

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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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."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



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,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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 Jangund forest in Kupwara and a brief exchange of fire took place.

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INSIDE



BORIS JOHNSON HOSPITALISED

MOST CASES IN STATES HIGH ON HEALTH INDEX

HALF OF BHOPAL'S CASES OF HEALTH OFFICIALS

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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। कई देशों में डॉक्टर लोगों का इलाज करते करते अपनी जान भी गंवा चुके हैं। पूरी दुनिया इस वक्त कोरोना के कहर से जूझ 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, प्रतिबद्धता, दया भावना के आगे हम सभी नतमस्तक हैं। अपनी जान जोखिम में डालकर दिन रात कोरोना जैसी महामारी से लड़ने वाले सभी डॉक्टरों, नर्सों, चांद कर्मियों, पैरामेडिकल कर्मियों एवं पैथोलॉजिस्ट का **TORQUE** टीम हृदय से धन्यवाद करते हैं। ईश्वर इन्हें शक्ति व ऊर्जा दे।

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'NIZAMUDDIN INCIDENT UNFORTUNATE, BUT DON'T MAKE IT A WITCH-HUNT' As the coronavirus pandemic explodes in India with the Tablighi Jamaat as its startled centre, those associated with it say there is more to the body than the "oversight", "irresponsible act", and "pure bad luck" of falling victim to, and spreading, COVID-19

VIDEO OF THE DAY



PM MODI CALLS FOR 'LIGHTS-OFF' AT 9 PM How India responded to the Prime Minister's call on Sunday

EXPRESS EXPLAINED



HOW BADLY IS YOUR DISTRICT HIT? The Indian Express delves into the cases across hotspots

EXPRESS AUDIO

Rapid antibody tests and why states are considering them?

NEW EPISODE EVERYDAY

Today, we detail what serological tests are, why they are not used to diagnose COVID-19, and why ICMR has put out an advisory for states to consider using them

FROM PAGE ONE

Long battle: PM

strategy" to ensure the staggered re-emergence of the population once the lockdown ends. During Monday's meeting, the PM signalled that the central government is working on such a strategy. In the morning, in an address to BJP workers on the party's foundation day, Modi said the battle against the novel coronavirus would be long, but it must be won. "It's a long battle," Modi said. "Do not get tired or get defeated. This is a war we have to win. Our mission is one and our pledge is one, and that is we will have victory in this war," Modi told BJP workers.

he asked all departments to maintain an objective index on how their work will promote Make In India," the official note said. The meeting was also attended by the principal secretary, cabinet secretary, and other senior officials, who gave detailed presentations on the "steps being taken to meet the emerging challenges", the official release said.

Migrants

Thane and Pune in Maharashtra; Chennai, Erode, Kancheepuram, Coimbatore and Tiruvallur in Tamil Nadu; Indore and Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh; three districts of Bengaluru in Karnataka; Hyderabad Rural and Urban in Telangana; Surat in Gujarat; and Chandigarh. These cities and districts were mentioned by the Economic Survey as those with "high net migration". The survey report mentioned a few other places, like Valsad in Gujarat, Sonitpur in Assam and Pudukcherry, which have a large migrant population, but these don't have any positive cases till now. As of Monday morning, Delhi had the highest number of positive cases for any city, at 523. It was followed by Mumbai, including its suburbs, with more than 315 cases.

do not have ration cards since the district's quotas are full. Though the Jharkhand government had announced 10 kg rice to people whose applications for ration card are still pending, in Sukruhuttu, however, not many have heard of the announcement. Not even panchayat samiti member Sushma Devi. "I will discuss this issue with the officers," she said.

On the irregularities in the Public Distribution System, Chief Minister Hemant Soren told The Indian Express, "There is a task-force already in place. A few dealers have been suspended too. We cannot straightaway cancel the licences as it will create a big problem in appointing new ones during the crisis. At present, 6-7 lakh are being fed through various kitchens on a daily basis and we will increase the number to 12 lakh." BDO Kanke Gyan Jaiswal, too, said that the government has been issuing "ration passes" for those who do not have ration cards. "Dal-bhaat kendras have also been started and we will be relaying the information to as many villages as we can. Rations to anganwadi centres will also be given."

Development economist John Dreze, however, said a one-time 10-kg foodgrain scheme for those without ration cards achieves little. "Excluded households should be integrated into the PDS, with regular monthly rations, at least for the duration of the crisis."

One of the few schemes that seemed to be working was the mid-day meals for schools, with an equivalent amount of dry ration being supplied directly to households. Vikram Nayak, a house painter, says he has got his ration for April but with eight mouths to feed, he doesn't know how long that will last. Painting his own house because he has "nothing else to do", Nayak says he wanted to build a toilet but will have to put that off for now. While Jharkhand had announced itself Open Defecation Free in early 2019, on the ground, things are different. "We defecate in the fields. Some have put in their own to build toilets, some through Swachh Bharat Mission, but most people in the village don't have toilets," said Nayak.

He has heard the government's messages on the need for personal hygiene and social distancing to "defeat" coronavirus. "Haan, suna hai. Mahamari hain (Yes, I have heard of it. It's an epidemic)," he said.

Kashmir

A search operation was launched in the snow-covered forests and additional forces were moved to the area. The para commands were air-dropped. Col. Kalia said the Army launched "a daring operation at the Line of Control and engaged Pak-supported infiltrators in a close quarter battle in heavy snow, neutralising the entire infiltrating batch of five." "In this battle, however, Army lost five of its best soldiers, three on the site and two more succumbed while they were airlifted to a nearby military hospital," he said.

The Army said that the Special Forces squad led by Subedar Sanjeev Kumar included Havildar Davendra Singh, Paratrooper Bal Krishan, Paratrooper Amit Kumar and Paratrooper Chhatrapal Singh. A senior officer privy to the Keran operation said that Special Forces soldiers, while chasing the militants in the snow, slipped into a nallah where the militants were present. "There was face-to-face battle," the officer said.

The officer said "tough weather conditions" in the high altitude area hampered the evacuation of injured soldiers during the operation. Defence sources said that the slain Army personnel belonged to 4 Para - a unit that was also involved in the 2016 surgical strikes across the LoC. While the Army has not said anything about the identification of the militants killed in the firefight, three families from South Kashmir have approached Kupwara authorities, claiming that their kin are among the slain militants. Kupwara Superintendent of Police Shriram Ambarkar told The Indian Express that the mission was over, but search operations were still on in the area.

Govt data Replying to a question about the stage of the outbreak in India, Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Health Ministry, said India was currently between stages two and three - local transmission and community transmission. "For limited cases, we are doing cluster

No hurry to ease lockdown

Rao also quoted from a report, which estimated that COVID-19 cases will peak in India by the first week of June. Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope said his state "needs to work with great care in Mumbai and Pune as cases are higher in these regions... nobody should assume the lockdown will be relaxed completely from April 15". In Guwahati, Assam Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said: "As and when the lockdown is withdrawn, we have to regulate those wanting to come to Assam. For a temporary period, we may need an ILP-kind of a situation even for permanent residents." The ILP (Inner Line Permit) is a document that regulates the entry of outsiders in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram - Manipur was recently added to the list. Sarma described it as an

"entry permit" system and said that if thousands of people return at once, arranging quarantine could become a problem. He said people could be allowed to return in batches. In Lucknow, a day after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath indicated that the lockdown might be lifted in a phased manner, the state government asked residents to "be ready to wait for some more time". "In the past three-four days, 159 cases related to the Tablighi Jamaat have come. Following this rise, the load of cases in the state has increased," said Additional Chief Secretary Awanish Awasthi. Rajasthan, meanwhile, has set up a committee to formulate a state-specific exit strategy, based on sealing high-risk zones. "It could be zones where there is already a flare-up or a probability of a flare-up later," a senior official said.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren said the state (4 cases) would lift the lockdown only after the government is satisfied that the situation is under control - "or else, we will keep it slow". "Around 6 lakh labourers will come to the state once the lockdown is lifted... Fortunately, rural areas constitute more than 80 per cent of Jharkhand and those are already isolated, and the population is not dense. The only workable solution with us right now is to make people aware of COVID-19. And we have to be ready with all medical facilities," he said. In Madhya Pradesh, which has recorded 256 cases and 14 deaths, Chief Minister Chouhan said during a video conference to review wheat procurement plans: "There is a possibility that the lockdown

will be lifted on April 14." Chouhan said that "more procurement centres should be opened so that the process ends by May 31" but added that procurement will not begin at urban centres in Indore, Bhopal and Ujjain districts to avoid crowding. In Chhattisgarh, Chief Minister Baghel requested the Prime Minister to take a decision... "after extensive deliberation" before allowing interstate travel after April 14. Pointing out that eight of the 10 positive cases in the state have been discharged, Baghel wrote: "If after April 14th, trains, air traffic and interstate road transport gets started in the country, then there are possibilities that COVID-19 infected people can arrive from other states in the state of Chhattisgarh. The state may face new difficulties." (Compiled from ENS reports)

Two hospitals in Mumbai shut

INFECTED IN THE LINE OF DUTY

More than 100 healthcare workers are now infected with coronavirus in India, including doctors, nurses, paramedics

- DELHI: 34 doctors 11, nurses 20, paramedics/other hospital staff 3 MADHYA PRADESH: 7 doctors 4, paramedics 3 MAHARASHTRA: 60 doctors 10, nurses 40, paramedics/hospital staff over 15 KARNATAKA: 1 doctor 1 KERALA: 2 nurse 1, paramedics/health staff 1 UTTAR PRADESH: 1 doctor 1 CHANDIGARH: 3 doctors 2, nurse 1 PANCHKULA (HARYANA): 10 nurse 1, paramedics/hospital staff 9 J&K: 1; doctor 1 GUJARAT: 1; paramedic 1 TELANGANA: 1 doctor 1 TAMIL NADU: 1 doctor 1

and ate with others in the canteen. It was only three days after another patient tested positive on March 25 that the two nurses were tested. All those who have tested positive have been shifted to other hospitals. The patients in the 350-bed hospital were tested for COVID-19 before being sent to other hospitals or discharged, depending on their condition. With the staff angry over the "late reaction" by the hospital, Wockhardt said in a statement Monday. "It is the hard truth that healthcare professionals all over the world on the front line are at the highest risk of contacting the COVID-19 infection whilst treating patients... We are following the containment protocol as laid out by the BMC. We have tested all those within the hospital and are treating the positive patients, quarantining the primary contacts of the infected and cleaning the facility to contain the contagion with full support of the BMC." Another hospital in Mumbai, Brahma Sabha Hospital, was declared a containment zone on Monday after a 95-year-old man died there and tested COVID-19 positive. The hospital has been asked to test all its staffers and remaining patients. In Chembur, Sai Hospital had

been sealed on March 31 after a patient tested positive. The two hospitals hit in Delhi are the state government's Delhi State Cancer Institute (DSCI) and the semi-government Sir Ganga Ram Hospital. A resident doctor in the Department of Preventive Oncology at the DSCI tested positive earlier and 10 more on Monday, taking the number of such healthcare workers at the hospital to 19, including doctors and nurses. Its OPD has been shut and its patients are being shifted to other hospitals. At Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, OPD services have been shut and only half of the 5,500 staff are working after 108 staffers including 20 doctors and 72 nurses tested COVID-19 positive. "All confirmed cases have been sent to the Rajiv Gandhi Super Specialty Hospital for treatment. The campus has been sanitised and we are preparing a list of people who might have come in contact with the healthcare workers (who tested positive)," Dr B L Sherwal, Medical Superintendent, DSCI, said. In Kolkata, 55 healthcare workers, including 39 junior doctors, at the government-run NRS Medical College and Hospital in Sealdah were quarantined Sunday after a patient who died there tested COVID-19 positive. The hospital has shut down the male general medicine ward and is disinfecting the CCU unit. All other departments are functioning.

