

DAY 12: TELANGANA SAYS NO WEAPON OTHER THAN LOCKDOWN AGAINST CORONAVIRUS

States in no hurry to ease lockdown

On their table after April 14: Permits, sealing hotspots, curbs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

AT LEAST seven states, which together have reported 1,367 coronavirus cases — almost one-third of the 4,281 cases across the country so far — indicated Monday that they would continue to have some restrictions in place even after the 21-day national lockdown ends on April 14.

While Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrababu Naidu said he was in favour of extending the lockdown in his state, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, UP, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand indicated that they would not fully lift the restrictions after next Tuesday.

Assam, which has reported 26 cases, is planning a registration system to regulate those who wish to enter the state after the lockdown.

Maharashtra, which has recorded the maximum number of cases (748) so far, is likely to extend the lockdown in the Mumbai and Pune regions, as well as in other hotspots. UP officials said that following the rise in number of cases in the state linked to the Tablighi Jamaat gathering in Delhi (159 out of 305), "there is now uncertainty over lifting of the lockdown".

Rajasthan (274) is working on a "staggered" exit strategy with curbs in "high risk zones", while

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By UNNY



PM says long battle, asks ministers to ready plans

LIZ MATHEW
NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Monday asked his council of ministers to prepare a "business continuity plan" for their ministries, with a list of 10 priorities for the period after the lockdown is lifted.

Modi also asked them for suggestions to make the pandemic an opportunity to boost India's domestic market, while reducing the dependence on other countries.

The council of ministers discussed ways to help farmers in the harvesting season, which is in crisis due to the lack of labourers.

The PM suggested harnessing technology and encouraging the exploration of innovative solutions such as the use of truck aggregators to connect farmers with mandis, on the lines of app-based cab services.

During an interaction with chief ministers last week, Modi had suggested that states should formulate a "common exit

Chhattisgarh (10) Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi against lifting interstate travel over worries the outbreak will spread.

Only Madhya Pradesh (165) struck a different note, as Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that wheat procurement will begin from April 15.

Speaking to reporters in Hyderabad, Telangana Chief Minister Rao said: "We do not have any other weapon than the lockdown to control the spread of the virus. I appeal to the Prime Minister to extend the lockdown, I wholeheartedly support it. Our economy may recover after six months or one year but if lives are lost, they cannot be brought back."

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A train coach converted into a coronavirus isolation ward being disinfected at Tikiapara railway car shed, Howrah. Partha Paul

One-third of cases from 31 districts that get most migrants

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

ONE-THIRD of the total COVID-19 cases in the country as of Monday morning are from 31 districts which receive the highest number of migrants.

An analysis by *The Indian Express* shows that of the total 4,281 positive cases across 284 districts reported till Monday, 1,486, or 34.71 per cent, come from these districts, spread across the country.

The data is interesting given the number of migrant labourers who left for their homes immediately after the 21-day nationwide lockdown was announced on March 24 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The 31 districts that attract the most migrants in the country, as per the Economic Survey 2016-17, are all the 11 districts of Delhi; Gautam Buddha Nagar in Uttar Pradesh; Gurgaon in Haryana; Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban,

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Staff test positive, Wockhardt shut, top hospitals face sealing threat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, DELHI, KOLKATA, APRIL 6

JASLOK HOSPITAL became the second top private hospital in Mumbai to be sealed Monday after 10 more of its staff members, including doctors and nurses, tested positive for coronavirus. Samples of over 1,000 staffers have been sent for testing. Earlier



All patients of Wockhardt, Mumbai, moved out. Express

in the day, Wockhardt Hospital was shut by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation after the number of positive cases among its staff members rose to 54 and all its patients were moved out.

In Delhi, two hospitals have been partially shut due to COVID-19 cases among staff members. Kolkata also saw partial shut-down of a government hospital.

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30% cut in salaries of MPs, PM; 2-yr pause in MPLADS

KRISHN KAUSHIK
NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

TWO WEEKS into the 21-day lockdown, as the country prepares for the economic fallout, the Union Cabinet on Monday cleared a 30 per cent salary cut for all Members of Parliament (MPs), including the Prime Minister and Union Ministers, for a year.

In addition, the government also decided to suspend all MPLADS (Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme) funds — under which each elected MP gets Rs 5 crore annually for development work in his/her constituency — for two financial years starting April 1. The money from the MPLADS funds — nearly Rs 8,000 crore — will go to the Consolidated Fund of India, which, the government said, will be used in the battle against COVID-19.

The government said the President, Vice-President, and state governors have also decided to take a 30 per cent salary cut for a year.

According to the ordinance to amend the Salary, Allowances

76% of infected are male, 63% of dead over 60 years old: Govt

ABANTIKA GHOSH
NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

OF THE total 109 COVID-19 related deaths in India till Monday afternoon, 63 per cent were of people over 60 years. Further, 86 per cent of those who died had co-morbidities (additional medical conditions), such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, etc.

