



Three civilians killed in Pakistan shelling in north Kashmir

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Our godowns have enough foodgrains for nine months: Paswan

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Boris Johnson leaves hospital, thanks NHS for saving his life

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Banish 'self-centredness', Pope tells the world as it fights pandemic

page 12



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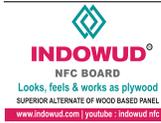
NEARBY



'Govt. to absorb testing cost in private labs'

CHENNAI
The government would coordinate with private laboratories to provide for a possible exponential surge in cases.

TAMIL NADU > PAGE 2



Case against patient for throwing mask at doctor

TIRUCHI
The police have registered a case under various Sections of the IPC, including attempt to murder, against a COVID-19 patient here after he allegedly threw a mask at a doctor in a fit of rage.

TAMIL NADU > PAGE 2

Chennai Corp. to collect 1,000 samples a day

CHENNAI
From Wednesday, the Chennai Corporation will collect at least 1,000 samples a day for COVID-19 testing. So far, it has only been monitoring residents on a daily basis.

CHENNAI > PAGE 3

Bracing for a rapid surge in cases: govt.

Death toll touches 273 nationwide, with 127 in Maharashtra; Kerala bucks trend with only two new cases

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

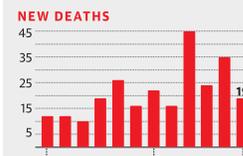
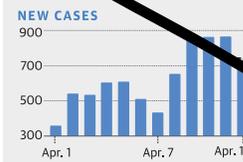
With the nationwide death toll from COVID-19 touching 273 and the number of positive cases reaching 8,447 on Sunday, the Union Health Ministry said India is preparing for a possible exponential surge in cases.

"We would rather be over-cautious and over-prepared," a Ministry official said while admitting that the recent resurgence in COVID-19 cases in some countries was a matter of concern.

According to data released by the Ministry, the country registered as many as 909 new cases and 34 deaths since Saturday evening. The fatalities included 17 from Maharashtra, five from

Consistent rise

With 106 new COVID-19 cases recorded on Sunday, India crossed the 9,000 mark. The day also saw 19 new deaths



Sources: Health Ministry data and reports from States as of 8:30 p.m., Sunday



Status check: Members of the Mahim Dharavi Medical Practitioners' Association checking the temperature of a child in a housing society in Mumbai on Sunday. >P11

past five days, on an average, 15,747 samples were tested per day," the official added.

He said that while 40-plus COVID-19 vaccines were under consideration across the world, none had moved to the testing phase.

On the resurgence of cases in countries such as China, Mr. Agarwal said, "This is a new virus and there is much that we are still learning about it. We have taken this new development into account and are taking serious note of it."

Boost to primary care

"We are now focussing on increasing the capacity of primary medical infrastructure which includes dedicated hospitals, isolation beds, ICUs, and quarantine facilities," he said.

"Currently, the requirement of beds for 1,056 cases is estimated to be 1,05,980 in 601 dedicated COVID-19 hospitals across the country. The number of isolation beds in dedicated hospitals across the country is being further augmented," he added.

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MORE REPORTS ON > PAGES 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10 & 11

EUROPE TOLL CROSSES 75,000 ON GRIM EASTER DAY > PAGE 12



Duty first: ASI Harjit Singh being shifted to a government hospital in Patiala on Sunday. >P11

11 held for chopping off policeman's hand

Attackers flushed out of gurdwara

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Eleven persons were arrested on Sunday for an attack on a police party by a group of Nihangs, a Sikh warrior sect, at a vegetable market in Punjab's Patiala.

The hand of assistant sub-inspector Harjit Singh was severed with a sword in the attack that followed when the Nihangs were asked for curfew passes, the police said.

Defied lockdown

The accused, including a woman, were arrested in an operation led by Inspector General of Police (Patiala Range) Jatinder Singh and negotiations led by the Patiala SSP with Balwinder Singh's surrender with their weapons and swords. But the Nihangs refused to surrender," he added.

"The accused included the five persons involved in the attack on the police team posted at the vegetable market in Sanaur early on Sunday morning. They had crashed through a series of barricades and attacked the police personnel who inquired about their curfew passes," Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta said.

Baba Balwinder Singh, the Nihang head, who had come to the market in a vehicle with four other persons, was the main perpetrator of the attack, Mr. Gupta said.

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Pandemic impact: first batch of Rafales likely to fly in late

France severely hit by rising infections and death toll

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The arrival of the first batch of Rafale fighter jets for the Indian Air Force is likely to be delayed by around three months due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as France battles rising infections and deaths, and continuing lockdown restrictions, which have also impacted the training schedule, defence sources said.

"In mid-March there were 8-9 weeks of training left before the first major group could move to India for starting operations here. Some logistic support equipment and test equipment were also to be flown to Ambala beginning April, which is postponed as

of now due to the lockdown and restrictions on flights imposed by India," a defence source told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity.

'No clear timeframe'

In addition, the lockdown restrictions are expected to continue in France at least till the end of April due to severity of the outbreak.

"So, it is only obvious that we expect corresponding

delay," the two sources separately stated.

"Taking in the delay due to the lockdown in France, followed by any restrictions on flights and personnel coming from Europe imposed by India, we could be looking at July for the arrival of the aircraft," the first source stated, adding that the timeframe was not clear yet.

In October 2019, on a visit to France for the second India-France ministerial-level annual defence dialogue, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh took formal delivery of the first Rafale jet built for the IAF at the Dassault Aviation's facility in Merignac. The jets were scheduled to arrive in India by May 2020.

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Troubled waters



Supply chain: Vendors unloading vegetables and other items, transported via a boat from Saran district amid the nationwide lockdown, in Patna, Bihar, on Sunday. The State has reported 64 cases of COVID-19 till date. >P11

India talking to U.S. over visa sanctions

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

The government is "engaged" in talks with the U.S. administration to reconsider President Donald Trump's orders to impose visa sanctions on countries that don't take back illegal "aliens" in the U.S. within a week. In particular, the order clashed with New Delhi's decision to restrict all passengers, including Indian citizens from any other country, owing to the coronavirus pandemic.

If Washington refuses to relent on its seven-day deadline, New Delhi refuses to lift the ban on incoming travel within the week, Indians could face a major cut in U.S. visas granted this year.

"We have been engaged with the U.S. government on resuming these deportation-related travels at the earliest opportunity," government sources told *The Hindu*, when asked about the logjam over the U.S. President's memorandum.

"Like all incoming international travel, the deportation of illegal immigrants to India has also been affected by the lockdown and COVID-19-related travel restrictions," the sources explained, adding that India had been cooperating with the U.S. to repatriate illegal Indian nationals from the U.S. as it is the government's policy "not to encourage illegal immigration to any country".

According to the Department of Homeland Security's 2018 survey, Indians constitute one of the largest groups of illegal aliens in the U.S., numbering an estimated 4,70,000 who entered by 2015.

However, the Trump administration has pushed for India to tighten its controls on emigration, and accept more deportations in the past few years.

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 8

In lockdown, the big top collapses

Members of an old Bengal circus are stranded

SUVOJIT BAGCHI
KOLKATA

Madhusudan Ghosh had built a career around his ability to make audiences laugh in Empire Circus, but when asked if he is coping well in these difficult times, he broke down. "No I am not, none of us are," the 65-year-old 'joker' in one of the oldest circuses in Bengal said.

Mr. Ghosh and 41 others have sought refuge in a large rectangular field in Haroa block of North 24 Parganas, about 50 km from Kolkata. Empire Circus has been running for 40 years but never witnessed a calamity like this, said Mr. Ghosh, on the COVID-19



Show stopped: The performers have been managing with food donations from a local panchayat. >SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

lockdown. "Our tent was dismantled. We are under the sky and the day before, when the storm hit us, we were scared," he explained. It has rained frequently in parts of the State, making life more difficult for 42 performers of Empire Circus.

The circus was supposed to perform twice a day between February 25 and March 25 and move to the

Pradesh. As the manager of a five-member women's squad who came from Kushinagar, she must care for the entire group.

"The girls are desperate to go back as it is painfully difficult to stay in this open area, with no income," she said.

The performers, from Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal earn between ₹10,000 and ₹20,000, based on their roles.

The performers and their manager praised local panchayat chief Farid Jamad and Block Development Officer of Haroa Dipankar Das for arranging food twice daily.

Mr. Ghosh has a son working with the troupe. A decision to lift the lockdown for three days could help all return safely. "I appeal to the government," he said.

One more death, 106 fresh positive cases in Tamil Nadu

16 persons had travel history, 90 contracted the infection

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

One more person lost her life to COVID-19 infection on Sunday, taking the total number of deaths in Tamil Nadu to 11. The number of positive cases recorded on Sunday was 106.

The 45-year-old woman, who was admitted to the Government Omandur Multi-Super Speciality Hospital around 11 a.m. on April 5, developed breathlessness and died at 7 p.m. on Saturday, according to a bulletin.

Health Secretary Beela Rajesh told mediapersons that as many as 106 new positive cases were reported in the State, taking the total number of cases to 1,075. While 16 of them had travel



A worker spraying disinfectant inside a 108 ambulance on Sunday. >B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

history, as many as 90 of them had contracted the infection by coming in contact with them.

Of the 49 persons who had shown symptoms of severe acute respiratory infection (SARI), two tested posi-

tive for COVID-19 infection. Both had been infected after they came into contact with people who tested positive for COVID-19, she said.

Two large clusters

The new infections were found in two large clusters - one in Chennai and the other in Coimbatore.

A cluster of 22 persons, all from Coimbatore, had tested positive. Of these, two had the primary source of infection and 20 others came in contact with them.

In Chennai of the 18 new positive infections, four were identified as primary infection and 14 others had been in contact with them.

CONTINUED ON > PAGE 2

Stop direct distribution of relief material: govt.

‘Any assistance should be routed through authorities’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI
The Tamil Nadu government on Sunday warned against the distribution of food packets and other essentials by individuals, organisations and political parties to the needy, contending that such acts of defiance of the prohibitory orders amounted to a violation of the lockdown, and could lead to further spread of COVID-19.



The government's statement followed media reports about individuals, organisations and political parties distributing relief material to people in need.

"If anyone is found engaging in such acts, they could be considered to have violated the orders, and District Collectors and police officers are instructed to initiate appropriate legal action against them," an official press release said, and further sought cooperation from everyone concerned.

"If individuals or organisations or political parties intend to help people in need, they could do so through the authorities concerned," it said. The State government's statement followed media reports about individuals, organisations and political parties distributing relief material to people in need.

"The actions of some individuals, organisations and political parties distributing food packets or other essential supplies directly, defying the prohibitory orders, amount to a violation of the

lockdown. These unregulated activities could lead to further spread of the infection," an official release said. Hence, they were asked to avoid direct distribution of aid to those in need.

The prohibitory orders imposed under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) as well as the Disaster Management Act were only meant to ensure that the spread of COVID-19 is contained by preventing people from stepping out, and to avoid crowding and ensure social distancing. However, specific timings have been announced so that people could get their essential supplies, the press release pointed out.

It also referred to orders issued earlier, stating that persons or organisations in-

tending to help in the efforts against the spread of COVID-19 could do so by contributing to the Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund (CMPRF).

In case they intended to contribute in kind, they could do so to the Commissioner of Greater Chennai Corporation or to the District Collectors concerned, it said. Orders had been issued to use the contributions made in kind to feed the elderly and destitutes through community kitchens and provide dry rations to the poor, it noted. In case of Municipalities, contributions could be made to the Municipal Commissioners concerned, and in case of smaller towns and villages, contributions could be made to the respective local administration authorities.

FROM PAGE ONE

One more death, 106 fresh cases

While two persons tested positive (one primary) in Chengalpattu; four persons who contracted the infection had been identified in Cuddalore.

One person who came into contact with an infected person tested positive in Dindigul and four others tested positive in Erode. Three persons who had been in contact with infected persons tested positive in Karur, whereas four persons, including three who had come into contact with an infected person, tested positive in Namakkal.

Two persons, including two from Sivakasi and four from Salem, who came into contact with an infected person, had tested positive. One each from Tenkasi and Tiruvallur reported positive.

Directorate of Public Health says 'no' to disinfection tunnels

'Spraying of disinfectants on humans ineffective, harmful'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI
Calling into question the efficacy of sanitisation tunnels, the Directorate of Public Health (DPH) has said no such tunnels should be installed in Tamil Nadu.

With disinfection tunnels being set up in public places in some parts of the State, K. Kolandaswamy, Director of Public Health, in a circular issued to all deputy directors of health services on April 11, said disinfection tunnels would create a false sense of security and divert people's attention from the importance of handwashing.

Going a step further, the DPH said the spraying of disinfectants on human beings is ineffective and even harmful.

People visiting public



Disinfection tunnels may create a false sense of security, officials say.

stress on hand hygiene and regular disinfection of surfaces as precautionary measures, not only for COVID-19 but also for H1N1 influenza for many years now.

In fact, it has shared the World Health Organisation's myth-buster with its officials: Can spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body kill the new coronavirus? No. Spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body will not kill viruses that have already entered your body. Spraying such substances can be harmful to clothes or mucous membranes in the eyes and mouth. Be aware that both alcohol and chlorine can be useful to disinfect surfaces, but they need to be used under appropriate recommendations.

COVID-19

places walk into the tunnels after washing their hands. The tunnels contain nozzles which spray 1% sodium hypochlorite solution on them. The DPH has been laying

COVID-19 in T.N. | A tracker, across parameters, on how the pandemic has impacted the State so far

	Until April 5	April 6	April 7	April 8	April 9	April 10	April 11	April 12	Total
Cases reported	571	50	69	48	96	77	58	106	1,075
Recovered and discharged	8	0	11	2	6	17	0	6	50
Deceased	5	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	11
Monitoring*									
Persons under home quarantine#		43,770							
Persons in isolation wards in hospitals		1,890							
Persons in quarantine facilities		162							
Capacity*									
Beds in isolation wards				29,074					
Ventilators				3,371					
Testing*									
Samples collected							10,655		
Tested positive							1,075		
Tested negative							8,373		

*Status as on date; #Includes only Health and Family Welfare Department figures.

IN BRIEF



DMK to hold all-party meeting on April 15

CHENNAI
DMK president M.K. Stalin on Sunday said he will convene an all-party meeting on April 15 to discuss and evaluate the approach of the State government and the Centre to combating COVID-19. Mr. Stalin, who has been urging the State government to convene an all-party meeting to discuss the pandemic, said the event would be held at Anna Hall - the DMK's headquarters.

No COVID-19 cases at Isha Foundation

COIMBATORE
The district administration and health authorities have screened all those staying at the Isha Foundation, and not a single person has tested positive for COVID-19. Coimbatore Collector Rajamani has said. "Currently, there are around 300 foreigners at Isha Foundation, and 50% of them have been staying there since before January," he said.

Stalin assails govt's 'dictatorial' order on relief material

Vaiko, Alagiri also condemn move

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

DMK president M.K. Stalin on Sunday described as dictatorial the State government's order that individuals, political parties and private organisations should not distribute food or relief material to people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is vengeful - the government will not do anything [to help] and will also prevent others from pitching in," he said in a statement.

Mr. Stalin said that while it would be wrong to crowd into a place, this could be regulated by the police. "How can the government mandate that others should not extend help?" he asked.

He said no one could prevent kind-hearted people from coming forward to wipe the tears of those in distress. "This is a de-

mocratic nation and anyone can help anyone," he said.

MDMK general secretary Vaiko also condemned the State government's move. "Instead of appreciating the efforts made by political parties, voluntary organisations and individuals, the government has sought to deter them because it is envious of the good name earned by political parties and others," Mr. Vaiko alleged. Pointing out that the distribution of food and relief material by individuals and political parties had not caused any problem or nuisance, the MDMK leader said on the contrary, people had benefited from the gesture.

Echoing his view, Tamil Nadu Congress Committee leader K.S. Alagiri said, "This is an inhumane and autocratic decision. We severely condemn this."

Govt. will absorb the cost of testing in private laboratories

14 government labs are already offering it

S. SUJATHA

The government would coordinate with private laboratories to provide testing facilities for COVID-19. It would also absorb the cost of testing in private facilities, Health Secretary Beela Rajesh has said.

The Supreme Court had declared that private testing centres must not charge people for carrying out COVID-19 tests, in order to make the tests accessible to all. But the private sector was deeply uncomfortable with the idea. The Tamil Nadu government has now decided to absorb the costs of testing in private laboratories, thereby making testing for COVID-19 completely free in the State.

As of now, 14 government laboratories, including the King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research; the laboratories at the Madras Medical College, Chennai; government medical colleges in Theni, Tirunelveli, Tiruvallur, Salem, Coimbatore, Villupuram, Madurai, Tiru-



Beela Rajesh

would also test samples for the State, Dr. Rajesh added.

8 doctors infected

Noting that eight doctors, including four in private sector and two each in government hospitals and government railway hospitals, had been infected so far, she appealed to the people to understand the healthcare workers were putting their lives on the line to treat the sick. According to her, at least five nurses had also been infected by the virus. "I appeal to family members to maintain social distance. Doctors decide on segregating high-risk patients. Even when patients have to share a room, a distance of 10 feet between beds is maintained. We have made a strict rule that family members should not mingle with those who have tested positive," she said.

The government would receive approval from the Indian Council of Medical Research to start plasma therapy in a couple of days, she said.

Attempt to murder case filed against COVID-19 patient

He threw his mask at woman doctor

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT TIRUCHI

The Government Hospital police have registered a case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including attempt to murder, against a COVID-19 patient undergoing treatment at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Government Hospital, after he allegedly threw a mask at a woman doctor, in a fit of rage.

Conference attendee

Hospital and police sources said the patient who had attended the Tablighi Jamaat conference in Delhi last month, resorted to the act on Friday, as he was irked over his family members being called for tests.

Sources said the incident occurred in the patient picked up an argu-

The patient was irked over his family members being called in for tests

ment with a couple of doctors. He allegedly threw his mask at a woman doctor. Taken aback, the doctor moved away, police sources said.

The doctors then reported the incident to hospital dean K. Vanitha, on whose complaint a case was registered.

The Government Hospital police have registered a case against the patient under various sections of the Indian Penal Code, including attempt to murder, since the act of throwing the mask was construed as endangering the life of the doctor.

DPCs will procure paddy from farmers

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

The State government was prepared to procure paddy from farmers without any restrictions and sell their produce to Direct Procurement Centres (DPCs), Food Minister R. Kamaraj said on Sunday. He also warned of strong action against middlemen.

In a statement, Mr. Kamaraj said a total of 1,508 DPCs had been opened to procure paddy to the tune of 15.7 lakh metric tonnes from farmers till April 10 this year.

A total of 725 DPCs, including 346 in the delta districts, have been operating, the Minister said. "As per the instructions of the Chief Minister, the State government is prepared to procure paddy from farmers in all districts without any restrictions," Mr. Kamaraj added.

Making movies in a post-pandemic world

Stakeholders worried about interest payment, cut in film productions and lower footfall at cinemas

VIDHAV NAIG

As the gates of cinemas remain locked and time has stopped indefinitely in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the stakeholders of Kollywood - producers, actors, daily-wage labourers and technicians - are wondering what the future holds for their industry and whether there would be a return to normal in a post-COVID-19 world.

While various stakeholders are hoping for a quick end to the pandemic so that they could get on with the film business, many feel the industry ought to contemplate several issues - waiver of interest on debt, reduction of film stars' salaries and the number of productions, and hygiene improvement in cinemas.

The producers have appealed to the financiers to waive the interest payable on their loans during the lockdown period.



Show stops: People may think that going to the cinema is a risk, notwithstanding precautionary measures, producers say.

When asked if a waiver of interest for the months of March and April was possible, Tiruppur Subramaniam, a prominent financier and exhibitor in the State, said a decision would be taken only after the cinemas reopen.

"This is not the time to talk about this. We have to overcome the coronavirus pandemic, and then sit down and talk [about this issue],

produced national award-winning films like *Thanga Meenkal* and *Kuttram Kadithal*, and is leading a team to contest the Tamil Film Producers' Council elections, expressed confidence that the financiers would relent and waive the interest on loans taken by the producers.

Mr. Kumar, a highly-paid actors, directors and technicians should take a 30% pay cut for the films that are currently stuck in the production stage.

"We also want the government to do away with the local body tax, reduce GST rates and roll back the TDS," he said, adding that "it will take at least a year" for the film industry to return to business as usual.

"People may not visit the cinemas as they may be scared. They are also getting used to watching new films on Netflix and Amazon

Prime [Video]. We will need big movies with big hype to bring them back to the cinema. We are also going to see a drastic reduction in the number of Tamil film productions," he said.