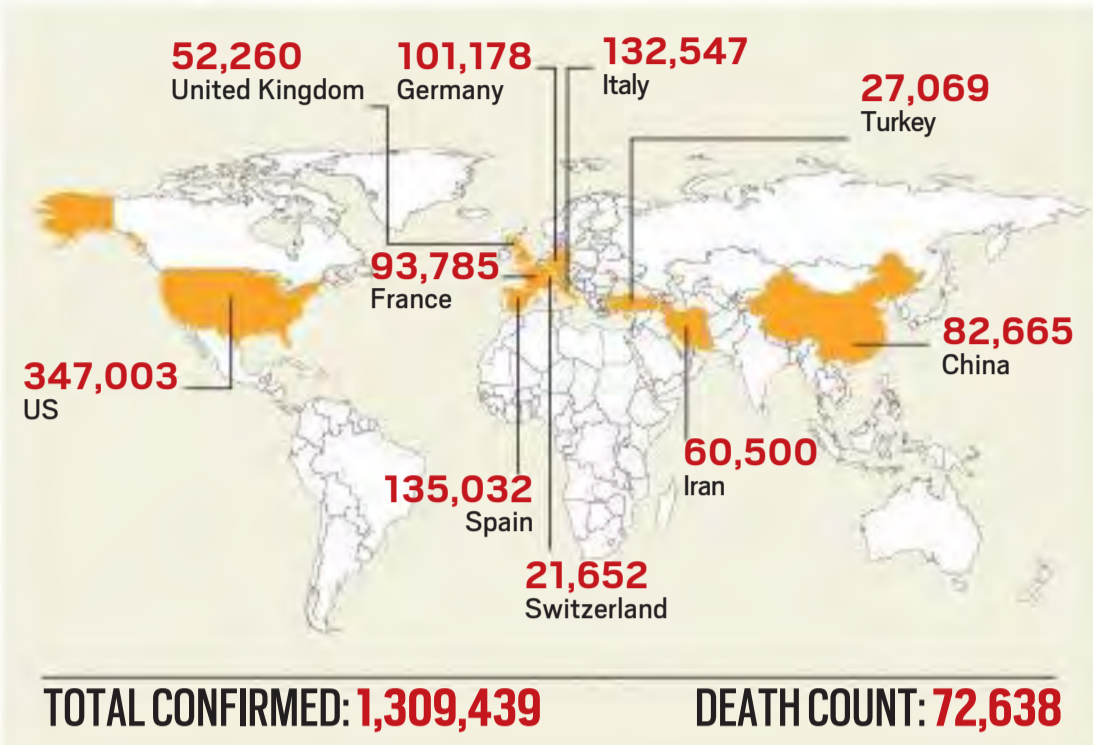
sent to central institutions like AIIMS, Safdarjung and RML hospitals, RIMS, NEIGRIHMS, BHU and AMU," the health ministry said. Northern Railways has also developed a PPE overall. This is in addition to the PPE coveralls and N95 masks developed by DRDO earlier. Efforts are on to start mass production of these products.

Salary cuts

and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, cleared by the Cabinet on Monday, the 30 per cent cut for all MPs will be effective from April 1. Briefing the media after the Cabinet meeting, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar said the decision has been taken keeping in mind the "social responsibility" of the MPs. "It is not about savings, but the intention behind it is more important," he said. Responding to a question, he said central government employees "have already given one day's salary on their own", but did not elaborate on whether they would face a pay cut too. Currently, the Lok Sabha has 542 members while the Rajya Sabha has a strength of 245 members, including 12 nominated. While 55 RS members were due to retire in April, 37 have already been elected unopposed; elections for the remaining 18 seats have been deferred due to the COVID-19 outbreak. According to the last pay hike announced in 2018, each MP draws a monthly salary of Rs 1 lakh, Rs 70,000 as constituency allowance, and Rs 60,000 for running office besides other perks. On March 30, Telangana had announced salary cuts at all levels. On the MPLADS funds, Javadekar said many MPs had already donated from their fund for the COVID-19 fight. According to information shared by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat last week, 74 Rajya Sabha members had contributed a total of Rs 100 crore, and 265 Lok Sabha members had given a total of Rs 265 crore. Javadekar said the government had announced various other measures "worth lakhs of crores of rupees", including the PM Garib Kalyan scheme. "The government has taken several major steps. And when such steps are being taken, it should start from itself. That is the intention behind this," he said, adding that the "will of the Members of Parliament" is reflected in the Cabinet's decision. Asked if there were any discussions on extending the lockdown beyond April 14, Javadekar said: "We are monitoring the world situation every minute, and therefore decisions are taken ultimately in the nation's and people's interest. That decision will be declared when it is the right time... Empowered committees have been created, the situation is changing every day and is being monitored continuously." Meanwhile, the Congress welcomed the decision on a salary cut, but was divided on the move to suspend the MPLADS fund. While some party MPs like Jairam Ramesh and Abhishek Singhvi welcomed the MPLADS decision, many others slammed the move. Lok Sabha MP Manish Tewari said the decision to suspend the MPLADS fund was "ill thought out" and a "knee-jerk reaction". The CPI(M), too, criticised the move, with party general secretary Sitaram Yechury saying the government was "taking away expenditure which would have attended to unique requirements of an area". Saying that "this centralisation goes against federalism", he added: "If there's no money with the government, why doesn't it abandon the Central Vista project in Delhi?"



CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED DAILY



TOTAL CONFIRMED: 1,309,439 DEATH COUNT: 72,638

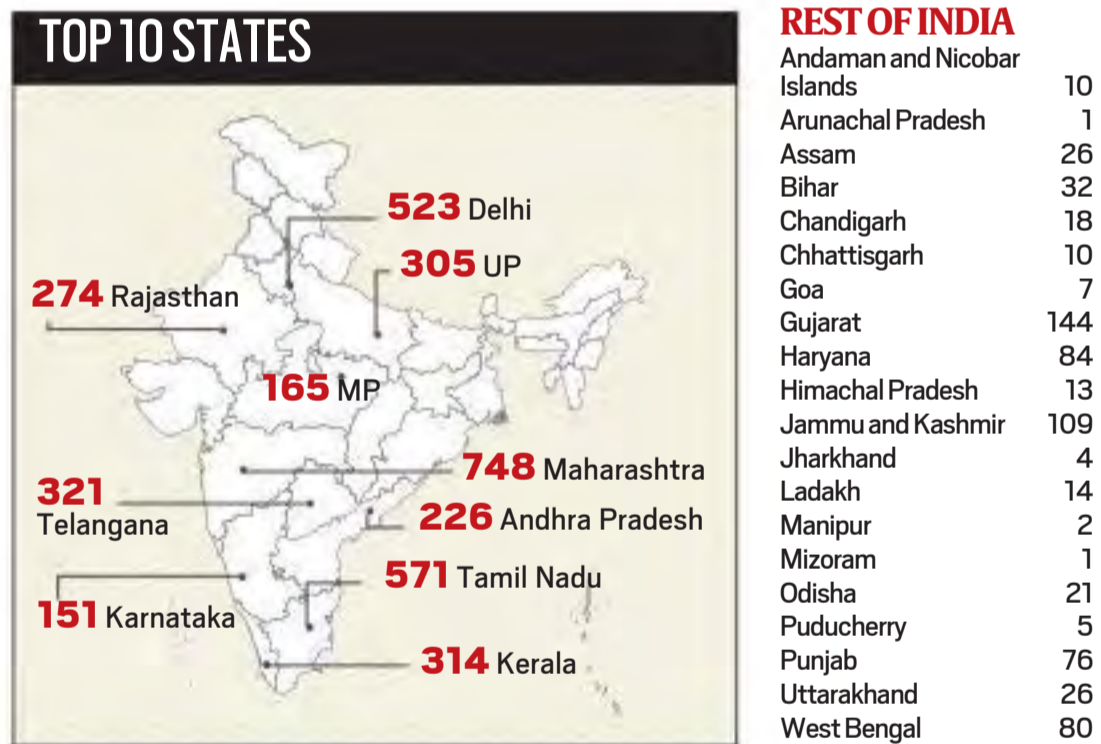
Source: Johns Hopkins University, updated at 11:00 pm on April 6

What is the best material for a home-made face cover?

AFTER WEEKS of advising that masks were not needed for healthy individuals, the Health Ministry recently recommended "homemade face cover is a good method for maintaining personal hygiene"...

ating a "cloth face covering" from a T-shirt. Alternatively, it says, a bandanna (or square cotton cloth approximately 20"x20") can be used with a coffee filter placed between its folds.

INDIA COUNT: 4,281 (111 DEATHS)



Union Health Ministry update at 11 pm, April 6. Some states may have reported higher numbers. Only states with most cases are listed above. 319 PATIENTS DISCHARGED IN 20 STATES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Have a question on the COVID-19 outbreak and what you should/should not do? Write to explained@indianexpress.com

SIMPLY PUT Which factories should reopen?

After the lockdown, what kind of manufacturing can be allowed to minimise risk of COVID-19 spread? Rather than insisting on 'essential goods' only, the key lies in which factories can enforce social distancing

HARISH DAMODARAN & NUSHAIBA IQBAL NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

AS THE 21-day lockdown to combat the COVID-19 pandemic prepares to enter its last week, two things are clear. First, lifting of production and movement curbs will be gradual even after April 14.

Two lakh factories

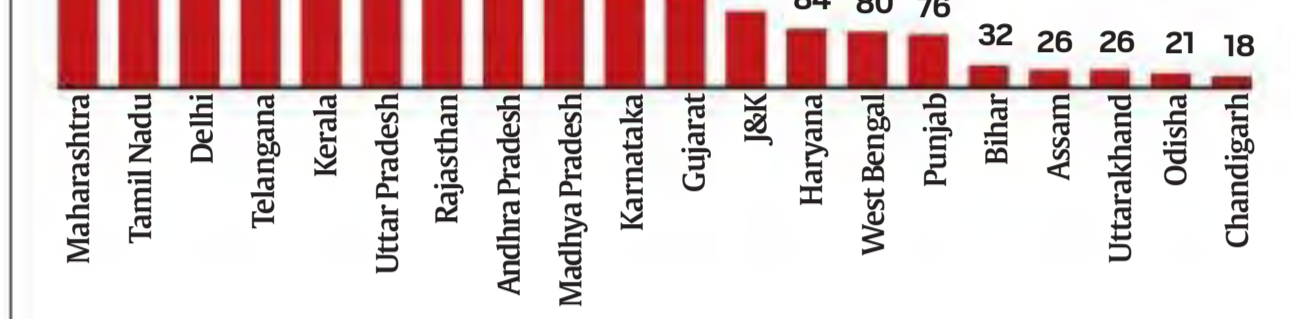
One useful source of information could be the National Sample Survey Office's Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), which covers all organised manufacturing establishments with power connection that employ at least 10 workers...

Trends: output, outbreak

The state with the largest share in factory output, Gujarat, is ranked No. 11 in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases. Delhi, which has reported the third highest cases, isn't even among the country's top 20 manufacturing states.



STATE-WISE SHARES IN TOTAL FACTORY OUTPUT (%) Gujarat (16.84), Maharashtra (14.86), Tamil Nadu (10.70), Karnataka (6.55), Uttar Pradesh (6.37), Haryana (6.23), West Bengal (3.95), Andhra Pradesh (3.85), Rajasthan (3.68), Madhya Pradesh (3.18), Uttarakhand (2.92), Odisha (2.84), Telangana (2.75), Punjab (2.62), Kerala (2.02), Jharkhand (1.75), Chhattisgarh (1.55), Himachal Pradesh (1.39), Assam (0.83), Bihar (0.74).



