice for Pearl's murder. "This decision caused reservations," Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said on Saturday. The U.S.'s concerns were "natural", he noted. "The Sindh Home Department has decided to detain the accused for 90 days under the Public Safety Act," he said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

Ready for action



Taking precautions: Policemen in protective gear deployed at the Salem Government Hospital on the 11th day of the nationwide lockdown on Saturday. • E. LAKSHMI NARAYANAN

Inspector sets up community kitchen for poor

Officer and some RWA members took initiative after watching plight of migrants

JATIN ANAND

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI On March 27, inspector Su-A day after a resident docman Kumar, while on duty as tor and his pregnant wife night checking officer, intertested positive for COVID-19 cepted hundreds of migrant at AIIMS, Delhi, the couple workers braving the rain were blessed with a healthy while walking to their home towns in the dead of the baby boy on Friday. night. He tried his best to find The baby was delivered through C-section, said a shelter for them but could doctors at AIIMS. Sources not succeed given the appre-

said the isolation ward was hensions related to the novel converted into an operation coronavirus. Since then, the Sarita Vitheatre and a team of 10 doctors was deputed for har resident, who is posted as the delivery. This is the first inspector (investigation) at case in India of a COVID-19 the local police station, has set up a community kitchen patient delivering a child and so far there is no virus in his own neighbourhood, transmission to the baby. seeking to ensure that as ma-



Food from the Sarita Vihar community kitchen being distributed to the needy. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ny as 300 poor people do not

"Around 1 a.m., while patrolling, I saw hundreds of poor families walking in the rain with small children. I made several calls, knocked on several doors, including those of religious places, but those in charge, understandably, said nothing could be done right away. I could not stop the workers from marching on," said the officer.

That morning eight days

ago, the officer made calls to

the RWA members in his so-

ciety – Mrinal Singh, Vijay

their help. By 8 a.m., a team of three cooks was ready, hand-stoves, wheat flour, vegetables, fruits were arranged. Women in the area joined hands to prepare food and wrap it in paper packets at the community centre in Pocket-C, Sarita Vihar.

Kher, Ramprakash and Harish Bhargava – and sought

"I couldn't help those whom I met that night but. since that morning, we have been routinely providing food to anyone in need. We have distributed food at slum clusters such as Madanpur Khadar, Mohan industrial Jasola intersection among others," he said.

Grounding of planes affects IMD's weather data supply

Data relayed from aircraft on temperature and wind speed are used in dynamical models ЈАСОВ КОЅНҮ

The grounding of the country's civilian aircraft has strangled a key source of weather data that the India Meteorological Department

(IMD) uses for its forecasts. Officials, however, clarified that India's annual monsoon forecast system was on track, with the first forecast scheduled to be issued in mid-April.

Aircraft relay data about temperature and wind speed in the upper atmosphere to meteorological agencies the world over and this is used in the dynamical models, the ones which are run on super computers and relied on to

give weather forecasts three days, or even two weeks in "Inputs from aircraft are

models as they determine the initial conditions for these models," D.S. Pai, Chief Forecaster, IMD Pune, important for the dynamical told The Hindu.

From the skies: The inputs sent by aircraft are important as

they determine the initial conditions. • SHANKER CHAKRAVARTY

"However, for the monsoon forecast, which is a long-term forecast, this isn't significantly affected." Beginning mid-March, In-

dia began restricting incoming international flights into the country and by March 24 imposed a total shutdown on domestic air travel as well.

Traditional system This year, the IMD will likely rely on its traditional statistical forecast system - the workhorse, developed on the basis of historical data.

India had begun to move away from this system and started to rely on its dynamical models as it better captures developing changes in the atmosphere. However, India's dynamical models are still not as adept as meteorologists want them to be, for warning of a drought or extreme changes in monsoon rainfall. That, and limited data

from aircraft as well as a general decline in land-based information because of a shortage of manpower to send observations, are forcing the agency's hand. 'We need multiple observations from weather sta-

tions from all parts of the

country," said Madhavan Ra-

jeevan, Secretary, Ministry

of Earth Sciences (MoES).

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 6

Pandemic drives oncologists to tweak cancer treatments

They are switching patients to less aggressive therapies

JYOTI SHELAR

The COVID-19 outbreak has posed a unique challenge for oncology experts across the country – to balance the higher risk of exposure to the virus on account of the treatments and the risk of progression of cancer in their patients. To tackle this, oncologists are switching patients to less aggressive therapies, postponing surgeries where possible and opting to individualise the treatment

approach for each patient. Since February, when the SARS-CoV-2 virus had found its way to India, Tata Memo-

rial Hospital (TMH) in Mum-



The aim is to balance the risk

of exposure to the virus on

account of the treatments.

bai began decreasing the intensity of chemotherapy in cases where it was possible. "Intensive cancer therapies result in decreased blood count, more immunosuppression and often require

blood platelet transfusions,"

said medical oncologist Shripad Banavali of TMH. "These patients are thus at high risk of catching the infection," he noted.

Data from China

Dr. Banavali, also the director of academics at the centre, said they relied on data from China, which showed a high mortality rate due to COVID-19 in cancer patients on active treatment. "We don't know if it will affect the cancer outcome in the long run. But we have to

look at what is more harmful

in the present scenario."