Producer G. Dhananjayan felt the number of films produced in Tamil will fall by at least 20%. "The number of films produced in a year will reduce by 20% for sure. People may think that going to the cinema is a risk, notwithstanding any precautionary measures they may take. Cinemas may not be able to implement very strict safety measures," said Mr. Dhananjayan, who recently released a video listing the possible steps that cinemas could take, including temperature screening, ensuring social distancing inside the halls and making the wearing of masks mandatory for patrons. He said people will come to cinemas only if they are offered a "theatrical experience".

Film unions extend a helping hand to members

Workers being provided financial aid, essentials

STAFF REPORTER CHENNAI

Ever since the Film Employees' Federation of South India (FEFSI) announced a break in film shoots from March 19 as part of its measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it has been mobilising funds from the industry to help members of various unions, who are dependent on daily wages from the shoots.

The federation encompasses 23 different unions and has around 25,000 members. Recently, it appealed to the big stars of the industry to come forward and donate to help its members. "Based on the donations received, we have been giving each union a share of the financial aid and rice bags. Unions have been instructed to handle the distribution based on

needs of its members," said R.K. Selvamani, FEFSI president.

To enforce physical distancing norms, each union has been asked to carry out the distribution in a phased manner. Only around fifty members have been asked to come to the union offices, every day in the morning, for collecting the aid.

Supreme Sundaar of the South Indian Cine Stunt Directors' and Stunt Artists' Union said that they had identified members in need and they were given financial assistance as well as essentials. "Besides, our union too has been providing essentials to our members. We are not sure when film shoots will resume and we need to ensure that our members have support," he said.

Actors Rajinikanth, Vijay, Suriya, Karthi, Dhanush, Sivakarthikeyan, Vijay Sethupathi and Nayanthara are among those who have contributed to FEFSI.

Timings
CHENNAI

MONDAY, APR. 13
RISE 05:58 SET 18:22
RISE 23:48 SET 10:30

TUESDAY, APR. 14
RISE 05:57 SET 18:22
RISE 00:00 SET 11:26

WEDNESDAY, APR. 15
RISE 05:57 SET 18:22
RISE 00:41 SET 12:20

Chennai Weather max min

Thiruvananthapuram	38	24
Chennai Airport	35	25
Chennai City	33	27

Chennai Airport Today
35°C A dry and warm weather with partly cloudy sky will prevail. Night is likely to be comfortable.

Chennai Airport Tomorrow
35°C A dry and warm weather with partly cloudy sky will prevail during the day. Night will be comfortable.

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THE HINDU
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Corpn. to begin collecting samples from residents on Wednesday

So far, the civic body has only collected data on symptoms of COVID-19

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Starting Wednesday, the Chennai Corporation will be collecting at least 1,000 samples a day for COVID-19 testing from residents.

So far, the Corporation has only collected data on symptoms of COVID-19 and has been monitoring the residents on a daily basis.

As many as 3,036 residents have reported symptoms in the 15 zones of the city. As many as 18.63 lakh households have been covered in its door-to-door survey every day.

Currently, sample collection is being done only for residents of containment zones and hotspot clusters in the city. "We have now set up sample collection centres at 11 locations. We will set up 15 more in two days. Once we are armed with that, we will be going for sampling. The samples will not be collected from all residents. They will be taken as per medical observations, as our resources cannot be wast-



A painting drawn on the road at Nandanam by the police to create awareness about COVID-19. *R. RAGU

ed," said Mr. Prakash. "The persons will be taken to our collection centres for sampling. It is not possible for collection of samples en masse. The work will start in three days. It will not be done all at once. Samples of 50 persons will be collected per centre in a day. That's ve-

ry doable," said Mr. Prakash. Updating the door-to-door survey for COVID-19 symptoms, he said the penetration was almost 93% in residential localities in the 15 zones. "Till now, 3,036 persons, with all types of symptoms, have been picked up, and 2,261 ruled out. 775 pe-

sons are being followed up. But still, all the 3,036 persons are in our radar," said Mr. Prakash.

The Corporation on Sunday collected 36 samples from ward 116, of Teynampet zone, on Besant Road. As many as five samples were collected at a centre on Noor Vasswamy Street, Nungambalam.

Dry ration
The Corporation has been distributing dry ration to labourers from other States working in construction sites here.

"The builders have the responsibility of providing food and shelter to the labourers. But many builders have not provided them food. There are more than one lakh labourers in construction sites in the city. The data on such sites will be sent to Labour Department officials," said an official.

Civic officials and flying squads will monitor the distribution of relief materials in the city.

Traffic policemen given face shields

They're good but for moisture build up while breathing, say personnel



A traffic police constable wearing a face shield at Ambattur on Sunday. *B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

CHENNAI

The traffic policemen in Chennai were provided with face shields on Sunday so that they do not contract COVID-19 infection while performing duty.

Thousands of police personnel in Chennai and across the State have been toiling day and night to ensure that everyone follows the prohibitory orders. Many have also been given the task of ensuring social distancing at ration shops and other places where people gather in large numbers.

According to A. Arun, Additional Commissioner, Traffic, the shields have been provided to around 2,000 traffic policemen. "They have to wear the normal mask and cover their nose and mouth. On top of it, they have to wear the

shield. This will protect the entire face," he said.

The law and order and other policemen who are on duty will also be provided with similar protection gear in the coming days.

COVID-19

Police personnel welcomed the move. "It provides a feeling of safety. We have to go close to motorists while taking their details. If he/she is a carrier, we will be prone to infection," said a police officer from Ambattur.

However, some complained of moisture build up on the shield when they breathe through the mask.

"It would be better if we just wear the shield alone. But I am not sure if it would be safe enough. The visibility is affected due to the moisture," added an official.

8 Indonesian nationals arrested

The Madurantakam police have arrested and remanded eight Indonesian nationals, including four women, under the Foreigners Act on charges of violating visa rules. All of them have tested negative for COVID-19.

According to police, the eight persons - Nuramin, 38, Sukaliat, 47, Ahmad Haidorillah Abdul Hahan, 52, Abdul Sahlan, 58, Turmini, 56, Tis Atul Mukarromah, 45, Tika, 44, and Anita Kurniasih, 36, - arrived in Delhi on March 3.

Police claim that they attended a conference and left for Chennai. They arrived in Chennai on March 21 and on the same day they reached Madurantakam. "They stayed in a mosque in the town and were involved in religious activities," said a police officer.

On April 5, the district officials came to know about the Indonesians staying there. With the help of a translator, they questioned them. They were subjected to COVID-19 tests by health officials and placed under home quarantine.

After they tested negative for COVID-19, the Madurantakam police arrested them and remanded them in judicial custody. "Despite knowing that Section 144 was in place, they were involved in religious activities," said an officer.

NCLT allows Corporation to take over city hospital

The factory is closed and under liquidation

SANJAY VIJAYAKUMAR CHENNAI

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Principal Bench, New Delhi (camp at Chennai), has allowed the Tamil Nadu government to temporarily take over Santosh Hospitals in Besant Nagar, which is closed and under liquidation, and utilise

its infrastructure for COVID-19 treatment.

In an unprecedented sitting on Sunday, the Bench passed an order on an application filed by the Greater Chennai Corporation.

"Though it is Sunday, the Bench has taken up the hearing on an urgent basis, since the COVID-19 pandemic has been rattling lives and the economy of the nation," said B.S.V. Prakash Kumar, acting president of NCLT.

Santhosh Hospitals had

The hospital has sufficient beds and infrastructure to conduct tests and offer treatment

CHENNAI CORPORATION

an application for voluntary insolvency and is under liquidation now. The possession of the hospital is with Muthoothi Pvt Corp Limited, one of the lenders to the hospital. The other major lender is DCB Bank.

In its application, the

Chennai Corporation said the Tamil Nadu government had directed it to search for suitable hospitals to conduct tests and treat people diagnosed with COVID-19. It identified Santosh Hospitals for the purpose.

The hospital has sufficient beds and infrastructure to conduct tests and offer treatment, it said.

"The Greater Chennai Corporation cannot take over the hospital on an ad-hoc basis," without any

further liability/expenditure on the part of the liquidator, including charges such as electricity, water usage, cleaning, sanitation and repair and maintenance, among others," the NCLT said.

The Corporation cannot claim the expenditure from the liquidator or the lenders and should not allow the promoters or their representatives to enter the premises without the permission of the lenders, it added.

Fishers getting ready to enter the sea

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

With District Collectors holding meetings to permit fishers with traditional craft to fish, there is palpable excitement in hamlets along the coast. Many are repairing nets, servicing up boats and looking for funds to buy diesel.

"They are giving a set of guidelines to be followed by fishers, including fishing on alternate days or twice a week. That they will be able to bring back fish is a big relief for many," said K. Bharathi of South Indian Fishermen Welfare Association.

A senior official of the Fisheries Department said that a draft set of guidelines have been given to the District Collectors, including insistence on physical distancing. The restrictions would be in force for at least two weeks after which they would be eased slowly. "Sale of fish would be allowed. But the bigger boats have been deemed to have joined the annual fishing ban," the official said.

However, Durai Mahendran of Pulicat said the district administration needs to ensure availability of transportation for small fish vendors. "Other supporting infrastructure, including ice factories, need to function if we are to go fishing. A section of fishers is also apprehensive that sale of fish would attract crowds and thereby spread the coronavirus. The government should ensure the safety of all stakeholders," he said. Meanwhile, G. Arasu of the Chennai Chengai Singaravelar Visai Padagu Mee-navar Sangam, said the government should ensure some kind of dole for boat owners and labourers who depend on boats for their livelihood.

Tragedy averted



A lorry that was carrying 24,000 litres of cooking oil toppled when it was coming down the Anna Flyover near Kamarajar Arangan on Sunday. Teynampet police alerted the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services personnel who ensured the vehicle did not catch fire. *M. VEDHIAN

Helpline for the disabled flooded with calls

STAFF REPORTER CHENNAI

With 15,328 calls till Saturday night, the helpline for differently-abled persons and the elderly, managed by the Commissionerate for the Welfare of the Differently-abled to cater to their needs during the ongoing COVID-19 lockdown, has been flooded with calls.

Department officials said that with the involvement of 42 personnel to manage the

helpline and a streamlined process with efficient coordination at district and taluk levels, all requests for essential needs were being catered to.

"So far, we have reached out to 66,463 persons, including differently-abled people, senior citizens and their family members," said Johnny Tom Varghese, director for the welfare of the differently-abled. According to Mr. Varghese, all informa-

tion received through the calls are converted to a specific format and classified based on priority with the help of software tools. This information is then shared with a WhatsApp group where all district-level and top officials, including the Secretary of the department, are present. A majority of the requests are about need for food supplies, medicines and medical attention, he said.

Government of Jharkhand, Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society
Department of Health, Medical Education & Family Welfare, Namkum, Ranchi.
Phone No: 0651-2261000, Mail ID: nrhmjharkhand@gmail.com, nrhmjharkhandrnm@gmail.com

Letter No: IDSP/2020/148- Part II/103(IDSP) Dated: 12-04-2020 COVID-19 MOST URGENT

Public Notice

National Health Mission is in an urgent requirement of the following equipment/items for RT PCR machine at MGM, Jamshedpur and PMCH, Dhanbad:

S/n	Instrument/equipment	Qty	MGM	PMCH
1	Automated RNS/DNA extractor along with required reagent and consumables (12.96 extractions at one time)	1	1	1
2	Deep Freezer-80 degree C	1	1	1
3	Domestic Refrigerator (510 ltr)	4	0	2
4	Mimicentrifuge (PCR tube holder)	2	2	2
5	Mimicentrifuge (microcentrifuge 1.5-2 ml holder)	1	2	2
6	Vortex	3	3	3
7	Biosafety Cabinet (medium size)	1	1	1
8	Biosafety Cabinet (large size)	1	1	1
9	PCR workstation	1	1	1
10	Centrifuge (16 holder for vacuutainer/ falcon tube/microcentrifuge tube (replaceable rotor)	2	2	2

Any agency/person authorized by OEM or OEM may submit the quotation (Price, T&C, Delivery schedule etc.) along with technical brochure /technical specifications and copy of PO of any state's or GOI's premier institutes like AIMS, PGI, in the office of the undersigned or email ids mentioned above, latest by 12:30 pm, 15-April, 2020. It has approval of competent authority. (Director Finance) M. No: 896912295

PR 227788 (Jharkhand Rural Health Mission Society) 20-21 (D)

कोरोना हारेगा भारत जीतेगा

अपील

पूरा देश माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी के नेतृत्व में वैश्विक महामारी कोरोना पर नियंत्रण हेतु मजबूती से लड़ रहा है। संकट की इस घड़ी में उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार अपने हर नागरिक, चाहे वह उत्तर प्रदेश में निवास करता हो या देश के अन्य किसी राज्य में रह रहा हो, के साथ पूरी प्रतिबद्धता के साथ खड़ी है। विशेषज्ञों की राय में कोरोना वायरस के संक्रमण चक्र को तोड़ने के लिए लॉकडाउन एवं सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग ही एकमात्र विकल्प है।

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार अन्य राज्य सरकारों से समन्वय स्थापित कर वहां रहने वाले प्रत्येक उत्तर प्रदेश वासी को हर संभव सहायता उपलब्ध करा रही है। हर राज्य के लिए एक वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी एवं एक वरिष्ठ पुलिस अधिकारी को उस प्रदेश का नोडल अधिकारी नामित किया गया है। किसी भी प्रकार की सहायता के लिए नोडल अधिकारियों के दूरभाष अथवा मोबाइल नम्बर पर संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

कोरोना वायरस के विरुद्ध लड़ाई में मेरा विनम्र अनुरोध है कि आप लॉकडाउन एवं सोशल डिस्टेंसिंग का कड़ाई से पालन करें। लॉकडाउन के दौरान जहाँ हैं, वहीं रहें। यहीं आप और आपके परिवार के उत्तम स्वास्थ्य एवं देश के सुरक्षित भविष्य के लिए उपयुक्त है।

योगी आदित्यनाथ
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश

तमिलनाडु/पांडिचेरी के लिए नामित नोडल प्रशासनिक एवं पुलिस अधिकारी

एम. देवराज
प्रबन्ध निदेशक, पावर कॉर्पोरेशन
9415114075, 0522-2288377

एल.वी. एंटनी देवकुमार
अपर पुलिस महानिदेशक
9454400162, 0522-2390243

मुख्यमंत्री हेल्पलाइन नं.: 1076

मुख्यमंत्री ट्विटर हेल्पलाइन : @CMHelpline1076 सूचना एवं जनसम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तर प्रदेश

IN BRIEF

Youth volunteers to man borders
PUDUCHERRY
After dropping in private security guards for helping in maintaining social distancing in public places, the police is now engaging local youth to monitor the porous border of the State and check entry of people without valid reason during the lockdown. Under 'operating grama sevagan', the police have enlisted several volunteers as force multipliers to man the borders. These volunteers will keep vigil to prevent cross border movement and enforce prohibitory orders.

Farmer arrested for death of two
VILLUPURAM
The Arakan Vallur police on Sunday cracked the mystery behind the disappearance of two persons last month and arrested Krishnamoorthy, 44, a farmer for allegedly burying their bodies after the duo died of stepping on the illegal electric fence in his farm. According to the police, Annamalai and Babash had gone hunting with Gokulraj, but the duo were electrocuted. The farmer had put up the fence to prevent wild bears.

VCK leader takes stock of COVID-19 work
CHENNAI
Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi Founder Thol. Thiruvavala spoke to his party of office-bearers via video conferencing on Sunday to take stock of COVID-19 relief work done in Chidambaram Lok Sabha constituency and represents.

Trying times for the bereaved too

Close relatives of the deceased are not even able to pay their last respects

R.SIVARAMAN
CHENNAI
The prolonged pandemic lockdown has not turned things upside down, as much as physical distancing which is leaving many alone, in their moments of joy and sorrow.



A funeral procession at Avadi is marked by absence of crowd due to lockdown restrictions. **PH. PICHUMANI**

It's not just weddings that take place without the usual pomp and fervour; even bereavements remain low key with limited or no attendance. Children and wards who work abroad and elsewhere in the country have had to miss the funeral of their parents, close relatives. They are unable to pay their last respects to their near and dear, even if they have not died of a coronavirus infection. Many others within the country and even State, could not attend the last journey of their loved ones, thanks to the lockdown. Amidst tears, they manage to catch some of the rituals on video calls, beamed to them overseas, with the help of technology.

An 87-year-old person, who was a professor in a Tiruchi college, died recently in his residence in Mogappair. His son and daughter were abroad and could not come. His sisters and a couple of others, five to six people together, attended the funeral. A close relative lamented, "The heir of the deceased could not come, and it is not customary for women to perform the last rites. We had to finally ask a

male relative from Tambaram by sending him a picture of the dead body so that police could allow him reach here."

Ordeals unlimited
Revathi Anandapadmanaban, of Bengaluru, explained her ordeal to reach Chennai to attend her relative's funeral in Velappanchavadi. Ms. Revathi said, "After obtaining permission from local authorities in Bengaluru, we travelled in a car and had to approach the Krishnagiri Collector's office after crossing the border. We had to show a picture of the dead body and the message from the family to get a pass. Then we reached the house of the bereaved where only 10 people were present. Some of the relatives had to watch the funeral through a video call."

Syed Mansuruddin, hereditary trustee of Mount Road Dharga said, "Relatives are hesitant to visit the be-

reaved families as there is restriction on movement. Recently, the 70-year-old mother of my friend died due to ill health. There were only 10 or 15 attendees and the family had to move quickly to the burial ground for the last rites with few people in attendance."

M.Venkatesh, whose 85-year-old father died of ill health in Nanganallur recently, narrated his ordeal. "Only ten people were there — my family, my brother's family and my in-laws. None of our relatives were able to attend. Even the priests found it difficult to come home and perform the final rituals."

"A 60-year-old woman died of ill health in Virugambakkam recently. She was from an affluent Christian family. Her family was left alone, as many relatives did not turn up. We could not bring the body to the church for special service and instead, the family had to go straight to the cemetery,"

said P.B.Martin, parish priest of Infant Jesus church, Chinmaya Nagar. Bereaved families are not able to perform obsequies on the 10th day since they are not able to bring priests or move out from home. Gnanavapi and Mukthi Karmasalas — places for performing rituals after the cremation — are closed.

Balasuubramanian, a funeral undertaker in Gopalapuram said, "Now people are not hiring a freezer box to keep the body for hours. If somebody dies, he or she will be cremated the next hour."

R.Ganapathy Subramanian, an employee of private bank said, "My father died at the age of 84 after illness at a hospital. We were only four to attend the funeral and perform the last rites. All my relatives are in Coimbatore or Madurai. No one could visit us."

Some tips to avoid diabetic amputations during lockdown

We are seeing an increased number of lower limb amputations during the lockdown period among people with diabetes. The reasons given by the people who underwent these amputations were that they were not able to get proper wound care and access to their regular doctors who were attending to their 'diabetic foot' infection.



DR. VIJAY VISWANATHAN
Senior Diabetologist

COVID-19

In the last one week, we had 5 patients who required a major below or above knee amputation due to diabetic foot infection. Before the lockdown we used to get some 5 patients in 2 months who required a major lower limb amputation.

The warning signs that should alert someone with diabetes to seek immediate help and avoid a major amputation are as follows:

- High fever
- Redness and warmth in one foot compared to the other foot.
- A foot ulcer that changes colour and becomes discoloured or appears yellow due to pus formation
- Pain in the foot
- Past history of reduced blood flow in the foot (peripheral arterial disease)
- Swelling in one foot (indicating damage to the joints or bones of the foot)
- Increased white cell count (WBC) in blood tests
- People with a foot ulcer whose blood sugar is not getting under control

What should people do to prevent a major lower limb amputation?

- In people who have loss of sensation in their feet (neuropathy), it is very necessary to take utmost care of their feet
- Daily foot examination is necessary to detect any minor injury which may go unnoticed
- Avoid dry feet by applying a moisturiser cream on the feet but avoid in the space between the toes
- Look for fungal infection in between the toes
- Do not cut nails with scissors and cause injury, but use a nail file to file the nails
- In case someone gets a small cut or injury on the feet, treat it with an antiseptic and contact a doctor if the warning signs mentioned above are present
- If the warning signs are present, an immediate consultation with the doctor is required

● People who have a foot ulcer must examine and dress the wound regularly with the help of a local nurse

● Use moist wound dressings which are available that will help the patient to avoid daily dressing. It may be possible for a patient with a foot ulcer to do dressing on their own with these modern moist wound dressings which are available

● Avoid putting pressure on the foot ulcer which will create more damage to the ulcer. Proper offloading with a cast may be recommended for some people

● Start antibiotics after consulting the doctor if there are signs of infection because this will help to contain the infection and help to avoid spread of the infection upto the knee level

● Visit the surgeon regularly if there is an active foot infection and take intravenous antibiotics, if necessary

● Control diabetes well with oral medications and use insulin, if necessary, especially if there is evidence of foot infection

● Check the blood sugar both before and after meals on a regular basis and keep the fasting blood sugar between 110 and 120 mg% and the after meal blood sugar between 160 and 180 mg%.