STATE-WISE SHARES IN TOTAL FACTORY OUTPUT (%). Gujarat (16.84), Maharashtra (14.86), Tamil Nadu (10.70), Karnataka (6.55), Uttar Pradesh (6.37), Haryana (6.23), West Bengal (3.95), Andhra Pradesh (3.85), Rajasthan (3.68), Madhya Pradesh (3.18), Uttarakhand (2.92), Odisha (2.84), Telangana (2.75), Punjab (2.62), Kerala (2.02), Jharkhand (1.75), Chhattisgarh (1.55), Himachal Pradesh (1.39), Assam (0.83), Bihar (0.74).

put of Rs 80.72 lakh crore and 72.41% of its 1.56 crore employees in 2017-18 came from the corporate sector - both non-government and government companies - and only the balance were from individual proprietorship and partnership firms.

The former set of units would, again, be more amenable to regulation and enforcement of social distancing. It would be even more so for units in relatively secluded special economic zones such as Kandla, Mundra and Sri City.

If social distancing can be rigorously implemented in organised manufacturing, there would be no need to insist that such activity should be restricted only to the production of "essential goods".

The challenge ahead

Currently, almost every industry - barring coal mines, oil refineries, fertilisers, pharma, and those requiring continuous process operations such as steel blast furnaces or aluminium smelters - is shut.

Zoo tiger positive: are cats at particular risk?

KABIR FIRAQUE NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

FROM A virus whose behaviour still involves more questions than answers, there has been another first: A Malayan tiger at New York's Bronx Zoo has tested positive for SARS-CoV2.

So, humans can infect animals?

The virus came from an animal source and mutated; humans have since been infecting humans. It is theoretically possible for the virus to mutate again to survive in certain species after being transmitted by humans.

What about domestic animals?

There have been a handful of cases of pets being infected; the indications are they caught it from humans. There have been reports about two dogs in Hong Kong - a Pomeranian and a German shepherd - testing positive.

So, are cats at higher risk than dogs, and can they, in turn, infect humans?

Chinese researchers recently published a pre-print paper (not yet peer-reviewed) on this subject. They inoculated cats with the novel coronavirus, placed them alongside uninfected cats, and found that cats can transmit the virus to one another.



File picture of Nadia at the zoo. Reuters

There may be a possible explanation why felines are more susceptible. SARS-CoV2 infects respiratory cells after entering through a protein, which lies on the surface of the cells. Called ACE2, the protein in felines resembles

ACE2 in humans, Steven Van Gucht, the Belgian government's spokesperson for coronavirus, told Live Science after the cat caught the virus.

As it is, cats are susceptible to feline coronavirus, which is common but generally asymptomatic, although it can cause mild diarrhoea, according to Cornell University.

Should you worry about your pets?

After the tiger tested positive, the US Department of Agriculture advised that people with COVID-19 restrict contact with animals, just as they would with other people. It did not recommend routine tests for pets.

Will summer heat kill virus? Some trends, but experts still advise caution

KAUNAIN SHERIFF M NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

THE TEMPERATURE in several parts of India has crossed 30°C and is expected to touch 40°C in the northern regions in the next two weeks. What will it mean to the survival of the novel coronavirus? The effect of temperature and humidity on the virus is still being researched worldwide.

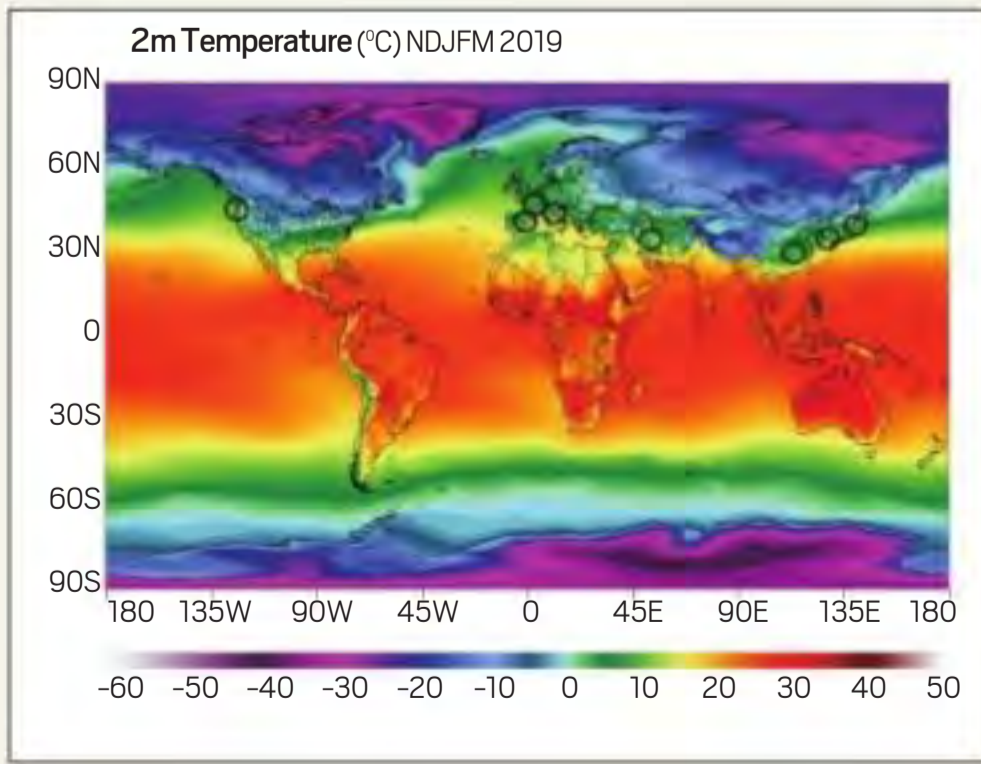
What the experts say

WHO: The World Health Organization has said that from the "evidence so far, the COVID-19 virus can be transmitted in ALL AREAS, including hot and humid weathers".

ond, a lot of us spend time indoors, where the temperature is air-conditioned... Therefore, summer may help in preventing the transmission outside but possibly not indoors."

What research has projected

Researchers at the University of Maryland School of Medicine used weather modelling data to predict that COVID-19 is likely to follow a seasonal pattern. In an online paper in Social Science Research Network, the team led by Dr Mohd Sajadi observed a significant community spread along a east-west distribution approximately between latitudes 30°N and 50°N at similar weather patterns (temperature between 5-11°C and humidity between 47-79%).



Temperature map for Nov 2018-March 2019. Black circles represent countries with significant community transmission (as of March 10, 2020). Source: Climate Reanalyzer, University of Maine, via Sajadi et al, SSRN

degrees N") in the coming months. It could perhaps prevail at low levels in tropical regions and begin to rise again in late fall and winter in temperate regions... One other possibility is that it will not be able to sustain itself in the summer in the tropics and Southern Hemisphere and disappear," it states.

Limitations to projections

The researchers acknowledge: "The

above factors, climate variables not considered or analyzed (cloud cover, maximum temperature, etc.), human factors not considered or analyzed (impact of epidemiologic interventions, concentrated outbreaks like cruise ships, travel, etc.), viral factors not considered or analyzed (mutation rate, pathogenesis, etc.), mean that although the current correlations with latitude and temperature seem strong, direct causation has

not been proven and predictions in the near term are speculative and have to be considered with extreme caution."

In another study, Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers Qasim Bukhari and Yusuf Jameel, too, discuss the limitations of correlating the virus spread with temperature and humidity. Their analysis showed that for each 10-day period during January 22-March 21, the maximum number of new cases happened in regions with mean temperature between 4-17°C and absolute humidity between 3-9 g/cubic metre. However, they underline that the spread depends on multiple factors including testing, social dynamics and government policies.

The MIT paper too observes that COVID-19 growth such as Italy, Iran, South Korea, New York and Washington exhibit weather patterns similar to original hotspots of Hubei and Hunan. Countries with warmer humid climates such as Singapore and Malaysia had a lower growth rate.

Looking for reasons

The MIT paper discusses probable rea-

sons for the fewer cases in the tropics. "First, it could solely be due to less testing as many of the countries lack good healthcare facilities and may have not done enough testing to detect the actual spread... Indeed, so far, the number of testing in several densely populated tropical countries (Brazil, India, Indonesia etc.) have been very low," it states.

"Second, it could be argued that human mobility between China and Europe and between China and the US is high, therefore the number of cases in these regions are high. However... human mobility between China and South-East Asia is also high and therefore the lower growth rate in these countries is perplexing... Sophisticated infrastructure does not exist in Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia and the lower growth rate in South-East Asia cannot be explained by lower human mobility with China or robust health infrastructure," the paper states.

"Third, it could also be argued that the government in these countries is taking exceptional measures to stop the spread... which we also know is not true," it states.

The paper concludes that the lower counts in densely populated countries between 0-30°N (combined population almost 3 billion) "may be due to natural factors that warrant investigation".



“AUTHORITARIAN IDEOLOGIES HAVE VESTED INTERESTS IN PROMOTING FEAR, A SENSE OF TAKEOVER BY ALIENS, REAL DISEASES ARE USEFUL MATERIAL.”

—SUSAN SONTAG

The Indian EXPRESS

FOUNDED BY RAMNATH GOENKA

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

Social media distancing

It is time for the digital leaders to flatten the curve of the infodemic



BHASKAR CHAKRAVORTI

CHIEF FIGHTERS

Chief Ministers from south and west lead fight against virus, their efforts boosted by past investments in public systems

STATES IN SOUTHERN and western India top the list of places that have recorded the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the country.

Credit also goes to the individual chief ministers who are leading from the front in the battle against the coronavirus.

While the CMs are stepping up to the pandemic, the presence of well-functioning administrative networks has boosted their efforts.

A DRUG IN NEED

India’s decision on hydroxychloroquine must be informed by global evidence, domestic needs

US PRESIDENT DONALD Trump has said he has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to relax India’s ban on hydroxychloroquine tablets so that the drug can be used to treat America’s COVID-19 patients.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) recommends the use of hydroxychloroquine as a prophylactic for asymptomatic healthcare workers and contacts of people who have been infected by the virus.

THE COLONY BORES

During the lockdown, RWAs have taken to issuing diktats that annoy and inconvenience residents

POWER, THE PROVERB goes, corrupts — what it does not add is that petty power annoys. In the wake of the corona crisis and the lockdown announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, those running Residents’ Welfare Associations (RWAs) have, in their over zealousness, taken to issuing diktats with self-righteous certainty, to the chagrin of many residents.

The humble newspaper has been banned from many societies and some are not allowing the sale of vegetables — defined as essential goods and services.

RWAs are, in their composition, undemocratic. Mostly, only property owners have voting rights in their elections: Such voters and those they elect as a result are largely male, many middle-aged.

AS INDIA, HOWSOEVER unevenly, practises social distancing, it may not be such a bad idea to practise some social media distancing as well.

Here is why the infodemic can be deadly. In a country such as India, where 400 million turn to a single messaging app for sharing news and stories about any and everything, more than 240 million are on Facebook and, often, using it as the predominant source of news, a critical mass of misinformation leads to mis-directed behaviours.

Like many of you who are reading this, I am on one too many WhatsApp groups. Usually, I let the messages accumulate, as my personal form of social media distancing.

Of course, we, as users, have a responsibility to find better ways to seek advice or substitutes for that dopamine rush of sharing a message instantly liked, commented on and shared by others.

For the American social media companies, this could be their moment of redemption after years of being pilloried as ‘surveillance capitalists’ and a menace to society, but they have a narrow window to get it right.

THE FREEDOM TO SING

Turkish singer Helin Bölek was part of a longer non-violent struggle for rights



S GOPALAKRISHNAN

IT WAS DEPRESSING to see the video of a small group of mourners wearing corona-prevention masks being dispersed with water cannons on a rainy day in Istanbul.

According to a post on the group’s Twitter account, Bölek and fellow band member, İbrahim Gökçek, started the strike while imprisoned to protest against the way the government treated their popular music collective, Grup Yorum, which has had a rotating membership.