Bhilwara aims to stop spread of virus with 'all-down curfew'

Containment efforts pay off, only one positive case in 4 days

MOHAMMED IQBAL

JAIPUR Determined to snap the chain of COVID-19 transmission, authorities in Rajasthan's Bhilwara have now imposed an aggressive 11day-long "all-down curfew" with even essential services being severely curtailed. The textile city, which had emerged as the State's first hotspot of COVID-19 infection a fortnight ago, appears to have already had a measure of success in containing the spread of the novel coronavirus, with only one positive case detected during the last four days, and 17 of the 27 infected persons having

recovered after treatment. The containment efforts, which included an indefinite curfew that was clamped on March 20 even before the nationwide lockdown began, has had some tangible impact. Nine of the 17 patients were discharged from the Mahatma Gandhi Government Hospital on Friday, followed by two on Saturday, after multiple tests confirmed their full recovery. "They have been advised home quarantine for 14 days as a precautionary measure," Bhilwara's Chief Medical and Health Officer Mushtaq Khan told The Hindu on Saturday. "Even the person detected positive today was asymptomatic and was found in the house-to-house survey," he said.

The infection had initially



A road during lockdown in Bhilwara. • FILE РНОТО

spread in a private hospital which has since been sealed, and all the cases in Bhilwara were those of the hospital staff, patients and their subsequent contacts. Kiran Kumar (name changed), who worked as a medical ward incharge at the hospital, said he felt as if he had won a war after his discharge.

Doctors' resolve M.G. Hospital's Medical Superintendent Arun Gaur said the doctors' team had resolved to "convert the pain into energy" and decided the treatment regimen for each patient after studying his or her history. "We still have patients in the isolation ward," said Dr. Gaur. "Their blood tests, X-ray reports and echocardiography depict that they are on the way to recovery... we will overcome this phase," he said.

Bhilwara Collector Rajendra Bhatt said the administration was working on the

spread of the virus. No person would be allowed to step out of home in the city of 4 lakh people till April 13, with special arrangements having been made to provide essential services at the doorstep, he said. Of the 6,800 people who were home-quarantined, 4,300 have completed the mandatory two-week isola-

tion. The district administra-

tion has acquired hotels,

hostels and dharamshalas in

the town to arrange 1,500

quarantine beds and 14,400

normal beds to meet an

two fronts of identification of

patients and containing the

emergency situation. While all curfew passes, issued since March 20, had been cancelled and the district's borders sealed, a 3,000-strong police force, along with the home guards and the State Disaster Response Force personnel, was enforcing the curfew, which started on Friday.

partly cloudy sky is likely to prevail. Night will be pleasant and hazy

Delhi Palam Tomorrow 33°C A partly cloudy and warm day. There are chances of rain and thundershower activities

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87 <mark>L09</mark>		_	89
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Satisfactory 51-100		Mode 101-	
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THE HINDU

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IN BRIEF

Minorities panel issues notice to police over riots

NEW DELH The Delhi Minorities Commission has issued notices to the Commissioner of Police seeking proper action over "random arrests" of the youth in connection with the riots in north-east district of the city, as well as in an alleged attack on a mosque. PTI

Future of north-east Delhi students at stake

Their examinations have been disrupted by communal riots, restrictions due to COVID-19 threat

SHINJINI GHOSH

With board examinations delaved due to the countrywide lockdown following the CO-VID-19 outbreak, siblings Muskan and Sonam Ansari, residents of northeast Delhi, say their "career and future" is at stake and uncertain. Their examinations were first disrupted by the riots and now the epidemic.

Uncertainty prevails

Muskan, a student of St. Michael's school in Gokalpur, said, "My physical education examination was on February 24 and that is the only paper I have been able to appear for. Due to the riots which broke out, the exami-



Students outside a school at Jaffrabad as security personnel keep vigil after the riots. ■ FILE PHOTO: SANDEEP SAXENA

nation got postponed and since then, we have been waiting. First, we thought it would be rescheduled once everything calmed down but as luck would have it, now due to the lockdown, things are uncertain again."

"My last exam was supposed to be on March 31 but now I have only appeared for one. After the riots we are still trying to get our lives together and it is definitely not the same as earlier. These days we are having issues

While I am continuing to study, it is difficult at times as the situation is not conducive. I do not know what will happen. All our plans have gone haywire since **February**

Northeast Delhi resident

with ration also. While I am continuing to study, it is difficult at times as the situation is not conducive. I do not know what will happen. All our plans have gone haywire since February," said Ms. Muskan, while stating that

she wanted to pursue law. Her sister, Ms. Sonam, said, "I wanted to be a police officer and was hoping to fill up the requisite forms. But since the riots everything has become so hazy and all plans have been put on hold. Our house was looted.

"While the situation has improved, our future is quite uncertain. Had the examinations been done, it would still be better but because of the virus outbreak, now we don't even know what the final dates will be," she added.

Irum Mansoori, a Class 10 examinee, said, "I have stopped studying as it is difficult to concentrate also. I will resume studies once the schedule is announced."