This will help to prevent a serious foot infection. Therefore, proper foot care during this period will help to avoid many lower limb amputations.

Narayanansamy seeks urgent aid

"Total collapse of revenue from mainstay sources in Puducherry"

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUDUCHERRY
Chief Minister V. Narayanansamy, has called upon the Centre to urgently provide financial assistance to the Union Territory, which had seen a total collapse of revenue from its mainstay sources of excise, GST and tourism due to the extended lockdown to check spread of COVID-19.



V. Narayanansamy

Mr. Narayanansamy, who had participated in the video call convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Chief Ministers on Saturday, told media persons that the government had not received GST compensation for the last four months. Pointing out that he had attended the three previous meetings, he said he had also written to the Prime Minister, highlighting the unique posi-

tion of the Union Territory of Puducherry and Union Territory of Delhi. "Till date, we have not received even a single paisa from the Government of India for Puducherry, but we have given ₹2,000 to each family, irrespective of them being an APL family or a BPL family, to help them come out of the crisis. Besides, an aid of ₹5,000 had been given to the farmers, and an interest-

free loan of ₹5000 to self help group women," the Chief Minister said.

Puducherry had primarily two revenue streams — excise and GST — which had totally dried up after the lockdown. "Income generation — for the purpose of paying salary to the employees and to take care of the public welfare schemes — is very difficult for us," he said.

Mr. Narayanansamy also echoed the calls of other chief ministers for a six-month moratorium on remittances to the Centre and called for hassle-free movement of essential commodities from producing states to client states.

He also joined some chief ministers in urging the Prime Minister to rein in Governors and Lt. Governors who were "playing politics" during the crisis.

Back in business



Bakeries were abuzz with activity as people started thronging the outlets on Sunday, after the Corporation permitted their functioning from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. **PH. M. VEDHAN**

MLAs remark goes viral

However, the former Minister sought to play it down saying that it was not aimed at any community. He said, some people were playing up his casual remark to paralyse workers.

Donations pour in for relief fund

STAFF REPORTER
CHENNAI
Eicher Group, which comprises Royal Field and VE Commercial Vehicles (a joint venture between Volvo Group and Eicher Motors Limited), has announced a contribution of ₹1 crore to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's COVID Relief Fund. In addition, the company has pledged ₹25 lakh to the Kanchipuram Collector's Relief Fund for COVID-19.

Eicher said it is working with more than 10 hospitals in the State to provide personal protection equipment to medical caregivers.

The group is also working with four hospitals to establish exclusive COVID-19 speciality wards and isolation centres and over ₹7 crore will be provided for this, it said.

Eicher has also committed more than ₹2 crore for providing groceries and sanitation consumables to more than 9,000 families of migrant labourers and underprivileged local communities across the State.

Repro Home Finance Limited has made a contribution of ₹25 lakh towards the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister's Public Relief Fund.

The Association of Minimal Access Surgeons of India (AMAS) has donated a sum of ₹20 lakh towards PM Cares Fund. The Institute of Company Secretaries of India has committed ₹5.25 crore to PM Cares Fund.

Employers seek relief to tide over crisis

Representation sent to State government

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI
The Employers Federation of Southern India (EFSI) has made a representation to the Tamil Nadu government seeking measures for industries to tide over the crisis on account of lockdown due to COVID-19.

The federation has requested the State government to extend the time limit for renewal of licences and submission of returns under various labour enactments up to June 30.

Permission to operate 12-hour shift for six months to reset the production lines to a higher capacity and exemptions to all factories and establishments with regard to hours of overtime for 6 months are other requests.

Exemption to work compensatory days for the lockdown days and to work beyond ten working days continuously and weekly off have also found a place in the demands.

The letter, addressed to the Chief Secretary, mentioned payment of 50% of wages in respect of workers earning more than ₹24,000 (ceiling as prescribed under the payment of wages Act, 1936), a month for the lockdown period and wanted revision of dearness allowance (w.e.f 01.04.2020) payable under the Minimum Wages Act also be deferred by six months.

"Under the Apprentices Act, stipend for apprentices from the board of apprentices is not reimbursed to employers in a timely manner. The pending claim for reimbursement is done immediately to tide over the financial crisis," the letter said.

Other requests include postponement of licence fees, fine and penal interest, any payable, be waived as special case and all punitive action initiated against employers, such as issuance of show cause notices for deviation, non-compliance, etc., be deferred for six months after obtaining the reply from the employers concerned, except for safety-related issues.

"In order to cover maximum beneficiaries under the building and other construction workers act, the condition with regard to engagement of construction workers for not less than 90 days during the preceding period of 6 months be relaxed. Suitable relaxation is recommended by the Government of India for amendment in the act," the federation said.

The 100-year-old federation represents 750 employers of southern India and 20 other affiliated associations belonging to textile, sugar, cement, plantation, leather and MSME sectors.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH
MR B. Seshadri (83), Retired Senior Personnel Officer, South Central Railway, passed away peacefully on 11th April 2020 in Chennai. Ph: 42152102, 9920061110

MEENAKSHI SUBRAMANIAM
Mysore
12 July 1924 - 09 April 2020
In loving memory. Children and extended family
+917259648752

DEATH
Prof. P Bhattacharya
Former VC of Tezpur Central University and Retired Professor of Mathematics at IIT Madras
DOB: 01.05.1941 - DOD: 12.04.2020
Deeply mourned by Lakshmi, Sandhya, Shreyas, Tara & Dhruv.
Contact: +91 94495 43624

DEATH
SAD DEMISE
Smt. Dr.S. VATSALA M.S. DOD
DOB: 22.07.1943 DOD: 12.04.2020
We sadly announce her passing on 12th April 2020 at 10.30 a.m., Cremation will be held at Kampianpettai, Cremation Ground on 13.04.2020 around 9.00 a.m.
Deeply Mourned by Husband: Dr. A. Krishnamurthy, M.B.B.S. O.A., Daughter: Dr. Balavigneswari M.G. Ramkumar S. Govindarajulu, Mysore.

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES
REMEMBERING BELOVED JYOTHI
You are with us In a noble soul form, Guiding us forever.
Meenakshi, Rajendra, Anusha, Chidambaram, Australia.
7th Anniversary
A. RAGHAVAN
We miss you Dear Ones

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES
REMEMBRANCE
Thiru.N.T.S.SOUNDAPPA CHETTIAR 24.8.1917 - 13.4.2003
FIO DR.S.VARADARAJAN ESSVEE HOSPITAL
"YOU ARE ALWAYS LIVING WITH US AND BLESSING US"
By Family Members
2nd ANNIVERSARY
Mrs. O.R. NIRMALA, B.A. (Retd. Textiles), Office of the Joint Chief Controller of Imports & Exports, Chennai
10.04.1936 - 13.04.2018
Fondly Remembered by Husband: - V.RAJANANDHARAN (Retired Deputy Director (I & P), Chennai-9) Son, Daughters: Sree-Devi, Daughter-in-law & Grand Children
Mobile: 9444951564 / 9940212916

DEATH
SAD DEMISE
"Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me..."
- Psalm 23.4

DEATH
GOD Gave us Daddy - C. A. GEORGE, 86, (Aniyachan) Chirayil, as a Gift and on 11th April 2020 at 8.02 pm. HE took that gift back to HIS Heavenly Abode. Homeage at residence will start on 13th April, 2020 at 9.00 am and funeral at Kilpaik Cemetery at 12 noon.

→ BEREAVED FAMILY ←
Valsa George (Wife)
Maya (Daughter) & Shibu Asha (Daughter) & Alex Minu (Daughter) & Diny Anu (Daughter) & Bijoy Grandchildren & Great-grandchildren

HOMAGE
OBITUARY
Mrs. K. SIGAPPI ACHI (W/o M. Kasi Chettiar)
Passed away on 12.04.2020 7.15 am at Coimbatore. Deeply mourned by family members

OBITUARY
Sri. M. Sambandam Mudaliar
Founder
Mrs. M. Sambandam & Co., Tanners & Exporters
Born: 8.4.1919 - Died: 13.4.1999
You continue to live in our hearts forever. We cherish those unforgettable moments when you were amongst us.
Sons, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Daughters-in-law, Grand Children and Great Grand Children.

In memory of your loved ones
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact: 044-28575711 / 28575714 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. & 72990 95757 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
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DONATE EYES-GIFT SIGHT

FOND REMEMBRANCE
Sri. M. Sambandam Mudaliar
Founder
Mrs. M. Sambandam & Co., Tanners & Exporters
Born: 8.4.1919 - Died: 13.4.1999
You continue to live in our hearts forever. We cherish those unforgettable moments when you were amongst us.
Sons, Daughters, Sons-in-law, Daughters-in-law, Grand Children and Great Grand Children.

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
80th Birthday Remembrance
Dr. C.K.RANGANATHAN, M.Sc., Ph.D., Retired Prof. of Chemistry Presidency College, Chennai.
Say not in grief that "He is no more" but in thankfulness that he was!
Wife: Hemalatha Ranganathan Daughters: Skandapriya G & Pavithra Anand Grand Children: Omkar, Pranav, Ashika, Aryan & Anishka



Washing away: Fire personnel disinfecting a school that has been converted into a camp for migrant labourers in Kozhikode on Sunday; APJIC chairperson R.K. Roja disinfecting a road in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh; personnel from the Mysuru City Corporation disinfecting a road in the city; and fire services personnel spraying disinfectant in Sangareddy, Telangana.



APJIC chairperson R.K. Roja disinfecting a road in Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh; personnel from the Mysuru City Corporation disinfecting a road in the city; and fire services personnel spraying disinfectant in Sangareddy, Telangana.



Personnel from the Mysuru City Corporation disinfecting a road in the city; and fire services personnel spraying disinfectant in Sangareddy, Telangana.



Fire services personnel spraying disinfectant in Sangareddy, Telangana.

2 die of COVID-19 in Telangana

Kalaripayattu is a Martial art which originated as a style in Kerala during 3rd century BC to the 2nd century AD. The word kalari first appears in Sangam literature to describe both a battlefield and combat arena.

It is also considered to be one of the oldest fighting system in existence. It is now practiced in Kerala, in contiguous parts of Tamil Nadu. Kalaripayattu techniques include a combination of steps (Chuvatu) and postures (Vadivu). Chuvatu literally means 'steps', the basic steps of the martial arts. Vadivu literally means 'postures' or stances are the basic characteristics of Kalaripayattu training. Named after animals, they are usually eight in number.

Sunday, taking the total to 420.

Seven cases were reported from Guntur. Nellore reported four cases and Kurunool, which has the highest number, reported two more. Chittoor and Kadapa districts reported one new case each, the Health Department said.

On the bright side, a 65-year-old patient was discharged from the Government General Hospital in Vijayawada. The man with a history of travel to Mecca on March 10, tested positive and got admitted to hospital on

Telangana	531	412	103	16
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March 27. He tested negative for the virus thrice and was discharged.

There were 401 active cases in hospitals. Seven persons died and 12 recovered.

Cumulatively, Kurunool reported 84 cases, Guntur (82), Nellore (52), Prakasam (41), Krishna (35), Kadapa (31), West Godavari (22), Chittoor (21), Visakhapatnam (20), East Godavari (17) and Anantapur (15).

There are seven red zones in Visakhapatnam district,

six of them in the city, but the number of positive cases was pegged at 20 for the last three days. A total of 7,889 samples have been tested in the State till date.

36 recover in Kerala

Kerala reported just two positive cases of COVID-19 on Sunday, and both individuals had returned from abroad.

The State also reported that 36 COVID-19 patients under treatment in various

in a single day.

These were from five districts, for the 24-hour period till 5 p.m. on April 12. The total number of cases in the State rose to 243. Earlier, the State had reported 16 positive cases each on April 4 and April 9. Among 17 persons who tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday, most were from Vijayapura (6). Four were from Belagavi district and three each from Bengaluru and Kalaburgi. One case was from Mysuru.

Of the total 243 patients, 54 had been discharged and six died.

Central govt. delayed funds,

Six microsites to promote Kerala

State plans to push tourism

S. ANIL RADHAKRISHNAN
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Tourism has geared up for the post-COVID-19 era by coming up with six theme-based microsites in the official website to promote destination and tourism products and get an upper hand in the virtual marketing among brands.

With focus of Kerala turning to wellness tourism and in view of the corona pandemic, Ayurveda has been given prominence among the microsites added to the official website www.keralatourism.org.

Long-term strategy

Yoga, Kalaripayattu, an ancient martial art indigenous to the State, Temples of Kerala, Judaism in Kerala and Discovering Malabar are the other new microsites that have been featured.

The move to infuse content into the website and give a refreshing look is part of the long-term strategy to overcome the impact of COVID-19 that has taken a heavy toll on the travel and tourism industry facing job cuts and low margins.

Tourism planners and the industry are expecting an influx of domestic tourists when the pandemic ends



Yoga and Kalaripayattu will feature in new microsites.

and the microsites will come in handy for marketing the destinations. Besides, the aim is to retain an edge for the official website that ranks first in the search results since 2004.

"In the days of the lockdown and holidaying coming to a standstill globally, we have noticed that other tourism brands are doing virtual marketing. In microsites, we have taken care to provide new content and more emphasis on videos of high quality. New models have been roped in," Kerala Tourism Director P. Bala Kiran said.

The cuisine of Malabar, Jewish diet, popular asanas, cultural and art forms of Malabar to featuring of the 100 temples district-wise make it a unique experience.

IN BRIEF



U.K. citizens to be evacuated on April 15

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
The citizens of the United Kingdom who got stranded here following a ban on international flights will be evacuated on April 15. The government has been informed that the flight will pick the tourists from Thiruvananthapuram and Cochin international airports.

Probe against policemen over arrest of activist

HASSAN
Superintendent of Police R. Srinivasa Gowda has initiated an inquiry against two police officers of Belur in Karnataka over the arrest of a Hinduva activist who had posted objectionable content on Facebook. The probe comes after Minister for Tourism C.T. Ravi urged Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai to act against the police.

Evacuation of Indians from Gulf not feasible

KOZHICODE
An immediate air mission to evacuate thousands of Indians stranded in the worst-hit COVID-19 countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is unlikely to happen soon with the Centre sticking to its stringent policy on travel restrictions and diplomatic relationships.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSA/IMD (TAKEEN AT 18.00 HRS)
Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning and gusty winds very likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura and with lightning at isolated places over Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Punjab, West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Maharashtra and Telangana

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	20.6	31.0	19.2	Kozhikode	14.4	36.2	26.6
Ahmedabad	42.0	24.2		Kurunool	35.7	26.2	
Aizawl	30.3			Lucknow	37.7	21.8	
Allahabad	41.8	22.0		Madurai	37.8	25.4	
Bangaluru	32.2	20.5		Mangaluru	37.0	26.4	
Bhopal	21.8			Mumbai	32.4	25.2	
Bhubaneswar	39.6	25.0		Mysuru	33.4	22.4	
Chandigarh	34.8	20.0		New Delhi	37.2	20.1	
Chennai	33.4	26.6		Patna	36.2	22.6	
Coimbatore	36.1	24.2		Port Blair	32.6	26.6	
Dehradun	37.0	16.6		Puducherry	34.0	25.4	
Gangtok	9.0	20.5	11.6	Pune	0.2	38.4	22.4
Goa	33.6	26.4		Raipur	38.5	20.6	
Guwahati	33.6	18.0		Ranchi	36.2	19.5	
Hubballi	37.0	21.0		Shillong	10.8	20.9	16.4
Hyderabad	36.2	22.2		Shimla	24.0	14.6	
Imphal	32.8	16.6		Srinagar	32.4	8.0	
Jaipur	38.4	25.1		Thiruvananthapuram	33.8	26.0	
Kochi	18.4	32.2	25.6	Thiruchi	38.1	25.0	
Kohima	24.2	12.8		Vijayawada	34.0	26.8	
Kolkata	37.6	24.4		Visakhapatnam	34.0	26.8	

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)
Pollutants in the air you are breathing
Yesterday
CITIES SO₂ NO₂ CO PM2.5 PM10 CODE
Ahmedabad 29 42 19 52 74
Bangaluru 07 23 69 16 16
Chennai 04 19 52 46
Delhi 34 21 22 129 127
Hyderabad 02 34 08 74
Kolkata 04 04 15 36 68
Lucknow 05 42 54 224
Mumbai 06 24 69 67 96
Pune 34 12 52 43 41
Visakhapatnam 07 35 06 24 40
In observation made at 6.00 p.m., Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 231 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Panchula, Haryana recorded a healthy AQI score of 36.
Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)
SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.
NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.
CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.
PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

Ex-poll chief approaches High Court

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

N. Ramesh Kumar, whose five-year tenure as A.P. Election Commissioner (SEC) was cut short by an ordinance on Friday night, has challenged it in the High Court.

He appealed for the declaration of ordinance and the GOs through which Madras High Court retired judge V. Kanagaraj was appointed as his successor, unconstitutional.

He said the government abused its power only to shunt him out of the top post. He insisted that there was no justifiable ground to issue the ordinance.

Moreover, the local body election process initiated by him had not been completed due to the crisis precipitated by COVID-19.

Telangana postpones all entrance exams

Last date for applications extended

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

All Common Entrance Tests (CETs) of Telangana have been postponed owing to the prevailing COVID-19 situation and fresh dates will be intimated on a later date.

The Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHC) took the decision after the government decided to extend the lockdown till April 30, but the decision had been on the cards for some time as the TSCHC was worried over the conduct of exams when the nation was facing a huge crisis.

Chairman of TSCHC T. Papi Reddy said the last date for online submission of applications for the CETs without late fee had been extended to May 5. Earlier, the

TSCHC scheduled all the exams in the month of May, ensuring that the dates won't clash with other national entrance exams.

Since most of them are now online tests only, officials feel they won't face much problem with the logistics. However, they have to be conscious of clash of dates with national entrance exams, which too have been postponed, and also entrance exams of other States. Telugu students appear for national entrance exams and also entrance tests of neighbouring States like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

As per the original schedule, the Engineering Common Entrance Test was scheduled for May 2.

No spitting in public places

A.P. to take strict action against violators

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Andhra Pradesh government has issued orders prohibiting spitting in public places.

Following a letter issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Special Chief Secretary (Health) K.S. Jawahar Reddy issued the orders in this regard.

Instructions issued

The authorities were instructed to implement the orders strictly. The violators are punishable under the provisions of the IPC and the CrPc, the orders said. Under Section 2 of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and The Disaster Management Act,

State plans to distribute 16 crore masks

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to distribute 16 crore masks in the State to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Asking the officials to distribute the masks in a big way, Chief Minister Mr. Nara Chandrababu Naidu said,

"As the population of the State stands at 5.3 crore, the government would have to supply 16 crore masks at the rate of three per person."

The State is also gearing up to conduct tests on 45,000 people in zones with higher numbers of COVID-19 cases.

cleanliness at public places. Spitting in open places may cause infections, particularly the spread of coronavirus, the order said.

Officials would be strictly implementing the orders. A few States have already banned spitting in public places and booked violators.

A grand farewell for recovered patients in Karnataka

In videos posted on social media, hospital staff are seen presenting patients with fruits, flowers at the time of discharge

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Those who have recovered from COVID-19 are getting a grand farewell from hospital staff at the time of their discharge.

In a video doing the rounds on social media, doctors and the nurses at K.C. General Hospital in Bengaluru were seen applauding a patient who had recovered and presenting him with a bouquet of flowers.

'A tough time'

"We wanted to salute his fighting spirit. It can be a very tough and depressing time in the isolation ward. One has to be strong and take care of their mental

health," said a doctor of the General Hospital.

The patient, who looked visibly relieved, touched the feet of some of the staff. The video was taken by the patient's father.

In another video, four people in Chickballapur who battled COVID-19 were also discharged amid much applause, with the staff presenting them with a sapling and a fruit basket.

At the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) Trauma and Emergency Care Centre, five patients have been discharged so far and 34 are still under treatment. One of the patients who was admitted here with his wife said the team was doing a



Acts of kindness: The medical staff applauding patients during their discharge from the hospital. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

great service by taking care of patients and putting their own lives at risk. He appreciated the efforts of

the doctors, nurses and Group D employees and praised one of the doctors for repeatedly doing his

for feedback on the food served. In a letter to the Medical Education Department, the

the patients were also counselled by a psychiatrist to help them address their fears and anxiety.