Marion Wallace Dunlop, one of the most well-known British suffragettes who helped to make voting rights to the British women possible, once resisted a male jailor force-feeding her when she was on a hunger strike

YouTube, Twitter, TikTok, it is imperative that the leaders of these nations act — and act now.

It is about time, Mark Zuckerberg (Facebook/WhatsApp), Sundar Pichai (Google/YouTube), Jack Dorsey (Twitter) and Zhang Yiming (TikTok) made some tough calls, much like what their own political leaders have done.

For the American social media companies, this could be their moment of redemption after years of being pilloried as ‘surveillance capitalists’ and a menace to society, but they have a narrow window to get it right.

Wouldn’t it be more useful if instead of a coy ‘Forwarded’ note, WhatsApp had a note that said, ‘For Reliable Medical Advice, Check Out the WHO’ or some other trustworthy medical authority? A little clunky? This is not the time to be fussy about the aesthetics of one’s WhatsApp feed.

Speaking of clunky design, let’s talk about YouTube. The platform did try to compensate for the quacks and cranks who populate the platform by placing a link to an authoritative organisation, such as the WHO, below

the video, with the organisation’s logo. This, frankly, is a terrible design choice on the part of a company based in the backyard of Stanford, considered the home of “design thinking”.

Consider the widely-viewed videos from Baba Ramdev, yogi and ayurvedic capitalist extraordinaire. He claims to have invented Ashwagandha, that “doesn’t allow blending of corona protein with human protein.” He also has scientifically unproven tests for the coronavirus and yoga asanas that can help stave it off and myriad other sagely advice.

Twitter, for its part, keeps updating its policies for what it will and will not allow. The result is an inconsistent policy that leaves room for Elon Musk, @elonmusk, founder of Tesla and SpaceX, to tweet to 32.7 million followers that children are immune to the coronavirus (false).

Here is the bottom line: Social distancing has direct economic costs. We can see a global economy melting down in front of our eyes.

So, Mark, Sundar, Jack, and Zhang, it is time to step up and help us all practise social media distancing by enforcing stricter standards. Beyond India, the entire developing world relies on your platforms for news about the pandemic.

The writer is Dean of Global Business at The Fletcher School at Tufts University, founding executive director of Fletcher’s Institute for Business in the Global Context and a non-resident senior fellow of Brookings India



APRIL 7, 1980, FORTY YEARS AGO

BJP IS BORN THE BHARATIYA JANATA Party, founded after the third split in the three-year-old Janata Party, was formally launched with the unanimous election of Atal Behari Vajpayee as its president.

who would run it till the national convention or primary members after the assembly elections. Vijayaraje Scindia, who presided over the two-day convention and Ram Jethmalani would be two of the three vice-presidents.

JANA SANGH REVIVAL IF THE MOOD of the 4,000 odd delegates at the two-day convention called by L.K Advani is any indication, the revival of the Jana Sangh after the assembly elections is a distinct possibility.

leadership’s decision to name the new party the Bharatiya Janata Party. Several delegates particularly from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Delhi, expressed their disappointment with the announced policies of carrying on the legacy of JP Narayan.

ASSAM AGITATION ASSAM AGITATORS APPLIED a tighter squeeze to prevent the flow of crude oil from the state as the governor’s notification designating the entire state a disturbed area.

9 THE IDEAS PAGE

Let's respect the balance

This pandemic has made the world re-examine the interconnection between man and nature



M VENKAIHA NAIDU

THIS YEAR'S WORLD Health Day comes at a time when the world is engaged in an unprecedented battle against COVID-19, which has claimed thousands of lives so far. It is an occasion to remind humanity to not only maintain personal hygiene but also not to tamper with nature. It is also an occasion to recollect the important role being played by medical professionals, who are the WHO's special focus this year, in treating COVID-19 patients across the globe.

Despite rapid scientific and medical advancements, the pandemic has shown how vulnerable and helpless homo sapiens are, even as scientists across the globe are racing against time to save lives by finding an appropriate cure for the severely afflicted and develop a preventive vaccine.

The deadly virus does not distinguish between a prince and a pauper, nor does it recognise distinctions between regions or religions. It continues to shake the entire world with country after country announcing lockdowns and closing borders to prevent its transmission.

It is not only ironical but also a bit surreal that while the world wide web opened up the world and connected people like never before, the worldwide virus has forced nations to close their borders and opt for social distancing.

These are testing times for humanity. After we emerge from this battle and try to come to terms with the altered realities of economic recession and the massive disruption in individual lives, there will be a moment to seek a solution to the conundrum: Can such catastrophic events be prevented? There will be time to raise questions over our development model and the fragility of our ecosystem and the unsustainability of our production-consumption patterns. We may be left wondering if it is true, as some thinkers are arguing, that man's greed which is destroying the habitats of other species is triggering such catastrophic consequences.

The COVID-19 pandemic is bringing into sharp focus the distortions in the ecological equilibrium. It may be time to recall the ancient Indian vision to respect and restore this balance. More than 2,000 years ago, the ancient Vedic sages had espoused a worldview that gave equal importance to all living creatures. In the Rig Veda, one finds the following Sanskrit hymn:

*Om tacchayoravrinihma gatunyajaya
gatunyajnapataye daivisvasistrastunaha
svastimanushyehyaha urdhvamjigatubheshajam
sham no astudvipade sham chatushpade
Om shantihshantihshantih*

(The sage prays for the welfare of all beings. He prays that plants, especially the medicinal herbs should grow in plenty so that all diseases may be cured and we live a healthy life. The sage hopes fervently that the gods will rain peace on us and all the two-legged creatures as well as all the four-legged creatures would be happy. Finally, the sage concludes with the prayer that there should be peace in the hearts of all beings in all realms.)

This prayer epitomises the essential vi-



C R Sasikumar

sion of ancient India, which revered nature and underscored the need for the harmonious co-existence of all living creatures. Worshipping nature is part of our culture as the manifestation of divinity is seen in every element, including plants and animals. As such, preservation of the environment and maintaining ecological balance has been an age-old tradition.

Mahatma Gandhi had quite aptly said: "I bow my head in reverence to our ancestors for their sense of the beautiful in nature and for their foresight in investing beautiful manifestations of nature with a religious significance".

It is time for all Indians and every global citizen to become proactive warriors in the cause of protecting nature so that the planet, people and all other living creatures remain healthy and enjoy a harmonious existence. The air we breathe and the water we drink should be clean. We should conserve soil and plant wealth and other natural resources.

The drastic improvement in air quality in the wake of the lockdowns and the recent reports of wild animals wandering into urban spaces illustrates the extent to which human beings have caused disruption.

In the Indian worldview, our prayers have been for maintaining this harmony not only on the earth but also in sky and space, as the following Vedic verse succinctly illustrates:

*DyauhShaantir-AntarikshamShaantih
PrithviShaantir-AapahShaantir-
OssadhayahShaantih VanaspatayahShaantir-
VishvedevaahShaantir-Brahma Shaantih,
SarvamShaantihShaantir-Eva Shaantih, Saa
Maa Shaantir-Edhi*

(Peace is in the Sky and Space; Peace is on the Earth; Peace is in Water; Peace is in Plants; Peace is in Trees; Peace is in Gods presiding over various elements of Nature; Peace is in our consciousness; Peace is pervading everywhere; Peace outside and Peace within. May you have that Peace which makes your life fulfilled.)

India has achieved significant progress on various health indices since Independence and has eliminated important infectious diseases like yaws, smallpox, and polio. The average life expectancy has increased to 69 years and India's disease burden due to communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases has dropped from 61 per cent to 33 per cent between 1990 and 2016.

However, lifestyle changes over the years have led to a huge increase in non-communicable diseases. A few years ago, WHO data has attributed 61 per cent of all deaths in

India to NCDs like heart disorders, cancer and diabetes. There is a need to arrest this worrisome trend by mounting a massive national campaign on the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle by shunning sedentary living and avoiding junk food, among other steps. Awareness has to be created from a young age by promoting yoga and meditation as also healthy dietary habits. These aspects should become part of the school curriculum and bodies like the Indian Medical Association and medical institutions should take the lead in educating people. The media also has to play a more proactive role in disseminating information to the masses.

Another important issue is the need to take special care of senior citizens and the elderly, especially in the context of the present pandemic as they are the most vulnerable to contract the disease.

With the glaring urban-rural gap in health infrastructure, COVID-19 has also brought into focus and underscored the need for greater investment in public health. We must treat this as a wakeup call. The flagship scheme of Ayushman Bharat seeks to address this problem to some extent by providing health insurance coverage to over 50 crore beneficiaries and delivering comprehensive primary healthcare through 1.5 lakh health and wellness centres.

We must pay attention to both the preventive and curative aspects of public health. We must address lifestyle issues and look for holistic solutions.

This pandemic has made the world re-examine the interconnection between man and nature. We need to recognise that we share this planet with plants, birds and animals and other living organisms. We need to understand the dynamics of this interaction and adopt what WHO has termed a "One Health" concept, which adopts a multidisciplinary approach to attain optimal health for people, animals, plants and the environment. To achieve optimal health outcomes, it seeks to bring together multiple sectors and combine the expertise of health professionals, biologists, veterinarians, virologists and ecologists, among others, in designing policies and programmes.

Ours is one world. We must protect its balance so that we can lead healthier lives. We must combine knowledge with wisdom. We must act in unison to create a safer planet with improved health outcomes for people, plants and animals while protecting the environment.

The writer is vice president of India

WHAT THE OTHERS SAY

"The pandemic is underscoring the fact that internet access is no longer a luxury, but a necessity to participate in society fully. More than half the world's population is now online. But access varies hugely according to the development level of countries, the wealth and education of individuals, and gender"

— THE GUARDIAN

When people lead

Prime Minister has deftly drafted the people into the fight against pandemic



RAM MADHAV

VIKTOR ORBAN felt that the Parliament impeded his fight against COVID-19. The prime minister of Hungary used the majority he enjoys in the parliament to secure emergency powers for himself. He can now run Hungary through decrees without any judicial oversight. Any criticism of his measures will attract imprisonment up to five years.

Extraordinary times call for extraordinary measures, some justifiable. But critics argue that some leaders are using the public health emergency to usurp all powers and are emerging as authoritarian regimes. We are not talking about Russia or China. Even traditional democracies like Britain and Israel are compelled to turn to emergency measures in their battle against the pandemic. The Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, has ordered the courts to be shut down (some criticise this as a measure to evade his own prosecution), authorised his internal security agencies to carry out extensive surveillance on citizens, and is punishing violators of the lockdown with six months' imprisonment.

The United Kingdom, with well-established democratic institutions and practices, had to push through a pandemic-related bill that gave sweeping powers to different ministries for detaining and arresting people indefinitely. Health Secretary Matt Hancock, while presenting the Bill to the parliament, admitted that it was "a departure from the way that we do things".

President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines and Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha of Thailand have been granted supreme powers by their respective governments. Italy and Spain have had to turn to their militaries for quarantining thousands of people. Hungary, Lebanon, Malaysia, Peru and many other countries too have brought their armies to the streets to implement the restrictions. Even Germany and the UK have turned to soldiers for help. The UK has formed a "COVID Response Group" with about 20,000 soldiers.

In the US, initial efforts by the Donald Trump administration called for sweeping powers to detain people indefinitely without trial and end legal protection to asylum seekers. However, the US Congress intervened and forced the Justice Department to dilute its wish-list. President Trump is constrained by the fact that under the US constitution, governors of various states enjoy exclusive powers in matters of lockdown.

Compare all that with what Prime Minister Narendra Modi is doing in India. He has neither asked for nor invoked any emergency powers. He has not resorted to any draconian measures like censorship or detention without trial. The cacophony about gagging the media is misinformed. All that the Supreme Court had asked of the

media is to be careful with fake news and give space to official figures and numbers.