Hospital seeks details of staff online groups

Move to prevent spread of fake news

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

To "prevent" any "adverse comments or statements" on social media and the spread of fake news by hospital or college staff, the Vardhaman Mahavir College and Safdarjung Hospital in the Capital has asked for names and details of all admins of WhatsApp groups of staff members.

The hospital is among those treating COVID-19 patients.

Social media

"This is required to prevent the spread of fake news, rumours or adverse comments/statements on social COVID-19

media and in the institution by any hospital/college staff. Therefore, you are requested to submit names, mobile numbers, e-mail of all administrators of WhatsApp groups pertaining to hospital staff in the office of the under signed," an order issued by Prem Kumar, Additional Medical Superintendent, said.

The order further said that it was for "urgent" and "strict" compliance. "This is issued with prior approval of competent authority," the order said.

Crematorium bars staff from touching bodies

Rush of family members of deceased, who used to join funeral cortege, has reduced

JATIN ANAND GREATER NOIDA

The management at Moksh Dham, one of the largest cremation grounds in Greater Noida, has prohibited its staff from engaging in any physical contact with bodies being brought to it for funeral rites lest they contract COVID-19.

While the number of funerals performed here, a daily average of one to two, remains more or less intact, the rush of family members who used to accompany the bodies has become negligible compared to the usual.

"We have 24 chita sthals [funeral pyre spots]. This is biggest cremation ground in the area. We see one to two cremations daily. That number hasn't been affected due to this pandemic. Death is death. It comes when it wishes, irrespective,

Priest Sachin Sharma at Moksh Dham, one of the largest cremation grounds in Greater Noida, on Saturday. • JATIN ANAND

of whether or not there is a lockdown. And especially when such a disease has spread," said Pandit Sachin Sharma, chief priest at the facility.

Asked whether any CO-VID-19-related cremation had taken place at the facility, Mr. Sharma said he suspected one took place on Friday, but he chose not to know the truth.

One suspected case "There was one body here

yesterday [Friday]. The relatives said the death had happened at a hospital. There was something visibly wrong

with the mouth of the deceased. I didn't ask what the reason of the death was. But we are very careful since this virus outbreak. We do not touch the bodies, at all. Especially, those of individuals who passed away during treatment for one condition or another at hospitals," he

Apprehensions related to COVID-19 and the strict enforcement of the nationwide lockdown aimed at containing its community spread had, however, affected the footfall at its 15-bigha campus.

"This entire parking area used to get packed with vehicles of the kin of the deceased who would be part of the funeral, but since this pandemic broke out only the immediate family accompanies the body," Mr. Sharma

Civil officers' group gives ₹25 lakh to PM relief fund NEW DELHI

The Civil Services Officers' Institute has contributed ₹25 lakh to the PM CARES Fund for providing relief to those affected by COVID-19, the Personnel Ministry said on Saturday. The CSOI, a society registered under the Societies Registration Act, is mandated to promote the welfare of the civil services officers and to bring them together in order to secure complete integration of the services. The number of COVID-19 cases climbed to 2.902 on Saturday, according to the Union Health Ministry. PTI

CNG cremation for COVID-19 deceased at Punjabi Bagh

Only 10-15 persons from a family allowed on campus for rites

HEMANI BHANDARI

Punjabi Bagh cremation ground has decided to send the bodies of those who die of COVID-19 - in case they arrive - straight to CNG machine cremation space and not let them be cremated according to the traditional method.

The head priest of one of the noted cremation grounds in the Capital, Pankaj Sharma, said, "In case a person who has died of CO-VID-19 is cremated here, the family will be informed to send the body to the CNG machine. The bodies also come with a doctor and municipal staff, we have been informed," he said.

The traditional method of placing the mortal remains on the pyre of wooden logs to cremate is not allowed for COVID-19 deceased because, in his opinion, "the virus can spread with the fumes" and also, "it's just a decision that has been made".

"Also, the bodies will not be unclothed for the last rites like they normally are. They'll be cremated in the same clothes they are wrapped in by the hospital," he said. Explaining the normal process, a staffer at the cremation ground said that first, the body is first showered with holy water and then placed on the pyre while the puja goes on simultaneously. The process



The Punjabi Bagh crematorium in New Delhi on Saturday. •

will not be followed in case of a COVID-19 deceased.

Talking about the measures taken by the crematorium in the wake of the epidemic and subsequent lockdown, Mr. Sharma said that not more than 10-15 persons are allowed inside the cremation ground from one family. "If there are more than 10-15 persons, they are asked to stand outside while maintaining distance. Also, as people enter and exit, not only are they asked to wash

hands but also are provided

with sanitisers," he said, ad-

ding that chairs, gates and

the entire premises is sani-

tised first thing in the

Ambulance sanitised

STAFF REPORTER

In a letter to Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Delhi

Rozi Roti Adhikar Abhiyan

(DRAA) has urged the State

government to ensure tran-

sparency and accountability

in distribution of ration in

NEW DELHI

morning.

The cremation ground also runs its free ambulance service and said that on an average, bodies of about 10-12 persons are arriving everyday. Ambulance is also sanitised after each body is brought. As a procedure, de-

'Ensure transparency

in ration distribution'

tails of the deceased, including cause of death, is maintained in the diary kept by the crematorium for record.