Trade in tatters

The WTO expects global goods trade volume to slump by as much as 32% in 2020

The only certainty right now in a pandemic-gripped world is the all-enveloping uncertainty. And the WTO acknowledged as much when it released its outlook for global trade last week. Projecting merchandise trade to plummet by anywhere between 13% and 32% in 2020, it added a categorical caveat: at the moment, it is only able to posit a wide range of possible trajectories for the predicted decline in trade given the unprecedented nature of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and the uncertainty around its precise economic impact. Economists at the WTO, however, appear more certain that the disruption and resultant blow to trade will in all likelihood be far worse than the slump brought on by the global financial crisis of 2008. As IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva observed on April 9, the global economy is set to contract sharply in 2020, with "the lockdown needed to fight" the pandemic affecting billions worldwide. The tight restrictions on movement and social distancing norms across geographies have led to severe curbs on labour supply, transport and travel and the shuttering of whole sectors from hotels and non-essential retail to tourism and significant parts of manufacturing. The WTO expects all regions, save Africa, West Asia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, to suffer double-digit declines in exports and imports this year even under its "optimistic scenario", which postulates a recovery starting in the second half.

The WTO and the IMF chief have pointed to the fact that unlike the recession that accompanied the global financial crisis just over a decade ago, the current downturn is unique. Global supply chains have increased in complexity, especially in industries such as electronics and automotive products, making them particularly vulnerable to the current disruptions, with countries that are a part of these value linkages set to find trade more severely impacted. Also, services trade – in which India has a higher global share as an exporter (\$214 billion, or 3.5%, in 2019) than in merchandise exports – may be significantly affected by the transport and travel curbs. A small sliver of silver in this bleak outlook for services trade is the role that the WTO sees for information technology services as companies try to enable employees to work from home and people order essentials and drugs online and socialise remotely. India's IT exporters have been busy supporting their overseas clients' business continuity plans in the face of the pandemic and may find this hand-holding at a time of dire need earning them loyalty-linked business when economic activity revives. Still, as the WTO chief, Roberto Azevêdo, crucially observes, a rebound in global economic activity will require trade to flow freely across borders as vitally as any fiscal or monetary stimulus. The world will be best served if nations do not turn inular and erect new barriers to the movement of goods, services and people in the aftermath of the pandemic.

Cease fire

Ceasefire violations on the border speak poorly of the preventive mechanisms in place

The latest exchange of long-range artillery fire between the Indian and Pakistani armies in Poonch and Kupwara's Rawthpora, Panzgam, Malikpora, Hafra and Ferkiyan areas is yet another unhappy reminder that both countries have not been able to uphold a ceasefire along the border areas and the Line of Control. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh claimed just two months ago that "all violations of ceasefire are taken up with Pakistan authorities at the appropriate level through the established mechanism of hotlines, flag meetings as well as weekly talks between the Directorate Generals of Military Operations of the two countries". But here are the figures revealed by him this February: 3,479 violations for 2019, which works out to almost every day. Shripad Naik, Minister of State for Defence, provided the figures from January 1 to February 23; for 54 days, it was 646, which means an average of almost 12. Between 1 and 23 February, there has been an upward tick since Article 370 was followed out on August 5 last year, and the shroud taken away from Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan also has similar and competing figures for Indian ceasefire violations while proffering explanations for its own firing with the stock phrases: "retaliatory, effective, befitting". What utility do these mechanisms have if the violations continue unchecked?

Those who bear the brunt – the loss of lives, livelihood, infrastructure and the displacement – unfortunately live along the LOC on both sides, some 740 km, and the 221 km of the P in J&K. In the latest instance, scores scrambled out of the range of the heavy artillery guns to seek refuge, not in government quarantine shelters, but with relatives in the district headquarters and elsewhere. Thrown to the wind in the process were protocols to protect against COVID-19. In this instance, the Army blames Pakistan for initiating the shelling in Kupwara's Keran sector to facilitate infiltration which seems to have picked up pace as have operations against terrorists. Indeed, last week saw a chase through heavy snow drifts, leading to a macabre hand-to-hand combat with terrorists who had infiltrated through the remote, nearly unpopulated, snowed-in mountainous region. That as many as five highly trained para commandos should have lost their lives in exchange for the lives of five infiltrators is unfortunate and unacceptable. Infiltrations at this time and in such remote areas are regular enough to be predictable. Wherever possible, exercising the option of precise, surgical, preventive action against such infiltration, to minimise collateral damage through better use of technology, such as drones, might be preferable.

The WTO is an inter-governmental organization for governments to negotiate global trade agreements and progressively liberalizing trade. Currently, WTO has 164 members. The WTO operates a system of trade rules that apply to all its members. The WTO is also a place for Member governments to settle their trade disputes. Its located in Geneva, Switzerland. It was established on 1 January 1995 and its official languages are English, French and Spanish.

IMF was formed in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference. IMF came into operation on 27th December 1945 and is today an international organisation that consists of 189 member countries. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., IMF focuses on fostering global monetary cooperation, securing financial stability, facilitating and promoting international trade, employment and economic growth around the world.

The breakdown of the international monetary co-operation during the Great Depression led to the development of IMF which aimed in improving the economic growth and reducing poverty around the world. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was initially formed at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944. 45 government representatives were present at the conference to discuss a framework for postwar international economic co-operation.

IMF became operational from 27th December 1945 with 29 member countries who agreed to bound to this treaty. It began its financial operations on 1st March 1947. Currently, IMF consists of 189 member countries.

IMF is regarded as a key organisation of the international economic system which focuses on rebuilding the international capital along with the maximizing the national economic sovereignty and human welfare.

WORLD Bank is also known as The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The Second World War damages the economies of the world. So in 1945 it was realized to concentrate on the reconstruction of that war damaged economies. The IBRD was established in Dec. 1945 with the IMF on the basis of recommendations of the Bretton woods conference that is reason why IMF and World Bank are called Bretton woods twin. IBRD started working in June 1946. As on April 2019; the World Bank of 189 members.



AMIT SIBAL

The Central government made a claim, on the eve of April 1, Fool's Day, that "fake news" alone is responsible for the untold misery and loss of life of migrant workers during the lockdown. It is important to examine this in the light of what "fake news" actually means, that is, a report, presented as authoritative, of an event which never actually occurred.

Fake news is a menace not only because it is usually motivated by an intent to deceive and misinform but also because it may induce people to act on the information. This can have grave consequences, especially where the penetration of mobile telephony and social media exceeds that of education and awareness.

For many who engage in political discourse, however, "fake news" is used as an epithet to describe any critical comment or opposing viewpoint. By branding criticism as "fake news", governments draw on the consensus that fake news is pernicious, obviating the need to respond to the content of the criticism. If it is fake news, after all, it merits no response. Used in this way, the phrase "fake news" is used as an antidote to any

Such usage is disingenuous. News reports facts. "Fake news" is a report of facts that are knowingly false, presented as "news". By definition, news is not opinion, which can be wrong, but it cannot be "fake". Therefore, an opinion that you disagree with, cannot be branded as "fake news", because it is just that, opinion. You cannot, by mischaracterising criticism as "fake news", escape from having to respond to it.

Response needed Contemporary political discourse has taken this dangerous approach even further. Where governments are criticised for causing suffering among their people, the suffering is instead attributed to the menace of "fake news". For example, after the precipitous announcement of lockdown, the government has been criticised for failing to anticipate the exodus of migrant workers; failing to make advance provision for food, shelter or salaries; failing to communicate with State governments to formulate a coordinated approach before the lockdown; and failing to communicate with the public regarding what migrant workers should do in view of the lockdown.

The government's response to the mass exodus was, by any yardstick, uncoordinated, where initially there was abject confusion, then the States reportedly provided vehicles to ferry the workers, and, finally, the States were directed to seal their borders. The hu-



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

man loss was incalculable, with hundreds of thousands undertaking Partition-esque journeys across hundreds of kilometres in a desperate bid to return home, leading to the tragic loss of lives and enormous suffering that are yet to be fully documented. The newspapers continue to report that food and shelter are still not reaching many of the migrant workers. These criticisms certainly deserve a response.

Instead of responding, the government, on affidavit to the Supreme Court of India in response to petitions from migrant workers need to be provided for during lockdown, says that the only culprit for the loss of life and hardship of migrant workers is, simply, "fake news". Apparently, the sole reason that migrant workers undertook the punishing journey back home across hundreds of kilometres back home was "fake news". The lockdown would extend to three months rather than three weeks. The prospect of three weeks without food, shelter or basic amenities was, according to the government, not devastating enough to motivate workers to return home. Fake news is appa-

government's careful calculation that millions of migrant workers would have serenely stayed put and there would have been no hardship whatsoever.

This begs a raft of questions: "Fake news" is a statement that is knowingly false – what was the false statement that constituted "fake news" in this case? Was it the announcement of relief measures for three months by the Finance Minister triggering speculation that the 21-day lockdown could be extended to June 30? Isn't the government extending the lockdown and isn't its eventual duration still uncertain? Was extending the lockdown a decision that the government could even have taken on March 24, or would it depend on an assessment of the situation closer to April 14? Could any of us, including the government, categorically have said on March 24 that the lockdown would not be extended, depending on the situation prevailing on April 14? Was the government itself the source of what it is now calling "fake news"?

The government cannot be permitted by the artifice of "fake news", to bypass the criticism that it should have planned better, coordinated between Centre and State governments, and been clear in strategy and communication. These are not hindsight criticisms either. Lessons could and should have been learned from deficiencies in similar announcements made earlier by foreign governments regarding COVID-19 mea-

"fake news" cannot wish away these questions.

Court's line

The Supreme Court passed an order on March 31 directing the media to carry the official version of events of the pandemic, which the government is to publish on a daily basis. With little to go on other than the government's fervid assertions that it had taken more than adequate measures in response to COVID-19, the Court perhaps did not want to enter the thicket of whether better government planning and communication could have avoided or reduced the suffering of migrant workers, or whether the source of the so-called "fake news" was the government itself. The Court, fortunately, made clear that it did not intend to stifle discussion of the pandemic, even this piece could not have been published. If false information circulated on social media is dangerous because it can trigger action, misleading statements or lack of clarity in government messaging is even more dangerous, given the credibility of the source. What "fake news" is not, is a dissenting opinion or a viewpoint the establishment does not like. No government should be permitted to hide behind a vague assertion of "fake news" to abdicate responsibility for its actions, not even on April Fool's Day.

Amit Sibal is a Senior Advocate practising in the Supreme Court of India

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Way out on MPLADS

I acknowledge that our fight against COVID-19 requires mobilisation of resources. However, there are several mechanisms at the disposal of the government to do so and suspension of the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) fund is a problematic and unmerited decision. The Congress president has put forward five measures to augment resources and I urge the government to consider her recommendations. There seems to be a misconception that the MPLADS fund is just another allowance given to a Member of Parliament and, therefore, must be done away with. To clarify – the fund is not meant for personal use and there are

several rules and procedures that govern the dispersal of the annual amount of ₹5 crore. It is only within these rules that a Member of Parliament has the discretion to direct expenditure towards the creation of durable community assets based on locally felt needs. For instance, individual benefits, movable and non-durable assets are not allowed under the scheme and 15% of the total funds is to be utilised for work in areas inhabited by the Scheduled Caste population. To do away with the MPLADS fund is unacceptable. A more reasonable formula would have been to mandate that we must spend a certain percentage

of the MPLADS fund compulsorily for COVID-19 related infrastructure within the constituency on a need-based basis.

AMULYA SPENCER G.,
Eluru, Andhra Pradesh

KARTI CHIDAMBARAM,
Chennai

An extension?

Rising fatalities leave India with no option but to extend the lockdown (Page 1, "14-day extension of lockdown likely", April 12). Now the question is: what are the stringent actions that are to be taken by a State government to make a difference? And how are the State and Central governments to handle below middle class and the poor whose livelihoods and lives have been stalled? The governments need to focus on this section and provide them with all essentials.

The governments can also think of by demarcating zones as colour codes such as red, green and orange.

AMULYA SPENCER G.,
Eluru, Andhra Pradesh

KARTI CHIDAMBARAM,
Chennai

■ The government has no other option than to listen to States and save precious lives. Arrangements to provide medical facilities to those affected by COVID-19 and supply of essential commodities to other citizens are a must. Stopping the spread of fake messages and frequent communication is needed using print and social media and other reliable forms of information.

VARUN DAMBAL,
Bengaluru

■ When measures such as a lockdown, self-quarantine

and social distancing are enforced, public trust is essential for success. Political leaders need to focus on public trust. Trust must be developed at the international level too. Sharing of accurate information is also important. Good and positive lessons must be learned from the outbreak.

NAGARAJAMANI M.V.,
Hyderabad

Spare a thought

The national lockdown and the constant flow of news on the COVID-19 pandemic have brought about many changes in our daily lives. While scanning the newspapers and also focusing on finding peace and quiet during the lockdown, very few talk about boosting the spirit of those who have caught the

disease and battling the infection. What is the state of mind of those infected or suspect, spending unsettling times alone in quarantine and isolation wards? Listening to chirping birds and sitting in a balcony drinking a cup of hot coffee might not be a luxury everyone has. Not every one is lucky to be at home with family or bombard social networking sites with recipes and workout tips. Somewhere a mother misses her son who is alone and away, or a wife worries about her husband working overseas. They miss their families and are living through a nightmare. Let us spare a thought for them too.

PRIYANKA VIKRAM,
Chennai

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Flourish

COVID-19 and the crumbling world order

Globally, societies could become more self-seeking and inward-looking



HAPPYMON JACOB

COVID-19 will fundamentally transform the world as we know it: the world order, its balance of power, traditional conceptions of national security, and the future of globalisation. The lethal combination of an interconnected world and a deadly virus without a cure is taking humanity into uncharted waters. When we emerge from the lockdown, we must be ready to confront new political and social realities.

Crumbling world order

The rampant spread of COVID-19 is also a failure of the contemporary world order and its institutions. The contemporary global order, whatever remains of the institutions created by the victors of World War II, was a hegemonic exercise meant to deal with isolated political and military crises and not serve humanity at large. COVID-19 has exposed this as well as the worst nativist tendencies of the global leadership in the face of a major crisis. That the United Nations Security Council took so long to meet (that too inconclusively) to discuss the pandemic is a ringing testimony to the UN's insignificance.

Regional institutions haven't fared any better. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's SAARC initiative, curiously resurrecting a practically dead institution, was short-lived. The EU, the most progressive post-national regional arrangement, stood clueless when the virus spread like wildfire in Europe. Its member states turned inward for solutions: self-help, not regional coordination, was their first instinct. Brussels is the loser.

All this is indicative of a deeper malaise: the global institutional framework is unrepresentative, a pawn in the hands of the great powers, cash-strapped, and its agenda is focused on high-table security issues. The global institutional architecture of the 1940s cannot help humanity face the challenges of the 2020s. Nothing less than a new social contract between states and the international system can save our future.

One country that is likely to come



out stronger from this crisis is China. Reports indicate that China has now managed the outbreak of COVID-19, and its industrial production is recovering even as that of every other country is taking a hit. The oil price slump will make its recovery even faster. When the greatest military power found itself in denial mode and the members of the EU were looking after their own interests, China appeared to use its manufacturing power to its geopolitical advantage. Beijing has offered medical aid and expertise to those in need; it has increased cooperation with its arch-rival Japan; and President Xi Jinping spoke to the UN Secretary General on how the international community can fight the virus. Its richest man, Jack Ma, has spearheaded the private sector's fight against COVID-19. The Chinese propaganda machinery will magnify this. Chinese actions are a smart economic investment for geopolitical gains. This will aid Beijing's claims to global leadership, push Huawei 5G trials as a state bargain, and showcase how the Belt and Road Initiative is the future of global connectivity. COVID-19 will further push the international system into a world with Chinese characteristics.

Neoliberal economic globalisation will have taken a major beating in the wake of the pandemic. Economists are warning of a global recession. Even as the virus is pushing back the 'successes' of neoliberal globalisation, globalisation's political counterpart is found wanting in dealing with the situation. The first instinct of every major economy was to close borders, look inward and localise. The pre-existing structural weakness of the global order and the COVID-19 shock will further feed states' protec-

tionist tendencies fueled by hypernationalism. A more inclusive global political and economic order is unlikely any time soon, if ever. Instead, as former National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon warns, "we are headed for a poorer, meaner, and smaller world."

The ability of big corporations to dictate the production, stocks, supply chains and backup plans will be limited by increased state intervention to avoid unpredictable supply sources, avoid geopolitically sensitive zones, and national demands for emergency reserves. The profits of big corporations will reduce, and the demand for stability will increase.

Some would gladly argue all this could potentially mean a retreat from hyperglobalisation and its attendant flaws. However, the assumption that COVID-19 will bring about a more balanced and inclusive form of economic and political globalisation is perhaps misplaced. State intervention in economic matters and protectionism are the easy way out, and that's precisely what states will do once the crisis is over. It would be a return of the 'Licence Raj' through the backdoor, not a push for inclusive and responsible globalisation with its associated political benefits.

The state has failed in its inability to save us from the pandemic notwithstanding its tall claims about national security preparedness. And yet, the state has returned, with more power, legitimacy and surveillance technologies. In fact, the nervous citizenry will want the state to be omnipresent and omnipotent, no matter the consequences. The state, which was losing its influence to global economic forces, will return as the last refuge of the people in the

coming age of mass disruption.

With the severe beating that globalisation has taken, state-led models of globalisation and economic development would be preferred over (big) corporates-led globalisation. Will this enable some positive controls over the inherent deficiencies of globalisation? We will have to wait and see. But the more important question is whether the state has any incentive to take on big capital. Given the symbiotic relationship between the state and big capital, states have become used to protecting the interests of their corporations, often at the cost of the general public. Consider, for instance, that the first response of many Western states was to protect their capital markets than be concerned about public health.

New-age racism

Yet another undesirable outcome of the pandemic would be a spike in various forms of discrimination. Globally, societies could become more self-seeking and inward-looking leading to further pushback against liberal policies regarding migration and refugees. New questions are likely to be asked about the source of goods. More stringent imposition of phytosanitary measures by advanced states on products emanating from the less developed countries might become the new normal. Lockdowns and travel restrictions could potentially legitimise the rhetoric around border walls in more conservative countries. Tragically, therefore, while one answer to global pandemics is political globalisation, COVID-19 might further limit it.

Within India too, there could be a trend towards discrimination, with 'social distancing' producing undesirable social practices. That a Manipuri woman was spat on in Delhi by a man who called her "coronavirus", and gated communities have discriminated against those in COVID-19 quarantine, indicate a new age of discrimination. Puritan claims based on birth and class and the associated declarations about hygiene could become sharper. The more the virus persists, the deeper such practices would get. We already know what these practices feel like; it can only get worse from here.

Happyymon Jacob teaches national security at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security.

Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.

Members: The Security Council consists of fifteen members. Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the United States—serve as the body's five permanent members. These permanent members can veto any substantive Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or candidates for Secretary-General.

The Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve two-year terms. The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members.

also flagged questions about the efficacy of the drug in treating COVID-19 based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's position of April 7 that "there is no drug

facts and not deepen social fissures. It was—and is—a demanding task.

readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Women's safety during lockdown

Steps to protect victims of domestic violence must be made a part of the anti-COVID-19 agenda

JAYANTHI NATARAJAN

It is well-documented that during a war, a natural disaster or a pandemic, women's bodies bear the worse brunt of the crisis. Domestic violence against women is already widespread and under-reported in India. Now, at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations recognises domestic violence against women as a "shadow pandemic". The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered a huge spike in domestic violence against women in China, Australia, France, the U.K., Spain, and Bangladesh, among others. In India, too, the National Commission for Women has reported a large increase in distress calls from victims of domestic violence since the pandemic broke out.

Home, not safe for many

The national strategy against COVID-19 emphasises that home is the safest place to be. Ironically, for domestic violence victims, home is the most unsafe place to be quarantined as they are forced to live with their abusers. Although asking people to stay at home is an effective and welcome anti-COVID-19 strategy, home is not the safe haven it should be for many women because abusers have increased access to their victims and survivors have decreased or no access to resources.

Domestic violence can be verbal, financial, psychological and sexual. It includes the abuser withholding financial or medical assistance. Women are most often the caregivers for those quarantined at home and already infected with the virus, which makes them more vulnerable to contracting the disease.

Domestic violence is rooted in the inequities of power and control. The abusers feel an enormous loss of power and control over their own lives due to the pandemic. They vent their frustration on the women in the house. Mental health issues arise out of isolation as well as reactive depression, but instead of recognising these issues and seeking help, people become violent.

The victims are not only unable to speak out because they are quarantined at home with the perpetrators, but also because the lockdown pre-

vents them from seeking help outside. In Spain and France, women can go to a pharmacy and request a "Mask 19" – a code word that will alert the pharmacist to contact the authorities.

Tragically, traditional forms of support are now not available to domestic violence victims. They don't go to their parental homes for fear of infecting elderly parents. Shelter homes are crowded and so they are vulnerable to greater infection there. The police force is already overburdened with ensuring that people comply with the lockdown. Hospitals do not have the space or time to look at domestic violence cases.