Modi has not called the army onto the streets. He has not denied people any fundamental human rights. The lockdown instructions were largely voluntary and for the public good. Not that harsh measures were not suggested to him. Yet, Modi decided to depend not on authoritarianism but on democratic means. He came out as a committed democrat upholding basic human rights in a "world war-like situation", as he has described it.

In his fight against the coronavirus, Modi's weapon is the trust of 1.3 billion people of India. Shashan, Prashasan aur Janta Janardhan — political leadership, bureaucracy and the divine people — was how he described his combat coalition in a recent address to the nation. Although half of the state governments in India are ruled by non-BJP parties, Modi didn't face any opposition. It shows the level of his credibility. It is appropriate here to recall the recent spat between President Trump and the governor of New York, Andrew Cuomo.

This is the most significant dimension of the Modi government. We often hear platitudes for democracies like "Of the people, for the people, by the people". However, in most democracies, things are hardly ever "by the people". Modi has changed that. He has not seen people as mere voters or spectators. He has made them stakeholders in governance. Starting with his first major campaign for cleanliness — Swachh Bharat Abhiyan — right up to the present fight against the pandemic, Modi has displayed the unique skill of increasingly making people active participants.

Francis Fukuyama makes an interesting distinction between the rule of law and the rule by law. Democracies are run based on the rule of law where the rules framed by the constitution are supreme. Authoritarians try to resort to rule by law, a complete deviation from the democratic spirit. Modi has clearly shown his commitment to the rule of law. Not that there were no provocations. There were incidents like the Tablighi Jamaat Markaz — a deliberate violation of lockdown restrictions by certain religious groups, and situations like the large-scale flight of migrant workers. There were also instances where state governments themselves were seen violating lockdown restrictions.

Yet, Modi didn't discard his model. He continues to invoke the innate goodness of the people. In his latest address, he described them as Isvar (God) and called for the manifestation of their maha shakti (mighty power) and the virat roop (omni form). That the people of India are solidly behind him has been manifested in how they responded to his calls, such as applauding the corona-fighters or lighting a lamp for them.

Modi has taken his fight against the pandemic to a different level. He has used scientific methods, deployed technology in a big way and made 1.3 billion people stakeholders in his fight. Through his unique and visionary handling of this situation, Modi has presented a new mantra to the world: "Human-centric development cooperation."

The writer is national general secretary, BJP and director, India Foundation



RAJA MANDALA

BY C RAJA MOHAN

Between nationalism & globalism

Sovereignty is back. Solidarity is under stress, will need to be reinvented

IS EVERYONE for himself, when the chips are down? That is not true of most communities—a village, city or a nation—where the social capital is strong enough to put the collective above the self. But when it comes to the society of states, it would seem that each nation is for itself, especially in the middle of a pandemic.

Although all world leaders have acknowledged the global imperative in dealing with the virus, they have put the nation first. Are all nations now for themselves? Not so fast. Sovereignty is certainly back. Solidarity is under stress, but not dead. The drift is towards a middle path between extreme globalism and hyper-nationalism. The last few decades have seen the growing awareness of "global problems" like climate change and the need for "global solutions". The corona pandemic certainly adds to that consciousness. But as in the case of climate change, collective action is not easy to come by.

One of the first steps most governments took during the current crisis was to shut down their borders. The idea of a "borderless world" had gained much acceptance in recent years, but is now under serious questioning. See, for example, how the US, Canada and Europe are outbidding each other in buying medical material from China. They are ready to pay a hefty premium if Chinese suppliers break from an earlier commitment. Meanwhile, many nations, including India, have banned the export of much-needed

medicines and equipment to combat the virus.

Washington, which initially criticised other countries for limiting exports of essential drugs, has had no option but to go down that path as the toll from coronavirus rose rapidly. Donald Trump is angry with 3M, one of the leading American producers of masks, for exporting to other nations at a time of huge domestic shortfall. The US ban on exports of medical supplies came just days after the G-20 affirmed that its member states "will work to ensure the flow of vital medical supplies, critical agricultural products, and other goods and services across borders".

The problem is not that governments are being hypocritical. They are simply trapped in a crisis that is testing two important assumptions that guided the world in the last three decades. One is that globalisation, with its long and transborder supply chains, generates prosperity through economic efficiency. Second was that economic globalisation based on the dispersal of production will serve the interests of all nations.

The new objections to economic globalisation are not coming from the traditional champions of sovereignty in the East and the South, but the West. It was North America and Europe that had preached the virtues of unhindered economic globalisation. They also championed the idea of globalism that will transcend national sovereignty in terms of both institutions and values.

New converts to nationalism and sovereignty began to appear in the West well before corona crisis. Britain walked out of the European Union claiming the need to "take back control" of its borders. Storming the White House against all predictions in 2016, Trump has sought to push Washington away from the trinity of America's post-war political commitments—to open borders, free trade, and multilateralism. For Trump and his team, the corona crisis is confirmation of the dangers of excessive globalisation. This argument is finding some resonance in Europe. Addressing workers at a factory that makes masks in France, President Emmanuel Macron said, "We have to produce more in France...to reduce our dependency. We must rebuild our national and European sovereignty".

The efficiency argument of the globalists has been countered in the West by many who say societies are not merely economic units; they are also political and social communities. While expansive globalisation has helped generate super profits for the capital, it has put the working people at an increasing disadvantage.

The uneven distribution of the benefits from the dispersal of production and free movement of labour has undermined political support for economic globalisation in the West. Reinforcing this downward trend is the belief that China is misusing global economic interdependence for unilateral political advantage. There were indeed strategic conse-

quences to China's emergence as the world's factory. After all, China is not a passive territory; it is an ancient civilisation with ambitions of its own.

Where then does the virus leave us? While economic interdependence among nations can't be eliminated, we might be past the peak of expansive globalisation and hyper-connectivity. Many countries are likely to move to diversification of external production, short supply chains and stockpiles of essential materials to limit vulnerability during times of crises.

The palpable anger against China in the US and beyond, for keeping the world in the dark about the spread of the coronavirus, has been magnified by Beijing's "mask diplomacy" and political triumphalism after it got in control of the situation in Wuhan. This anger is bound to translate into long-term changes in the relations between China and the West and some rearrangement of multi-lateral mechanisms.

Out of this restructuring new international coalitions are likely to emerge. Even as world leaders put their own respective nations first, they will also explore new forms of solidarity. Like the instinct for self-preservation, solidarity too is part of human nature.

The writer is director, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore and contributing editor on international affairs for The Indian Express

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUPPLY CRUNCH

THIS REFERS TO the editorial, 'Securing frontlines' (IE, April 6). While the whole world is grappling with the menace of the coronavirus pandemic, India is suffering a double whammy of acute shortage of essential medical equipment such as gloves, masks and personal protection equipment for doctors and paramedical staff. Appreciating the magnitude of this problem on April 4, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the lead in voicing his deep concern and alerting the country's health authorities to do the needful. Panic buying should be avoided and such items may be purchased judiciously.

Ravi Mathur, Noida

LETTER OF THE WEEK AWARD

To encourage quality reader intervention, The Indian Express offers the Letter of the Week award. The letter adjudged the best for the week is published every Saturday. Letters may be e-mailed to editpage@expressindia.com or sent to The Indian Express, B-1/B, Sector 10, Noida-UP 201301.

COVID PREJUDICE

THIS REFERS TO the article, 'Pandemic and prejudice' (IE, April 6). The plight of the author is understandable. Naming China as the culprit behind the spread of COVID-19 seems to have generated a dislike for people from that country among Indians. The US, which began blaming China, might benefit from such an exercise. But it does not behove a country with a rich tradition of humanitarianism.

G Javaid Rasool, Lucknow

10 THE OUTBREAK THE WORLD

PANDEMIC WATCH



Leo Varadkar

IRELAND

Indian-origin PM Varadkar rejoins medical register

London: Ireland's Indian-origin Prime Minister, Leo Varadkar, has rejoined the country's medical register to take on his former role as a doctor on the frontlines of the Irish health service tackling the COVID-19 crisis. According to 'The Irish Times', the Taoiseach - as the Irish Prime Minister is known - rejoined the medical register back in March, just as the pandemic hit Ireland. Varadkar, 41, is set to work within the country's Health Service Executive (HSE), providing essential over-the-phone assessments to anyone who thinks they may have been exposed to coronavirus.

SINGAPORE

Govt to close airport terminal for 18 months

Singapore: Singapore will suspend operations of Changi Airport's terminal 2 for 18 months starting next month following a sharp drop in passenger traffic. Changi Airport is Singapore's main civilian airport and is one of the largest transportation hubs in Asia. It has four terminals. "We will save on running costs for the airport operator, retail tenants, airlines and ground handlers," Transport Minister Khaw Boon Wan said Monday. One terminal is enough to handle current traffic at the airport, he said.

IRAN

'Gradual decline' in virus: Govt

Tehran: The trajectory of coronavirus infections in Iran appears to have started a "gradual" downward trend, the government said Monday, but it warned the disease is far from being under control. The COVID-19 outbreak claimed 136 deaths in the past 24 hours, bringing Iran's overall death toll to 3,739, health ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour told a televised news conference. "Due to intensification of social distancing, we have seen a gradual and slow decline in the number of new cases in recent days," a spokesperson said.

Pak cancels Baisakhi fest at Gurdwara Punja Sahib

M ZULQERNAIN LAHORE, APRIL 6

PAKISTAN HAS cancelled the Baisakhi celebrations at Gurdwara Punja Sahib in Punjab province from April 14, in which around 2,000 Sikhs from India were to participate, due to the coronavirus pandemic in the country, authorities said on Monday.

The number of the coronavirus cases in Pakistan on Monday reached 3,277 with the infections in the worst-hit Punjab province approaching 1,500. The deadly virus which originated in China's Wuhan city has infected more than 1.2 million people globally.

"The government has cancelled both Baisakhi and Sadhu Bela festivals scheduled to be held in April and May, respectively, because of coronavirus," Mir Hashmi, the Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) spokesman, told PTI.

He said the Pakistan government was to issue over 2,000 visas to Indian Sikhs for the Baisakhi festival but it has stopped the process earlier because of the pandemic. "Instructions have also been issued to the management of the Gurdwara Hasan Abdal not to open it for local Sikhs for the Baisakhi festivities either," he said.

Thousands of local Sikhs in addition to pilgrims from India and other parts of the world participate in it every year.

The ETPB looks after the holy places of the minority community in the country. In 2019, over 2,200 Sikhs from India visited Pakistan to celebrate Baisakhi. **PTI**

DOINA CHIACU & SUSAN HEAVEY WASHINGTON, APRIL 6

US OFFICIALS on Monday girded the country for a "peak death week" from the coronavirus pandemic as the accelerating American death toll closed the gap with Italy and Spain, the countries with the most fatalities to date.

"It's going to be the peak hospitalisation, peak ICU week and unfortunately, peak death week," Admiral Brett Giroir, a physician and a member of the White House coronavirus task force, told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Monday.

Giroir raised particular alarm for New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Detroit.

Confirmed US coronavirus cases topped 336,000 on Sunday. Roughly twice as many people a day are dying in the United States versus Spain and Italy, according to the latest data. The American death toll rose by 1,144 on Sunday, pushing the total to 9,573.

Hospitals report chaotic shortages of beds, ventilators and protective gear as patients isolated from their families die alone. Meanwhile, more than 90 percent of Americans are under



A nearly-empty Park Avenue in Manhattan. Reuters

stay-at-home orders issued by state governors.

In the US government's first review of the ability of hospitals to cope with the coronavirus outbreak, investigators on Monday confirmed that facilities nationwide faced "substantial challenges," including shortages of equipment and staff.

In terms of testing and treating patients, hospitals have insufficient capacity to handle the surge, which is taking an emotional toll on doctors and nurses, the US Department of Health and Human Services inspector general said in a report based on 323 hospitals surveyed from March 23-27.