Talking about a change, ambulance driver Pritam said that most people, these days, are bringing the body straight to the cremation ground from the hospital in case the person dies in the hospital. "As a ritual, the body is usually taken home but these days, most people bring it straight here," he

A small group of men, a family from Punjabi Bagh who had lost a member of the family, were at the cremation ground. Apprehensive of sharing details, one of them said that movement for this purpose during lockdown was hassle free. "In fact, our relatives from Uttar Pradesh had also come. We had sent them the death certificate on WhatsApp which they showed to the police while on their way here," one of them said.

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT OF CONTRACTUAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND PARAMEDICAL STAFF AT ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL, HOWRAH

Orthopaedic Hospital, Eastern Railway, Howrah Division has been designated as a Hospital to treat COVID-19 suspected patients. In order to have adequate preparedness to meet such exigencies, it has been decided to fill the following post on contractual basis in the said hospital for a period of 03 (three) months. Medical Practitioners, Paramedical staff who satisfy the requisite qualification, age, willing for such engagement may report with all original certificates, self-attested photocopy of certificates, 04 nos. passport size photographs for Walk-in-Interview at the venue and time mentioned below. Medical Officers/Practitioners, Paramedical staff both retired and fresh are eligible for such engagement. However, retired Railway Medical Officer/Paramedical staff upto the age of 65 years will be given first preference. • Venue : Office of the Chief Medical Superintendent, Orthopaedic Hospital, Eastern Railway, Howrah. 222, Biplabi Haren Ghosh Sarani, Howrah-711101. • Date of Interview: 07.04.2020. • Reporting Time: 11.00 hrs. (1) Category: CONTRACTUAL MEDICAL PRACTITIONER (CMP), Vacancy: 10, Qualification: MBBS/MD, Age: Upto 65 years. Remuneration: Rs. 75,000/- lumpsum for GDMO, Rs. 95,000/lumpsum for Specialists & Rs. 1,15,000/- lumpsum for Super Specialists. (2) Category: STAFF NURSE, Vacancy: 24, Qualification: GNM/B.Sc Nursing & Registered as Nurse & Midwife, Age: 20 to 40 years. (3) Category: RADIOGRAPHER, Vacancy: 04, Qualification: 12th Pass (Science) plus Diploma/ Certificate in Radiography/X-Ray Technician. Age: 19 to 33 years. (4) Category: LAB TECHNICIAN (Group-C), Vacancy : 05, Qualification: 12th Pass (Science) plus Diploma/Certificate in Medical Laboratory Technology. Age: 19 to 33 years. Remuneration [for Staff Nurse, Radiographer & Lab Technician (Group-C)]: Age relaxable as per applicable rules. Remuneration of Paramedical Staff is same as regular Paramedical staff of Railway. Remuneration of retired Medical Officers/Employees on such engagement will be determined by reducing pension from the last pay drawn (Basic Pay +DA). Payment is strictly on "NO WORK NO PAY BASIS".

> **Chief Medical Superintendent** Orthopaedic Hospital, Howrah

the city. **Shops shut** The letter stated that in the daily audits conducted by the food rights group, several ration shops were found to be shut due to supplies running out. The letter to the CM read: "In the absence of proper availability of stock and details of cardholders who have accessed their entitlements, it is impossible to verify such claims. This results in hardships to people who are unable to get their ration in the time of crisis." In its April 4 report, the

DRAA said that 10 of the 34 shops visited by the team were found to be closed. Citing the Delhi govern-

ment's March 26 order that said that supplies for two months would be delivered to ration shops, the letter added: "It is, therefore, not clear how the stock has fin-



Several ration shops wer found to be shut due to supplies running out.

ished already, especially since the update put out by the Delhi government on April 3 mentions that ration has been distributed to only 60% of cardholders. This raises serious concerns about the possibility of diversion of grains."

The DRAA also demanded the operationalisation of a grievance redressal mechanism to address issues faced by people who cannot obtain their share of ration.

"At times of crisis, when people are facing food shortages, it is absolutely essential that people who are unable to access their ration entitlements are empowered to lodge a complaint and get time-bound redress," the letter to Mr. Kejriwal read.

आइए कोशेना के खिनलाफ़ एकज़ुट होकर देश के प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोर्वी के विनम् आग्रह पर 5 अप्रैल, 2020 खीववार के घर की सभी लाइटे बंद करके 9 बजे सायं घर के व्रवाजे या बालकर्नी के स्वें सहकर 9 मिनट के लिए मोमबत्तीः दीयाः टॉर्च या मोबाइल क्ष फ्लैशलाइट जलाएं। कोरोना के हराएं, भारत के विजयी बनाएं SOCIAL DISTANCING बनाएं रखें कोरोना संक्रमण चक्र तोड़ने का यही रामबाण इलाज है।

जय राम ठाकुर

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EASTERN RAILWAY







A worker paints a circle outside a PDS ration shop to earmark space for consumers for maintaining social distancing in Geeta Colony; shoppers at Azadpur Sabzi Mandi; men wait in queue to get food in Laxmi Nagar during the ongoing lockdown imposed as a preventive measure against the spread of COVID-19, on Saturday morning in the city. • sandeep saxena, shiv kumar pushpakar, r.v. moorthy

108 employees of Ganga Ram Hospital placed in quarantine

The move comes after two patients tested positive for COVID-19, say authorities

STAFF REPORTER

As many as 108 employees of Sir Ganga Ram Hospital (SGRH) here, including doctors and nurses, have been quarantined after they came in contact with two patients who have tested positive for COVID-19, said authorities on Satur-

Shifted to other hospital

"The two people were admitted at the hospital last month for some other reasons. Later, they developed symptoms of COVID-19 and tested positive. They have been shifted to other hospitals," an official at the hospital said.