Protecting victims

Nevertheless, it is vital for policymakers to address the needs of these women who are playing an indispensable role on the front line in the war against COVID-19 – as health workers, sanitation staff, caregivers, scientists, and as long-suffering housewives. Priority measures to help domestic violence victims, without detracting from the overall anti-COVID-19 strategy of lockdown, and steps to protect victims of domestic violence be made a part of overall anti-COVID-19 action plans.

UN Women has said that "helplines, psychosocial support and online counselling should be boosted, using technology-based solutions such as SMS, online tools and networks to expand social support, and to reach women with no access to phones or Internet." Other priorities include a more responsive police force, and other government agencies who are not dismissive of domestic violence complaints. Social media posts mocking and patronising angry or "suffering" men in isolation who are helping in housework should be reported and acted upon. The electronic media can raise awareness in regional language infomercials, since domestic violence is a crime under the Indian Penal Code. SOS messaging to police already exists in several cities, but this should be enhanced with geolocation facilities.

Jayanthi Natarajan is a political activist and a former Union Minister



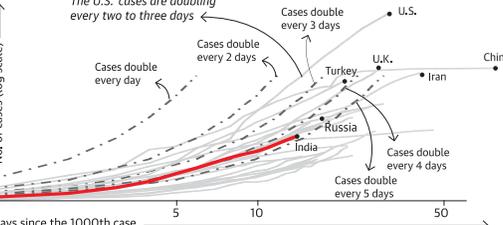
DATA POINT

India's place on the COVID-19 curve

As of April 11, COVID-19 cases in India were doubling every four to five days. COVID-19-related deaths were doubling every four to six days. In the graphs, each line traces the trajectory of cases/deaths in a country. The darker, dotted lines are plotted to depict the rate at which cases/deaths are doubling in countries. By The Hindu Data Team

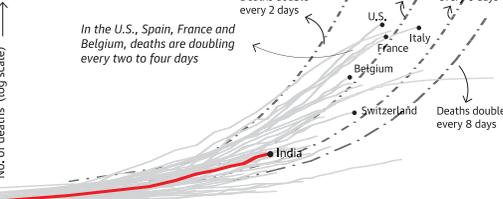
CASES

The chart shows the day-wise progression of cases since the 1000th case in each country. Fourteen days* have passed since India recorded its 1,000th case. As of the 14th day, cases in India are doubling every four to five days, similar to the U.K. and Russia. Cases in Turkey are doubling every three to four days.



DEATHS

The chart shows the day-wise progression of deaths since the 50th death in each country. Twelve days* have passed since India recorded its 50th death. And as of the 12th day, deaths in India are doubling every four to six days, similar to Italy, Germany and Switzerland.



* As of April 11

Source: Johns Hopkins University

The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 13, 1970

Why an Asian Bank?

In a restricted sense the Asian Development Bank, which held its third annual meeting at Seoul on Friday (April 10), is a counterpart in the East of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank). Like the World Bank, the A.D.B. raises resources for lending to developing countries from the capital markets of rich countries. In 1968, for instance, it raised 60 million deutsche marks through bonds floated in West Germany. The A.D.B.'s Special Fund is its soft loan window comparable to the International Development Association of the World Bank. The A.D.B.'s assistance to the growing regions is, like the World Bank's, to be doubled at short intervals of time. The question that naturally arises is why there should be a duplication of such lending institutions. A clear answer to this is provided in the A.D.B.'s latest annual report. It says: "The needs, the problems, the objectives – and above all the hopes – of the Asian region may not differ materially in the long run from those elsewhere; but the techniques and processes needed may be quite different from those fashioned for use in other areas. While a knowledge of the skills and techniques developed elsewhere is important and essential, the 'knowhow' of regional development must have an indigenous basis".

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 13, 1920.

The Irish Situation.

Interviewed by a representative of the Chicago "Tribune", Lord French declared that the Irish question would never breed Anglo-American enmity. He denied that the recent murders were the work of American assassins. It was unquestionable that only Irishmen were engaged in them. He emphasised that there was no chance of the situation going out of the hands of Government. A successful rebellion was impossible. It might be tried but defeat was certain. He said that Irish volunteers numbered between one and two hundred thousand organised territorially, with undoubted great organising power and with a large number of rifles and considerable quantities of explosives but no artillery. Lord French declared that he did not believe in the possibility of a Dominion settlement because that logically meant control of army and navy. The correspondent declares that Lord French is likely to resign at the end of the year and his successor may be the Marquis of Londonderry.

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earthquake is the shaking of the earth. An earth quake can be defined as a sudden violent shaking of the ground as a result of movements in the earth's crust or volcanic action. These movements result in the release of energy along a fault and cause the earth to shake. An earthquake, like volcanoes is a type of endogenic processes.

The network of seismographic (seismograph is the instrument used to measure earthquakes) stations all over the world record dozens of earthquakes every day. Most of them are not felt by human beings as they are minor quakes only. The occurrence of a severe earthquake is limited to a few regions in the world. The point within the earth's crust where an earthquake originates is called as the focus or hypocenter or seismic focus. It generally lies within a depth of 6 kms in the earth crust. The point vertically above the focus on the earth's surface is called as the epicenter. The intensity of earthquake will be highest in the epicenter and decreases as one moves away. All natural earthquakes take place in the lithosphere (i.e, the region which constitutes the earth's crust and rigid upper part of the mantle).

The earthquake which originates in the lithosphere propagates different seismic waves or earthquake waves. Earthquake waves are basically of two types – body waves and surface waves.

Body waves

They are generated due to the release of energy at the focus and moves in all directions traveling through the body of the earth. Hence, the name – body waves. They travel only through the interior of the earth. Body waves are faster than surface waves and hence they are the first to be detected on a seismograph. There are two types of body waves as primary waves and secondary waves.

Primary waves (p-waves):

Primary waves are the fastest body waves (twice the speed of s-waves) and are the first to reach during an earthquake. They are similar to sound waves, i.e, they are longitudinal waves, in which particle movement is in the same direction of wave propagation. They travel through solid, liquid and gaseous materials. They create density differences in the earth material leading to stretching and squeezing.

Secondary waves (s-waves):

They arrive at the surface with some time-lag after primary waves. They are slower than primary waves and can pass only through solid materials. This property of s-waves led seismologists to conclude that the earth's outer core is in a liquid state. (the entire zone beyond 1050 from the epicenter does not receive S-waves) They are transverse waves in which directions of particle movement and wave propagation are perpendicular to each other.

Surface Waves

When the body waves interact with surface rocks, a new set of waves is generated called as surface waves. These waves move along the earth surface. Surface waves are also transverse waves in which particle movement is perpendicular to the wave propagation. Hence, they create crests and troughs in the material through which they pass. Surface waves are considered to be the most damaging waves. Two common surface waves are Love waves and Rayleigh waves.

Love waves:

This kind of surface waves causes horizontal shifting of the earth during an earthquake. They have much slower than body waves but are faster than Rayleigh. They exist only in the presence of semi-infinite medium overlain by an upper finite thickness. Confined to the surface of the crust, Love waves produce entirely horizontal motion.

Rayleigh waves:

These waves follow an elliptical motion. A Rayleigh wave rolls along the ground just like a wave rolls across a lake or an ocean. Because it rolls, it moves the ground up and down and side-to-side in the same direction that the wave is moving. Most of the shaking felt from an earthquake is due to the Rayleigh wave, which can be much larger than the other waves.

Shadow regions of waves

We already discussed that p-waves pass through all medium while S-waves passes only through solid medium. With the help of these properties of primary waves, seismologists have a fair idea about the interior of the earth. Even though p-waves pass through all mediums, it causes reflection when it enters from one medium to another. The variations in the direction of waves are inferred with the help of their record on seismographs. The area where the seismograph records no waves is called as 'shadow zone' of that wave. Accordingly, it is observed that the area beyond 1050 does not receive S-waves and the area in between 1050 to 1400 does not receive P-waves.

Wt.

Nath

Minister said, who had also in Commerce Ministry. The country had in economic crisis. The Centre's recollections from ling, India may approach the International Monetary Fund

uation where In- e to go back to re did it in 1980. k an IMF loan at ere were such ews." out an econom- r. Nath said the should have a an to restart tar- s of the economy d package.

Moderate earthquake felt in Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

An earthquake of moderate intensity rocked many parts of Delhi on Sunday evening. "Earthquake of magnitude 3.5 occurred at a depth of 8 km in the National Capital Territory, Delhi," the National Centre for Seismology said. A senior official of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) said the location of the quake, in a populous part, was the reason for it being widely registered. "The depth and magnitude are an initial assessment, and it was of moderate intensity, but many felt it," Madhavan Rajeevan, Secretary, MoES, told *The Hindu*.

foreigners' dead attention centres

them were Bengali speakers

IMAKAR

ir of the 30 "de- signers" who had ssam's detention date were Benga- . Of the rest, two ged to the Adivasi Rajbongshi com- muniting to State it records. The of shows 16 of the : Hindus and 14

ention centres lished in as many ls in 2009, four ' the contentious rants (Determina- tional) Act, 1983 ed for suspected to be tried under ivers' Act, 1946. is no surprise in at they are Ben- gamates are sup- e from neighbour- gladesh [who iter the creation ntry in 1971] and i Nepal, who find ection under the l Treaty (1950),' ain, scholar and ntist, told *The*

r, the records ta- Assam Assembly er 2019 say only e 30 dead had ad- Bangladesh.

adakar of Taikan- in southern As- ilakandi district irst declared fo- die in a detention March 17, 2016. l, Dulal Miya, was as a resident of lage in "Samar- ict of Bangladesh.



Hiren Gohain

There is no district by that name in the country.

Two other fatalities – Nagen Das and Basudev Biswas – were shown to be from Bangladesh's Pauschal in Myensingh district and Faridpur in Dhaka district respectively. The address column against the name of Abu Shahid, who died at the Goalpara centre on October 22, 2017, was left blank.

All the 30 were either unlettered or barely literate and economically weak; most too poor to prove their citizenship at the Foreigners' Tribunals that declared them non-citizens after cases were made against them.

Rabeda Begum, a 60-year-old woman from Krishnanagar in central Assam's Hojai district, was the person to last to die on April 5 this year. Two other women – Kabutor Basfoe of Borbongia in Sonitpur district and Prabha Roy of Kalash Bhangra in Barpeta district – are among the dead.

Basfoe was an Adivasi, as was Puna Munda, a 65-year-old man of Simititola Tea Garden in Goalpara who died in June 2019. Naresh Koch, the first to die in 2020, was a Koch-Rajbongshi from Goalpara district.

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migrants

an food, migrant d to be provided addressing their c needs like education of n, rent and sus- heir families. Mi- ges are fixed by s taking into ac- ost of living in .. The govern- d provide them ages," the ac- tided.

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they lived in ements where no formal rent . Secondly, most ant population ployed like rick- s. Thirdly, the had no record orking in the in- r.

Editors Guild criticises U.P. govt. over FIR

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The Editors Guild of India has criticised the Uttar Pradesh government for registering an FIR against *The Wire's* Founding Editor Siddharth Varadarajan.

Meanwhile, the police have served a notice to Mr. Varadarajan asking him to appear in Ayodhya on April 14 in connection with the FIR, said Nandini Sundar, noted sociologist and wife of Mr. Varadarajan.

Ms. Sundar, who said policemen from Ayodhya drove to Delhi to hand over the notice, pointed out that he was summoned despite the lockdown.

"When it comes to the gross abuse of police power by the Adityanath administration in UP and its intolerance of press freedom, it is clear that COVID-19, the lockdown and social distancing make no difference whatsoever," she tweeted.

The police had lodged two FIRs against Mr. Varadarajan earlier this month on charges of allegedly wrongly attributing a quote to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on the Ram Navami festival controversy.

Measuring earthquakes

Seismometers are the instruments which are used to measure the motion of the ground, which including those of seismic waves generated by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other seismic sources.

A Seismograph is also another term used to mean seismometer though it is more applicable to the older instruments.

The recorded graphical output from a seismometer/seismograph is called as a seismogram. (Note: Do not confuse seismograph with seismogram. Seismograph is an instrument while seismogram is the recorded output)

There are two main scales used in the seismometers: (1) Mercalli Scale and Richter Scale.

Mercalli Scale:

The scale represents the intensity of earthquake by analyzing the after effects like how many people felt it, how much destruction occurred etc. The range of intensity is from 1-12.

Richter Scale:

The scale represents the magnitude of the earthquake. The magnitude is expressed in absolute numbers from 1-10. Each whole number increase in Richter scale represents a ten times increase in power of an earthquake.

Distribution of Earthquakes

There are two well-defined belts where earthquakes frequently occur – The Circum-Pacific Belt and The Mid-World Mountain Belt.

About 68% of earthquakes in the world occur in the Circum-Pacific Belt.

Mid-World Mountain belt extends from the Alps with their extension into Mediterranean, the Caucasus, and the Himalayan region and continues to Indonesia.

21% of earthquakes are occurring in this belt.

The remaining 11% occur in the other parts of the world.

IN BRIEF

With 12 new cases, Punjab tally touches 170

HANDICAP
Punjab on Sunday reported 12 fresh cases of COVID-19 taking the tally to 170, a government statement said. Seven of the 12 cases were from Chandigarh district, three from Mohali, two from Ludhiana and one each from Kapurthala and Faridkot districts. Till now, Punjab has seen 12 deaths; 23 patients have been discharged. On the occasion of Dussehra, Chief Minister Amrinder Singh urged people to stay home and observe it with prayers.

Manipur's first patient discharged

IMPHAL
A 23-year-old woman from Imphal West district, the first coronavirus-affected patient in Manipur, has been discharged from the J.N. Institute of Medical Sciences. The woman, who was studying in London, returned home on March 21 and tested positive on March 24. Institute director T. Bhimo said she would have to be in quarantine for some more days. A local resident who took part in the religious event in Nizamuddin, Delhi too has tested positive.

Wine shops to open in Meghalaya for 5 days

GUWAHATI
Almost a fortnight after withdrawing its order allowing home delivery of alcoholic beverages on health grounds, the Meghalaya government has allowed wine shops and warehouses in the State to sell liquor for seven hours a day from April 13 to 17, with a few conditions. Apart from urging sellers to ensure social distancing rules and hygiene standards, the government said only one member of a family would be allowed to buy liquor.

48 new cases, 3 deaths recorded in Gujarat

AHMEDABAD
With 48 new cases and three deaths, Gujarat's COVID-19 cases mounted to 516, with 25 deaths in all. Meanwhile, 44 persons have recovered fully and been discharged from hospitals. On Sunday, two persons died in Ahmedabad and one in Vadodra. Ahmedabad and Vadodra have emerged as the main clusters with 282 and 101 cases respectively. As on Sunday evening, four patients are on ventilator support while 444 are stable.

More people to get ration in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR
The Odisha government has added 51,766 new beneficiaries under the State Food Security Scheme amid the lockdown to prevent spread of coronavirus. "Ration card management, an automated system, is verifying the authenticity of over five lakh beneficiaries who were left out. Soon after their inclusion in the scheme we have started providing them advance rations," Minister for Food Supplies Ranendra Pratap Swain said.

Eagle eyes



No escape: (Clockwise from top left) Security personnel keeping vigil at one of the hotspots in north west Delhi on Sunday; a police officer caning a rider for flouting lockdown norms in Patna; a constable dispersing women who gathered to collect free rations at Dharavi in Mumbai; and people assembling for food at one of the hotspots at Jahangirpuri in New Delhi. *SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA, RANJEET KUMAR & PRASHANT NAKWE

Goa govt. stall to work from April 15

State saw only two positive cases

ADITYA ANAND MUMBAI

Though the COVID-19 lockdown has been extended till the month end, the government employees will resume work on April 13.

State government-run Kadamba Transport Corporation (KTC) buses will be used to ferry those staff requiring public transport. The government has also decided to open out-patient departments (OPDs) of government and private hospitals along with allowing intra-State businesses to operate while maintaining social distancing.

With just two positive cases, down from seven and just four suspect cases on Sunday, the government is upbeat in its fight against COVID-19.

The Goa government had recommended to the Centre that the lockdown due to the coronavirus outbreak should continue till April 30. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said the State govern-

ment would resume certain activities and establishments, including government offices, from Monday.

"Fishing has restarted from Saturday. Government offices in Goa will reopen on Monday and they will be fully functional from Wednesday after sanitisation," he said.

Dr. Sawant, who took part in a videoconference of Chief Ministers with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, said the Goa government had requested the Centre to resume rail and air traffic.

The government on Saturday constituted the Economic Review Committee and the Expenditure Committee to plan the way forward in the wake of the pandemic. Dr. Sawant urged people to cooperate with the government and the three-day door-to-door survey to be undertaken from April 13. "There is no community transmission in Goa till now," he said.

Bihar launches app for govt. school students

However, research flags digital divide

AMARNATH TEWARY PATNA

Following COVID-19 lockdown, the Bihar Education Project Council (BEPC) has launched a mobile application and plans to book a slot with the All India Radio for the audio broadcast of study materials for government school students.

However, an independent research by an alumna of the London School of Economics has flagged some fundamental challenges in the process as the State has a huge digital divide and socio-economic inequalities.

In Bihar, like other States, schools and colleges are shut due to COVID-19 lockdown. Recently, the BEPC, a wing of the State Education department, launched a mobile application "Unnayan: Mera Mobile, Mera Vidyalaya" for Class VI to XII of over 70,000 government-run schools. The app, said department officials, was jointly developed by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Bihar government and Eckovation, a social learning platform.

"In collaboration with UNICEF, class-wise and subject-wise study materials are being prepared which will be broadcast by AIR as radio has a deep penetration into villages and is much simpler



to operate... a basic phone or smartphone will serve the purpose," said BEPC director Sanjay Singh. "During this long lockdown period, why should government school students suffer?" a BEPC official said.

'Irrational move'

But, an independent research by an alumna of the London School of Economics (LSE), Anushka Jha, has flagged some "fundamental challenges to viewing technology-enabled education" in a State like Bihar.

"There is huge digital divide that exists in Bihar and expecting that the migrant population, whose major cause of concern today is their daily sustenance, would find ways to make their children digitally connect with schools and teachers or participate in online classes would simply be arrogant and irrational," Ms. Jha told *The Hindu* over phone.

'Tablighi link to rising M.P. tally inconclusive'

Bhopal and Indore are hotspots in State

SIDHARTH YADAV BHOPAL

Madhya Pradesh government officials and experts have said it is yet to be conclusively established that returnees from the Tablighi Jamaat event at the Nizamuddin centre were major contributors to the novel coronavirus spread in Bhopal and Indore, the two hotspots in the State.

This runs contrary to Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan's statement at the Chief Ministers' videoconference with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday.

'78% positive cases in J&K asymptomatic'

All areas under eight police stations in Srinagar's old city declared 'red zones'

PEERZADA ASHIQ SRINAGAR

Of the 245 coronavirus positive cases in J&K, 78% are asymptomatic, with 21 more positive cases reported on Sunday.

A J&K government spokesperson said it has been able to trace 98% of locals with a history of foreign travel, or having attended religious gatherings, and their contacts.

"The aggressive testing strategy has been very effective in J&K. Besides, 78% asymptomatic cases have al-

ready those who have returned from Markaz (centre), because of them our problems have increased like the rest of the entire country," he said.

However, the largest chunk of cases in Bhopal, 74 from the State Health Department, did not find a mention. The Bhopal administration has earmarked four verticals from where cases have emerged – the Health Department, the police, the Tablighi Jamaat, and miscellaneous. Efforts at locating the source of outbreak within the department have come to nought. So far, 20 members of the Jamaat had tested positive in Bhopal.



Stopping the spread: A modified tank being used to sanitise a locality in Bhopal on Sunday. *PRI

On April 7, three members tested positive in Indore, which has recorded 311 cases. As cases spiral in the State's most populous city, experts are scrambling to locate the source of the outbreak here too, as most pa-

tients have no travel contact history.

Asked if members of the Jamaat had been prominent carriers of the disease in Indore, Rahul Rokade of the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College, Indore,

said, "We are working on that. We are working with the intelligence wing to see if there is a link. As of now, there is no substantial verification with our data."

Responding to the same query, Sapna M. Lovanshi, Additional Director, Directorate of Health Services, said Bhopal was an exception to such a conclusion: "We can't say it conclusively yet as the analysis is still going on. In some other districts, the link may hold true." The government was yet to get results of samples taken from the primary contacts of the Jamaat members who had tested positive in Bhopal, said Upendra Jain, Additional Director General of Police, Bhopal.

2 more die in West Bengal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The number of patients who contracted COVID-19 and died rose from five to seven in the last 24 hours in West Bengal. The number of active cases remained at 95, the Health department's bulletin said.

The number of suspected cases under hospital isolation went up from 1,964 on Saturday to 2,085 on Sunday. A total lockdown is being observed after mid-day, but in the early hours people thronged the local markets.