"Hospitals reported that widespread shortages of PPE put staff and patients at risk," HHS inspectors said, referring to personal protective equipment. "Additionally, hospitals reported frequently waiting seven days or longer for test results," requiring them to keep patients longer and use up more critical supplies.

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo on Monday extended a shutdown in the city until near the end of the month, as per a PTI report.

Cuomo said the COVID-19 death rate in New York was "effectively flat" for the past two days but announced that schools

TIGER TESTS POSITIVE

A TIGER at the Bronx zoo has COVID-19, in what is believed to be what one official called "human-to-cat transmission." "This is the first instance of a tiger being infected with Covid-19," as per to the US Department of Agriculture, which noted that although only one tiger had been tested, the virus appeared to have infected other animals as well. "Several lions and tigers at the zoo showed symptoms of respiratory illness," according to a statement by the Agriculture Department

and non-essential businesses must stay shut until April 29. "Now is not the time to be lax," he told reporters.

Trump, who has oscillated between issuing dire warnings and expressing optimism that contradicts the views of his medical experts, tweeted "USA STRONG!" and "LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL!" on Monday. **REUTERS**

US denies diverting masks bound for Berlin

Berlin: The US embassy in Germany on Monday denied a claim that a Berlin-bound shipment of protective masks had been "confiscated" by the United States, calling it disinformation designed to stoke division.

"The US Government did not take any action to divert any... supplies that were destined to Germany nor did we have any knowledge of such a shipment," an embassy spokesman said. "We remain concerned about pervasive attempts to divide international efforts through un-sourced, unattributed disinformation campaigns," he added.

Berlin's regional minister of the interior Andreas Geisel on Friday said 200,000 FFP2 masks, destined for use by Berlin police, were "confiscated" in Bangkok.

He accused the US of using "methods from the Wild West" and of carrying out an "act of modern-day piracy". Geisel doubled down on the accusations on Monday morning, insisting that the masks had been redirected to the US. **AFP**

TOLL TOPS 5,000; QUEEN RALLIES UK

Boris in hospital after symptoms persist for 10 days



At the hospital where PM Boris Johnson is admitted. Reuters

AGENCIES LONDON, APRIL 6

PRIME MINISTER Boris Johnson was hospitalised on Sunday evening after 10 days of battling the coronavirus, unnerving a country that had gathered to watch Queen Elizabeth II rally fellow Britons to confront the pandemic and reassure them that when the crisis finally ebbed, "we will meet again."

Johnson messaged from his hospital bed on Monday that he was in "good spirits" and staying in contact with his ministers to oversee the UK's fightback.

"Last night, on the advice of my doctor, I went into hospital for some routine tests as I'm still experiencing coronavirus symptoms. I'm in good spirits and keeping in touch with my team, as we work together to fight this virus and keep everyone safe," Johnson said in a Twitter post.

More than 5,000 people who tested positive for coronavirus have now died in Britain, official figures showed Monday.

Earlier, UK housing and communities secretary Robert Jenrick said, "This wasn't an emergency admission. It was a planned admission to undergo some routine tests. He is doing well, I am told,



I'd like to say thank you to all the brilliant NHS staff taking care of me and others in this difficult time. You are the best of Britain. Stay safe everyone, and please remember to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives"

— BORIS JOHNSON

and we look forward to him being back at No 10 soon."

But the uncertainty generated by his persistent illness underscored the sense of crisis that led the queen to address the country in a rare televised speech that evoked the darkest days of World War II.

"I am speaking to you at what I know is an increasingly challenging time," the queen said. "A disruption that has brought grief to some, financial difficulties to many, and enormous changes to the daily lives of us all."

they should be safest. In their own homes," he said.

Describing the rise in domestic violence as "horrifying," he urged all governments "to make the prevention and redress of violence against women a key part of their national response plans for COVID-19." India reported double the usual number of domestic abuse cases in the first week of nationwide movement restrictions, according to the country's National Commission for Women.

Cases in France rose by a third in the week after that country's lockdown, authorities said, while Australia reported a 75 per cent increase in internet searches relating to support for domestic violence victims.

Japan PM proposes emergency, \$1-trillion aid

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE TOKYO, APRIL 6

JAPAN'S PRIME minister on Monday proposed a state of emergency for several major regions seeing a sharp rise in coronavirus cases, as well as a stimulus package worth \$1 trillion to cushion the impact on the world's third-biggest economy.

The official declaration of the state of emergency would likely come as soon as Tuesday, Shinzo Abe said, as the country grapples with a recent spike in cases.

"Currently, we are seeing rapid increases of new infections particularly in urban areas like Tokyo and Osaka," said Abe.

The declaration hands regional governors the power to ask residents to stay inside, seek the closure of businesses that attract large crowds and commandeer land and buildings for medical purposes. But it falls far short of the sort of lockdown measures imposed in parts of Europe, where police have patrolled the streets and fined offenders.

"We envision, for a period of about one month, that we will ask further cooperation of the Japanese people to reduce person-to-person contacts that lead to infections," said Abe.



Japan PM Shinzo Abe. AP



20,000 WORKERS QUARANTINED

Workers from Bangladesh and India at a dormitory in Singapore on Monday. Two dormitories, housing over 20,000 foreign workers, were gazetted as isolation facilities after they became clusters of coronavirus cases. Combined, they have so far seen over 90 cases. Workers under quarantine will continue to be paid salaries, the government has said. Reuters

Toll tops 50,000; Europe sees signs of hope

AGENCIES APRIL 6

EUROPE'S HARDEST-HIT nations saw some tentative signs of hope in the fight against the coronavirus on Monday.

There was cause for cheer in some European hotspots, with Italy reporting its lowest death toll in two weeks, Spanish fatalities dropping for the third straight day and France seeing its fewest dead in a week.

"The curve has started its descent and the number of deaths has started to drop," said top Italian health official Silvio Brusafarero, adding the next phase could be a gradual easing of a strict month-long lockdown.



A winding queue outside a supermarket in Italy. Reuters

In Spain, deaths and new infections dropped again Monday. The country's health ministry reported 637 new deaths, the lowest fatality toll in 13 days, for a total of over 13,000 dead since the pandemic hit. New recorded infections were also the lowest in

two weeks.

"The growth rate of the pandemic is decreasing in almost all regions," Health Ministry official Maria José Sierra said.

However, Italy's daily coronavirus death toll shot up to 636 on Monday, just one day after dropping to its lowest level in over two weeks, the civil protection service said. The number of fatalities had fallen to 525 on Sunday, the lowest since March 19.

Meanwhile, Germany has drawn up a list of steps, including mandatory mask-wearing in public, limits on gatherings and the rapid tracing of infection chains, to help enable a phased return to normal life after its coronavirus lockdown is set to end on April 19.

EXPLAINED The next step

AMID CAUTIOUS optimism over the decline in death tolls, some nations have begun planning for what comes after their full lockdowns. Spain is looking at easing the restriction on all non-essential workers having to stay home. Germany, with one of the lowest tolls in Europe, is planning a phased return to normal life—with rules such as limits on gatherings and compulsory use of masks in place.

'GERMS DON'T RESPECT CENSORSHIP'

Autocrats' COVID-19 dilemma: You can't arrest a virus

DECLAN WALSH CAIRO, APRIL 6

WHEN THE virus hit, the strongmen hit back as they know best.

For Egypt's president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, that meant deploying chemical warfare troops, clad in protective suits and armed with disinfectant, to the streets of Cairo, in a theatrical display of military muscle projected via social media.

Russia's leader, Vladimir V Putin, donned the plastic suit himself, in canary yellow, for a visit to a Moscow hospital for coronavirus patients. Then he dispatched to Italy 15 military planes filled with medical supplies and emblazoned with the slogan "From Russia with Love."

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, a jailer of journalists, locked up a few reporters who criticised his early efforts to counter the virus, then sent a voice message to the phone of every citizen over 50, stressing he had everything under control.

And in Turkmenistan, one of the world's most repressive countries, where not a single infection has been officially declared, the president for life, Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov, promoted his book on medicinal plants as a possible solution to the pandemic.

In responding to the pandemic, the world's autocrats are turning to their tried-and-tested tool kits, employing a mixture of propaganda, repression and ostentatious shows of strength.



Temperature check on a bus near Istanbul. Reuters

In the immediate term, the crisis offers the autocrats an opportunity to taunt rivals or en-

trench their already vast powers with little risk of censure from a distracted outside world, where

the scramble to contain the pandemic has forced even liberal democracies to consider harsh measures, such as invasive cellphone surveillance systems.

"Coronavirus is the new terrorism," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch, who fears that a sweeping expansion of draconian powers could become the virus's enduring legacy. "It's the latest pretext for rights violations that I fear will persist long after the crisis ends."

The virus cannot be arrested, censored or outlawed. The economic toll of a pandemic will strain the patronage networks that underpin many autocracies. Leaders who portray themselves as saviours are more exposed to blame if the death toll soars.

Autocratic leaders have capitalised on the crisis to crack down on domestic dissent and play up their favoured tropes. In a speech last week, el-Sisi denounced critics of his efforts as lackeys of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood. In Russia, Mr. Putin's officials initially tried to blame the crisis on wine-sipping Russian jet-setters, out of touch with vodka-drinking ordinary Russians, who imported the virus from skiing trips in Europe.

But the pandemic has also scrambled the plans of those same strongmen. "Germs don't respect censorship," said Roth of Human Rights Watch. "The censorship might stop the momentary criticism, but it could fuel the public health crisis." **NYT**

COVID-19 EFFECT PHARMA SECTOR

Drug exporters urge RBI to extend deadline to pay dues by 6 mths

PRABHA RAGHAVAN NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

PHARMACEUTICAL EXPORTERS have approached the RBI, asking it to extend "at least" for six months their deadline to pay bankers dues of as much as \$600 million, claiming the industry has taken a hit during the ongoing novel coronavirus outbreak. The exporters fear failure to do so may lead to their businesses shutting down, leading to shortages of several crucial medicines, the chairperson of the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) told The Indian Express. "We wish to inform you that our member companies, which are approximately 3,500 who generate value turnover of \$50 billion divided equally into \$25 billion each for domestic and exports... have approached us to request you to immediately consider at least an extension of six months for due payments against non-fund limits predominantly provided through Letter of Credit (LC) for making the payments to the bankers," stated PHARMEXCIL chairman Dinesh Dua in a letter to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. The industry witnessed "very serious" disruption both in manufacturing and supply chain operations, leading to a

"financial setback" that has prevented "all" pharmaceutical firms to continue producing and making available pharmaceutical products in India and overseas, Dua wrote in the letter dated April 4. Although classified as essentials, the industry is "not at all" able to operate beyond "at best" 25-30 per cent of their normal operational manufacturing capacity, he added. "The above will ultimately lead to acute shortage of life-saving pharmaceuticals both in India and overseas, particularly in friendly countries like the US, the EU, Asia, Latin America, CIS and Japan to some extent," he stated. According to Dua, LCs worth up to \$600 million will be due this month. However, shortages in raw material from countries like China, unpaid dues from importers and issues with obtaining no-objection certificates for firms to export from India have left corporations unable to refurbish their accounts with bankers. "This will result in the bankers terming these companies as NPAs. We just want that around \$350 million dollars of this is extended by six months while we all try to get out of this monstrous situation," he told The Indian Express. "The moment the banker takes away the LC limit and says the firm is dysfunctional or NPA, the firm will have no choice but to close down," he added.

INDICES HAVE COME UNDER PRESSURE DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Market sell-off hits investor AUM, but fresh investments insulate MFs

SANDEEP SINGH NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

THOUGH THE sharp fall of around 30 per cent in the value of benchmark indices — Sensex, mid cap and small cap — at the BSE has resulted in big losses for equity mutual fund investors, asset management companies seem to be largely unaffected by the same and their average equity assets under management (AAUM) has declined marginally by 0.6 per cent in the three-month period. According to the data available at AMFI and collated by Myplexus.com, a mutual fund research and advisory firm, the AAUM of all equity schemes (including equity linked savings scheme, exchange traded funds and index funds) for the month of March aggregated to Rs 7,69,110 crore. This was down by Rs 4,525 crore or 0.6 per cent from an AAUM of Rs 7,73,635 crore, in December 2019.