"At present, none of the quarantined staff has reported symptoms sugges-



The hospital did not disclose further details about the case.

tive of COVID-19 infection," said chairman of the hospital S. Rana.

"In all, 108 SGRH staff, including doctors, nurses, ward boys and other paramedical staff who were incistatement read. dentally exposed to these patients have been quaran-

tined as per WHO defined criteria. Out of the 108 employees, 23 have been quarantined in the hospital and attached hostel facility. The rest have been told to go into home quarantine," the

The hospital did not dis-

close further details about

A doctor at the hospital, however, said that the employees have been in quarantine since Thursday and five of them are doctors.

COVID-19

"The two patients who tested positive were unrelated cases and were admitted to the High Dependency Unit (HDU). After testing positive, the HDU was sanitised and we are also keeping a close watch on other patients who were in the ward along with them," the doctor told The Hindu.

The doctor added that the hospital's overall functioning has not been affected by the incident.

59 fresh cases in the Capital

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NOIDA - 8076623612/6396776904

9911519296/7015523417/9654231756

GURUGRAM - 108/ 0124-2322412/

Over 40 are people from centre run by Tablighi Jamaat

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-nine new COVID-19 cases were reported in Delhi on Saturday, taking the total number to 445. No death was reported.

Of the 59 fresh cases, 42 are people from a centre run by the Tablighi Jamaat in Nizamuddin. A total of 301 people from the centre have so far tested positive for CO-VID-19 in Delhi alone.

So far, six people have died due to the virus in the city, while 15 have been discharged. A total of 3,531 people are lodged in quarantine facilities and around 20,000 people are in home quarantine, said the government.

Local transmission

During a digital press conference, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said that local transmission cases were stable at 40 and assured citizens that the Delhi government had been successful in containing community spread of the virus in the city. "Around 11 patients are in ICU and five are on ventilators. We can say that this is local transmission and not community transmission. In community transmission, people do not get to know from whom they are getting infected but right now no such situation has occurred in Delhi," Mr. Kejriwal said.

"We have traced 2,300 people from the Niazamuddin centre out of which 500 are admitted to hospitals and around 1,800 are in quarantine. We are testing the 500 people as they have symptoms and may be suffering COVID-19. which from means the number of cases in Delhi will increase. But I want to reiterate that this is not community transmis-

Of the six people who have died, three were from the Tablighi Jamaat centre.

worry about yet," he said.

sion so there is nothing to

Five of the deceased also had pre-existing conditions, Mr. Kejriwal said, adding: "I want to request all senior citizens to be cautious and not go outside."

'I am monitoring the situation in Delhi and I every a record of every person affected by COVID-19. We will ensure the best health facility and treatment to these patients," said Mr. Keiriwal.

The CM added that the Delhi government had distributed lunch to around 6,63,928 people and dinner to around 6,78,544 people on Friday. We are making arrangements to feed over 10,00,00 people, he said.

Mr. Kejriwal said that it had already been decided that 7.5 kg of ration will be given to 71 lakh people who have ration cards.

"There are around 6,50,000 people who had earlier applied for ration cards but did not get it. These people will also now get ration," he said, adding: "We have created a website for people who do not have a ration card. A form has to be filled out to get registered and receive the benefit of free ration... around 50,000 have already registered... All these people will get 5 kg of free ration."

Mr. Kejriwal added that health workers in the city were in urgent need of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and that he had written to the Centre requesting more gear.

(With inputs from Nikhil M Babu)

Eight new COVID-19 cases in Noida

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Uttar Pradesh's Gautam-Buddha Nagar has recorded eight new positive COVID-19 cases on Saturday, taking the total number of CO-VID-19 cases in the district to 58 - the highest in the State, officials said.

An official release stated that four persons from II Colony in Noida's Sector 5 have tested positive. A health department official said one person, who works in Cease-Fire Company, infected three of his family members. With this, the number of cases linked to the company has reached 31. Meanwhile, one person has been found infected by the virus in Noida's Sector 135. Three persons from Sector 62 have been tested positive. Their details are being ascertained.

In Ghaziabad, a woman, has tested positive for CO-VID-19. The total number of cases in the city is now 14. N.K. Gupta, chief medical officer, Ghaziabad has appealed to all those residents who have visited the district after March 5to reveal their details by calling the Corona Control Centre. "FIRs would be lodged against those who do not disclose + their details," an official release said.

