JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2020, NEW DELHI, LATE CITY, 12 PAGES

SINCE 1932

₹6.00 (₹8 PATNA & RAIPUR, ₹12 SRINAGAR) WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

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 Chandrashekar Rao said he was in favour of extending the lockdown in his state, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, UP, Assam, Chhattisgarh and Iharkhand 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 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

ABANTIKA GHOSH

OF THE total 109 COVID-19 re-

lated 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 med-

ical conditions), such as diabetes,

heart disease, hypertension, etc.

NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

BUSINESS AS USUAL By UNNY



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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76% of infected are male, 63%

of dead over 60 years old: Govt

CORONA COUNT

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 appbased cab services.

During an interaction with chief ministers last week, Modi had suggested that states should formulate a "common exit CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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

cases from 31 districts 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

the number of migrant labourers who left for their homes immediately after the 21-day na-

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 Buddh Nagar in Uttar Pradesh; Gurgaon in Haryana;

that get most

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 tionwide lockdown was announced on March 24 by

Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

INSIDE

319 RECOVERED 1,01,068 samples have been tested as on April 6, 2020

An analysis of 4,067 COVID-19 cases by the health ministry has revealed that more men than women contracted the disior citizens accounted for 63 per cent, they comprise just 19 per ease, and died too. Among the COVID-19 positive cases recent of the 4,067 COVID-19 posi-

According to the health ministry's latest update on Monday, the total number of COVID-19 cases stood at 4,281 (319 cured,

ported, 76 per cent are men; of the dead, 73 per cent were men. While amongst the dead, sen-

111 deaths) compared with 3,577 the previous day. A total of 1,01,068 samples were tested till Monday 9 pm,

tive cases till Monday afternoon.

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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HOSPITALISED MOST CASES IN STATES HIGH ON

HALF OF BHOPAL'S **CASES OF HEALTH OFFICIALS**

PAGES 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10

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-tohand" 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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BORIS JOHNSON HEALTH INDEX

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



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? CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

One-third of Staff test positive, Wockhardt shut, top hospitals face sealing threat

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE MUMBAI, DELHI, KOLKATA, APRIL 6

IASLOK 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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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.

In addition, the government also decided to suspend all (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

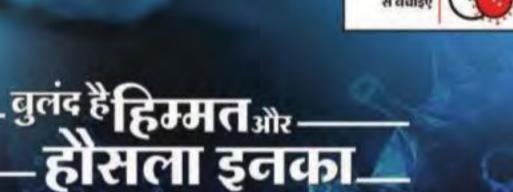
amend the Salary, Allowances **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

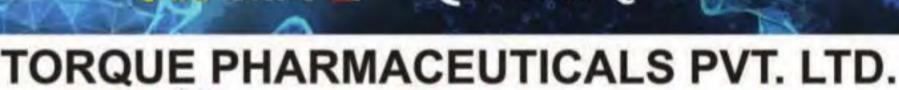




इनकी निष्ठा, प्रतिबद्धता, दया भावना के आगे हम सभी नतमरतक हैं। अपनी जान जोरिवम में डालकर दिन रात कोरोना जैसी महामारी से लड़ने वाले सभी डाक्टरों, नर्सों, वार्ड कर्मियों, पेरामेडिकल कर्मियों एवं पैथोलोजिस्ट का ज़्ज़्ज़ टीम हृदय से धन्यवाद करते हैं।

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