An analysis of 4,067 COVID-19 cases by the health ministry has revealed that more men than women contracted the disease, and died too. Among the COVID-19 positive cases re-



ported, 76 per cent are men; of the dead, 73 per cent were men.

While amongst the dead, senior citizens accounted for 63 per cent, they comprise just 19 per cent of the 4,067 COVID-19 posi-

tive cases till Monday afternoon.

According to the health ministry's latest update on Monday, the total number of COVID-19 cases stood at 4,281 (319 cured, 111 deaths) compared with 3,577 the previous day.

A total of 1,01,068 samples were tested till Monday 9 pm, the ICMR said. Dr R R Gangakhedkar, Director of Epidemiology, ICMR, said the Council was capable of conducting 25,000 COVID tests per day "if we start working double shift". About five lakh testing kits have been ordered.

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Army: Among 10 killed in hand-to-hand combat in J&K, 5 commandos, 5 militants

ADIL AKHZER
SRINAGAR, APRIL 6

THE ARMY Monday said five personnel of the Para (Special Forces) were killed in "hand-to-hand" combat with militants near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kupwara district.

A day earlier, the Army had said five militants and three sol-

diers were killed in a gunbattle. This was the first major operation near the LoC in Kashmir this year.

Confirming the death of five of the elite para commandos, Srinagar-based defence spokesperson Colonel Rajesh Kalia said: "Four soldiers under the command of a Junior Commissioned Officer from one of the most professional Para SF units were air-dropped near the

LoC after information on the infiltrators was received. An intense hand-to-hand battle ensued and all five terrorists were eliminated."

The operation began on April 1 when Army personnel deployed on the LoC intercepted a group of militants in Jamgund forest in Kupwara and a brief exchange of fire took place.

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Jharkhand double ration promise mostly on paper, village struggles to stay afloat

TEST REPORTS FROM THE FIELD
TRACKING THE VIRUS, LOCKDOWN

ABHISHEK ANGAD
RANCHI, APRIL 6

LIFE HAS never been easy, but April threatens to be especially dire for the seven-member Lohra family in Sukruhuttu panchayat in Kanke block of Ranchi district.

While Kaleshwar Lohra, 55, a daily-wage labourer, has been



Manoj Lohra, 36, waits for disability pension. Abhishek Angad

bedridden for the last three months with an "infection" in both his legs, his daughter Sandhya, who worked as a household help in Ranchi city, 10

km away, is now home and without work.

The family is entitled to 35 kg of rice at Re 1 per kg per month under the Antyodaya Anna

Yojana. In the wake of the COVID-19 containment lockdown, the Jharkhand government had announced "double ration" for April. That would have meant 70 kg rice for the Lohras. "But the ration dealer always takes a cut. This time, he gave 60 kg and said it's for both April and May," said Sandhya.

Her kitchen has an LPG cylinder, which the family got under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojna, but it's empty and Sandhya says now there's no money for a refill. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement of Rs 500 to every woman Jan Dhan account holder has not enthused Sandhya either. "The bank is far, how will we go to check?"

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विश्व स्वास्थ्य दिवस पर देश के कर्मवीर डॉक्टरों को सैल्यूट

कोरोना वायरस के बचाव कार्य में लगे डॉक्टरों को सैल्यूट!

पूरी दुनिया के साथ देशभर में वैद्यक एमेजेन्सी चल रही है। डॉक्टरों और नर्स कर्ज दिनों से अस्पतालों में काम कर रहे हैं। इस वैद्यक महामारी से निपटने के लिए देशभर के अस्पतालों से लेकर सामुदायिक केंद्रों में डॉक्टर लोगों की सेवा में जुटे हुए हैं। कोरोना जैसी वैद्यक महामारी से लोग जब डरे हुए हैं तब डॉक्टर दुनिया भर में सेवा में लगे हुए हैं। कर्ज देशों में डॉक्टर लोगों का इलाज करते करते अपनी जान भी गवां चुके हैं। पूरी दुनिया इस वक्त कोरोना के कहर से जुझ रही है। अपनी जान पर खेलकर मरीजों का इलाज कर रहे इन डॉक्टरों को सलाम! घरों में कैद हैं लोग, लेकिन डॉक्टरों कर रहे अपना काम। इनकी निष्ठा, प्रतिवद्धता, दया भावना के आगे हम सभी नतमस्तक हैं। अपनी जान जोखिम में डालकर दिन रात कोरोना जैसी महामारी से लड़ने वाले सभी डाक्टरों, नर्सों, चाई कर्मियों, पैरामेडिकल कर्मियों एवं पैथोलॉजिस्ट का **TORQUE** टीम हृदय से धन्यवाद करते हैं। ईश्वर इन्हें शक्ति व ऊर्जा दे।

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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