City limits



Taking the high road: Minimal traffic at Dwarka's Palam Colony on Saturday. • v.v. krishnan

Centre did not give Delhi a single rupee: Sisodia

He writes to Union FM saying other States given over ₹17K cr. to fight COVID-19

Finance Minister Manish Sisodia on Saturday alleged that the BJP-ledCentre was exhibiting "shameful and stepmotherly" treatment towards the Delhi government by not providing adequate relief assistance to fight the COVID-19 outbreak.

Mr. Sisodia wrote to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying ₹17,287 crore was provided to other

States as emergency assistance for the fight against COVID-19 but the Centre was ignoring the needs of Delhi during this crisis and called it "disappointing".

"The whole nation is suffering from COVID-19 and the Delhi government and the people here are working collectively with the Centre to fight it. Yesterday [Friday], the Centre provided emergency disaster management relief assistance worth

717,000 crore to all States but Delhi was not given a single rupee," he alleged. This has come as "a huge shock" and "disappointment" to the government, he added.

Playing politics

IN BRIEF

"The Centre is not expected to play politics in such a situation, neither in a federal structure nor in these times of a calamity that has arisen before us...Delhi is the national capital of the country,

and the Central and the State government are working together in Delhi to contain COVID-19. Not providing any kind of assistance to Delhi just shows that the Centre is playing politics even in the times of a calamity like CO-

VID-19," he stated. Terming the situation "unfortunate", Mr. Sisodia said that Delhi had been at the forefront of fighting a battle against the virus, alongside the Centre.

FIR against JNU student for violating lockdown rules

STAFF REPORTER

The police have registered an FIR against a student of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) for allegedly not adhering to the lockdown guidelines on April 1 and instead manhandling security

The student, Pranav Menon, who came to the North Gate of the university at 8 p.m., had asked the security staff to let him go outside, they said. The staff did not allow him, saying he needs to take permission from the authorities.

Mr. Menon then told the staff that if they won't let him go, he would cough at them and "spread Corona" after which he sat at the gate. Further, when the staff tried to remove him, he misbehaved with them. He then called other students at the spot. Based on the complaint submitted by Chief Security Officer, an FIR under relevant sections of the IPC have been registered at Vasant Kunj police station and probe is under way.

Jamia PhD student falsely implicated in anti-CAA case'

JMI panel says it will fight a legal battle

STAFF REPORTER NEW DELHI

The Jamia Coordiniation Committee on Saturday maintained that Meeran Haider, a PhD student of the Jamia Millia Islamia, was being "falsely implicated and targeted" because of his involvement in anti-CAA protests. "He was involved with

the anti-CAA protests which took place over the last few months and is now being targeted for this reason. Hopefully, the investigation will reveal the truth. We have no option but to fight a legal battle and firmly believe in the judiciary," said a member of the JCC. Demanding his immediate release, the JCC had on April 2said, "It is shameful that even in circumstances like these, voices from minority communities are targeted by the State. The country is facing a massive health crisis, however, the state machinery is busy in harass-

and

student-activists in false

framing

Man arrested in Jamia

violence case NEW DELHI

A 38-year-old man, Ashu Khan from Jamia Nagar's Abul Fazal Enclave, has been arrested in connection with incident of violence that broke out at Jamia Millia Islamia on December 15, the police said on Saturday. He was produced before the court and police has obtained two days custody for the accused, they added.

dissent." In a series of tweets, it said: "He [Mr. Haider] is being falsely framed and implicated by the State. If you think this scares us, it doesn't. It makes us stronger, bolder...arresting him is a failed attempt by the fascist State to intimidate the students of Jamia and suppress anti-CAA protests. We will not be silenced by this."

Arrested on Thursday

The police on Thursday had arrested Mr. Haider for his alleged involvement in the north-east Delhi riots.

Kejriwal, Sisodia and experts address parents in live interactive session

Ministers suggest ways to help kids understand the situation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and his DeputyManish Sisodia on Saturday conducted a live interactive session -Parenting in the Time of Corona - which sought to address the Capital's 44 lakh children and their parents regarding concerns ranging from those related to the ongoing pandemic to its effect on the academic year.

Mr. Kejriwal and Mr. Sisodia, also the Education Minister, took questions on CO-VID-19 and urged parents to explain to their children sensitively about the "gravity of the situation". The Ministers were joined by Director of Education Vinay Bhushan and CEO of Meraki Foundation Seemant Dhadwal. "If we talk about Delhi, 44

lakh students are studying in schools, including civic bodies, private and government ones. As a result of the lockdown, children are at home. It is very important to understand how to sail through these tough times. The aim is to effectively utilise our time and that is why



said children should be told about the nature of the virus.

we are holding this discussion," Mr. Sisodia said.

"We had to shut schools for the last 15-20 daysdue to the extraordinary situation that has arisen worldwide.

regarding how parents should cope up with the changing situation, Mr. Kejriwal said children were asking why they could not go out if they were not infected.