The decline in equity AUM is much lower than the market losses (on account of the fall in the equity markets) and industry players say it has been compensated by continued net inflows from investors. While the data of net inflow for March is yet to be released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), the net inflows into equity schemes for January and February amounted

Table with 3 columns: EQUITY FUND CATEGORIES, AVG AUM FOR MARCH (₹ CRORE), CHANGE OVER DEC '19 AAUM. Includes categories like Equity Multi Cap Fund, Equity Large Cap Fund, etc.

EXPLAINED Investors hold their nerves THE STABILITY in MF industry AUM despite a sharp fall in benchmark indices shows that while investors resisted from selling their holdings, but they also looked to use the fall as an opportunity to make fresh investments.

Investor has been very surprising and, at the same time, encouraging for them as despite the sharp falls in the market, investors have stayed with their investments and have not gone for redemptions. Several participants say while investors have continued with their monthly investments through systematic investment plans, several investors have also taken the fall in the markets as an opportunity to make fresh investments. Top executives with two leading mutual fund houses said even as the markets fell sharply, they did not witness any redemption pressure. "In fact, we have seen investors continuing with their scheduled investments and also coming with fresh investments. It is a very healthy development and shows that investors have become far more mature now," said the

to Rs 7,877 crore and Rs 10,795 crore, respectively. Even as foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have been busy selling and exiting Indian markets amid the rising concern over global growth, following the spread of coronavirus, domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have emerged as big investors. While FPIs sold their holdings

worth a net of Rs 1,18,203 crore in March (Rs 61,972 crore from equity and Rs 56,230 crore from debt), DIIs pumped a net of Rs 55,595 crore into the capital markets during the month. The Sensex lost over 23 per cent in March as concerns grew on global growth over the next couple of years. Mutual fund industry participants say the behaviour of the in-

BRIEFLY

'Discoms have to pay within 45 days'

New Delhi: The Power Ministry has clarified electricity distribution firms will continue to be obligated to pay for power within 45 days of presentation of the bill.

'Self-KYC process for issuing SIMs'

New Delhi: The Apex Advisory Council for Telecom has approached the Centre to allow a self-KYC process for subscriber verification for new mobile connections.

Infy COO is Nasscom chairman

New Delhi: Nasscom said it has appointed Infosys Chief Operating Officer UV Pravin Rao its chairman for 2020-21. PTI

IDBI Bank contributes to PM-CARES

New Delhi: IDBI Bank has announced it is contributing Rs. 3,95,46,223 to the PM-CARES fund towards containment and relief efforts for the pandemic. ENS

DGFT lifts curbs on 12 APIs except paracetamol

PRABHARAGHAVAN NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

THE DGFT has lifted curbs it imposed over a month ago on exports of drug ingredients like Vitamin B12 and progesterone during the COVID-19 outbreak, as per an official notification. However, exports of paracetamol will continue to remain restricted, which means companies would have to procure no-objec-

tion certificates to export it, The Indian Express has learnt. The restrictions were first implemented on March 3 due to a shutdown in COVID-19-affected Hubei, from where the ingredients were mostly imported. Operations in the Chinese province have since commenced, allowing for India to ease up on these restrictions on exports of 12 such active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and the medicines made from them.

'Domestic air traffic to fall to 90 mn this fiscal year'

Domestic air traffic is expected to drop to 80-90 million passengers in the current fiscal year from an estimated 140 million in FY20, according to CAPA

- REASONS COVID-related travel restrictions Economic downturn OUTLOOK The second quarter is historically the weakest period



for demand and hence airlines are only likely to limp back into recovery As a result, the majority of the fleet is likely to be surplus to requirement during the first half of the current financial year

80-90MN: Domestic traffic will decline to 80-90 million this fiscal from estimated 140 million in FY20. International traffic is expected to fall from 70 million last fiscal to 35-40 million or less this fiscal Source: CAPA/PTI

Mitra writes to FM on 'disappointing' release of funds under 15th FC

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

HIGHLIGHTING THE "severe financial distress" being faced by states due to lower revenues and higher expenditure for tackling COVID-19, West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra has written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman raising concerns over lower-than-expected release of funds by Centre as part of grants under 15th Finance Commission. Mitra, in his letter, said the state had requested advance release of revenue deficit grant under 15th Finance Commission amounting Rs

West Bengal Finance Minister Amit Mitra also asked for raising the FRBM limit for the state to 5 per cent from 3 per cent

5,013 crore for April-June, with monthly installment of Rs 1,671 crore each. However, the government has released only Rs 417 crore for April "without taking into cognizance the unprecedented COVID-19 crisis". "This is most disappointing, if not shocking, at this critical hour of need to fight COVID-19

and disburse committed expenditures," Mitra said. He further asked for release of pending GST compensation payments and reiterated the state's demand for raising the FRBM limit for state to 5 per cent from 3 per cent. The Centre on Friday had released a total of Rs 17,287 crore in grants to states to enhance their financial resources during the COVID-19 crisis. In the wake of delayed GST compensation payments since October, and a lower revenue stream amid economic slowdown which has been worsened by the impact of COVID-19, states have been facing pressure on their finances.

SEZs' units in Gujarat supply 54 mn tablets of hydroxychloroquine, PPEs

AVINASH NAIR AHMEDABAD, APRIL 6

A SUBSIDIARY of a Canadian firm at the Kandla Special Economic Zone (KASEZ) in Gujarat, used for the supply of raw materials to shoe and hand bag manufacturers in Panipat, is gearing up to make 6 lakh cotton masks a month and help the state government in its fight against the pandemic. The firm, BVH Manufacturing India Ltd, will join 15-odd pharmaceutical companies in Gujarat, which are currently functioning in SEZs during the lockdown period and making essential drugs including hydroxychloroquine. "We started our production on Sunday. We will be making three types of masks including the Level 1 masks worn by patients showing symptoms of the virus," said Steven Bethell, one of the directors of the company that has been operational in Kandla and has been

making components for shoes and handbags. "We are allowing only the units manufacturing essential goods to function in the SEZs. This includes the pharmaceutical units operating with a truncated staff are manufacturing very important drugs used in the fight against COVID-19, including hydroxychloroquine and its API formulations that is hydroxychloroquine sulphate. We are also making metronidazole, azithromycin, erythromycin and paracetamol. The government has banned the exports of all these essential drugs which are used in the combat of COVID-19," said Amiya Chandra, zonal development commissioner, KASEZ to The Indian Express. Currently, there are at least two companies — Rusan Pharma Ltd (KASEZ) and Amneal Pharmaceutical Pvt Ltd (Zydus SEZ) — that have a monthly capacity to manufacture 54 million tablets of hydroxychloroquine and

147 kg of API (Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients) formulation hydroxychloroquine sulphate. There are eight pharmaceutical companies in the SEZs of the state that have monthly manufacturing capacities for 5 million tablets of Azithromycin in doses of 250 milligram and 500 milligrams, 7.7 million tablets of metronidazole and 28.1 million tablets of erythromycin. Seven firms manufacturing PPEs in Gujarat have capacity to make 11.5 lakh cotton masks and aprons, 12,000 oxygen cylinders, 90,000 surgical gowns, 30,000 coveralls, 30,000 ICU bed sheets and 9,000 elastic bed covers. There are 125 industrial units that are functioning in 11 of the 18 operational SEZs in Gujarat. Of these, 42 are pharmaceutical firms, while the rest are largely in the IT/ITES space. The other functional units are those manufacturing essential goods like salt.

INTERVIEW WITH ADITYA BIRLA SUN LIFE AMC MD & CEO

'Investors should not worry & remain hopeful of a repeat of upside'

A BALASUBRAMANIAN, MD & CEO at Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC, who manages assets worth Rs 2,47,520 crore, spoke to GEORGE MATHEW on the stock market fall, losses by investors and redemption pressures. Edited excerpts:



A Balasubramanian

Markets have fallen sharply in the last one month. Has the market reached the bottom?

The Sensex has fallen from the peak of 42,273 on January 20, 2020 by almost 40 per cent to its current level. Such a sharp fall has also brought the market to an attractive level. However, uncertainties around COVID-19 and the news flow around it still remains a hanging sword. While one can assume this will stay for some time, it appears that market has discounted negative news quite substantially within a matter of two months from its peak period. This makes me feel the market may have limited downside from here, say about 6-8 per cent, and can settle at these levels and begin to move

up when the news flow reverses in favour of stability.

Do you think markets have entered the bear phase? Will there be a recovery in the near future?

Broad economy across the globe will see a substantial slowdown due to lockdowns and with no activity in any sectors or any part of the economy for some

time. A complete lockdown has taken the earnings of the labour force across the nation. It has also taken away 3-4 months of earnings for majority of companies mainly in the discretionary spending space and also sectors like travel and tourism, hospitality, airports and ports, airline and transportation industry among others. Such a sudden drop in earnings naturally will have an impact on the savings of public at large and there is a likelihood of change in the behaviour of consumer spending. The government is expected to take decisive steps to revive economic growth. Therefore, equity market may see a bounce back purely on the basis of hope and optimism returning, which is the current missing piece.

Investors, including MF investors, suffered huge losses in March. NAVs have plunged. How can they recover losses?

The coronavirus-related market impact has affected the entire

industry and investors across mutual funds have not made money this year post this unprecedented fall. The extensive market fall due to COVID-19 would have also impacted 2-3 year returns. I would assume markets will first come back to their normal range, stabilise and then begin to move up on the basis of fundamental changes. Therefore, one should keep the equity as a long-term investment and should probably look at investing more at the current level in order to build long term portfolio. Markets have recovered from substantial losses in the past as well... hence investors should not worry and remain hopeful of a repeat of the same upside that comes post a downturn, as has happened in the past.

What should be the ideal investment pattern for retail investors during turbulent times like this?

In the current market environment, investors should have a

good mix of actively managed equity funds, debt funds and index funds or ETFs. MFs cater to all types of investor needs by offering products for different objectives from savings (liquid fund), income funds, long term wealth creation (large cap and multi cap funds) and for tax saving purpose (ELSS). Investors should have exposure across these four categories while planning their MF exposure.

There are reports that MFs are facing redemption pressure. How are you tackling it?

Every year due to liquidity needs before financial year end, mutual funds do face redemption pressure and then it comes back with the start of new financial year. Purely on the basis of our experience, our fund managers had created liquidity to meet any such redemption and also look for buying opportunities if the yield spikes.

Full report on www.indianexpress.com

'Force majeure to not apply to virus death claims'

ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU MUMBAI, APRIL 6

LIFE INSURANCE Council, the apex body of the life insurance industry, on Monday announced all life insurers, both public and private, are committed to process any death claim pertaining to COVID-19.

The Council confirmed the clause of force majeure will not apply in the case of virus death claims. This step was taken to reassure customers who had reached out to various life insurers.

As hotels and eateries shut, palm oil consumption dips

HARISH DAMODARAN NEW DELHI, APRIL 6

POST LOCKDOWN, Indians have practically stopped eating outside. There's a probably no better indicator of that than imports of palm oil, the predominant frying medium used by hotels, restaurants/dhabas, canteens, caterers and bread, biscuit, noodles, namkeen and mithai makers.

India's imports of crude palm oil (CPO) and RBD (refined, bleached and de-odorised) palmolein stood at 3.35 lakh tonnes (lt) in March, a steep 58.2 per cent drop compared to 8.02 lt for the

Imports of crude palm oil, RBD palmolein were 3.35 lakh tonnes in March, a 58.2 per cent drop compared to the year-ago month

same month of 2019. What is notable, however, is the far less drop in imports of sunflower (from 2.98 lt in March 2019 to 2.97 lt in March 2020) and soyabean oil (from 2.93 lt to 2.92 lt).