Enough grains for 9 months: Paswan

Food Minister says supply of foodgrains during the lockdown has gone on well without a hitch

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
The Central government has enough stock of grains to feed over 81 crore beneficiaries of the public distribution system (PDS) for nine months, Union Minister Ram Vilas Paswan said on Sunday, expressing confidence that its granaries, expecting a boost from a "bumper" wheat crop, will have adequate stock for a much longer period.



There is no shortage of grains. We now have a bumper rabi harvest and our estimate is that we will have adequate stock for up to two years
RAM VILAS PASWAN, FOOD MINISTER

With the government likely to extend the nation-wide lockdown till the month end, the Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Minister said that the transportation and distribution of foodgrains at an "unprece-

dent" scale has emerged as a "lifeline" during the crisis, with the poor being assured of their ration supply in time.

The per month supply through the PDS amounts to 60 lakh tonne, he said. Coarse grains and pulses are also supplied through the PDS in a limited quantity.

lockdown may have sparked a variety of concerns, including about economy, but any shortage of essential grains like wheat and rice is not among them.

Mr. Paswan said in a lighter vein that the condition is akin to "the lawyer (Centre) being more keen about the case than the client (States)", and the Union government consistently asking States to lift their ration stocks in time after it was announced that all PDS beneficiaries will get three months of supply free.

"What has been seen is "unprecedented and historic", he said about the mechanism put in for the distribution of grains, with trains

playing a key role.

Recently, over 20.19 lakh tonnes of grains was moved through trains in one day, a record, he noted.

Subsidised grains
The government has also made it easier for agencies, public or private, to purchase grains from it at a subsidised rate if they are involved in helping the poor.

"If in this lockdown there had been any issue regarding the supply of food grains, then it could have created a panic. So the biggest satisfaction and relief is that it has all gone well," Mr. Paswan, a member of the Group of Ministers overseeing the lockdown exercise, said.

Protect firms from takeover: Rahul

'Slowdown weakened corporates'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Sunday asked the government to ensure that Indian companies did not face any hostile takeover bid by foreign companies during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Rahul Gandhi

"The massive economic slowdown has weakened many Indian corporates making them attractive targets for takeovers," he wrote on Twitter.

"The Govt must not allow foreign interests to take control of any Indian corporate at this time of national crisis," he said.

His comments came days after reports suggested that Chinese investors were scouting for shares in distressed European companies.

Last week, Italy announced changes to its foreign investment policy and protected its banking, insurance and healthcare sectors from hostile takeover by foreign companies. Spain, too, has made it mandatory for its companies to seek government approval if any foreign company wants to pick up over 10% stake in them.

Chinese bank picks up 1% stake in HDFC

Key to improve economy, says DPIIT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI
The People's Bank of China, the Chinese central bank, has picked up over 1% stake in HDFC Ltd., India's largest mortgage lender.

According to the March-end shareholding pattern disclosed by the stock exchange, People's Bank of China has 1.75 crore shares, or a 1.01% stake, in HDFC.

The Chinese bank had some stake in HDFC prior to the January-March quarter, but the disclosure was made since the shareholding crossed 1% during the fourth quarter of 2019-20.

Domestic equities came under pressure in March, including that of HDFC, after the COVID-19 pandemic spread.

The shares of HDFC are now trading at ₹1,701.95.

'Resume industrial activity in 15 sectors'

Key to improve economy, says DPIIT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Commerce and Industries Ministry has called for far-reaching measures to be taken to mitigate the effects of the lockdown, urging the Home Ministry to allow relaxations of the restrictions on a number of industry sectors.

In a letter to Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Sunday, Industries Secretary Gopal Mohapatra said "more activities with reasonable safeguards must be allowed" once a final decision was taken on the extension of the lockdown.

"These new activities are essential to improve the economic activity and provide liquidity in the hands of the people," said Dr. Mohapatra who heads the Department for Promotion of Industry

and Internal Trade (DPIIT). He said all recommendations were based on Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal's interactions with industry representatives.

Dr. Mohapatra recommended that industrial activity be restarted in at least 15 sectors, including heavy electricals, electronics and telecom equipment, automobiles, steel mills, power looms, defence units, cement, rubber, seeds, agro-chemicals and fertilizers.

To begin with, manufacturing should be restarted in single shifts of 20-25% capacity, following proper social distancing and sanitation norms. Companies which are allowed to operate should be allowed to insist on workers returning for duty to avail wages, he added.

Pharma units in limbo amid confusion over HCQ exports

Despite Ministry's nod, DGFT ban on drug sales continues

SUHASH CHAUDHARI
NEW DELHI



Drug traffic: The first shipment of HCQ landed at the Newark airport in the U.S. on Sunday. •AP

A week after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced that it would "license" the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) and supply it to various countries on a "government to government basis", the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) maintains that the drug is still prohibited for export, causing some confusion in industry circles.

"There is huge capacity in our industry for both HCQ and paracetamol production. But our manufacturers, especially the MSMEs and SMEs are confused about the process, given the DGFT's notification banning exports," Dinesh Dua, Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council of India told *The Hindu*.

Stuck in warehouses
"Some small exporters have tonnes of finished goods lying in their FG warehouses and some at ports which is not being exported because of lack of clarity on the procedure," he added.

"We are receiving many queries from various manufacturers due to this discrepancy; there is no transparency in the process at present as nothing is on paper officially," said an official from another industry group, who asked not to be identified.

On Sunday, the government said it had cleared the release of HCQ for 13 countries.

"After making an assessment of the domestic requirement and keeping a buffer, which is assessed on a weekly basis by the Empowered Committee, a Group

of Ministers had approved the release," the Press Information Bureau spokesperson said at the daily press briefing on COVID-19 in Delhi.

The first shipment of HCQ landed in the U.S.'s Newark airport on Sunday, a week after Mr. Trump had called PM Modi to ask for the release of the drug orders placed by the U.S.

However, a number of industry sources pointed out that the decision to allow the exports has not yet been notified by DGFT, even though it had uploaded its previous two notifications of March 25 (54/2015-2020) and April 4 (01/2015-2020) which banned the export of HCQ "without any exceptions" and kept paracetamol on a restricted list.

As a result many manufacturers, especially smaller companies, say customs officials are not clearing their consignments of HCQ and paracetamol.

ports, at a time when global demand is at its highest.

Others said that none of the major markets in Africa, Latin America, and CIS countries had yet been cleared for the export of HCQ, at a time when demand from them is at its peak.

More confusion arose after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked Mr. Modi for HCQ supply, although Israel is not on the list of companies cleared.

Global market
"The Indian pharmaceutical industry has been painstakingly built over 75 years with a market of \$22 billion to 206 countries. It would be a tragedy if we are not allowed to use our strength at this time when the world needs these products, by placing orders and even paying in advance, and still unable to get these spareable medicines with huge capacity in India," Mr. Dua said.

He added that several industry groups plan to petition the Commerce Ministry and the Ministry of External Affairs to clarify the rules for export.

DST moots study on yoga against viruses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
The Department of Science and Technology (DST) has invited proposals for a study on appropriate intervention of yoga and meditation in fighting COVID-19 and similar kinds of viruses.

Teams of scientists, clinicians and experienced practitioners of yoga and meditation who have a proven track record are being encouraged to submit concept notes on the proposal.

The proposals have been invited under the Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM) programme of the DST, a department under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Attacks on minorities up in Haryana

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH
Amid surging of COVID-19 cases in Haryana, the State has so far seen 19 incidents of attacks on religious minorities in connection with spreading of coronavirus.

Across the State, till April 11, the police have registered 19 cases against 89 people in different incidents of attacks on minorities relating to the epidemic. Police data show that so far 28 accused have been arrested for the attacks.

In majority of the incidents, Section 295-A of the Indian Penal Code (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs) has been evoked. Panipat district has seen the maximum incidents of attacks on the minority community. Seven incidents have been reported in the district.

'India-specific strategy must'

Poor are worst hit by pandemic, says Congress functionary

SANDEEP PUKHAN

Praveen Chakravarty, political economist and head of the Data and Technology Cell of the Congress, says India should evolve a strategy with the idea that the novel coronavirus infections will persist for a long time.



We run the risk of losing many lives due to the lockdown

It's certain now that the lockdown will be extended by another two weeks but the Centre must allow some economic activity. Reports suggest that the government may partially open up the least affected areas. How do you see this move?

■ We have to wait and see what the government is going to do exactly. As of now, there are reports indicating that the current form of extreme lockdown will be extended until April 30. If the government is also simultaneously thinking about a gradual "unlock" process, it is welcome. As the Chief Scientist of the WHO, Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, has said in an interview to *The Hindu*, the disease is going to be with us for a long time and we need to start planning for life with the virus and cannot be in a lockdown and wait for the virus to be eliminated completely, which will take a long time.

You've have talked about a "targeted lockdown" instead of a complete nationwide lockdown. But Congress-ruled Punjab was the second State to extend the lockdown on Friday. Is there a divide within the Congress?

■ A lockdown in itself cannot be a strategy. It has to be accompanied by measures such as what Rajasthan undertook in Bhiwara.

The Bhiwara model is the model for the nation to emulate. Even after 21 days, the Prime Minister and the Union government have not laid out a strategy for the na-

tion to emerge out of this extreme lockdown. So, in the absence of that, it is only natural and wise that State governments will prefer to extend the lockdown and deal with the crisis locally which they seem to be doing very well now.

Are you totally opposed to the current form of lockdown?

■ The current form of extreme lockdown was an immediate response to an unknown crisis and hence understandable. But it is clear now that the cure is more than the disease. We run the risk of losing many, if not more, lives due to the lockdown. It is not a "lives vs lives" but a "lives vs lives" issue.

The under-privileged are bearing the brunt of this – ostracism, lack of hospital care, loss of wages, homelessness, hunger etc. This extreme lockdown seems to be a case of the privileged transferring their epidemic risk to the under-privileged.

The Centre says if there was no nationwide lockdown, by now India would have seen more than 8 lakh cases. So, a complete lockdown acted as a circuit breaker.

■ This is plain rubbish. Anyone who understands basic data and statistics will tell you that it makes no sense to do a linear extrapolation of an early trend to

predict a counterfactual. Based on trends from global and Indian data on COVID-19, it now seems clear that the virus is very contagious but not as fatal as some of the initial wild estimates of epidemiologists predicted.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi too talked of a "nuanced approach" that takes an India-specific approach. What exactly is it?

■ It is clear that Mr. Gandhi has been studying and researching on COVID-19 a lot. He was among the first to warn the nation about it. He wrote a letter to the PM arguing for a nuanced approach to a lockdown, keeping India's unique realities in mind.

Given India's vast informal, daily wage labour force, a high density of people living in one room houses, large urban-rural divide and a much younger population than the developed countries, he is arguing for a more balanced and humane approach than the current extreme and absolute lockdown.

Both former Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and you have argued for an economic package of ₹5-6 lakh crore. With the economy under a total shutdown now, is it even possible for the Centre to generate this kind of additional resources?

■ Of course it is entirely possible. In my piece in *The Hindu*, I had even detailed where to find the money from a combination of rationalised expenditure, higher borrowing and printing of more money. It is absolutely imperative that the package consists of a "rescue" for the affected workforce. But it is important to remember this is not a demand crisis but a supply crisis.

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INTERVIEW | G.V.S. MURTHY

'People with disabilities have special issues during virus outbreak'

Govt. and organisations working with differently-abled people need to make efforts to convert prevention and care messages into an accessible format, says expert

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

People with disabilities need much more support than others in the face of a pandemic. They may not be able to properly understand what is happening all around them, says G.V.S. Murthy, Vice-President and Director, Indian Institute of Public Health, Hyderabad.

What are the unique challenges that people with disability face?

■ People with disability have special issues in a situation like the spread of the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). People with disability are a diverse group, experiencing different hardships in accessing information on prevention and risk of infection.

People with visual impairment and blindness depend upon touch for most of their daily activities. They need to hold the hand of an escort to move around; they cannot read the messages that the rest of the population can

see; they cannot practise social distancing unless there are innovative approaches like keeping a safe distance using a white cane.

For the hearing impaired, especially those who are not literate, they cannot hear the message or read it. Since many depend on lip-reading, they are compromised when the person giving a message is wearing a mask.

None of the messages in the media is using sign language interpreters. The physically disabled cannot reach a wash basin or may not be able to wash their hands vigorously.

Children and adolescents

with conditions like cerebral palsy or Down's Syndrome need to be assisted in feeding. People with mental health issues cannot comprehend the messages. At the same time, people with disabilities have a higher risk of conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, which are high-risk factors for COVID-19 mortality. Therefore, people with disabilities need much more support than the rest of the population in the face of a pandemic.

They may not be eating properly and may experience higher stress because they are unable to understand what is happening all around them, over which they have no control.

Women with disability have additional issues. They are vulnerable to exploitation and even more so during a pandemic. Many of them have children without dis-



Health facilities should prioritise the needs of people with disabilities over the rest of the population

ability and are highly stressed as to how they can care for them and family members because they are not supported to care for them.

People with communication disabilities don't know how to express their pro-

blems. Routine health needs that they have are also not provided as health centres or transportation facilities are not accessible.

What is the scale of the problem?

■ India is home to nearly 150 million people with some degree of disability. Nearly 25 million have severe disability and depend on others for their daily lives as part of their families and depend on a carer. This adds to another 25-30 million carers. Therefore, we are looking at nearly 50 million people who need special support, which is not routinely forthcoming.

How can the public and government help?

■ India has signed up to achieve sustainable development goals, the cornerstone of which is universal access

to health and education and equity. The government and the organisations working with people with disabilities have to make efforts to convert prevention and care messages on COVID-19 into an accessible format.

Health facilities should prioritise the needs of people with disabilities over the rest of the population. Decreasing waiting time in hospitals for them will reduce contact with other asymptomatic carriers of the novel coronavirus. Their medicine needs to be provided for. Mobile health teams can provide them services at their homes rather than making them travel to hospitals. A dedicated helpline can be set up for this so that the medical team can reach them. They need to be assured of supplies of soap, sanitisers and tissues.

The general public needs to be educated on providing

support for people with disabilities. Technology-savvy professionals can help to make information available in an accessible format for people with disabilities.

Students with disabilities also need to be provided support so that they can keep up academically. Therefore, online teaching programmes should be made available to them in an accessible format. Civil society should volunteer their time to provide this sort of support. Since many of them will not be able to access professional carers during a lockdown, civil society volunteers should help. Even for supporting cooking and other self-care activities, volunteers should step in.

Inclusive delivery is the need of the hour. I don't want to face a situation where medical equipment is prioritised based on younger populations being cared for at the cost of the elderly and

the people with disability, as happened in countries like Spain where there was a limited number of ventilators and beds, which could not cope with the avalanche of cases that needed critical care.

A country's development is measured by its social support and inclusive policies. We need to set high standards and not succumb to the 'might is right' philosophy and abandon people with disability in this crisis.

What is the current situation?

■ Nobody is addressing the special needs of people with disabilities and making efforts at reaching out to them. We would fail as a human race if we don't show a humane response in an equitable manner with affirmative action for people with disabilities.

'Stimulus precede lifting of lockdown'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) has said that before the lockdown is lifted, adequate notice should be given and an economic package announced.

Reiterating the industry body's recommendation of "slow and staggered" reopening, CII Director-General Chandrajit Banerjee said on Sunday that it would be desirable to classify the geography into the red, amber and green zones based on the incidence of COVID-19.

"The principle should be that we look at opening up in concentric circles around the red zones. The radiating heat map should turn from red in the inside to green on the outside. In other words, 'Lock inside out,'" he said.

In a statement, the industry body said all facilities that reopen must have health, sanitation and screening systems in place to protect workers. They should also follow thermal checks, physical distancing and factory sanitisation. Any enterprise that fails to adhere to these norms on a self-certification basis should be penalised.

"However, prior to the lifting of the lockdown (which should be decided based on the advice of medical experts), there has to be adequate notice given to all, and along with that, there should be the announcement of an economic package," the statement added.

Easter prayers with photos in pews

Church in Assam's Dibrugarh uses images to mark believers' symbolic presence

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Members of a church in eastern Assam's Dibrugarh district could not attend the Easter prayer service on Sunday. They sent in their photographs instead.

Priests of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Church at the Bishop's House in district headquarters Dibrugarh said photos sent by believers associated with the church were placed on the pews to mark their symbolic presence during a special Mass.

"Last week, the believers in the town were sad that they would not be able to come to church on Easter, but understood the necessity



Quiet attendance: A view of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Church in Dibrugarh on Sunday. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

of remaining at home because of the COVID-19 lockdown. One of them came up with the idea of using representational photos," Bishop Joseph Aind told *The Hindu*

over phone from Dibrugarh. An e-mail was accordingly sent to some 400 Christian families in the town on April 10. Within three-four hours, they sent us family photo-

graphs that we downloaded and printed and pasted on the pews ahead of the Sunday Mass. Only three believers attended in person while abiding by the government's guidelines," the Bishop said.

"I am happy that the believers have performed their duties as citizens by staying and praying at home while being in the church virtually," he added.

Churches in the Christian-majority States of Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland conducted Sunday services through live streaming via social media platforms. The Nagaland Baptist Church Council carried out the Easter Sunrise Service online.

CMERI develops low-cost disinfectant walkways

Mist-type spray ensures maximum coverage, easy installation

SHIV SANKAR SINGH
KOLKATA

In an attempt at providing new technology to contain the spread of COVID-19, the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, a laboratory of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), has developed low-cost disinfection walkways.

The walkway, which costs about ₹1.5 lakh on an average, can be easily installed in critical locations such as isolation/quarantine facilities, mass transit system entry points and medical centres, CMERI Director-General Harish Hirani said. The walkway uses mist type spray ensuring maximum target coverage with minimum shadow area of an individual.

Two variants

"We started working on these walkways from the third week of March and now we are ready with two variants, Pneumatic Variant Disinfection Walkway and Hydraulic Variant Disinfection Walkway. This is cost-effective and can be easily installed," Mr. Hirani said.

According to the CMERI-D-G, the walkways use mist type spray, whose particle size could be as small as 100 to 200 microns. "We have already got orders from the local municipal corporation like Asansol and Durgapur and some schools in the region," Mr. Hirani said.

Depending on how much chemicals are used, the



Passage to safety: The walkway, which costs about ₹1.5 lakh, can be easily installed in critical locations. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

walkways can sanitise a person in 20 to 30 seconds. Both the walkways have been installed on the CMERI campus in Durgapur.

Researchers say that in these disinfectant walkways, the base liquid is sodium hypochlorite along with which soap and ethanol are added. In certain cases, if people are allergic to chlorine, the liquid can be changed to iodine-based solutions.

Emphasising that these walkways will become a part of people's lives post the coronavirus outbreak, Mr. Hirani said the variants made by the CMERI could be easily customised.

Recently, during a video-conference with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Nobel Laureate Abhijit Banerjee had suggested sanitising the markets. The CMERI-built road sanitisers can be used for this purpose.

Auto sector revival by next year: PwC

There is a need to re-start 'controlled operation', suggests NRI Consulting

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Experts expect the Indian automobile sector to start seeing recovery in the fourth quarter of 2020-21 in a "realistic" scenario, while facing challenges such as delayed launches, higher costs, shortage of labour and material, and production losses.

According to a report 'Automotive sector: Impact of COVID-19 and navigating the turbulence' by PwC, in an "optimistic" scenario we could see a recovery by third quarter (October-December) of the current fiscal. In a "realistic" scenario, PwC expects a two quarter slowdown in the economy, along



Path to recovery: In a realistic scenario, PwC expects recovery by the fourth quarter of 2020-21. *PFI

with pay cuts and temporary job losses in the informal sector, with recovery by the fourth quarter of 2020-21. Under a "pessimistic" scenario, it expects the economy to recover by Q4-FY21, pushing the recovery of the sector

to April-June 2021 quarter. The analysis, based on the situation as on April 10, 2020, suggested that under a realistic scenario, two-wheeler sales are likely to decline by 18% to 14.2 million from 17.2 million, passenger

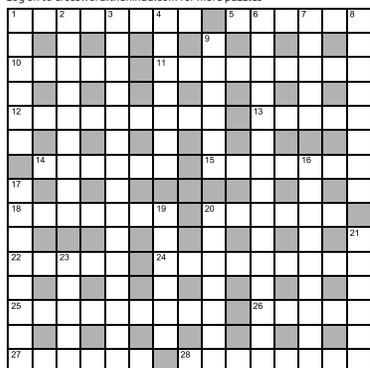
vehicles sales may fall 12% to 2.43 million (from 2.75 million) and commercial vehicles sales are forecast to decline 21% to 1.06 million from 1.34 million.

Another report by Nomura Research Institute (NRI) Consulting & Solutions India pointed that Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi-NCR, which are major automotive demand and supply clusters, are the worst-hit.