The only way that we can save ourselves from the virus is by following social distancing norms. To ensure good health, we had to shut down schools 15-20 days back," Mr. Kejriwal said. In response to a question

"They should be explained the character of the

tagious nature of the virus cannot be detected until 14 daysSo, everyone should avoid going out to not be the carriers of the disease," he

In response to a question related to how children could get over boredom during the ongoing lockdown, Mr. Dhadwal said parents should maintain a schedule for their wards. Mr. Bhushan said, "The children should take part in creative works like painting or writing."

Fee issue in pvt. schools Responding to a question on

why private schools were charging fees for the months when classes were not taking place, Mr. Kejriwal sought suggestions on finding a solution to the issue. He also said, on one hand, some families are facing an economic crisis due to the lockdown while on the other hand, private schools depend on the fees to pay the salary of the teachers and others.

"I will request the experts to give us suggestions on how we can solve this issue," he said.

Over 3,700 detained for lockdown violations NEW DELH

Over 160 cases have been registered and 3,747 people detained in Delhi on Saturday for violating the government orders during the lockdown imposed to contain the spread of COVID-19, the police said. According to the data shared by police, 167 cases have been registered under Section 188 (for

disobedience to order duly

servant) of the Indian Penal

Code till 5 p.m. Saturday.

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Mr. MANOJ KUMAR KUSHWAHA manoi.kushwaha@thehindu.co.i

THE HINDU India's National Newspaper

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

(See Section 82 Cr.PC)

Whereas complaint has been made before me that Mohd Bilal, S/o Imamuddin R/o H.No.B-13/23, Gali No.06, Kabir Nagar, Delhi has committed (or is suspected to has committed) the offence in case FIR No. 409/14 u/s 382/411/506/34 IPC, P.S. Kotwali, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Mohd. Bilal cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Mohd. Bilal has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Mohd. Bilal of FIR No. 409/14 u/s 382/411/506/34 IPC, P.S. Kotwali, Delhi is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before 13.05.2020.

By Order Ms. Prigya Gupta Metropolitan Magistrate 08 Room No.272, Tis Hazari Court, Delhi

DP/135/N/2020 virus, under which the concases to suppress voices of

11 more COVID-19 cases in Bengal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Eleven more cases of CO-VID-19 were reported in West Bengal in the past 24 hours, taking the number of the patients to 49. One of those tested positive is a person from Haldia in Purba Medinipur who had participated in the Tablighi Jamaat event in New Delhi recently.

"Eleven active cases

have been reported since yesterday. There have been no deaths," West Bengal Chief Secretary Rajiva Sinha told journalists

deaths in the State remains at three, and four more deaths of COVID-19 positive with co-morbid conditions will be audited by an expert group. On why the State Health

Department has discontinued the daily bulletin on its website, Mr. Sinha said he will ensure that the figures are updated.

Mr. Sinha said that so far 1,040 tests have been conducted in the State and seven testing centres, including two in private facilities, have been opened. The number of institutional quarantine centres stands at 511.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH



Retd. HM at NKT National Girls Higher Secondary School, Chenna Attained Sivalokaprapthi on 24th March 2020 at Chennai. She was a caring wife, affectionate mother, loving daughter adorable sister, generous grandmother, exceptional teacher astute administrator, helpful friend, a compassionate human being & a lifeline to women empowerment. Fondly remembered as "Prema", she was a pillar to our family and connected all our family relations at all times. Her sudden demise has left a void in the lives of her near and dear ones She will be missed and remembered by family & friends Deeply mourned by

S. Srinivasa Raghavan (Husband) S. Balaji Subrahmanyam & Priya (Son & Daughter-in-law) S. Abhirami Raghavan & Jairam Krishnamurthy (Daughter, Son-in-law & Grandchildren)

Brothers: Ananthakrishnan & Family; Lakshmanan & family Shankar Iyer & family Phone: 044-28250327, 044-42068118, +91-9444265611 Email: laxman2020@gmail.com

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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

Bihar farmers facing acute labour crunch

Relaxation in curbs for workers has not resulted in a solution

The lockdown has posed a serious problem for farmers in Bihar, as it has restricted their movement and led to a shortage of labourers to harvest their rabi crops.

The situation has not improved despite the government announcing lifting of curbs in their movement.

Earlier, the government lifted restrictions on movements of farmers and labourers and gave necessary directions to the District Magistrates and other officials. It also asked farmers and labourers to take required precautions while working in the fields.

"As this is the harvest season of rabi crops, the farmers and agricultural labourers are required to go to their fields for harvesting... they should go and do their work but following social distancing and taking all necessary precautions," said Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

The Bihar Agriculture Department also issued advertisements in local newspapers about several dos and don'ts for farmers and labourers. With the rabi crops ripened in agricultural fields, the farmers appear a worried lot as letting the ripened crops to stay for a longer time in the field is



Patna on Saturday. • RANJEET KUMAR

like fire, strong westerly winds.

"It will be good if we can harvest our crops in the next would be impacted."