"Sunflower, soyabean, mustard, groundnut, coconut and

Volkswagen loses 'dieselgate' UK class lawsuit

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE LONDON, APRIL 6

VOLKSWAGEN FACES the threat of a hefty "dieselgate" payout in Britain after a court Monday ruled in favour of more than 90,000 VW drivers whose vehicles cheated emissions tests.

Following adverse rulings and compensation payouts elsewhere, the High Court in London ruled that the German auto giant was liable also in Britain. The ruling adds pressure on Volkswagen.

12 SPORT



If ANYONE is not working/not getting an income and runs out of food, or times are just tough... please don't go to sleep with an empty stomach. Don't be afraid or embarrassed to send me a private message... Even just for a box of noodles, a loaf of bread or milk. I will drop it off at your doorstep, no questions asked."
NICK KYRGIOS, WORLD NO. 40 TENNIS PLAYER

Yorkshire put cricketers on furlough

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON, APRIL 6

YORKSHIRE BECAME the first English cricket county to announce they had put their players and coaching staff on the British government's furlough financial aid scheme on Monday. With the English domestic season delayed until May 28 because of the coronavirus and further postponements likely, talks have been ongoing between the 18 first-class counties and the Professional Cricketers' Association over questions of pay deferrals and wage cuts. Under the scheme, the British government pays 80 percent of wages up to £2,500 (\$3,070) per month.

The PCA had planned to announce a collective response following a conference calls over the weekend but Yorkshire, the county of England Test captain Joe Root, broke ranks to say they had decided to opt for the furlough scheme on Friday.

A statement issued Monday said: "The Yorkshire County Cricket Club's players and cricket staff have been placed on furlough leave until further notice. This decision comes after the majority of the club's non-playing staff were placed on furlough leave at the end of March in accordance with the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme."

Williams furlough staff

Williams became the second Formula One team to furlough some staff due to the coronavirus pandemic as drivers George Russell and Nicholas Latifi agreed to cut their wages by 20 percent on Monday. Formula One's 2020 season has been delayed because of the pandemic and British-based Williams announced their cost-cutting moves a week after McLaren opted to take the same financial measures.

Canadian Latifi and Briton Russell, along with senior Williams executives, have taken a 20 percent pay cut from April 1, with the other staff put on an enforced leave until the end of May. McLaren drivers Carlos Sainz and Lando Norris took voluntary pay cuts last week.

CROSSWORD 4085

ACROSS

- The widow who urges one to take a gamble (7)
- Experience discrimination (5)
- Making some progress and nearly past it (7,2,1,3)
- Pick up something exclusive (5)
- Hill split by flood (7)
- He won't stand for being portrayed (6)
- Note deserter is not charged (6)
- Suffers, being made to conclude certain change is needed (7)
- Intends to live on? (5)
- Be involved in a risky action - possibly ruinous to the litigant (5,8)
- There's much to this game (5)
- Went in for tree chopping in the end? (7)

DOWN

- Painter of French delight (5)
- Certainly confident (7,1,5)
- A second look at something? (7)
- One is privileged to have them (6)
- Singer gets the awkward note right (5)
- A national concern under discussion (7,6)
- Lands in Eastern America (7)
- Master copy of a client's order (7)
- Standing upright makes an animal gasp (7)
- Aim for a high place in the church (6)
- A trio bent on making a relationship (5)
- There's a scrap when a communist is told to be quiet (5)

SOLUTIONS Crossword 4084: Across: 1 Geese, 8 Hard luck story, 9 Strap, 10 At the end, 11 Train, 12 Soul, 16 Stance, 17 Skewer, 18 Ness, 24 Demanded, 25 No end, 26 Organdie, 27 Lease. Down: 2 Entirety, 3 Stations, 4 Castro, 5 Idaho, 6 Muses, 7 Skids, 12 Sen, 13 Use, 14 Rest home, 15 Bearings, 19 Eyelid, 20 Idiot, 21 Image, 22 Haunt.

JUMBLED WORDS

Given below are four jumbled words. Solve the jumbles to make proper words and move them to the respective squares below. Select the letters in the shaded squares and jumble them to get the answer for the given clue.

One's real life is often the life that one _____
- Oscar Wilde (4,3,4)

SVAEE _____ IPSLNT _____

FPOOS _____ IIMSDD _____

ANSWER: One's real life is often the life that one **DOES NOT LEAD**
SOLUTION: EVAES, SPOOF, SPJANT, MISDID
- Oscar Wilde

'If not in top 100, you'll struggle'

With no events or prize money, lower-ranked players have no option but to endure suspension, says Amritraj

SHAHID JUDGE
MUMBAI, APRIL 6

THE WORD 'suspended' has been added, rather grimly, next to the name of each event on the ATP and WTA calendars till July 13. With this upheaval wrought by the coronavirus pandemic, a substantial amount of prize money that would have been distributed among players now remains unachievable. Since mid-March, when the Indian Wells Masters 1000 became the first event to be cancelled, a total prize purse of \$56,834,845 and \$34,224,127 on the ATP and WTA tours respectively (not including lower-level events) now stands as null and void till mid-July. These figures don't include what would have been available at the Wimbledon Championships, where the prize purse was \$46,625,829 last year.

The income of a tennis professional involves the prize money based on the stage of a tournament they reach - this excludes any sponsorship deals they may cut off court. But now that the tour has been suspended, there is no income at least till July.

The higher-ranked players may have enough savings to help them get by. But for those lower down the charts, or the upcoming ones who are yet to make their mark, the tour suspension deals them a harsh blow. And as India tennis legend and former World No. 18 Vijay Amritraj asserts, they have no choice but to endure.

"If you're not in the top 100, you will struggle," Amritraj, 66, told *The Indian Express*. "Potentially, I would hazard a guess that there are at least 1,000 men and women in that category who rely on the tour to get better and move up to the Challenger circuit, the tour level, eke out a living from whatever amount they make over the course of the year, with or without any help from governments or sponsors and so on.

"The unfortunate issue is, like every other independent contractor or business in the world, you are not covered for anything. The ITF, ATP, WTA, they are all independent bodies that are pretty much non-profit. They don't have large cash reserves like various governments may have to support the system. This is a high-risk venture the moment you step into it, which is where we are all stuck unfortunately."



VIJAY AMRITRAJ, FORMER WORLD NO. 18, ON THE INCOME OF A TENNIS PROFESSIONAL

Now that too will be a problem as well." Giving details about his income he says: "On an average, I make around 1000 to 1200 dollars a month, so right now I'm living off the savings and contributing to the expenses at home with my family."

World No. 443 Rutuja Bhosale, 24, points out that the Indians are better off than players in Western countries. "I spoke to my doubles partner, who is an American. They all live away from family which means they have to pay for rent apart from other expenses on essentials. In that way, we're a bit better because in our culture it's normal for people staying at their parents' home. So right now I'm staying in Shirrampur (in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra) with my parents," she says. "Some people with office jobs are doing the whole work-from-home thing. So they are still making money. But we can't do that. We aren't paying rent, and the expenses are low, but the expenses are still there."

Lockdown doesn't bother stars

On the other side of the spectrum however, there are players for whom the tour's suspension means something completely different. "At the highest level, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and all are not playing for the money anymore, they're playing

Indians better off

Though, India's Sidharth Rawat has signed the petition that Shapatava floated, the 26-year-old World No. 438 says he is relatively comfortable for the time being but things can get tough once the tour finally opens up. "Right now, I can sustain on my savings till maybe September or October. After that I'll be struggling. You don't know how much money you will have left and how much you can invest because you don't know how expensive flights will be then. Mostly I used to play in China and other Asian countries to minimise travel costs.

The unfortunate issue is, like every other independent contractor or business in the world, you are not covered for anything. The ITF, ATP, WTA, they are all independent bodies that are pretty much non-profit. They don't have large cash reserves like various governments may have to support the system. This is a high-risk venture the moment you step into it, which is where we are all stuck unfortunately."

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OVER THE HEDGE by Michael Fry & T Lewis



CALVIN & HOBBS by Bill Watterson



MARVIN by Tom Armstrong



DIFFICULTY LEVEL 1s

INSTRUCTIONS
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

DIFFICULTY LEVEL
1s = Very easy; 2s = Easy; 3s = Medium; 4s = Hard; 5s = Very Hard; 6s = Genius

SUDOKU 4172

5		1 9						
9 1			3 8					
8	2 4			9 6				
3	2	6 4						
9	5		2	7				
	4 7	8	6					
1 4		7 3	9					
3 2			8 5					
		1 2	7					

SOLUTION SUDOKU 4171

1	5	9	2	3	8	7	4	6
2	7	8	9	4	6	5	1	3
4	6	3	5	7	1	9	2	8
6	4	7	8	1	3	2	9	5
8	1	5	7	2	9	6	3	4
3	9	2	4	6	5	1	8	7
5	3	6	1	8	2	4	7	9
7	8	1	6	9	4	3	5	2
9	2	4	3	5	7	8	6	1

DAY TODAY by PETER VIDAL

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20)
You're good at picking winners. At least, that's the current indication. I'd say that the two key considerations at the moment are that you follow methods which are tried, tested and reliable and look at the minutiae of the situation, rather than the big picture.

LIBRA (Sep 24 - Oct 23)
You ought soon to be free from a lot of unnecessary pressure, and also from unwanted commitments. You are therefore ready to take the path of universal love, a concept which I know is treated with some scepticism in certain circles. Still, that's no reason for you to be cynical.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21)
This does not have to be a week of discord, disagreements and conflict, but that's just what it could be if you succumb to frustration and impatience. As you know, it's much better to give people a second chance, especially at home. Why not follow your own advice?

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23)
Even those people with whom you have had profitable dealings in the past are now likely to use unorthodox methods in a vain attempt to gain the upper hand. Don't worry; they're suffering from a bad bout of over-confidence, and they'll be brought back down to earth soon.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
The main Gemini danger lies in trying to be too clever. The planetary signs strongly advise you to learn the lessons of the past! Look again at advice from people you know and trust. You might not have taken any notice so far, but now could be a good time to make up for that.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 24 - Dec 22)
The overwhelming emphasis is still on travel plans, which today look optimistic, enthusiastic and confident. Such stars always carry with them a warning to consciously check all details, especially regarding legal queries. By the way, you may be embarking on a journey of the spirit or the mind.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
Domestic discussions should be pursued with great vigour. Being diplomatic and considerate is quite compatible with standing up for your rights. It's just a question of arranging all your points in order before you open your mouth, and getting partners to listen.

CAPRICORN (Dec 23 - Jan 20)
In many respects it's a Capricorn moment, a time to slow down and make sure your life is resting on firm foundations. There's still a lot of life in the old goat yet and now is also the time to revive long-term dreams with a view to completion next year.

LEO (July 24 - Aug 23)
In many ways it's a favourable day, but it all depends how you handle today's generally loose, laid-back and highly individualistic circumstances. You'll do best to stick to your principles, but there doesn't seem to be any real reason why you can't be infinitely flexible when it comes to the details.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19)
For someone who is supposed to leap before they look, you have certainly been changing your spots, becoming more cautious by the hour. Perhaps it's because you realise that your choices will only work if you anticipate the possible practical problems. You may appreciate partners' many little tempting blandishments, but don't let them pull you off course.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23)
Try not to invite trouble or discord by saying anything in haste or in anger. The plain fact is that the nicer you are to other people, the more pleasant they'll be to you. Simple, isn't it? Plus, you may have forgotten a number of important facts. You might even have lost a vital piece of paper.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
Matters intimately related to your prestige and status at work are still looking complex. I don't think anyone would blame you if you sat back and let fate take its course. The end result would probably be the same in any case. Your romantic stars are looking up, so that's good news, then.