Ashim Sharma, Partner & Group Head at NRI Consulting & Solutions, said that there is a need to re-start "controlled operation" in factories to mitigate some of the impact.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12908

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- 1 Army cracks fancy code (8)
- 5 American, unfairly prejudiced, leaves immigrants primarily mortified (6)
- 10 Husband abandons woman after fight turns more serious (5)
- 11 Siren say in company ensnares sincere associate (4,5)

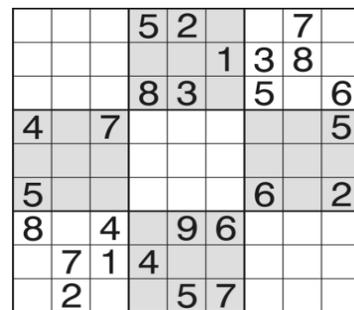
- 12 Enthralling set! Band is lively (9)
- 13 Fine revolutionary rushed to get sacred book (5)
- 14 Problem is fool in depression lacks love (6)
- 15 Trick to go across incline - it's used by ice climbers (7)
- 18 Concocted by director pursuing hot model, consumed by desire (7)
- 20 Adventurous one bitten by nasty shark (6)
- 22 Dismisses one immature trainee in centre (5)
- 24 Seduced by oriental wife with eagerness in sack (9)
- 25 Where chamber pot might be put out (9)
- 26 Result is terrible unease after abrogation of article (5)
- 27 First off, decrease in traffic is welcome (6)
- 28 Most costly nuisance to maintain habitual drinker (8)

DOWN

- 1 Fine westernized houses, most contemporary (6)

(set by Dr. X)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12907

S	O	A	S	H	R	E	F	L	E	C	T	S	
A	R	P	W	X	A	A	E						
T	H	E	R	E	W	I	T	H	Z	E	B	R	A
S	H	A	F	I	S	T	I	C	A				
U	N	E	A	R	T	H	B	I	S	T	R	O	S
M	R	E	M	D	I	E	H						
A	S	S	A	I	U	P	D	A	T	E	C		
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S	O	R	A	T	O	R	I	O	V	A	G	A	E
L	A												
A	U	T	O	B	U	S	I	N	S	H	O	R	E
M	R	A	F	S	T	I	C	A					
B	L	A	N	K	E	X	T	R	A	D	I	E	
D	I	C	E	C	S	T	E	R					
A	N	E	C	D	O	T	E	J	E	R	S	E	V

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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

To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code

Europe toll crosses 75,000 on grim Easter day

Experts fear that the case count in Italy, Spain and France could have peaked; U.S. now tops the list of infections and deaths

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ROME**
Billions around the world celebrated Easter Sunday from lockdown at home as the Pope urged solidarity to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and the European death toll from the virus topped 75,000.

Unprecedented scenes of empty churches emerged from Italy to Panama and the Philippines, as religious leaders found creative ways to address parishioners marking the holiday weekend from the confines of their homes. More than half the world are in lockdown worldwide as governments scramble to halt the pandemic's deadly march. The toll from the virus soared past 1,09,000 this weekend, with more than 1.7 million reported infections globally.



To the skies, and the heavens: A Priest leading an Easter Sunday Mass on the roof of the Santa Maria della Salute church, in Naples, Italy, on Sunday. • REUTERS

COVID-19

Europe is by far the hardest-hit continent and on Sunday marked a grave milestone with more than 75,000 dead, according to an AFP tally.

The U.S. was quickly emerging as a hotspot as well, and on Saturday marked its own grim landmark: more than 20,000 dead, out of around half a million infected. The U.S. now has the highest death toll and the most cases out of any country in the world.

Celebrations indoors

In Panama, an Archbishop blessed his nation from a helicopter, while worshippers in Spain blasted music from their balconies and U.S. President Donald Trump said he would be among those following Easter services online. In a church north of the Philippines capital Manila,

hundreds of pictures of parishioners were taped to pews as a priest held a Sunday service to a near-empty room. As virus-tinged Easter celebrations were held worldwide, leaders in some hard-hit countries expressed cautious optimism the number of deaths and infections could be starting to peak.

Spain saw its daily death toll drop for three days straight — but on Sunday reported a slight spike again with 619 fresh fatalities.

And though Italy was nearing the 20,000 death mark, its daily death toll and rate of new infections has started to level off. In France, newly reported coronavirus deaths fell by one-third from Friday to 635 on Saturday.

"A very high plateau for the epidemic appears to have been reached, but the epidemic remains very active," said French health offi-

cial Jerome Salomon, urging people to remain vigilant.

Ray of hope in U.S.

In the United States, New Orleans and hardest-hit New York saw a slowdown in the number of new infections, deaths and hospitalisations, offer a shred of hope.

U.S. President Donald Trump said this past week that the disease was near its peak in the U.S. and he was considering ways to re-open the world's biggest economy as soon as possible. "We look like we'll be coming in on the very, very low side, below the lowest side of the curve of death," said Mr. Trump in an interview with Fox News.

China, where the virus first emerged at the end of last year in the central city of Wuhan, has seen an increase in imported infections as it starts to ease strict lockdown measures this month.

Johnson leaves hospital, thanks NHS

**REUTERS
LONDON**

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson left hospital on Sunday and thanked the National Health Service (NHS) for saving his life, saying "things could have gone either way" for him as he battled COVID-19. Mr. Johnson, 55, was taken to St Thomas' Hospital in central London on April 5, suffering from persistent symptoms of the disease. On April 6, he was moved into intensive care, where he remained until April 9.

"I have today left hospital after a week in which the NHS has saved my life, no question," he said in a five-minute video message posted on Twitter from 10 Downing Street as the



Boris Johnson. • REUTERS

official death toll in Britain passed 10,000.

He named and thanked the nurses who had cared for him, with a special mention for two of them, Jenny from New Zealand and Luis from Portugal, who he said had stood by his bedside for 48 hours "when things could have gone either way." "The reason in the end my body did start to get enough oxygen was because for

People flout rules in Hong Kong

**REUTERS
HONG KONG**

People in Hong Kong thronged beaches, ferries and outlying islands on Sunday, many of them violating a ban on gatherings of more than four people.

Clear blue skies lured people to popular areas across the territory over the long Easter weekend and many of them were without surgical masks.

Hong Kong has recorded 1,005 cases of COVID-19, which has killed four people in the city.

It banned public gatherings of more than four people for 14 days from March 29.

Banish self-centredness, Pope tells the world

Pontiff marks 'Easter of solitude'

**REUTERS
VATICAN CITY**

Pope Francis called on Sunday for global solidarity in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic and its economic fallout, urging the relaxation of international sanctions, debt relief for poor nations and ceasefires in all conflicts. He also warned the European Union (EU) that it risked collapse if it did not agree on how to help the region recover.

The Pope's Easter "Urbi et Orbi" (to the city and the world) message, delivered from an empty St. Peter's Basilica, was by far his most pressing and political since his election in 2013.

Saying the message of this year's "Easter of solitude" should be a "contagion of hope," he heaped praise on doctors, nurses and others risking their lives to save others and hailed those working to keep essential services running.

"This is not a time for indifference, because the whole world is suffering and needs to be united in facing the pandemic," he said in the message, almost entirely dedicated to the pandemic's effects on personal and international relations. "Indif-

ference, self-centredness, division and forgetfulness are not words we want to hear at this time. We want to ban these words forever!"

Collective action needed
Pope Francis expressed sympathy for those not able to bid farewell to their loved ones because of restrictions, for Catholics who have not been able to receive the sacraments and for all those worried about an uncertain future. "In these weeks, the lives of millions of people have suddenly changed," he said.

The Pope said now was the time for politicians and governments to avoid "self-centredness" and take decisive, concerted action to help each other's populations live through the crisis and eventually resume normal life. He also called for debt reductions or forgiveness for the poorest nations without naming any countries.

Pope Francis expressed particular concern for the future of Europe, saying it was vital that rivalries that existed before the Second World War "do not regain force" as a result of the pandemic.



Call and prayers: Pope Francis holding the Holy Book of Prayers during the Easter Vigil on Saturday. • AFP

All dying due to virus will be cremated

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO**

Sri Lanka made cremations compulsory for COVID-19 victims on Sunday, ignoring protests from the country's minority Muslims who say it goes against Islamic tradition.

Of the seven deaths from the infectious disease so far in the island nation, three were Muslims. The bodies were cremated by authorities despite protests from relatives.

"The corpse of a person who has died or is suspected to have died, of... COVID-19 shall be cremated," Health Minister Pavithra Wanniarachchi said on Sunday.

The World Health Organisation has said victims "can be buried or cremated".

Taliban set to release 20 prisoners

'They will be handed over to Red Cross representatives'

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL**

Sunday Taliban said it would release the first prisoners in a delayed exchange deal with the Afghan government — a potential breakthrough after the insurgents walked out of talks with Kabul last week.

The announcement comes as fears rose that an avenue for fragile peace talks between the two sides was being undercut by mounting disagreements over the prisoner swap. "Today, 20 prisoners of the Kabul administration will be released," Taliban spokesman Suhail Shahaen said on Twitter, adding that the group would be handed over to representatives of the Red Cross in Kandahar.

The Afghan government has pressed ahead with freeing hundreds of Taliban pri-



Starting the swap: Some newly freed Taliban prisoners at Bagram prison on Saturday. • REUTERS

soners over the past week.

The peace deal requires the Afghan government — which was not a signatory to the accord — to free up to 5,000 Taliban prisoners, and for the militants to release 1,000 pro-government captives in return. The exchange was supposed to have happened by March 10, allowing peace talks to begin, but has been beset with problems. Kabul has claimed the Taliban want 15 of their "top commanders"

to be released, while the insurgents have accused Afghan authorities of needlessly wasting time.

The Taliban cautioned that their decision to release a group of prisoners did not mean that the talks with Kabul were being restarted. "No the process is not back on, but this is a good will step by the (Taliban) to accelerate the prisoners exchange process," said insurgent spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid.

Congo records second Ebola death in days

**REUTERS
BENI**

Democratic Republic of Congo recorded a second Ebola death in days following more than seven weeks without a new case, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Sunday.

Congo had been due on Sunday to end the second-deadliest outbreak of the virus on record, until a case was confirmed on Friday in the eastern city of Beni.

The outbreak has killed more than 2,200 people since August 2018. The latest victim was an 11-month-old girl, who was treated at the same health centre as the previous case, a 26-year-old electrician, said Boubacar Diallo, deputy incident manager for the WHO's Ebola response.

Mujib assassination convict hanged

Majed was held last week after hiding in India for 23 years

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DHAKA**

Bangladesh on Sunday executed a former military captain for his involvement in the 1975 coup in which the country's founder Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated, nearly four-and-a-half decades after the high profile massacre. Abdul Majed was hanged at 12.01 a.m. (local time), said Law Minister Anisul Huda.

Inspector General of Prisons Brigadier General A.K.M. Mostafa Kamal Pasha at a media briefing in front of the jail said that the body would now be handed over to the family members for burial.

Majed was arrested in Dhaka on Tuesday after hiding in India for nearly two-and-a-half decades. On Friday, Majed's wife and four



Abdul Majed

other relatives met him for two hours in the prison. President Abdul Hamid on Thursday rejected his mercy plea, removing the last hurdle for his hanging.

'Self-confessed killer'
A specialised police unit arrested Majed, one of the fugitive convicted Bangabandhu assassins, as he returned home after hiding for nearly

two-and-a-half decades in India. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said the "self confessed killer" was not only involved in Bangabandhu's assassination but also took part in the subsequent killing of four national leaders in high security Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975. He said previous reports indicated Majed was hiding in India but eventually he was arrested from Dhaka as he secretly returned last month.

Majed is one of the six absconding ex-Army officers who were handed down capital punishment after trials in Bangladesh.

A prosecution lawyer said Majed told the court he returned to Bangladesh on March 15 or 16. The convict, he said, claimed he managed to live secretly in Kolkata for the past 23 years.

Sri Lanka Catholic church forgives Easter bombers

We offer love to the enemies: Cardinal

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO**

Sri Lanka's Roman Catholic Church said on Sunday it had forgiven the suicide bombers behind the attacks that killed at least 279 people last Easter.

Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith told an Easter mass that "we offered love to the enemies who tried to destroy us". "We forgave them," he said, adding that instead of retaliating, the nation's Catholic minority had contemplated Jesus's message of hope, and reduced tensions.

The April 21 Easter Sunday bombers targeted three churches and three luxury hotels, killing at least 279 people and wounding 593.

Last year, Cardinal Ranjith called for the government at the time to step down over its alleged failure to investigate an "international conspiracy" behind



The St. Anthony's church in Colombo was one of the sites attacked. • AP

the attacks. The country's then-police chief and Secretary to the Ministry of Defence have been charged with murder for allegedly not acting on intelligence about the attacks.

Police have arrested 135 people in connection with the bombings, blamed on the National Thowheeth Jama'ath extremist group. They are yet to be charged.

Assange's lawyer speaks up on relationship, children

Forming a family was a deliberate decision to break down walls around him, says Stella Morris

**AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON**

WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange fathered two children with one of his lawyers while holed up in Ecuador's Embassy in London for much of the past decade, according to a report on Sunday confirmed by the mother.

The 48-year-old Australian is the dad of two boys, aged two and one, with lawyer Stella Morris, to whom he is engaged, she confirmed following a Mail on Sunday report.

Mr. Assange is currently being held in London's high security Belmarsh prison as he fights an extradition request by the United States to stand trial there on espionage charges.

'We fell in love'

Ms. Morris detailed the revelations shortly after the report emerged, in a video posted on social media by Wikileaks chronicling her

five-year relationship with Mr. Assange and the arrival of their two children. "We fell in love," she said in the nearly 12-minute film, outlining how the romance began in 2015 — three years into his seven-year stay at the Ecuadorian Embassy in central London. "This is the person... I know the most in this world — he's extraordinary," she said.

Ms. Morris said she wanted to speak out now because Mr. Assange's life "might be coming to an end" due to his continued detention and the spread of coronavirus. Jennifer Robinson, one of Mr. Assange's lawyers in Britain who introduced the pair to each other in 2011, according to Ms. Morris, also confirmed that they were a family. She said a statement by Ms. Morris outlining the situation had been cited as evidence in a failed court bid last month to get Mr. As-



Call for freedom: Supporters of Julian Assange protesting outside Belmarsh Magistrates' Court in London; (inset) Assange's lawyer and partner Stella Morris • AP

sanage bailed to avoid catching COVID-19. "Despite her statements about their family and the medical evidence about the severe impact on Assange's health, the judge refused her and the children anonymity," said Ms. Robinson.

The British government plans to allow some prisoners temporary release, amid fears COVID-19 could sweep through jails, but a judge re-

jected the request on March 25, saying there were "no grounds" for his release.

Mr. Assange faces charges under the U.S. Espionage Act. A ruling could see him jailed for 175 years. He absconded himself in the Ecuadorian embassy in 2012 after skipping bail to avoid separate legal proceedings in Sweden, but was finally dragged out last year. He reportedly conceived the first child with Ms. Morris in

ELSEWHERE



Kim's sister rises in North Korea hierarchy

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's sister has been reinstated to a key decision-making body, state media reported on Sunday. Kim Yo-jong was reappointed an alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee in a reshuffle on Saturday, according to KCNA. • AFP

UAE launches online marriage service

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has launched an online marriage service. The Justice Ministry said on Sunday that citizens can set a date for an online wedding ceremony conducted via video link with a cleric after their paperwork is submitted and approved — also online. • AFP

ASK US



N. SREEKANTH
Q. I am a super-senior citizen and also a railway pensioner who is bedridden. I have engaged an attendant for exemption under 88B of the Income Tax Act?

S. VISVANATHAN
A. Medical expenses incurred for yourself up to ₹50,000 a year in case there is no medical insurance policy in force can be claimed under Section 80D. Further, a deduction under Section 80DD can be claimed up to ₹1.50 lakh for a senior citizen towards expenses for medical treatment, if he is suffering from certain prescribed diseases such as dementia, Parkinson's etc. provided he has a certificate from a prescribed medical practitioner.

A deduction under 80U can be claimed up to ₹1.25 lakh for severe disability due to autism, cerebral palsy, multiple disabilities etc. and if a certificate from the prescribed medical authority is obtained. Section 88B is no longer in the statute.

Q. I am 65 years old, retired and my wife is 62. I have a health insurance policy for ₹5 lakh covering my wife and me. I pay an annual premium of ₹5,000. How much tax exemption will I get under Section 80D?

N. BALASUBRAMANIAN
A. You will be in a position to claim up to ₹5,000 under Section 80D in a year for the premium paid by you for yourself and your wife as you are a senior citizen.

Q. My neighbour, aged 75, is a retired Central government employee getting a monthly pension of ₹75,000. He needs a clarification with regard to deduction u/s 24 and u/s 80 C. His only source of income is pension. He recently extended his house with two more bedrooms.

The house is owned by him. Because of his old age, he could not avail a housing loan. He availed a personal loan to the tune of ₹20 lakh against pension from the SBI. The loan carries an interest rate of 12% and repayable in 48 EMIs. The entire loan proceeds are used for the construction only.

His queries are:
1) Can he claim deduction u/s 24 for payment of interest to SBI for the personal loan and EMI principal u/s 80 C?
2) If permitted, does he need to show any evidence to prove the funds were utilised for construction purposes?

H. RAMAKRISHNAN
A. Deduction under Section 24 can be claimed only when a certificate is obtained from the lender stating the purpose of the loan, interest paid and the principal repaid for that year. In the given case, we are not sure whether the SBI would be able to provide a certificate to this effect.

Under housing loan, the lenders, especially the institutions, issue the loan only after ensuring it is used for construction or purchase or renovation of an house and in case of a personal loan, the bank is not obligated to monitor loan usage.

Under section 80C, deduction can be availed only for construction or purchase of house property and not for renovation.

Q. Recently, I had purchased a house for residential purpose in my wife's name. She is a homemaker with nil income. I had taken a loan from Bank of Baroda. Can I claim benefits u/s 24 and 80C?

MANISH KUMAR SINGH
A. Under sections 24 and 80C, only the owner of the property can claim benefits as provided. In your case, the property is in the name of your wife though the loan is availed by you; hence, you cannot claim benefit.

(The author is partner, GSS Associates, Chartered Accountants, Chennai)

Readers can send in queries on personal finance and investing to moneywise@thehindu.co.in. Our experts who write on personal finance will answer these queries. Moneywise will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund scheme, share or fixed deposit.

MIND YOUR MONEY

Do you know your INSURANCE POLICY?

Insurance is about spreading risk, sharing of losses. However, those covered must be aware of policy details, claim procedures

GOURAV MASHRUWALA

While training for insurance, I heard the following story to explain the concept of insurance.

Many years ago, there was a human settlement on a hilly region of China. During summer, menfolk would descend the hills, cross the dry river bed and set up tents on the plains.

Next, they would start ploughing the land, sow the seeds and wait for rains. Later, they would harvest the crop and start their journey back to their settlement.

The dry river bed would now have water flowing forcefully and hence, each man would make a wooden barge, keep his agricultural produce on it and cross the river. Every year, about one in ten men would face the peril of the barge being swept away by the waters. He would then swim across the river, but his entire year's crop

would have gone. There were a few intelligent men in the settlement. They decided that from the subsequent year onwards, once they came near the river, they would form groups, each with ten members. Each team member, like always, will make a wooden barge. However, unlike previous years where every individual kept his produce on his barge alone, going ahead, each team member would distribute his produce across barges of other team members. Thus, the total produce of an individual would be spread across ten wooden barges in a team.

If one of the barges was swept away, each would only lose only 10% of his total crop. This ensured that no member of the settlement would lose the entire produce and live in poverty for the rest of the year.

Insurance is all about spreading risk and sharing losses.

My IPO
All of us have heard the term IPO. The performance of that IPO, during the offer period and once it is listed, is unknown. However, there is one IPO over which we all have control. That is 'My Insurance and Protection Options.'

My IPO for my family
'My IPO' is for my family. Once I was asked by a renowned MNC to conduct a workshop on financial planning for employees. Before the workshop, I was casually talking to their senior HR manager. I was inquiring about the kind of medical cover the company gave its employees. She explained in detail. I enquired if

the employees were aware of it. Her response was in the affirmative.

During the workshop, I asked the participants what kind of health cover the employer provided, how much the cover was, whether the whole family was covered, whether any cashless options were avail-

able and so on. Similar to my past experiences with other organisations, only a third of the participants were fully aware of the details.

Last year, one of my clients working at a very senior level in a telecom company, suffered a massive heart attack while he was touring on work. He was in the ICU for a few days and later, succumbed. The family had to pay a large amount. Of course, he was covered well by the employer and the full amount was reimbursed. Interestingly, the company had a tie-up with that hospital and if only the details had been given to the hospital, cashless treatment would have been possible.

The family would have been saved from the trouble of making online fund transfer. Unfortunately, the family had no clue.