The farmers also face the crisis of finding operators for combined harvesters that speed up harvesting and threshing. "We normally hire such operators from Punjab, Haryana or neighbouring States like Uttar Pradesh but due to lockdown they too are unable to come," Rajesh Singh, a farmer from from Sindhaulia

State Agricultural Secretary

BRIDES WANTED

N. Saravana Kumar recently announced that all these operators would be issued passes by their respective District Magistrate's office. However, several marginal

and farmers with several acres of farmland *The Hindu* spoke to rue the crisis of agricultural labourers and operators.

the police," said Rameshwar Vaishali district.

who have recently come to the State from outside are so scared that they don't want to work in the fields," he added. "Ab uparwale ka hi bharo-

er Dhananjay, also a marginal

Adivasi man dies after police thrash villagers

He died of cardiac arrest, claim officials

SIDHARTH YADAV

The family of a 65-year-old Adivasi man has alleged that he was beaten to death by the Dhar police while he was waiting outside a grocery shop on Friday morning. The district administration, however, claims the senior citizen died of a heart attack on seeing the police.

The deceased, Tibu Meda, of Holimal village in Khargone district, had gone with his son-in-law Sanjay Meda to Gujari village in the neighbouring Dhar district as the shop in his village had run out of supplies.

"The police came in four or five vehicles, and started beating us with batons without provocation," said Mr. Sanjay Meda. "We ran in different directions. I received injuries on my legs."

Denying the allegation, Dhar Collector Shrikant Banoth told The Hindu that the elderly man had died due to a cardiac arrest on seeing the police approach them with blaring sirens. "The post-mortem report has revealed he died of cardiac arrest and there were no bruises on the body," he claimed.

The administration had recorded statements of witnesses, he added. "The police had gone there to impose social distancing norms in view of the lockdown. They had received a complaint of crowding in the market

However, Congress MLA from Dharampuri, Panchilal Meda, who reached the spot after the incident, told reporters he had seen bruises

on Tibu Meda's body. "I have seen his body, and there are bruises on the face and the head. I request the Collector to get the body examined at the district hospital. Those involved in the incident must be punished," he said.

'Covering up'

market as the shop in his village had run out of stock, said M.D. Choubey, State president of the Kendriya Manav Adhikar Suraksha Sangathan, a human rights group. "There are open bruises on his body. The police didn't even enquire with them [the villagers], but started beating them," he alleged.

Accusing the administration of covering up the incident, Madhuri Krishnaswamy of the Jagrit Adivasi Dalit Sangathan demanded that another post-mortem be conducted and a case be registered against the accused policemen under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

SSIFIFI

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MATRIMONIAL

INDEX OF MATRIMONIAL

BRIDEGROOMS WANTED BRIDES WANTED BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

Classification common for Brides, Bridegrooms,

Assamese Awadhi

Bengali Bhoipuri

Bihari Chhattisgarhi English

Guiarati Haryanvi Hindi

Kannada Kashmiri

Konkani Malayalan

Manipuri Marathi

Marwari Nepali Oriya

Parsi Punjab

Saurashtra Sindhi

Tamil Telugu Tulu

Urdu Business

Defence Doctor Engineer

Finance/ Banking Government/ Quasi-Govt.

IAS/ Allied Services Information Technology MBA/ CA/ ICWA

Cosmopolitan Divorcee

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Employed Seeks well qualified Nair Groom Ct: 9841400144 / 9605353125 NAIR Girl 33/168 Barani MBA Internati SC AD, Sathyam, 32/162, B.E., Wrkng onal Investment BankMngr Chen seek Groom. 09884489932 / 044-24799932

MALAYALEE VISWAKARMA G.S. Uthiram

30/168 Senior Consultant in MNC B'lore seeking Educated and Employed Groom CNB. Ct: 9445651626 / 9790739037

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TULUVA VELLALA Mudaliar Girl 33 (06.10.1987) Uthirattathy, M.Sc., Ph.D (Physics), Researcher, Chennai, Wheatish complexion, Seeks employed bachelor Bridegroom age 33-36, Asst Professor/Scientific Officer/Bank liar/Senguntha Mudaliar/Soliva Vellala

age 27, PG,Chennai,Employed,foward Veg Bride.Religion NoBar.9445101738

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WELL ACCOMPLISHED, religious Tamil
HINDU NADAR Dr. MBBS OG, 28yrs,
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well settled groom

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Thiruvathirai, Mithunam B.E., Annual Income 10Lakhs. MOTHI 8778250442
Income 10Lakhs. MOTHI 8778250442
G369954506

AND THE TIME TO THE TI

40yrs, Caste No Bar. 9677173920 (W)

MUDALIYAR BHARANI 38/175 Fair(B.E) Pvt Chennai seek Educated Bride Sub Sect No Bar,9042813480/8124330886

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Superintendent of Police, Lives in Chengalpattu, Father

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9841837786

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180cm / MBBS, MD / Rich/ Seeks
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hini-Rishabham, non veg, Suddha Jaadhagam 9944232461

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magnain-

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Social activists packing meals for the needy during lockdown, in

fraught with too many risks

few days, otherwise, the strong westerly winds and hailstorms would damage it," Satish Kumar, a farmer of Punpun block in Patna district, told The Hindu over phone, adding, "the quality of grains too

of Gopalganj district, said.

harvest "Even we cannot move

about for fear of COVID-19 or Yadav, a farmer of Bidupur in "The migrants labourers

sa hai (Now only God can save us)," said Rameshwar's broth-

Tibu had gone to the Gujari

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