'My IPO' is for the benefit of our family. Keep them com-

pletely abreast. Introduce them to your insurance agent. Have annual meetings with him.

One important activity I suggest to my clients is to request their health and life insurance agent to visit their homes and explain the procedure for filing claims. "I had prepared a complete file of the required papers for claiming health insurance," said Ms. Rustogi, adding "my claim was processed within a fortnight."

Personally, I recall, a few years ago, when my family had to make a claim for health insurance, I had prepared the file in detail, including indexing it. A few weeks later, when a query came from the insurance company, I gave only a copy of the invoice along with the page numbers, all the originals were with them. Since they had acknowledged the receipt of the file, they processed my claim without any further communication. Our insurance is for ourselves and our family. It is 'My IPO.'

(The writer is a financial planner and author of the Yogic Wealth)



COVER NOTE: UBERRIMAE FIDEI

A contract of utmost good faith

In insurance, withholding of information by one party works against the other

K. NITYA KALYANI

The tough thing about insurance is that it is intangible. You can't see it or size up what it can do for you very easily as a credit card or a home loan. You don't just pay up and get a product, but have certain responsibilities.

Insurance is a contract that operates under certain principles. As an insured, or potential insured, understanding these principles will help you appreciate the product and get the best out of it.

Here are some main principles as applied to personal insurances.

'Utmost good faith' is one of the first principles of an insurance contract. This means that both the parties have to be transparent with each other and material facts have to be disclosed both before the policy is issued and after. Withholding information by one party works against the interests of the other.

When you are buying, say, a health insurance, you should disclose all relevant information about your health, which will impact terms and rates. An adverse health history can mean a higher premium rate matching your risk profile, or even a rejection of your proposal. But non-disclosure will lead



Looking closely, you see you don't insure your health, you insure the cost of regaining lost health. -GETTYIMAGES/ISTOCK

to rejection of claims as the contract will be void. Similarly, the insurer has to spell out the terms and conditions of the cover, especially exclusions, as a matter of full disclosure to you.

An important basis of insurance is the principle of indemnity, which means compensation, or reimbursement. An insurance claim makes good your financial loss, but is not meant to let you make a profit.

When you look closely, you don't insure your health, you insure the financial cost of regaining lost health. You insure the cost of a property or article lost to fire or theft. What about life insurance?

You can't place a value on human life. What is insured is not life, but the potential

future earnings of the insured person.

The tie that binds
Insurable interest is the basis on which any insurance can be given. You can insure something only if you would face financial loss when the subject of insurance is damaged, destroyed or lost. You have an insurable interest over all your properties and belongings.

When your health suffers, you incur expenses. Nobody else can insure your car or your health. You can insure the health of your family members, within definitions, as you will be meeting their expenses should they be hospitalised.

When a person dies, their natural or legal financial obligations are at risk.

BLACKBOARD: INDEX FUNDS

Mirrors of stock weightage

Many such funds replicate popular benchmarks

ASHISH RUKHAIYAR

What are index funds?

Index funds, as the name suggests, are funds that replicate a certain index. So, if there is a Sensex fund, it will have the same 30 stocks that are there in the Sensex. Further, the weightage of each stock in the fund would also mirror their respective weightage in the actual index. Globally, there are many index funds that replicate popular benchmarks like S&P 500 and Dow Jones. In the Indian arena, most of the leading mutual fund houses offer index funds based on Sensex or Nifty. Index funds are a form of passive funds since the fund manager does not have to actively do any kind of stock picking. The fund sees a churn in its portfolio only if the actual index sees any inclusion or exclusion.

What are the benefits of investing in index funds?

Typically, the benchmark index of any exchange would comprise the largest and most liquid companies publicly listed on that bourse. The benchmarks are quite diversified in terms of sector representation as well. So, investing in an index fund allows the investor to have a well-diversified portfolio of the largest companies. An investor can own a basket of stocks at a much lower cost compared to owning each stock individually in a benchmark.

Are index funds better than other types of equity funds?



Warren Buffet, who is widely considered as one of the most successful investors in the world, recommends index funds. Having said that, it depends on an individual's investment approach - whether one wants to bet on the benchmark's movement or wants to play on a certain sector, or wants to invest in stocks based on market capitalisation - midcap or small-cap. Index funds, however, allow an investor to bet on the overall market, which is always measured in terms of the benchmark's movement.

Do index funds offer cost benefits as well?

As mentioned earlier, index funds are a form of passive investment instruments as fund managers do not have any active role in managing such funds on a day to day basis. So, typically, index funds have a lower expense ratio compared to an actively-managed fund where the fund manager does active stock picking. Hence, there is a cost benefit in favour of index funds.

LOOSE CHANGE

RAVIKANTH



"Can you guess how much bitter gourd costs...er...bitter gourd costs?!"

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates				
Bank Name	Interest Rates (%)			
	Highest Slab	1-year	3-year	5-year
SMALL FINANCE BANKS				
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.00	8.25	9.00
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	9.00	8.20	8.00	8.35
Fincore Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.50	8.50	8.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.00	7.75	8.00
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.10	8.00	7.50	7.00
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.00	8.00	7.30	7.00
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.75	7.55	6.75
North East Small Finance Bank	8.00	7.50	7.25	6.50
AU Small Finance Bank	7.77	7.00	7.77	7.50
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.30	6.90	6.90	6.80
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS				
DCB Bank	7.60	6.75	7.60	7.50
IDFC First Bank	7.50	7.25	7.25	7.25
Lakshmi Vilas Bank	7.25	6.75	6.50	6.15
RBL Bank	7.25	7.20	7.00	7.50
IndusInd Bank	7.00	7.00	6.75	6.75
Nainital Bank	7.00	6.00	6.10	6.10
Banbhain Bank	6.75	6.75	6.60	6.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	6.75	6.60	6.60	6.60
South Indian Bank	6.55	6.40	6.40	6.40
Axis Bank	6.50	6.40	6.50	6.50
Federal Bank	6.50	6.30	6.40	6.40
Karur Vysya Bank	6.50	6.25	6.30	6.30
Dhanlaxmi Bank	6.40	6.25	6.25	6.15
HDFC Bank	6.25	6.15	6.25	6.15
CSB Bank	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
FOREIGN BANKS				
City Union Bank	6.00	6.00	5.90	5.90
Karnataka Bank	6.00	6.00	5.90	5.90
ICICI Bank	6.00	5.80	6.00	6.00
Kotak Mahindra Bank	5.90	5.90	5.90	5.50
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	5.75	5.75	5.50	5.50
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS				
Bank of India	6.20	6.10	6.20	6.20
Indian Overseas Bank	6.20	6.10	6.10	6.10
UCO Bank	6.10	6.10	6.10	6.05
Indian Bank	5.90	5.90	5.80	5.80
IDBI Bank	5.90	5.85	5.75	5.90
Union Bank of India	5.90	5.75	5.75	5.80
Punjab National Bank	5.80	5.80	5.80	5.80
Punjab & Sind Bank	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85
Canara Bank	5.85	5.85	5.80	5.80
Bank of Maharashtra	5.75	5.75	5.50	5.50
State Bank of India	5.70	5.70	5.70	5.70
Bank of Baroda	5.70	5.70	5.70	5.70
Central Bank of India	5.70	5.70	5.70	5.70
FOREIGN BANKS				
Deutsche Bank	7.00	5.00	6.00	7.00
DBS Bank	6.25	6.00	6.25	6.25
HSBC Bank	5.25	4.50	5.25	5.00
CitiBank	4.50	4.25	4.25	4.50
FD rates as on April 9th, 2020				
N.A. N.A. N.A.				

Home loan interest rates							
Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)			Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.)		
	Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh		Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS							
State Bank of India	7.15-7.80	7.40-7.95	7.50-8.05	South Indian Bank	8.05-9.30	8.05-9.30	8.05-9.30
Punjab National Bank	7.20-7.45	7.35-7.70	7.35-8.00	Dhanlaxmi Bank	8.85-9.95	8.85-9.95	8.85-9.95
Bank of India	7.25-8.15	7.25-8.15	7.25-8.15	DLBS Bank	<=8.20	<=8.20	<=8.20
Central Bank of India	7.25-7.35	7.25-7.35	7.25-7.35	Lakshmi Vilas Bank	8.95	8.95	8.95
Canara Bank	7.30-9.30	7.30-9.30	7.30-9.30	RBL Bank	9.55-11.75	10.90-11.40	10.90-11.40
Bank of Baroda	7.25-8.25	7.25-8.25	7.25-8.50	HOUSING FINANCE COMPANIES (HFCs)			
Indian Overseas Bank	8.20	8.30	8.45	HDFC Ltd.	8.00-9.25	8.25-9.50	8.30-9.60
IDBI Bank	8.25-9.00	8.25-9.00	8.25-9.00	LIC Housing	8.10-9.00	8.35-9.20	8.45-9.20
Punjab Bank	7.40-7.65	7.40-7.75	7.40-7.90	Bajaj Finserv	8.30-11.15	9.05-11.15	9.05-11.15
Indian Bank	7.40-7.65	7.40-7.75	7.40-7.90	HFL	>=8.70	>=8.70	>=8.70
Punjab & Sind Bank	8.05-8.40	8.05-8.40	8.05-8.40	PNB Housing	8.95-9.70	8.95-9.70	8.95-9.70
Union Bank of India	7.10-7.65	7.35-7.75	7.40-8.05	Indiabulls Housing	>=8.99	>=8.99	>=8.99
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS							
Citi Bank*	8.03-8.98	8.03-8.98	8.03-8.98	Aditya Birla Capital	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50	9.00-12.50
Axis Bank	8.55-11.50	8.55-9.40	8.55-9.40	GIC Housing Finance	9.10-12.50	9.10-12.50	9.10-12.50
ICICI Bank	8.10-9.00	8.10-9.10	8.45-9.20	Federal Bank	8.99-12.00	8.99-12.00	8.99-12.00
Karur Vysya Bank	8.20-10.05	8.20-10.05	8.20-10.05	Repo Home Finance	>=9.25	>=9.25	>=9.25
IDFC First Bank	7.40-11.40	7.40-11.40	7.40-11.40	Tata Capital	>=9.25	>=9.25	>=9.25
Federal Bank	8.55-8.60	8.60-8.65	8.65-8.70	Piramal Capital & Hong	>=9.65	>=9.65	>=9.65
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.20-8.85	8.30-9.00	8.55-9.25	Reliance Home Finance	9.75-13.00	9.75-13.00	9.75-13.00
Karnataka Bank	8.55-9.50	8.55-9.50	8.65-9.50	Rates as on April 9			
Banbhain Bank	8.75-12.00	8.75-11.50	10.00-11.50	Source: paisabazaar.com			

IN BRIEF



Frodeno's 'Tri at home' raises over ₹200,000

GIRONA (SPAIN) Jan Frodeno, Laureus ambassador, former Olympic champion and three-time winner of Ironman triathlon World championship, on Saturday, completed a gruelling charity triathlon — 'Tri at home'. Frodeno, who finished the course in 8 hrs 33min 39sec, raised over ₹200,000. **AFP**

Daglish out of hospital

LONDON Former Liverpool player Kenny Daglish, who tested positive for coronavirus, has been released from hospital, British media reported on Sunday. The 69-year-old Daglish was admitted to hospital for an infection. He required intravenous antibiotics but was asymptomatic. The former Scotland international is now self-isolating at home. **REUTERS**

IPL set to be 'indefinitely postponed'

BCCI to hold a conference call on Monday to take the big but anticipated decision

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

The writing has been on the wall ever since the nationwide lockdown was imposed in the wake of COVID-19 outbreak and on Monday, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is set to "indefinitely postpone" the Indian Premier League's (IPL) 13th edition.

This season's tournament was scheduled to commence on March 29 but sensing the outbreak was going to disturb life in general, the BCCI on March 13 had suspended the event till April 15. With the pandemic far from being under control, the lockdown is set to be extended at least till April-end.

Restricted movement

With the restrictions on public gathering and air travel unlikely to be lifted before the arrival of monsoon in June (IPL's final was sche-



Stark reality: Given the lockdown scenario in the country, a reprise of such scenes cannot even be envisaged in the immediate future. **FILE PHOTO: K.V.S. GIRI**

duled for May 24), the BCCI authorities have been left with no choice but to defer the mega-event.

"Life is virtually at a standstill, let alone sport in gener-

al or cricket in particular. So there is no other option but to postpone the IPL," a BCCI insider revealed to *The Hindu*. "It's too early to predict as to when the IPL can be

staged this year. We have to wait and watch, but at the moment we will have to defer it indefinitely."

The decision is set to be taken on Monday during a

conference call between the BCCI office-bearers — president Sourav Ganguly, vice-president Mahim Verma, secretary Jay Shah, treasurer Arun Dhumal and joint-secretary Jayesh George — and the IPL governing council chairman Brijesh Patel. After the meeting, the BCCI is likely to communicate the deferment to the eight franchises.

Expected development

The franchises, along with the host broadcaster, have been expecting this development for a while. Despite the huge financial ramifications involved in case the IPL cannot be held this year, neither the broadcaster nor the franchises are in a position to discuss it with the BCCI until the pandemic is under control.

The possibility of staging the IPL can be determined only after some normalcy returns and a new cricket calendar is chalked out.

Motorsport legend Moss passes away

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Motorsport great Stirling Moss has died aged 90 following a long illness, the British driver's wife announced on Sunday.

"It was one lap too many," said Susie Moss. "He just closed his eyes." Although Moss never won the F1 title, he finished runner-up four times and third thrice.

No corona link

British media reported Moss's passing was the result of a chest infection he caught in Singapore in December 2016 that saw him retire from public life two years later. There is no suggestion his death was linked to the coronavirus.

In an era where it was common for drivers to race in different disciplines, a 14-year career that started in 1948 saw Moss win 212 of the 529 races he entered, including the 1955 Mille Mi-



Stirling Moss. **FILE PHOTO**

gla, where he set a new course record in the 1,000 mile event.

In F1, Moss won 16 GPs, with his first victory coming in the 1955 British GP at Liverpool that saw him become the first British winner of the race.

His renowned sportsmanship cost Moss the 1958 title when he defended the conduct of British rival Mike Hawthorn following a spin at the Portuguese GP. Moss' action helped spare Hawthorn a six-point penalty, with Hawthorn winning the title by a single point.

How Kumble helped Saqlain see things clearly!

SHAVAN ACHARYA
MUMBAI

Saqlain Mushtaq and Anil Kumble were locked in a fierce rivalry on the pitch, but were friends off it.

In an Instagram live chat with *Sportstar* on Sunday, the Pakistan legend revealed how the Indian spin king helped him immensely in his career.

"We were in England and I told Anil *bhai* that there were not many good ophthalmologists back home. I asked him if he could suggest someone and he referred me to Dr. Bharat Rugani. Anil said he and [Sourav] Ganguly consulted him often and shared the doctor's number.

"I visited the doctor in



Anil Kumble.

FILE PHOTO: N. SRIDHARAN

London. He told me I had cataract and gave me new lenses. Thanks to Anil *bhai*'s help, I recovered. He



Saqlain Mushtaq.

FILE PHOTO: V.V. KRISHNAN

is a gem of a person," said Saqlain. The former Pakistan spin ace said tracking the ball

had been a problem earlier.

"While fielding on the boundary, my anticipation used to be zero and I was slow to react. All that vanished and I became more confident after the visit to the doctor.

Elder brother

"Our culture has taught us to respect elders and he is like my elder brother. Whenever we meet, we have long chats.

"Even during my playing days, I used to walk up to him and seek suggestions. He would help me with the necessary tips and never misguiding me. I have a lot of respect for him," said the 43-year-old, hoping to play with Kumble in the same team some day.

'All stakeholders need to come together'

Karun says it is imperative as Formula One faces a major economic crisis



Karun Chandhok.

FILE PHOTO

S. DIPAK RAGAV
CHENNAI

With the Formula One season in limbo with as many as nine races cancelled/suspended so far, the sport is staring at a major crisis.

From the huge financial hit due to not racing to sponsorship revenues amid a much wider economic crisis that the world is undergoing, an expensive sport like F1 is facing some tough times.

Recently, McLaren boss Zak Brown indicated that as many as four teams were in danger of folding up if there was no sensible budget caps on what teams could spend.

India's former F1 driver Karun Chandhok, in a chat with *The Hindu*, felt that the sport has a big task on its

hands, and all stakeholders need to come together to find a solution.

Compressed calendar

While the F1 group is trying to hold as many as 15 to 18 races, Karun said 12 to 13 races might be possible if the season starts in August.

"It will be a big commitment from everyone involved in the sport as it could mean triple weekends or intense two day weekends but it's all do-able.

"I would like to see F1 use the time to experiment with fewer practice sessions and two-day weekends and maybe even trying to do two races on the same weekend."

On the issue of a cost cap and the warnings from

Brown, Karun said, "In light of the current scenario, it seems like most teams are now in favour of a lower budget cap from the currently agreed \$175 million.

Stalemate

"However, the big players at Ferrari and Red Bull Racing seem to be opposing that, which has created a bit of a stalemate.

"Where there's a will there's a way, but unfortunately, the people associated with F1 are wired in such a way that they often think of themselves before the sport.

"But, at this point, F1 needs strong leaders... it needs Chase Carey, Ross Brawn and Jean Todt to come up with a solution."

'Dhoni looked in fine touch'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI

M.S. Dhoni's intensity stood out and he looked in spectacular touch during the IPL camp, vouched his Chennai Super Kings teammates.

Three-time winner CSK had commenced its training on March 2 with Dhoni joining from the first day. However, training was suspended on March 14 owing to the coronavirus outbreak.

Leg-spinner Piyush Chawla said Dhoni was focused and showed match-like intensity.

"Mahi *bhai* was absolutely focused, training purposefully and was looking really good."

Ace BC's gesture

CHENNAI: Ace Basketball Club has donated ₹1 lakh to the PM Cares Relief Fund and ₹25,000 to Tamil Nadu CM Relief Fund as its contribution to the COVID-19 pandemic, club president M.S. Venkataraman said.

Indian chess stars' move pays off

Top Grandmasters raise ₹4.5 lakh towards PM-CARES Fund

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
KOZHIKODE

Koneru Humpy took some time to get used to it. One chessboard would pop up on her computer screen, then another, and another. Nineteen of them, in fact.

It was the first time she was playing simultaneous chess online. By the time she finished her games late on Saturday night, she was tired. But, she didn't mind. She enjoyed the experience and was happy to contribute for a noble cause.

Humpy and five other top Indians — Viswanathan Anand, Vidit Gujrathi, P. Harikrishna, B. Adhiban and D. Harika — took on rivals from around the world in a fundraising event to help India fight the coronavirus.

They were able to generate more than ₹4.5 lakh towards the PM-CARES Fund through their simultaneous games on *chess.com* (the participants were required to donate in order to play the Grandmasters).

"It was not easy, but I am glad I could be part of this great event," Humpy told *The Hindu*. "My opponents

were reasonably strong." Still, she won all her games except one. "In that game too, I was in a better position before I blundered my queen," she said.

While Humpy had logged in from her home in Vijayawada (she locked herself up in a room so that her little daughter would not disturb her), Anand playing against 20 players at the same time. "Except in a couple of games, I had to work hard right through," said World No. 23 who played from his home at Nashik. Harikrishna made his moves from Prague, while Adhiban, the only one to win all games, played from Chennai.

He played 21 games and won 18. Three were drawn. It was a new experience for him, too. In fact, it was the first ever online simultane-



K. Humpy. **FILE PHOTO**



B. Adhiban. **FILE PHOTO**

Jeevan has a vision for Indian tennis

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

Every crisis can be turned into an opportunity and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan believes in it.

Now staying at his family resort in Pudukchery, the 31-year-old, who was ranked a career-best 64 in doubles last year around this time, has been thinking about helping Indian tennis realise its potential.

Jeevan firmly believes that the best way forward, once life gets back to normal, would be for leading players to collaborate with the national federation and make concrete contributions for



Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan with golfer wife Neha.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the revival of the game. "I personally don't see a global tour like the ATP giving a green light for the next

many months. I think the players and the All India Tennis Association (AITA) need to work together in times like these," observes Jeevan, quite clear that rather than finding fault with the system, the players need to be proactive and mobilise support.

Jeevan feels it is necessary to get the tennis fraternity into confidence while trying to make a fresh start for the game.

"If I am the leader, I would speak to top players across categories and also to the juniors (along with their parents) to figure out what is missing and what is required in Indian tennis, going

forward".

Once clarity is achieved about the ideas that need to be implemented, Jeevan suggests that a "player council" can work with the AITA to infuse life into the action-plan. Jeevan is confident that players like Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna have the ability to collaborate with the national federation and various stakeholders to take the game forward.

"We have to figure out a National tour.

"We need to provide clarity for a 15-year-old to progress and become the next Yuki Bhambri or Sumit Nagal," says Jeevan.

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